A Hub of Food and Agriculture Talk

UC Riverside hosts 3rd annual GrowRIVERSIDE conference focused on local food systems

By Sean Nealon

On March 21, much of the Highlander Union Building turned into a hub to talk about local food systems.

The university hosted the 3rd annual GrowRIVERSIDE conference, a city of Riverside led initiative to cultivate food and agricultural activities across the city.

Glenda Humiston, vice president of the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, gave the morning keynote address after introductory remarks from UC Riverside Chancellor Kim Wilcox and Riverside Mayor Rusty Baily.

Humiston, who spoke at a previous GrowRIVERSIDE conference, complimented the organizers for pulling together so many stakeholders focused on food and agricultural activities in such a short time.

She spoke about UC President Janet Napolitano’s Global Food Initiative and the UC Food Observer blog.

She also discussed the AgTech Roundtable in California, a group of government and industry leaders seeking to connect California’s Central and Silicon valleys. They have hosted three agriculture focused hackathons. Humiston said UC Riverside would be good site to hold a future hackathon.

After Humiston spoke, there were keynote speeches later in the day from Michael Shuman, an author, attorney and expert on community economics, and Karen Ross, secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

There were also break-out sessions on topics ranging from securing capital to grow agribusiness to GIS mapping to connect growers and landowners to career opportunities in food and agriculture.
The careers in food and agriculture session featured three speakers: Valerie Mellano, a professor of plant sciences at Cal Poly Pomona; AG Kawamura, of Orange County Produce who is also former secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; and Peggy Mauk, director of agricultural operations at UC Riverside.

All three noted there is increasing demand for workers in a wide range of agricultural fields.

Mauk, who does research focused on subtropical plants including avocados, citrus and dates, talked about career opportunities in cooperative extension, where she found her niche.

She also spoke about UC Riverside’s turfgrass research program, which is the only one in the state, and mentioned that many students that go through the program find jobs at golf courses and parks.

The conference also included a Citrus Circle Farm-to-Fork Dinner on March 21 catered by UC Riverside’s Dining Services and a tour of Riverside’s agricultural assets on March 22.

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**Napolitano Outlines Changes to UC Retirement Program**

_In a letter to the community, UC president says changes come from the need maintain excellence while ensuring a solid financial foundation for the future_

**MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY**

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to outline the proposal for the new retirement program I am bringing to The Regents later this month that includes new retirement benefits for future UC employees.

As a reminder, the new retirement benefits will apply only to UC employees hired on or after July 1, 2016. Current employees and retirees are unaffected by these changes as accrued pension benefits are protected by law and cannot be reduced or revoked.

Before getting into the specifics of my proposal, I want to share with you my thinking behind it.

The University of California is a very special institution. There are other fine universities, but there is no other university on the planet that contributes as much to the public, in as many ways as UC does. Arguably, no other single institution does as much for so many.

And at the heart of everything we do, and the excellence UC is renowned for, are our talented faculty and staff. Our people are what make UC great.

Maintaining excellence on such a massive scale is no small task. And it does not come cheaply.

Everything we do — from teaching students, to treating patients and training the next generation of doctors, to redefining the boundaries of what we know, to creating technologies that give rise to new industries, to helping to ensure the vitality of California’s agricultural resources, and everything in between, requires significant financial resources.

When I accepted the opportunity to lead UC two and a half years ago, it was clear to me that one of the most important goals of my presidency would be to maintain UC’s excellence while ensuring a solid financial foundation for UC’s future.
This core principle of protecting both UC’s excellence and its long-term financial health was the basis for last year’s multi-year funding agreement with the State, and is the primary driver of my retirement proposal.

The budget agreement with the Governor and the Legislature last year marked a significant milestone in support of this goal by creating an era of increased State funding and financial stability for the University. Importantly, the agreement reflects the State government’s recognition of the need to invest in UC.

Under this agreement, UC is receiving nearly $1 billion in new annual revenue and one-time funding over the next several years, which will help ensure the University’s long-term financial stability and provides critical funding for many UC priorities.

Among other things, this funding allows us to budget for regular pay increases for faculty and staff over the next several years, and make merit-based pay a more regular component of our systemwide salary programs.

The $1 billion includes $436 million in one-time funds to help pay down our unfunded pension liability, which is key to ensuring the long-term fiscal solvency of the UC pension plan.

