A vision realized:
The new Gavin Herbert Eye Institute

Two famous funny guys recall their Anteater days

Onward, Global Brigades!
Students making a world of difference
Dear fellow Anteaters,

At our very first commencement, in June 1966, we awarded 10 bachelor’s degrees, three master’s degrees and one doctorate. How things have changed! Last May and June, in 11 separate ceremonies, UC Irvine recognized 8,664 students who had completed undergraduate, master’s or doctoral programs. These are the future novelists, scientists, psychologists, teachers, business leaders, attorneys, engineers, physicians, professors, linguists, nurses and other professionals who will shape the society in which they – and we – live, work and thrive.

All of these 2013 graduates now become the newest members of our Anteater alumni family, 150,000 men and women who are using the education they received and the values they absorbed to make better lives for themselves, their families and their community members. Our alumni are our report card as an institution, and they’ve earned us an A+! We couldn’t be more proud!

Homecoming this academic year will be held on Jan. 24 and 25. It’s a great time to see old friends and make new ones, to reminisce about your college days and explore all that’s new on campus, and, of course, to cheer on our men’s basketball team as it battles the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors in a Big West Conference matchup. I hope you’ll join us for this annual celebration of being an Anteater, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
Michael V. Drake, M.D.
Chancellor
Seeing and believing: With the opening of the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute’s new home, UC Irvine builds on its reputation as a major clinical and research center.

Master thespian: Jon Lovitz recalls his journey from UC Irvine to “Saturday Night Live” stardom.

Foot soldiers in the war on poverty: Students who volunteer with Global Brigades work in the trenches – sometimes literally – to make the world a better place.

A man of letters – and arts and sciences: Howard Gillman brings eclectic tastes, talents – and a sense of wonder – to his new role as UC Irvine provost and executive vice chancellor.

Special delivery: Alumnus Windell D. Middlebrooks, an actor and popular pitchman for Miller High Life, takes our questions.

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Visitors walking through the front doors of the gleaming, new Gavin Herbert Eye Institute building at UC Irvine quickly discover that there’s never been a vision care center in Orange County quite like it.

Greeting them in the towering atrium lobby is a suspended, dichroic glass art installation that reflects and transmits sunlight in spectral colors. The piece, created by artist Ed Carpenter, captures the essence and mission of the institute: to “Shine the Light” (the name of the artwork) on the most advanced treatments and research to preserve and improve vision and eye health.

“It’s a stunning place,” says Dr. Roger Steinert, the Irving H. Leopold Chair in Ophthalmology and founding director of the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute. “We’re very fortunate to have an impressive, functional building that conveys the importance of what we’re doing and the substance of who we are.”
The range of patient services offered within its glass walls dwarfs that provided by all but a few eye institutes in the U.S. The 70,000-square-foot structure holds an ambulatory surgery center with two operating suites and a laser cataract procedure room; an 8,000-square-foot eye clinic with multiple laser procedure rooms and state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging technology; a translational clinical research center for innovative therapy trials; 34 examination rooms; a LASIK refractive surgery center; an optical shop and optometry services; an oculofacial plastic surgery center, faculty offices and conference space. The facility also boasts Braille Institute-recommended interior design features to maximize ease of use by visually impaired patients.

While the building’s construction took only a couple of years, the idea for it goes back to the mid-1970s, when Allergan Inc. founder and then-chairman Gavin Herbert brought world-renowned ocular pharmacologist Dr. Irving Leopold to Orange County to work at his company. The two helped found UC Irvine’s Department of Ophthalmology, with Leopold (who died in 1993) serving as its first chair.

“Although the department was just getting off the ground, we had a vision of building an eye institute,” Herbert recalls. “So it’s been a long time coming.”

With Allergan as one of its most well-known companies, Orange County has grown into a vision care industry powerhouse with one of the highest concentrations of ophthalmic technology companies in the world. And in the late 1990s, led by Jim Mazzo, then president and CEO of Advanced Medical Optics, this industry community partnered with UC Irvine to make Herbert and Leopold’s vision come into focus.

At the request of Dr. Peter McDonnell, then chair of the ophthalmology department, Mazzo convened a steering committee tasked with building a premier eye center. Meeting monthly, the group – comprising UC Irvine ophthalmologists and industry and community leaders – laid the foundation for the creation of the institute.

“The committee still exists today,” says Mazzo, now an operating partner with Newport Beach-based Versant Ventures. “At the end of the day, you can get a lot done with enthusiasm, but in the long term, it dies without passion. And we continue to have many passionate, committed people who have been dedicated to building the institute.”

The drive to create an eye center gathered steam with the 2004 recruitment of Steinert, a Harvard University eye surgeon world-renowned for advancing the use of laser technologies to repair complex vision problems.

“Seeing the commitment to building the institute was a huge component of what made UC Irvine attractive to me,” Steinert says. “It was exciting to be part of an important effort to treat eye disease.”

Soon after he arrived, the Department of Ophthalmology started the UC Irvine Eye Institute on the second floor of the Gottschalk Medical Plaza, and then-Chancellor Ralph Cicerone approved a site for the center in a sagebrush-filled field near the corner of Bison and California avenues, adjacent to School of Medicine research buildings.

Although it took nearly a decade to design, fund, construct and open the $39 million facility, it’s noteworthy for being the first on the UC Irvine campus paid for entirely through local corporate, foundation and individual philanthropic gifts; no government or...
university money was involved. [The institute’s clinic at UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange will remain.]

“This is a crowning achievement in Orange County,” Mazzo says. “There are a lot of firsts here: It’s Orange County’s first premier eye center, and it’s the first that was privately funded. This is something created over many years with many personal commitments of time, energy and resources. We had to step up, and we did.”

No one stepped up more than Herbert, who with his wife, Ninetta, and mother, Josephine Herbert Gleis, donated $10 million to the effort in 2007. For that and his considerable contributions to UC Irvine ophthalmology and the vision care industry, the institute was named in his honor.

“I’m delighted that we will finally have an eye institute at UC Irvine,” Herbert says. “Orange County has become the research center for ophthalmology products, and the new eye institute is an important addition that will enhance clinical research in the development of new products. In turn, this will create jobs.”

Other major donors include Abbott Medical Optics Inc., the Alcon Foundation, the Allergan Foundation, Julia and George Argyros, the Arnold & Mabel Beckman Foundation, Bausch & Lomb, Esther and James Cavanaugh, the Discovery Eye Foundation, the Kratz Foundation, Marsha and Bill Link, and Kelly and Jim Mazzo.

Along with providing unparalleled patient care, the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute hosts the work of UC Irvine ophthalmology researchers, who are known for pioneering next-generation medical therapies for age-related macular degeneration and such medical procedures as refractive and corneal transplant surgery using femtosecond lasers.

Research groups are involved in myriad projects, including those to create infused contact lenses that replace eye drops to treat cystinosis and a vaccine for ocular herpes, a leading cause of blindness.

In addition, the institute’s location near the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center is accelerating the effort by Dr. Henry Klassen’s team to test and advance stem cell-based therapies to preserve and restore sight for individuals with retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration.

Steinert says that the institute also will foster collaborations with vision care companies to develop and try out new drug treatments and ocular devices. The goal, he adds, is that the facility be a regional hub of educational, research and clinical activities.

“There’s no question that we will be in a much stronger position,” Steinert says. “To get to this point has taken a whole lot of work, and it’s been incredibly emotionally and intellectually satisfying. To now have a major center for eye care will mean a lot to Orange County.”

Tom Vasich, University Communications & Nancy Everhart, University Advancement
**Up close:** the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute

**Size:** 70,000 square feet  
**Cost to build:** $39 million  
**Opening date:** Sept. 16, 2013

**Building by the numbers:**
- Approximately 664 light fixtures
- About 40,000 linear feet (more than 7 miles) of copper wire
- 9,671 total feet of copper piping
- 3,400 total feet of cast-iron piping
- 672,658 pounds of rebar
- 135,242 linear feet (more than 25 miles) of post-tensioning cable
- 98,000 pounds of glass
- 77,000 pounds of aluminum glass framing in the windows
- 190,000 square feet (roughly 5,300 sheets) of drywall

**Focus, feats and faculty:**
- Home to 10 ophthalmologists on the “Best Doctors in America” list compiled by Best Doctors Inc.
- First in Orange County to implant a miniature telescope in the eyes of patients with end-stage age-related macular degeneration
- Seven U.S. patents for discoveries and developments related to eye health
- Recognized for pioneering refractive surgery using femtosecond lasers rather than steel blades and for inventing a laser-based approach to corneal transplant surgery
- Investigating stem cell therapies to preserve and restore sight for individuals with retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration

**Features:**
- Ambulatory surgery center with two operating suites and a laser cataract procedure room
- 8,000-square-foot eye clinic with multiple laser procedure rooms and state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging technology
- Translational clinical research center for innovative therapy trials
- 34 examination rooms
- LASIK refractive surgery center
- Oculofacial plastic surgery center with one dedicated procedure room
- Optical shop staffed with one full-time optometrist, one part-time optometrist and two opticians
- More than 1,500 square feet of education and conference space
- Braille Institute-inspired interior design features to maximize ease of use by visually impaired patients
- Four examination rooms dedicated to pediatrics, plus child-oriented waiting rooms and restrooms with toddler-height sinks and toilets
- First LEED Gold-eligible clinical services building on campus
- Home to the Department of Ophthalmology

Photos: Steve Zylius / University Communications
Two years ago, UC Irvine undergraduate Jessica Nguyen wasn’t sure what she wanted to do with her life. “I had no idea. I didn’t even have a major,” she says. “Then I went to a Global Brigades information session on campus. Once I learned about what they did, I was on board.”

