Spotlight on autism:
Helping families face the journey
Tech support for caregivers
Reaching children through dance

Plus: Campus welcomes new provost
Rays of **hope** for those touched by **autism**

In this issue, we shed light on UC Irvine’s efforts to help patients, families, teachers, caregivers and others affected by autism. Through research, care and services, the university is committed to understanding and treating this disorder. As Dr. Joseph Donnelly, director of UC Irvine’s Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders, put it: “We support and educate families so they can survive and thrive and help their children reach their often unknown potential.”

Inside, you’ll learn about the center’s growth, thanks to $14.8 million in funding from the William & Nancy Thompson Family Foundation and the Children & Families Commission of Orange County; how UC Irvine associate professor of informatics Gillian Hayes uses technology to help youngsters and caregivers; and about unique dance workshops that teach children with autism new ways to express themselves. Such endeavors at UC Irvine aim to improve the lives of all who grapple with autism, every day.

**On the cover**

Speaking their language: Center works to make life better for families dealing with autism.

Tech support: Gillian Hayes develops apps and other tools to help those affected by autism.

Autism moves: Assistant professor teaches children the language of dance.

Achievements, accolades & Anteater antics: For UC Irvine, the academic year brought more of everything – students, research advances, alumni and, yes, another volleyball championship.
At first glance, it’s an ordinary scene from many a childhood: A boy plays with a toy boat, loading and unloading small plastic balls. Yet there are subtle clues that something’s not right.

Akintunde Udo, 6, is so intent on his game that he ignores everyone else in the room, making no eye contact and seemingly oblivious to the conversation between his mother, Uduak Udo, and Teri Book, a nurse practitioner at The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders, which operates under the leadership of UC Irvine Health School of Medicine.

Akintunde doesn’t look up when visitors enter the small office or even when a photographer crouches inches away, snapping his picture. It’s as though he’s separated by an invisible wall, and that wall is autism.

“Some people don’t think he has autism because he’s really intelligent and extremely well-behaved,” Book
Autism, in Orange, to better understand the disorder and learn how to cope with her child’s symptoms. For more than 10 years, the clinic – formerly called For OC Kids – has offered medical evaluations, diagnostic testing, and the kind of education and social support that have become Udo’s lifeline.

Now the center is growing in size and services, thanks to $14.8 million in funding from the William & Nancy Thompson Family Foundation and the Children & Families Commission of Orange County. It’s transitioning into a nationally recognized evaluation, treatment and research facility that helps those with autism, ADHD, Down syndrome and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

“We’ve always hoped to do more, but until the Thompson gift and commission’s matching investment, we’ve been limited by funding,” says Dr. Joseph Donnelly, a pediatric neurologist who directs the center. “It’s our opportunity to transform from a clinic to a center that cares for the whole child.”

The center will move to a larger (still undetermined) location this fall. Services such as behavioral intervention, psychological testing and counseling, speech/language therapy and occupational therapy will be added for children, adolescents and young adults through age 22, he says. Previously, the cutoff was 6 – Akintunde’s age.

“This allows us to follow patients over time and make sure they’re making progress,” Donnelly says.

For Udo, that continued support is vital.

“His pediatrician noticed that his speech wasn’t as developed as it should be,” she recalls. “He wouldn’t look at me, and he had terrible night terrors. I just thought he needed more love. That started our journey with autism.”

Udo makes careful notes in a journal while Book coaches her on handling meltdowns, demands and other challenging behaviors.

“If they scream that they want a cookie, don’t give in,” she counsels. “That makes it worse, because they’ll do it every time they want something.”

Book knows firsthand the pressures parents face. Her daughter has autism; today she’s a 21-year-old college graduate with a job.

“I have a really in-depth understanding of what parents are going through,” the nurse practitioner says. “One of the most frustrating things is that kids with high-functioning autism like Akintunde are misunderstood. People don’t realize they have autism. But when these kids get to the edge of a cliff emotionally, they launch themselves. They scream and have temper tantrums.”

She once got a call from a distraught father whose child was throwing a...
“Patients’ skills can vary from high-functioning to profoundly impaired and everything in between.”

fit in Starbucks, hollering, “He’s trying to kidnap me!” at the top of his lungs.

“You’ve never seen anything like it,” Book says. “When [children with autism] don’t know how to solve problems, they fall apart. It goes back to inflexible thinking.”

About one in 88 children in the U.S. has been identified as having an autism spectrum disorder, which can cause a wide range of social, communication and behavioral problems. [See related story.]

“Patients’ skills can vary from high-functioning to profoundly impaired and everything in between,” Donnelly says. “You can have a child with an IQ of 140 who plays the piano brilliantly and appears normal except for some social awkwardness, and you can have a child who doesn’t respond to his name, makes no eye contact, can’t speak, or who repeatedly spins in circles.”

Getting the diagnosis can be devastating to parents, even though they often suspect something’s wrong with their child long before teachers, relatives and others do.

“People say, ‘Oh, he’s a boy; he’ll grow out of it’ or ‘He’s so smart; he can’t have autism,’” Donnelly says. “We listen to parents and try to help. We get frantic calls from them saying their child was asked to leave preschool, or they’re afraid he’ll hurt another child, or he throws a tantrum every time they go to the store. They’ll say he’s not speaking, he won’t play with other children, or he doesn’t hug them.”

“They may come to us when they’re desperate. Sometimes they’re overwhelmed emotionally and financially. Some have quit their jobs to help their child. And the stress on a marriage can be great. We support and educate families so they can survive and thrive, and help their child reach their often unknown potential.”

To better assist clients, the center’s staff is tripling in size. In addition to nurse practitioners such as Book, social workers, developmental pediatricians and neurologists there will be specialists in behavioral intervention, psychology, psychiatry, speech/language pathology, occupational therapy and even nutrition.

Akintunde Udo has been coming to UC Irvine’s Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders since he was 3. His mother, Uduak, says her sessions with nurse practitioner Teri Book (pictured) help them both deal with autism.
In the past, we could provide medical treatment for epilepsy or ADHD, but we’ve never been able to provide other therapies,” Donnelly says. “We’re developing a true multidisciplinary team.

They’re also enlisting UC Irvine experts in technology, the arts, and other disciplines whose work benefits those with autism in new ways. (See related stories on Gillian Hayes, associate professor of informatics, and Andrew Palermo, assistant professor of drama.)

In addition, the center partners with UC Irvine’s Center for Autism Research & Treatment to develop new drug therapies.

And, as part of its mission to serve as advocates, it’s working with Chapman University’s College of Educational Studies to strengthen the relationship between families coping with autism and their local school systems, which render the most intervention.

“We’re laying out a plan to use [the Thompson] investment most effectively,” Donnelly says. “We want to focus on areas where we can make a difference for individuals and families and serve those who have autism and other developmental disorders from the day of identification to adulthood.”

With support, he says, kids can succeed in school and contribute their unique abilities to society. Akintunde, for instance, has already told his mother he wants to be a heart doctor. Looking at her son as he turns his attention to another toy, Udo knows he’s smart enough that such dreams are possible. ●

Kathryn Bold, University Communications

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**Autism stats and warning signs**

- Autism spectrum disorders are a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. They affect people in different ways and can range from mild to severe, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

- Autism has no single known cause, and the number of diagnosed cases has risen sharply – 300 percent over the past 11 years. In 2012, the CDC reported that one in 88 American children had an ASD – an increase from one in 150 in 2002. Recently revised estimates point to an even higher rate of one in 50.

- ASDs are almost five times more common among boys (one in 54) than among girls (one in 252).

- A 2011 California Department of Education study found that about 1 percent of all children enrolled in the state’s public schools are diagnosed with autism. Orange County has the highest rate, with 1.5 percent; one child in 63 has been diagnosed with autism and is receiving special education services.

- In the last 10 years, the autism rate has increased nearly fivefold in California. One in 94 children is receiving special education services for autism in 2011, compared to one in 431 a decade ago.

**According to the CDC, individuals with an ASD might:**

1. Not respond to their name by 12 months of age.
2. Not point at objects (such as an airplane flying overhead) to show interest by 14 months.
3. Not play “pretend” games (such as “feeding” a doll) by 18 months.
4. Avoid eye contact and want to be alone.
5. Have trouble understanding other people’s feelings or talking about their own.
6. Have delayed speech and language skills.
7. Repeat words or phrases over and over (echolalia).
8. Give unrelated answers to questions.
9. Get upset at minor changes.
10. Have obsessive interests.
11. Flap their hands, rock their body or spin in circles.
12. Have unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste, look or feel.

For more information, visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/facts.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/facts.html).

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Last December, Gillian Hayes hosted an autism technology showcase, believing that only a few dozen people would show up on a chilly Saturday morning to review the latest research. But at a time when most folks were finishing their first cup of coffee, more than 150 jammed into a Beckman Center conference room to see poster presentations and product demonstrations by Hayes, her colleagues and her students.

The turnout far surpassed her expectations, and the inquisitive crowd personified an exploding demand for technologies that help individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

“I’m continually surprised by the amount of interest,” says the UC Irvine associate professor of informatics. “But it’s great. People want this, so we have to get after it and really make a difference.”

Hayes is an expert in the field of human-computer interaction – how technology can be a tool to understand people and improve their lives – with a focus on autism, which affects nearly one in 88 American children.

Her work coincides with a growing acceptance of technology that aids those with autism, as reflected by a seemingly endless array of electronic applications.

