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UCR ARTSblock
The home of the UCR Sweeney Art Gallery and the UCR/California Museum of Photography is offering a variety of exhibits and classes throughout the summer and into the fall. A sampling of offerings is listed here.

7.28 – 9.08
Compass 2007:
New Art from the University of California's MFA Programs
UCR’s Sweeney Art Gallery and California Museum of Photography exhibits examine artwork by 2007 Master of Fine Arts graduates of the University of California campuses. An opening reception will be held at 7 p.m., July 28.

Fall exhibits at the Sweeney Art Gallery
9.29 – 1.05.08
Pedro Alvarez: A Survey
The work of Cuban painter Pedro Alvarez (1967-2004) addresses specific issues important to Cubans and engages global audiences. An opening reception will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 6.

UCR/California Museum of Photography
Through 7.27
No More Heroes
The exhibit presents traditional images of sporting activities and stars drawn from the UCR/CMP’s Keystone-Mast and Will Connell collections that include Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jack Dempsey and Amelia Earhart.

7.28 – 9.08
New Light: Joshua Tree National Park
Co-organized by UCR/CMP, the National Parks Conservation Association and Riverside Art Museum, the annual program highlights the social impact possible when arts organizations collaborate with environmental groups. An opening reception will be held at 7 p.m., July 28.

9.29 – 1.06.08
YouTube: The Museum Show
This exhibit investigates YouTube and examines the new Web-based video-sharing communities as sites for communication, art and social action. An opening reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Sept. 29.

7.9 – 8.17
UCR/CMP Digital Studio @ UCR/CMP UCR/CMP and Human Rights Watch High School Program
My Global Village: Media Summer Session. Each week high school students and teachers screen an award-winning film dealing with human rights issues. Teachers spend the next four days developing a related curriculum, while students produce a documentary video or public service announcement. The class fosters media literacy skills and promotes leadership on social issues. $100 per week/$550 for the six-week session.

Education Programs
• My Story: Photo, a basic class exploring digital photography, virtual paint, design, and storytelling, Sept. 10-13, Oct. 8-12.
• Spoken 1.0: Audiom, a workshop for artists and others interested in sound, Sept. 24, Oct. 12-15. 10 p.m.

Open Studio
1-4 p.m. Saturdays throughout September and October. Free. www.sweeney.ucr.edu

UCR ARTSblock exhibits at 7 p.m., Oct. 6. www.sweeney.ucr.edu

A Farewell Message
This summer I will be leaving UC Riverside to assume the presidency of Purdue University. I have been deeply moved by the many expressions of appreciation I have received since making this announcement. In return, I have many people to thank for making my five years at UCR so memorable.

I thank the faculty, upon whom this institution is built, for taking our campus to new heights. They have done much to increase UCR’s reputation ranking by aggressively seeking extramural funding, including our first IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship); by recruiting top undergraduate and graduate students; and by rallying around new initiatives, even when those initiatives are outside their own areas of research. I especially appreciate their commitment to innovative teaching and to the success of every student.

I thank our students, whose fresh faces and enthusiastic ideas provide inspiration to us all. I have watched with pride as they have taken on societal issues in an effort to improve our campus and our world. I’ve enjoyed so much attending some of the wonderful events they have sponsored.

Our staff deserve a special thanks. Working diligently and often behind the scenes, they are the engine that keeps UCR running smoothly. This past year they have come forward to improve our campus climate for us all, collaborating with campus leadership to implement recommendations arising from a recent survey.

I thank our alumni, who continue to give back to the campus in so many ways.

They support our athletic teams, our academic programs, our events and performances, and our students, through scholarships and mentoring. Soon the Alumni and Visitors Center will open, a testament to their commitment. Finally, where would UCR be without our community? We are often touted as the UCR campus with the strongest community relationships and support. I thank the many business leaders, elected officials and other community volunteers who have come to our aid so eagerly and so often. From its inception, UCR has been blessed to have such steadfast support.

My husband, Chris, and I have enjoyed immensely five wonderful years here. We thank you, not for the years, but for each day that we moved UCR forward together. This campus will always be a most extraordinary, most special place for us.
Looking Back, Moving Forward

Five years. A half decade. 1,825 days. It can seem like a lifetime for the very young or the blink of an eye to the older generation. But no matter what your perspective, a lot can happen in that time. And at UCR a lot did. UCR’s magazine takes a look at a few of the events, milestones and achievements that transformed the campus under the watch of Chancellor France A. Córdova, who is leaving to become president of Purdue University in Indiana.

2002
New Student Convocation: September 2002, incoming freshmen and transfer students were invited to attend the first of what would become an annual New Student Convocation. The ceremony is designed to welcome new students and introduce them to the shared values of the university: free inquiry, intellectual honesty, personal integrity and respect for human dignity.

2003
An Official Welcome: Governor Gray Davis and UC President Richard Atkinson welcomed France A. Córdova as the seventh chancellor of UCR during a March 2003 inauguration ceremony.

2004
Softball Field Renovated: UC Riverside dedicated its renovated softball field in March 2004, naming it after UCR sports legend Amy S. Harrison, who lettered in women’s basketball, volleyball, tennis, track and field, and softball.

2005
Distinguished Lecture Series: Chancellor Córdova met with Mary Robinson, the first woman president of Ireland, who was a speaker in the Chancellor’s Distinguished Lecture Series. Started in February 2005, the series was designed to stimulate the region’s intellectual community, to inspire students to think beyond the lecture hall and lab, and to involve members of the community in the academic life of the UCR campus. The series also brought to campus an alumnus who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, Nobel Prize winners in physics, economics and literature, two poet laureates and a United States ambassador to the State of Qatar.

A Collaborative Effort: The California Community College Collaborative, a partnership between the University of California and the state’s community colleges, was formed in June 2005. Dubbed C4 and headquartered at UC Riverside, the program is designed to provide professional development, leadership training and policy research designed to help the state’s community colleges meet the challenges of serving a growing and increasingly diverse student population.

Global Partners: In September 2005, Chancellor Córdova and Ellen Waterfall, executive vice chancellor and provost, traveled to China to pursue UCR’s interests in agricultural and environmental areas of study with four Chinese universities. During the visit they renewed a five-year agreement with China Agricultural University and signed a memorandum of understanding with Shanghai Jiaotong and Xi’an Jiaotong universities.

2006
HSRI Begins: In early 2006, UCR launched the Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI), which aims to strengthen and focus research and graduate education in the biomedical and health sciences. HSRI brings together researchers from all sectors of health research to produce groundbreaking discoveries and to transfer new knowledge and treatments into the community. The new institute also will facilitate a dialogue with academics and the external health community on health-related issues and discoveries.

Child Care Expands: In November 2006, the chancellor approved an $8 million expansion project that will double the UCR Child Care Center’s current capacity from 144 to 288 children. Scheduled to open in late 2008, the building will be constructed at the corner of Watkins Drive and Blaine Street near the existing center. The expansion was one of the principal recommendations made in a January 2006 report issued by the Child Care Taskforce, which was established by the chancellor and consisted of faculty, staff and undergraduate and graduate student representatives.

Medical School: In November 2006, UCR received approval from the University of California Board of Regents to proceed with plans for a medical school that will serve the medically underserved in Inland Southern California. The final proposal for the medical school is being prepared for submission to UC officials. UC President Robert Dynes has said that efforts to open a medical school in Riverside will continue in Córdova’s absence.

2007
Woman of the Year: Chancellor Córdova, escorted with Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, left, and Assemblyman John J. Benoit, R-Bermuda Dunes, right, was honored in March 2007 at the California Capitol as a “Woman of the Year” for her lifetime of achievements in the scientific community and in higher education.

100th Anniversary: UCR ended a yearlong celebration of the 100th anniversary of its Citrus Research Center/Agricultural Experiment Station with an open house in April 2007. Founded in 1907, the research conducted at the station serves as the basis for new, improved plant varieties for both agricultural and urban landscapes, as well as new, more sustainable agricultural practices to combat insect and disease infestations and to enhance crop productivity.

100B+ Anniversary: Construction of the campus added 1.8 million square feet of new or renovated space over the past five years. This included the $6 million Alumni and Visitors Center, designed to be UCR’s “front door,” which is scheduled to open this summer.

Other projects under way:

• A $55 million building that will house the Genomics Institute is scheduled to be completed in summer 2009.
• The $37 million CHASS II building is scheduled to open in fall 2007.
• The $66 million renovation and expansion of the Student Commons. The main building is scheduled to be completed this summer.
• The $55 million Glen Mer Student Housing project is scheduled to be completed this summer.
• A $35 million building that will house the Department of Psychology building is scheduled to be completed by fall 2008.

UCR/City Collaborations: UCR formed partnerships with the city of Riverside to initiate collaborative projects such as the ARTSblock, which includes the UCR/California Museum of Photography, the Sweeney Art Gallery and the future Barbara and Art Culver Center for the Arts, the City-University Task Force, and the University Research Park.

Sports Winners: Since 2003 UCR has sent seven teams to their respective NCAA tournaments. The UC Riverside Highlanders baseball team was the most recent, when it earned a No. 2 seed in the first round of the 2007 NCAA Baseball Championships after winning the Big West Conference Championship for the first time. The baseball team also made it to the tournament in 2003. The UCR women’s basketball team won the Big West Tournament and reached the NCAA tournament in 2006 and 2007. In 2005, the women’s soccer team reached the NCAA tournament and the men’s golf team was the first team to reach the postseason twice, winning back-to-back Big West titles and going to the regional tournament in 2004 and 2005.

Senior Appointments: UC Riverside added to its team of high-end leaders. New senior appointments included:
• Reza Abbaspour, dean of the Bourns College of Engineering
• William Boltz, vice chancellor of university advancement
• Steven Ross, dean of the College of Education
• Stephen E. Cullenberg, dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
• Al Diaz, vice chancellor of administration
• Charles F. Louis, vice chancellor of research
• David Stewart, dean, A. Gary Anderson Graduate, School of Management
• Ellen Waterfall, executive vice chancellor and provost.

Diversity: Diversity continued to be a focus for the campus. New appointments include an associate vice provost for faculty equity and diversity and the chancellor’s special assistant for excellence and diversity. Women comprised approximately 34 percent and underrepresented minorities approximately 11 percent of the 211 new faculty hires over the past five years.

Endowment Grows: UCR increased its endowment to $69.5 million in addition, $17.5 million in planned gifts from the charitable trusts of Bart and Barbara Singletary, and William and Toby Austin were received. The gifts will be used to create professorships in social sciences, medical education and research, and agriculture. Fund raising increased from $11.6 million in 2003-04 to $40.1 million in 2005-06.

