


 May 17, 2017


UC President Janet Napolitano met with elected officials and regional partners on May 15, 2017 at UC Riverside. In the photo (left to right) are Riverside County Board of Supervisors Chairman John Tavaglione, UCR Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox, Napolitano, and Riverside Mayor William “Rusty” Bailey.

PHOTO BY CARLOS PUMA

UC President Janet Napolitano Meets with Riverside Leaders, Alumni at UCR

UCR’s impact on regional, national, and global economies is based upon the campus’s accessibility, attendees told Napolitano

By James E. Grant, Jr.

University of California President Janet Napolitano met Monday, May 15, with Inland Empire community, education, political, and business leaders about working collaboratively to advance the region’s economic, social, and cultural welfare.

In roundtable discussions, she applauded UC Riverside’s impact in the community, the country, and the world. The partnerships UCR has built are unique and serve as a reminder of the growing strength of the university,

she said. She cited as an example the California Air Resources Board's decision last year to relocate its motor vehicle and engine emissions testing and research facility to Riverside, on land provided by the UCR campus.

The quality of UCR research and its community partnerships were key factors in that decision, Napolitano told a room of representatives that included Riverside Mayor William "Rusty" Bailey; Riverside Community College District Chancellor Michael L. Burke; Riverside County Board of Supervisors Chairman John Tavaglione; and other business and educational leaders from Riverside and San Bernardino counties. UCR's impact on regional, national, and global economies is based upon the campus's accessibility, attendees told Napolitano. For example, each year, Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox goes to a different regional high school to boost UC applications. Wilcox has also met extensively with local Native American tribal leaders -- and has been widely accessible to many other groups in the region. Simply having a direct phone number to reach his administration has made an impact, attendees said.

"I want to congratulate Chancellor Wilcox for leading a campus that is expanding access and helping students achieve their potential," Napolitano told the crowd.

A subsequent conversation with the UCR Chancellor's Ethnic Advisory Committees brought recognition of the campus's status as one of the most diverse research universities in the nation. The group also highlighted UCR's leadership in providing support to underrepresented students, as well as ways in which UCR is a model for other UC campuses.

In March, UCR was recognized as a national leader for its black student graduation success, and in November 2016, the campus was named recipient of the 2016 Project Degree Completion Award by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The award recognizes innovative approaches to improving student retention and degree completion. Representatives of the committees included Native American, Chicano/Latino, and African American community liaisons who champion issues such as education access, health, and housing affordability.

During her visit, Napolitano frequently took notes about the many collaborations UCR has with neighboring cities, school districts, community colleges, and California State University institutions.

Later in the day, she gave a lunch address to UC alumni affairs officers and alumni from all 10 campuses who were on campus for an annual conference. Napolitano said she will keep pushing to grow the University of California system's research, and will keep supporting programs that allow for improved student advancement and outcomes. Among those is UC's support for students in the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. The program allows undocumented students who were brought into the country as children to attend college in the United States.

In the lunch address, Napolitano said recent media coverage of a state audit has created an inaccurate impression of how UC Office of the President funds are managed. But she said she is taking the audit results very seriously and will implement all of the auditor's recommendations.

In the meantime, she promises to "travel across the state to tell the UC story ... and reinvigorate Californians about the importance of the UC system."

UCR Health's New Office Space in Downtown Riverside Has Grand Opening

Venue expands medical services in psychiatry, neurology, primary care, plastic surgery

By Iqbal Pittalwala

Starting this month, the UC Riverside School of Medicine and UCR Health, the clinical arm of the medical school, have been providing people with more access to medical services through a new office space in downtown Riverside.

Located at Citrus Tower, 3390 University Ave., Riverside, the new space had its grand opening ceremony on Wednesday, May 10. In attendance were local elected officials, business leaders, board members of the Riverside Chambers of Commerce, local healthcare leaders, community partners, and UC Riverside and medical school leadership.

“This really is a milestone for the UCR School of Medicine,” said Deborah Deas, M.D., M.P.H, the Mark and Pam Rubin Dean and Chief Executive Officer for Clinical Affairs. “We could not have reached it without the support of Pam and Mark Rubin and the unyielding support of UCR Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox. The mission of the medical school is to train a diverse workforce and to develop a medical program in clinical care and research to serve the people of inland Southern California, where we have a dearth of physicians. The new clinic puts a platform in place where we are not just training physicians but also treating patients in the area.”

The new office space at Citrus Tower contains a suite for UCR Health psychiatry and a second suite for UCR Health multispecialty services, which includes neurology, primary care, reconstructive and aesthetic plastic surgery, and more. There are also plans to add women’s health and pain management in the near future.

“The UCR School of Medicine was built on a premise of providing service to Riverside and the entire Inland Empire, and this new facility is a profound symbol of that commitment,” Chancellor Wilcox said. “This is an exciting time for the UCR School of Medicine. Our first four-year class is graduating this fall, all of whom matched for residency, and we now have this state-of-the-art office to expand access for patients and provide opportunities for our students. The entire university owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Rubins and all those who have made this clinic a reality.”

To read the full story, visit: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/47024.