An April Los Angeles Times article on the subject noted that a search of the Apple App Store yielded 1,449 products for the iPad and 1,259 for the iPhone.

“Mobile apps have the potential to address a wide range of issues related to autism,” Hayes says, “from providing a voice for those who can’t speak to increasing independent living and employment skills.”

The autism app craze, she says, started with the iPhone but really took off with the iPad, which has a larger footprint that’s easier for kids to use. With apps now available on a wide variety of tablets and smartphones, the trend continues. There are apps to improve communication and time recognition and management. Others deliver educational lessons. More and more tackle personal concerns, such as hygiene and social interaction. For parents of children with autism, finding the right app can be daunting.

As director of technology research at The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Hayes teaches families how to use such apps on iPads donated to the center by PIMCO, a Newport Beach-based investment firm.
Retired PIMCO CEO Bill Thompson and his wife, Nancy, and the Children & Families Commission of Orange County gave UC Irvine $14.8 million last year to create the diagnostic, treatment, outreach and education center that serves those with autism spectrum disorders from birth to young adulthood.

“We look to Gillian as our sounding board and expert,” says Dr. Joseph Donnelly, the UC Irvine pediatric neurologist who directs the center. “These technologies show enormous potential to help kids learn and communicate, but we can’t just integrate them on face value without seeing if they’re effective or not. Gillian has been valuable with our efforts to move into this area.”

Hayes and her students hold regular workshops with center families to talk about the basics of assistive technology and iPad utilization.

“I’ll bring new apps into my office, check them out and then bring them to the parents,” she says. “We get hands-on with the technology, trying different ones out and getting feedback. Some of the families have great ideas.”

Hayes and her research collective – called the STAR Group – reach into the community to put theory into practice. STAR stands for Social & Technological Action Research, she says, “which means we should work with the community to understand and create interventions collaboratively. It’s my view of the world: There’s no point in developing a theory if it’s not applicable to improving someone’s life.”

STAR researchers and students review and test autism technologies, and if they identify a need that’s not being met, they’ll generate new ones. Their projects have included apps for hygiene and activity planning and other tools that address social skills and caregiver concerns. To provide a commercial channel for these creations, Hayes founded Tiwahe Technology. Originally conceived to bring her doctoral dissertation work to market, the firm offers design and consulting services for autism and other assistive and educational products.

“Tiwahe [‘family’ in the Lakota language] is a great outlet for my graduate students, and it’s a platform for others to get together and develop interesting programs focused on autism,” Hayes says.

She also collaborates with Orange County school districts to create and employ technologies to enhance the social and cognitive skills of students with autism so that when they’re adults, they’ll be able to hold down jobs.

“The tools help these students learn how to get to work on time, get tasks done and handle the money they earn,” Hayes says. “Instead of them relying on taxpayers, we want them one day to be independent taxpayers themselves.”

“Gillian is very enthusiastic and easy to work with,” says Linda O’Neal, Career Link director for the Irvine Unified School District. “She’s more of a can-do person than a can’t-do person.”

Hayes says this attitude is fueled by the special ed teachers she collaborates with, who continually inspire her. “Sometimes I get tired sitting in the office and writing code, and it makes a big difference to meet the teachers,” she says. “I love their passion; it’s wonderful.”

In turn, Hayes is inspiring UC Irvine’s tech-savvy students to utilize their talents to make life better for those in need. This spring, she helped sponsor the Autism AppJam, a two-week competition in which participants from across campus teamed up to devise apps.

At first, Hayes worried about how many students would sign up, but her concerns proved unwarranted – more than 120 did. The AppJam culminated in a raucous final event last April in which 20 teams showed off their creations to friends, faculty, judges and visitors.

Amid the chatter and chaos, Hayes stood smiling. “I’ve really fallen in love with the idea that autism can be well served by technology,” she said. “It’s amazing to see the interest everyone has and the progress we continue to make. And it’s only going to get better.”

Tom Vasich, University Communications
Children with autism sometimes spin in circles, waving their hands. They can appear to be performing a strange kind of dance, but to Andrew Palermo, their movements speak volumes.

The UC Irvine assistant professor of drama, a director and choreographer of musical theater and concert dance, has created classes that encourage kids with autism to express themselves through body language. Now he’s bringing his unique workshops to UC Irvine’s Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Orange.

“My ultimate goal is the same one I’ve had for my entire creative life: to tell stories through movement,” Palermo says. “I don’t have a child with autism. I don’t live with it every day. I just want to give a positive voice to those who do.”

Palermo spent years performing on Broadway, including in the original company of “Wicked” and in a host of other musicals. After joining the Claire Trevor School of the Arts faculty last fall, where he teaches dance within the drama department, he got to know Dr. Joseph Donnelly, the Center for Autism’s director. The two have forged a partnership to integrate the arts into special needs.
“The classes help kids get in touch with their bodies and learn how they work. They become more adept at the exercises, and they start to understand the cause and effect of their movements,” Palermo says. “We’ll pick a topic such as water, and we’ll all stand in a circle and create a dance about water. What’s cool is that the kids really come out of their shells.

“Over the course of a few workshops, I’ve seen children who started out withdrawn run into the class, throw off their shoes and start stretching. Kids want to move, and the classes give them permission to do that in a structured way.”

Palermo first became interested in autism in 2007, when he saw a CNN documentary about Amanda Baggs, who has made videos about what it’s like to live with the disorder.

“Before that, I didn’t know anything about autism beyond the 1988 movie ‘Rain Man,’ so it was eye-opening. I decided it was something I wanted to explore,” he says.

As artistic director of dre.dance, a contemporary company he co-founded with childhood friend Taye Diggs, Palermo created a piece inspired by Baggs called “beyond.words.” Since its debut at Wichita State University six years ago, the work has been performed across the country.

In tandem with “beyond.words,” Palermo began holding his movement workshops for children with autism. While it’s still too soon to know what effect the classes might have on participants, he and others already have noticed positive benefits.

“I’ve been told by the parents and pathologists that movement therapy does seem to open kids up in ways they weren’t before,” he says. The director of an autism center in Minnesota reported that a boy who took the workshop began – for the first time in his life – articulating things he wanted. That’s reward enough for Palermo. His goal, he says, is to simply help such kids connect with the world.

“Most people see autism as a disease to be cured,” he says. “My attitude is, ‘Let’s work with who you are at this moment and not try to fix it.’” In short, for now, just let the children dance.

Kathryn Bold, University Communications
For UC Irvine, the academic year brought more of everything – students, research advances, alumni and, yes, another volleyball championship.
It’s been a year of growth for Anteaters, from the record 76,000 students who applied to UC Irvine last November for the 2013-14 academic year to the campus’s 48th commencement, when 8,662 graduates collected their diplomas.

Those graduates swelled the ranks of alumni to 150,000 – a milestone. And, thanks to the January opening of the Newkirk Alumni Center, they have a welcoming new home.

As the following highlights from 2012-13 demonstrate, the UC Irvine community has been busy – pursuing more research breakthroughs, garnering more academic and athletic honors, and engaging in more community outreach. And just for good measure, the men’s team racked up one more NCAA volleyball title. Because you can never have too many.

**STUDENTS**

To kick off Welcome Week, Anteaters turned out in force to reclaim the world record for largest dodgeball game. Number of ball-hurling participants: 6,084.

**Everybody up for the kickoff:** Don’t even try to take the Anteaters’ coveted dodgeball record away from them. At the start of the school year, 6,084 ball-throwing students stormed the Anteater Recreation Center to once again reclaim the Guinness world record.

**Applications are up:** Last November, freshman applications to UC Irvine for fall 2013 set a record, with about 61,000 vying to become future Anteaters. More than 15,000 transfer students also applied, bringing the total to 76,235, a 9 percent increase over the previous year and fourth-highest among the nine undergraduate University of California campuses.

**Raising the bar:** The UC Irvine School of Law had plenty to celebrate in December. Its first graduates were sworn in as California attorneys, after an impressive 90 percent of the 51 class members passed the state bar – second only to Stanford University’s 94 percent of first-time test takers statewide.

**GUEST APPEARANCES**

- Civil rights leader **Elaine Brown**, author and former head of the Black Panther Party, delivered the Dr. Joseph L. White Lecture as part of UC Irvine’s 30th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.

- Former President **Bill Clinton** visited the Bren Events Center last fall for a pre-election rally co-hosted by the College Democrats at UCI. With some tutoring from club president Jose Quintana, Clinton delighted the standing-room-only crowd by flashing the Anteater “Zot!” hand sign.

- **Rudy Giuliani**, former U.S. attorney and New York City mayor, delivered a 70-minute talk on leadership before a packed house at the Crystal Cove Auditorium in February. He said he learned about leadership from role models and by reading biographies: “All my life, I’ve been copying people. I’m constantly trying to learn from others.”

- During Disability History Week last October, **Temple Grandin** spoke on campus about autism and Asperger’s syndrome. The author and professor of animal science at Colorado State University is considered the most accomplished person with autism in the world.
Good-will ambassador: Continuing his effort to expand affiliations with top research universities internationally, Chancellor Michael Drake traveled to South Korea in April to visit with leaders in education, business and government. Among his stops was Ewha Womans University, the largest women’s college in the world.

Captured on tape: As part of the Vietnamese American Oral History Project, student interviewers recorded the life stories of Southern California immigrants for archival preservation. The project also spawned a website, launched in October, to provide online resources to volunteers, narrators, students and community supporters.