UCR/City Collaborations: UCR formed partnerships with the city of Riverside to initiate collaborative projects such as the ARTSblock, which includes the UCR/California Museum of Photography, the Sweeney Art Gallery and the future Barbara and Art Culver Center for the Arts, the City-University Task Force, and the University Research Park.
Medical School Planning Continues

The University of California Office of the President has reaffirmed support for the proposed medical school at UC Riverside in light of Chancellor France A. Córdova’s departure this summer for Purdue University.

Wyatt R. Huene, the UC’s provost and executive vice president, academic and health affairs, stressed that “the president’s and the regents’ decision to support UCR’s continued planning effort is based upon our commitment to addressing state workforce needs and expanding educational opportunities for students. These commitments have not changed.”

Ellen Wartella, executive vice chancellor and provost at the campus because of the enormous value it could bring to the UC, said the medical school effort remains a high priority for students. These commitments have not changed.”

State Workforce Needs and Expanding Educational Opportunities

President Nocella of the regents’ decision to support UCR’s continued funding for Reed’s current project, “Synthetic Coordination Chemistry,” for an additional two years.

UCR Chemist Receives National Science Foundation’s Special Creativity Award

Christopher Reed, a distinguished professor of chemistry at UC Riverside, has received the National Science Foundation’s Special Creativity Award for his research accomplishments and the broad impact his research has had on both organic and inorganic chemistry.

Reed specializes in making molecules that haven’t been made before. He also works on stabilizing molecules previously considered to be unstable. Credited with the discovery of new “strong-yet-gentle” acids called carborane acids, Reed’s biggest contributions have been in the field of superacids — acids stronger than 100 percent sulfuric acid.

His synthetic coordination project aims to get carborane acids to react with the inert gas xenon — a reaction that has yet to be observed — and with hydrocarbons.

The award will extend funding for Reed’s current project, “Synthetic Coordination Chemistry,” for an additional two years.

UC Riverside Engineering Students Compete in Construction Community Fund-raiser

A mountain of canned baked beans, an 8-foot-tall bell tower of albacore cans and sardine-can arches built by UC Riverside engineering students won the hearts of judges in Construction, a Riverside Arts Alliance fund-raiser for the Riverside Art Museum.

The Bourns College of Engineering team’s design, which incorporated well-known features of the UCR campus, won the award for best use of labels in the April event. They will advance to international competition. The 6,000 cans of baked beans, green beans, sardines, albacore and mandarin oranges used in the entry will help feed hungry residents of the Inland Empire.

Construction is an international service project of the design and construction industry, and credited to The Society for Design Administration. Five Southern California teams competed at the Riverside event, which produced thousands of cans of food for Second Harvest Food Bank Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Christian Foster, director of undergraduate research at Bourns College of Engineering, served as faculty adviser. He said Construction provided a valuable experience for students in teamwork, computer-aided design, estimation and fabrication.

UCR Hires Vice Provost for Health Affairs

Kiki Nocella, a family medicine scholar, has been appointed the founding vice provost of health affairs at UC Riverside. She will play a leading role in developing UCR’s medical school plans, while building research and health-care delivery programs to improve the health of the medically underserved in Inland Southern California.

Before coming to UCR, Nocella was a clinical assistant professor of family medicine at the University of Southern California’s Keck School of Medicine and also served as the vice chair for finance and administration for the Family Medicine Department at the Keck School of Medicine.

Nocella will assist in building components of the business plan for the medical school and developing plans for UCR’s Center for Clinical Medical Education. She also will develop critical infrastructure for managing health-related fields on campus and will advise UCR administrators on the development of medical residency programs.

In November 2006, UC Riverside’s preliminary proposal to establish a School of Medicine received initial approval from the UC Regents. The endorsement authorized UCR to proceed with planning for the school and submit a full proposal for final approval.

UC Riverside Poet Awarded Prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship

UC Riverside poet Christopher Buckley has been awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. Buckley, a professor of creative writing, has published 14 books of poetry. His newest collection of poetry, “Modern History,” will be published next year by Tupelo Press.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation provides fellowships for advanced professionals in natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and creative arts, based on distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

Buckley said the grant of about $40,000 will enable him to take the 2007-08 year off, reading, he said, everything from collections of poetry to books about cosmology and astrophysics.

“The opportunity to do something in the community is important,” he added.

Team Captain Nichola Kinsinger said designing an entry that was attractive, nutritious and sturdy enough to stand for one month challenged the students’ skills.

Allen Pham, a senior who used silver sardine cans in designing arches to resemble those of the Tomás Rivera Library, said the competition was fun and benefited a worthwhile cause.

“This is a chance to give back to the community,” he said.

In addition to Kinsinger and Pham, UCR team members included Christina Zapata, Giovanni Devina, Deep Shah, Su Nwe, Jesse Baneulos, Brian Hawkins, Martin Gawrecks, Jason Niccol, Anand Panchal and Jordan Barta.
UCR Professor Bets Math Can Help Fight Terrorists

Christian Shelton, assistant professor of computer science at UC Riverside, will work for the U.S. Air Force to help predict the behavior of groups ranging from several dozen people to the dynamics of nations — known as social and cultural modeling.

“We have models but they need to be extended mathematically and algorithmically,” Shelton said. “By doing this we can have a higher degree of accuracy in approximating the dynamics as to how a group of people will react.”

Shelton said the new developments in this research will be in extending what computer scientists call discrete time processes — slices of time analyzed and sequenced — into continuous time processes, which attempt to fill the gaps between those slices of time and improve estimates of likely future moves.

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research’s (AFOS) Young Investigator Program, which funds Shelton’s project, is designed to foster creative basic research in science and engineering and to enhance early career development of outstanding young investigators. The program also seeks to increase opportunities for young investigators to recognize the Air Force mission and related challenges in science and engineering. Each award brings with it $100,000 annually for three years.

UCR Gets Graduate Bioengineering Program

Capping a two-year effort, the University of California has given the green light for UC Riverside to enroll masters and doctoral students into a newly created Interdepartmental Bioengineering Graduate Program. Over the past two years, officials at the Bourns College of Engineering established the Department of Bioengineering, a bachelor’s degree curriculum in bioengineering.

The campus has supported the development of bioengineering by hiring a core faculty of seven and offering support from 30 affiliated faculty from other departments and from the College of Agricultural and Natural Sciences. The department recently acquired state-of-the-art facilities for high-throughput screening of biological systems, biophotonics laboratories and microfluidic systems for its new group of graduate students. The bioengineering department is slated to move into a new $65 million Material Science and Engineering Building, to be completed in summer 2009.

Survey Research Center Launched

Regional policymakers and UC Riverside researchers who need polling data to complete their studies have a new resource: the UCR Survey Research Center.

The center is an interdisciplinary project that provides researchers on and off campus with the ability to poll by telephone, Internet or mail, said Martin Johnson, director of the center and an assistant professor of political science.

Having the ability for faculty to analyze local and national issues will place UCR among the nation’s top research universities in the social sciences and will make it easier to recruit faculty as well, said Scott Coltrane, associate dean for the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS).

The Survey Research Center is the third project launched in the past four years that will benefit researchers and regional policymakers. Policy Matters is a quarterly publication started in 2006 that provides research and guidance on various issues. The Statistical Consulting Collaboratory is a fee-based consulting service that began in 2004.

Donald Trump to UC Riverside Graduate: “You’re Hired”

Stefani Schaeffer, a 1996 graduate of UC Riverside, and one of 18 project managers vying for a permanent position working for Donald Trump, was hired as the next apprentice on NBC’s “The Apprentice.” Schaeffer, formerly from Palm Springs, Calif., majored in English and psychology at UCR before attending law school.

Selected as a Los Angeles Magazine “Young Rising Star” in 2006 for excellence in law, Stefani is now a trial attorney for one of the largest California defense firms. She makes her home in Los Angeles.

Season six of “The Apprentice” was set in Los Angeles. Trump remained in charge and made the ultimate decision as to whether project managers stayed or were sent home. The winner receives the title of “The Apprentice” and the career opportunity to work for the legendary business tycoon. Schaeffer had the choice of working on Trump’s new resort development in the Caribbean or a condo project in Atlanta. She chose the Caribbean.

Schaeffer cited enthusiasm as one of her attributes qualifying her for “The Apprentice.”

“I lead by being enthusiastic, and enthusiasm is contagious and motivates people to work much harder,” she said.

Highlanders Get New Men’s Basketball Coach

Jim Wooldridge has been named coach of the UC Riverside men’s basketball team. Wooldridge has a 312-237 record in 19 seasons as a collegiate head coach. The Oklahoma City native has earned the reputation as a skilled program builder and coach whose teams emphasize teamwork, hard-nosed defense and rebounding.

“Jim Wooldridge brings a wealth of knowledge about what it takes to build a program and to position a team to not only compete, but to win,” said Stan Morrison, director of athletics.

“His single focus will be immediately apparent to his players, assistants and colleagues in the department. At the same time, he will be in our community in a number of ways and he will serve as a wonderful ambassador of his program, our department of athletics and our university.”

Wooldridge has coached at the collegiate or professional level for 29 years, including stops as head coach at Central Missouri State, Texas State, Louisiana Tech and Kansas State and two years as an assistant coach to Tim Floyd with the Chicago Bulls.
Sometimes discovery is a product of solitary endeavor: a single scholar, expert in a single discipline, achieves a breakthrough. But increasingly, new knowledge grows from multiple minds, working together across disciplines. In this issue of UCR, three scholars talk about how collaboration sparks new ways of teaching, learning, and thinking; launches journeys of discovery into new territory; and shows us that, although we might come up with great ideas on our own, often we are even better when we work together.

By Betsy Brown and Rosalyn Kulick
Emory Elliott, Julia Bailey-Serres and Christine Ward Gailey are not three UCR professors one might expect to find working together. But in the increasingly collaborative and interdisciplinary environment that is the modern university in general — and UCR in particular — who knows? Some day these three great minds might find themselves thinking and working along the same lines.

Elliott, professor of English, mentors literature students, and writes and lectures in American studies. Bailey-Serres, a genetics professor in the Center for Plant Cell Biology in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, is studying how different strains of rice plants tolerate total submersion of their roots — an important advantage in flood-prone regions of Asia and Africa. And Ward Gailey is a professor of women’s studies and anthropology, exploring topics as diverse as gender and militarism, and society’s pursuit of the “perfect baby.”

“The move toward interdisciplinary thinking and collaborating most likely blossomed all over the country at the same time, taking root in the humanities as well as the sciences, Elliott points out. Providing an environment that supported collaboration allowed universities to hire the best and the brightest as they came out of grad school. And when the best and brightest began to work together, new and previously unexplored academic frontiers emerged.

As the world became more complex and technology came into play in the early 20th century, scientists in particular were compelled to realize that they’d have to think and become experts in one discipline.”

—but in the 1920s and 1930s, with the advent of radio and TV, came increasing pressure to collaborate.