Global Brigades is an international network of university students who travel abroad to help communities in need. Each year, hundreds of volunteers visit villages in Ghana, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, where they work with locals on health and economic development projects. (See related story.)

Since 2007, UC Irvine’s involvement in the nonprofit organization has grown to about 140 active members and six chapters: dental, environmental, medical, microfinance, public health and water. In transforming communities, students such as Nguyen often find themselves transformed.

“It’s hard to explain how much Global Brigades changes your life,” she says. A fourth-year biological sciences major, she’s now the organization’s campus chair and hopes to join its staff in the field after graduating next June.

For students, traveling with Global Brigades often marks their initial exposure to a developing nation. It’s the first time they’ve seen poverty up close, the first time they’ve met families living in huts with dirt floors and no toilets or running water, the first time they’ve encountered people struggling without the kind of high-quality healthcare they enjoy at home.

“It opens your eyes to how happy they are with what they have,” Nguyen says. “Here in the U.S., we all have the latest technology, and we’re still not happy. We always want more, more, more.”

Students who volunteer with Global Brigades work in the trenches – sometimes literally – to make the world a better place.

Imara Meepe (center) and other members of the microfinance brigade accompany children of Guaricayán, Honduras, to a community soccer field to sell limeade, an activity designed to teach the youngsters how to start a small business.
The experience is also many students’ introduction to heavy labor, such as working alongside residents to lay a concrete floor or dig a hole for a latrine.

In June, UC Irvine brigade volunteers spent seven to 10 days participating in projects in Honduras and Panama. (See video of the medical brigade’s trip at http://vimeo.com/69410019.)

“I just wanted to do something over the summer that would impact someone’s life, something that would affect a community,” says Ginelle Guckenburg, a third-year public health sciences major and Global Brigades executive board member.

She, Nguyen and about 25 other UC Irvine students traveled to El Jute, Honduras, with the public health brigade, which makes home improvements that help prevent common afflictions such as Chagas’ disease, spread by dirt-dwelling insects.

They stayed in a Global Brigades compound, sleeping in bunk beds and driving two hours a day over dirt roads to the remote farm village.

“The area was completely impoverished,” Guckenburg says. “Most of the houses were brick or adobe with dirt floors and no bathrooms. The people were very grateful we were there.”

The students worked with residents on four homes, installing concrete floors, outdoor latrines, shower stalls, water storage units and eco-stoves, which reduce the risk of respiratory illness, common diseases and harmful indoor air pollution. Guckenburg found herself constructing cinder block walls, mixing concrete by hand and hauling it in buckets.

“I didn’t expect to work that hard, but it felt good to make something with the community that will last a long time,” she says. “You’re literally standing next to the person you’re building this for, and you just get moved by that. In one house, there was a single father with a 5-year-old boy. Just the fact that he was there, participating and enthusiastic, motivated us.”

About 50 UC Irvine students participated in the medical and dental brigades in Coyolito, Honduras, helping doctors and dentists run free healthcare clinics. They sorted medications, filled prescriptions and assisted with patients.

“I just wanted to do something over the summer that would impact someone’s life, something that would affect a community.”

“It was a humbling experience,” says Omid Taheri, a fourth-year biomedical engineering student and global medical brigade president. “To see people’s faces light up as we handed them their prescriptions, and to be showered with hugs and smiles from adults and children alike – that alone made the trip and every minute we spent down in Honduras worth it.”

For many students, the best part about Global Brigades is interacting with the indigenous people. They interview them to determine their needs, play with their children and listen to their stories.

Suvini Jayasekera, a fourth-year biological sciences major, went on her first trip with UC Irvine’s medical brigade during her freshman year. “Growing up, I’ve always wanted to help poor communities,” she says. “I lived in Sri Lanka until I was 7. My mother is a single parent. I understand what it’s like to struggle, because I saw it when I was little.”

> >
The students led workshops on finances and banking and helped residents develop a business plan for a chicken-packing business. They went from house to house conducting market research, interviewing people about their poultry-buying habits to make sure there was demand for the product. “We even got to go to a chicken farm,” Jayasekera says.

She hopes to become a cardiologist and says that Global Brigades has inspired her to someday work with Doctors Without Borders and start a nonprofit of her own: an orphanage in Sri Lanka.

After returning from a Global Brigades trip, students often continue to find ways to help in communities that have few resources; they miss the simpler life, and the camaraderie, they experienced abroad.

“When you come back, it feels weird,” Guckenburg says. “While you’re there, you don’t rely on any technology – no cellphones, no Internet. You’re talking to people and connecting on a real level. Everyone gets super close, almost like family.”

“Here, you try to hold on to how you felt when you didn’t need all of that stuff,” she adds. “You don’t want to forget it.”

Kathryn Bold, University Communications

Jayasekera started UC Irvine’s microfinance brigade in fall 2012 because she wanted to be more involved in locals’ day-to-day lives. “Our goal is to help them escape poverty,” she says.

In June, Jayasekera and eight other chapter members traveled to Guaricayan, Honduras, where Global Brigades has established a community-run bank to spur economic growth.

UC Irvine students pause for a group photo at a school in El Jute, Honduras, after conducting a charla, or chat, for first- through third-graders on the importance of waste management. They also gave backpacks filled with school supplies to all of the children.

Without the help of machinery, public health brigade volunteers must accomplish their projects by hand. Here, UC Irvine students Eunice Pang, Stephanie Vega, Annie Nguyen and Hanna Roh (from left) work on a septic hole.
March of the Global Brigades

Since 2003, when a band of students from Marquette University first traveled to Honduras to set up medical clinics in rural communities, the ranks of Global Brigades have swelled with thousands of college kids on a mission to make the world a better place.

More than 680 chapters have been launched at universities in Europe and North America. UC Irvine has six chapters – dental, environmental, medical, microfinance, public health and water – and campus leaders plan to add three more: architecture, business and human rights.

“Regardless of what your interest is, there’s a brigade you can go on,” says Sara Isozaki ’13, past co-president of the UC Irvine environmental brigade who made two trips to Piriati Embera, Panama, with the club.

“I’ve always been interested in environmental issues, and visiting Panama opened my eyes to problems globally. It was my first time out of the country, and it was so different. We’d drive down the dirt roads and see piles of trash burning. And I’d think, ‘This is what’s happening all over the world.’”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in environmental science, Isozaki got an internship at a wildlife refuge in Costa Rica and hopes to launch a career in conservation as a Global Brigades staff member.

“What’s really cool about Global Brigades is that all of the groups go into one area,” she says. “They’re all connected.”

Students from the international organization’s nine branches work in a community until residents can sustain all the economic and health projects, including running water and clean-burning stoves in homes; latrines, safe water storage and other public health infrastructure; year-round medical care; and access to loans through a locally-run bank.

Antoine Hamedi, a fourth-year biological sciences major, began the water brigade at UC Irvine in 2010; it now has about 15 members. “Water’s something that’s overlooked,” he says. “We take it for granted.”

This winter, his group will go to a fishing village in Ghana whose residents have little or no access to clean drinking water. In summer 2012, club members visited La Concepción, Honduras, a mountainous community of about 160 small houses and a school. They helped set up filtration systems that prevent water-borne illnesses and installed piping and faucets in homes.

“They were ecstatic,” Hamedi says. “Before, they had to walk miles for a bucket of water. The families were so appreciative just to have a single running faucet. It makes a monumental difference. And because the water they would pull from the well wasn’t sanitary, this also makes a positive impact on their health.”

Global Brigades trips typically last seven to 10 days and take place in summer and during spring and winter breaks.

Throughout the academic year, chapters raise funds for their journeys. Last summer’s trip to Panama, for example, cost about $500 in airfare and $800 for insurance per person, plus simple lodging and other expenses. UC Irvine students collected money via sponsorships by family members, friends and area businesses; Global Brigades scholarships; and boba and burrito sales. (They’re a common sight on Ring Mall, drumming up financial support for and interest in the brigades.)

Volunteers are accompanied on the trips by staff advisers who act as translators and oversee the activities.

To ensure that improvements last long after the groups depart, Global Brigades requires that communities commit their own time and resources to the projects, helping with construction and other tasks and attending educational workshops led by the students.