There’s an app for that: Last fall, UC Irvine computer science students taught local middle school students to build smartphone applications to help even younger children learn science, technology and math. In December, an expert panel tested the kids’ creations and awarded an array of prizes. “These are 12-year-olds getting the chance to design apps. The kids love it!” said Scott Bowman, principal of Irvine’s Rancho Middle School. “The nice part is this comes out of UCI.”

James Nowick, UC Irvine chemistry professor, led efforts to post the entire undergraduate chemistry curriculum online – opening the doors to a free global classroom.

Global chemistry class: In March, UC Irvine launched Open Chemistry, the most comprehensive chemistry series ever offered online at no cost to students, tutors, self-learners and others worldwide. Chemistry professor James Nowick partnered with UC Irvine Extension’s open-education leaders to videotape and post the entire undergraduate chemistry curriculum, giving people everywhere the ability to learn on their own terms.

Sizing up Southern California: John Hipp, associate professor of criminology, law & society, and researchers in the School of Social Ecology’s Metropolitan Futures Initiative released the first Southern California Regional Progress Report, after collecting data on the region’s demographic, social and economic landscape. Among their findings: The large influx of Asian and Latino immigrants over the past 60 years has resulted in stronger and safer multicultural communities.
Lighter than a feather: UC Irvine mechanical & aerospace engineer Lorenzo Valdevit and fellow researchers at HRL Labs and the California Institute of Technology received Popular Mechanics’ 2012 Breakthrough Award for creating the world’s lightest metal.

3-D printer: Last September, engineering faculty offered a sneak peek at their innovative three-dimensional manufacturing efforts at the campus’s National Center for Rapid Technologies, or RapidTech, the only nonprofit in the U.S. dedicated to the hands-on training of community college and university students for the next wave of advanced manufacturing.

Drying out: Using satellite data, UC Irvine scientists and colleagues found that the Middle East river basin is losing critical water reserves at an alarming rate. Between 2003 and 2010, four nations along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers – Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq – lost the equivalent of all the water in the Dead Sea due to pumping from underground reservoirs.

New for your smartphone: Computer science professor Gene Tsudik and colleagues created an app that could allow an individual to securely store and utilize his or her own DNA on a smartphone. GenoDroid could potentially be used for paternity and common-ancestry tests, customized cancer-fighting drugs and more.

Zeroing in on cancer: UC Irvine biologists, chemists and computer scientists identified an elusive pocket on the surface of the p53 protein that can be targeted by anticancer drugs. The finding holds promise of a new treatment approach, as mutant forms of this protein are implicated in nearly 40 percent of diagnosed cases of cancer.

Shedding light on epilepsy: Ivan Soltesz, Chancellor’s Professor and chair of anatomy & neurobiology, and other UC Irvine neuroscientists developed a way to stop epileptic seizures with fiber-optic light signals, heralding a novel opportunity to treat the most severe manifestations of the brain disorder.
**Bone expert:** Joyce Keyak, professor in residence of radiological sciences, joined a NASA effort to learn more about bone density loss during astronauts’ lengthy stays aboard the International Space Station. Keyak is employing a technique she created to analyze how microgravity-influenced changes to the hip bone might increase astronauts’ fracture risk during spaceflight, upon returning to Earth and with subsequent aging.

**Stem cell trial:** Employing a treatment tested and advanced by Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center faculty members Aileen Anderson and Brian Cummings, Swiss doctors with the world’s first clinical trial using human neural stem cells to treat chronic thoracic spinal cord injury reported that two patients had regained some ability to sense touch and heat.

**Eye research grant:** The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute, part of UC Irvine Health, received a $3 million grant from the Arnold & Mabel Beckman Foundation in February. The funds will advance research to prevent blindness caused by such diseases as age-related macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa.

**NEW GROWTH**

**Alumni’s change of address:** The Newkirk Alumni Center, new home for 150,000 Anteater alumni, opened in January. Named in recognition of Jim (Hon. ‘12) and Martha (’72, Ph.D. ’81) Newkirk, the 12,500-square-foot building houses the UC Irvine Alumni office and serves as a gateway to the campus.

**Business school expands:** In January, The Paul Merage School of Business broke ground on its new facility, set for completion in 2014. At 78,000 square feet, the five-story structure will be 76 percent larger than the existing building.

**Fieldwork:** The California Wildlife Conservation Board awarded $2.833 million in Proposition 84 funds for new construction at UC Irvine’s Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center in Borrego Springs. The facility supports field research by biologists, astronomers, anthropologists and others in the vast Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, in eastern San Diego County.

**Encore performance:** Perhaps the most unique of UC Irvine’s recent additions is a structure not found on campus maps: the Claire Trevor School of the Arts’ New Swan, a temporary, open-air, Elizabethan-style theater-in-the-round. The New Swan Shakespeare Festival debuted in August 2012 in the transportable, 125-seat facility, which will rise again in Gateway Commons near Aldrich Park when the festival returns this summer.

**Targeting tumors:** UC Irvine doctors are enrolling patients with the deadly brain tumor glioblastoma multiforme in a clinical trial of a vaccine that may prevent the cancer’s return or spread after surgery. “Our goal is to train the immune system to recognize and attack the cancer,” said Dr. Daniela Bota, neuro-oncologist and co-director of UC Irvine’s Comprehensive Brain Tumor Program.

**Infection prevention:** Led by infectious diseases specialist Dr. Susan Huang, a nationwide study on antibiotic-resistant bacteria in hospitals showed that the use of antimicrobial soap and ointment on all intensive-care patients significantly cut bloodstream infections.

Radiology researcher Joyce Keyak has participated in previous NASA efforts to address the risk of early-onset, age-related osteoporosis in astronauts on long-duration space missions.
HONORS & ACCOLADES

A rise in the ranks: In June, Times Higher Education placed UC Irvine first in its annual list of U.S. universities younger than 50. It’s the second time the campus took top honors in the category. ... Once again, U.S. News & World Report ranked UC Irvine among the top 50 universities. The 2013 listing placed it 44th among all universities nationwide and 12th among public institutions. ... In February, UC Irvine also was named one of the nation’s “Best Value Colleges” by The Princeton Review. ... The Paul Merage School of Business continued to gain recognition, leaping up to 43rd in the U.S. in BusinessWeek’s biennial rankings.

An Apple a day: The iMedEd Initiative – the School of Medicine’s innovative iPad-based medical education program – was chosen as a 2012-13 Apple Distinguished Program for integrating Apple technology into education. Since 2010, incoming medical students at UC Irvine have received fully loaded iPad tablet computers, putting at their fingertips all the information they’ll need to read, study or review.

Athletics

History repeats itself: The men’s volleyball squad won its second consecutive national championship, and its fourth in the last seven years, with a 3-0 sweep of top-ranked BYU in May. The Anteaters became the first team to win back-to-back volleyball titles since UCLA did it in 1995 and 1996.

Hoop dreams: Men’s basketball gave Anteater fans another exciting season, making it as far as the NCAA Big West Tournament championship at the Honda Center in Anaheim. Fourth-seeded UC Irvine defeated No. 1 seed Long Beach State in the semifinals before falling to No. 2 seed Pacific.

Tennis, anyone? The women’s tennis team made its third appearance in the NCAA tournament and scored its first win in the first round, capping a terrific year that included a school-record 23 wins, a Big West regular-season title and a 31st national ranking. Kristina Smith ’13 was the squad’s first Big West Player of the Year since 2005 and the first Anteater woman since Maureen Diaz in 2000 to play in the NCAA singles championship.
Alumni

Making her case

District Attorney Jackie Lacey ’79 brings change of leadership to LA law

When UC Irvine alumna Jackie Lacey announced that she was running for Los Angeles County district attorney, many people thought she didn’t stand a chance. In the 150-year history of the office, there had never been a female or an African American in the top job. “The fellas,” as Lacey jokingly calls the former district attorneys, “all looked alike.”

That changed on Dec. 3, 2012, when she was sworn in as the county’s first female and first African American district attorney after prevailing in the California general election. Lacey now oversees the nation’s largest prosecutorial office, with about 1,000 deputy district attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff.

She’s come a long way – from a girl growing up in a working-class neighborhood of LA to chief prosecutor – and UC Irvine played a key role in her transformation.

“This university caused me to become a lawyer,” she says. Lacey recently returned to her alma mater to give a talk at the Cross-Cultural Center about her undergraduate days and to receive UC Irvine’s first Distinguished Professional in Public Service Award.

She enrolled here as a psychology major in 1975 with the idea of eventually earning a teaching credential. But a summer job at a local elementary school convinced her that teaching wasn’t her calling.

“You have to be good with kids in order to spend every day – every day – in a classroom with 30 of them,” Lacey says.

Unsure of her direction, she took an introductory law course her junior year that included sitting in on trials at the Santa Ana courthouse.

“I fell into a class that would change the trajectory of my life. There, I discovered that I loved being in the courtroom,” Lacey says. “For me, it provided so much theater. … You never knew when a curse word was going to come out of someone’s mouth and cause you to laugh when you shouldn’t laugh, or when a judge was going to say, ‘Knock it off,’ or when the litigants would fight. I liked that edge of never knowing what was going to happen.”

She also was inspired by one of the class’s guest lecturers, an African American lawyer named Irma Brown, now a Los Angeles Superior Court judge.