“For example, scholars in biology and chemistry recognized that biochemistry needed to be a new field in order for science and medicine to advance and that you needed molecular biology and physics to understand genetics,” said Elliott.

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“Today, there are about 6,000 members in the American Studies Association in the United States,” Elliott said. “Not that long ago, there were only 1,800.”

Women’s Studies: Merging Theory and Practice to Create a Discipline with Impact

Whenever scholars think and work together across disciplines, tremendous energy is released. In the case of Christine Ward Gailey’s specialty, the sense of freedom that comes when the structures of old disciplines are doffed gave way to a vital new intellectual frontier, starting in the late 1960s in the United States. It took time and collaboration for scholars in this new field to gain the respect of the academic world and earn recognition for women’s studies as a legitimate academic area that combines theory and practice. “At first, many people saw women’s studies as ‘flaky,’” said Ward Gailey. “We had to show our white, male colleagues that we weren’t just ungrateful witches, closeted sex workers or man-haters,” she added with a wry laugh.

Women’s studies pioneers were asking questions that had never been asked before, and, together, found the answers across a

A Hybrid is Born: American Studies

As an example of the birth of a new interdisciplinary “discipline” in the humanities, Elliott cites the origins of his own field, American studies, in the 1930s.

“Literature professors realized that they couldn’t teach without knowledge of history, music and social sciences to put literature in context,” he said.

The first interdisciplinary courses in American studies at Princeton were taught in the late 1930s, and the American Studies Program opened in 1942. But even in 1972, when Elliott joined Princeton’s faculty after stints teaching English at both West Point and the University of Illinois, American studies wasn’t a separate department.

Princeton offered just three American studies courses and students received a certificate after completing them.

“The young visionary president, William Bowen, recognized the need to hire new people with new ideas. Because of my non-traditional background, I was hired, along with a man from the University of Chicago and two young women professors from the University of Indiana and Berkeley, making them the second and third women faculty to ever teach there,” Elliott said.

“The number of students who wanted to join the American Studies Program jumped from 20 to 30 to nearly 100, but we had to cap the enrollment at 50 because we did not have enough staff to handle them all.”

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— Emory Elliott

Spring 2007
To plant genetics Professor Julia Bailey-Serres, collaboration is more than just a nice thing to do. “Today it’s really the key to success in science,” she said.

Collaboration hasn’t always been the norm. “In the scientific culture in which I learned as a graduate student and post-doc, one typically worked autonomously on a research question” — a paradigm that changed over the past 15 years with the sequencing of a large number of genes and complete genomes of organisms, including humans, fruit flies, yeast and bacteria, Bailey-Serres said. “Because of the wealth of information, research now moves more rapidly and more radially.” Scientists and funding agencies have realized that cohesive teams of scientists may be better able to make more effective progress, she adds.

Collaboration plays a key role in Bailey-Serres’ own research, dating back to her doctoral studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, where she was fortunate to work with one of the world’s top researchers in the field of plant mitochondria, the structures responsible for energy production in plant cells. After post-doc work at UC Berkeley, Bailey-Serres came to UCR in 1990, where she has launched groundbreaking plant genetics studies of her own. It was only a matter of time before her discovery path at UCR led to collaboration.

From Page to Performance: UCR Interdisciplinary M.F.A. Bridges the Gap

Playwrights working with performers, screenwriters dabbling in nonfiction, poets writing music — it makes sense that creative types might wander across the boundaries of their genres, sampling each other’s arts. After all, in the real world, it’s not uncommon for the writer to become a director, for the director to write his or her memoir, or for the poet to pen songs. But before UCR introduced its Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing and writing for the performing arts, in 2002, such interdisciplinary intermingling was rare in the academic settings that train tomorrow’s creative professionals.

The popular M.F.A. program was the brainchild of English Professor Susan Straight and Theatre Department Chair Eric Barr. “We thought it would be enriching for creative writing students and writing-for-the-performing-arts students to work in multiple genres,” said Barr.

But many M.F.A. programs don’t allow work in other genres, Barr said. As a result, students hone their chops in their own field — say, writing fiction or poetry — but miss out on collaborative experiences that might stretch both skills and imaginations. “When people work in a genre outside their principle discipline, they learn to think in different ways,” Barr said.

UCR’s M.F.A. program encourages interaction between creative writing and performing arts students. Participants work across five genres: fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, playwriting and screenwriting. “We challenge students to think in multiple ways, to develop different writing voices,” Barr said. “We want them to go beyond the basic information and make their own material.”

Last year one of our grad students, a poet, took a graphic novel course. By showing her how to make literature visually exciting, the course inspired her to develop a one-woman performance piece for her final project, incorporating poetry, original music and visual images,” said Barr. The student is now performing the piece in Los Angeles. Collaborative exploration benefits more than students, Barr said. “A few years ago, Stephanie Hammer, a comparative literature professor, and I developed a team-taught class on autobiography, literature and performance,” he said. Students explored the theatrical space, ideas about literature and their own life stories, then put together a 20-minute performance piece. Not only did the class prove popular — Barr and Hammer have been asked to bring it back — but the professors found that their own partnership was instrumental in demonstrating how collaboration can feed the thinking, teaching and creative processes. Barr sees abundant opportunities to expand the program’s horizons — creatively and practically. “In the M.F.A. program, we offer a very important team-taught course called ‘The Writer’s Life,’” he said. “We bring in agents, publishers, producers and critics so that students will be able to interact with professionals in their fields, find out how to write a query letter, how to submit their work and more.”

The fruit of collaboration, Barr finds, is often fresh and relevant in ways single-minded thinking isn’t. “Collaboration creates heat and excitement,” he said. “Playwrights work with dancers to create hip-hop pieces. Ideas for TV spring up.” The interdisciplinary partnerships keep artists charged and able to create spontaneously — a sure antidote to “writer’s block.” “Some things come together because you plan them,” he notes. “Others just happen organically.”
accomplish in six months what would have taken two years otherwise,” she said.

Incubating Collaboration

With new disciplines and groundbreak-
ing research emerging from collaborations, universities like UCR are creating new organizations to encourage and support collaborative thinking and research.

Prompted by the UC-wide Humanities Research Initiative, which began in 1989, UCR created the Center for Ideas and Society, a vehicle for collaboration within and beyond the humanities, including engineering, education, social sciences and the arts. Professor Elliott has directed the center since 1997.

Today, the center brings together faculty from all over campus.

“With our encouragement, faculty from different disciplines seek out others whose work touches the edges of their own, and they form groups of four. In residence at the center for 10 weeks, they do their own research while learning from each other,” said Elliott.

“Working together, we were able to accomplish in six months what would have taken two years otherwise.”

— Julia Bailey-Serres

Each group develops an umbrella theme or topic that is broad enough to accommodate interdisciplinary collabora-
tion. “... We also have some who apply as individuals, and then we put them together into a group in which their research may cross over the disciplinary borders,” Elliott said.

At first, participants join for the sense of fellowship, without imagining collabora-
tion will be the result. “But in their exit comments they tell us how much they’ve learned from people in other fields, that the collaboration turned out to be the best part of the center experience,” he said.

Ward Gailey is another scholar who has regularly to discuss research papers, host international speakers and get involved in each other’s work. The program has fostered the establishment of two interdisciplinary courses, including a design studio that is co-instructed by biologists and engineers. “The chemists are in biology labs, and the biologists are working with chemists. And the computer scientists learn to grow plants and monitor the effects of chemical compounds,” Bailey-Serres said.

Benefits for All

Whether they work in the humani-
ties, the sciences or both, whether across campus or at different universities, many
scholars will tell you that collaboration is one of the most rewarding aspects of their work, bringing together educators, researchers and students alike.

People studying and working in an academic environment need to open the windows and let in new ideas, said Elliott. “Scholarly work is often seen as isolated. You go off to the library and do your research and write your book — all by yourself,” he said. “But scholars need to talk, to debate, to co-author, to read and critique each other’s work. They need to open themselves up as people, to share their knowledge with someone who brings something from another discipline. The exchange process provides growth for everyone.”

Bringing more minds from different disciplines to the table improves the process of research itself, said Ward Gailey. “Different questions are asked. More demands are made of your research and you get more results,” she said. She finds that collaboration breaks down the barriers between the researchers and the “researched.”

“Unless you’re in the actual setting where the research takes place, you can’t ask all the questions of the research subjects that you need to,” said Ward Gailey. “With collaboration, researchers become producers of knowledge, rather than just sources of evidence.”

Bailey-Serres sees similar results in scientific research and study. “Progressive research now and in the future requires scientists to work across disciplines,” she said. To be effective in the chemical genomics approach taught through the ChemGen IGERT program, for example, researchers need insights into biology, chemistry, computational science and engineering. Biologists have to learn how the system of the cell, the system of the organ — “interdisciplinary science is the future,” said Bailey-Serres. “Scientists need to be well-versed within their discipline and familiar with the basic tenets, approaches and technologies of other disciplines. At UCR, that’s the kind of preparation we hope to provide.”

Scholars who have experienced collaboration firsthand say the impact goes deep and touches the future in many ways. “You can’t create a truly multicultural, diverse society without interdisciplinary collaboration,” said Elliott. For example, he points out, grad students in the ’70s thought there was a lot to be learned by looking at women writers or African-American literature. But many white male scholars weren’t interested in reaching out. “Barriers had to be broken down,” said Elliott. “The definition of what was ‘worthy’ of study had to change. And as it did, new fields of study began to emerge, such as Asian-American studies, Chicano/a studies, Native American studies, ethnic studies, and gay and lesbian studies. The new programs and departments in these previously unrecognized fields of study began to emerge, such as Asian-American studies, Chicano/a studies, Native American studies, ethnic studies, and gay and lesbian studies. The new programs and departments in these previously unrecognized fields of study had a tremendous impact on current knowledge.”

Ward Gailey sees a wealth of opportunities for universities to impact culture through interdisciplinary collaboration and the exploration of new “hybrid” academic fields.

“The key is to ask questions that haven’t been asked before — for example, looking at how to bridge scientific and technological studies in contraception, or looking at questions of gender and sexuality under the umbrella of women’s studies. We could produce tremendous new knowledge informed by feminist theories.”

Elliott finds ideas like these particularly relevant to the future of UC Riverside. “As we head toward a medical school on campus, it’s important to ask: ‘What are the roles of the humanities and social sciences in relation to the medical school?’ How can we conduct medical research and education from a ‘humanistic’ point of view?” said Elliott. “With collaboration, researchers become producers of knowledge, rather than just sources of evidence.”

Christine Ward Gailey

Synergy and Social Change

How Interdisciplinary Energy Can Fuel a Movement

For an example of how collaboration can change the world, look no further than American history: Abolitionists coming together to redefine freedom … the industrial revolution, sharing life-changing early technology … the women’s suffrage movement … the American civil rights movement of the ’50s and ’60s.