“We’ll only enter a community if people are willing to work with Global Brigades,” says Ginelle Guckenbush, a third-year public health sciences major and Global Brigades executive board member at UC Irvine. “They’re contributing, so when we leave, everything doesn’t fall apart.”

The environmental chapter, for instance, showed villagers in Panama how to maintain their new greenhouse and grow their own food.

“Our chief goal is empowerment – to have communities sustain themselves,” Isozaki says. ●
hey may not know his name, but people around the world recognize UC Irvine alumnus Windell D. Middlebrooks. He’s the Miller High Life delivery guy in television commercials, famous for dispensing wisecracks and “a big ol’ platter of common sense” along with truckloads of beer.

In fact, it’s his delivery – that folksy Texas drawl, those expressive eyes – that has endeared Middlebrooks to millions. Just check out the classic spot in which he rants about Super Bowl ads, pointing out the absurdity of everything from lizards that hawk insurance to talking detergent stains [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEtBKJ6J1Kc].

“Two very expensive ads for water,” the deliveryman tells his co-workers. “Water don’t need to be fancy. When I want flavored water, I’ll suck a lollipop.”

“I got a question for you boys,” he continues. “Unibrow aside, would you want to date a woman who smells like nuts? Cashews in particular. I didn’t think so.”

Middlebrooks has become a cult hero to many, thanks to antics such as revoking beer-selling privileges at a snooty French restaurant [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VGs_rERsQ4: “Eleven-fifty for a hamburger – y’all must be crazy!”]. He can get a laugh simply uttering “bean dip” [view his one-second commercials on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfTlzG0vsl].

Alumnus Windell D. Middlebrooks, an actor and popular pitchman for Miller High Life, takes our questions
After I met [drama professor] Eli Simon and [associate professor of drama] Philip Thompson and got a tour of the campus, I knew that this was the place. I called my mom and said, "I think I found it."

How did the master’s program here affect your career?

At the end of the three-year program, [graduating actors] do a family showcase, where people [agents, casting directors] come to see the new talent. Because of that show, I came out of school with a commercial agent, a talent agent and a manager. I was represented across the board. I had meetings with CBS, Paramount and other studios. That just jumped my career up seven years.

A few months after I moved to Los Angeles, I landed a role in a pilot for a new series on Fox and realized that I needed a manager who better understood my skills and talents, so I signed with a new manager whom, coincidentally, I had gone to school with [Steve Ivey, M.F.A. ’04].

I also benefited from being trained on stage, which we do at UCI. There’s something about it that gives you the ability to do take after take, and do something different and fresh every time. You can be on take 22, and it still has to be honest, real or funny. I learned that at UCI. Because of that training, I could go into auditions with confidence.

People love the Miller High Life delivery guy. How did you land that part?

I graduated from UCI in 2005 and did my first Miller High Life commercial in November 2006.

At the first audition, they didn’t even have me speak – they just wanted to see if I could move beer on a hand truck. Then they asked me to come back for another audition. They kept throwing lines at me – like "Step aside, mon amie!" I did it with an attitude.

So they booked me for three commercials, and at first I thought I’d have lines in one of them and just be moving beer in the other two. And they’re like, “No, you are the guy” [for all the spots]. I called up Steve [Ivey] and said, “I’m the dude!”

The hit ad campaign led to more audition opportunities and guest-starring roles, helping him land the role of Dr. Curtis Brumfield on the television drama “Body of Proof,” which ended in May after three seasons. As he did with the delivery guy, Middlebrooks infused his blustery character with humor and homespun wisdom. He also had a recurring role as security guard Kirby Morris on the Disney Channel series “The Suite Life on Deck.”

He got his charming Southern accent growing up in Fort Worth, Texas, and his everyman persona from his hardworking grandfather and uncles.

Since earning a master’s degree in drama at UC Irvine’s Claire Trevor School of the Arts in 2005, Middlebrooks has worked steadily. His many TV credits include appearances on “Scrubs,” “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia,” “Entourage” and “Parks and Recreation.”

Now living in Los Angeles, he still visits Orange County to support his fellow artists (and occasionally visit Disneyland). He saw Dana Delany’s recent performance in “The Parisian Woman” at Costa Mesa’s South Coast Repertory and attended UC Irvine’s Donald McKayle tribute in March 2012. Interviewed by phone, Middlebrooks says he’ll probably be back on campus someday soon but, until then, “Tell everybody I said, ‘Hey.’”

Why did you decide to go to graduate school at UC Irvine?

After being an undergraduate [at Sterling College] in the middle of Kansas, I came to L.A. and did an internship at a casting office through the Los Angeles Film Studies Center. I got to be on the other side of the table, sitting in on auditions and learning about the casting process. I decided I couldn’t compete with what I saw.

I knew I had the timing, I had the humor, but I wanted to learn how to make it happen when I needed it to happen – over and over. I just didn’t feel ready. I felt I needed to go to grad school.

I chose UC Irvine because I wanted a program on the West Coast that was close to the industry but far enough away for me to focus on acting, where I could take the time to learn what I bring to the table.

After I met [drama professor] Eli Simon and [associate professor of drama] Philip Thompson and got a tour of the campus, I knew that this was the place. I called my mom and said, “I think I found it.”
We shot the commercials, and everyone was nervous. Here they were showing a guy taking their product back [from the French restaurant]. After they started to run, the ads put Miller back on the map. And they were like, “We need more.”

You’ve done a lot of appearances at sporting events. How did those come about?

We started getting requests from people who wanted to meet the delivery guy. Miller wanted me to do some appearances, but they didn’t know what I was like in person – whether I was some kind of Hollywood type in sunglasses. Instead, they get this country bumpkin bouncing down the escalator saying, “Hey, let’s go!”

The Miller High Life deliveryman doesn’t have a name, so I do him as Windell because he’s so much of who I am. I just put on my shirt and go. I’m still traveling around the country for veterans. [His appearances support the Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America and Operation Homefront.]

How did the delivery guy change your life?

I became so recognized. A lot of my other auditions came from those ads. All Steve had to say was, “You know that black guy in the Miller High Life commercials?” And they’d be like, “Oh, yeah, we want to see him.” That’s how I got the role of Kirby on “Suite Life” and the audition for Curtis.

Your character, Dr. Curtis Brumfield, provided a lot of the comic relief on “Body of Proof.” What was it like to play him?

When you’re dealing with something so heavy, like death, you need a place to breathe. It’s been fun to bring that to the show. I was at the grocery store, and a woman came up to me. She’d seen the exorcism episode we did, and she was so thankful about how we dealt with that, about me being afraid.

It’s just me being who I am. I bring a real honest quality that people can connect with.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to try everything. I love each genre – film, stage, television. I’m reading film scripts, but I want to choose the right projects. I love the stage and want to perform on Broadway someday. I also eventually want to do a multicamera sitcom, because I love comedy. I’m that eclectic. If you’re riding with me in my car, you might hear Rascal Flatts, Jay-Z or Whitney [Houston]. I love different things.

Do you stay in touch with your fellow UC Irvine alumni?

No way can you be in this business and make it on your own. [My career] has been working because I have my friends who came out of the master’s program with me. [Actress/singer/dancer] Angel Moore-Tanksley graduated the year after me. We are each other’s acting coach. I go to her when I want to prepare for auditions.

Steve Ivey graduated in 2004, so we were already friends. He decided to go into management. He’s been instrumental in developing my career. He believed in me when others didn’t. He was pushing me into rooms, telling casting directors, “He’s what you want.” And here we are.

Kathryn Bold, University Communications

“I chose UC Irvine because I wanted a program on the West Coast that was close to the industry but far enough away for me to focus on acting, where I could take the time to learn what I bring to the table.”
In his 48 years of teaching at UC Irvine, Claire Trevor Professor of Drama Robert Cohen has had only one student whose parents contacted him to check up on their child’s career prospects: actor/comedian Jon Lovitz ’79.

"His dad called me to ask how he’s doing," Cohen recalls. "He said, ‘I’m Jon Lovitz’s father. Does my son have a future as an actor?’ I told him, ‘Well, he’s not a conventional actor in any sense. But if he wants to stick with acting, he has a good chance at it. There’s something about him. You can’t take your eyes off him.’"

Cohen recently related this story to Lovitz as the two relaxed in the professor’s office. The former student has gone on to become one of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts’ biggest celebrity alumni, having gained fame on "Saturday Night Live" with such memorable characters as pompous Shakespearean actor Master Thespian and pathological liar Tommy Flanagan, whose ridiculous tall tales were punctuated with "Yeah, that’s the ticket!"

Lovitz returned to campus in March to give an informal talk about acting to drama students, many of whom have the same dreams of success he once did – and, perhaps, the same worried parents. Over the course of his busy career, he’s made several unadvertised visits to his alma mater to chat with aspiring actors.

"I’m thrilled to be here because I was where you are," he told the group, speaking onstage at Winifred Smith Hall.
“Everything I learned here, I used. In college, it’s just about pure acting – that’s all it’s about, which is great.”

