Carbon-dating lab focuses on fine wine, fossils and other age-old mysteries

Law school marks first five years • Farewell, Chancellor Drake
Dear fellow Anteaters,

As you may know, the 2014 commencement ceremonies in June mark the close of my ninth and final year as chancellor of our campus. Brenda and I will be moving to Columbus, Ohio, where I will become president of The Ohio State University.

It’s been a great privilege to lead this extraordinary university, and our decision to transition is made with decidedly mixed emotions. The opportunity to begin a new adventure is compelling and unique, but the requirement that we leave home, family and friends to do so is formidable. We have enjoyed close professional relationships with students, faculty, staff, alumni, members of the philanthropic community, political leaders, and the citizenry of Irvine and Orange County. And we have developed lasting friendships with members of each of those groups.

Brenda and I are proud of the tremendous progress our campus has made. It’s stronger and more creative than ever because of the collective efforts of the individuals that constitute the Anteater family. As we prepare to bid farewell, we take comfort in knowing that the extraordinary talents of the campus community and the excellence and commitment of our leaders will continue to propel the University of California, Irvine forward through its second half-century and beyond.

Thank you all very much.

Michael V. Drake, M.D.
Chancellor

Go ’Eaters!

On the cover
UC Irvine’s School of Biological Sciences was renamed in honor of renowned geneticist Francisco J. Ayala, who celebrated his 80th birthday March 12. Story on page 16.

Front cover photo: Steve Zylius / UC Irvine
Time travelers:
Scientists use radiocarbon dating to analyze everything from the world’s oldest shoe to sediment samples that shed light on global climate change.

Down to the bones:
UC Irvine researchers sort out the sticky situation at the La Brea Tar Pits by refining methods for measuring the age of fossils.

Surpassing the bar:
As the School of Law embarks on the next five years, Dean Erwin Chemerinsky reflects on its impressive start.

In Ayala’s honor:
The School of Biological Sciences is renamed for UC Irvine’s acclaimed geneticist.

Ohio-bound:
Chancellor Michael Drake will leave UC Irvine after nine years of changes, challenges and achievements.

Coming in September: Our special summer/fall issue to kick off UC Irvine’s 50th anniversary!
The La Brea Tar Pits’ George C. Page Museum has sought UC Irvine’s help in carbon-dating these fossils, discovered in 2006 during construction of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s nearby parking structure.
Time travelers

Scientists use radiocarbon dating to analyze everything from the world’s oldest shoe to sediment samples that shed light on global climate change

Benjamin Fuller, an assistant project scientist in UC Irvine’s Earth system science department, has a stash of rare wines that many connoisseurs would envy, such as the $2,300 1961 Chateau Latour that Wine Advocate describes as “liquid perfection.” Alas, the fine vintage is not for tasting but for testing. Like the Sherlock Holmes of vino, Fuller investigates whether the bottles indeed contain the fruit of very good years—or a cheap replacement.

Dating fine wine is one of the more unusual projects underway at UC Irvine’s W.M. Keck Carbon Cycle Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, where scientists use radiocarbon technology to estimate the age of organic material.

“It’s the only AMS lab in the world devoted to studying the carbon cycle [the path that carbon follows in the environment],” says Ellen Druffel, Fred Kavli Chair and professor of Earth system science and the lab’s co-founder. “We can accurately measure the levels of carbon-14 in anything that lived within the last 50,000 years. We can assign ages to great animals that roamed the Americas during the last ice age. It’s an extremely powerful method employed in scores of fields of science, engineering and the humanities.”

UC Irvine researchers use the lab primarily to advance the understanding of global climate change. While they’ve tested wine on occasion, they’re more likely to study soil, lake and ocean sediment, stalagmites (rock formations in caves) and coral reefs.

“High-precision carbon-14 measurements are made for scientists working in every carbon pool on Earth,” Druffel says, “from atmospheric CO2 at Barrow, Alaska, to foram shells from Antarctic Ocean sediment, to earthquake-disturbed soil on the San Andreas fault, to black carbon in the deep Pacific.”

Circle of life

Carbon-14 is a radioactive isotope formed in the atmosphere by cosmic rays and absorbed by plants, animals and all other living things. When these organisms die, the radiocarbon begins to slowly dissipate; scientists can estimate a specimen’s age by measuring what’s left.

“The whole biosphere is labeled with carbon-14,” says John Southon, Earth system science researcher and Keck lab co-founder who manages the facility. “It circulates in the ocean from top to bottom. Think of it as a red dye for

earth system science researcher John Southon, co-founder of UC Irvine’s W.M. Keck Carbon Cycle Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, displays a mastodon bone found at the La Brea Tar Pits that bears the marks of radiocarbon dating.
His work focuses on the mysterious rise in carbon dioxide that occurred in the atmosphere between 18,000 and 11,000 years ago, as the planet emerged from the last glacial period.

"We’re trying to find out where the excess CO₂ came from, because if we can’t explain it, that means our climate models are flawed," Southon says. He’s checking core samples from the ocean floor to see if the carbon was somehow trapped in the deep sea before being released back out into the atmosphere.

"This will improve our overall understanding of global climate change," he says.

"That’s the grand, overarching theme of our research."

Real-world applications
While advancing knowledge of the carbon cycle, the lab pursues side projects, such as determining the age of a mammoth and other fossils pulled from the La Brea Tar Pits (see related story).

"Every week we get something interesting in here," Fuller says. "This is one of the coolest labs anywhere." He and Earth system science researcher Simon Fahrni (now at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) developed a method for extracting gas from wine bottles without uncorking them, making radiocarbon testing palatable to private collectors and others hoping to prove the pedigree of an expensive wine. So far, they’ve examined 35 bottles — without sacrificing a drop.

Archeologists, geographers and curators are among those who’ve sought the lab’s help in probing the past. They pay a testing fee that varies according to the material and whether the submitter is affiliated with the University of California.

"There are a lot of things made of carbon, so radiocarbon dating has wide applications. By its very nature, you dabble in all of this interesting stuff," Southon says. "It’s one of the joys of technique-based science."

A few years ago, the lab tested samples from the world’s oldest leather shoe, discovered by archeologists at the entrance to an Armenian cave where vintners made wine during the Copper Age. The researchers concluded that the shoe is 5,500 years old, duplicating results at the University of Oxford.

Conservators at the J. Paul Getty Museum have called on the lab to analyze their collection of Romano-Egyptian mummy paintings, lifelike portraits on wood or linen...
placed over corpses’ faces. Most dated to 100 A.D. to 200 A.D. “One or two were a century older than they should have been,” Southon says. “It indicated [the artists] were reusing material” from an earlier period.

Religious artifacts such as the Shroud of Turin, however, are off-limits, he says: “We don’t get involved, because you have a lot of well-meaning people with strong beliefs who spend an inordinate amount of time trying to discredit radiocarbon dating.”

Peering into the past
Discovered in the 1940s, radiocarbon dating techniques can be used on material that’s less than 50,000 years old; too little carbon-14 remains in older material to yield a reliable measurement. Accuracy rates depend on the sample’s age.