To help secure the financial stability of UC and as part of the agreement, I am proposing to The Regents that they approve implementation of a new set of retirement benefits for future UC employees hired on or after July 1, 2016, that limits the pensionable salary for future UC employees, mirroring the cap on pensionable pay for state employees under the 2013 California Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act (the “PEPRA cap”).

Following completion of the budget agreement, which was approved by The Regents, I convened a system-wide task force to suggest options for the new retirement benefits for future employees, consistent with the PEPRA cap.

Task force members included faculty, staff, and representatives from the Academic Senate, the Staff Advisors to The Regents, the Council of UC Staff Assemblies, UC labor unions, and UC administrators.

The task force submitted its recommendations to me in December, and during January and February, I invited members of the entire UC community to share with me their thoughts about those recommendations.

I want to thank the task force members for their good and thoughtful work, and also the hundreds of faculty and staff who shared their comments, concerns, and ideas with me.

Many of you expressed concern that a new set of retirement benefits could harm the University’s ability to attract and retain top-tier faculty. Improving overall employee compensation and the stability of the UC pension plan were also common concerns. Another concern many of you raised was the need for more retirement education and services to help employees prepare successfully for retirement.

For those of you who shared your views with me, I want you to know I paid close attention. My proposal addresses not only these concerns, but other priorities as well.

Building upon the work of task force, and after much discussion with numerous stakeholders and careful consideration of the input I received from faculty and staff, I will be bringing a package proposal to The Regents that will allow us to:

- Ensure UC’s long-term financial stability, including keeping the UC pension plan strong and continuing to pay down our unfunded pension liability;

- Within the fiscal constraints we face, maintain the caliber of UC personnel and the University’s excellence by offering attractive overall compensation, including retirement benefits, for new faculty and
staff;

- Focus on overall employee compensation by (1) allowing UC to budget for regular pay increases for faculty and staff, and (2) making merit-based pay a regular component of systemwide salary programs to reward employees based on their contributions to the University;

- Preserve UC’s quality, which requires recruiting and retaining quality personnel, especially faculty, by devoting resources to help campuses attract and retain faculty and key staff, and improve the student experience; and

- Offer enhanced retirement education and counseling services to all UC employees, as part of the University’s commitment to help employees be “retirement ready.”

Regarding the new retirement program specifically, I am proposing that future employees hired on or after July 1, 2016, be offered a choice between two options:

**Option 1 – Pension + 401(k)-style supplemental benefit:** The current UC pension benefit capped at the PEPRA salary limit (currently $117,020) plus a supplemental 401(k)-style benefit for eligible employee pay up to the Internal Revenue Service limit (currently $265,000).

**Option 2 – New 401(k)-style benefit:** A new stand-alone 401(k)-style plan with benefits-eligible employee pay up to the Internal Revenue Service limit (currently $265,000).

Since we compete in a global market for faculty, often against elite private institutions that can typically pay more than UC, maintaining a pension benefit along with a 401(k)-style supplement is important to attracting and retaining the caliber of personnel we need to maintain UC’s excellence.

At the same time, our workforce is highly diverse and people have different retirement needs and goals. A new stand-alone 401(k)-style retirement benefit allows us to offer an attractive retirement benefit to employees who work at UC for only a few years and value a portable retirement benefit they can take with them, and/or who prefer to personally manage their retirement savings.

You can find a chart that further summarizes the features of the two options online (http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/2016-retirement-benefits/rotf-fact-sheet.pdf).

In short, I believe this proposal supports the University’s ongoing excellence and will significantly bolster the long-term financial stability of UC and its retirement program, while providing critical funding for other University priorities.

I again want to thank the task force members, and the many faculty and staff who shared their views with me. The input I received from the task force and the University community was invaluable in formulating this proposal.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano, President
A group environmental design students from California Polytechnic University (Cal Poly), Pomona used UC Riverside’s Chancellor’s Residence as a laboratory project to identify a range of landscaping approaches and techniques that will be integrated by the campus as new capital projects are designed.

The UCR Chancellor’s Residence, built in 1959, is located on the edge of campus in a quiet suburban neighborhood. It was selected as the concept site because it combines many features shared by the campus within a discretely bounded two-acre area: a small arroyo, vistas of the Box Springs Mountains and orange groves, public and private space, and interface with the neighboring community.

