

June 14, 2017



Members of the inaugural class of the UCR School of Medicine during their “Back to Basics” seminar in March 2017.

UCR Medical School Completes Three-Step Accreditation Process

Full accreditation marks the conclusion of the process, which began with preliminary accreditation in October 2012.

By Kathy Barton

On the eve of the graduation of the first class of medical students, the UC Riverside School of Medicine learned that it has been granted full accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting body for educational programs leading to the M.D. degree in the U.S. and Canada.

“Earning accreditation has been decades in the making,” said UCR Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox. “It is made even more special as it happens just as we’re graduating our first class from the School of Medicine. The school’s leadership, faculty, staff, and students deserve tremendous credit for this achievement, but special gratitude is due to the Riverside community who have done so much to make this day a reality.”

“Late Thursday afternoon, I received a call from the LCME informing me that the School of Medicine had received full accreditation for the maximum period possible for a relatively new school – five years,” said Deborah Deas, the Mark and Pam Rubin Dean and Chief Executive Officer for Clinical Affairs. “This is a huge accomplishment for UCR and for the School of Medicine. What makes it even more thrilling is the timing, which will allow us to celebrate this accomplishment together at commencement with our inaugural graduating class and with the community.”

Full accreditation marks the conclusion of a three-step process that began with preliminary accreditation in October 2012, which allowed the school to recruit and enroll students. Provisional accreditation, the second step in the process, was granted in June 2015. The final accreditation process began shortly after provisional accreditation and included submission of the detailed background on the school’s educational program, student services, faculty matters and infrastructure, as well as an independent student analysis and self-study. The LCME survey team then visited the campus over a three-day period in February 2017.

The accreditation milestone came one day prior to the first graduation ceremony and Hippocratic Oath for the first class to enroll in the UCR School of Medicine in August 2013. On Friday evening, June 9, the first 40 graduating medical students formally received their M.D. degrees and doctoral hoods in the traditional Hippocratic Oath Ceremony.

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/47639.

‘First-Gen Faculty’ Campaign Highlights Professors Who Are the First in Their Families to Attend College

So far, 88 UCR professors have self-identified as first-generation

By Sandra Baltazar Martinez

On Thursday, June 8, UC Riverside officially joined the UC-wide First-Gen Faculty campaign, meant to highlight and identify first-generation professors who can, in turn, serve as mentors for first-generation students.

This appreciation event was held at the weekly Farmer’s Market by Hinderaker Hall. Faculty members who stopped by the First-Gen Faculty booth could pick up a T-shirt, a pin, and a ticket for a free Moo Moo ice cream cone.

So far, 88 UCR professors have self-identified as first-generation – the first in their families to achieve a four-year college education. Systemwide, about 800 faculty members are participating in the campaign. First-generation faculty members are encouraged to wear First-Gen T-shirts, buttons, and are expected to share their college experience with students.

UCR is taking the initiative a step further. This fall, the campus will launch an official First-Gen campaign to recognize first-generation staff members, as well as students. At UCR, 58 percent of new and continuing students are first-generation, compared to 42 percent systemwide and 34 percent nationally.

“At UCR we wanted to do something a little bit different, to make the campaign a little bit more holistic,” said Thomas Dickson, assistant vice provost of Undergraduate Education. Dickson is a first-generation college student himself; he understands what it means to balance college, several jobs, and home responsibilities.

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/47663.

History Ph.D. Candidates Win Prestigious Fellowships

Travel grants and awards that will enhance dissertation research total more than \$200,000

By Bettye Miller

Six Ph.D. candidates in the Department of History have won prestigious fellowships and grants totaling more than \$200,000 this year.

Daisy Vargas has been awarded \$25,000 as one of 21 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellows for 2017 at the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The Newcombe Fellowship is the nation's largest and most prestigious award for Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences addressing questions of ethical and religious values.

The grant will support completion of her dissertation, "Mexican Religion on Trial: Race, Religion and the Law in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands."

Todd Luce has been awarded funding through a grant of approximately \$110,000 from the National Park Service for a Historic Resources Study at Joshua Tree National Park.