“If you have a 10,000-year-old specimen, you can get it within a few decades. If it’s 40,000 years old, there might be a 1,000-year [accuracy] range,” Southon says.

The technology also has proven unreliable at dating most material that’s been around since the mid-1600s, due to changes in the amount of radiocarbon being produced in the Earth’s atmosphere by incoming cosmic rays.

Still, Southon and his colleagues can pinpoint the age of a mid-20th century specimen such as wine with far more precision because of an anomaly: Nuclear weapons testing doubled the amount of radiocarbon in the atmosphere, and the spike in carbon-14 shows up in samples.

“You can date things almost to the exact year between the late 1950s and the 1990s, thanks to the bomb curve,” he says.

High-tech time machine
A bearded, self-described refugee from nuclear physics, Southon worked at the only other AMS facility in California — at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — before joining UC Irvine, arriving in 2002, the same year the instrument did.

He, Druffel and Susan Trumbore (now director of Germany’s Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry) received a $2 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to develop the lab. Today there are a dozen AMS centers nationwide, Southon says, with six conducting biomedical research and the rest engaged in Earth science and archeological studies.

“That’s the gadget,” he says, gesturing to an elaborate C-shaped instrument that takes up half the lab in Croul Hall.

Before scientists can insert samples into the spectrometer, they clean them of soil, water, tar and other material using chemicals and filters, then convert them into graphite – the
same soft substance used in pencils — which contains carbon and gives the best results.

“You can’t just put in a piece of shell or wood and get precise numbers out of it,” Southon says. “A lot of what we measure is dirty. The samples have been in the ground or in ocean sediment or wherever. So we clean them up. We want to quantify the carbon that was there originally.”

He holds up a test tube containing just a pinch of bone fragments from the La Brea Tar Pits that have been turned into “fluffy white collagen.” The entire contents, which will be converted into graphite, could be airborne with one good sneeze.

The spectrometer features a particle accelerator, large magnets, and detectors to break up molecules in the sample and separate out the carbon-14. “We measure how much is left,” Southon says.

At Lawrence Livermore, he analyzed fake $100 bills from the 1990s for the U.S. Secret Service to determine whether they originated from the same massive counterfeiting operation. Southon dated the currency to different years, indicating that it came from multiple sources.

As part of his recent climate research, he tracks the location of volcanic eruptions that occurred thousands of years ago.

“You go out into the field and look for a tree or plant that died because of the eruption,” Southon says. He’s currently testing samples of charred material from possible sites (mainly in El Salvador) of a massive eruption known to have occurred in 535 A.D., based on records from the distant Byzantine Empire that describe a dark sky at noon.

“We want to know where the heck it was. It’s a big deal because volcanic eruptions have an effect on climate. It helps us understand atmospheric models,” Southon says. “It’s a lot easier to predict what can happen in the future if you have this record of the past.”

Kathryn Bold, UC Irvine
Wielding a rotary tool, Southon saws off a tiny portion of the bone. “It smells like a dentist’s office,” Fuller observes. “That’s a great sign. It means there’s a lot of protein for us to test.” The pair will take the sample back to UC Irvine’s W.M. Keck Carbon Cycle Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Laboratory to find out its age using advanced methods they developed for radiocarbon dating.

Southon and Fuller have analyzed all kinds of fossils pulled from the bubbly asphalt, from 40,000-year-old flecks of wood to a giant teratorn — an extinct bird of prey with a 12-foot wingspan. They’ve tested a 41,000-year-old camel and a 35,000-year-old American lion, one of the largest cats ever to have existed.

“The reason the tar pits are so interesting is that they’re a record that preserves the entire ecosystem,” Southon says. “There’s everything from twigs and seeds to mammoths. They potentially can tell us how the system evolved.”

In 2011, he got a call from John Harris, the Page Museum’s chief curator, asking for help in carbon-dating fossils recovered from a nearby construction site (now an underground parking garage for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art).

“They wanted a feel for how old some of them were,” Southon says. The finds are embedded in deposits of earth that the museum stores in 23 giant wooden boxes. Excavators using dental instruments have painstakingly uncovered an array of well-preserved fossils, including gophers, snails, fish, millipedes, bison and a Columbian mammoth they nicknamed Zed. (Southon determined that Zed is about 37,000 years old by testing a piece of his second thoracic vertebra.)

“The problem with La Brea is that it’s all jumbled. If you take a sample of ocean sediment or soil, the stuff on the bottom is older than what’s on top,” he says. “Here, the fossils are churning around in the tar like a washing machine. You can have 11,000-year-old bones right next to ones that are 30,000 years old. That’s exactly what we’ve found.”

Museum curators, archaeologists and other Indiana Jones types weren’t always too keen on subjecting their irreplaceable collections to radiocarbon dating because the older methods involved taking large samples of the items.
Scientists have been carbon-dating bones from La Brea since the 1960s, Southon notes. He had to show the curators that the advanced techniques used at UC Irvine require samples just 0.01 the size previously needed, so there’s minimal damage to the fossils.

“They’ve got one long limb bone of an American mastodon on display with a great big chunk out of it [from a 1969 test],” he says. “Museum curators don’t like that. We deal in milligrams rather than grams.”

Once La Brea officials were assured that the newer dating methods resulted in no serious bone loss, treasures began to flow into UC Irvine’s accelerator mass spectrometry lab.

So far, Southon and Fuller have dated about 100 specimens, a tiny fraction of the more than 3 million fossils stored at the Page Museum, with more being unearthed nearly every day. “It’ll keep us busy a long time. It’s just lucky UC Irvine is so close to the tar pits,” says Fuller, who makes the trip with Southon about once a month.

Working on the blackened bones, lab members solved another key problem, one that any person who has ever walked barefoot on an oily beach can appreciate: getting the tar out of the samples.

“It’s heavy oil, and these things have been sitting there for 10,000, 20,000 or 50,000 years. The tar has completely impregnated the bones,” Southon says. “The techniques [for cleaning samples] were time-consuming and laborious. We found an easier way.”

He and Fuller devised a chemical process whereby larger petroleum molecules are separated from the specimens.

“The problem with La Brea is that it’s all jumbled. If you take a sample of ocean sediment or soil, the stuff on the bottom is older than what’s on top. Here, the fossils are churning around in the tar like a washing machine. You can have 11,000-year-old bones right next to ones that are 30,000 years old. That’s exactly what we’ve found.”
“We start out with black gunge, put it through ultrafilters, and what comes out is this beautiful white collagen,” Southon says. Removing the carbon contaminants allows researchers to get more accurate ages on the samples.

With the new techniques, the two men can date 20 to 30 animals in a couple weeks. In addition to saber-toothed cats and other larger fossils, they carbon-date leaves, twigs and even tiny insects. Such time stamps can yield valuable information about the prehistoric habitat, causes of extinction and climate patterns.

“There’s a whole world of untapped treasures we can study with the help of UC Irvine’s [AMS] lab,” says Anna Holden, project manager in the entomology department at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and a curatorial assistant with the Page Museum.

