

Inside UCR

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Orbach Returns to UCR for Library Renaming

The public ceremony and a symposium honor a champion of science.

By Kim Lane

Former chancellor Raymond L. Orbach will return to campus next month and he will stay forever — if not in body then in name, as the campus officially renames the Science Library the Raymond L. Orbach Science Library.

The ceremony, which will be held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at the Science Library atrium, is the culmination of an effort, started two years ago by then-acting chancellor Robert D. Grey.

"During his tenure here at UCR, Ray Orbach did so much for the campus, I felt it was important to permanently recognize his contributions," said Grey, who led the campus from May 2007 to May 2008.

Orbach served as the UCR's chancellor from 1992 to 2002 as it nearly doubled in student population from 8,500 to 15,500. During his tenure the campus also experienced a campus-wide building boom, including adding more than 1 million square feet of office, research and teaching facilities with a value of \$250 million.

Orbach also spent time in personal outreach to underserved communities, with the message that preparation for college needs to start in middle school. To that end, he oversaw the development of a booklet, "Keys to the Future," which outlined how students could start preparing to be UC-eligible as early as the fourth grade. The booklet was translated into Spanish.

Timothy P. White, UCR's current chancellor, enthusiastically endorsed the naming. "Since my arrival at UCR, I have been impressed with the considerable legacy he left this campus and community. It seems fitting to recognize his many contributions by the naming of this beautiful facility."

Orbach and his wife, Eva, will attend the ceremony, as well as a symposium "Science-based Solutions for the 21st Century: The Legacy of Raymond L. Orbach," which will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the new genomics building.

Executive Vice Chancellor Dallas Rabenstein will moderate the symposium, which will include brief talks from Norm Ellstrand, professor of genetics and geneticist from the Center for Conservation Biology; Robert Haddon, a distinguished professor of chemistry from the Center for Nanoscale Science and Engineering; Natasha Raikhel, a distinguished professor of botany and plant sci-

ences from the Institute for Integrative Genome Biology; Tim Paine, professor of entomology from the Center for Invasive Species Research; and Joe Norbeck, professor of environmental engineering from CE-CERT.

The speakers were chosen because they lead institutes or centers that Orbach helped launch.

"Chancellor Orbach worked tirelessly to build the campus in both size and stature, while at the same time strengthening ties with the community. His legacy includes a rash of new, much-needed capital facilities, including the Science Library," noted committee members in the proposal to name the building after Orbach.

Opened in 1998 at a cost of \$29.7 million, the 106,000-square-foot science library houses approximately 533,000 books, journals, maps and other scientific resources, including more than 100 publicly accessible computer workstations, 25 group study rooms, and a map collection with state of the art cartographic



The Science Library will be named after Chancellor Orbach (above, inset).

and GIS resources. It is one of five UCR libraries. Others are the Rivera Library, the Music Library, the Multimedia Library and the Palm Desert Digital Library, located at UCR's Palm Desert campus.

Raymond L. Orbach: Quick Facts

- Born in Los Angeles, Orbach earned a bachelor's degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1956. He was awarded a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1960.

- Orbach began his academic career as a postdoctoral fellow at Oxford University in 1960 and became an assistant professor of applied physics at Harvard University in 1961. He joined the faculty of UCLA two years later as an associate professor and became a full professor in 1966. From 1982 to 1992, he served as the provost of the College of Letters and Science at UCLA.

- While chancellor at UCR, Orbach maintained an active research laboratory and regularly taught a freshman physics class.

- Orbach was the second-longest tenured chancellor at UCR. The first was Ivan Hinderaker.

- Orbach left UCR in 2002 to become director of the Office of Science at the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., the highest ranking science policy administrator within the department. He was then nominated by President George W. Bush to become the first undersecretary for science, a newly created post that advises the secretary of energy on science and technology, and the management and state of the department's national laboratories. The undersecretary also monitors the Department of Energy's research and development programs.

- He recently took a new position as the director of the University of Texas at Austin's Energy Institute, a multidisciplinary institute that combines the strengths of the university's schools and colleges to advance solutions to today's energy-related challenges.

UCR Enrollment Tops 19,000

By Kris Lovekin

UC Riverside has a new enrollment record. The campus reached 19,439 students this year, a 7.5 percent increase over last fall.

"UCR is increasingly a campus of choice," said Chancellor Timothy P. White. "Demand is increasing and the quality of our applicant pool continues to increase. More of our continuing students are also choosing to remain at UCR, evidence that our efforts related to student success and enhancing the quality of student life are paying off."

At the end of the third week of classes, the official count stood at 17,042 undergraduates; and 2,397 graduate students (which includes 55 students in the health sciences.) There are 4,299 new freshmen.

"Enrollment is up largely because our retention was up significantly," said Jim Sandoval, vice chancellor for student affairs. "This reflects well on the student success efforts that have been underway for the past couple of years."

The enrollment is higher than projected. Admissions targets are usually set by taking into account patterns of the past. The uncertainty in the economy meant that the pattern

wasn't reliable this year.

"The academic profile of our entering class has improved and we continue to have the most diverse freshmen class in the UC system," said Jim Sandoval, vice chancellor for student affairs. "I want to thank our faculty and staff for the effort they are making to accommodate the influx of additional students and I want to assure everyone that our enrollment growth will benefit all of us in the long run."