To no one’s surprise, Lovitz said he was the class clown during his undergraduate days – and he scored big laughs from the students by imitating Marlon Brando and channeling his Master Thespian character, inspired by former UC Irvine drama professor William Needles.

Yet he had a serious competitive streak too: “I’d look at whoever was in my class and ask, ‘Who’s better than me? OK, at the end of the quarter, I’ll be better than them.”

His advice to students ranged from the profane (“You have to work your a-- off!”) to the practical:

“I don’t care what you’re majoring in, I would take a business class. ... You need to know just basic things about money so that when you’re working at whatever job you have, you’re not taken advantage of. You may be like, ‘No, I’m an artist. I don’t care about that stuff.’ And that’s fine. But then you’ll just be ripped off, continually.”

He also offered serious acting tips: “Use what’s unique about you and the idiosyncrasies of your personality and put that into your work. It will make the part yours.”

Lovitz talked about the fear of failure and “that whole rejection thing” actors face, confessing that he was “scared s---less” after graduating from UC Irvine with a bachelor’s degree in drama in 1979. “I was crying, I was so scared. I was down on my knees,” he said. “Then a friend told me, ‘Oh, get up. Everyone’s scared. But you just dive in, and all of a sudden, you’re not scared.”

He did dive in, honing his skills at Tony Barr’s Film Actors Workshop before joining The Groundlings, a Los Angeles-based comedy troupe with many famous alumni, including Will Ferrell, Lisa Kudrow and the late Phil Hartman (who became friends with Lovitz).

In 1985, he appeared with The Groundlings on “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson,” where he introduced his Tommy Flanagan character. “It’d be like going from this room,” recalled Lovitz, gesturing to Winifred Smith Hall, “to ‘The Tonight Show.’”

An agent, television and movie deals, and a chance to try out for a slot on “Saturday Night Live” quickly followed. Lovitz thought he’d muffed the audition, that his routines had fallen flat. “I just blew the biggest opportunity of my life,” he said afterward. He got the gig.

“I did my liar character [on ‘SNL’] that next year,” Lovitz told the students. “That’s the thing that hit.”

His “SNL” stint, from 1985 to 1990, led to two Emmy Award nominations and numerous parts in films and television shows. He’s worked with top movie directors, including Woody Allen, Rob Reiner and Penny Marshall, who directed him in the critically acclaimed role of smooth-talking baseball scout Ernie “Cappy” Capadino in “A League of Their Own.” Lovitz has also guest-starred on “Friends,” “Seinfeld,” “The Larry Sanders Show,” “Married ... with Children” and “The Simpsons” (voice).
With each new script, he pushes himself: “I ask myself, ‘How can I play this scene and make it different and unique?’ ... That’s the great part about acting: You can always get better.”

He’s still landing projects because he continues to work at it. “I never, ever, ever walk through a job,” Lovitz said, “because as soon as you do that, people see it. And they’re like, ‘Oh, he lost it. He lost his talent.’”

His parting words to students: “The secret [to making it as an actor] is there is no secret. It’s not one thing. It’s a lot of things. What’s the difference between someone who’s working and someone who isn’t working? Nothing. They just happen to be working.

“There are no guarantees [of success], but I can guarantee if you don’t try, nothing will happen.”

After his talk, students swirled around Lovitz, posing with him for photos destined for their Facebook pages, inviting him to their future shows and even petting his dog (a rescue mutt named Jerry).

“Thank you for coming – I learned a lot!” one told him. It was another great performance, by a master thespian.

Kathryn Bold, University Communications
Howard Gillman brings eclectic tastes, talents – and a sense of wonder – to his new role as UCI provost and executive vice chancellor.

As a teenager, Howard Gillman would delight people with his magic tricks, even appearing at the famed Magic Castle. Those performances helped him overcome his innate shyness and brought him the satisfaction of producing moments of enchantment for an audience.

Today, anyone who has seen UC Irvine’s new provost and executive vice chancellor address the campus community knows that he has not only erased all traces of shyness but become an engaging speaker and charismatic leader. It’s just one reason why Gillman – a scholar whose many interests and areas of expertise include political science, history, law and philosophy – has been chosen to help elevate the university to even higher levels of greatness and inspire Anteaters to achieve things they never thought possible.
Gillman began honing his ability to connect with students, staff and others when he was teaching his first classes in graduate school and drew upon the lessons he’d learned as a magician.

“I sought to create moments of wonder and mystery to keep students engaged, keep them thinking and reflecting outside of class, help them understand why people would devote their lives to the study of these questions,” he says. “To show them what it looks like to have a calling, to help them find their own passions – that’s a force for the better, for rejuvenating the world.”

Gillman, the former dean of USC’s David & Dana Dornsife College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, was named to his position at UC Irvine in May. He has primary responsibility for academic and organizational functions, as well as for advancing the university’s excellence in education, research and public service. Gillman also holds an appointment as a professor of political science and law.

He spent the summer “listening to lots of smart people” – his partners in senior leadership, faculty members, students, staff and volunteers. One of his first campus appearances was a speech at the annual staff service recognition event. “The pride and enthusiasm among the staff to do great work was inspiring,” Gillman says. “That spirit is widespread. Along with the strength of the faculty across so many fields, it’s part of what makes UCI one of the most exciting places in all of higher education.”

UC Irvine’s status as a young, world-class university – named top in the nation in the “100 Under 50” ranking by Times Higher Education in June – gives him much to work with in what he calls an era of rapid and disruptive change.

“Teaching, research, the professions and the creative arts will look different even five years from now, and institutions that merely defend traditional practices and structures are at great risk,” he says. “This context presents opportunities for those who make good decisions. After all, progress assumes change.”

Al Bennett, dean of biological sciences and co-chair of the provost search committee, says Gillman’s willingness to embrace change was among the qualities that made him an exceptional candidate.

“In addition to his outstanding record as a dean and scholar, he’s credited with promoting innovation throughout USC, particularly in academic programs,” Bennett says.

“Teaching, research, the professions and the creative arts will look different even five years from now, and institutions that merely defend traditional practices and structures are at great risk.”

As Dornsife dean, he increased external funding for research, recruited more than 100 new faculty members, improved Ph.D. programs, promoted institutional diversity, and expanded undergraduate opportunities to conduct research, study overseas and engage in service learning.”

UC Irvine Chancellor Michael Drake says that Gillman brings noteworthy experience in nearly every aspect of a prominent research university’s mission.

“Howard Gillman is a great addition to our leadership team,” he says. “Already, he’s outlined goals for enhancing our global reputation for excellence in education and research. He’s also an energetic proponent of building strong community ties. I’m very happy to be working with him.”

Gillman grew up in the San Fernando Valley, the only child of working-class parents. With no siblings in the home, books – particularly literature and poetry – became his companions. Vladimir Nabokov and Leo Tolstoy remain special favorites; in recent months, he’s been reading Alice Munro, Rachel Kushner, John Banville, Karl Ove Knausgaard and Junot Diaz.

As he entered his teenage years, the country was embroiled in the evolving Watergate scandal, and it had a big influence on his future development.

“It was Shakespearean drama,” he says. “I remember – I was 13 or 14 – following the Senate hearings, the revelations about the tapes, the court battles that eventually led to the resignation of the president.
As with the civil rights movement, these were constitutional struggles over the kind of country we wanted to live in. I wanted to know more about how the system works.”

Gillman credits a high school history professor with igniting his penchant for inquiry and undergraduate courses on the Supreme Court and constitutional law for fanning it. He fell in love with law, not as a practitioner but as a researcher and theorist.

The first in his family to attend college, he earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees at UCLA. His life’s work and international reputation are built on his exploration of what a liberal arts perspective can bring to questions of law and politics. He’s the author of numerous works on the U.S. Constitution.

In August, Gillman received two prestigious awards from the American Political Science Association’s Law and Courts section: the 2013 Teaching and Mentoring Award for innovative instructional materials, which he shared with co-authors Mark Graber and Keith Whittington for volumes 1 and 2 of American Constitutionalism, and the belated 2012 Service Award. Gillman has served as section chair and on numerous committees.

“I’m still awestruck by the idea of a constitutional community, where people come together, identify touchstone values and aspirations, agree on a way forward, argue over the legacy of those decisions – it’s a deeply hopeful and all-too-rare kind of politics,” Gillman says.

“A university is also a kind of constitutional community, founded in hope and idealism, bound by shared values and purposes. And, of course, scholarly inquiry and educating the next generation are essential to the promotion of a free and democratic society.

“We are here to serve the people, provide opportunities, create new knowledge, train professionals and clinicians, inspire artists, articulate human values and make discoveries that improve people’s lives. We’re also part of a young, exciting region that’s proud and energized by the fact that UC Irvine is part of the community. But that requires that we are in the community. You can’t make the world better by limiting yourself to a lecture hall.”

Gillman says he’s already seen examples of UC Irvine connecting with the community. The School of Biological Sciences’ involvement with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy, he notes, shows commitment to the environment and helping people understand it. In return, the protected landscape provides a natural laboratory for biological sciences researchers, which benefits everyone.