The project requires frequent visits to examine archives at Joshua Tree and the Thousand Palms Historical Society, as well as the Riverside County Tax Assessors office and the National Archives at Riverside. The final product will be an extensive report that provides detailed site investigations for where, when, and who built a property, and whether the property should be nominated to the National Historic Register, he said.

Sam Fullerton has collected approximately \$37,000 in research and travel grants in 2016 and 2017. Among his awards are: a W. M. Keck Foundation Short-Term Fellowship, The Huntington Library; a Kanner Fellowship in British Studies, William A. Clark Memorial Library, UCLA.

The awards will support his dissertation research, which explores the impact of new printed discourses of sex and the body on the public life and political culture of the English Revolution.

Mayela Caro will be a fellow at the Smithsonian Institution's Latino Center under the Latino Museum Studies Program in July and August.

This summer Caro will work with two curators at the National Portrait Gallery and will support two projects. The goal of the practicum is to gain a deeper understanding of Latino art and history of the 19th century, and to develop and hone skills related to museum exhibition research and organization.

John Haberstroh has been awarded the Fowler Merle-Smith Regular Program fellowship at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA).

Haberstroh will be in residence at ASCSA for the 2017-18 academic year. While at ASCSA he will visit numerous archaeological sites and museums across Greece, engage with colleagues and the institution's academic staff, and participate in a monthlong archaeological training program at ASCSA's excavations at Corinth.

Megan Suster will return to the island of Hawaii this summer for a 10-week fellowship with the National Park Service Cultural Resources staff in compiling a list of historic buildings in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Her dissertation, "Aloha Spirit: Settler Colonialism, Power, and Public History in Hawaii," uses four historic case studies to explore the ways in which a diverse set of interpretive approaches might offer an intervention into the settler colonial structure of modern Hawaii.

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/47609.

\$50,000 Grant Supports Matching Students with Community Learning Opportunities

In spring 2017, about 250 UCR students participated in some form of community-engaged learning.

By John Warren

UC Riverside's Office of Undergraduate Education has received a \$50,000 grant to ramp up community-engaged learning opportunities for undergraduate students. The funds will help match students with community service opportunities related to their coursework.

The award, called a Collaborative Opportunity Grant, is from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, or APLU, and the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities, or USU. Twelve universities received \$50,000 each with the grant funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to encourage community partnerships that aim to improve student success.

At UCR, the money will support integrating and increasing efforts to match volunteers and interns with community opportunities, said Elizabeth Claassen Thrush, educational initiatives coordinator for Undergraduate Education. This includes streamlining and subsidizing the application and background check process, leading orientations for students, tracking interactions through an online learning module, providing opportunities for academic reflection, and generating reports. Key to this effort are four part-time student coordinators, paid by the grant, who oversee processes, advise students, and maintain communication with community partners.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to work together with Student Life, the Career Center, and numerous other partners across campus to expand opportunities for hands-on learning and service in the community," Claassen Thrush said. "This grant has allowed us to deepen our community partnerships, especially with the Riverside Unified School District and The Community Foundation, our partners on this grant."

In spring 2017, about 250 UCR students participated in some form of community-engaged learning. Through seven courses across campus with a service-learning component, the students worked in Riverside and other regional school systems, in after-school programs, in libraries, and with local non-profit organizations.

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/47659.

UCR's Food Pantry Feeds Students with Cross-Campus Support

R'Pantry serves about 300 students per week

By Sandra Baltazar Martínez

On a recent morning, an army of hands neatly stacked shelves, filling them with items such as beans, canned vegetables, loaves of bread, and hygiene products.

The hands belonged to a group of UC Riverside students who were volunteering at the campus' food pantry, called the R'Pantry. It's a narrow space that went from being an idea four years ago, to a cross-campus collaboration project that now involves UCR's Swipe Out Hunger, The Well, Dining Services, and the R'Garden. Staff, faculty, undergraduate and graduate students from across campus also sit in a Basic Needs and Food Insecurity

workgroup that provides support for R’Pantry initiatives.

R’Pantry is now primarily supported by the UC-led Global Food Initiative (GFI), which mandates that all 10 UC campuses regularly support students in accessing nutritious food on and off campus. The goal is to alleviate students’ food insecurity at all UC campuses. UC surveys found that 62 percent of UCR undergraduate students reported being food insecure, compared to 42 percent systemwide. Food insecurity is defined as having limited access or an uncertain availability to acquire nutritious food.