She, for instance, has been studying ice-age insects — including ladybug, weevil and beetle fragments — that were found sealed inside the skull of a camel that the lab estimated to be 41,000 years old. Entomologists know what the insects eat and what kind of weather conditions they tolerate, so dating them offers important clues about the time in which they lived.

“The reason the tar pits are so interesting is that they’re a record that preserves the entire ecosystem. There’s everything from twigs and seeds to mammoths. They potentially can tell us how the system evolved.”

― Kathryn Bold, UC Irvine

Entomologist Anna Holden, Page Museum curatorial assistant, says UC Irvine’s lab has shed light on “a whole world of untapped treasures,” such as these insect heads found inside a camel skull that the lab radiocarbon-dated at 41,000 years old.
Jars of candy can be found throughout the school, which occupies two conjoined block buildings that once housed a fitness center. Barbecues and buffets are common at law school gatherings. Founding Dean Erwin Chemerinsky — the esteemed constitutional scholar who has waxed eloquent on op-ed pages and argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court (including a free-speech case in December) — has been spotted climbing the school's outdoor stairwell toting not a briefcase or a heavy law book but a case of soft drinks.

Plying people with snacks and sodas is just one small way the dean has sought to create a close community. “Law schools are not known for being warm and nurturing,” Chemerinsky notes. Though they may seem minor, homey touches like well-stocked candy jars send an important message: This is not a cold, uncaring environment. And students, faculty and staff are thriving.

In its short history, the law school has become a top performer, garnering a long list of achievements (see related story). Its faculty of leading legal minds ranks seventh in the nation. Its 2012 graduates were second only to those from Stanford in passing the state bar on the first try. And the school’s on track to receive full accreditation this year.

Here, Chemerinsky talks about the steps taken to create a top-notch law school and why little things — such as candy — can make a big difference.

Q: Looking back over the last five years, what do you think has been the law school’s greatest accomplishment?

A: Ultimately, the quality of any school is a product of the faculty and students. We’ve been able to bring the top faculty in the country here and the top students to study
here. That’s what has distinguished us most from any other new law school.

**Q: What criteria did you use to hire the faculty and staff?**

**A:** We began by hiring 10 founding faculty members, and all of them had to be from top-20 law schools, truly senior stars in their field. We wanted people who were great scholars and great teachers. We’re now up to 37 faculty, and we continue to look for people who either are stars or are projected to be stars.

Compared to any other law school I’ve been at, I think we spend much more time focusing on teaching in our hiring process. I could name several prominent people at other schools that we decided not to make offers to because we looked at their teaching evaluations. And we’ve tried to hire nice people. I can’t say we’ve always succeeded [laughs], but it’s been a conscious criterion.

Chancellor Michael Drake, [former] Provost Michael Gottfredson and now [current Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor] Howard Gillman have supported us in being able to have the resources to hire top faculty. We couldn’t have done it without them.

One of our greatest strengths that will never show up in any ranking is the quality of the staff. We have terrific assistant and associate deans. I wanted experienced people, especially at the beginning, so that the school would run smoothly.

**Q: In “The Ideal Law School for the 21st Century,” you describe wanting to create a warm community at UC Irvine. Why did that matter to you?**

**A:** I went to Harvard Law School in the mid-1970s. Many adjectives could be used to describe Harvard; “warm” and “nurturing” are not among them. There could not have been a colder institution.

Dean Erwin Chemerinsky teaches an advanced course in constitutional law and procedure at UC Irvine’s School of Law. He recently argued a free-speech case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

To the extent that I can be part of shaping an institution, it’s important to me to make it a really nurturing place where we all feel we’re in a partnership to build something together.

How we’ve done this is a much more complicated question, because the culture of any institution is a product of so many small choices. There’s an almost endless list of things we could talk about. We begin orientation for first-year students with a barbecue in Aldrich Park, to which they can bring their families – children, parents, spouses, partners. And we end orientation with the first-years coming to my house for dinner. We do it now on a couple of nights because there are so many students, but we do it because it’s important.

Every place you go in the school, in all of the student spaces, there’s candy. Wherever there are faculty offices, there are comfortable chairs for students to sit in, so no one has to sit on the floor while waiting for a faculty member.

“To the extent that I can be part of shaping an institution, it’s important to me to make it a really nurturing place where we all feel we’re in a partnership to build something together.”
“We wanted people who were great scholars and great teachers. We’re now up to 37 faculty, and we continue to look for people who either are stars or are projected to be stars.”

Does that by itself define the culture of an institution? Of course not. It’s all part of creating a culture. I’ve never been at a school where it’s been this much of a priority.

**Q: Why do you encourage students to do pro bono work?**

**A:** This law school has put a strong emphasis on experiential learning and pro bono work. It’s a core part of our mission.

We’re one of the only law schools in the country, if not the only one, that requires all students to participate in a clinic where they represent clients under a faculty member’s supervision.

I think the only way you can learn to be a lawyer is by doing it. And there’s a public service aspect to it. Our clinics [civil rights, international law, domestic violence, etc.] represent people who otherwise couldn’t afford legal services.

From the beginning, we’ve had a strong commitment to public service. Of the students who graduated in May 2013, 91 percent did pro bono work, averaging 100 hours each. I’m most proud of those statistics.

**Q: What are your goals for the next five years?**

**A:** We want to expand our faculty and student body to full size, roughly 550 students and 55 faculty members. We need to maintain and, in fact, increase the quality of the students and faculty, and we have to raise the money to build a new building.

This is a wonderful facility, but it was never meant to be a law school. There weren’t even supposed to be classes here – it was a 24 Hour Fitness center. So we’re creating a building committee and doing an initial space assessment. Ultimately, we estimate a cost of about $85 million. Our fundraising campaign is just underway.

**Q: You’ve described your experience as founding dean as a roller-coaster ride. What have been your biggest challenges and rewards?**

**A:** It’s always a struggle to recruit great faculty. It’s always a struggle to get great students to come to a new school. It’s always a struggle to raise money when you have no alums to go to. But the rewards and joys far outweigh the aggravation.

The greatest rewards? That’s a question I’ll answer when I’m done being dean. I’m still riding the roller coaster. Six years ago, none of us were here. Today we have a faculty that’s ranked highly in terms of scholarship and students who by every measure are terrific.

If we had simply replicated other law schools, we would have failed. I hope that we’ve taken advantage of our blank slate to create something that’s different.

I’ve said from the beginning that our goal is to create an ideal law school for the 21st century. I’m proud of where we are now, but I’m much more focused on what we need to do in the next five years and the challenges ahead.

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*Kathryn Bold, UC Irvine*
Making the case for excellence
Despite its relatively short existence, the UC Irvine School of Law ranks right up there with prestigious big-name institutions in a number of key areas. Among its noteworthy accomplishments:

- Ninety percent of the 58-member inaugural class of 2012 passed the California bar exam on the first try, a rate second only to Stanford.

- UC Irvine placed 11th among U.S. law schools for having the highest percentage of 2012 graduates who landed long-term, full-time jobs requiring bar passage. (Of the top 20 schools making the list, only seven are public.)