“There’s not a corner of the campus that isn’t made more alive by its relationship with the community, from engineering to education to the arts and humanities,” Gillman adds. “The problem isn’t a lack of engagement; it’s that there are so many compelling and inspirational stories to tell and so many new opportunities to develop.”

He wants to build on the pioneering spirit of the students and faculty who decided to attend UC Irvine when it was just a field and the community that has grown up around it. He says the campus’s 50th anniversary, in 2015, offers the perfect occasion to celebrate the highlights of the past and the accomplishments of the present – and, most importantly, to set bold new goals for the future.

“I expect that someday we’ll look back on this time with pride that, working together, we identified areas of excellence and established priorities, programs and practices that enabled UC Irvine to further evolve into a globally preeminent research university for the 21st century and, in so doing, made important contributions to human progress, enlightenment and well-being,” Gillman says. “That’s the reason we’re all here.”

Cathy Lawhon, University Communications

“We are here to serve the people, provide opportunities, create new knowledge, train professionals and clinicians, inspire artists, articulate human values and make discoveries that improve people’s lives.”
Homecoming 2014

Thousands of Anteaters return to campus every year to reconnect with their UC Irvine family at the Homecoming Street Festival, which has grown large enough to require the closure of Mesa Road.

Alumni, family and friends are invited to UC Irvine’s first two-day homecoming and street festival to be held on Mesa Road outside the Bren Events Center on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 24 and 25.

On Friday, Greek alumni and graduates from the classes of 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009 will celebrate their reunions. It will be a great opportunity to reconnect with former classmates while making new friends. Events include class receptions, academic lectures and wine tasting. Invitations and a reunion schedule will be mailed to alumni in November.

Then enjoy live music, student performances, a beer garden, food and carnival games at Saturday’s festival, sponsored by UC Irvine Alumni. A Greek Village and interactive school booths where alumni can get interesting campus updates will be set up along Mesa Road.

Afterward, Anteater fans will break out their blue-and-gold gear and show their pride at the UC Irvine men’s basketball game against the University of Hawaii at 7 p.m. in the Bren Events Center.

For more information, visit www.alumni.uci.edu/events/homecoming.

Firsty networking event with OCTANe

UC Irvine Alumni and OCTANe invite you to the Firsty (First Thursday) networking event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, at Equinox, 1980 Main St., Irvine.

The event is focused on fueling innovation in Orange County and gives alumni a chance to socialize with more than 200 people interested in the growing technology industry, including executives, entrepreneurs, investors, venture capitalists, academicians and strategic advisers.

Light appetizers and happy hour-priced cocktails will be served; admission is free and open to all. Alumni are encouraged to bring their friends and co-workers. To register online, visit www.alumni.uci.edu/events.

Free career advancement webinars

In partnership with University Extension and the UC Irvine Career Center, the UC Irvine Alumni Association presents a recorded series of career advancement webinars.

The ongoing workshops are free and available to all alumni. A few popular webinars include “Resume Writing: How to Get Your Resume Noticed,” “Salary Negotiation: How to Get What You are Worth,” and “Career Building in a Tough Economy.” For access, visit the association website at www.alumni.uci.edu.
David A. Acosta [M.D. ’79] was appointed associate vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion at UC Davis Health System. In his new role, Acosta plans to “nurture an institutional climate that values inclusion, equity, cultural humility and lifelong reflection.”

Mayra Barcenas [biological sciences ’06] has earned a special Master’s International degree in public health from Loma Linda University. To complete the degree, she served 27 months in the Peace Corps, conducting health education in Guatemala. Barcenas, who studied biology and minored in education at UC Irvine, has had a long-standing interest in Latino public health. She works as a program manager for El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center, helping Latinos in San Bernardino County.

David Fanous [social sciences ’03] was recently promoted to manager of the Customer Care Center of Expertise at Southern California Edison. In this new role, he will lead a team of analysts who assist business customers in resolving a broad range of issues. Previously, Fanous was a project manager in charge of regulatory and legislative efforts for the company’s business customer division.

Harry Le Grande [social ecology ’75] has been appointed to the California Student Aid Commission by Gov. Jerry Brown. He has served in various positions at UC Berkeley since 1981, including vice chancellor of student affairs and executive director of housing and dining services. Le Grande has been a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the American College Personnel Association and the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. He also earned a master’s degree in education at Oregon State University.

Charles Harris [social sciences ’87], a sports management and hospitality executive, has published his first book, Social Media in Sport Marketing. He has worked in senior management positions with the Los Angeles Dodgers (1991-94), the Anaheim Ducks (2002-05) and UC Irvine Athletics (1987-91). Harris also spent two seasons with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (1985-86).

Joseph Núñez [biological sciences ’93] was awarded the 2013 Donald W. Banner Diversity Scholarship for law students by Banner & Witcoff Ltd., a national intellectual property law firm. The scholarship will provide him with $5,000 for his fall semester of law school at Wayne State University in Detroit. Núñez also has earned a doctorate in neuroscience at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In memoriam
Kristine “Kris” Roberts Burke [social ecology ’89] died June 18 in Massachusetts after a 12-year battle with cancer. She was 43. Burke was a middle blocker for the UC Irvine women’s volleyball team from 1985 to 1988 and later played professionally for the Los Angeles Starlites. She earned a master’s degree in education from Mount St. Mary’s College in 1997. Burke is survived by her husband, Ben Burke; a daughter, Skyler; her parents, Judith and Rod Arrants; brothers Joseph and Dylan; and a sister, Janelle.
Alumni association elects new leaders for a new era

Last summer, thanks to the class of 2013, the ranks of UC Irvine alumni hit the 150,000 milestone.

Keeping the growing number of Anteaters connected to their alma mater will be a key priority for the UC Irvine Alumni Association’s newly elected board of directors. They were chosen for their abilities, experience and interest in promoting the association’s mission: to ensure that alumni always feel a welcome part of the Anteater family.

And with the opening of the Newkirk Alumni Center in January, the board has a new venue for doing just that. Directors will be working to engage alumni through creative networking and career recruitment opportunities, social get-togethers and other activities.

Members were elected in June at the association’s annual meeting to serve two-year terms. They are:

President

Bruce Hallett [humanities ’78; J.D., UCLA ’81] is co-founder and managing director of Miramar Venture Partners and a member of the OCTANE board and the School of Biological Sciences Dean’s Leadership Council. He was chair of UC Irvine’s Chief Executive Roundtable from 2007 to 2010 and an alumni regent on the University of California Board of Regents from 2010 to 2012. He’s also a 2001 Lauds & Laurels Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient.

Debbie Daniel [humanities ’73] is a realtor and mortgage loan originator. Since becoming active in the alumni association board in 1988, she has held every executive position, including president from 2000 to 2002. She’s also a 2004 Lauds & Laurels Distinguished Alumna Award recipient.

Nick Desai [engineering ’91; M.S. engineering, UCLA ’93] is a technology entrepreneur and the CEO of Global Fitness Media and FitOrbit.com.

John Gerace [chemistry and biological sciences ’87; MBA, Pepperdine University ’92] is head of applied sciences at Life Technologies Corp. He’s also a board member of the Iacocca Family Foundation.

Board of Directors

Kurt Busch [electrical & computer engineering and biological sciences ’93; MBA, Santa Clara University ’98] is president and CEO of Lantronix, a global leader of secure communication technologies. He’s been a member of UC Irvine’s Chief Executive Roundtable since 2013.

Salma Chehabi [biological sciences ’99, psychology & social behavior ’09, M.S. genetic counseling ’13] is a genetic counselor and community leader, recipient of the 2010 UC Irvine Medal, Chancellor’s Club lifetime member, UC Irvine Foundation trustee and member of the School of Social Ecology Dean’s Leadership Council.

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Gary Gorczyca [history ’73; J.D., Loyola Marymount University ’76] is a partner at Phillips Whisnant Gazin Gorczyca & Curtin LLP in Newport Beach, an adjunct law professor at Chapman University and past president of the Orange County Bar Association’s Family Law Section.

Neel Grover [economics ’92; J.D., University of San Diego ’95] is CEO of Bluefly Inc. and the executive operating partner at Clearlake Capital Group. He’s been a member of UC Irvine’s Chief Executive Roundtable since 2008.

Erin Gruwell [humanities ’91; master’s/teaching credential, California State University, Long Beach ’93] is a teacher, an education activist, the founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation and a 1998 Lauds & Laurels Distinguished Alumna Award recipient.

Maria Hall-Brown [drama ’84] is the executive producer for arts and culture programming on PBS SoCal and host of the PBS show, “Bookmark with Maria Hall-Brown.” She’s a 2005 Lauds & Laurels Distinguished Alumna Award recipient.

Brad Holt [economics and psychology, minor in business ’89; master of Pacific international affairs, UC San Diego ’96] is CEO and managing director of HSI, an international trade and business development firm.

John Hung [information & computer science ’89, economics ’90] is a project manager and senior application consultant at Island Pacific Systems Inc. and a member of the Chancellor’s Club and Friends of the Center for the Study of Democracy.