The University of California application period for the 2010-11 academic year opens on Nov. 1 and continues through Nov. 30.



Student enrollment increased by 7.5 percent over 2008-09.

Photo by Konrad Nagy

Student Enrollment — Fall 2008 versus Fall 2009

Student Level	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Change	Percent Change
New Freshmen	4,423	4,299	-124	-2.8%
New Graduate Students	716	687	-29	-4.1%
Undergraduates (1)	15,752	17,042	1,290	8.2%
Graduate Students	2,273	2,342	69	3.0%
Health Science	54	55	1	1.9%
Campus Total	18,079	19,439	1,360	7.5%

Note: (1) Includes credential only students

UC Commission on the Future Visits Campus

By Kim Lane

The UC Commission on the Future is sending representatives to UCR next month to hear comments from staff, faculty and students and the campus community on how best to continue to preserve educational access and excellence within the university system, even as the campus faces steep budget cuts.

The commission, which is co-chaired by Russell S. Gould, chairman of the UC Board of Regents and UC President Mark G. Yudof, appointed five work groups: size and shape of UC; education and curriculum; access and affordability; funding strategies; and research strategies.

The visit to UCR is one stop among similar visits to each UC campus.

Work group members will use what they hear at UCR and the other UC campuses to develop recommendations by early next year.

The three-hour forum at UCR will begin at 8 a.m. Nov. 3 in HUB 355 and is open to all. At approximately 10:15 a.m. the forum will open up for public comments and questions.

Gould said it is important that people take this opportunity to contribute to finding solutions to the challenges that the university faces in meeting the needs of students in tough economic times.

"As members of the UC community, we strongly encourage you to be a part of this conversation," said Gould. "Are we asking the right questions? Are there specific issues that you think are crucial to address? What action is essential, from your perspective, to help UC continue to thrive?"

The commission and the work groups consist of regents, staff, faculty, alumni and other experts not affiliated with UC. Anil Deolalikar, CHASS associate dean, professor of economics, and director of the Public Policy Initiative is a member of the commission.

Find out more about the commission by visiting ucfuture.universityofcalifornia.edu.

It's Open Enrollment Time

By Kim Lane

The University of California Open Enrollment period begins tomorrow, Oct. 28 at 8 a.m. and will run through 5 p.m. Nov. 24.

During open enrollment, UCR employees may change to a different medical plan or dental plan, enroll eligible family members in those health plans, and enroll or re-enroll in a health or dependent care flexible spending account (FSA). FSA participants must re-enroll each year.

Changes made during open enrollment will be effective Jan. 1.

Medical plan monthly premiums are increasing by as little as \$1 for some employees to more than \$200 for others, depending on the plan, the employee's salary band and whether the employee chooses to cover only themselves or their family members as well.

Rates for 2010 can be found at web-dev.ucop.edu/atyourservice_dev/news/health/10medplan_costs.html.

The programs and coverage levels remain largely unchanged, but there are a few differences.

For instance, the co-pay on most prescription generic drugs has dropped. Other plan changes are available at the Open Enrollment Web site at atyourservice.ucop.edu/open_enrollment.

This year employees may enroll in the ARAG legal plan, which provides a wide range of legal services for a small monthly premium. Enrollment in the plan is only open during certain years.

Employees can visit the At Your Service Web site at atyourservice.ucop.edu and select the open enrollment 2010 icon to read about open enrollment, plan changes and plan details for 2010.

Getting Personal



Sarah Pemberton

Name: Sarah Pemberton

Department: AVC Dean of Students

Job: Student affairs case manager

Length of employment at UCR: Since September 2008

My work focuses on: I provide referrals, linkage, problem solving and advocacy to the campus and community resources to support UCR students. When students are in distress, for whatever life issue they are dealing with, I am here to provide support and resources to help them meet their academic and life goals. I am also an active member of the critical student incident team, made up of UCR staff and law enforcement professionals who come together to think

collectively about how to support the needs of students who are facing significant emotional and personal challenges, distress or disruption. On this team I also work to develop effective policies for a campuswide response to mental health issues. I also am currently working with the new mental health educator to develop a more strategic mental health education program to better inform students about mental health issues. As an active partner to "The Well," a new office focused on a holistic view of wellness for students, I have the opportunity to collaborate with staff designing and planning wellness and mental health outreach on campus.

Things you should know: I am a product of the UC system. I received my master's degree in social welfare at UCLA in 2004. I am a licensed clinical social worker and currently the only social worker employed at UCR. What helped me get into the mental health field was my experience working as a sexual assault survivor advocate and hot line volunteer for a local rape crisis center called Project Sister. I was born and raised in the Inland Empire ... a California girl all the way!

UCR's AGSM Named to Best Business Schools List

By Don Davidson

UCR's A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management (AGSM) has been named one of the nation's premier schools of business according to the 2010 edition of The Princeton Review's book, "The Best 301 Business Schools."

"We are very pleased that our program has been recognized by The Princeton Review," said David Stewart, dean of UCR's School of Business Administration, which includes AGSM. "It reinforces our reputation as a national-class business school and as the flagship school in our region. It is also a tribute to the success of our dedicated faculty in providing students with opportunities to develop as leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs."