- One measure of graduates’ potential impact on the legal profession is the number who go on to clerk for state and federal judges. UC Irvine ranked second only to Yale in placing the largest percentage of 2012 graduates in highly coveted federal clerkships, according to The National Law Journal.

- The UC Irvine law faculty was seventh in the nation for scholarly impact between 2007 and 2011, according to Brian Leiter’s Law School Rankings.

- Law students at UC Irvine average more than 100 hours of pro bono work each, establishing the school as a champion of public service. Students are encouraged, but not required, to participate and receive no course credit or compensation. Among 2013 graduates, 91 percent reached recommended goals (20 hours for first-year students, 50 for second- and third-year students).

“I think the only way you can learn to be a lawyer is by doing it. And there’s a public service aspect to it. Our clinics [civil rights, international law, domestic violence, etc.] represent people who otherwise couldn’t afford legal services.”
On March 11, the eve of his 80th birthday, Francisco J. Ayala and his wife, Hana, were enjoying a small celebratory dinner at the home of UC Irvine Chancellor Michael Drake. As guests raised their glasses to toast the renowned evolutionary biologist and geneticist, the chancellor announced a birthday surprise: The School of Biological Sciences would be renamed in Ayala’s honor. As an added touch, Drake presented the honoree with a new set of business cards, the first to bear the name of the Francisco J. Ayala School of Biological Sciences.

The name change recognizes Ayala’s impressive scientific achievements, his international stature and his decades of support for many areas of the campus.

“It was my honor to put forward the naming of the Francisco J. Ayala School of Biological Sciences,” Drake said. “Francisco has demonstrated the highest levels of dedication to excellence in research and teaching. He is a true world ambassador for the sciences, and he has done as much as anyone in the world to elucidate the many intersections of science and religion. He and Hana have been extraordinarily generous and committed supporters and champions of our campus since joining the UCI community in 1987. This is a wonderful recognition for them and for us.”

Ayala’s research on parasitic protozoa could lead to cures for malaria and other diseases. He has written more than 1,000 articles and 40 books. A former Dominican priest, Ayala has traveled the world spreading his belief that science and religion are not exclusive.

In 2011, he pledged $10 million to the school that will bear his name, the largest gift ever by a UC Irvine faculty
member. He also donated the entire award of $1.5 million from his 2010 Templeton Prize, presented to a living person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life’s spiritual dimension.

“Naming the School of Biological Sciences after me is a greater honor than I would deserve or would ever have imagined,” Ayala said. “UCI has been a most wonderful institution for teaching and research. And now comes this exceptional recognition. The announcement by the chancellor came as an enormous surprise. For this honor and for the privilege of having served the university for 27 years, I am and will forever be most grateful.”

Sowing seeds
A lover of pinot noir and opera, onetime horse breeder and voracious reader, the “Renaissance man of evolutionary biology” — as he was described by The New York Times — began buying land in Central California in the 1980s and turning it into vineyards supplying grapes to the state’s major winemakers.

Born in Madrid in 1934, shortly before the Spanish Civil War unleashed its terror, Ayala grew up within the smothering restrictions of the Franco era. His family was involved in business and finance, but Ayala showed an interest in science that was cultivated by the priests who taught him.

In 1960, he too became a priest but soon decided to leave the priesthood — and the intellectual repression of Franco’s Spain. He moved to New York in 1961 to attend Columbia University, despite virtually no working knowledge of English.

There he met Theodosius Dobzhansky, among the 20th century’s most distinguished geneticists and evolutionary biologists, who saw Ayala as a student with the potential to lead the field’s next generation. Under Dobzhansky’s tutelage, Ayala earned a doctorate at Columbia in 1964 with a thesis establishing that rates of evolution depend on the genetic variation of a species.

Fruits of his research
It was the first of many discoveries that placed Ayala among the pioneers of genetic research in the second half of the 20th century, including his proof that the parasites responsible for Chagas’ disease — an often fatal malady afflicting millions of people living in the tropics — reproduced not sexually but by cloning. This led to similar findings about the parasites that cause malaria and other tropical diseases, opening up new approaches to potential vaccines.

Ayala also established highly accurate ways of reading genetic clocks to determine the timing of precise steps in the evolution of a species over millions or even billions of years. In 2009, he and colleagues determined that malaria...
I applaud, with deep gratitude, this extraordinary recognition of Francisco’s lifelong contribution to science and humanity. This honor uniquely complements and completes UC Irvine’s earlier tribute to his scholarly preeminence and generosity, namely, the Francisco J. Ayala Science Library. Taken together with the celebration of Francisco’s legacy, the library-school duo now positions UCI as an icon of academic foresight and responsibility.” — Hana Ayala
In June, when Chancellor Michael Drake departs UC Irvine to become president of The Ohio State University, he’ll leave behind a campus that — despite considerable budget challenges — has grown in both size and stature. During Drake’s nine-year tenure, UC Irvine has seen applications for undergraduate admission jump by more than 90 percent and its four-year graduation rate increase by about 20 percent. Just over the past five years, the number of undergraduates from underrepresented minorities has risen by about 60 percent.

Drake oversaw creation of the first new public law school in California in more than 40 years and led the launch of programs in public health, pharmaceutical sciences and nursing science, as well as the formation of the School of Education.

Under his watch, UC Irvine added more than 5 million square feet of new construction, including the nearly 500,000-square-foot UC Irvine Douglas Hospital and the 275,000-square-foot Student Center. The campus also has received nationwide acclaim for its environmental sustainability and boasts an impressive 11 buildings that have earned LEED Platinum certification, the highest possible.

A champion of diversity and dialogue, Drake helped develop the School of Medicine’s innovative Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community, which aims to improve healthcare for Latinos in California; he launched Ohio-bound

Chancellor Michael Drake will leave UC Irvine after nine years of changes, challenges and achievements
PRIME-LC when he was UC vice president of health affairs. He’s also supported the student-led Olive Tree Initiative, which fosters understanding among those with differing views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Drake established the Living Our Values awards to honor employees and students who best demonstrate the qualities he has promoted since his arrival: respect, intellectual curiosity, integrity, commitment, empathy, appreciation and fun.

A national search is underway to find his replacement, and Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor Howard Gillman has been named interim chancellor.

After UC Irvine’s commencement ceremonies, Drake and his wife, Brenda, will embark on a new adventure in Columbus, Ohio. For the cycling enthusiast, it’s been quite a ride.

For more information on Chancellor Drake’s retirement and June 12 farewell event, visit mvdrake.uci.edu.

“His dedicated and passionate leadership has positioned UC Irvine for a bright future as a world-class research university. I personally will miss his wise counsel and camaraderie.”

— Janet Napolitano, UC president

From top:
On stage in the Student Center’s Pacific Ballroom, Drake welcomes Jane Goodall, the renowned primatologist and conservationist who opened the 2012-13 Living Peace Series of international speakers.

Drake plays the guitar at an April 2011 School of Medicine gala honoring Gavin Herbert, chairman emeritus of Allergan Inc. The musical chancellor also announced a $5 million gift to the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute from Julia and George Argyros.