“It was something about that woman’s mannerisms, the passion she had in her voice, the way she looked, the fact that she had come from a background that I had come from, that made me say, ‘I could be like her. I could do that,’” she says.
Lacey was the first in her family to go to college. Her parents both fled discrimination in the South in the 1950s and found jobs in Los Angeles, where they met. Her mother, Addie Phillips, worked in a garment factory, and her father, Louis Phillips (now deceased), worked for the city, cleaning vacant lots.

When Lacey told her parents she wanted to be a lawyer, they were thrilled. The change in career choices proved a turning point.

“Like everything in my life, I judge whether I’m making the right decision ... by whether or not the doors are opening up,” she says. "If they are, it’s probably the right path."

Those doors did open. After graduating from UC Irvine in 1979 with a bachelor’s in psychology, she landed a full scholarship to USC’s law school, just 2 miles from her girlhood home. While studying law there, she married her high school sweetheart, David Lacey (now an investigative auditor in the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office), and gave birth to the couple’s first child – yet she still managed to graduate with her class in 1982.

“My husband and I joke about doing things the hard way,” she says.

Lacey worked as a prosecutor for the Santa Monica City Attorney’s Office before joining the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office in 1986. She’s handled thousands of criminal cases, including the county’s first race-motivated hate crime murder conviction. She successfully prosecuted three white supremacists who beat a homeless African American man to death behind an Antelope Valley fast-food restaurant to earn gang tattoos. All received lengthy prison terms.

She moved up the ranks at the DA’s office to second in command. Her management experience, along with important endorsements from former DA Steve Cooley and the Los Angeles Times, contributed to her successful 2012 campaign for the top job.

Lacey hopes her historic victory will encourage other minorities and women to pursue careers in law enforcement. Her message to the UC Irvine students –

many of them young African Americans – who turned out for her recent talk:

“Whatever your dreams are, whatever your purpose in life, whatever your calling ... step out in faith and go forward. Stop waiting. Something that seems at first to be impossible may merely be difficult. Do not be afraid of the difficult. Keep going.”

Kathryn Bold, University Communications

“Like everything in my life, I judge whether I’m making the right decision ... by whether or not the doors are opening up.”
David Fanous ’03 is a man who came to dinner and never left. And he plans on sticking around for a while.

Fanous has been a host of Dinner for 12 Anteaters – or D12 as it is commonly called – every year since the program started in 2003. Held annually in November, D12 brings UC Irvine alumni together with current students for a fun evening of dining, networking, conversation and connection.

The event is sponsored by the Student Alumni Association in partnership with the UC Irvine Alumni Association. Last year, more than 200 students attended 15 dinners throughout Orange County. With a student waiting list of many more, SAA is looking for more volunteer hosts.

Fanous, a manager for Southern California Edison, said the dinners have as much to offer him as the students, and for minimal effort on his part.

“All I have to do is open my home and make sure that the food is there,” says Fanous, whose meals have ranged from backyard barbecues to lasagna from the frozen-food section of the grocery store. “This is both an easy and enjoyable way to stay connected with the campus and with the students.”

SAA volunteers handle the heavy lifting, such as setting up the guest list, arranging for rides and collecting RSVPs. An SAA student representative is assigned to each dinner to help ensure that things run smoothly.

Carlotta Pham, a fourth-year mechanical engineering major, attended her first D12 when she was a freshman. Her hosts for the evening were an alumni couple who wanted to stay involved in the campus, Pham says.

“They talked to us about their own experiences as students and told us about some of the key things we should be involved in and do, like take classes or pursue internships that we otherwise would not have considered,” Pham says. She enjoyed the experience so much that she became an SAA member and now serves as a student host for the event. “It was a way for them [alumni] to have an impact on current students, and it showed me that your connection to UC Irvine doesn’t have to end at graduation.”

Hosts and students get matched up for a variety of reasons, not just common majors, says Allison Dolan Wilson, associate executive director of development and alumni relations in the UC Irvine Alumni Association office.
“We found that these dinners are far more successful when we try to find a commonality, whether that be academic, extracurricular or personal interests,” Dolan Wilson says. “This helps the students and the alumni feel more comfortable with each other and develop a rapport.”

Like Fanous, many hosts enjoy the event so much that they sign up year after year and form long-term mentoring relationships.

Fanous says that he was recently contacted by a past D12 attendee. The student sought him out for career advice. Fanous also talked to another attendee about his experience with the Big Brother program, which inspired that student to sign up for the program as well.

“I enjoy the opportunity to help and interact with these students,” Fanous says. “This is why I keep inviting them back to my home.”

Although it’s called Dinner for 12 Anteaters, some hosts have only six students for dinner, while others have more than 20, Dolan Wilson says. Others join together with fellow alumni and co-host an event. Dinner options can range from elaborate catered meals to takeout from a local restaurant, while others prepare the meal themselves or simply barbecue at their homes.

“Hosts can do as little or as much as they feel comfortable with,” Dolan Wilson says. “No one should think that cost, effort or resources are a deterrent.”

Economics major David Guan says he was initially nervous about meeting and talking to the host at his first event but was quickly put at ease.

“You never know what you are going to say, and as a student, you don’t really know what the working world is all about,” he says. “But it was actually very casual and not intimidating. It was more about life and school – and sharing experiences.”

Like Pham, Guan became an SAA student volunteer and hopes to host a D12 event after he graduates.

Alumni, he says, have as much to gain from the experience as students. It’s easy to do, but offers the chance to give back and see how the campus has changed; it’s an opportunity to share our own stories and offer advice to students who are eager to learn – and to meet future Anteater alumni.

“There’s a giant network out there for all Anteaters,” Guan says. “And this is a great way to bring us all together.”

Kim Lane, UC Irvine Alumni office

“This is both an easy and enjoyable way to stay connected with the campus and with the students.”

Want to host a D12 dinner?
Visit www.alumni.uci.edu/events/12anteaters.php to find out how.
Russell O. Bush [Humanities ’08] was among 38 national finalists in the 2013 Student Academy Awards competition for his University of Texas at Austin M.F.A. thesis documentary, “Vultures of Tibet.”

Baer Charlton [Social Sciences ’82] has published his second book, Stoneheart, to be released this fall by Midnight Hour Publishing. The novel is about a third-generation Marine who’s medically discharged after 39 years, suffering from traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Connie (Harrell) Keller [Humanities ’08] has published two novels, Screwing Up Time (a 2012 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award quarterfinalist) and Screwing Up Babylon. The third book in the series is due to be published this fall.

Chris Lopez [Arts ’02] recently graduated from San Francisco State University’s M.F.A. program. His conceptual and information arts exhibit was displayed through May at SFSU’s Fine Arts Gallery.

Schannae Lucas [Social Sciences ’95] received tenure and was named associate professor in California Lutheran University’s criminal justice department.

Micheal McAlexander [Arts ’91], an assistant professor in Frostburg State University’s mass communication department, won the Broadcast Education Association’s Festival of Media Arts Best of Festival award for his screenplay “Space Race.” In addition to his faculty role, McAlexander is a feature film director and screenwriter. “Space Race” is about a young, down-on-his-luck flying instructor who teams up with a group of adrenaline-pumped Cal Tech grad students racing against a ruthless billionaire to launch the first commercial astronaut into space. McAlexander calls it a mix of “The Fast & the Furious” and “Apollo 13.”

Dr. Stephen H. Montgomery [Medicine ’43] died April 13 at age 95. He graduated from the College of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons (which later became the UC Irvine Health School of Medicine) in 1943, and he opened his Bakersfield practice in August 1944. Montgomery was a founding physician at Physicians Hospital, now Good Samaritan Hospital, and a member of the Kern County Medical Society, the California Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

Michael Sueoka [Social Sciences ’08] and Aaron Qian [Social Sciences, Engineering ’05] recently co-founded CurbStreet, a commercial real estate Internet start-up. Sueoka is the company’s CEO. While he was an undergraduate at UC Irvine, Sueoka played for the men’s rugby club, was active in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and worked in Campus Recreation.
Alumni in the news

Diana Hurlbut [Biological Sciences ’80; Ph.D. Pharmacology and Toxicology, ’88] was named Irvine Valley College’s Teacher of the Year. The biological sciences professor works hard to engage students in the complex subject matter she teaches, The Orange County Register noted. “My job is to always try to relate back to the subject at hand,” Hurlbut said. “The most fun I have is actually in the lab where I can get [students] to apply what they’ve learned. That’s where it becomes dynamic and interactive. Lab is where it comes alive.”

Windell D. Middlebrooks [M.F.A. Drama, ’05] has played Dr. Curtis Brumfield on ABC’s “Body of Proof” and Kirby Morris on the Disney Channel’s “The Suite Life on Deck.” He’s also well-known as the delivery guy with attitude in those hilarious Miller High Life commercials. Middlebrooks talked with entertainment journalist Brittany Frederick about how earning a master’s degree in drama at UC Irvine’s Claire Trevor School of the Arts helped his acting career: “By going to grad school, you bypass the three- to seven-year hustle of just trying to be seen. I came out of school with representation across the board. I kind of jumped a few steps, in a way.” Editor’s note: Look for a Q&A with Middlebrooks in the fall issue of UC Irvine Magazine.

Have news to share?

Just got a promotion? Changed jobs or published a book? Let your fellow Anteaters know what you’re up to with a UC Irvine alumni class note.

Visit http://www.alumni.uci.edu/connect/class-notes.php
Historic season for women’s tennis

For women’s tennis, the 2012-13 season was one of accolades and accomplishments.

In May, UC Irvine earned its first NCAA Tournament win by defeating San Jose State 4-2 in first-round play at USC’s Marks Stadium.