The book compiles the results

of more than 19,000 interviews of business school students during the past three academic years, and on school-reported data.

The 80-question survey asked students about their school's academics, student body and campus life, themselves and their career plans.

The Princeton Review does not rank schools academically or hierarchically in its guidebooks.

The book includes two-page profiles of the schools with write-ups on their academics, student life and admissions, plus ratings for their academics, selectivity and career placement services.

One student remarked in the survey that AGSM professors "care very much about their students' learning and understanding of the

course material."

Another said, "You get real interaction with professors and all of the students know each other, which allows for tighter bonds and networks."

The business schools at the University of California's campuses at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine and Los Angeles were also named to the Best 301 list.

In addition to its full-time M.B.A. program, a 22-month executive master of business administration degree (EMBA) was introduced by AGSM in fall 2009. Plans are underway to offer a future master of accounting degree.

AGSM is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International.

CEE Student Teams Win EPA P3 Competition Awards

By Don Davidson

UCR is one of four California universities to win the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) competition, which encourages college students to apply technology in innovative ways to tackle global environmental challenges.

UCR is the only university in California, and one of only five in the nation, to win two of the 43 P3 Phase I awards given this year.

The competition begins in Phase I by awarding \$10,000 grants to teams that submit applications on a wide range of categories, including water, energy, agriculture, built environment, materials and chemicals, and information technology.

"These awards reinforce our commitment to providing opportunities for our students to be involved in projects that have a real impact on our world," said Reza Abbaschian, dean of the Bourns College of Engineering (BCOE), where the projects are under way. "It also recognizes the dedication and talents of our students and faculty and their commitment to solving problems that affect our environment and the quality of life."

After working on the project for eight months, the teams will take

their designs to the sixth annual National Sustainable Design Expo on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., next April.

The projects will be judged by a panel of experts and a few will be awarded P3 awards and Phase II grants of up to \$75,000 for students to further their designs, implement them in the field or move them to the marketplace.

The UCR projects are based in the BCOE Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and the College of Engineering-Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT).

The first project, "Concentrated Solar Distillation as a Means to Purify Saline/Brackish Water," involves designing and testing a still that uses a Fresnel lens to make drinking water from saline/brackish water.

The principal investigator for the project is Professor of Environmental Engineering Mark Matsumoto, who is joined by Kawai Tam, lecturer in CEE, and students Parham Javadinajjar, John Johnson, Christopher Salinas and Elizha West. Students who recently joined the team include Wesley Chen, Alex Chen and Luke Chen.

The second project, "Using

Waste to Clean Up the Environment: Cellulosic Ethanol, the Future of Fuels," is studying and implementing the conversion of waste wood into fuel ethanol. Principal investigator for the project is CEE's Ford Motor Company Distinguished Professor Charles Wyman. He leads the team comprising Kawai Tam, lecturer in CEE, students Vu Nguyen, Ramon Joshua Garong, Christine Kwon, Anthony Turgman and post-doctoral scholar Jian Shi.

This is the third time UCR teams have won the P3 award. Previous wins came in 2005 and 2007.

Tam, who has coordinated UCR's participation in the EPA competition since 2004 typically solicits student involvement during their junior year in order to begin the application process.

"Word of our UCR CEE students winning travels quickly," Tam said. "This year for the next round of the competition, a group of juniors came to me before I could make my sales pitch and asked to be part of the program."

The other California universities winning Phase I awards are Humboldt State University, Pierce College and UCLA.

sored programs administration. His appointment is effective Oct. 1.

Greer joined UCR in 2005 as a principal contract and grant officer and became the assistant director for sponsored programs administration in 2008. He has been instrumental in developing UCR's contract and grant orientation workshop.

Greer has nearly 20 years of experience in contract and grant management in the UC as well as the federal government.

Who Says?

"At a time when unemployment rates are so high, it's not surprising that you would have people looking for ways to make more money. That probably has a lot to do with it."

Donna L. Hoffman, professor and co-director of the Sloan Center for Internet Retailing, speaking about how the economy is likely a big driver of eBay's Inland area popularity.

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

"I think it's very noble to bring the issue of Agent Orange to the public, and constantly remind the public of the need for the U.S. to claim responsibility and accountability for the suffering that continues in Vietnam. But there is in my view a kind of ethical dilemma here about representing people's body parts, rather than representing a person."

Christina Schwenkel, assistant professor of anthropology, speaking about an exhibit that shows plaster-white figures made from real people whose bodies were deformed by the chemical Agent Orange.

NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC RADIO

"Positive thinking has a role to play in a good life as long as it's not empty. If you want to apply to medical school and be a doctor, I would speculate that practicing optimism about that goal might motivate you to try harder."

Sonja Lyubomirsky, a professor of psychology, who said there is some merit to adopting a more optimistic outlook on life.

FORBES.COM

"My colleagues say I'm crazy but it doesn't hurt to dream."

Jim Baird, assistant specialist in Cooperative Extension and assistant horticulturist, who, even as the state goes into its third year of drought, believes water-wise turf prototypes will become the lawns, parks, golf courses and athletic fields of the future.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Never in a million years would I have imagined something like this occurring with the Big West Conference commissioner standing right there in the room. I am calling for a full and impartial investigation on the part of the NCAA to get to the bottom of this travesty."