Led by Cal Poly Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture Andrew Wilcox, the 48 undergraduate and graduate students organized in teams of 12 to present four distinctive approaches to transforming grounds surrounding the mid-century home in ways that improve both function and beauty.

“The students really did a magnificent job inspiring us to think more creatively about our surroundings,” said Vice Chancellor Ron Coley, who coordinated the project for UC Riverside. “They gave us a toolbox of new design elements that we can deploy in a range of locations around campus as we think more holistically about our green space.”

The concepts introduced by the design team include gabion walls – cages filled with reclaimed concrete – and swales – low, marshy features that allow for water runoff that can recharge subterranean aquifers. Heavy emphasis was placed on drought resistant plantings and reuse of existing materials in new ways, consistent with UCR’s carbon neutrality and sustainability efforts.

Cal Poly Dean of Environmental Design Michael Woo noted, “Real-life experiences like this help to prepare students for successful, meaningful careers. The project challenged the teams to think both conceptually and concretely, and provided them with valuable exposure to the complex process of creating cohesive, actionable designs around client needs and desires.”

While no renovation of the Chancellor’s Residence is planned, the lessons learned will inform design decisions across UCR’s nearly 1,200-acre campus.

UCR Vice Chancellor for Planning and Budget Maria Anguiano, who oversaw creation of a new physical master plan, praised the students’ work. “Our goal with the new plan is to bring a beauty, function and coherence to the campus,” she said. “The ideas that emerged from this class project will help ensure that the grounds surrounding our structures complement the architecture and overall design aesthetic of UCR.”

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**How Many Ways Can You Make Citrus Flavors? Literally Thousands**

*Students get a taste of Givaudan’s new collection of exotic citrus flavors, including many sampled at UC Riverside’s Citrus Variety Collection*

*By Jeanette Marantos*

An orange is an orange is an orange ... right? Well, not when it comes to developing orange and other citrus flavors, making UC Riverside’s collection of more than 1,000 citrus varieties a godsend for Givaudan, the world’s largest maker of flavors and fragrances for consumer products.

Finding just the right taste is a complex process for food producers and can vary by countries — and even
regions within a country — depending on the local palates, Dawn Streich, Givaudan’s global product manager in citrus flavors, told a group of UCR students Wednesday. So an orange drink produced for Southern California markets, for instance, may have a slightly different taste than drinks produced for consumers in France, New Dehli or even New England, because of local preferences.

That’s why a plethora of choices in the natural world is such a boon to flavor developers, especially in citrus. “Citrus is the most culturally diverse and versatile flavor in the world. It’s almost universally liked, which is amazing,” Streich said.

“Back in 2006, when we were looking to bring new innovations to our citrus program, we looked at a lot of places, but we decided UC Riverside really had the best citrus collection. We always thought the Valencia orange was the gold standard for orange flavor, but once we started comparing the different oranges (at UCR), we found an amazing variety of flavors we can create with the tools available to us.”

Givaudan’s “flavorists” — researchers who sample, breakdown and mix natural flavors to create new flavors and fragrances — loved UCR’s 100-year-old Citrus Variety Collection because they could easily compare a multitude of flavors right in the field during their annual citrus TasteTreks, Streich said.

Then, in 2008, Givaudan realized that UCR’s museum-like collection of two trees of each type was also an excellent place to bring its global customers for a little one-stop shopping for the perfect citrus flavor.

The company often encounters language barriers when its customers are trying to convey the exact flavor attributes they wanted to achieve, Streich said. “But when we bring them into the grove, it really allows us to work closely with them to see what flavors appeal to them, and what type will work well in their products.”

With $4.4 billion in sales, Givaudan has the largest market share in the world for selling flavors and fragrances; about 25 percent of the market, Streich said. The company is based in Switzerland, with 9,500 employees and 34 production sites around the world, including the U.S. headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Since it started working with UCR, Givaudan has expanded its citrus “TasteTreks” to groves in Brazil and Italy for customers who can’t easily travel to the U.S., and in India, China, Japan and Argentina for its researchers, Streich said.

But the company’s relationship with UCR is still going strong 10 years after Streich and flavorist Geoff Marshall-Hill made their first visit, and became even stronger last fall, when the company contributed $1 million to create the Givaudan Citrus Variety Collection Endowed Chair to preserve the unique citrus grove into perpetuity.