Drake (far left) and Thomas A. Parham, vice chancellor for student affairs, meet with families moving students into Mesa Court housing in September 2011.

Avid cyclist Drake (middle) leads a group of bike riders on a 25-mile tour of Irvine during homecoming weekend in January to fulfill his UC Promise for Education. Drake’s promise garnered the most support across all 10 UC campuses, yielding $21,443.

At a March 2011 event promoting compassionate care at UC Irvine Douglas Hospital, Drake meets with the university’s Dalai Lama Scholars and Gold Humanism Honor Society members – medical students selected by their peers for their “integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect and empathy.”
Francisco Ayala, University Professor and Donald Bren Professor of Biological Sciences:
“Chancellor Drake’s lasting impact on UCI has been enormous. Five million square feet of new space, of course. More significant yet are the new School of Law and School of Education and the new programs in pharmaceutical sciences, public health and nursing science. We’ll sorely miss his wittiness, light touch and humor concerning all matters, slight or weighty.”

Megan Braun ’10, UC Irvine’s first Rhodes Scholar and past president of the Associated Students of UCI:
“In the midst of trying times for the university, Chancellor Drake was always a faithful partner to students.

“He was a regular attendee at major student events, dazzling students with quotes from OutKast lyrics and setting fashion trends with his snazzy bow ties.

“Whenever feasible, he supported student initiatives, and many important projects – such as the creation of the Student Outreach and Retention Center – would not have been possible without his advocacy. I feel fortunate to have attended UC Irvine during his tenure.

Susan V. Bryant, research professor and associate executive vice chancellor for research:
“I thoroughly enjoyed the unexpected opportunity to work as interim executive vice chancellor & provost for a year with Michael. He’s brilliant, funny, hardworking and full of great stories. He’ll make a great president, and I look forward to hearing about his successes at Ohio State University.”

Dr. Hazem H. Chehabi, chair of the UC Irvine Foundation board of trustees:
“Chancellor Michael Drake will go down in history as having led UCI through one of the brightest and most successful periods of its existence. Under his leadership, the university cemented its position as a global research powerhouse.

“His open-door policy and friendly demeanor endeared him to students and faculty alike. In addition to his administrative duties, Chancellor Drake maintained his love for teaching and co-taught – with Dean Erwin Chemerinsky — a freshman honors class titled The Supreme Court & the Civil Rights Movement. It’s one of the most popular classes at the university.

“Chancellor Drake’s legacy at UCI will last far beyond his tenure. He will be greatly missed.”

Erwin Chemerinsky, founding dean of the UC Irvine School of Law:
“Chancellor Drake has been a terrific leader, guiding the campus through the hardest budget times in its history. He has articulated a vision for UCI that stresses excellence, created new programs (such as the law school) and superbly represented the campus to the larger community. Michael and Brenda will be very much missed.”

Dr. Ralph Clayman, dean of the UC Irvine School of Medicine:
“Under Chancellor Drake’s guidance, UC Irvine Health (the School of Medicine and medical center) over the past five years has witnessed one of its finest periods. Our service to the community, research and clinical facilities, and medical education capabilities have all greatly expanded.

“I am ever grateful for Chancellor Drake’s pursuit of excellence, commitment to diversity and uncompromising dedication to the entire UC Irvine community. We are so much the better for his and Brenda’s years with us.”

Howard Gillman, provost & executive vice chancellor:
“One of the great privileges of my life has been the opportunity this past year to work with Michael Drake. His contributions to higher education over an extraordinary career are the stuff of legend, and his particular impact on the dramatic upward trajectory of UCI — during a period that included great budgetary challenges — will stand in our history as a model of the importance of outstanding leadership in the development of a great university.

“But for me, the real privilege has been personal: the chance to learn from his wisdom, experience and core values; the opportunity to have my days lightened by his tremendous sense of humor and enriched by stories filled...
with metaphor and meaning. I am very grateful for his friendship and support. I’ll miss the everyday contact, but I will look forward with anticipation to hearing about all sorts of exciting new adventures and accomplishments.”

Peter Krapp, Academic Senate chair and film & media studies professor:

“Charming and funny in front of large groups, charismatic and infectious in small-group settings, Chancellor Drake is highly effective at articulating the value of public higher education, which underscores his success in fundraising for UCI.

“His background in the health sciences made him a great fit for leading UCI’s medical school and medical center into a new era. ... In strong teamwork with Michael Gottfredson [former executive vice chancellor & provost], he overcame formidable obstacles to add a law school and a school of education to UCI.

“Above all, Chancellor Drake is a tireless advocate of core values — defending the affordability and accessibility of excellent higher education and fostering the diversity and quality of each and every part of the university.”

James V. Mazzo, UC Irvine Foundation trustee:

“Michael Drake is one of the finest people I know. His accomplishments speak for themselves but really don’t describe the man. He has always made his family and friends a priority. He epitomizes my favorite quote: While most of us are building ships, Michael is building the lighthouse. We will miss Michael and Brenda, but their impact will never be forgotten."

Sitara Nayudu ’12 and her brother Vikram Nayudu ’13, both past presidents (2011-12 and 2012-13, respectively) of the Associated Students of UCI:

“It was an honor and privilege to be able to serve with Chancellor Drake during our tenures. He acted as both a mentor and a partner and was readily available to discuss and take action on how we could better serve the student body. Notably, he always stressed the importance of maintaining the quality of student life, despite difficult budget times.

Drake welcomes new students by offering some hands-on help during moving day in September 2011.

“The work, perseverance and love that Chancellor and Mrs. Drake have given the Anteater community will ensure that UC Irvine’s four pillars of excellence [academic, research, leadership and character] will be upheld. Chancellor and Mrs. Drake, we will miss you very much!”

Thomas A. Parham ’77, vice chancellor for student affairs:

“Good leaders are known less for the offices they hold and more for the values they bring to their roles and the positions they take to advance the mission of the institution.

“Michael Drake has been a pivotal leader in advancing UC Irvine and helping us achieve new heights of excellence and innovation. He’s incredibly bright, politically savvy and professionally polished. He’s personable and thinks well on his feet. He’s an advocate for diversity and inclusion, and a humanist with a tremendous capacity for empathy. He’s one of the finest leaders I’ve ever had the privilege to work for.”
When David Kniffin became head coach of the UC Irvine men’s volleyball team in July 2012, he had big athletic shoes to fill. His predecessor had led the Anteaters to three national titles, in 2007, 2009 and 2012.

Still, Kniffin, then the assistant coach of women’s volleyball at the University of Illinois, wasn’t intimidated—perhaps because he had earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy at UC Irvine in 2003. He even took graduate-level courses in the subject while serving as the Anteaters’ assistant coach from 2007 to 2011. (The desire to expose students to other cultures inspired him to organize the nation’s first international professional men’s volleyball tournament at UC Irvine in 2009; it’s now an annual event and the largest of its kind.)

