Novelist Emily Rapp Black, an assistant professor of creative writing, is one of 173 scholars, artists, and scientists honored nationwide.

By Bettye Miller

Novelist Emily Rapp Black, an assistant professor of creative writing at UC Riverside, has been awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation awarded 173 Guggenheim Fellowships to a diverse group of scholars, artists, and scientists from a group of nearly 3,000 applicants. The fellowships are awarded “on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise,” the foundation said in announcing the recipients in New York City on April 7. This year marks the 93rd year of competition for the awards.

“It’s exciting to name 173 new Guggenheim Fellows,” said Edward Hirsch, president of the foundation. “These artists and writers, scholars and scientists, represent the best of the best. Each year since 1925, the Guggenheim Foundation has bet everything on the individual, and we’re thrilled to continue to do so with this wonderfully talented and diverse group. It’s an honor to be able to support these individuals to do the work they were meant to do.”
Rapp Black’s award brings to 88 the number of Guggenheim Fellowships presented to UC Riverside scholars since the campus opened in 1954. Guggenheim recipients in 2017 will receive approximately $50,000 each to support their research.

Emily Rapp Black teaches and writes around subjects related to disability studies, feminist theology, medical narratives, medical ethics, and the literature of embodiment, trauma, and recovery. She is active in the cultural dialogue around end of life care, quality of life, and pediatric hospice care. She is the author of “Poster Child: A Memoir” and “The Still Point of the Turning World,” which was a New York Times bestseller and a finalist for the PEN USA Award in Nonfiction. Her book-length lyric essay, “Casa Azul Cripple,” examines the intersection of art, disability, sex, and fetish through the life and work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, and is forthcoming from the New York Review of Books/NottingHill Editions in 2018. Her work has appeared in Vogue, the New York Times, Alcalde, Lenny Letter, Reader’s Digest, Los Angeles Times, O, the Oprah Magazine, London Times-Style, Salon, Slate, Modern Loss, the Wall Street Journal, and many other publications, academic journals, and essay anthologies. Since 2012, she has been a regular book reviewer for the Boston Globe. She is currently at work on a book that reexamines the ancient notion of resilience for a modern world, and a novel about two grieving people on opposite sides of the world who become connected through a shared experience of the afterlife.

Since its establishment in 1925, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has granted more than $350 million in fellowships to over 18,000 individuals, among whom are scores of Nobel laureates, Fields Medalists, Turing Award winners, poets laureate, members of the various national academies, winners of the Pulitzer Prize, and other important, internationally recognized honors.

This year’s recipients represent 49 scholarly disciplines and artistic fields, 64 academic institutions, 27 states and the District of Columbia, and three Canadian provinces. They range in age from 27 to 79.

According to the foundation, the Guggenheim Fellowship program remains an important source of support for artists, scholars in the humanities and social sciences, and scientific researchers. The foundation was established by U.S. Sen. Simon Guggenheim and his wife, Olga, as a memorial to a son who died April 26, 1922.

Turning Ideas into Enterprise

UC Riverside supports innovation in Riverside County by bringing new technologies from the laboratory to the marketplace

By Sarah Nightingale

Grape growers lose an estimated $1.5 billion each year to fungal infections that damage vines after necessary pruning. Philippe Rolshausen, a researcher at UC Riverside, is helping them fight back. He first developed an organic, beeswax-based sealant that growers can apply to pruning wounds to protect them from fungal diseases. He then founded Agrobiomics, a Temecula-based start-up that makes the commercial sealant (CropSeal) and sells it to farmers.

In taking his research from the lab to the marketplace, Rolshausen, a specialist in subtropical horticulture at the UC Cooperative Extension, turned to UCR’s Office of Technology Commercialization, which is directed by Brian Suh.
“I knew that my invention had commercial potential, but having never brought a product to market, it was extremely valuable to receive assistance from the Technology Commercialization Office. Brian’s team was instrumental in the drafting and signing of the license agreement between UCR and our start-up company, Agrobiomics,” Rolshausen said.

In recognition of Riverside County’s Innovation Month, held in April, Suh highlighted the university’s role in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship that benefits Riverside County and the Inland Empire. This fiscal year, Suh’s team, which is part of the university’s Office of Research and Economic Development, has granted licenses to six companies that are commercializing UCR inventions. In addition to Agrobiomics, the office has facilitated agreements with the following companies: FarmSense; SmartDocFinder; Sponge; SureHarvest Services; and TusPark Ventures.

Suh said the most successful commercial products to originate from UCR have historically been agriculture-based, with UCR’s Tango mandarin citrus variety boasting more than 40 commercial licenses in the United States and internationally since 2005. He said the office is looking forward to working across the campus as other colleges—including the School of Medicine—continue to grow.