Jim Wooldridge, men's basketball coach, who jokingly questioned the judges' decision after his cooking team got the "kitchen disaster" award at the Big West Conference's media day cook-off.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

To become a media source or to announce upcoming published research or an award, contact the Office of Strategic Communications at (951) 827-6397 or (951) UCR-NEWS or insideucr@ucr.edu.

Awards & Honors

Philosophy Award to Nelson

Michael Nelson, assistant professor of philosophy, has won the Jean Hampton Prize, which is awarded to a philosopher at the junior-career stage whose paper is accepted for the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. He presented his paper, "Rationalism Within Reason," at the April meeting in Vancouver.

The award includes a \$500 prize and is presented biennially for achievement in an area of philosophy in which Hampton worked, including social and political philosophy, foundations of ethics, normative ethics, the philosophy of law, rational choice theory, feminist theory, Hobbes to Hume, Kant, realism and pragmatism.

CEPCEB Gives Annual Awards

The Center for Plant Cell Biology (CEPCEB) hosted its seventh annual CEPCEB Special Award Ceremony on Oct. 16 in the new Genomics Auditorium. The following awards were presented:

- 2009 CEPCEB Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award: Vanitha Ramachandran, Xuemei Chen's lab.
- 2009 CEPCEB Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award: Kevin Horan, Thomas Girke's lab.
- 2009 Neil Campbell CEPCEB Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award: Nolan M. Ung, Harley Smith's lab.

The CEPCEB awards have a monetary value of \$500 each and are based on faculty nominations.

The 2009 Noel Keen Special Lecture followed the awards ceremony.

Joseph R. Ecker, a professor in the plant biology laboratory at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, Calif., gave the lecture. Ecker is a leading authority on

the molecular biology and genetics of plants.

Summer Sessions Catalog Honored

The 2009 UC Riverside Summer Sessions catalog was recognized by the Western Association of Summer Sessions Administrators (WASSA) for its cover design by winning the "Best Catalog Cover Design." The cover was chosen from among 11 entries.

The award was announced at the WASSA annual conference awards banquet on Sept. 24, which was hosted by the University of Regina in Saskatchewan, Canada.

The winning design was inspired through a collaborative process between **Susan Knight**, associate director of marketing for the Office of Strategic Communications; **Mely Fitzgerald**, assistant director of the Office of Summer Sessions and Special Programs; and **Shari Schneider**, artist/illustrator from Creative Design Services.

Water Fellow

The American Society of Agronomy (ASA) will recognize **Laosheng Wu**, a professor and extension water management specialist in the Department of Environmental Sciences, as a 2009 ASA Fellow at a ceremony during the society's annual meeting on Nov. 1-5 in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Wu's program focuses on water and solute transport and water resources conservation and management.

He also specializes in irrigation water management and soil physics. He serves as interim director of the UC Center for Water Resources.



Laosheng Wu

People

In Memoriam

Carol Tomlinson-Keasey, a former UCR professor who went on to spearhead the multi-year effort to establish the tenth University of California campus in Merced and served as its founding chancellor from 1999 to 2006, died Oct. 10. She was 66.

Tomlinson-Keasey joined the UC system in 1977 as an associate professor of psychology at UCR. She

became a full professor in 1980 and held faculty and administrative appointments through 1992.

Tomlinson-Keasey is survived by her husband, Blake Keasey, two grown children, Amber and Kai, and several grandchildren.

AVC for Research Appointed

Charles Greer has been appointed the assistant vice chancellor for research, where he will oversee the management of UCR's spon-

Research & Scholarship

CHASS Faculty Named Association Chairs

Robert Hanneman, professor of sociology, has been elected chair of the Mathematical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association. The nonprofit, founded in 1905, is dedicated to advancing sociology as a scientific discipline and profession serving the public good, according to the association Web site.

David Swanson, professor of sociology, has been elected chair of the Census Advisory Committee for Professional Associations (CACPA), which serves as a sounding board for the U.S. Census Bureau.

The committee makes recommendations on major programs, such as the decennial census of population and housing, the agriculture and economic censuses, current demographic and economic statistics programs, and survey research, according to the committee Web site.

Swanson recently presided over the fall meeting of CACPA, held Oct. 8-9 in Suitland, Md.

Turning Stem Cells into Neurons

Xuejun Parsons, an assistant professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience and a stem cell biologist, has received a two-year \$418,000 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award) to study the molecular cues that direct human embryonic stem cells into neurons.



Xuejun Parsons

"I developed a technique to turn human embryonic stem cells into neurons," she said. "The new funding will not only help us understand how brain cells form in human development, but also allow us to generate a large supply of replacement human neurons for neural-repair in a wide range of neurological diseases, including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer disease and spinal-cord injury."

Parsons' research is currently supported by a human stem cell career development award from the National Institute on Aging.

New Window into Deep Earth

Geologists **Larissa Dobrzhinetskaya** and **Harry Green** and colleagues report in the Oct. 26-30 online early edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* their discovery of ultrahigh-pressure minerals from a paleocean-spreading center, a place "forbidden" for such mineral associations according to existing geological concepts.