Streich and Marshall-Hill didn’t discuss specific clients or products during their presentation, but they work with major brands that are common in stores. The company’s 200 flavorists develop thousands of new flavors every year, Marshall-Hill said, and then winnow out their favorites to give customers some new options.

This year’s flavor collection includes Ponkan Mandarin and Meiwa Kumquat from China, Dehli Lime from India, Florentino Lemon and Castagnan Bergamot from Italy, Sanguinelli Blood Orange from Spain and two developed through UCR research — Oroblanco Pummelo Grapefruit hybrid and Valentine, a three way hybrid between a pummelo, mandarin and a blood orange. It has a beautiful, heart-shaped fruit with a rosy flesh and delicate citrus flavor.

Customers aren’t limited to those new flavors — “I have 14,500 ingredients I can work with to make a flavor,” Marshall-Hill said. The idea is to give customers an idea about how diverse their options can be.
Students at Wednesday’s presentation got to sniff test strips with various components of orange flavors, which, when held together, smelled like walking through an orange grove, one student remarked. And at the end, they got to sample this year’s collection of new flavors mixed with a little water, sugar and citric acid.

The Givaudan presenters also emphasized that the company is looking for students with a science background to fill positions throughout the organization, even in marketing. The company has recently started training new flavorists, but it takes seven years to become a full-fledged flavorist, Streich said, and you can’t get the background at a university.

“Every flavor company does its own training, because there are so many captive ingredients and technology,” Marshall-Hill said. “Givaudan has 200 flavorists, about 50 percent of the flavorists in the world. If we had feathers and fur, we would be considered an endangered species.”

After the talk, collection curator, Tracy Kahn, who holds the Givaudan Citrus Variety Collection Endowed Chair, said she hoped the presentation gave science students some new ideas about possible job paths. “Givaudan hires a lot of students out of college,” she said. “They know about becoming researchers and doctors, but they don’t often know about jobs like this.”

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**Where Medicine and the Humanities Meet**

*The medical humanities are playing an important role in training the next generation of physicians, says UC Riverside’s Milagros Peña*

**By Carolyn McMillan, UC Newsroom**

One of the newest medical schools in the country now includes the humanities in its required curriculum, a move that is helping its physicians communicate more effectively with patients from diverse communities.

UC Riverside’s School of Medicine, which opened in 2013, requires that its students take writing classes and attend lectures in the medical humanities – learning, for example, how asking the right kinds of questions can shed light on the barriers to care that a patient may be facing.

“The medical humanities are playing an important role in training the next generation of physicians,” said Milagros Peña, the dean for UC Riverside’s College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. “Physicians are learning about patient care through a humanistic lens.”

The humanities curriculum at the Riverside School of Medicine grew from a $100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a health humanities program at UC Riverside that focused on the role of storytelling in medicine and healing.

Peña, a panelist at a recent UC congressional briefing on the value of NEH funding, said that the interdisciplinary grant allowed UC Riverside’s humanities scholars to collaborate with School of Medicine faculty on ways to integrate narrative into medical students’ training.

**Bridging gaps between humanities and STEM for better care**

From there the collaboration has grown and continues to evolve, she said. The medical school curriculum now includes required writing classes for first- and second-year students, and mandatory seminars for all students on topics such as Narrative and Inequality, taught by medical anthropologist Juliet McMullin, one of the
principal investigators on the NEH grant.

“They’re learning that being a doctor is more than just knowing biology and disease. It’s the overall well-being of a patient,” McMullin said. “The kinds of questions you ask when you see a patient – it’s not just how they feel physically. It’s what’s going on in their daily lives with work, family, housing or even something as basic as transportation – one of the things that we know can be an obstacle to care.”

The UC Riverside School of Medicine defines itself, in part, through a strong emphasis on community health and in working closely with the diverse and medically underserved populations of inland southern California, McMullin said.

By the second week of medical school, students are spending time working in a clinical setting, making it all the more important that they know how to communicate effectively with patients and build their trust.

“It’s so exciting to see that we can train physicians to see patients as real human beings with complex lives,” McMullin said.

Encouraging innovation for the next generation

UC Riverside School of Medicine isn’t alone in finding that a humanities education makes students in STEM fields – science, math, engineering and technology – more effective.