Junior Ali Facey clinched the win for the Anteaters, who had fallen in the first round of their previous NCAA appearances in 2007 and 2010. After losing the first set and trailing 4-1 in the second, Facey staged a furious rally to pull out the individual and team victory.

UC Irvine, which was defeated by national No. 5 seed USC in the NCAA second round, compiled a school-record 23 wins in 2013.

Led by Mike Edles ’79 in his 17th season as head coach, the Anteaters were a perfect 9-0 in Big West Conference regular-season matches and had a 20-match winning streak that spanned nearly three months. UC Irvine was the No. 1 seed for the Big West Tournament and advanced to the final for the sixth straight year and seventh time in the past eight seasons.

Kristina Smith ’13, who had a 20-3 record at No. 1 singles in dual matches, was named Big West Conference Player of the Year and was an All-Big West first team selection in singles and doubles (with Franziska Goettsching). Smith was nationally ranked for most of the season and competed in the NCAA singles championship. She’s the 14th member of her family to earn a degree from UC Irvine, and her mother, Maria, competed in the 1983 NCAA Tournament for the Anteaters.

Edles was named Big West Coach of the Year for the fifth time in his career. He played four seasons for UC Irvine’s men’s tennis, earning All-American honors in singles and doubles in 1977 when the Anteaters captured the NCAA Division II title.

Anteaters infiltrating ranks of pro soccer

As UC Irvine marks its 30th year of fielding intercollegiate teams in soccer, alumni from its men’s and women’s teams are competing throughout the professional ranks.

Brad Evans, a 2006 All-American for Coach George Kuntz’s Anteaters, is in his seventh season in Major League Soccer and plays for the Seattle Sounders. Evans also was a late addition to the U.S. men’s national team and scored the winning goal in a 2-1 victory over Jamaica June 7 in a World Cup Qualifier at Kingston, Jamaica.

Brad Evans played for UC Irvine from 2003 to 2006 and is one of the most prolific goal-scorers in Anteater history.
Miguel Ibarra ’12, a first team All-American at UC Irvine in 2011, is in his second season with Minnesota United FC of the North American Soccer League.

Amani Walker and Andrew Fontein ’12, former teammates at UC Irvine, are together again as members of the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the NASL. Walker was Big West Offensive Player of the Year for the Anteaters in 2010, while Fontein earned conference Goalkeeper of the Year honors as a senior in 2011.

CoCo Goodson ’12, a two-time All-American (2010 and 2011) for Coach Scott Juniper’s women’s program, plays on Sky Blue FC in the National Women’s Soccer League.

Danielle de Seriere ’11, 2010 Big West Goalkeeper of the Year for the Anteaters, competes on FC Twente in the Dutch Women’s League.

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### Back-to-back volleyball champs

It was déjà vu for men’s volleyball last May, when the team won its second straight national title – the fourth in the past seven years – with a 3-0 sweep of top-ranked BYU in the NCAA final at UCLA’s Pauley Pavilion.

The Anteaters were the first men’s volleyball program in 17 years to win back-to-back championships, and David Kniffin ’03, ’05 became just the second coach in NCAA men’s volleyball history to win a national title in his first season.

Senior Connor Hughes, the tournament’s Most Outstanding Player, had 11 kills for the Anteaters, as did Kevin Tillie ’13 and junior Zack La Cava. Senior Scott Kevorken registered 12 blocks and seven kills, Chris Austin ’13 had 43 set assists and four digs, and junior Michael Brinkley had a match-high eight digs.

Austin, Brinkley, Tillie and senior Collin Mehring joined Hughes on the all-tournament team.

“This is a part of the journey of being a UC Irvine athlete, but this is not the entire experience,” Kniffin said in a post-match interview. “It’s exciting to hoist up this hunk of wood [NCAA trophy], but I am incredibly proud of the kids and the journey.

“The beauty of our team is that we have some depth. It speaks a lot to the character and quality of a student-athlete at UC Irvine.”

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Men’s volleyball players rejoice after securing their second consecutive NCAA title.
Scott Brooks ’87, head coach of the Oklahoma City Thunder for the past five seasons, will return to assist his alma mater at the third annual UC Irvine/Scott Brooks Golf Invitational presented by Hyundai Tuesday, Sept. 17.

The tournament will be held at The Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport Beach and will raise funds for scholarships and other vital support for UC Irvine’s student-athletes. Brooks will spend the day visiting with participants on the course.

Head coaches and student-athletes from each of UC Irvine’s 18 NCAA Division I sports also will attend. The tournament kicks off with a shotgun start at noon and includes lunch, on-course contests and a post-golf reception with a silent auction.

Brooks received the Red Auerbach NBA Coach of the Year Award for the 2009-10 season after leading the Thunder to a 27-win improvement from the previous year.

He played two seasons with the Anteaters (1985-87), averaging 23.8 points as a senior in 1986-87 when he was named first team All-PCAA (now Big West). He scored 43 points on opening night of the Bren Events Center Jan. 8, 1987, when UC Irvine defeated Utah State, 118-96.

Brooks played 11 seasons in the NBA, winning a championship with the Houston Rockets in 1994.

For sponsorship inquiries and other information on the invitational, contact Kerry Boznanski at 949-824-5550 or kboznans@uci.edu.
One couple and two individuals will receive UC Irvine’s most prestigious honor, the UCI Medal, which confers lifelong recognition on those who have made exceptional contributions of time, service and support to the university.

The annual UCI Medal was first awarded in 1984 to UC Irvine founding Chancellor Daniel G. Aldrich Jr. It was the beginning of a tradition – started by then-Chancellor Jack W. Peltason. Honorees have included Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize winners, authors, inventors, captains of industry, scientists and pioneers in virtually every field of endeavor. Their efforts have enabled UC Irvine to make a far-reaching and positive impact through leading-edge humanitarian research, scientific discoveries, medical breakthroughs and the education of the next generation of leaders.

"UC Irvine is built on four pillars of excellence: academic excellence, research excellence, leadership excellence and character excellence," said Chancellor Michael Drake. "Our 2013 Medal honorees exemplify these virtues. Their leadership and contributions are truly inspiring, and our UCI Medalists help the university shape a bright future for our community, nation and world."

**Recipients of the 2013 UCI Medal are:**

**Charles D. Martin**

Charles D. Martin is chairman and CEO of Mont Pelerin Capital, an equities hedge fund. During the 1980s and ’90s, he had a distinguished career as the founder and manager of two investment firms: Enterprise Partners, which became one of the top venture capital firms in America; and Westar Capital, a highly successful private equity firm.

For the last decade, he’s been senior adviser/partner to buyout firm ClearLight Partners. In addition, for 25 years Martin co-owned TEC International, now known as Vistage, a management development program with more than 12,000 CEO members worldwide. Over the past 35 years, he has served on the boards of 46 public and private companies.

Martin has been a trustee of the UC Irvine Foundation for more than a decade and is on its investment committee. He’s been on the investment committees of many prominent universities, including 10 years on the University of California Board of Regents’ investment advisory committee, which oversees the endowment and pension plans for all UC campuses.

At UC Irvine, Martin helped institute and is chairman emeritus of The Paul Merage School of Business Dean’s Advisory Board. He launched the school’s pioneering Polaris Investment Competition and has awarded 100 scholarships to MBA students through the program, now
in its 10th year. He also led the creation and organization of the UC Irvine Chancellor’s Advisory Council.

Martin and his wife, Twyla, are longtime philanthropists who support charitable organizations throughout Orange County. He was instrumental in founding the Orange County Museum of Art, where he’s chairman emeritus of the board of trustees.

Having worked two jobs to put himself through college, Martin graduated from Ohio State University with five majors (mathematics, physics, chemistry, electrical engineering and business). In 2007, he was awarded Ohio State’s Benjamin G. Lamme Meritorious Achievement Medal for engineering alumni. He’s the author of four books and numerous published articles on investment strategy, global economics and public policy issues.

Ngúgí wa Thiong’o

UC Irvine Distinguished Professor of comparative literature and English, Ngúgí wa Thiong’o is an internationally recognized novelist, essayist, playwright, journalist, editor, academic and social activist from Kenya. He launched his literary career at Makerere University College in Kampala, Uganda, in the 1960s with the critically acclaimed *Weep Not, Child*, which is largely credited with opening the eyes of the Western world to postcolonial Africa. Ngúgí taught literature at the University of Nairobi from 1967 to 1977, when he was arrested by state authorities because of his powerful anticorruption novel *Petals of Blood*. Imprisoned for a year without trial at the nation’s maximum security prison, Ngúgí wrote his first novel in the Gikuyú language, *Devil on the Cross*, on toilet paper.

Forced into exile in 1982, he has since held faculty positions at several U.S. institutions of higher education, including Yale University and New York University. He was recruited to UC Irvine in 2002 to teach literature and direct the then-new International Center for Writing & Translation.

Ngúgí has written some of his best work during his time at UC Irvine, including the highly praised *Wizard of the Crow*, winner of a 2006 California Book Awards gold medal for fiction. After more than 20 years of exile, he returned to Kenya in 2004 with his wife to promote the novel. Two weeks later, armed gunmen broke into their hotel and brutally assaulted them, an attack believed to have been politically motivated.

In 2010, Ngúgí published *Dreams in a Time of War*, a memoir of his childhood in Kenya; and in 2012, he released *In the House of the Interpreter*, shortlisted for the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award.