The authors describe a fragment of metallic alloy and aluminum-silicate rock extracted from a chromite ore deposit of a Tibetan ophiolite (a section of the Earth's paleoceanic crust and the underlying upper mantle), which consists of unusual minerals. The mineral assemblage is the first record of a highly reduced (low-oxygen concentrations) mantle environment occurring at a depth of at least 300 km, which not been seen before in any terrestrial rocks.

The researchers ruled out that the discovered minerals are formed

as the result of a meteorite impact and propose a mechanism of large-scale mantle convection that "amalgamates" the deep-mantle fragment with shallower host rocks of ophiolite formation. They emphasize that ophiolites, therefore, are a new "window" into the Earth's deep interior.

Dobrzhinetskaya and Green were joined in the research by scientists at GeoForschungsZentrum, Germany; the Institute of Geology, China; and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Calif.

Yeast Could Enable One-Step Bioprocessing

Professor of Chemical Engineering **Wilfred Chen** is co-author of a paper "Functional Assembly of Microcellulosomes on the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Cell Surface for Cellulose Hydrolysis and Ethanol Production," in the October 2009 issue of the American Society of Microbiology's journal *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*. The paper was co-authored by UCR students Shen-Long Tsai and Shailendra Singh, post-doctoral researcher Jeongseok Oh, and Ruizhen Chen, associate professor at the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology.

The paper describes how Chen and his team have constructed, for the first time, a synthetic cellulosome in yeast, which is much more ethanol-tolerant than the bacteria in which these structures are normally found. The yeast cellulosome could enable efficient one-step "consolidated bioprocessing" by maximizing the catalytic efficiency of cellulosic hydrolysis with simultaneous fermentation.

The federal Energy Policy Act has mandated the production of a billion gallons of renewable fuel, such as bioethanol created from biomass. This process of using engineered yeasts that Chen and his team have developed can potentially make this production more efficient and economical.

Chill Out

Alexander Balandin, professor of electrical engineering and chair of the Materials Science and Engineering Program, had work published in the October issue of *IEEE Spectrum*, the magazine of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The article, titled "Chill Out," is the first invited paper for *IEEE Spectrum* by a member of the UCR faculty.

In the paper, Balandin describes the potential of graphene to help cool microprocessors, which are vulnerable to errors due to the excessive heat they can generate. Balandin has done extensive research on graphene, a one-atom-thick layer of



Larissa Dobrzhinetskaya



Harry Green

carbon arranged in a honeycomb lattice. Its high electron mobility and high thermal conductivity could lead to chips that are faster and better able to dissipate heat.

Plant Cell Viewing

A research team led by **Julia Bailey-Serres**, a professor of genetics, reports in the Oct. 12-16 online editions of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on the implementation of a method they devised to view activities of individual types of cells in a complex plant organ, such as root or a leaf.

The question that was addressed was how different cells of a plant respond to reduced oxygen availability, a situation encountered when a plant is partially or completely submerged.

The study deciphered a unified stress response that allows better energy management in all cell types evaluated. Each cell type also displayed a unique response signature, providing an unprecedented view of plant gene regulation and the response to an environmental stress.

The project, funded by the National Science Foundation, involved a collaboration between biologists and bioinformaticists. Bailey-Serres was joined by **Angelika Mustroph**, **M. Eugenia Zanetti**, **Charles J. H. Jang** and **Thomas Girke** of UCR as well as scientists from Mendel Biotechnology, Inc (Hayward, Calif.) and the University of Arizona.

Parker Admitted into Sociological Honor Society

Robert Nash Parker, professor of sociology and co-director of the Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies, has been admitted to the Sociological Research Association, an honor society of sociological scholars.

Parker also has been elected incoming chair of the Crime, Law and Deviance Section of the American Sociological Association. The nonprofit, founded in 1905, is dedicated to advancing sociology as a scientific discipline and profession serving the public good, according to the association Web site.

Research on Genomes and Disease

Frances Sladek, a professor of cell biology, has received a two-year exploratory grant of \$750,000 from the National Institutes of Health to use cutting-edge technology designed to identify binding sites in the human genome that are associated with disease.

Along with colleagues she published work Oct. 5 in the journal *Hepatology* that describes a process her lab has developed to identify, in a high throughput fashion, potential associations between disease and specific proteins that turn genes on and off. The research could help accelerate genome-wide studies to identify why some people are more susceptible than others to certain diseases, such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

"We adapted technology called 'protein binding microarray' in a way that is more representative of what goes on in a cell," Sladek said. "Our research is the culmination of about 20 years of work by cell biologists who study how proteins turn genes on and off. Research in this field has

Foreclosures Most Adversely Affect Those in Need

By Bettye Miller

In a study that has implications not only for California but the nation as well, Vanesa Estrada Correa, assistant professor of sociology, found that foreclosures have disproportionately affected low-income and minority communities. Estrada Correa analyzed more than 30 years of homeownership and foreclosure data, mortgage-lending practices and government policies aimed at increasing homeownership rates and decreasing the racial gap in homeownership.

In "The Housing Downturn and Racial Inequality," which ran in the Oct. 15 issue of *Policy Matters*, Estrada Correa found that policies and programs aimed at decreasing the racial gap in homeownership also left minority homeowners more vulnerable to foreclosure. The report is available online at www.policymatters.ucr.edu.