Tim Kashani [information & computer science ’86, MBA ’88] is founder and CEO of IT Mentors, a global technology training company, and the owner of Apples & Oranges Studios, an entertainment company that produced “Memphis,” winner of the 2010 Tony Award for best musical.

Greg Mickelson [economics ’84] is a managing member of GM Realty Advisors, a full-service real estate development and advisory firm in Irvine. He has served on the alumni association board for more than 20 years in various capacities, including two terms as president.

Brian Mills [psychology ’95; master’s in experimental psychology, North Carolina State University ’98; J.D., Loyola Marymount University ’01] is a partner in the Orange County office of Snell & Wilmer LLP.

Fred Sainick [history ’74; J.D., UCLA ’77] is a partner in the Newport Beach law firm Sainick & Whitney. He has been active in the alumni association since the 1980s, serving as president from 1985 to 1987; won a 2007 Lauds & Laurels Distinguished Alumnus Award; and was an alumni regent on the UC Board of Regents.

Gary Singer [social sciences ’74; J.D., Loyola Marymount University ’77] is a partner in O’Melveny & Myers LLP in Newport Beach, serves on the UC Irvine School of Law Dean’s Executive Board and is a UC Irvine Foundation board member. He also received a 1998 Lauds & Laurels Distinguished Alumnus Award.
Jack Toan [biological sciences ’95, MBA ’02] is regional vice president and community affairs manager for the Wells Fargo Foundation and is on the boards of the Union of Pan Asian Communities, Team Kids, the Illumination Foundation and the UC Irvine Vietnamese American Community Ambassadors.

William Um [social sciences ’90; J.D., Boston University ’93] is a counsel in the Los Angeles office of Hunton & Williams LLP. He has assisted the Alliance for Children’s Rights in adoption proceedings as well as indigent clients through Public Counsel and the Public Law Center.

Claudia White [psychology ’89; M.A. clinical psychology, Pepperdine University ’91; M.A. leadership & human behavior, Ph.D. industrial/organizational psychology, United States International University] is an industrial/organizational psychologist and a performance management consultant. She is president of White Sand Consultants Inc.

James E. Wood [M.D. ’73] is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon and chairman of orthopedic surgery at MedStar Harbor Hospital in Baltimore. He was an early adopter of partial knee replacement techniques and now teaches them to orthopedic surgeons across the country.

Andrew Chou [social sciences ’00] is founder and managing partner of NexGen Wealth Management and serves on the boards of the Asian Business League of Southern California and the Pacific Asia Museum.

Katherine Hills [biological sciences ’83] is owner and managing director of Krush Creative Group, a branding, marketing, advertising, design, PR and event production agency. She is a 2011 Lauds & Laurels Distinguished Alumna Award recipient, a member of the School of Biological Sciences Dean’s Leadership Council and chair of the School of Biological Sciences alumni club.

David M. Ochi [political science, biological sciences ’97, MBA ’99; M.A., Keller Graduate School of Management ’08] is CEO of Alpha Sprouts LLC, an early-stage consulting company; a UC Irvine Chancellor’s Club member; and an alumni adviser for the UCIdeas program at the Don Beall Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

Ex Officio Board Members

Ramona Agrela, associate chancellor

Justin Chung, president, Associated Graduate Students

Nicole Hisatomi, president, Associated Students of UC Irvine

Goran S. Matijasevic, senior assistant vice chancellor, Alumni and Constituent Relations

Arianna Tabilin, president, Student Alumni Association
All-American shortstop returns home

“I’m excited to be back at UC Irvine,” Orloff said. “I played here, and this place is home for me. I’m very grateful for the opportunity to work for and learn from Coach Gillespie.”

Ben Orloff ’09, a former All-American shortstop at UC Irvine, has rejoined the baseball program as an assistant coach.

Orloff played for the Anteaters from 2006 to 2009 and became the program’s first Big West Conference Player of the Year. He won the 2009 Brooks Wallace Award, presented to the nation’s top college shortstop, and was the first UC Irvine player to win an American Baseball Coaches Association Gold Glove Award. A three-time All-American, Orloff was named to two NCAA tournament teams and helped lead UC Irvine to four NCAA postseason berths.

“Beyond simply the physical skills and abilities Ben demonstrated as a player, he also exhibited uncommon instincts, awareness and feel for the game,” said UC Irvine head baseball coach Mike Gillespie. “These traits, combined with a passionate love for the game, a determined work ethic and an extraordinary ability to teach and train receptive players, will define Ben as a great young coach with a no-limit future. UCI is lucky to have him back home.”

Orloff ended his collegiate career with a lifetime .320 batting average. He is UC Irvine’s all-time hit leader with 281 and owns the top mark in runs scored with 178. He played minor league baseball for the Houston Astros from 2009 to 2013.

Anteaters to host four-team basketball tournament

Men’s basketball will host a subregional round of the 2K Sports Classic benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project on Friday through Sunday, Nov. 22-24, at the Bren Events Center.

The four-team tournament will include two games each day. Competing with the Anteaters in the event are Boston University, Eastern Washington University and Long Island University, Brooklyn.

The subregional schedule:

**Friday, Nov. 22**
4:30 p.m. – Boston U. vs. Eastern Washington
7 p.m. – LIU Brooklyn vs. UC Irvine

**Saturday, Nov. 23**
3 p.m. – Eastern Washington vs. LIU Brooklyn
5:30 p.m. – Boston U. vs. UC Irvine

**Sunday, Nov. 24**
1:30 p.m. – LIU Brooklyn vs. Boston U.
4 p.m. – Eastern Washington vs. UC Irvine

The Anteaters also host Chapman University in an exhibition game at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, before facing Fresno State at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8, in the regular-season opener at the Bren. Ticket information for the season is available at www.ucirvinesports.com/tickets/mbasketball.
Students recognized for **academics** and athletics

**UC Irvine Athletics honored 121 students at its annual “Salute to Scholar-Athletes” banquet this year.**

The Big West Conference awards the scholar-athlete title to those who maintain a high level of scholastic achievement while active in intercollegiate athletics. UC Irvine has expanded eligibility for the designation to players on teams that don’t participate in Big West-sponsored sports.

Kristina Smith (women’s tennis) and Ronnie Shaeffer (baseball) were named UC Irvine Scholar-Athletes of the Year.

Smith also was the 2013 Big West Conference Player of the Year. She won the Arthur Ashe Leadership & Sportsmanship Award for the Southwest region, helped lead the Anteaters to the program’s first NCAA first-round victory and competed at the NCAA singles championship.

Shaeffer was a semifinalist for the prestigious Johnny Bench Award, which recognizes the top collegiate catcher in the nation.

Sakia Sailinuu (women’s track & field) and Derick Flowers (men’s basketball) received the UC Irvine admissions office’s Academic Achievement Award. Rachel Wood (women’s soccer) and Michael Wilder (men’s basketball) received the Athletics Leadership Award. Women’s golf earned the Faculty Athletic Representative Award for highest team GPA.

Also honored were Kevin Tillie (men’s volleyball), for winning the UC Irvine Alumni Association’s 2013 Lauds & Laurels award for outstanding student-athlete; and Kristin Winkler (women’s volleyball) and Sam Hyams (men’s track & field), for being named Big West Scholar-Athletes of the Year.

Anteaters again rank among **nation’s best**

By winning the national title, the men’s volleyball team helped the UC Irvine athletics program again finish in the top 10 of its division.

**UC Irvine’s athletics program finished eighth out of the 95 Division I schools that do not sponsor football, according to the 2012-13 Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association All-Sports rankings.**

The university has finished in the top 10 of its division each of the last seven years, including ranking No. 1 in 2006-07 and placing second three times in the last five years. It was the top-ranked Big West Conference institution in the standings.

The Anteaters accumulated 150 postseason points in 2012-13, with 100 earned from the men’s volleyball national title and 50 from women’s tennis, which advanced to the second round of the NCAA Championship.
Letter from Vice Chancellor Gregory R. Leet

With the 2013-14 academic year underway, I’d like to thank all of UC Irvine’s supporters for their commitment to the excellence and evolution of our world-class university. Your partnership in visualizing UC Irvine’s course for the future and bringing it to fruition is central to the university’s continued success.

In fact, UC Irvine’s “Shaping the Future” campaign is a compelling example of the power of our ongoing collaboration: It’s moving steadily toward reaching its $1 billion goal by 2015 and will position the university for sustainable progress. Even as we work together on this initiative, we’re creating a blueprint for the next comprehensive campaign – a strategic growth plan for UC Irvine’s future as a top-10 global university.

The engagement and enthusiasm of our supporters are positively affecting our community, our region, our state, our nation and beyond. By raising $1 billion, we’re not only lifting UC Irvine to the next level but changing our lives and our world. While our achievements during the “Shaping the Future” campaign are too numerous to list here, I’d like to share just a few:

- The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute is a new model for academic eye centers with a commitment to collaborating with the region’s vibrant vision care and medical device industries. The institute is completely funded by private philanthropy.