Ngúgí has received eight honorary doctorates and is an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts & Letters. He has lectured at such distinguished universities as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Auckland. His wife, Njeeri, is director of conflict resolution in UC Irvine’s human resources department.
Cheryll and Richard Ruszat

As UC Irvine Foundation trustees, Chancellor’s Club co-presidents and former co-chairs of the UCI Medal Awards, Cheryll and Richard Ruszat have left an indelible mark on the university.

Richard Ruszat ’96 has been an integral part of the ongoing success of UC Irvine’s $1 billion Shaping the Future campaign, which has raised more than $800 million with two years to completion. Cheryll Ruszat has served as chair of the foundation’s donor relations committee, and she also launched a program that actively involves trustees in personally thanking donors. The couple has provided significant financial support to the campus for decades.

They joined the Chancellor’s Club in 1984 and are life-time members who served as co-presidents from 1999 to 2002 and again from 2008 to 2010; they have also been co-chairs and co-vice chairs of its Daniel G. Aldrich Jr. Society. During their tenure, the club increased its number of events and its membership – including the addition of lifetime members.

The Ruszats co-own four Montessori schools, one of which is the University Montessori school on the UC Irvine campus, where Richard serves as president and Cheryll as executive director. Cheryll Ruszat is also the program coordinator and instructor for University Montessori as well as for the University Montessori Teacher Education Program offered through UC Irvine Extension. All four of their schools are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and Cheryll Ruszat last year obtained accreditation for the University Montessori Teacher Education Program from the American Montessori Society and the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education. The couple have educated thousands of students since opening their first Montessori school in 1976.

The Ruszats have been members of UC Irvine’s Social Ecology Associates and are founding members of the Premier Partners of the UCI Libraries. Cheryll Ruszat is on the School of Education Leadership Council and the Discovery Science Center board. Richard Ruszat serves on the campaign committee for the Discovery Science Center and also chairs the Salvation Army Orange County Adult Rehabilitation Center advisory board.

For nearly three decades of devotion to UC Irvine, the Ruszats in 2011 received the Lauds & Laurels award for outstanding university service.

Recipients will be honored at the 2013 UCI Medal Awards event on Saturday, Oct. 5. Hosted by the UC Irvine Foundation, this year’s gala will be co-chaired by Emile Haddad, president and CEO of FivePoint Communities, a real estate development company, and his wife, Dina. Haddad is a UC Irvine Foundation trustee on the executive committee and is a founding donor of The Paul Merage School of Business Center for Real Estate. He has served on the Social Ecology Leadership Council and the Smart Energy & Sustainable Environment Leadership Council.

To be held from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Bren Events Center, the 2013 UCI Medal Awards will feature a reception and formal dinner, medalist tributes and entertainment by the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. Past medalists also will be highlighted. Event proceeds will support UC Irvine students and vital campus programs and areas.

For ticket information, call 949-824-8384. For sponsorship information, call 949-824-1655. More: www.ucifuture.com/medal
The UC Irvine Health School of Medicine hosted its annual gala in April, welcoming more than 530 guests in a magnificently decorated tent under the stars on the UC Irvine campus. This year’s theme was “Creativity & Magic: Discovering Tomorrow’s Medicine Today,” spotlighting the extraordinary moments in teaching and discovery that are shaping the future of healthcare.

The gala was co-chaired by Jim Mazzo and his wife, Kelly, alongside Tom and Elizabeth Tierney. Both Jim Mazzo and Tom Tierney are UC Irvine Foundation trustees; Elizabeth Tierney is a former trustee. All three are past recipients of the university’s highest honor, the UCI Medal.

Dr. Ralph V. Clayman, medical school dean and the evening’s host, presented the Dean’s Leadership Award to retired PIMCO CEO Bill Thompson and his wife, Nancy, who partnered with the Children & Families Commission of Orange County to create UC Irvine’s Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Additionally, guests were among the first to get a glimpse inside the new Gavin Herbert Eye Institute, Orange County’s first university eye center, before it opens to the public this fall.

Thanks to a generous and supportive community, the gala raised $1.26 million for innovative medical education programs and groundbreaking research. Watch video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=rvA-wByBykQ

Dr. Ralph V. Clayman (left) with Nancy and Bill Thompson
Events

New Swan Shakespeare Festival, Aug. 1-31

The New Swan Shakespeare Festival returns with “King Lear” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” 8 p.m. Aug. 1-31 (alternating nights). The festival also includes the 1960 musical “The Fantasticks” 8 p.m. Sept. 6-29. Performances take place under the stars in the temporary outdoor theater, New Swan, in Gateway Commons next to Aldrich Park. $20-$30. More: 949-824-2787 or www.newswanshakespeare.com

Workers assemble the New Swan in Gateway Commons to prepare for last year’s inaugural Shakespeare festival. The portable theater rises again this summer.

UCI Libraries exhibit, through October

“Igniting Innovation: UCI Knowledge at Work” highlights many of the pioneering ideas developed at UC Irvine that have turned into commercial products, particularly in the areas of education, medicine, applied information technology, and environmental technologies. Through October. Langson Library, Muriel Ansley Reynolds Gallery. More: 949-824-4651 or email partners@uci.edu. Exhibit Web page: www.lib.uci.edu/about/publications/exhibits/library-exhibits.html

New Student Convocation, Sept. 23

Chancellor Michael Drake will join incoming freshmen and transfer students for the New Student Convocation, which kicks off Welcome Week and the academic year. The ceremony will include the traditional procession of faculty and administrators in regalia as well as appearances by Peter the Anteater and the UC Irvine cheerleaders. 9:15 a.m. Monday, Sept. 23. Bren Events Center. More: http://search.dos.uci.edu/welcomeweek/index.php

Peer academic advisers holding school banners await their entrance at the 2012 New Student Convocation.

More campus events

http://today.uci.edu/calendar
Campus **car-sharing** program gets new wheels

A zippy new electric car has arrived at its first American destination, ready for use by commuters to UC Irvine and area businesses.

Thirty 2013 Scion iQ electric vehicles are being added to the UC Irvine-administered Zero Emission Vehicle-Network Enabled Transport fleet, via Toyota’s partnership with the campus’s Advanced Power & Energy Program.

ZEV-NET provides battery-powered transportation for the critical “last mile” of commutes from the Irvine train station to the campus, local offices and meetings. University staff and employees whose companies enroll in ZEV-NET can take a train or bus from home to the Irvine Transportation Center and pick up a zero-emission vehicle in the parking lot for day use.

The Scion iQ EV is a completely battery-powered four-seater designed specifically for car-sharing programs. Ninety of the 100 vehicles produced globally will be placed in U.S. car-sharing demonstration projects.

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**Cal Teach** program receives $3.5 million

The UC Irvine Cal Teach program has been awarded $3.5 million in endowment and grant funding to continue supporting math and science teacher education for many years to come.

The $2 million endowment comprises the newly created $1 million Hubert H. Wakeham Fund for Cal Teach Student Support and a matching $1 million from the National Math & Science Initiative. An additional $1.5 million came from a Cal Teach competitive grant program administered by the University of California Office of the President. The combined funding will provide student internships and scholarships as well as overall program support.

UC Irvine Cal Teach is a distinctive partnership among the schools of physical sciences, biological sciences and education under which science and math majors can earn a secondary teaching credential along with a bachelor’s degree in four years.

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Khanh Tran, who’s pursuing a chemistry degree and a teaching credential through UC Irvine’s Cal Teach program, checks student work at Godinez Fundamental High School in Santa Ana.
Laboratory energy-savings program earns green award

UC Irvine’s Smart Labs Initiative, which safely reduces energy consumption in new and retrofitted research laboratories by as much as 60 percent, has been recognized with a 2013 Green California Leadership Award. The designation acknowledges outstanding environmental achievements by cities, state agencies and other government entities in California.

“I’m very pleased that our Smart Labs Initiative was among the programs recognized,” said Wendell Brase, UC Irvine’s vice chancellor of administrative & business services, who accepted the award at the Green California Summit in Sacramento. “We feel strongly that this approach to energy savings is a game-changer for research universities worldwide and for any other organization that operates research laboratories.”

The Smart Labs Initiative grew out of the campus’s need to make a sizable reduction in its carbon footprint to meet the University of California’s goal of curbing greenhouse gas emissions systemwide. The approach to energy management employs variable ventilation rates and digital controls that are integrated with advanced air-quality and occupancy sensors.

Study offers hope of an at-home test for prostate cancer

Early screening for prostate cancer could become as easy for men as personal pregnancy testing is for women, thanks to UC Irvine research published last May in the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

After more than a decade of work, UC Irvine chemists have created a way to clearly identify clinically usable markers for prostate cancer in urine, meaning that the disease could be detected far sooner, with greater accuracy and at dramatically lower cost. The same technology could potentially be used for bladder and multiple myeloma cancers, which also shed identifiable markers in urine.

“Our goal is a device the size of a home pregnancy test priced around $10. You would buy it at the drugstore or the grocery store and test yourself,” said Reginald Penner, Chancellor’s Professor of chemistry and author of a recent study on the detection method. “We’re on the verge of a very important breakthrough in a new era of personal health management.”

About 240,000 men in the U.S. are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year, and 29,000 are expected to die of it in 2013. But current, widely utilized testing does not always catch the disease in its early stages, often yields false positives and can lead to unnecessary, risky treatments.
Folk remedy sparks new idea for battling bedbugs

A traditional Balkan remedy for combating bedbugs has inspired scientists at UC Irvine and the University of Kentucky to investigate a modern method for eliminating the blood-sucking parasites, which have made a dramatic and unwelcome comeback in the U.S. in recent years.