None of these historical turning points could have taken place without the kind of grassroots collaboration that can transform a thought into a conversation that engages many voices. Jonathan Walton, assistant professor of religious studies, has dedicated his career to studying those kinds of conversations — whether they begin in the basement of an African-American church, from a televangelist’s pulpit or in cyberspace.

From Pulpit to Scholarship

Walton has a Master of Divinity degree and a Ph.D. in religion and society from Princeton Theological Seminary, and is familiar with the pulpit. “I always knew I wanted to work on behalf of the community — not just the African-American community, but the larger humanity, and I wanted to be a preacher because of what I saw in black preachers,” he said. “The freedom, creativity and artistry I saw embodied in them attracted me.”

Walton’s scholarly work addresses the intersections between religion, politics and popular culture, with a particular interest in megachurches and televangelism. In the course of his research, Walton has examined the role that African-American churches played in the civil rights movement — the period from 1954 through Brown vs. the Board of Education to 1968, when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act.

“It was a wonderful moment in American history for multicultural democracy. People rose from the ashes of individuality to cross the dividing lines of race, class, gender and religious affiliation,” he said. “It wasn’t perfect, but it was a beautiful thing.”

Churches as Conveners and Change Agents

Churches, Walton observes, played a powerful convening role both in the communities they served and in the rally for civil rights. “For people who were denied citizenship and federal resources, who were a nation within a nation, the church brought everyone together,” he said. “It was the community’s social center and its nucleus. It was the moral arbiter, the location for social organizing and political activism.”

What’s more, Walton points out, the church offered more than spiritual nourishment. “Among many prominent congregations in the north, for example, it was the place you went to buy life insurance, or for unemployment insurance and other social services. So it was logical that during the civil rights movement the church basements and social fellowship halls were the gathering place. And it is important to emphasize that most of this work, like the work of the church, was done by women. This was their domain.”

But although the deep community that churches engendered fed the movement, the movement itself sometimes conflicted with the bureaucratic values of the church. “Scholars often look at black churches through rose-colored glasses,” Walton said, “but the progressive civil rights activists were not in the best interest of the institution of the church. Some church leaders had a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.”

Televangelists, the Intellectuals and Everyday People

Walton’s next book, to be published this winter, is called “Watch This! Televangelism and African American Religious Culture.”

“Televangelists aren’t given credence because of social stigma. They’re not considered racially or religiously respectable. They haven’t been taken seriously by the ‘intelligentsia’ class,” he said. “But they can come into any major metropolitan area and pack an arena with up to 100,000 people — black, white, Hispanic.”

Walton’s goal, through his scholarship, is to engage the intellectuals in richer conversation with everyday people concerning religious choice and spiritual aspirations. He’s also interested in the grassroots power of electronic media.

On his Web site — www.jonathanwalton.com — Walton posts book reviews and blog entries on diverse contemporary cultural and spiritual issues, from plagiarizing preachers and hip-hop culture to the behavior gridiron heroes and the Don Imus scandal.

“Bloggs are the soapboxes of the 21st century, particularly in the age of huge media corporations and conglomerates,” Walton said. “The Web puts information back in the hands of everyday people and recreates the town hall meeting, giving people a voice that can’t be drowned out by the ideological slant of CNN or Fox.” In cyberspace, Walton points out, politicians and others are forced to engage with the public. 
UCR’s New Stem Cell Center in Position to Generate Solutions

More than two dozen faculty from across the campus came together to develop solutions to an array of ailments.

By Litty Mathew

UCR’s new stem cell center in position to generate solutions

By Litty Mathew

Prue Talbot, interim director of the Stem Cell Center, with graduate students Sabrina Lin and Vu Tran.

With the launch of UCR’s Stem Cell Center, a research collaboration dedicated to understanding the mechanisms underlying stem cell self-renewal and differentiation, the university has entered California’s scientific boom. A field so new that until 1998 researchers had yet to discover how to isolate stem cells from human embryos and grow them in a laboratory setting.

“UCR is well-positioned to make important contributions to stem cell research, a cornerstone of developmental biology,” notes Charles Louis, vice chancellor of research. “Breakthroughs in this field will lead to advances in regenerative medicine, drug testing and toxicology and will have the potential to ultimately provide relief from numerous medical conditions such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and diabetes.”

Why UCR? Why now?

In 2004, Californians voted yes to Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative that would raise $3 billion over 10 years for human embryonic research. It is the largest state-supported scientific research initiative in the United States. The measure paved the way for institutions like UCR to plan for stem cell research.

And while larger, more well-funded institutions get the big breaks in many research situations, stem cell investigation promises to be different.

“Research in America is defined by creativity,” explains Arlene Chiu, interim chief scientific officer of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), the entity established with the passage of Proposition 71 to make loans and provide grants for stem cell research. “It’s a level playing field here when it comes to creativity so you can compete at the same level with larger, wealthier institutions. We can’t predict where the crucial discovery will come from.”

To this end, CIRM awarded two UCR faculty — Michael Pirrung and Frank Sauer — SEED (Scientific Excellence through Exploration and Development) grants for their related research.

“With these grants, we want to attract young investigators, often from other disciplines, who can use their tools in stem cell research,” Chiu says.

Pirrung’s grant will allow him to identify small organic molecules used to maintain pluripotency (the potential of a cell to develop into more than one type of mature cell) of embryonic stem cells and to control differentiation. Researchers like Pirrung might have limited experience in stem cells but rely on the center’s environment for equipment and facilities, and other researchers for advice and training.

“Our work is not directly relevant to an envisioned stem cell or regenerative medicine therapy,” explains Pirrung. “What we will do is provide one of the links in the chain that will eventually be needed to take stem cells and turn them into a therapy. Success in our work will enable a lab to take a few stem cells and grow them well. Think of them as ‘stem cell fertilizer.’

Sauer will study the role of non-coding RNA in differentiation of stem cells. “We don’t understand how genes are regulated,” explains Chiu. “Do they play a role in stem cell renewal? It’s a fascinating question to ask.”

This sense of excitement and urgency has brought together many UCR disciplines in record time.

“It has taken about two years from the time we launched stem cell biology at UCR until the center was formed,” says Prue Talbot, the center’s interim director. “It came together quickly because there is tremendous interest in this area at UCR.”

More than 30 participating faculty representing three colleges and 12 different graduate programs, including philosophy and engineering, form the center’s core. “UCR’s greatest strength in support of the Stem Cell Center is the very broad base of faculty expertise upon which the center will be built,” says Vice Chancellor Louis.

The center is also a boon for students. While graduate students at the center number less than a dozen, the future promises more. Center members are discussing the best ways to introduce stem cells into the under-graduate curriculum as universities in California gear up to educate enough students with this experience to work in the new industry.

Sabrina Lin, a graduate student at the center, said her interest in pursuing medicine would take into account that the research focus for disease treatments has shifted dramatically toward using stem cell therapeutics. This quest to integrate stem cell research into their fields of study will move UCR students ahead of many of their counterparts in the United States.

“If Prop. 71 works out as hoped, there will be a burgeoning industry in stem cell science in California,” notes Pirrung. “I expect that the experience gained in working on projects will prepare students for these jobs once they have graduated and will enable them to compete better with chemists who might not have had the same opportunities.”

While the center is currently in its infancy, the goal is to add more research labs by recruiting new faculty and by building within UCR’s existing faculty.

“In five years, we will have a strong interface with the Health Sciences Research Institute and the proposed medical school, and some of our labs will begin moving into clinical applications,” predicts Talbot.

Addressing the controversy and concerns that surround stem cell research is part of the plan, said Louis.

“Stem cell research may be most controversial because it is not clearly understood. Education and outreach are among the center’s main goals,” he said, noting that new courses in stem cell biology and bioethics have been added to the graduate curriculum.

Undergraduate seminars in stem cell biology and bioethical issues are also being planned. “These will provide students with important information needed not only for biological study but for making responsible decisions on political and societal issues.”

UCR’s new stem cell center in position to generate solutions

Stem Cell Research on Campus

Besides Pirrung and Sauer, other members of the Stem Cell Center are:

• Monica Carson, associate professor of biomedical sciences, who will utilize embryonic stem cells to determine if microglia — brain immune cells that are critically involved, for example, in neurodegenerative diseases and strokes — can be used to manipulate the diseased and injured central-nervous system.

• Noboru Sato, assistant professor of biochemistry, who is using mouse and human embryonic stem cells to understand how a single cell can generate such a high number of specialized cells, which are integrated in space and time.

• Francis Sladek, professor of cell biology, who is planning to use human embryonic stem cells to study the early steps of differentiating embryonic cells into hepatocytes, the main cell type in the liver.

• Laura Zanello, assistant professor of biochemistry, who plans to work on the “expression of ion channels” — membrane proteins that facilitate transport of ions across cell membranes — as stem cells differentiate into bone cells.

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Pages of Parasites, Processed Food, Plants and More

Squirmy germs and deadly disease.

Fat-laden junk food and sugar-induced snacks. A tale of friendship among some eccentric misfits in East L.A. It’s enough to make you want to pick up a book and read. Take a look at this issue’s offerings.

Riddled with Life: Friendly Worms, Ladybug Sex, and the Parasites That Make Us Who We Are
By Marlene Zuk
Harcourt
April 2007, 336 pages

Most people think of disease as an enemy but in this book, evolutionary biologist Marlene Zuk, UCR professor of biology, reveals that disease is our partner and is responsible for everything from how we look to how we have sex. Zuk explains the role of disease in answering a range of questions: Why do men die younger than women? Why do we — and lots of other animals — get sexually transmitted diseases? How can our obsession with cleanliness make us sicker? And how can parasites sometimes make us well? Using her own work on sexual selection as well as a sampling of stories from the natural world, the books seeks to make us reconsider the fearsome parasite.

Virgin of Flames
By Chris Abani
Penguin
January 2007, 304 pages

For Black, a mural artist in East L.A., his city’s tumbledown landscape is his canvas. Residing in a ramshackle apartment above the Ugly Story, he lives for his art and obsesses over Sweet Girl, the transsexual stripper who serves as his muse. As Black navigates life alongside the Los Angeles River, “iridescent in its concrete sleeve,” he enlists his friends Iggy, the beautiful tattoo artist who has beguiled Hollywood’s elite, and Bombay, a wealthy Rwandan butcher — as he confronts his past and struggles to find his place in the world. Abani, an associate professor of creative writing, is the author of several books and was a finalist for the IMPAC Dublin Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize.

Flora of the Santa Ana River and Environments: With References to World Botany
By Oscar F. Clarke, Greg Ballmer, Ariele Montalvo and Daniella Svehla
Heyday Books
March 2007, 495 pages

The Santa Ana River, the largest watercourse in the heavily populated coastal plain of Southern California, is home to nearly 1,400 plant species. Clarke and his team have compiled descriptions of 900 plant species, accompanied by 3,200 images and illustrations. Clarke is the founder of the UCR herbarium, Ballmer is a staff research associate from the Department of Entomology, Montalvo is an associate in the Agricultural Experiment Station and Svehla is studying plant community ecology at UC Berkeley.