Subprime loans were not only disproportionately given to minority applicants, but also were concentrated in minority neighborhoods, she said. Subprime loans, designed for homebuyers who could not qualify for conventional mortgages, carry a higher rate of interest to compensate for greater credit risk. The result, she found, is that Latino and African American neighborhoods are experiencing higher levels of instability from housing turnover and vacancies.

Of the 20 metropolitan areas with the highest rates of foreclosure in the nation, 12 are in California. The top four are in California: Merced, Stockton, Modesto, and Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario.

"Our society has long considered homeownership to be a public good with its benefits extending beyond individual homeowners to neighborhoods more broadly," Estrada Correa wrote. A higher rate of homeownership in neighborhoods has traditionally been associated with access to better schools, jobs and public services, as well as stable property tax bases and clean and safer neighborhoods, she said.

Estrada Correa's analysis of Riverside County data illustrates the depth of the problem. She found:

- In 2007, more than 30 percent of mortgages to Latino and African homebuyers in Riverside and San Bernardino counties were subprime loans while fewer than 15 percent of white homebuyers had subprime loans.
- In 2008, Riverside County residents spent an average of 28.5 percent of their income on mortgages; the national average was 20 percent. In 2009, the percentage in Riverside County rose to 31.6.
- After controlling for income and other factors, Riverside County residents experiencing the greatest strain in housing costs (defined as spending more than 30 percent of income on a mortgage) are: Latinos (63 percent), Asian Americans (54 percent), African Americans (53 percent) and whites (41 percent). This illustrates how minority families may be especially vulnerable to homeownership loss as home values fall and unemployment rises in the region.

Virtual Town Hall Meetings Have Positive Influence

By Bettye Miller

Personal interaction with a member of Congress, even online, has a significant and positive impact on a constituent's views of the official and their likelihood to become more politically engaged, according to a study by Kevin Esterling, associate professor of political science, the Congressional Management Foundation and researchers at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Northeastern University and Ohio State University.

The study, "Online Town Hall Meetings: Exploring Democracy in the 21st Century," was released in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 26. Researchers found that approval ratings for members of Congress who conduct online town hall meetings jumped 18 points. There were similar increases in trust and perceptions of personal qualities such as hardworking and accessible, Esterling said, and online meetings also increased constituents' approval of the member's position on the issue discussed.

Researchers conducted 21 online town hall meetings to determine whether the Internet offers opportunities to bring citizens closer to their representatives in Congress as part of a project funded by the National Science Foundation and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation. Citizens were selected at random by a research firm to assure a representative sample and then were assigned to a control group or to participate in the sessions. Each group was surveyed a number of times over the course of several months to determine changes in behavior and attitudes over time.

The study also found that:

- Online town hall meetings attracted a diverse audience, particularly from demographics not traditionally engaged in politics, and people frustrated with the political system.
- Nearly all participants – 96 percent – liked the online meetings and wanted to be included in similar events in the future.
- Participants were more likely to vote and were dramatically more likely to follow the election and to try to persuade other citizens how to vote.
- Online sessions increased the probability of voting for the congressional representative.

The report is available at www.cmfweb.org.

now matured to a point where we can apply knowledge about gene expression to disease susceptibility."

The research was driven by Sladek's graduate student **Eugene Bolotin** (the first author of the paper). Other authors on the paper include **Hailing Liao**, **Tuong Chi Ta**, **Chuhu Yang**, **Wendy Hwang-Versluis**, **Jane R. Evans**, as well as Tao Jiang, a professor of computer science and a co-PI on the grant.

Kronenfeld Literary Laureate

Judy Kronenfeld, creative writing lecturer emerita, read selections of her work at an Oct. 14 event announcing the creation of the Inlandia Institute's Literary Laureate program.

Kronenfeld, who won the 2007

Litchfield Review Poetry Book Prize, is associate editor of *Poemeleon: A Journal of Poetry*, which held its fourth annual poetry reading at the event at the Sweeney Art Gallery.

The Literary Laureate program is intended to encourage public awareness of the literary arts through community involvement, said Marion Mitchell-Wilson, executive director of the Inlandia Institute. Every two years the program will recognize one regionally based author for contributing to the region's rich and distinctive literary heritage, she said.

Nominations for the first Literary Laureate appointment are due Dec. 15. Nomination information and forms are available at www.inlandia-institute.org/laureate.php.

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SC-RISE Ceremony Celebrates New Solar Energy Research Initiative

By Don Davidson

UCR takes a new step toward sustainable technologies with the formation of a new research initiative into solar energy at a kick-off ceremony 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5 at the Bourns College of Engineering-Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT), 1084 Columbia Ave. in Riverside.

The Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE) will utilize CE-CERT's long-established role as an "honest broker" to establish alliances that can advance the effective utilization of solar power in Southern California.

CE-CERT Director Matthew Barth will lead the initiative and leverage the center's history of environmental research and successful technology development.

UCR Chancellor Timothy P. White and Riverside Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge will attend the event. Sustainability has been identified by Chancellor White as a major goal of the university and the city of Riverside has made an initial funding commitment to the effort.

"We applaud the city of Riverside and the

Riverside Public Utilities for its forward thinking in partnering with the university on this initiative," said Reza Abbaschian, dean of UCR's Bourns College of Engineering. "It represents the kind of collaboration that universities, municipalities and other organizations must continually develop in order to ensure the new knowledge we create is used effectively for the benefit of the community."