“There is a growing recognition that separating the humanities from STEM education was a mistake,” Peña said. “In surveys, business leaders say they want graduates with a liberal arts education because they think outside the box. They think creatively and they write and communicate well.”

And, as the UC Riverside example demonstrates, even a relatively small grant can produce a big result.

“With the type of funding that the NEH provides, we were able to create synergies across disciplines, and the impact of that work is incredibly profound,” Peña said. “The dollars they have invested will make a tremendous difference for the next generation of physicians.”

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The Top: Inspirational Women According to UCR Staff

*UCR staffers talk up women who lit up their lives*

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. This week, in honor of March being Women’s History Month, we asked a few UCR staffers to answer the question, “Who is a woman that has inspired you and why?” Here are their responses!

If you have something you’d like featured in The Top or an activity you’d like to share, email kris.love-kin@ucr.edu!

1. **Tamica Smith Jones, director of athletics**

“The woman that most inspires me is indisputably my mother, Ruth Smith Holmes, the pastor, co-founder and leading lady of Light of the World Ministries and International Association headquartered in Stockbridge, Georgia.
“She has been the stabilizing factor in my life that has always pushed me towards my greatest potential. Growing up, I saw her balance work and family as a corporate executive at the Bell South phone company. Although not a sports fanatic, she had a significant impact on my professional journey. Raising a daughter who had ‘a ball and a dream’ to earn a full scholarship to college, she insisted that I stick with sports and remain scholarly – and that I did.

“My mother taught me to be authentic, trustworthy, disciplined in all my ways and to persevere towards my goals without making excuses. She taught me teamwork when she remarried as I had to quickly transition from the oldest to the middle child of a blessed, blended family.

“Years later, she is still my most admired as a model mother, endearing grandmother to my two children, mentor, spiritual counselor and voice of reason on days I am challenged. She is also my best friend so we plan quality time together and our most fun is spent traveling (Our next trip is to Kenya, Africa for missions in April!). Even as an established adult I keep her on speed dial and call her every few days just to let her know I love and appreciate her very much. I hope to always be there when she needs me because I owe her my life.”

2. Mark Manalang, communications specialist, School of Public Policy

“Professor Susan Straight was the reason I came to UCR’s creative writing program back when I was still a student. Being a Riversider myself, her stories about Rio Seco (her fictional stand-in for Riverside) really resonated with me and she inspired me to write about my hometown, as well as to write, period. Not only does she serve on the Academy of Distinguished Teachers at UCR, but she is also the director of the Master of Fine Arts Program at UC Riverside; how inspiring is that?

“Sheryl Sandberg is a constant font of inspiration for me. She is the chief operating officer of Facebook, an author, a former Google executive, a Harvard graduate and the founder of the nonprofit Lean In. Sandberg is a strong and tactful businesswoman and a benevolent philanthropist. She was the first woman to join Facebook’s board and continues to pursue breaking barriers for women in the workforce. She continues to encourage women to pursue education and careers through her charity Lean In. Nothing is more inspiring than someone who uses her success to help others and last year she donated a whopping $31 million to a plethora of charities close to her heart.”

“Mari Smith, also known as ‘the Queen of Facebook,’ is a great source of inspiration. Smith is an expert on Facebook marketing and has been named one of the Top Ten Social Media Power Influencers by Forbes four years in a row. She is an incredibly intelligent businesswoman with untouchable talents in all things social media. I am inspired by Mari because her business acumen and internet marketing savvy have allowed her to shine in the cut-throat social media industry. Smith will always inspire me and all those who also have passion for social media marketing.”

3. Ross French, digital communications coordinator, School of Medicine

“I owe a great deal of my life and career to the actions of a woman named Melissa Lalum. In 1990 she was the sports editor of the UC Santa Barbara Daily Nexus student newspaper; she hired me as a sportswriter despite my not having a huge amount of journalistic experience. She gave me a great opportunity and taught me some of the writing and editorial skills that I still use today. She also taught me a lot about strength of character and leadership as I watched her deal with a very testosterone-heavy work environment.

“Working at the Nexus gave me the chance to work with an amazing number of talented individuals—writers, photographers, artists, who I am proud to still count among my friends. Most significantly, if Melissa hadn’t hired me or been willing to work with me, I probably would not have met my wife, Christine.”
“After she left UCSB, Melissa went into a career in journalism and was an editor at the Los Angeles Daily News for a time. She later went on to oversee the journalism program at Cal State Northridge. We remain friends to this day and I often tell her how grateful I am that she took a chance on me way back then.”