How Real is Race?
A Sourcebook on Race, Culture and Biology
By Yolanda Moses (’76 M.A., ’76 Ph.D.), Carol Chapnick Mulopadhyay (’80 Ph.D.), James Banks, Rosemary Henze Rowman & Littlefield Publisher Inc.
February 2007, 232 pages

“How Real is Race?” brings together biological and cultural information to help people make sense of the contradictory messages about race in the United States and elsewhere. The book explores biological fact and fictions of race, the role of culture in race and the meaning of “social construction” among other topics. With accessible, clear construction” among other language and suggested teaching activities in every chapter, the book is designed as a source for anyone interested in addressing the many questions surrounding race. Yolanda Moses is a UCR professor of anthropology and the special assistant to the chancellor for excellence and diversity and vice provost of conflict resolution.

Flora of the Santa Ana River
By Andrew Smith (’70)
Greenwood Press
February 2007, 376 pages

Heatly, and environs: with references to world botany. The book explores biological fact and fictions of race, the role of culture in race and the meaning of “social construction” among other topics. With accessible, clear language and suggested teaching activities in every chapter, the book is designed as a source for anyone interested in addressing the many questions surrounding race. Yolanda Moses is a UCR professor of anthropology and the special assistant to the chancellor for excellence and diversity and vice provost of conflict resolution.

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Also published:

Settlement Archaeology at Quirigua, Guatemala
By Wendy Ashmore
University of Pennsylvania Museum Publication
February 2007, 376 pages

Walsh covers the “get tough movement” that led to the three-strikes laws in sentencing, the constitutional challenges that three-strikes laws have survived and the continuing controversies over their implementation and effectiveness. Despite controversy, three-strikes laws are still popular more than a decade after their implementation and the laws continue to affect thousands of offenders each year.

通过 increased globalization, American popular-food culture is increasingly being emulated elsewhere in the world with the potential for similar disastrous consequences. This A-to-Z reference is the first to focus on the junk food and fast food phenomena from a multitude of angles in addition to health and diet concerns. More than 250 essay entries illuminate the American way through products, corporations and entrepreneurs, social history, popular culture, organizations, issues, politics, commercialism, consumerism and more.

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Three Strike Law
By Jennifer E. Walsh (’92)
Greenwood Press
January 2007, 208 pages

Walsh covers the “get tough movement” that led to the three-strikes laws in sentencing, the constitutional challenges that three-strikes laws have survived and the continuing controversies over their implementation and effectiveness. Despite controversy, three-strikes laws are still popular more than a decade after their implementation and the laws continue to affect thousands of offenders each year.

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Located just a mile from campus, the Kmart on Iowa Street has served a vital function for generations of UCR students. For editorial cartoonist Steve Breen, it was more than functional. It was inspirational.

In November 1989, as a 19-year-old sophomore walking to his off-campus apartment, Breen was deep in thought — neither of finals just a month away nor of his next visit to his favorite campus hangout, the Bull and Mouth. He was contemplating how to distill the breakup of the Soviet Union into one succinct pictorial commentary.

“My editor at The Highlander, Mark Acosta, told me to think about glasnost and the USSR as a cartoon topic,” says Breen. “As I was walking home, I looked over and saw the store and that got my wheels turning: ‘How can I make Kmart into something Soviet?’”

Breen achieved this by drawing a frame of Russian ladies, babushkas and all, carrying shopping bags outside a superstore called Kmarx.

“Kmarx was my big success as cartoonist,” says Breen. In December 1989, a national publication picked up the cartoon. “I sent Newsweek a letter saying I wasn’t anyone they had heard of but if
Go to work with Steve...  
What does a cartoonist do all day? It involves a large Diet Pepsi and a No. 2 pencil. 
A really sharp No. 2 pencil.

10:30 a.m.  
Breen enters the Times-Union, having filled up on Frosted Mini-Wheats with his kids. 
He greets his colleagues, checks his e-mails and gets down to the daily routine — reading newspapers. For the uninhibited, Breen might look like a slacker, but this step is key. "I do as much reading as I can. My goal is to have all my reading — New York Times, USA Today, San Diego Union-Tribune and sometimes the LA Times — done before lunch.

Breen keeps a notebook on the side to sketch ideas as he sits through the news.

1 p.m.  
Breen heads down to the Union-Tribune cafeteria for a bowl of chili and a very large Diet Coke. As his body takes a break, his brain clocks overtime. "I imagine my mind percolating the information I’ve read. Good cartoon ideas come when I’ve done a lot of reading on a topic, have an interest or passion, and you know enough to be comfortable making fun of it."

1:45 p.m.  
Breen is back at his desk. Is it hot? Are these pencils sharpened? More soda? "I don’t have a ritual but I’m a bit nervous to sit down and get started." Eventually, he settles with a stack of blank copy paper and a No. 2 pencil to make rough sketches.

In two hours, he’ll have five or six sketches to show his editor. They could be variations on the same topic or on several different themes. The editor looks through the cartoons and sets aside the two he likes. Breen picks the one he feels is stronger of the two.

4:15 p.m.  
The editor has approved the idea. Now Breen needs about two to three hours to ink it in. Back in his office, he turns on the light table and uses the rough draft as a template. "You can never get better than the rough draft in terms of composition because you’re much more relaxed when you sketch the rough draft."

6:30 p.m.  
Phew! He’s scanned it and turned it in on time. But you’re only as good as your next idea. Tomorrow, Breen’s on to a new cartoon.

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"He always had a sharp, even refined, appreciation and understanding of history, and that’s helped him to achieve excellence in his cartooning."

— Bruce Reynolds

"I was! Plus they paid $100, which is a lot of Taco Bell for a college sophomore."  
"I rarely remember suggesting the topic, but I do remember laughing out loud when I first saw it," notes Acosta, now an assistant metro editor at The Press-Enterprise in Riverside. "That one was an instant classic because of the cartoon's wit and simplicity."

Currently at the San Diego Union-Tribune, Breen, who won the Pulitzer Prize in editorial cartooning in 1997, is charged with creating five editorial cartoons each week that sum up the day’s news. He also writes and illustrates children's books—a burgeoning interest now that he and his wife, Caro, have three kids of their own and another on the way. Breen is also developing a new cartoon strip.

But it was UCR that put Breen on the path to professional cartooning.

For Breen, a career as a political cartoonist wasn’t on the radar then and still wish he would."  
"You have to cut your teeth somewhere. The Highlander accepted my cartoons — even the bad ones,” notes Breen. "That’s the role of a school paper — to teach. I honed my skills there."

Breen’s trip to the Pulitzer was short and direct. After just a year as a full-time editorial cartoonist at the Asbury Park Press in New Jersey, he won journalism’s most coveted prize at the age of 27. Then, after a stint as a paginator, his first post-UCR job and the Park Press’ only available position.

Although he might have been perplexed by the win, others knew it was just a matter of time. "I fully expected him to win the Pulitzer because of his style and his intelligence,” says Reynolds. "My complaint was that he was too nice, that he wouldn't hit as hard as his competitors. I was right about that, but he won it anyway. Fundamentally, Breen is such a good person, he doesn't have it in him to skewer people, including politicians, the way I wished then and still wish would.”

Since the Pulitzer, Breen’s work has evolved. Matured, perhaps. "I think I’m more consistent," says Breen. “With more experience, you get better.”

In a Russian-themed cartoon that ran in the Union-Tribune on April 24, Breen depicted Boris Yeltsin’s legacy with a large, ruddy man holding a vodka bottle in each hand. One labeled “reform,” the other “corruption.” The caption reads “Absolut Yeltsin.”

The thing about awards is the glow fades after a while,” Breen explains. How do you top a Pulitzer? "I guess winning a second Pulitzer. But most importantly, living a good life and being a good person is the brass ring.”
Overall, Teachers Give Poor Marks to No Child Left Behind

But some do feel that the act, which was passed in 2002 and is coming up for reauthorization, is helpful.

By Todd Ransom

If you ask a roomful of teachers to raise their hands if they don’t like the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, chances are you’ll see more hands in the air than if you asked a group of kids if they want to go to recess.

A recent UCR study conducted by Steven G. Brint, professor of sociology, and Susan Teele, director of education at UCR Extension, shows that nearly 80 percent of teachers polled see the No Child Left Behind Act in an unfavorable light. Nearly 40 percent held a very unfavorable view of the bill.

Although the original bill passed by Congress and was quickly signed into law in 2002, its reauthorization has become a lightning rod on both sides of the aisle. Nearly 40 percent held a very unfavorable view of the bill.

A recent UCR study conducted by Steven G. Brint, professor of sociology, and Susan Teele, director of education at UCR Extension, shows that nearly 80 percent of teachers polled see the No Child Left Behind Act in an unfavorable light. Nearly 40 percent held a very unfavorable view of the bill.

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Finding New Neighbors in Mississippi

For spring break, rather than head to the beach or mountains, I took my three daughters to help faraway neighbors repaint, carpet and lay hardwood floor. Along with 19 other members of my church, we flew to Gulfport, Miss., to renovate homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

We were hosted by Trinity United Methodist Church in Gulfport, a coastal city that took a terrible beating from the hurricane. The storm surge reached 30 feet along the beach, and the 120 mph winds of Katrina did major damage throughout the city, as water pushed into every creek and bayou.

No one was immune, wealthy or not. Even 18 months after the storm, we saw houses still in ruin.

Trinity is on high ground and received minimal storm damage. The night after the storm, volunteers realized that without refrigeration, stored food at the church and a nearby school would spoil, so they cooked a huge meal and served it in the church parking lot. They fed 300 that first night, and that grew to 1,000 per day for weeks. Gradually, Trinity UMC built a team and took on a new mission. They began to help rebuild homes, hosting volunteer workers from around the nation. As of the time we were there, 3,600 volunteers had worked on 560 homes.

My work crew was instructed to lay carpet and finish a house so the owners, Pastor Mattie Harper of Victory Temple Outreach and her husband, Johnnie, a mechanic, could move back in with 6-year-old Niya, one of their granddaughters. They had lived in a FEMA trailer in their driveway for many months, but had moved to a relative’s home when the power had to be interrupted frequently for work on their home. We varnished the cabinets, painted the kitchen, repaired drywall seams and painted bedrooms, laid carpet and finished electrical outlets.

While we worked, I watched Mattie Harper try to minister to people from her hood to speak to their pastor, to have her dad’s footsteps and become a doctor.

As for my family, we won’t forget what Gulfport, and all of the Gulf Coast, needed still. They need their neighborhoods back.

I realized that this was what Gulfport, and all of the Gulf Coast, needed still. They need their neighborhoods back.