Combining research, technology assessment and workforce training, SC-RISE will serve as a regional focal point for solar energy research, applications, demonstrations and education. Through key collaborations with the city, local solar energy companies, other academic institutions and Japan's Tohoku University, the initiative will form the nexus of academic, governmental and commercial interest in affordable solar power in the region.

SC-RISE will have a three-fold mission:

- Research — collaborate with government agencies and industry to advance photovoltaic electricity technology and other renewable energy concepts
- Demonstrate — assess and evaluate new

technologies, offering end users independent information on efficiency and performance for various purposes

- Training — assist regional colleges and others to inform technicians, end users and the public about solar energy concepts, installations, maintenance and operations

By representing multiple perspectives, SC-RISE will identify the technical, infrastructure and other barriers to the full embrace of solar technologies in our region.

The goal of SC-RISE is to stimulate the adoption of green solar energy across sun-kissed Southern California through a variety of activities including research, education, pilot projects and other technology demonstrations.

The kick-off event on Nov. 5 is open to the public. Persons interested in attending should RSVP by Friday, Oct. 30, to Amanda Raymer-Gomes at araymer@cert.ucr.edu or by calling (951) 781-5730.

More information is available at the SC-RISE Web site at www.engr.ucr.edu/sc-rise.

Briefs

Symposium On Glial-Neuronal Interactions

UCR's Center for Glial-Neuronal Interactions is hosting a one-day regional symposium on Nov. 13 in the HUB, Room 302, on the topic of glial-neuronal interactions in health and disease. Bruce Trapp, chair of the Department of Neurosciences at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, will open the symposium with a presentation.

Also featured at the symposium are an interactive poster session and a panel of four invited speakers who will discuss diverse aspects of the function, formation and repair of the human nervous system.

Information: information@neuroglia.info or www.neuroglia.info/UCRiverside/2009_registration.html.

Mathematicians by the Hundreds

The American Mathematical Society will for the first time host its fall western sectional meeting at UCR.

More than 350 mathematicians, including faculty and visiting professors in the UCR Department of Mathematics, are expected to attend the meeting Nov. 7-8 in the Surge and CHASS Interdisciplinary buildings and the Bourns College of Engineering.

The meeting will include sessions on a variety of topics including mathematics and influence on film special effects, algebraic geometry, algebraic structures in knot theory, dynamical systems, fluids mechanics, the history and philosophy of mathematics, operator algebras and representation theory. Information: www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2163_program.html.

Lecture on Mice to Reveal New Insights

Ted Garland will give an hour-long lecture, titled "Born to Run: Evolution of Hyperactivity in Mice," at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 29, in the University Theatre. Doors open at 6 p.m. Seating is open. Garland, a professor of biology, will address the evolution of voluntary locomotor activity, some aspects of exercise physiology, and some aspects of the motivation that underlies voluntary activity levels.

The talk is hosted by CNAS and the Science Circle, a group of university and community members committed to advancing science at UCR and in Inland Southern California.

Information: www.cnas.ucr.edu, (951) 827-6555 or e-mail carol.lerner@ucr.edu.

Workshop on Habitat Conservation Plans

The Center for Conservation Biology, UC Cooperative Extension and the San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research are hosting a workshop on Nov. 9-10 at the Beckman Center in San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park on the topic of habitat conservation plans (HCPs).

Titled "HCPs: Moving Across Boundaries," the workshop will include conceptual presentations on transboundary processes and examples, such as fire, air pollution, invasive species, and species migration, which are particular to Southern California.

UCR's Michael Allen, Tom Scott, Cameron Barrows, Edith Allen, Helen Regan, John Rotenberry and Kris Preston will make presentations.



Promoting Scholarships

The Chancellor's Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the HUB drew about 250 people who came together to benefit merit scholarships.

During the event, the chancellor presented the UCR Medallion to the family of Milton W. Stratford. Together, family members have given more than \$500,000 to UCR scholarships.

In addition, Golf luminary Gary McCord was honored as the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus at UC Riverside. McCord is an American professional golfer, commentator, author and actor.

Dr. Cindy Le was honored as recipient of the 2009 Young Alumnus Award. She is the attending psychiatrist on the inpatient unit at the UCSF, San Francisco General Hospital. She received her B.S. degree in biomedical sciences and completed the UCR/UCLA Thomas Haider Program in Biomedical Sciences in 1999.

Photos by Patrick O'Neil



Top: Melissa Antonio and Kathy Barton talk at the Chancellor's Dinner; above Chancellor White speaks to scholarship dinner attendees. More photos are available at chancellorsdinner.ucr.edu/dinner09.html.

Diversity Certificate Program Seeks Applicants

Following a successful pilot year in 2009, the Making Excellence Inclusive: A UCR Diversity Certificate Program for 2009-10 is now accepting nominations and sign ups, with applications due on Nov. 2.

The five-month program guides participants through learning activities designed to help increase understanding of the diversity challenges at UCR.

The program is based on the belief that individuals learn most effectively when they research, analyze, understand and apply their new knowledge to actual situations faced in the work environment.

Instruction includes five workshops led by authorities, group discussions and outside readings, with capstone projects and presentations, and poster sessions at graduation.