“Whether it be a drug, an electronic device, or a new chemical process, our goal is to ensure that wherever possible UCR research is translated into something real, where it can benefit society, positively impact economic development in the region, and strengthen the university’s reputation,” Suh said.

Read the full story: uctoday.ucr.edu/45869

Fourth ‘Conversations with the Chancellor’ Focuses on Human Resources

This is part of a series of conversations Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox initiated to give students, staff and faculty members an open forum in which to discuss issues important to them

By Sandra Baltazar Martinez

Dozens of staff and faculty members met with Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox to share their thoughts on Human Resources during the fourth “Conversations With the Chancellor” meeting held Monday, April 10, at the Alumni and Visitor’s Center.

The one-hour meeting was part of a series of open discussions Wilcox initiated in order to give students, staff, and faculty members an open forum to discuss issues important to them.

Topics raised included an overview of staffing levels at UCR, and a comparison of staffing levels on campus since last decade’s financial meltdown, during which state budgets for higher education were cut dramatically. Detailed information on hiring and staffing patterns are available online for those who were unable to attend. Campus community members can make their voice heard by emailing the Chancellor.

This was the fourth in the current series of conversations; the previous session, which took place in March, brought out suggestions from all about improving student success, including upgrades to campus infrastructure, use of technology, addressing affordability of housing, food, and general living costs for students.

“I continue to find your input insightful, and I have been working with campus leadership and the Academic Senate to ensure that our conversations carry on at the unit, departmental, and organizational levels,” Wilcox said in a campuswide email. “As we continue these important dialogues, I remain grateful for everyone’s commitment to the campus, and am, as always, optimistic about our future.”
See You At ‘Thursday Nights Live’

*The event, which features live music, is also open to family and friends. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase*

By Sandra Baltazar Martinez

Thursday Nights Live is a weekly series of al fresco evenings of music and food for campus members. Last quarter, the event brought together faculty, staff, graduate students, and families.

Campus community members are invited to join the next event, which will be held Thursday, April 13, on the HUB Plaza from 5:15 to 8:15 p.m. Two additional sessions are scheduled for this month (please see below) with several interesting musical artists.

Music lineup:

- Thursday, April 13: Sam Marsey Trio
- Thursday, April 20: Mayupatapi
- Thursday, April 27: Claremont Voodoo Society

The Thursday Night Live advisory committee includes: Kenneth Barish, professor and chair of physics and astronomy; Walter Clark, music professor; Javier Hurtado, graduate student; Yolanda Moses, special assistant to the chancellor for excellence and diversity and professor of anthropology; Ameae M. Walker, vice provost for Academic Personnel; Georgia Warnke, political science professor; Louis Vandenberg, KUCR general manager; Shawn Ragan, graduate student, Robert Wolfer, Staff Assembly president; Brendan O’Brien, HUB director; Brenda Ice, assistant dean of Campus Life; Robin Meribeth Hungerford, interim director for Retail Dining and Conferences, Events & Catering Services; and Steven Brint, distinguished professor of sociology and public policy.

Panel to Consider Causes and Consequences of the Los Angeles Civil Unrest

*April 25 event will connect 1992 violence with current solidarity movements*

By Bettye Miller

Activists, community organizers, and advocates will discuss the causes and on-going repercussions of the Los Angeles Civil Unrest in a panel discussion at UC Riverside on Tuesday, April 25.

The event will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Interdisciplinary 1113. It is free and open to the public.

Panelists participating in “The Afterlife of April 29, 1992 & the Fight for Racial Justice in South Los Angeles” discussion will address how the violence 25 years ago impacted various racial and ethnic communities and continues to influence advocacy and organizing efforts for racial justice in Los Angeles, said Crystal Baik, assistant professor of ethnic studies and moderator of the event.
The civil unrest began April 29, 1992, after the acquittal of four white and Latino Los Angeles police officers in the beating of an African American motorist. A total of 53 people died, thousands more were injured, and damage to businesses – particularly those owned by Korean and other Asian immigrants – and other property topped $1 billion before the violence ended on May 4.

Panelists will discuss both the immediate and prolonged repercussions for different communities, including Korean immigrant business owners, African American residents, and Latino/a laborers, and key grassroots organizing campaigns and mobilization efforts that emerged among impacted communities. They also will address how younger generations of scholars, activists, and artists are connecting the civil unrest to contemporary solidarity movements such as immigrant rights campaigns and Black Lives Matter.

See the list of speakers and read the full story online: ucertoday.ucr.edu/45702.

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**Did You Know?**

**Living the Promise Symposium: Renewable Nature**

At the Living the Promise Symposia set for April 19, participants will get to examine the concept of renewable nature, and learn how UC Riverside’s environmental, energy, and sustainable development research solutions are creating a healthier planet.