Fifth ‘Conversations with the Chancellor’ Focuses on Communications

The meeting on May 10 was the fifth in a series of monthly gathering that began in January. These are open to all students, staff, and faculty members

By Sandra Baltazar Martínez

Staff and faculty members participated in the fifth “Conversations with the Chancellor” roundtable meeting to discuss communications.

Participants shared their thoughts on communication methods that are working, and also gave their input on new ideas to improve the delivery of information across campus, as well as direct communication with deans, chairs, and directly with Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox and others in administration.

The meeting on Wednesday, May 10, was the fifth in a series of monthly gatherings that began in January. These are open to all students, staff, and faculty members.

The May 10 meeting was centered around two questions:

- What current forms of communication work well, and how should we improve communication across the campus?
- How should we organize communication processes to solicit input from faculty, staff, and students?

The final campus conversation is scheduled for Monday, May 22, from noon to 1 p.m. in HUB 302, where the chancellor plans to review all of this year's topics, recommendations, and follow-up actions.

To review material from previous Conversations with the Chancellor, visit: chancellor.ucr.edu/initiatives/conversations.html

A Serve to the Success of Student Athletes

The Laura M. Ratto Endowed Scholarship was awarded to Helena Peric

By Pat Kohlmeier

Laura Ratto '00 is passionate about volleyball.

A standout volleyball player at UCR in the late 1990's, Laura was Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 2001, UCR's first Rhodes Scholar Nominee, and ranked third in the Highlanders history books for both career assists and assists per game.

Since graduation, volleyball has remained central to her life as a professional beach volleyball player, vice president of operations for the National Volleyball League, an indoor and beach coach at all levels, founder and former CEO of Volleyball Network, and currently as an independent sports business consultant.

Laura's parents, Richard and Barbara Ratto, have supported their daughter's love of volleyball throughout her educational and professional career. To celebrate Laura's accomplishments, they established the Laura M. Ratto Endowed Scholarship, providing an award each year to help financially support an outstanding scholar who is a member of the UCR Women's Volleyball Team.

The Rattos' desire to give future Highlanders the opportunity to follow in their daughter's footsteps was realized this year when the Laura M. Ratto Endowed Scholarship was awarded to Helena Peric '16. Helena, a 6'1" outside hitter, shares Laura Ratto's commitment to the game.

In 2015, she finished eighth in the Big West Conference in kills per set, led the team in total kills, and helped the team to its best conference record since joining the Big West. This June, the day after graduating with a degree in Media and Cultural Studies, Helena signed a one-year contract to play with Sens Olympique Volleyball Club, a professional club in France.

Helena credits her success, both on and off the court, to the support she received from UCR and the Rattos, which not only alleviated the cost of attending UCR, but allowed her to focus and fully pursue the sport she, too, is so passionate about.

Study Finds Exposure to Racism Harms Children's Health

New research presented at the 2017 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting suggests children across racial and ethnic groups who experience discrimination have more ADHD and worse general health

By Laura Milani Alessio, American Academy of Pediatrics

New research to be presented at the 2017 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting illustrates the unhealthy effects racism can have on children, with reported exposure to discrimination tied to higher rates of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety and depression, as well as decreased general health.

Authors of the study abstract, "The Detrimental Influence of Racial Discrimination in the United States," will present their findings on Sunday, May 7, in the Moscone West Convention Center in San Francisco. For the study, they looked at data from 95,677 participants in the 2011-2012 National Survey on Children's Health. In addition to providing physical and mental health records, caregivers of children in the survey were asked whether the child had experienced being "judged or treated unfairly" because of his or her race or ethnicity.

After adjusting for socioeconomic status, family structure, primary language and other factors, researchers found a significant link between exposure to racism and health. The average proportion of children reported by parents to be in "excellent health" decreased by 5.4 percent among those exposed to perceived discrimination, for example. Exposure to racism also appeared to boost the odds of ADHD by 3.2 percent.

The biggest reduction in general health appeared among low-income, minority children, particularly Hispanic participants, said Ashaunta Anderson, MD, MPH, lead author of the study and an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine.

Children exposed to discrimination who were from high-income households, however, also experienced negative health effects.

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/46713.

Did You Know?

Organizational Excellence Showcase Set for May 25

The Organizational Excellence (OE) Showcase will take place on Thursday, May 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The showcase will be a departure from the normal OE event format and will bring together diverse campus groups to present their OE-related projects and successes.

The showcase will be located on the lawn just outside of Hinderaker Hall, in a fair-style format, allowing individuals to find areas of particular relevance and interest to their work and to learn from other OE focused groups on campus.

Co-sponsored by OE, KUCR, Health & Wellness, and UCR Dining, Hospitality and Retail Services, the showcase will be an opportunity to share best practices and valuable lessons learned.

Free iced coffee and ice cream will be provided to attendees. The event is free. Staff and faculty are encouraged to attend.

If you would like to learn more about Organizational Excellence, visit their website: oe.ucr.edu.

Celebration of Teaching

The first ever Celebration of Teaching event will be hosted on campus on Thursday, May 18. There will be an award ceremony for the Junior Faculty Excellence in Teaching (JET) Award and the Innovative Teaching Award.