A year before the GFI was implemented in 2014, a conversation about needing a food pantry was being led by PODER, a campus group created by undocumented students that is supported by Chicano Student Programs. Among them was alumnus Daniel Lopez, ’16, a linguistics and anthropology major who now works with underserved youth in Denver.

Then, in the spring of 2015, Lopez and a group of volunteers distributed food baskets to 300 students. Today, R’Pantry, located at the Bear’s Den and under the direction of The Well, opens twice a week and services more than 300 students a week. This past winter quarter, R’Pantry also opened a smaller operation for graduate students, located in the University Office Building. The grad R’Pantry opens once a week and serves about 15 graduate students each time.

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/47718.

Did You Know?

Athletics Director Featured in Athletics Administration Magazine

This month’s Athletics Administration Magazine featured an article about UCR Athletics Director Tamica Smith Jones alongside 11 other women of color who are changing the face of athletics administration.

Each woman aims to demonstrate to all young athletes that there is a presence of women of color.

“One of the top achievements that I’m most proud of in my career so far is taking a leap of faith and having the courage to leave my hometown and support system to join Lynn Hickey’s team at UTSA,” Smith Jones recalls in the article.

Healthy Campus Initiative Survey

In order to ensure that the priorities, goals, and strategies of the Healthy Campus Initiative meet the needs of our campus community, staff, faculty, and students are being asked to participate in a short survey.

All responses will be used in planning new initiatives and programs for the campus. Results will be kept confidential and only be shared in aggregate format. Please note, your contact information will not be associated with your survey response.

Participating enters you into a drawing for several prizes. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The survey closes June 18.

Take the survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017hcisurvey.

To read more Did You Know?, visit: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/47546.

Awards & Honors

UCR Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program Receives Initial Accreditation

The Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program in the School of Medicine at UCR has received initial accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), a private organization that sets standards for U.S. graduate medical education (residency and fellowship) programs and accredits based on compliance with these standards.

The program was accredited for four fellowships. A fellowship is the period, usually more than a year, during which a physician, after finishing residency, receives specialty training in a field. The first two fellows selected into the program will begin their training July 1. The two-year fellowship program will enroll two resident fellows each year.

“About one in five children between the ages of 5-17 in the United States today suffers from a mental disorder,” said Richard Lee, M.D., the director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program and an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at UCR. “The consequences of untreated mental health disorders in children include academic failure, interface with the juvenile justice system, and, tragically, suicide. In Riverside County, the shortage of child psychiatrists has severely limited access to this type of specialty mental health care for our youth population. Our fellowship program addresses this vital local healthcare need by bringing expert faculty child psychiatrists to practice in our community and to train the next generation of child psychiatrists for our region.”

Research & Scholarship

Anthropology Professor Featured in Documentary Series

Anthropology professor Sang-Hee Lee appears in a documentary series on human evolution produced in English and Korean by Korea Educational Broadcasting System, the Korean equivalent of PBS.

Lee was retained as the script consultant for “Lost Humans.” But her enthusiasm in describing the importance of meat and cooking in human evolution landed her a role in the film. As she cooks a steak and washes lettuce on camera, she describes how cooking food fueled brain growth.

“When you eat food raw, you get minerals and vitamins that are not destroyed by heat. As you heat food up, it becomes more dense and you eat more because you don’t have to chew as much. It requires less energy to chew,” she said. “Cooked food fueled brain growth because you could eat more and get additional energy from it.”

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/47673.

Who Says?

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

“We opened (the School of Medicine) with a combination of hope and anxiety...This has been a breath-holding experience for the whole community who were pulling along with us and waiting to exhale right along with us.

This really is, in a remarkable way, the community's school.”

Paul Lyons, senior associate dean of medical education, chair of the department of family medicine, and clinical professor of health sciences on celebrating the first group of graduating doctors

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

“If (redwoods) disappear, the ecosystem drastically changes. You might get a grassland, or you might get some other tree that forms the canopy.”

Louis Santiago, assistant professor of physiological ecology, on the loss of redwoods as a result of climate change in Big Sur and the surrounding areas

THE MERCURY NEWS