4. Nancy Jean Tubbs, director of the LGBT Resource Center

“During this election year, I keep hearing the voice of the late Molly Ivins in my head. Oh I wish she were around to shine her smart, penetrating, and just plain funny political commentary on these candidates for office.

“Molly Ivins was born in California but spent most of her life as a columnist, author and humorist in Texas, a fertile ground for political shenanigans. As a college student, I often felt isolated for my beliefs regarding social justice and for my unwillingness to be the ‘polite Texas woman.’ You must hold on to a sense of humor when you are a liberal growing up in Texas and Molly was a tremendous role model for me and so many others.

“She taught me to be engaged, to ask questions, to be loud and for heaven’s sake, VOTE. Listen to Molly when she says, ‘So keep fightin’ for freedom and justice, beloveds, but don’t you forget to have fun doin’ it. Lord, let your laughter ring forth. Be outrageous, ridicule the fraidy-cats, rejoice in all the oddities that freedom can produce.”

An Iconic B-Boy

Ken Swift, internationally acclaimed breaker, to serve as visiting assistant professor at UC Riverside

By Mojgan Sherkat

UCR’s dance department welcomes Ken Swift as a visiting assistant professor for the 2016 spring quarter. Swift is an internationally acclaimed American practitioner of the original hip hop street dance form of breaking, popularly known as b-boying or breakdancing. He has also been named one of the most iconic dancers of the 20th century by CNN.

“It is incredibly exciting to have a street dancer of Swift’s expertise and international reputation here, teaching the fundamentals and history of his craft,” said Imani Kai Johnson, assistant professor of critical dance studies. “By being at UCR, he demonstrates the legitimacy of street dances as distinct techniques that have a legitimate place in the curriculum of dance departments.”

Swift has been described by his peers as the epitome of the b-boy, and a pioneer in hip hop dance. In the 1980s and ‘90s he helped introduce hip hop to the general public, and helped bring hip hop dance to the theater stage. In his over 35 years of practicing dance, he has received a Bessie Award for Choreography (as a member of the group Rhythm Technicians and the Rock Steady Crew), the Hip Hop Pioneer Award at the Sadler’s Wells Breaking Convention event, and the Louis Reyes Rivera Lifetime Achievement Award from Amherst College.

He has also been featured in films that marked the beginning of hip hop’s introduction to the mainstream, specifically “Wild Style” (1983), “Flashdance” (1983), and “Beat Street” (1984), and he has appeared in documentaries over the years, including “Style Wars” (1983), “The Freshest Kids” (2002), and “Planet B-Boy” (2007).

Swift’s talent and influence have been so impactful in the hip hop world that in 2011, CNN not only named
him “the second most iconic dancer of the 20th century,” ahead of such names as modern dancer Judith Jamison and ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, but also said, “Swift is credited with establishing hip hop as a legitimate dance movement and creating many of its classic moves.”

UC Riverside’s opportunity to hire Swift as a visiting professor came as a result of his involvement in Johnson’s “Show & Prove” Hip Hop Studies conference, which will be held on campus Friday, April 8, to Sunday, April 10.

“The dance faculty jumped at the chance to invite Swift to work with our undergraduate and graduate students over the 10 weeks of spring quarter,” explained Anthea Kraut, the chair of the dance department. “We see Swift’s hiring as in keeping with our ongoing efforts to legitimize multiple forms of dance as sites of knowledge and inquiry. In conjunction with the conference, Swift’s presence on campus helps position UCR as a major player in the burgeoning field of Hip Hop Studies.”

He continues to teach the foundations of breaking and freestyle rocking to dancers worldwide. At UC Riverside he will teach two courses. One is an undergraduate course, titled “Dance Cultures, Culture in Dance: Breaking Fundamentals.” The other is a graduate course titled, “Special Topics in Dance Making: From the Rock to the Break: Rocking and Breaking Styles from NYC in the 1970s.”

“Swift embodies a generation whose efforts sparked a global culture that represented their voices to the world for the first time. That is what I hope UCR students will learn from his presence,” said Johnson.