There will also be recognition for academic advisors and new inductees to the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

The JET award specifically honors those assistant professors who demonstrate a commitment and determination of an outstanding teacher while pursuing an active research program.

The Innovative Teaching Award is awarded to faculty members who create and implement high-impact teaching methods and demonstrate exceptional passion in finding new and effective ways to help students learn.

- Thursday, May 18: 2- 4 p.m. at HUB 302 South.

The event is open to all. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Recap: Living the Promise Symposium 'Visions and Voices'

On May 8, UCR celebrated some of its best-known, best-selling authors and their unique visions of the world at the "Living the Promise Symposium: Visions and Voices."

The event featured authors: Reza Aslan, host and executive producer of CNN's documentary series "Believer with Reza Aslan"; Emily Rapp Black, who recently won a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship; Tod Goldberg, winner of the Silver Pen Award; Susan Straight, a National Book Award finalist; and Peter Graham, associate dean for arts and humanities in UCR's College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS).

To view photos and video highlights of this symposium, visit: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/category/inside-ucr-did-you-know.

To read all Did You Know? visit: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/inside-ucr.

Awards & Honors

School of Business Names Executive Fellows

The School of Business has named Beverly Bailey and Candace Wiest as its Executive Fellows for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Executive Fellows Program aims to connect distinguished business leaders with students and faculty to enrich the learning experience. Fellows serve a one-year term, during which they give guest lectures and consult with faculty and students.

Bailey is the president and CEO of Stronghold Engineering, a Riverside-based international design and construction company. Bailey founded the firm 25 years ago, and it is ranked in the top ten minority/women-owned construction companies in the nation. Bailey's success has gained her awards, including the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Inland Empire in 2000 and the National Association of Women Business Owners 2016 Enterprising Woman of the Year.

Wiest is the president and CEO of West Valley Bancorp Inc. and West Valley National Bank. Formerly, Wiest was the president of Inland Empire National Bank in Riverside, and she has served twice as a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. She is the first woman to be elected as a Class A director in the bank's 100-year history.

Professor Wins Plant Biology Award

Julia Bailey-Serres, a distinguished professor of genetics, has been awarded the Stephen Hales Prize for 2017 from the American Society of Plant Biologists. She will receive the award at the ASPB Plant Biology conference in Hawaii in June.

Bailey-Serres' research group studies the sensing, signaling and acclimation responses to low oxygen stress in plants. Her multidisciplinary approach combines genetic, molecular, biochemical and bioinformatic technologies and has significant implications for agricultural and global food challenges.

She played a key role in the discovery and characterization of a gene that allows rice to survive underwater. That gene has subsequently been introduced through breeding by the International Rice Research Institute and others, creating flood-tolerant rice varieties that are grown by more than five million farmers in flood-prone areas of Asia.

Research & Scholarship

New Theory on Combating Cognitive Aging

As adults, if we continue to learn the way we did as children, UCR psychology professor Rachel Wu asserts, we can redefine what it means to be an "aging" adult.

Wu has published "A Novel Theoretical Life Course Framework for Triggering Cognitive Development Across the Lifespan," in the journal *Human Development*. In the paper, she redefines healthy cognitive aging as a result of learning strategies and habits that are developed throughout our life. These habits can either encourage or discourage cognitive development.

"We argue that across your lifespan, you go from 'broad learning' (learning many skills as an infant or child) to 'specialized learning,' (becoming an expert in a specific area) when you begin working, and that leads to cognitive decline initially in some unfamiliar situations, and eventually in both familiar and unfamiliar situations," Wu said.

Research on the Benefits of Worrying

A new paper by Kate Sweeny, UCR psychology professor, argues there's an upside to worrying.

"Despite its negative reputation, not all worry is destructive or even futile," Sweeny said. "It has motivational benefits, and it acts as an emotional buffer."

In her latest article, "The Surprising Upsides of Worry," published in *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, Sweeny breaks down the role of worry in motivating preventive and protective behavior, and how it leads people to avoid unpleasant events. Sweeny finds worry is associated with recovery from traumatic events, adaptive preparation and planning, recovery from depression, and partaking in activities that promote health, and prevent illness. Furthermore, people who report greater worry may perform better — in school or at the workplace — seek more information in response to stressful events, and engage in more successful problem solving.

"Extreme levels of worry are harmful to one's health. I do not intend to advocate for excessive worrying. Instead, I hope to provide reassurance to the helpless worrier — planning and preventive action is not a bad thing," Sweeny said. "Worrying the right amount is far better than not worrying at all."

Who Says?

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

"Lithium is our gold standard treatment for bipolar disorder. There are many individuals who just respond to this treatment."

Gerald A. Maguire, associate dean of graduate medical education and chair of psychiatry, on the importance of lithium-based medications for the treatment of bipolar disorder

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

"We see increased flexibility in the area of memory skills, in the area of what psychologists call executive function."

Judith Kroll, professor of psychology, on studies into bilingualism in children, and the subsequent benefits such as executive function which is responsible for memory and other key brain strengths

KPCC