Mrs. Harper invited us to her church, which was that it wasn’t too different than helping out our own neighbors, as we do in Riverside. We live in a 100-year-old house on a block of old homes, and we’re the kind of street where everyone helps out. If I’m in need, I can call a neighbor who’s a contractor, and my neighbor whose son is autistic can call us. We share food, carpooling, engine work, more food and ourselves. That is what the Gulf Coast needs — to get their neighbors back, with our help.

For my family, we won’t forget that Mississippi is closer to home than we realized. In fact, during that week, I think we found some new neighbors.

Susan Straight is a novelist and a historian. Her newest book, “A Million Nightingales,” is set in Louisiana.

Richard and Laura Small

Little did Dr. Richard Small know his student job at UCR’s Citrus Experiment Station would come in handy years later. Richard and his wife, Laura, a food safety instructor at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, live on a 33-acre avocado farm in Fallbrook, Calif., near Escondido.

A zoology major at UCR, he graduated in 1961 with good friends Drs. Fred Bryant and Carl Fuglie. Richard went on to medical school at UCLA and became a radiation oncologist.

The Gift

The Smalls have supported UCR since 1977. Since 2004, they’ve donated $10,000 a year to the Carl Fuglie Scholarship fund, in memory of his friend who died of cancer in his 30s. Last year, Richard and Fred Bryant started the Bryant-Small Scholarship to also benefit a deserving medical student.

Why did he do it?

“I think of it as payback to UCR,” said Richard. And he means it in the nicest of ways. “UCR was instrumental in guiding me to my occupation. To my goals. I want to help others get there, too.”

The Future

One of the young people whom he’s helping get there is daughter Jacque, a community college student. She’d like to follow in her dad’s footsteps and become a doctor.
UCR’s Best of the Best Honored

On April 21 the UCR Alumni Association held its annual awards ceremony to honor outstanding alumni who exemplify their university’s tradition of excellence and service. Through their personal and professional achievements, these individuals contribute to the betterment of society, enhance their communities and bring distinction to UC Riverside.

By Lisa Hill

Edward J. Blakely ('60, history, political science, economics)

Distinguished Alumnus Award

As an 11-year-old, Edward J. Blakely drafted a list of five goals. He wanted to be involved in sports, work on international issues, be involved in public affairs, live in Oakland and do something that would have significant impact on the world.

Blakely, the mayor’s executive director of recovery for the city of New Orleans, has achieved each one of his goals and far exceeded them.

“It sounds totally crazy,” said Blakely, this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. “I made this plan in five areas and I’ve been fortunate enough to do it.”

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is based on national and international distinction in one’s field and significant contribution to humankind.

A leading scholar and practitioner in the fields of planning and local economic development, Blakely has a resume that is both long and impressive. He has been at the helm in numerous times of crisis. He organized and led the Oakland response to the earthquake in 1989 and to the Oakland Fire in 1991, the largest urban fire in the 20th century. He is credited with helping transform Pittsburgh, Pa. in the mid-1970s.

Recently, he unveiled his recovery plan for New Orleans. The plan focuses on rebuilding 17 areas a half-mile in diameter, most in the western part of the city. His plan also proposes spending on areas such as the Lower Ninth Ward.

“I just bundles up those experiences to see which ones would fit New Orleans,” he said.

“I took from Oakland, some from Los Angeles, some from 9/11. That’s how we came up with a plan.

Blakely retired in 1994 and said he has been working on whatever comes up.

“Unfortunately, the things that keep coming up are disasters,” he said.

Jean Easum

('75, math)

Alumni Service Award

When Jean Easum received word that she had won the Alumni Service Award, she asked if the caller had the right number. She was shocked, she said, to be added to a list of such distinguished honorees.

“They’re all phenomenal people who have made major contributions to the community and when I look at the things that I do, they’re little things,” said Easum, who earned a bachelor’s degree in math from UCR.

“I just do the things that are placed in front of me.”

The Alumni Service Award recognizes outstanding service and contribution to UCR, a community and/or fellow citizens. It’s a new category that combines three former services awards: the Alumni Public Service Award, Alumni Community Service Award and the Alumni University Service Award.

Easum, a 26-year employee at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Corona division, has been a traffic cop, both in her career and in her role as an advocate of science.

She has recruited engineers from colleges and universities throughout the United States. She chaired the Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP) Teacher Conference in Riverside for the past four years and coordinated the Regional Science Olympiad Competition.

She has worked with the Inland Area Science Teachers Association (IASTA) and has dedicated herself to the advancement of students of all ages in scientific fields.

“I think science is the most important thing we have,” she said. “I think it’s imperative that we understand the need to capture young minds early on because science is what’s going to help us with survival,” she said.

When Easum attended UCR, she was one of a few female math majors. She said she struggled in her first quarter of calculus but credits a teaching assistant with helping her understand.

“It was one of those turning points in your life,” she said. “I never looked back.”

Easum says she’s been lucky to find a career that she enjoys. “The most important thing you can do is find something you are passionate about and if you’re lucky, that will become your career and you’ll never be bored.”

Daniel Goldmark

('94, music)

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

Daniel Goldmark was in a music history class when his instructor played a piece by Schubert that sounded very familiar.

“What I thought was, ‘Why am I thinking of Yosef Sam?’” said Goldmark, an assistant professor of musicology at Case Western Reserve University.

Goldmark soon discovered that the piece, “Erlkonig,” was a standard used in silent films to convey fear or danger. He later found out that the composer who used it in silent films went on to score most of the Warner Bros. cartoons.

It was a revelation that would prove pivotal to Goldmark’s career.

“When you say, ‘Oh, there’s a classical piece in cartoons,’ 99 percent of the time, everyone will know one,” he said. “Especially if you grew up with Looney Tunes on TV.”

Goldmark, 33, is the winner of this year’s Outstanding Young Alumnus award, which recognizes alumni 35 years of age or younger who have demonstrated significant career or civic achievements, and promise in their profession.

Goldmark, who began playing piano at age 5, enjoys all kinds of music. “I am a musical omnivore and yet I can usually turn my brain off and listen to something and not be thinking about it,” he said.

His monograph, “Tunes for Toons: Music and the Hollywood Cartoon,” was published in fall 2005. In “Tunes for Toons,” Goldmark examines cartoon music during its heyday from the 1930s to the 1950s when the film companies had their own animation studios — and, some, like Warner Bros., had full-time orchestras.

Goldmark is now researching sheet music and music publishing in the United States in the early 20th century and Tin Pan Alley in the early 1900s. He has produced a two-CD collection of the music of Tom and Jerry composer Scott Bradley, and a two-disc anthology called “Courage: The Complete Atlantic Recordings of Rube Harley,” the world’s first and only jazz bagpiper.

“You have to really enjoy what you are doing,” Goldmark said of his job. “I still don’t look at cartoons as work. I joke with my wife, ‘Am I watching it for work or am I watching it to watch it?’

“The most important thing you can do is find something you can do is find something you

Joel Reynolds

('75, political science)

Honor Award, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

Joel Reynolds says he and his siblings were raised at UCR.

Reynolds, this year’s winner of the Honored Alumni Award for the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, was frequently on campus with his father, William, a founding faculty member in the music department and longtime choral director.

William Reynolds worked at the university for four decades. The older Reynolds instilled his love of music in his children.

The Honored Alumni Award recognizes alumni whose personal or professional achievements have brought or will bring honor and distinction to a particular college at UCR.

A senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council’s (NRDC) Los Angeles office, after 10 years with the Center for Law in the Public Interest and the Western California office as a senior attorney, Reynolds specializes in issues of coastal protection, land use, marine mammal protection, environmental justice and transportation.

Growing up in the Inland Empire helped focus his career, he said.

“I’ve been involved in Riverside without being interested in the environment,” he said.

Reynolds is director of NRDC’s Urban and Southern

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UCR Spring 2007
Brian Hawley

B. Phil. (chemistry)

Brian Hawley went on to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree in computer science from UCR. Now Hawley is chairman and CEO of Luminex, a private company licensed through the University of California, San Diego, for the rights to develop medical and veterinary diagnostics based on marine-derived compounds.

Today, his research focuses on the medical potential of the oceans. "I was in the right place at the right time, and the resultant discovery of new chemical compounds, that I became interested in the medical potential of the oceans. Today, his research focuses on the discovery of medicinally valuable compounds derived from marine microorganisms collected locally and from tropical locations, as well as extreme environments such as the deep-sea and arctic waters. As a Distinguished Professor of Oceanography and Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the marine research division at Scripps Institute of Oceanography and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Fenical and generations of students and fellow researchers have been reinventing how scientists search for medicines. In fact, Hawley has traveled extensively to do research, conducting 27 major shipboard expeditions as the director of the Center for Marine Biotechnology and Biomedicine at Scripps Institute of Oceanography and Pharmaceutical Sciences. He is also a recipient of the National Academy of Sciences Award for service to the discipline in marine biology. Fenical is also a recipient of the National Academy of Sciences Award for service to the discipline in marine biology.

Brian Hawley's laboratory has discovered about 20 molecules that have the potential to treat various cancers. "Currently, we have two drugs in human clinical trials," he said. "One is for multiple myeloma and the other targeted to breast and ovarian cancer."

As a high school senior, a time when many teenagers are getting ready about graduation or the prom, Brian Hawley was busy running his own company. Computer Systems International was a lofty title for a 17-year-old boy. But Hawley, who is the recipient of the Honored Alumni Award for the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, said that he was a teenager. "I just got hooked on it," he said. "Before that, I was thinking about being a doctor." But computers, he said, were "just a natural fit for me."

The son of an engineer, Hawley said he inherited the ability to look at things logically and analyze them. "I knew it was going to pay off every aspect of life, just like cell phones and internet do now," he said. For me, it was a natural tool for doing things. "Luminex's 42 employees are headquartered in Riverside, with additional development offices in San Diego, Calif., and Beaverton, Ore. Hawley and his wife, Vickie, have raised two Labrador retrievers named Sadie and Kelsa. The couple also have a Tibetan husky named Destiny, whom they rescued from a freeway. Hawley attributes his success to dedication, passion and the ability to stay in niche markets rather than trying to compete with IBM. "I've always been pretty much a Type A personality that needs to have 27 balls in the air," he said.

Franklin A. "Lindy" Lindebarg

Distinguished Service Award

It rained on the first day UCR held classes in 1954. So school officials came up with an unusual solution to protect students from the weather: they placed plywood around the university’s five buildings. "There wasn’t a blade of grass. Everything was just flat," said Franklin A. "Lindy" Lindebarg, UCR’s first athletic director who was on campus that day. Lindebarg’s tenure at UCR lasted more than three decades. He was a physical education instructor, assistant football coach, basketball coach and golf coach. He retired in 1988.