Whatever the reason, Kniffin regarded his new job as a chance to explore an interesting philosophical belief of his: that winning comes not from one individual but from UC Irvine’s championship culture. The players who come here, he says, are used to digging in and working for their success instead of expecting it to come with a big-name school.

So far, Kniffin’s theory has proved correct. In May 2013, under his guidance, the Anteaters clinched their fourth championship. He became the second head coach in NCAA men’s volleyball history to win a national title in his first season and was named Coach of the Year by Volleyball Magazine.

With another championship battle looming, Kniffin paused to discuss his methods, his background and his players. Will the team bring home a fifth trophy? That’s a question the philosopher coach, and Anteater fans, will soon learn the answer to.

How would you characterize this year’s squad in terms of experience and talent?

We have a seasoned team with significant playoff experience. Many members were on the 2012 and 2013 national championship campaigns. Last year, however, we graduated a Michael Jordan-type player [outside hitter Kevin Tillie]. So we lost a superstar, but we’ve gained in the development of the players who came back. It’s allowed us to be very competitive and versatile.
Given the Anteaters’ winning record, has it become easier to attract the nation’s best players to the program?

We have some very good players, but we haven’t recruited the top players in their positions in the last two classes. UC Irvine as an institution attracts people who want to create and build, versus those who just want to get on a bus that’s already going in a certain direction. We’re not a household name; everything here has been created in the last 50 years. Players come here with something to prove.

Obviously, talent, athletic prowess and potential are important, but the thing that’s allowed our team to rise to the top has been the ability to embrace the workload that it takes to get there. Nothing here is given; it has to be earned.

What was it like to take the reins from John Speraw?

I’m an alumnus, so I had a little different perspective than someone who just came here for the job.

I wanted to make sure the program was going to be in good hands. Before I even made the commitment to apply, I asked, “Could UC Irvine sustain greatness without an iconic coach? Does the coach win a championship or does the culture?” That’s what intrigued me about the job. I wanted to answer those questions.

I do think we can continue to be great. It’s because of who we are as an institution, our identity and the community we have around us. There are just so many things that are special about UC Irvine that contribute to our ability to compete at a national level.

You played volleyball for the Anteaters in 2002 and ’03. When did you first become enthusiastic about the sport?

In eighth grade, we did a school project where each student had to interview a professional from a different field. I talked with the head volleyball coach at Chico State, Jim Brinton. He told me, “If you’re really interested in volleyball, why don’t you come to my summer volleyball camp?”

So I signed up. Turns out it was 200 girls and me. At the time, I was too young to appreciate it [laughs], but I played volleyball and enjoyed it.

When I got to Chico High School, there was no boys’ team, so a few of my friends and I decided we’d try out for the girls’ team. Looking back, I think that was more of a political statement. I don’t think we realistically thought we’d get on the team, but we also didn’t expect to get sent to an administrator’s office [for trying out]. The thing I remember him saying was, “If you guys want to start a team, by all means do it, but you have to get it funded.” So we did. [Chico High still has a boys’ volleyball program.]

What do you feel you learned as a philosophy student that has helped you as a coach?

It’s the honest pursuit of something that really matters. I like that we get to hold up a block of wood [the trophy] at the end of a season, but that’s not really what this is about for me. It’s the journey that I find intriguing.

Being involved in the pursuit of knowledge is a healthy thing. It keeps me fresh and sympathetic to where our students are. It’s very easy as a coach to go, “The only thing that matters is volleyball.” But they’re students first.

The fact that we win national championships is great. The fact that we earn degrees from one of the top universities in the world is even better.

Kathryn Bold, UC Irvine
Anteaters show their pride at homecoming

A weekend-long celebration of homecoming drew a record number of Anteaters, with more than 4,500 UC Irvine alumni, faculty, staff and friends visiting the campus Friday and Saturday, Jan. 24 and 25.

Reunions for the classes of 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009 were held throughout the weekend, along with Greek gatherings and a reception for African American alumni. A sapphire anniversary dinner also was held in honor of the charter class of 1969.

On Saturday, the Newkirk Alumni Center hosted “Classes Without Quizzes,” which included a debate on gun ownership and a discussion of emotional maturity and happiness.

Festivities continued Saturday evening with a street fair featuring a Ferris wheel, a bounce house, balloon artistry, a beer garden, a funnel cake booth and music that spanned the generations. Anteaters then headed into the Bren Events Center for a nail-biting men’s basketball game against the University of Hawaii that ended in a heartbreaking overtime loss.

Stay connected and tap into the Anteater Network! Become a UCI Alumni Association member today. Visit alumni.uci.edu/join.

continued on next page
Men in yellow entertain the crowd during the men’s basketball game.

Sophomore guard Aaron Wright attempts a layup in the game against Hawaii at the Bren Events Center.

UC Irvine student Tracey Onyenacho dons a balloon-animal hat during the festival.

Hank Klein ’74 signs a “favorite memories” banner.

UCI homecoming 2014

Freshman center Mamadou Ndiaye steals a rebound from Hawaii players.

Newly crowned homecoming queen Jacklyn Uweh adjusts king David Conley’s headpiece during halftime at the basketball game.

From left, charter class members Joyce Ollila (Runge) ’69, Kathy Houts Miller ’69 and Peggy Okimoto (Reid) ’69 reconnect at a sapphire anniversary dinner.

All photos by Steve Zylius / UC Irvine unless otherwise indicated

Courtesy of the UCI Alumni Association
Recognizing extraordinary impact

Entrepreneur, philanthropist and community leader Thomas Yuen to receive UC Irvine Alumni Association’s premier honor

The UC Irvine Alumni Association’s highest honor, the Lauds & Laurels Extraordinarius award, will this year go to Thomas Yuen ’74 for his superlative business accomplishments, philanthropy and volunteer work at the university. He is the first of UC Irvine’s 150,000 alumni to receive both the Extraordinarius award and the UCI Medal, presented in 1990 for his exemplary service.

Yuen arrived in the United States from Hong Kong in 1970 and four years later graduated with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from UC Irvine’s Henry Samueli School of Engineering. In 1980, he and two friends founded personal computer manufacturer AST Research, which grew into a Fortune 500 company. Later, Yuen became chairman and CEO of SRS Labs, a world leader in audio and voice technology. Today he’s chairman and CEO of PrimeGen Biotech LLC, a private stem cell research company.

Yuen has served on the UC Irvine Foundation board of trustees and continues to be a major donor — along with his wife, Misa — to the campus and UC Irvine Douglas Hospital, particularly in support of cutting-edge stem cell research.

Also among those being honored at the 44th annual Lauds & Laurels gala on May 15 is Frank LaFerla, renowned Alzheimer’s disease researcher and newly appointed Hana and Francisco J. Ayala Dean of the biological sciences school. He will receive the Outstanding University Service award.

The Faculty Achievement award will be bestowed on Barbara Dosher, Distinguished Professor of cognitive sciences and National Academy of Sciences member. Also a fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists and the Association for Psychological Science, she is widely known for her research on attention, perceptual learning and memory. Dosher began her tenure at UC Irvine in 1992 and served as dean of the School of Social Sciences from 2002 to 2012.