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**Top High School Students Can Dip Into a Summer Subject at UCR**

*Top high school students have the opportunity to test out a major or pursue a new interest by taking a college class at UC Riverside this summer*

By Kris Lovekin

Top high school students have the opportunity to test out a major or pursue a new interest by taking a college class at UC Riverside this summer.

High-achieving school students have the opportunity to test out a major or pursue a new interest by taking a college class at UC Riverside this summer. Apply early. The program has room for just 150 high school students each year. Students must have a 3.5 GPA or above.

The classes come with an orientation, a campus tour and a lunch time discussion about what it’s like to be an undergraduate at UCR.

Summer Academy program participants choose from courses offered in Session 1 (June 20 – July 23, 2016), Session 2 (July 25 – August 27, 2016) and Session 6 (June 20 – August 6, 2016). Course fees range from $723-$876 for a 5-week session, with financial aid available for eligible students.

New this year, Summer Academy will be offering a cohort program for students to take one class and participate in co-curricular programs together during Session 1 (Monday-Thursday, 8am-4pm). Students select one course from either Chemistry, Theater, or Psychology.

“We do not recommend taking more than one course if this is your first time participating in the Summer Academy,” said Christine Victorino, assistant vice provost of undergraduate education. “The courses are accel-
erated and the expectations are high, but offer incredible opportunities to learn about the overall college experience.”

More information is available online at http://summeracademy.ucr.edu. Email questions to the Summer Academy coordinator at summeracademy@ucr.edu

DID YOU KNOW?

15th Annual César E. Chávez 5K Run/Walk on April 2

UCR Chicano Student Programs and other affiliated organizations is hosting the 15th Annual César E. Chávez 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, April 2, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is being held in conjunction with César E. Chávez Day of Service and Learning, honoring the life, work and values of César E. Chávez. The event’s proceeds will benefit scholarships for deserving UCR students. For information, call Chicano Student Programs at (951) 827-3821 or visit www.cesarchavez5k.com.

Free SRC Week From March 28 to April 3

From March 28 to April 3, faculty, staff, international students and alumni can use the UCR Student Recreation Center (SRC) for free. All you need is the UCR ID Card or other photo ID for proof of membership eligibility.

Participants can enjoy the state of the art workout equipment, the pool and take any of the fitness and wellness classes offered during the free week.

For more information, go to www.recreation.ucr.edu or call the SRC at 827-5738 or 827-5731.

Who Says?

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

“(Donald Trump) appeals to people’s basic sense of ‘you know something’s wrong and someone needs to do something dramatic to fix it.’”

Karthick Ramakrishnan, professor of political science and public policy, on Donald Trump’s rise in the 2016 presidential election

TEEN VOGUE

“There are still a lot of people who think blacks are simply inferior to whites. It is definitely there, and I don’t think it ever went away.”

Roger Ransom, distinguished professor emeritus of history, on research that found that those with more negative views about African-Americans are more likely to vote Republican

THE WASHINGTON POST

“We are exporting water in the middle of the drought at shockingly low prices. ... This is a travesty. There’s
Chris Thornburg, director of UCR’s Center for Economic Forecasting and Development, on Almarai, the largest dairy business in Saudi Arabia, and its land purchase in drought-stricken California to grow alfalfa for its cattle

**THE GUARDIAN**

“(Dolores Huerta) stood up to the powerful forces when no one could really do so. She has courage, compassion and perseverance. She is a real fighter for the rights of human beings.”

*Juan Felipe Herrera, professor emeritus of creative writing, on Dolores Huerta, a civil rights leader and United Farm Workers co-founder*

**NBC NEWS**

“The environmental impact of prescribed burns has historically been based on data from clean fuels in areas of good air quality, so we have likely been under-predicting the impact of biomass emissions in polluted areas.”

*Akua Asa-Awuku, associate professor of chemical and environmental engineering, on her research that shows how forests subject to air pollution may be more toxic than in areas of good air quality*

**SCIENCE DAILY**

“From an ethical standpoint, I think having a woman could only benefit (FIFA). Of course, at this point, it seems that any change could only benefit.”

*Michael Haselhuhn, assistant professor of management, on the benefits of having a female president for FIFA, the governing body of association football*

**CNN**

“You could make a model do anything if you put in the right assumptions, but this one works without too much fine tuning.”