Interested individuals should complete an application, which must be endorsed by their supervisor.

Selected participants will be notified by Human Resources by Nov. 16. Orientation will be held Dec. 10.

The team presentations and graduation ceremony will take place in May. Tuition for the program is \$125. Some financial support may be available. This year's workshops include Expanding Personal Competency; Understanding Stereotypes and Biases; Making Connections: A Prejudice Reduction Workshop for Effective Coalition Building; Opportunities and Challenges of Intercultural Communications; and Managing for the Future: How to Sustain Excellence Through Diversity and Avoid Legal Risk. A program overview is available at www.humanresources.ucr.edu/?content=EducationAndDevelopment/MakingExcellenceInclusive.html or by contacting Sue Anderson at (951) 827-3145.

Information: Brian Murphy at (951) 827-7992.

Campus Calendar

Ongoing

Exhibition: UCR/CMP

Exhibit: "The End of Film: The Brief History of Digital Cameras 1987-2009," documents the incredible transformation of photographic technology during the last 20 years and recapitulates at an exponential scale what had occurred during photography's previous 163-year history. The exhibit demonstrates ways in which the digital camera, created a medium that now occupies the center of modern communication, journalism, and social interaction. The exhibit runs through Jan. 10, 2010.

The UCR/CMP is located at 3824 Main St., Riverside. Information: www.cmp.ucr.edu.

October

28 Wednesday

Enrichment: "Adelina Anthony: BRUISING FOR BESOS: White Ribbon Campaign," National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 6-8 p.m., Highlander Union Building 302 North. Free. Information: www.wrc.ucr.edu.

Concert: The Start and Girl In A Coma Concert at the Barn, 8:30-10:30 p.m., The Barn. Free. Information: www.rside.ucr.edu/barnseries.



29 Thursday

Performance: Love on Mars by

Love on Mars Performance

choreographer Hannah Schwadron, 9-9:30 p.m., Arts Building, ARTS 166. \$6.50. The performance runs through Oct. 31. Information: www.performingarts.ucr.edu.

Concert: FPS Concert Night, 8:30-10:30 p.m., The Barn. Free. Information: www.rside.ucr.edu/barnseries.

Lecture: Ted Garland, "Born to Run: Evolution of Hyperactivity in Mice," 7-8:15 p.m., University Theatre. Free. Information: www.cnas.ucr.edu/sciencelectures.



Born to Run: Evolution of Hyperactivity in Mice

November

2 Monday

Colloquium: Rob Latham, "A Rare State of Ferment": Science Fiction Controversies from the New Wave to Cyberpunk," 12:30-2 p.m., HMNS 2212. Free. Information: www.english.ucr.edu.

Concert: Fall 2009 Weekday Carillon Recitals, noon-1 p.m., UCR Bell Tower. Free. The concert runs through Nov. 30. Information: www.music.ucr.edu.

4 Wednesday

Enrichment: Applying to Law School: Strategies, 6-9 p.m., UCR Extension Center. \$10. Information: www.extension.ucr.edu.

5 Thursday

Enrichment: Souther California Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE), 3:30 p.m., Bourns College of Engineering-Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT). Free, R.S.V.P. required. Information: www.engr.ucr.edu/sc-rise. Send R.S.V.P. to: araymer@cert.ucr.edu

9 Monday

Meeting: ASUCR Finance Meeting, 5-7 p.m., Highlander Union Building 202, ASUCR Conference Room. Free. The meeting runs through Nov. 30. Information: www.asucr.edu.

12 Thursday

Lecture: Joel Sachs, "The Silent Majority: How Symbiotic Bacteria Evolve to Help or Hurt," 7-8:15 p.m., University Theatre. Free. Information: www.cnas.ucr.edu/sciencelectures.

18 Wednesday

Training: It's a Snap! Finding Images Using Creative Commons Workshop, 11:10 a.m.-noon, Tomas Rivera Library 140. Free. Information: www.library.ucr.edu/workshops.



It's a Snap! Finding Images using Creative Commons

19 Thursday

Screening: Arctic Visions: The Journals of Knud Rasmussen, 1-5 p.m., CHASS Interdisciplinary Bldg South 1128. Free. Information: www.english.ucr.edu.

Concert: DANCINGwith909, 8:30-10:30 p.m.,

The Barn. Free. Information: www.rside.ucr.edu/barnseries.

30 Monday

Performance: Fall 2009 End of the Quarter Dance Showings, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Arts Building. Free. The performance will run through Dec. 4. Information: www.performingarts.ucr.edu.

December

1 Tuesday

Training: New UCRFS Financial Management Course: Post Audit Notification (PAN) Reviewer Training, 9 a.m.-noon, University Village Suite 1-208. Free. Information: www.hrtraining.ucr.edu.

4 Friday

Exhibition: Market Day Vendor Fair, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Tomas Rivera Library Bell Tower Lawn, Rivera Library Mall. Free. Information: kimberly.stotts@ucr.edu



Market Day Vendor Fair

Training: Benefits Orientation, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Human Resources Building (Personnel) Suite 1. Free. Information: www.hrtraining.ucr.edu.

For the most up-to-date information on these and other events view the UCR Calendar at www.events.ucr.edu.