Fifteen others will be saluted along with Yuen, LaFerla and Dosher for exceptional contributions to the university and their communities.

Net proceeds from table sponsorships and individual ticket sales support the UCIAA student scholarship fund. Last year, the association granted more than $95,000 in scholarships and fellowships. Tickets to the gala are $250, with 10-person tables available by calling 949-824-2586.

continued on next page
The complete list of 2014 Lauds & Laurels honorees:

**Outstanding Undergraduate Student**
Sasha Sabherwal (social sciences)

**Outstanding Graduate Student**
Sandra Holden (biological sciences)

**Outstanding Student-Athlete**
Water polo player Mitch Wise (physical sciences)

**Staff Achievement**
Colin Andrews

**Faculty Achievement**
Barbara Dosher, Ph.D.

**Outstanding University Service**
Frank LaFerla, Ph.D.

**Extraordinarius**
Thomas Yuen ’74

**Distinguished Alumni**
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
Steven Lam, M.F.A. ’04

School of Biological Sciences
Carl Ware ’74, Ph.D. ’79

The Paul Merage School of Business
Jack Toan ’94, MBA ’02

School of Education
Steven Keller, Ed.D. ’00

The Henry Samueli School of Engineering
Douglas Thorpe ’82

Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences
James Patrick Berney ’89

School of Humanities
Taryn Rose ’89, M.D.

School of Medicine
Ami Bera ’87, M.D. ’91

School of Physical Sciences
Shimon Eckhouse, M.A. ’76, Ph.D. ’78

School of Social Ecology
Arif Alikhan ’90

School of Social Sciences
Jackie Lacey ’79
Class notes

1970s

Howard E. Abrams [physical sciences ’76] is a visiting professor at Harvard Law School. He previously served on the faculty of Emory Law School for 30 years and was a visiting professor at Cornell, UC Berkeley and Yale law schools. After a one-year appointment at Harvard, Abrams will join the University of San Diego School of Law faculty as Warren Distinguished Professor and director of tax programs.

John Clayton Adams III [humanities ’73] is the principal of Hunt & Adams Inc., specializing in major tort litigation. He has received the highest attorney rating for legal ability and ethics from Martindale-Hubbell. The Orange County Trial Lawyers Association recognized Adams as a “top gun” litigator in 2012 and 2013.

Arye Gross [arts ’78] performed in the world premiere of the new drama “Above the Fold,” starring Academy Award nominee Taraji P. Henson, at the Pasadena Playhouse earlier this year. He is best known for supporting roles in a wide variety of television shows, including “Castle,” “The Riches,” “Medium,” “Six Feet Under” and “The Practice.”

Kathleen Raynsford [arts ’77] joined the labor and employment law practice group of Tully Rinckey PLLC as an attorney of counsel. She has handled discrimination, affirmative action, disability accommodation, wage-hour, compensation and equal employment opportunity compliance issues under state and federal laws. Raynsford earned a law degree at the University of Southern California and holds bar admissions in the District of Columbia and California.

Christine Stewart* [humanities ’71, M.A. ’74] published a children’s picture book titled The Adventures of Sprinkler Dog! She specializes in British history and teaches European history at Servite High School in Anaheim. Stewart is an avid traveler who has visited all seven continents, most recently Antarctica.

In memoriam: Mark H. Jacobsen [humanities M.A. ’75, Ph.D. ’79] died Oct. 21 of cardiac complications. He was a professor of military history for 21 years at the Marine Corps University Command & Staff College in Quantico, Va. Jacobsen received a bachelor’s degree from Reed College, then worked as a teaching assistant for the UC Irvine history department while earning a master’s in 1975 and a doctorate in 1979, both in history. He’s survived by three brothers, James, Joel (and wife Carla) and Peter; and his nephews, Alexander, Scott and Benjamin.

1980s

Gaston Bernstein [biological sciences ’85] accepted the position of president and CEO of Biomed Pharmaceuticals in Philadelphia. Biomed is a national pharmacy provider of home intravenous medications and nursing services for patients with complex chronic diseases.

Jane Horan [social ecology ’82] published two books, I Wish I’d Known That Earlier in My Career, a self-help guide to becoming politically savvy, and How Asian Women Lead: Lessons for Global Corporations, which explores cultural diversity in leadership. She founded The Horan Group, a strategic consulting firm focused on cross-cultural leadership, bias awareness and the acceleration of female leaders. Horan has worked with top Fortune 500 companies, nongovernmental organizations and academic institutions.

Paul Horne* [social sciences ’86] joined “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” as a writer/producer in 2012, winning two Emmys his first season. He has started his second season on the television show and wrote material for the 2014 Academy Awards ceremony, which DeGeneres hosted.

Liza Krassner* [social sciences ’81] executive-produced the film “Through the Heart of Tango,” which follows eight people – including three with autism and one with Down syndrome — learning to tango. In October, the documentary was shown at the Silent River Film Festival.
and received an Indie award of merit. Krassner is chief administrative officer of UC Irvine’s Program in Public Health and parent ambassador for the Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Joseph Potocki [social ecology ’83] was named one of the 2014 Southern California Super Lawyers in the field of construction litigation. An attorney with Balestreri Potocki & Holmes, he concentrates on litigation, transactional matters, and construction contract drafting and negotiation. Potocki was recognized in 2005 as one of the top 25 attorneys in construction and real estate law by The Daily Transcript/San Diego Source.

Geoffrey R. Pyatt [social sciences ’85], a Senior Foreign Service officer, was sworn in July 30 as the eighth U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. His 24-year State Department career has landed him posts in Asia, Europe and Latin America. Pyatt holds a master’s degree in international relations from Yale and a bachelor’s in political science from UC Irvine.

Joan Wada* [engineering ’85], a technical fellow at the Boeing Co., received Women of Color Magazine’s Technical Innovation-Industry Award at the 18th annual Women of Color STEM Conference. Only the top 1 percent of all engineers at Boeing are technical fellows, an honor that acknowledges outstanding ability and leadership.

In memoriam: Bobbie J. Garrett [social ecology ’80] died Aug. 3. She resided in Mableton, Ga., and is survived by her daughter, Tracee.

In memoriam: Carl H. Marcoux [humanities M.A. ’88] died Nov. 20 at age 86. He retired from the insurance industry in 1985 after serving as executive vice president of Transamerica Insurance Co. Marcoux was a WWII and Korean War veteran and later published two novels based on his experiences during WWII. He graduated from Stanford University in 1950, earned an MBA at Golden Gate University in 1958, obtained a master’s degree in history from UC Irvine in 1988 and received a doctorate in Latin American history from UC Riverside in 1994. At the age of 61, Marcoux was the oldest graduate in his UC Irvine class. He’s survived by his wife, Ana Virginia; sons Eric and Grant; brother Roderick; and sister Patricia.

1990s

Colet Abedi [humanities ’99] and Jasmine Abedi [social sciences ’94] published a young adult novel, Fae, which became an instant best-seller when released in July. In December, director Ridley Scott optioned film rights to Fae. Jasmine earned a bachelor’s degree in social sciences at UC Irvine, while her sister received a bachelor’s in English at age 19.