The event will include a panel discussion featuring:

- Michael Allen, distinguished professor of plant pathology
- Juliann Allison, associate professor of gender and sexuality studies
- Marilyn Fogel, endowed professor of geocology
- Louis Santiago, associate professor of physiological ecology
- Emma Aronson, assistant professor of plant pathology and microbiology
- Susan Straight, distinguished professor of creative writing.

A reception to close the evening will showcase artwork by Kellie Flint (MFA) and other academic displays. The symposium will take place at the Botanic Gardens from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Free admission. Registration is required: advancementservices.ucr.edu/CampaignSymposia.

**Launch of Innovation Space For Students, Faculty, and Researchers**

University Librarian Steven Mandeville-Gamble and Vice Chancellor Michael Pazzani invite students, staff, and faculty members for the Creat’R Lab Launch on Tuesday, April 18.

Creat’R Lab is an innovation space at UCR, where students can learn, break, experiment, design and create. This is where new technologies, scientific curiosity, and entrepreneurship come together to change the world.

Creat’R Lab will be located at the Orbach Science Library. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Program begins at 5:15 p.m. To see the complete list of Did You Know items, including a photo slideshow of the annual César Chávez 5K
Awards & Honors

Department Chair of Plant Pathology and Microbiology Elected Fellow

Katherine Borkovich, a professor and chair of the UC Riverside Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.

The academy, the leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology, recognizes excellence, originality, and leadership in the microbiological sciences.

Borkovich was honored for her research into environmental sensing by heterotrimeric G proteins in fungi, contributions to fungal genomics, leadership of microbiology undergraduate and graduate programs, and for teaching a research-based laboratory course for the microbiology major at UC Riverside.

She will be recognized at the annual American Society for Microbiology Conference June 2 in New Orleans.

Medical Student Receives 2017 Seed Grant Research Program Award

Sang Nguyen, a first-year medical student, has been selected as a 2017 Seed Grant Research Program recipient from the American Medical Association Foundation for his project titled “Anti-SNAIL1/PARP1 in Ovarian Cancer with BRCA1/2 Mutations.”

The Seed Grant Research Program encourages medical students, physician residents and fellows to enter the research field and conduct basic science projects. In 2017, grants were available of up to $2,500 in the areas of cardiovascular/pulmonary diseases, HIV/AIDS, and pancreatic cancer and $5,000 in the area of neoplastic diseases for small research projects.

To see the complete list of Awards & Honors items, visit: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/45890.

Research & Scholarship

Students Win at International Environmental Design Contest

A team of undergraduates from the Bourns College of Engineering were among the winners at the 2017 International Environmental Design Contest, which was held April 2-5 by the WERC program at New Mexico State University’s College of Engineering. The competition brings industry, government, and academia together to find solutions to environmental challenges.

Hira Yoshihara, Thania Flores, Christian Urena, Stephen Boggs, and Keith Frogue took first place in one of four challenges at the event for their development of a simple, cost-effective system to treat nitrated drinking water. Nitrates in well water, which can cause a host of health problems, have been increasing due to over-fertilization in agricultural areas, livestock manure on farms, and leakage from septic tanks in rural areas. The first place prize was $2,500. Yoshihara was also selected for the Terry McManus Outstanding Student Award.

Kawai Tam, an associate teaching professor, and David Jassby, an assistant professor of chemical and environmental engineering, mentored the team. Jucheng Guo and Jinyong Liu, both assistant professors of chemical
and environmental engineering, provided audits on the team’s report

**Ph.D Candidate to Conduct Agriculture Research in Vietnam**

Ph.D. candidate Holly Mayton will be conducting research this summer at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Hanoi, Vietnam. She will focus on identifying opportunities for agriculture and health research to more effectively inform policy aimed reshaping diets to improve human health and sustainable utilization of natural resources.

RIFA offers early-career professionals enrolled in agricultural and development-oriented graduate programs at all University of California campuses the opportunity to plan, engage, and implement two-to six-month long international projects in developing countries.

Mayton’s project will contribute to identifying critical decision-making needs, data gaps, and insights into the policy process. Mayton aims to overcome the barriers to effective policy interventions that can improve nutrition, health, and sustainability within Vietnamese food systems.

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**Who Says?**

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

“We hope with this discovery it could help us fight back against Zika viruses.”

*Rong Hai, assistant professor of plant pathology and microbiology, on a new drug that could fight back the Zika virus, with research done in partnership with assistant professor of biochemistry, Jikui Song_

_ABC 7_

“She has the right to make that work. But it supplants the mother’s very brave act of showing us the body.”

*John Jennings, professor of media and cultural studies, on the controversy surrounding artist Dana Schutz’ piece based on the death of Emmett Till_

_THE NEW YORK TIMES_