The first basketball team lost all of its games, Lindebarg recalls. "I was the assistant football coach and we won a couple of games and we tied a couple of games. In the spring of 1955, we had a golf team and they came third out of 20 schools in Southern California golf championships," he said. Lindebarg continues to attend UCR basketball games and baseball games.

Hawley attributes his success to dedication, passion and the ability to stay in niche markets rather than trying to compete with IBM. "I've always been pretty much a Type A personality that needs to have 27 balls in the air," he said. "I've always felt that if you can help others, (you should). That is my philosophy. I enjoyed every day I went to school to work." In its infancy, UCR was more like a big family, with about 500 students and 126 faculty members, he said. "The faculty members that wanted to host students in their homes," said Lindebarg. He and his wife did so, hosting about 20 people who sat on the floor and asked questions about the school. UCR was supposed to be a small liberal arts college, like 2,500 students," he said. "Not everybody can say that. It is certainly has always been what attracted me to this."

William Fenical

(Ph.D. chemistry)

William Fenical’s career path began during a family trip to Florida when he was 12.

There he found that the ocean and the different and complex forms of marine life fascinated him. The ocean occupies 70 percent of the Earth but remains largely unexplored, said Fenical, whose interest in the ocean increased after his family moved from Chicago to California. "I have always considered the oceans to be the 'last frontier' and a major, undervalued resource for the discovery of new agents to treat human diseases," said Fenical, who is the recipient of the Honored Alumni Award for the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

Fenical took up scuba diving while studying organic chemistry. Determined to blend his love of the ocean with his career, he obtained an assistant research chemist position at Scripps Institute of Oceanography in 1973. Since then, he has studied marine chemical ecology with particular interest in the role of chemical defense in thawing predation on vulnerable marine organisms. It is from this research, and the resultant discovery of new chemical compounds, that he became interested in the medical potential of the oceans. Today, his research focuses on the discovery of medicinally valuable compounds derived from marine microorganisms collected locally and from tropical locations, as well as extreme environments such as the deep-sea and arctic waters.

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A L U M N I   E V E N T S

07.14
L.A. Alumni Chapter Annual Hollywood Bowl Event
Join the Los Angeles Chapter of the UCR Alumni Association for an annual Hollywood Bowl outing featuring "John Williams: Maestro of the Movies" with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, conducted by John Williams.

07.16
Alumni Association New Board Member Orientation
4-5 p.m., Alumni & Visitors Center
Erickson Conference Room
Alumni Association Executive Committee Retreat
5:30-7:30 p.m., Alumni & Visitors Center

08.17 – 19
African Student Programs Reunion
Various locations throughout Los Angeles region.
Contact African Student Programs at (951) 827-4576

08.24 – 25
Alumni Association Board Retreat
Morgan Run Resort & Club

How to contact the UCR Alumni Association (951) UCR-ALUM or (800) 426-ALUM (2586)
ucralum@ucr.edu
www.alumni.ucr.edu

For more information about these and other alumni events, visit www.alumni.ucr.edu

Fall 2007
Alumni & Visitors Center Grand Opening
The 14,000-square-foot center, which will serve as the campus’ front door, will house a large lobby, meeting rooms, a library of works by UCR authors, a formal board room and a dining facility that can also double as a banquet space. Find out more at www.alumni.ucr.edu/groundbreaking.html

10.13
Alumni Association Scholars’ Brunch
10 a.m.-noon, Student Commons

11.15
Alumni Association Fall Quarter Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting
1:30-3 p.m., Alumni & Visitors Center, Erickson Conference Room
UCR Alumni Association fall board meeting,
3-6 p.m., Alumni & Visitors Center, Johnson Board Room

Amazon River Journey
Join the UCR Alumni Association for a journey to the Amazon River. The tour is scheduled for March 7-16, 2008, for $3,795. Reservations made by Aug. 10 will receive a $300 early-booking discount.

60s

‘62 Frank Bidart was awarded Yale University’s $100,000 Bollingen Prize in Poetry for 2007. Frank is an English professor at Wellesley College. The prize was established in 1949 by Paul Mellon and is awarded biennially by the Yale University Library for the best poetry book published or for the lifetime achievement of an American poet. Frank joined the Wellesley English department in 1972 where he teaches poetry workshops and 20th century poetry.

50s

‘58 Richard T. “Nick” Nicolls and Sail (More) Nicolls retired in 1991 to Guemes Island, Wash., after 25 years living, working and raising four daughters in Saudi Arabia, the Marshall Islands, North Sumatra and Germany. Nick, formerly a physicist, is now a fire commissioner for their on-island volunteer fire department, secretary of the island’s property-owners association, and manager of the community center well and water system. Gail retired from teaching and is now chair of the Skagit County Democrats, secretary of the island’s environmental trust and coordinator of the island’s community emergency response team.

Elmer Thomas
Bachelor of Science ‘02, Computer Engineering

Elmer Thomas is chief executive of Thembid.com, where consumers can present their needs, and suppliers or companies can bid on the jobs. In 2003, Thomas founded his first company, Above the Limit Inc., which specializes in Web design and hosting.

1. How did you and your business partners come up with the idea for Thembid.com?
   Isaac Saldana (our CTO) came up with the idea for Thembid.com more than a year ago. He had a home repair problem and finding a service provider through the yellow pages was time consuming. Who do you choose? The person with the biggest ad? How do you know who is good? He thought, wouldn’t it be great if you could just post your request online and have businesses bid on your request and then be able to select the business based on value using a rating system. So the idea came: Stop searching and make Them Bid!

2. What advice do you have for someone who wants to start an online business?
   • First, you need to define the overall goals and results you are after, then define the purpose behind those goals and results. If the purpose is not strong and you do not have a burning desire to achieve those goals and results, seriously think about another vision to pursue. Second, find mentors who have already been successful in the industry they are trying to get into. Then, find your mastermind team, who all share your vision passionately, each with different areas of expertise. Finally, the whole thing must be fun for you, to the point where work is no longer work, something that you are excited about when you jump out of the bed in the morning (and I do literally mean jump).

3. Do you have a hero?
   • I do not have any one hero. In fact, I have not thought much about that. I believe wisdom is best obtained by the study of many different people of many different cultures. So my hero would be a combination of all that is good in all of the people I have studied and those that I have not.

4. How do you spend your time away from work?
   • I enjoy spending time with my family. I have a wonderful wife and a very happy and active 2-year-old daughter. I also enjoy reading, in particular, I love to read about successful people, their methodologies and philosophies. I also enjoy programming for fun. Currently, I am enjoying Symfony (a PHP5 framework).

5. What is one important lesson you learned at UC Riverside?
   • My mentor, Jay Farrell from the Department of Electrical Engineering, taught me valuable lessons about independence, self-motivation and responsibility as an undergraduate researcher. He gave me the freedom to find my own path and the responsibility to lead others.
Ronald A. Sherman M.D., M.Sc.
Bachelor of Science, ’79 Entomology

Sherman, the most well-known researcher of modern maggot therapy, co-founded and directs Monarch Labs, which produces and distributes medical maggots. He maintains a lab at UC Irvine devoted to the biology and clinical impact of myiasis (maggot infestations).

1. You started officially experimenting with maggots in 1989. What led you to explore this line of study?
   I had always been interested in parasitology and medical entomology. I was intrigued not only by the “bad bugs” but also by the good bugs, which had historically been used as medicine or food. As an infectious-diseases fellow at UC Irvine in 1989, I was asked to assist with serious, chronic wounds that failed to respond to modern surgical and medical care. Everything just came together at that point, inspiring me to design and conduct the first controlled, comparative clinical trials of maggot therapy (maggot-induced wound healing) for treating bed sores and diabetic foot ulcers.

2. Some refer to you as the father of modern maggot therapy. How do you feel about that title?
   That’s a lot better than what everyone else calls me.

3. Most people shudder at the thought of maggots. Do you have any such reaction?
   I must confess that once I did get a little disgusted … I came home late one night, starved and tired after 36 hours on-call. The first thing I did was run to the porch to see if my fly traps had collected anything over the past few days. One of these traps was a soup bowl filled with rotting chicken. Tired and weary, I stumbled out to the porch and put my face up close to the bowl, carefully lifting the saucer on top to peek inside without disturbing anything. All at once, hundreds of very large maggots (nearly 1 inch long) and a vicious stench leaped right into my face. I went to bed hungry.

4. How did your time at UCR contribute to your research in maggot therapy?
   My education at UCR harnessed my passions for bugs and music through formal education, work, study and play. Clearly, without the formal education I received in entomology, and the experience I received doing research and working in the insectary, I would never have been able to ask — let alone answer — the question that has been, to me, a source of pleasure and intellectual stimulation for the past 20 years: How can fly larvae help wounds heal?

5. What was your favorite class at UCR?
   I was first elected president of CTA in 2003 and re-elected to a second term in 2005. In March, Barbara spoke at UCR to students and educators about the future of education in California schools.

SEARCH and Rescue for Families with Autistic Children

Iris Mink, UCR alumna and retired psychologist from UCLA, invited friends to attend a gathering at her home in Los Angeles in April. The event was designed to showcase the newly established Support, Education, Advocacy, Resources, Community and Hope (SEARCH). Led by UC Riverside Professor of Education Ian Blacher, the center will help families with autistic children find necessary educational resources.

“With six out of every 1,000 children diagnosed with autism in the United States, we saw a need to bridge the gap between diagnosis and available services,” Blacher told the group, which included actress Rene Russo. The center’s faculty and graduate students will work in partnership with K-12 administrative leaders, the Riverside County Office of Education, the Loma Linda University Medical Center and regional centers to develop bilingual training programs and materials. SEARCH will also assist families who have previously been underserved, especially those who fall into the low-income bracket.

The center, which is slated to open in fall 2007, will be located in the UCR Early Center.
70s

71 Stephen Reed (*73 M.A.) retired from the Social Security Administration and is beginning a new career as a full-time history professor at Santiago Canyon College in Orange. He has been teaching part time for 16 years in 12 different colleges and universities in Southern California.

73 William Hennerdinger is an artist with work currently on exhibit in “Clarenmont Connections” at the Long Beach Museum of Art. A painting from his “Manuscripts and Palimpsests” group will be exhibited through Aug. 31. The series is executed on newsprint whose messages are gradually obscured by several layers of overpainting, using acrylic, watercolor and Rhoplex.

74 Esperanza Luna is an artist in Newport, Ore. Her framed oil painting “Refugees” was featured in a live auction at the 12th annual Children’s Center’s Preventive Program in Lincoln County (Ore.) Children’s Hospital. A painting from the 12th annual Children’s Hospital’s “Refugees” was sold to benefit the hospital. The series is executed on newsprint whose messages are gradually obscured by several layers of overpainting, using acrylic, watercolor and Rhoplex.