*David Oglesby, professor geophysics, on a computer model of the San Adreas fault and the adjacent San Jacinto fault that was created by Julian Lozos from California State University, Northridge*

**SMITHSONIAN**

Research and Scholarship

*Effects of Drought Stress*

Globally, forests of drier landscapes are being stressed by the drying effects of anthropogenic climate change, a research paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* published the week of Feb. 29 reports.

“A warmer world is relatively drier as far as plants are concerned, and this stress can be more important than the direct effects of higher temperature,” said Helen M. Regan, a professor of biology, who is one of the
coauthors on the paper. “This drought stress can interact with fire regimes, insect outbreaks, and disease. Anticipating vegetation changes in a warming climate requires understanding interactions among these global change factors.”

The paper – “Global change and terrestrial plant community dynamics” – summarizes the state of the art in studies of global vegetation change and reviews recent research about the combined effects of climate change, land use, altered fire regimes and invasive species on the world’s forests and plant communities.

“Vegetation responses to land use and disturbance can be more immediate than to climate change, and can be long lasting,” Regan said. Her coauthors on the paper are Janet Franklin (Arizona State University), Josep M. Serra-Diaz (Harvard University), and Alexandra D. Syphard (Conservation Biology Institute).

The researchers reviewed 150 studies spanning a range of biomes, techniques, disciplines, observational and experimental studies, including historical data spanning centuries, and paleo-environmental studies spanning millennia. They all point to highly dynamic terrestrial vegetation, responsive to climate and other global change factors.

“The media has given a lot of attention to climate change, drought, increased fires, disease, and habitat loss, but the effects of these agents of global change are not often discussed beyond their direct impact to humans,” Regan said. “Our paper highlights the impacts these threats have on forests and plant communities which process carbon, oxygen, water and nitrogen, and thus impact the earth’s oceans, atmosphere and climate and ultimately human beings.”

Regan performed part of the review focusing on models of “plant functional types” (a way of classifying plants according to similar life histories and responses to disturbance) and the effects of disturbance, land-use and climate change.

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**Awards and Honors**

*Professor Receives Distinguished Engineering Educator Award*

Cengiz Ozkan, a professor of mechanical engineering in UCR’s Bourns College of Engineering, has received the 2016 Distinguished Engineering Educator Award from the Engineers’ Council.

Ozkan received the award during the 61st Annual Honors & Awards Banquet, which took place Feb. 27 in Universal City, Calif.

He was honored for his “outstanding service to the future of engineering in undergraduate and graduate education, diversity, research in materials science and engineering, and contributions to technology transfer to industry.”

Ozkan was selected by the Council’s Honors & Awards Committee, following his nomination by Reza Abbaschian, dean of the Bourns College of Engineering.

“Cengiz is a respected member of the faculty whose energetic approach to teaching and research mentorship is appreciated by his students and colleagues alike. Most recently, his work toward advancing battery life has received recognition by industry leaders and I am pleased to see his hard work acknowledged with this presti-
gious award,” Abbaschian said.

Two Undergraduates Selected as Fulbright Scholars

Two undergraduates, Julianne Rolf in environmental engineering and Jwyanza Hobson in global studies, have been selected as Fulbright scholars for 2016-2017.

Rolf will be conducting research on improving water quality in eutrophic hard water-lakes at a German Research Institute. Hobson has been awarded an Fulbright English Teaching Award for Vietnam. Hobson is a transfer student who was influenced to apply for a Fulbright award after participating in a Study Abroad experience last summer. Gladis Herrera-Berkowitz, director of Student Success Programs, says Hobson represents the diversity that Fulbright is looking for in the cultural ambassadors they select.

School of Medicine Physician Named 2016 Hero Family Medicine

Lauren Simon, MD, MPH, a volunteer clinical faculty member for the UCR School of Medicine and a team physician for UC Riverside Athletics, has been named the 2016 Hero Family Medicine by the California Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP).

“Dr. Simon is a stellar and steadfast advocate for patients, colleagues and the family medicine specialty,” said CAFP President Jay W. Lee. “Her efforts to grow and strengthen the family physician community through education, advocacy and leadership make her a true family medicine champion.”

A past president of CAFP’s Riverside-San Bernardino County Chapter, Simon works at the state and local levels to improve patient care and physician education and to address the serious primary care physician shortage in the Inland Empire and across California.

In 2014, she was named CAFP’s Educator of the Year, receiving the Barbara Harris Award for Educational Excellence.