For centuries, those plagued by bedbugs in Bulgaria, Serbia and other southeast European countries would throw kidney bean leaves on the floor next to beds. The greenery seemed to ensnare the insects on their nightly forays, and the bug-encrusted leaves were burned the next morning to exterminate the insects.

Doctoral student Megan Szyndler, entomologist Catherine Loudon and chemist Robert Corn of UC Irvine and entomologists Kenneth Haynes and Michael Potter of the University of Kentucky documented how microscopic hairs on the kidney bean leaves effectively stab and trap the insects, according to findings published in the Journal of the Royal Society Interface. They’re now developing materials that mimic the leaves’ geometry.

“If someone had suggested to me that impaling insects with little tiny hooks would be a valid form of pest control, I wouldn’t have given it credence,” Loudon told The New York Times. “You can think of lots of reasons why it wouldn’t work. That’s why it’s so amazing.”

For many, those synthetic leaves can’t come soon enough. Bedbugs infest everything from homes and hotels to schools, movie theaters and hospitals. Although not known to transmit disease, their bites can cause burning, itching, swelling and psychological distress.
Howard Gillman, former dean of the University of Southern California’s Dornsife College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, was appointed provost and executive vice chancellor of UC Irvine, effective June 17. He reports to Chancellor Michael V. Drake.

In his new role, Gillman is chief academic and operating officer, assuming primary responsibility for academic and organizational functions, as well as for advancing the university’s excellence in education, research and public service. He succeeds Susan V. Bryant, who has served as interim provost since July 2012.

“Howard is an outstanding choice,” Drake said. “As a dean, he oversaw USC’s largest and most diverse academic unit, comprising 33 academic departments, dozens of research centers and institutes, 7,000 undergraduates, 1,200 Ph.D. students, and nearly 800 faculty members with expertise across the humanities, social sciences, and physical, biological and natural sciences. He also worked closely with the deans of USC’s arts and professional schools. He has noteworthy experience in nearly every aspect of the academic mission at a prominent research university. We’re proud to welcome him to UC Irvine.”

Prior to his 2007 appointment as dean, Gillman was USC’s associate vice provost for research advancement, developing universitywide initiatives in the humanities and social sciences. He also chaired USC’s Department of Political Science. A nationally recognized expert in constitutional studies and judicial politics, he has authored or co-authored six books and dozens of articles.

“I’m honored and excited to join this extraordinary academic community,” Gillman said. “UC Irvine is one of the world’s premier universities, with a truly outstanding faculty, ambitious staff, inspiring students and dedicated volunteers. As this vibrant and diverse university approaches its half-century mark, there are tremendous opportunities to accelerate its leadership in many areas of undergraduate education, scholarly inquiry, professional and clinical practice, creative expression and public service. I’m eager to begin working with my new colleagues to build on UC Irvine’s tradition of excellence and establish those new priorities, programs and practices that will help the university further evolve into a globally preeminent research university.”

For more information, visit http://bit.ly/gillmanUCI.

Editor’s note: UC Irvine Magazine will feature a profile of the new provost in the upcoming fall issue.
Bill Maurer named dean of School of Social Sciences

After a nationwide search, UC Irvine anthropology professor Bill Maurer has been named dean of the campus’s largest academic unit, the School of Social Sciences.

Widely known for his research in the anthropology of law, money and finance, Maurer has served in a number of administrative roles at UC Irvine while founding two major research centers and collaborating across campus, with the business community and with the nonprofit sector.

In 2008, he received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to create the Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion at UC Irvine. IMTFI focuses on the growing popularity of mobile banking technology in the developing world.

Maurer is co-director of UC Irvine’s Intel Science & Technology Center for Social Computing, funded with a $12.5 million grant from Intel Corp. and launched in June 2012. He’s exploring the history of payment infrastructures and transactional record keeping, from ancient accounting to “big data,” and how these practices shape payment innovation today.

In his role as dean, Maurer hopes to build on the School of Social Sciences’ rich interdisciplinary research strengths and foster new collaborations. He’ll oversee seven academic departments, 15 research centers, 139 faculty members, 65 staff and a student population nearing 5,000.

Wilson Ho elected to National Academy of Sciences

Wilson Ho, renowned for developing a two-story-high scanning tunneling microscope to investigate single molecules, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences – one of the highest honors in scientific research.

He’s one of 84 new members and 21 foreign associates being recognized by the prestigious academy this year for distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

The Donald Bren Professor of Physics & Astronomy and the Donald Bren Professor of Chemistry, Ho earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemistry at the California Institute of Technology and a doctorate in physics at the University of Pennsylvania. He spent a year on the AT&T Bell Laboratories technical staff and was on the faculty of Cornell University before joining UC Irvine in 2000.

An inventor of innovative, transformative technology, the soft-spoken Ho attributes his accomplishments to his team.

“It’s a privilege to work with students and postdocs who have done much of the work to merit this recognition and an honor to be recognized by colleagues,” he said. “We hope to see more opportunities that will allow us to expand our research. We like to build instruments that allow us to carry out new experiments in the cross-disciplinary areas of chemistry and physics.”

Wilson Ho is among 22 NAS members from UC Irvine, 10 of them physical sciences professors.
Several UC Irvine students and alumni this year were awarded highly coveted Fulbright grants to study abroad. Two will conduct public health research in Jordan; it’s the first time UC Irvine students have been placed in that country.

Sponsored by the State Department, Fulbright is the largest international exchange program in the U.S. It funds one year of graduate study, research or teaching in more than 155 countries. The 2013 recipients are:

Soraya Azzawi ’13 [neurobiology and political science] will undertake public health research and explore psychosocial health conditions among Iraqi refugees in Jordan. She also was awarded UC Irvine’s 2012-13 XIV Dalai Lama Endowed Scholarship.

Matthew Chudnow, a Ph.D. candidate in East Asian languages & literatures, will travel to Japan to study Noh theater from the Muromachi period (1337-1573). His research explores the textual and performative traditions of the plays as well as their sociopolitical and religious contexts.

Felipe Hernandez ’13 [music performance and political science] will teach English in Colombia. He won a Harry S. Truman Scholarship in 2012.

Eric Morrill, a Ph.D. candidate in visual studies, will travel to Germany to study and perform in reenactments of “happenings,” an early form of performance art popularized by American artist Allan Kaprow and synonymous with the psychedelic ’60s.

Tom Le, a Ph.D. candidate in political science, will study Japanese militarism at Hiroshima City University. Through interviews with government officials, lobbyists, members of the media and academics, he hopes to gain a better understanding of state security policy in Japan. Le also will examine historical documents and analyze monuments related to peace and war throughout Japan.
Shaul Mukamel joins American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Shaul Mukamel, Chancellor’s Professor of chemistry, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. He joins some of the world’s most accomplished leaders in academia, business, public affairs and the humanities, including rock star Bruce Springsteen, astronaut and politician John Glenn, and Nobel laureates in medicine and the arts.

Mukamel is a pioneer in the fields of nonlinear optics and multidimensional spectroscopy and has been hailed by fellow academics as one of the most important theoretical physicists. His work straddles chemistry and physics, and he received the Hamburg Prize for Theoretical Physics last fall.

His group’s research focuses on how large molecules, biological complexes and semiconductors can be studied using sequences of ultrafast laser pulses. Infrared lasers are utilized to examine the structure and nuclear motions of proteins, while visible and ultraviolet lasers are employed to probe light harvesting and elementary charge separation processes in photosynthesis.

John Naviaux ‘12 (economics and Earth system science) will study the impact of atmospheric mercury on the Arctic ecosystem in Norway by measuring levels of the chemical element in snow and soil.

Armaan Rowther ‘13 (biological sciences and minor in public health policy) will evaluate the effectiveness of merging a computer-aided diabetes education program with existing diabetes testing services for Palestinian refugees in Jordan. He received UC Irvine’s 2011-12 XIV Dalai Lama Endowed Scholarship.

Christine Thrasher ‘12 (global cultures and German studies with a minor in civic & community engagement) will teach high school English in Germany.
Shakespearean scholar wins **Guggenheim Fellowship**

Julia Reinhard Lupton, professor of English and comparative literature, has received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship for the 2013-14 academic year.

Often characterized as mid-career awards, Guggenheim Fellowships are intended for those who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or creative ability in the arts.

Lupton is one of 175 scholars, artists and scientists in 56 disciplines to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship this year, from a pool of almost 3,000 applicants.

She’s a highly regarded Shakespearean scholar who joined the UC Irvine faculty in 1989, fresh from completing her doctorate in Renaissance studies at Yale University.

Lupton has contributed – both as a faculty lecturer and as director – for many years to UC Irvine’s nationally recognized Humanities Core Course for freshmen.

She teaches Shakespeare at all academic levels and in community settings, including the campus’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the Shakespeare Society of Laguna Woods.

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**In memoriam:** Samuel Clyde McCulloch, founding dean of humanities

Samuel Clyde McCulloch, founding dean of the School of Humanities and professor emeritus of history, died May 13. He was 96.

An authority on the British Empire, McCulloch earned a doctorate in history at UCLA and served as dean at San Francisco State College (now San Francisco State University) before joining UC Irvine in 1963.

He laid the foundation for humanities by recruiting and retaining world-class faculty. McCulloch chaired the Academic Senate from 1978 to ’80 and served as president of the Friends of the Library in the mid-1990s.