- The W.M. Keck Foundation granted $1 million to UC Irvine to build a campus laboratory in which researchers can explore the potential of using the deep ocean’s low-temperature and high-pressure conditions to generate carbon-free power from methane hydrates, the world’s largest untapped fossil energy resource. Professors Derek Dunn-Rankin and Peter Taborek are leading these pioneering studies.

James Randerson, Chancellor’s Professor of Earth system science, was awarded $1.9 million by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for a five-year project to gain new knowledge about the mechanisms through which climate affects the occurrence of droughts and fires worldwide, as well as identify approaches to forecasting fire season severity that can be used to plan fire prevention and mitigation efforts in the Amazon and elsewhere.

Keeping our focus on the future, the inaugural UC Irvine Leadership Forum was held in April, hosted by Dr. Hazem H. Chehabi, chair of the UC Irvine Foundation, along with the organization’s executive committee. The daylong event gave UC Irvine’s deans and directors a chance to share their visions for their schools/units with the committee.

I can only describe what transpired that day as a breakthrough. Attendees left fully energized and truly impressed by the scope of innovation, impact and opportunity that was presented in such a comprehensive manner. As many participants told me later, it seemed that at the forum our shared UC Irvine destiny began to reveal itself.

“By raising $1 billion, we’re not only lifting UC Irvine to the next level but changing our lives and our world.”

Vice Chancellor Gregory R. Leet
Emile Haddad to lead UC Irvine Foundation

Emile Haddad, president and CEO of FivePoint Communities, has been elected incoming chairman of the board of trustees for the UC Irvine Foundation. His three-year term will begin June 1, 2014.

As chairman, Haddad will oversee the direction and business affairs of the foundation, a community-based organization that supports the university through private philanthropy and personal advocacy. Its 54-member board of trustees is composed of Orange County business and community leaders, noteworthy alumni, and representatives of UC Irvine’s administration and faculty. Haddad will work with the current chairman, Dr. Hazem Chehabi, who is entering the final year of his three-year term, to ensure a smooth transition.

“Emile will become chairman at an exciting time,” Chehabi said. “The university will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2015 and is expected to complete its $1 billion fundraising campaign that same year. Emile has the expertise needed to guide the foundation through this dynamic environment. Few leaders can match his intelligence, worldliness and business acumen.”

Haddad has more than 30 years of business experience. At FivePoint Communities, he helms one of California’s largest real estate development companies, which manages master-planned communities in Newhall, Valencia, Irvine and San Francisco.

An active supporter of UC Irvine for many years, Haddad joined the foundation board in 2008 and currently chairs its strategic planning committee. He also serves on the Dean’s Leadership Council for the School of Social Ecology and the Center for Real Estate advisory board at The Paul Merage School of Business. Haddad and his wife, Dina, were co-chairs of the 2013 UC Irvine Medal gala, held Oct. 5.

Best regards.

Gregory R. Leet
Vice Chancellor | University Advancement
“Shaping the Future” campaign
www.ucfuture.com

As a next step, the 2013 UC Irvine Foundation retreat took place in June. This year’s theme, “It’s Our Course ... All Hands on Deck,” spoke to the partnership between foundation trustees and the university in charting UC Irvine’s course over the next 10 years. Keynote speaker retired Gen. George W. Casey Jr., 36th chief of staff of the U.S. Army, delivered a compelling talk on “Leadership in a Volatile/Uncertain/Complex/Ambiguous Environment” to open the retreat on a high note.

The event provided an opportunity to continue the discussion begun at the leadership forum and for our shared UC Irvine destiny to further reveal itself. I’m extremely grateful to all who participated and to the foundation trustees for their steadfast leadership and support.

Our university has many trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, students and community friends to thank for creating and sustaining the culture of excellence at UC Irvine. Our efforts today stand to benefit future generations, not just locally and regionally but nationally and globally. I look forward to our continuing partnership.

Emile Haddad

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Emile Haddad, president and CEO of FivePoint Communities, has been elected incoming chairman of the board of trustees for the UC Irvine Foundation. His three-year term will begin June 1, 2014.

Emile Haddad

As chairman, Haddad will oversee the direction and business affairs of the foundation, a community-based organization that supports the university through private philanthropy and personal advocacy. Its 54-member board of trustees is composed of Orange County business and community leaders, noteworthy alumni, and representatives of UC Irvine’s administration and faculty. Haddad will work with the current chairman, Dr. Hazem Chehabi, who is entering the final year of his three-year term, to ensure a smooth transition.

“Emile will become chairman at an exciting time,” Chehabi said. “The university will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2015 and is expected to complete its $1 billion fundraising campaign that same year. Emile has the expertise needed to guide the foundation through this dynamic environment. Few leaders can match his intelligence, worldliness and business acumen.”

Haddad has more than 30 years of business experience. At FivePoint Communities, he helms one of California’s largest real estate development companies, which manages master-planned communities in Newhall, Valencia, Irvine and San Francisco.

An active supporter of UC Irvine for many years, Haddad joined the foundation board in 2008 and currently chairs its strategic planning committee. He also serves on the Dean’s Leadership Council for the School of Social Ecology and the Center for Real Estate advisory board at The Paul Merage School of Business. Haddad and his wife, Dina, were co-chairs of the 2013 UC Irvine Medal gala, held Oct. 5.

Best regards.

Gregory R. Leet
Vice Chancellor | University Advancement
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UCI Medal event honors recipients and helps students

UC Irvine Medalists, from left, Richard and Cheryll Ruszat, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o and Charles D. Martin share the spotlight.

Hosted by the UC Irvine Foundation, the awards ceremony was co-chaired by Dina and Emile Haddad, who also led the Medal volunteer leadership committee. Emile Haddad is the president and CEO of FivePoint Communities and chairman-elect of the UC Irvine Foundation. The couple have been active supporters of UC Irvine for many years and serve on The Paul Merage School of Business Center for Real Estate advisory board.

“Emile and Dina Haddad showed vision, dedication and unwavering support in making this year’s UCI Medal Awards such a tremendous success,” said Gregory Leet, vice chancellor of University Advancement. “I am grateful to our steadfast Medal volunteer leadership committee and all the UC Irvine Foundation trustees for their unprecedented commitment and support.”

The event’s theme was “Shaping the Future,” inspired by UC Irvine’s $1 billion comprehensive fundraising campaign of the same name. It was selected to reflect the Medalists’ achievements as well as UC Irvine’s ongoing contributions of first-rate education and innovative research that have been compelling forces in Orange County’s rise into one of the country’s most economically robust, well-educated and highly desirable regions.

The gala featured a reception and formal dinner, Medalist tributes, and entertainment by students from the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. In addition, specially constructed video screens that spanned the width of the arena were used to honor past Medalists and provide a glimpse of UC Irvine’s future through three-dimensional imagery, music, photography and motion graphics.

**Beall Center Family Day, Nov. 2**

Through Family Day, the Beall Center for Art + Technology seeks to stir the imagination and motivate young people to delve into the basics of science, computer programming and visual literacy. Events include hands-on art and science activities, art and technology demonstrations, videos and more. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. Beall Center. Free and open to the public. More: 949-824-6206 or www.beallcenter.uci.edu.

At Family Day at the Beall Center, children of all ages can enjoy free, hands-on art and science activities.

**University Club Forum, Dec. 4**

Thuy Vo Dang will discuss the challenges of building a digital archive of Vietnamese American life stories.


**Play: ‘Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson,’ Nov. 9-17**

The drama department begins its season with the 2008 musical “Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson,” which reconfigures the image of the seventh U.S. president from populist frontier hero to angst-driven rock star. 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, and Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 14-16; 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, and Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 16 & 17. Claire Trevor Theatre. $11-$15. More: 949-824-2787 or www.arts.uci.edu/calendar.

**Dance: ‘New Slate,’ Dec. 5-7**

Claire Trevor School of the Arts faculty member Tong Wang will direct new dance works by nine graduate student choreographers. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 5-7; 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Claire Trevor Theatre. $11-$15. More: 949-824-2787 or http://dance.arts.uci.edu.

**More campus events**

http://today.uci.edu/calendar
UC Irvine’s reputation as an Earth-friendly campus continues to grow, with the university receiving multiple prestigious awards for its sustainability efforts.

- Sierra magazine ranked UC Irvine third in its annual list of “Coolest Schools” – the fourth consecutive year the university has been included among the top 10 greenest campuses nationwide. The list of schools that are doing the most to address climate change and operate sustainably is available at www.sierraclub.org/coolschools.

- APPA, the world’s largest trade association for facilities management professionals in higher education, presented UC Irvine’s Field Laboratory for Energy Studies with its 2013 Effective & Innovative Practices Award for “programs and processes that enhance service delivery, lower costs, increase productivity, improve customer service, generate revenue or otherwise benefit the educational institution.”

- The Contemporary Arts Center, in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, earned a national project award from the Design-Build Institute of America, an organization that defines, teaches and promotes best practices in design-build.