76 Gregory Albia (Ph.D.) was a semifinalist for West Liberty State College’s presidency. Greg has served as dean of the college of education and as professor of special education at Florida Atlantic University since 2001. In 2002, Greg joined the firm Butterwick & Bright from 1980 until 1998. He is president of the Riverside County Bar Association in 1997-1998, as well as being a member of the firm Butterwick & Bright from 1980 until 1998. He was appointed Riverside County’s first African-American female judge. He has also served on the staff of the city of La Quinta since 1999 and was previously with the firm Butterwick & Bright from 1980 until 1998. He is president of the Riverside County Bar Association in 1997-1998.

Cheryl Schuler was selected as the California Council for the Social Studies Senior High School Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Cheryl has taught at La Quinta High School since 1996. She has been married for 30 years and is the mother of three children.

77 Eric Mathur is vice president of the J. Craig Venter Institute in La Jolla, Calif. He was previously a research scientist at UCR, the Scripps Institution, Stragane.

80s

80 Gail Hoak (*85 M.A.) is the dance department chair at Mt. San Jacinto College, where she has served on the faculty since 1983. She directed “Wonderful Town” with a cast of more than 40 singers and dancers with music by a 10-piece orchestra. She has choreographed more than 20 musicals and directed seven.

82 Bonnie Flach has been working for the Department of the Navy for the past 24 years. Next year she retires from the Air Force Reserve with 20 years of service. Richard Hans (*81 M.A., ’06 Ph.D.) is an associate archivist at the A.K. Smiley Public Library and Lincoln Memorial Shrine in Redlands, Calif. He has been selected as the district’s Teacher of the Year. He has taught for more than 20 years at Hyatt and San Jacinto elementary schools.

84 Kevin Gragett (’85 M.S.) is co-owner of Gragett’s Farm Supply, one of the top shops for farmers, landscapers and gardeners in San Diego’s North County. For years, the family has grown citrus and avocado trees on their Escondido ranch. Rick Uhls is pastor of Belmont Heights United Methodist Church in Long Beach. He is celebrating his 20th anniversary as a United Methodist pastor.

85 Ruben Barrales is the new president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Kelly (Ferrier) Barrales (’85), and their children, Ryan and Rachel, moved back to California from Arlington, Va.

86 John Carratello (teaching credential) is a music specialist with the San Jacinto Unified School District and has twice been selected as the district’s Teacher of the Year. He has taught for more than 20 years at Hyatt and San Jacinto elementary schools.

90s

90 Ariel Vitali is a resident of neuropsychiatry at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. He received his medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School in 1994. In 2001, he was named chief medical officer and vice president of product management. ProSight is recognized by industry analysts as one of the companies that started the information technology portfolio management market. Today, more than $30 billion of the United State’s federal information technology budget is managed within the ProSight platform. The company’s Portland office grew from Mark’s desk to a profitable company with more than $25 million in recognized revenue, more than 300 percent compounded annual growth rates, and more than 100 employees. ProSight was ranked as the fourth fastest-growing U. S. software company and was profiled in Federal Computer Week’s 2004 article on “Top 10 Hot Companies to Watch.” Mark is now the vice president of ProSight Product Strategy at Primavera Systems Inc.

93 Judith Posnakoff (*85 M.B.A., ’93 Ph.D.) is the new head of the firm’s Asia-Pacific institutional accounts. Other partners in the firm include UCR alumni James (Jim) Berens (’89 M.A.), Patricia Watters (*93 M.A., ’95 Ph.D.), and William (Bill) Knight (*81 Ph.D.).

95 Tim Canamar is the new head football coach for Yucca Valley High School. He has seven years of coaching experience at Yucca Valley and five years at Joshua Springs High School. He taught algebra and geometry for 18 years. For the past six years, Tim has also served in the Marine Corps Reserve, including one tour in Iraq with 4th H&S Company in 2005. He returned from Iraq with 4th H&S Company in 2005...
Reyes has lived in Westwood for the past seven years with his wife and 4-year-old daughter. After working for the past 14 years as a NASDAQ trader for three major investment banking firms, he has taken a position as head trader and analyst for Signature Estate Investment Advisory, a private wealth-management firm in Century City.

‘92 Tina (Brennenstuhl) Elters (‘93 teaching credential) has worked at UCR for the past 13 years and is currently serving as program coordinator for the UC Washington Academic Internship Program (UCDCI) and the UC Center Sacramento Scholar Intern Program. She and her husband, Adam, live in Riverside’s historic “wood streets” area and have two children, Sarah and Nathan … Jennifer Walsh is associate professor of political science at Azusa Pacific University. From 2000 to 2006, she served as an assistant professor of criminal justice at California State University, Los Angeles. She graduated from Claremont Graduate University with M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science.

‘93 Steven Ackerman is the health department chair at his high school alma mater, Redlands High School, in Redlands, Calif. He was most recently the principal of California Military Academy in Perris, Calif.

‘94 James H. Park was one of three candidates running for the District 7 office of the California State Bar Board of Governors. James was admitted to the State Bar in 1997 and is currently of counsel to Ropers Majeski Kohn & Bentley, specializing in commercial real estate transactions and disputes. He also has experience in enforcing and defending contracts, particularly indemnification provisions … Erik Fritchard is a partner in Ross, Dixon & Bell, LLP and practices in the firm’s Orange County, Calif., office. He is admitted to practice in California, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Since joining the firm in 1999, Erik has maintained a diverse civil litigation practice in state and federal courts. He graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was editor in chief of the Journal of Law & Politics … Tobin Slanze (‘96 M.A.B.) is chief financial officer for Ware Malcomb, a national design firm that offers corporate representation. He advises clients on all aspects of labor and employment law, serving as both a litigator and adviser. He has experience defending clients in matters involving sexual harassment, wrongful termination, employment discrimination, wage and hour violations and unfair competition … Ricardo Souza (Ph.D.) and Claudia Dolinski (Ph.D.) are associate professors at UENF, a state university in Brazil, where they lead a research group on diseases and pests of guava and coffee.

‘95 Jennifer Stover (‘96 teaching credential) received a Ph.D. in American studies and ethnicity from the University of Southern California in May 2007. After marrying Charles Ackerman in July, she will be beginning a tenure-track position as assistant professor of English at Binghamton University in fall 2007. … Laura Hansen (‘01 M.A., ‘04 Ph.D.) was named director of the criminal justice program at the University of Massachusetts for 2007-08. Laura also serves on a hearing committee for the board of overseers, Massachusetts Bar Association.

‘99 David Anderson joined America’s Vacation Centre (AVC) in 1999 after graduating from UCR. When he joined AVC, the company had no Web site and was focused on the San Diego local market. Over the past seven years, David worked to develop an agency operating software that has enabled AVC to become one of the largest sellers of cruises and vacations in the country. This year, AVC received three awards for Agency of the Year from Norwegian Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and Oceanic Cruises. David was on board the Norvik in 2006 in the Caribbean to accept the latest award … Jesse Randolph joined the international law firm Bryan Cave LLP as an associate in the firm’s Irvine office. Jesse has practiced labor and employment law and will continue to do so with Bryan Cave’s labor and employment group. He advises clients on all legal matters involving employees and employers of all sizes, including business start-ups, small businesses, and Fortune 500 companies. He is a member of the American Bar Association’s Labor and Employment Law Section and the California Labor and Employment Law Forum. … Jennifer Rustigian is a field representative for Congressman Joe Baca (D-CA) and is responsible for women and media issues. In her spare time, Jennifer travels to Mexico, Italy and other parts of the world, photographing everything that catches her eye. An exhibit of her work, “Digital Destinations,” featuring 25 black-and-white and color photographs, was showcased at a Riverside coffeehouse. She became interested in photography a few years ago while working for congressional Baca to keep a photographic record of the office and the events the Congressman hosts or attends. … Roben Hernandez would like anyone who has a video or DVD of the 2003 commencement ceremony to get in touch with him. He can be mailed at Jazz2Knight@aol.com.

‘01 Selena Brown earned a Master of Arts degree in theater and performance studies from the University of California, Irvine. She is continuing to work toward her Ph.D. at Brown. Her first play, SoLuNa, premiered at Rites & Reason Theatre on the Brown campus … Tony Festa was a utility player for West Virginia, the Milwaukee Brewers’ low Class A affiliate minor league baseball team. He met the love of his life, Megan McCoy, a West Virginia University Tech student who worked at Appalachian Power Park. Tony is now a sales executive for WeSave, a members-benefit program for public employees.

‘03 Taylor Fry is a volunteer with San Bernardino County’s Coroners Office, where she checks employee backgrounds for a screening agency. Taylor is part of the 20-member Citizen Volunteer division with San Bernardino County Coroner’s Office … Ricardo Ginsberg is a geographic information systems (GIS) technician for Rand McNally, the publisher of maps, atlases and globes for travel, commercial and educational purposes. Rachel was hired last September, with three weeks only after she completed the GIS Summer School at UCR Extension.

‘06 Tiffani King started a mortgage and real estate company with her business partner. The company offers an internship program to UCR students in which they can experience a career in real estate and home financing while earning units toward graduation. She is now in the process of starting a bank in which they will be able to lend and warehouse mortgage loans … Ashleigh Mickiss was a financial assistant for a hedge fund and a legal assistant for Morgan Stanley Corporate in New York. In fall 2007, Ashleigh will attend the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, Calif.

‘05 Jefferson Johnson married John Schnetz in February 2007. She participated in AIDS/Lifecyle, a 545-mile bicycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles to raise money to help people living with HIV and AIDS. … Theodore Snyder and Jennifer Liming (‘01) married in Wisconsin in October 2006 after meeting in an English class at UCR in 1992. … Julia Wade married Erik Murphy-Chutorian in May 2006. She is in her third year of law school at California Western School of Law and Erik is in his fifth year pursuing a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at UCSD.
Richard Cardullo, chair of the Department of Biology, has an ALIAS. He’s not penning a celebrity tell-all nor is he on the run from the law. Cardullo’s ALIAS — Accelerated Literacy Integrating Algebra and Science — is a science and math outreach program.

And for the past eight years, he has spearheaded the effort to help promote the study and love of science in local schools with children who might not otherwise be exposed to science.

“Kids are natural scientists,” notes Cardullo. “They’re inquisitive and creative. They are not afraid to play around, hypothesize and experiment. We have to tap into this as early as possible to keep them interested in science as older students.”

California’s students score at the very bottom in science literacy and performance in the United States. The country scored in the bottom third worldwide.

“I feel fortunate to have grown up in rural Massachusetts during the Sputnik era,” explains Cardullo. “Science was big when we were growing up. We were encouraged to probe and experiment.” In California, a state with a strong high-tech industry, yet with notable outsourcing of jobs to other countries, the concerns are economic as well as academic.

“It’s about creating a future but it’s also about making college accessible to kids who never thought they could go,” says Cardullo. “This is part of our responsibility, especially as a public institution.”