Early on, he recognized the importance of documenting campus history. McCulloch became UC Irvine’s unofficial – and later, official – historian, collecting clippings, memos, records, stories and letters and conducting more than 100 oral-history interviews with such key figures as chancellors Daniel G. Aldrich Jr. and Jack Peltason, Nobel laureates F. Sherwood Rowland and Frederick Reines, and Irvine Company President Ray Watson.

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McCulloch’s full-time career at the university spanned 27 years, and he remained active in research for more than a decade after his 1987 retirement. In 1996, drawing from his extensive collection of historical material, he published *Instant University*, which covered UC Irvine from 1957 to 1993. In 2009, McCulloch donated his papers to UCI Libraries’ Special Collections & Archives. Numerous interviews from his oral histories are available at the Online Archive of UCI History.

He was a constant fixture at campus events well into his 90s, keeping tabs on UC Irvine’s progress and befriending subsequent humanities deans. He and his wife were regulars at the University Club, where the library bears his name. He served as moderator of the University Club Forum, a weekly luncheon and lecture series featuring the latest research from UC Irvine faculty, from 1981 to 2008. Each year, the School of Humanities presents the Samuel C. and Sara Ellen McCulloch Undergraduate Award to an outstanding history student.

“Dad loved UCI and all the people there,” said his son David McCulloch. “He put his heart and soul into the university.”

McCulloch is survived by his wife, Sara Ellen “Sally” Rand McCulloch; children Ellen, David and Malcolm; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Professors play along in UCI Symphony Orchestra

When she’s not studying methods to deter violent felons, sex offenders and others from committing more crimes, Susan Turner plays the flute and piccolo in the UC Irvine Symphony Orchestra.

She approaches music with the same dedication that guides her work as a professor of criminology, law & society and the director of the campus’s Center for Evidence-Based Corrections.

“Playing music requires intense concentration, and all the worries of the day disappear as I practice or play with the orchestra,” she says.

Turner is one of a small band of UC Irvine faculty members who play alongside students in the university’s 43-year-old orchestra.

The inclusion of highly educated and diversely skilled nonmusic faculty is one of the orchestra’s strengths, says Stephen Tucker, conductor of the ensemble since 2000.

“The faculty members exhibit an uncommon commitment to the music craft,” he says. “They keep up their playing skills through their willingness to create practice time in their busy schedules. Their discipline has a profound effect on the students within the orchestra.”

Here, Turner and fellow faculty/orchestra members discuss the role music plays in their lives and how they balance art and academia:

Dr. Steven Cramer
Professor of neurology

**Faculty focus:** Cramer develops cutting-edge rehab programs utilizing robotics and computer software that someday could be combined with stem cell-based therapies to accelerate recovery from strokes and spinal cord injuries.
Neurology professor Steven Cramer plays French horn with the orchestra in a rehearsal.

Instrument: French horn
Why did you choose this instrument? I found it interesting and liked the sound.
How many hours do you practice each week? Nine
When did you start playing music? Age 8
What's your favorite piece of music to play or perform? Any Beethoven symphony
How long have you been a member of the UCI Symphony Orchestra? Three years
In what ways has music enriched your life? The day can so easily be dominated by left-hemispheric processing: read and write, calculate, quick text and email response. ... Fewer are the nonverbal moments. This and the meditative effect of performing make orchestra time sacrosanct. It’s also good to be part of a group rather than always the leader (as in lab), and Dr. Tucker is a superb conductor and leader to follow in the symphony.
Words of wisdom: If all of the world leaders played a musical instrument every day and jammed a bit (any key, any tempo) whenever they met, we might have fewer wars.

James Herbert
Professor of art history
Faculty focus: Herbert studies architecture, sculpture, gardens and musicology and has written extensively about Italian, German, English and American artifacts from the 16th to 21st centuries. His forthcoming book, Brushstroke & Emergence: Cezanne, Courbet, Seurat, Picasso, concerns how painting technique, like musical ability, takes on a life of its own, independent of the intent of the artist.

Instrument: Viola
Why did you choose this instrument? I was a serious bassoonist in high school and college; then I stopped as I pursued my career as an art historian. Around age 40, I trained myself as a musicologist and began to publish on music as well as art. In my late 40s, I decided I wanted to start playing again. After all, how hard could it be? I borrowed a bassoon (from Dean Sharon Salinger) but soon realized I would need to start from scratch in rebuilding my mouth muscles. So I decided to try something new.
How many hours do you practice each week? 10 to 12
When did you start playing music? Piano age 5; bassoon age 10; viola age 48
What's your favorite piece of music to play or perform? I prefer string quartets to orchestral music, which is the main reason I opted for the viola. Cellos and violins are always in plentiful supply, so I figured I could find a group if I played viola. I do play with a string quartet in the community.
How long have you been a member of the UCI Symphony Orchestra? I played for one quarter a few years ago. Then I rejoined last fall.
In what ways has music enriched your life? Beyond the obvious pleasures of listening to and playing music, my experience with the viola has transformed my art-historical scholarship. When I started the viola, I thought: “How hard can this be? I know music notation/history/theory, so how much of a challenge can it be to just get the fingers in the right place?” The answer was: extremely difficult indeed. It turns out to be the hardest damn thing I’ve ever done. Musicianship did not accede to the powers of persistence and intellect, as so much in my scholarly life has done. As a result of my experience, I’ve become intrigued by the ways in which musical “intelligence” resides not in the brain but in the established habits of the entire nervous system in relation to the physical world. Much is beyond conscious control. It’s also a thrill sitting in the middle of the symphony, listening to so many talented students performing around me. I have learned an enormous amount of technique by simply watching the students in the viola section with me. Gary Chanan is a superb section leader, providing bowings and advice with consistency and tact.

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Gary Chanan

Professor of physics & astronomy

Faculty focus: Chanan is known for his work on the world’s largest telescopes, including the twin 10-meter telescopes at the W.M. Keck Observatory in Hawaii and – also on the Mauna Kea volcano – the planned Thirty Meter Telescope, which will eventually become the most advanced and powerful optical telescope on Earth.

Instrument: Viola

Why did you choose this instrument? I like the way it sounds.

How many hours do you practice each week? 10

When did you start playing music? When I was 9 years old

What’s your favorite piece of music to play or perform? Whatever is in our next concert

How long have you been a member of the UCI Symphony Orchestra? Since May 2001

In what ways has music enriched your life? I have met many talented and inspiring people.

Sharon Salinger

Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education and professor of history

Faculty focus: In her administrative role, Salinger connects students with a wide range of academic programs and services and supports faculty and TAs in their efforts to teach undergraduate courses. She’s an expert on Colonial America, labor history and economics.

Instrument: Bassoon

Why did you choose this instrument? My junior high school orchestra asked for volunteers.

How many hours do you practice each week? I try for at least an hour a day.

When did you start playing music? Elementary school

What’s your favorite piece of music to play or perform? Whatever the UCI orchestra is currently working on

How long have you been a member of the UCI Symphony Orchestra? Since my arrival eight years ago

In what ways has music enriched your life? Playing in the orchestra is the closest I’ve ever come to participating in a team sport. It’s a pleasure to play with such talented and committed students.

Susan Turner

Professor of criminology, law & society

Faculty focus: Turner evaluates rehabilitation, reentry and probation programs to provide law enforcement and justice agencies with data unbiased by emotions or politics.

Instruments: Flute and piccolo

Why did you choose these instruments? In elementary school, the visiting music teacher came to fourth-grade classes to tell [the students] about instruments and the school orchestra. He played several instruments, including the flute. My twin sister and I went home and told my mother we both wanted to play the flute. My mother told us that we couldn’t both play flute; one of us would need to choose something else. I was so stubborn that I refused to change. My sister relented and chose the violin. One nice outcome was that we played flute-and-violin duets together through college. I picked up the piccolo in high school and play both instruments in the orchestra, depending upon what the musical score calls for in the way of instrumentation.

How many hours do you practice each week? 10

When did you start playing music? I began in fourth grade but stopped playing after college and didn’t pick up my flute for 25 years. I started again when I helped create a community orchestra and have been playing since.

What’s your favorite piece of music to play or perform? Whatever piece I’m playing at the time

How long have you been a member of the UCI Symphony Orchestra? I first auditioned in the fall of 2006, my second year at UC Irvine. It was a nerve-wracking experience. Each instrument in the orchestra is assigned audition excerpts from the standard orchestra repertoire, so you’re competing against other flutists on the same pieces. Each year we have auditions, and each year we go through this process.

In what ways has music enriched your life? One of the skills you need to develop as a member of the orchestra is listening. I find this helpful in other facets of my personal and professional life. Also, although I’m at least as old as my students’ mothers, they’re welcoming and collegial to faculty in their midst.
Awakening the giant

“Former Chancellor Ralph Cicerone used to say that UC Irvine was a sleeping giant, and without sounding too clichéd, we’re waking up,” said David Kniffin ’03, ’05, men’s volleyball coach, shortly after his squad nailed their second consecutive NCAA title – and fourth championship in seven years. A giant has indeed awakened – a giant Anteater! Here, the players celebrate their sweep of top-ranked BYU May 4 at UCLA’s Pauley Pavilion.
In June, UC Irvine bid farewell to the class of 2013, whose **8,662 graduates** will bring the total count of alumni to the **150,000** milestone. Here, new graduate Seewing Yee Jr. celebrates atop the anteater sculpture in front of the Bren Events Center.