- In July, the Verano Place graduate student housing complex won kudos from the U.S. Green Building Council, bringing the campus five new Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Platinum awards. UC Irvine’s total LEED award count now stands at 19, placing it alongside such green powerhouses as the University of Florida, Harvard University and Arizona State University.

- UC Irvine’s energy efficiency program received worldwide recognition in June at the S-Lab Conference in Liverpool, England. The award for international laboratory operations went to the campus’s Smart Labs Initiative, which has slashed energy consumption by at least 50 percent.

- The Princeton Review has named UC Irvine to its “Green Honor Roll,” which highlights campuses dedicated to sustainability via energy use, recycling, food services, buildings and transportation as well as academic offerings and environmental action plans.

UC Irvine students plant trees at Middle Earth last spring. The campus has won numerous accolades for its green efforts. Solar panels line the rooftops of several UC Irvine buildings.
UCI partners with host of ‘Loh Down on Science’

Sandra Tsing Loh is partnering with UC Irvine to bring her signature style of science reporting to international public radio audiences.

She’s pondered everything from the amount of sugar in outer space to whether possums are right- or left-handed. Now Sandra Tsing Loh and her LDOS Media Lab Inc. are partnering with UC Irvine to produce “The Loh Down on Science,” bringing witty science lessons and the university’s world-class research to a wide national audience.

Loh describes her 90-second LDOS radio pieces as capsules of intriguing scientific information presented in an amusing way because “We believe humor makes knowledge sticky.” The popular daily module is carried on 140 public radio stations across the U.S., including Armed Forces Radio, which broadcasts the show across 40 countries internationally.

As an adjunct professor at UC Irvine, Loh will teach graduate-level courses on science communication in the School of Physical Sciences and courses in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

“This is a perfect partnership,” she said. “I’m especially excited to be involved with the UC Irvine School of Physical Sciences, whose faculty includes some ‘rock stars’ of the academic science world. I believe this alliance will allow us to more effectively deploy our common mission of public service by providing science education to all.”

Medical center among ‘America’s Best’ for 13th straight year

For the 13th consecutive year, UC Irvine Medical Center has been listed among “America’s Best Hospitals” by U.S. News & World Report. It’s ranked in the top 50 nationally in three specialties: geriatrics (30th), kidney disorders (47th) and urology (48th).

“UC Irvine Health is committed to providing Orange County with the highest-quality healthcare,” said Terry A. Belmont, CEO of UC Irvine Medical Center. “There is no question that in our region, we are the hospital of choice for the treatment of serious and complex cases.”

UC Irvine Medical Center is the only Orange County hospital consistently rated among America’s best by U.S. News and is ranked No. 9 in California and No. 4 in the Los Angeles area. Since 2001, the magazine has listed its programs in urology, gynecology, geriatrics, cancer, digestive disorders, kidney disorders and otolaryngology among the top 50 nationwide. In addition, the UC Irvine Health medical faculty includes more than 100 “Best Doctors in America,” more than any other hospital serving Orange County.
Morales appointed head of admissions and relations with schools

Patricia Blanchette Morales has been named director of UC Irvine’s Office of Admissions & Relations with Schools. She will assume primary responsibility for implementing Academic Senate policies on undergraduate admissions while managing recruitment and yield operations associated with realizing campus enrollment goals.

Morales was previously an enrollment management, admissions and financial aid consultant at Maguire Associates in Concord, Mass., and served as senior director for K-16 initiatives at the College Board.

Morales holds a doctorate in the history of consciousness from UC Santa Cruz, a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, a master’s degree in English from the University of Chicago and a bachelor’s degree in English from Boston College. A classically trained dancer for more than 20 years, she also is a passionate fan of sports, international travel, maps and cartography.

Tyagi named interim dean of business school

Rajeev Tyagi has been appointed interim dean of The Paul Merage School of Business for the 2013-14 academic year.

He succeeds former Dean Andrew J. Policano, who continues to contribute to the school as a faculty member and academic director of its Center for Investment & Wealth Management.

Tyagi, a marketing professor who holds the Walter B. Gerken Chair in Enterprise & Society, now leads the business school’s academic and administrative functions as well as external relations and special initiatives.

In memoriam:

Dudley Knight, professor emeritus of drama in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, died June 27 of a heart attack. He would have been 74 on July 1.

Knight was a founding member of the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Conn., and enjoyed a 40-year career as a voice, speech and dialect teacher and voice director for professional theater. As an actor, he played major roles at the American Conservatory Theater, South Coast Repertory, the Mark Taper Forum and the Utah Shakespeare Festival, among other venues. He’s the author of Speaking with Skill, a comprehensive investigation of the abilities needed by actors and other public speakers.

Knight is survived by his wife, renowned painter and sculptor Marta Whistler.

Rui J.P. de Figueiredo, professor emeritus of electrical engineering & computer science, as well as mathematics, died July 22 in College Station, Texas, after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease. He was 84.

Best known for his pioneering contributions to the mathematical foundations of linear and nonlinear problems in pattern recognition, neural networks, and signal and image processing, de Figueiredo’s work was internationally recognized and rewarded.

“During his 17 years as a faculty member in EECS, Rui played an important role in establishing the field of signal processing as a prominent research area at UCI,” said Michael Green, chair of the electrical engineering & computer science department. “In addition to being a preeminent scholar and researcher, Rui was a genuinely kind and cordial man. He will be missed by his friends and colleagues.”
UC Irvine is fast approaching its 50th Anniversary in 2015. To celebrate the milestone, we will be publishing UC Irvine: A Portrait, a beautifully illustrated coffee-table book. It will relive the university’s colorful history; its remarkable roster of distinguished faculty, staff, alumni and students; and its memorable highlights.

But the story can’t be told without your help. We need your stories, memories and memorabilia from your time at UC Irvine. A history of UC Irvine wouldn’t be complete without them! Either contribute online at http://sites.uci.edu/50th/ or send your correspondence to: UC Irvine: A Portrait, Attn: Cathy Lawhon, UC Irvine Media Relations and Community Outreach, 100 Theory, Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92697-5615. For questions about submitting material, please email clawhon@uci.edu

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If you preorder as a Sponsor, you will have the opportunity to save on the purchase price and see your name printed in the book for posterity.

If you are ordering the book for a family member or friend who attended UC Irvine, you have the option of including his or her name in the List of Sponsors.

Book Specifications:
• 176 pages, glossy full-color throughout
• 9.25” x 11” hardcover
• c. 25,000 words and 250 color and black & white images
• Publication spring 2015
• Preorder price: $40 + shipping and handling
• Retail price: $50


From Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D.

Dear Fellow Anteaters,

As all proud members of the UC Irvine community know, our campus and its people are sources of boundless stories of innovation, inspiration, discovery and triumph.

I’m pleased to share that this proud history — and our vision for future growth and global impact — will be chronicled in an upcoming book commemorating our 50th Anniversary. We have contracted local writers, photographers and London-based Third Millennium Information to publish our story. It will be printed and on its way to us in plenty of time for our official October 3, 2015, celebration.

We know you will enjoy paging through the past and revisiting the people and events that made UC Irvine the best university under 50 in the U.S. (as named by Times Higher Education) and looking forward with us to an even greater future.
And the winners are ...

Created in 2007, the UC Irvine Alumni Association’s Distinguished Anteater Award is a merit-based scholarship that recognizes students who demonstrate commitment to the university through their involvement with campus-affiliated programs, clubs or projects. Here are the five 2013 recipients, all members of the class of 2014. To learn more about this and other UCIAA scholarships, visit www.alumni.uci.edu.

“Through this scholarship, I’m able to devote more time to my studies and the New University newspaper.” – Jessica Pratt, literary journalism major, with an educational studies minor; New University editor-in-chief; Student Parent Orientation Program staffer; and Humanities Out There tutor

“Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community.” – Sasha Sabherwal, women’s studies, international studies and political science major; founder and president of the International Studies Club and mentorship program; academic programs chair for the School of Social Sciences Dean’s Ambassadors Council; and Los Angeles Urban Debate League participant

“Thanks to your generous support, I’m the first in my family to attend college.” – Avedis Simonian, math and quantitative economics major; co-founder of the UC Irvine Actuarial Society; co-founder and president of Homeless Blanket Initiative; Physical Sciences Undergraduate Mentoring Program participant; and Orange County Rescue Mission volunteer

“By awarding me this scholarship, the alumni association has lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus on more important aspects of school.” – Jacqueline Thomas, aerospace engineering and mechanical engineering major; Human Powered Airplane research project manager and founder; and member of the Society of Women Engineers, the UC Irvine Interfaith Center Catholic Church choir and Sigma Gamma Tau (aerospace engineering honor society)

“College life is full of distractions and temptations, but this award program sends a powerful message: There are Anteater alumni standing behind our achievements, rooting for us, and giving us that extra support and approval for going above and beyond what is asked of us as students.” – Florian Termin, international studies major; Real Food Challenge and ASUCI student garden participant; and Community Business member