Lorene Delany-Ullman [humanities ’96, M.F.A. ’02], in collaboration with artist Jody Servon, curated an art show titled “Saved” at Orange Coast College’s School of Photography. Through photography and prose poems, “Saved” explores the human experience of life, death and memory – and how memories of the dead are rooted in everyday objects. Delany-Ullman is a widely published poet and English lecturer at UC Irvine.


Melanie Rosa [arts ’99] is a professor and chair of the dance department at Fullerton College.

Zita Wenzel [arts M.F.A. ’97] is artistic director and choreographer for Ballet Pixelle. The physical and virtual dance company has performed in Indianapolis (with the Indianapolis Telematic Ensemble); Melbourne, Australia; New York; Tokyo; Vancouver; and Yokohama, Japan. It was featured in Dance Magazine’s dance and technology issue and has been invited to perform in London and Berlin in 2014.

Scott Wichmann [humanities ’93], a writer, performance artist and comedian, will publish his novel, a caper-comedy titled Two Performance Artists Kidnap Their Boss and Do Things with Him, this month. He’s a member of Wet the Hippo, a performance troupe nominated for best comedy and best stunt at the 2013 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Wichmann’s artwork can be seen in galleries, art venues and fringe festivals worldwide.

Kevin Yopp [social sciences ’98] has been promoted to partner at the commercial real estate and business law firm Gilchrist & Rutter PC. His practice focuses on litigation in both trial and appellate state and federal courts. After serving in the U.S. Army, Yopp earned a bachelor’s degree in political science at UC Irvine and a J.D. at the University of Virginia School of Law.

In memoriam: Jonathan Kent Martin [information & computer sciences M.S. ’93, Ph.D. ’98] died Feb. 27, 2013, after a battle with lung cancer. He served in the U.S. Army from 1962 to 1965. Martin later taught computer science at Draughons Junior College in Tennessee, the University of Alabama, Texas State University, and Prairie View A&M University in Texas. He was on leave from his current position with Vecna Technologies in Greenbelt, Md.

Alexandra Bradshaw [arts and humanities ’06] has been a member of the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company in Salt Lake City since 2011. She returned to Southern California in October to perform in an evening of contemporary pieces at Cal State Long Beach’s Carpenter Performing Arts Center. Bradshaw earned bachelor’s degrees in dance and literature at UC Irvine and has studied at Cambridge University and The Ailey School in New York City. She recently danced in Israel, San Francisco, London, New York City and Houston.

Brandon Brown [physical sciences ’04] gave a keynote talk on HIV global epidemiology at the 27th annual HIV/AIDS on the Front Line conference, held in April at UC Irvine. His research focuses on HIV, HPV and research ethics with marginalized populations in developing countries. Brown is also director of the Global Health Research, Education & Translation Program established by UC Irvine’s Program in Public Health.

Keng “Kay” Phy [social ecology ’04], Blake Stone*, [biological sciences ’05], Chris Guidotti [social sciences and humanities ’05], and Colleen Cochran [biological sciences and social sciences ’05], traveled to Tanzania in September to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

It took six days to scale the world’s largest freestanding mountain, which peaks at 19,341 feet. The group continued the African adventure with safaris to Lake Manyara, Olduvai Gorge, the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

Mark Drapeau [biological sciences Ph.D. ’03] recently joined Washington, D.C.-based Atlantic Media as director of strategy & insights for its new spinoff, Atlantic Media Strategies. This follows four years in technology, media, communications and strategy at the U.S. Department of Defense and Microsoft.

2000s

Ramona Ausubel [humanities M.F.A. ’08] published No One Is Here Except All of Us, a novel that explores how we use storytelling to survive and shape our own truths. The book was a New York Times Editor’s Choice and a San Francisco Chronicle and Huffington Post Best Book of the Year. Ausubel also won the PEN Center USA fiction award, the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award, and the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award.
Kimberly Gee [engineering ‘07, M.S. ‘13], bridge project manager at NCM Engineering Corp., was named one of 10 New Faces of Civil Engineering 2014 by the American Society of Civil Engineers. She helped Southern California agencies secure millions of dollars in federal funds through the federal Highway Bridge Program to replace dilapidated bridges and protect public safety. Gee earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering at UC Irvine.

Dip Ghuman [social sciences ’05] founded a new company, Veritas Quo, that specializes in exporting California wine and beer internationally. Ghuman worked in Internet technology for Lonely Planet and Google before launching his wine venture in 2013.

Kaylen Ratto Giannini [arts ’05] was appointed executive director of the Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation in White Plains, N.Y. The foundation supports dance education, audience development and movement classes for individuals with special needs.

Robert Gomez Jr. [social ecology ’07] works as the higher education & youth liaison in the U.S. Department of Education’s communications and outreach office. His responsibilities include communicating President Barack Obama’s educational agenda and priorities to constituents and collecting feedback. A first-generation college graduate, Gomez participated in the UCDC internship program with the DOE in 2007.

Mertyn Griffiths [social sciences Ph.D. ‘07] was promoted to associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She’s believed to be the first African American woman to receive tenure in the 44-year history of the Bryan School of Business & Economics. Griffiths earned an MBA at Bentley University and a doctorate in social sciences at UC Irvine.

Wenli Jen* [social sciences ’03] was named one of eight 2013 Women of the Year in California’s 49th Assembly District. A motivational speaker, Jen was recently invited to be a TED speaker on repurposing negative energy.

Jan Lyew [arts ‘08] made his mark on Super Bowl Sunday with his “Cowboy Kid” commercial, one of two Doritos “Crash the Super Bowl” contest winners. Lyew created all graphic materials, designed the website and managed social networks, earning his team enough votes to beat the international competition. “Cowboy Kid” was rated second-best of all Super Bowl commercials by USA Today.

Nhu-Ngoc Ong [social sciences M.A. ’05, Ph.D. ’09] is publisher and editor of Viet Tide Magazine. At 35, she’s the youngest person to hold both positions at the prestigious Vietnamese American weekly. The publication is circulated in California, Texas and 10 other states.

Melissa Ramoso [social sciences ’07] is deputy district director for state Sen. Ted Lieu and addresses issues related to healthcare, higher education and civil liberties. Ramoso is vice president of the Friends of Artesia Foundation and state chair of the Filipino American Democratic Caucus.

Vasudhsiri “Torch” Sathienmars [social sciences ’06] is an associate attorney at Dannis Woliver Kelley in San Francisco, specializing in business, property and construction law.

In memoriam: Shane Kalani del Rosario [social sciences ’06] died Dec. 9 of a heart attack. He was 30. Del Rosario got his start as a professional mixed martial artist in 2006 and debuted in Ultimate Fighting Championship competition in 2012. He held the distinction of being the first American World Boxing Council Muaythai world heavyweight champion. Del Rosario is survived by his family and MMA Team Oyama.
2010s
Taylor Mar* [social ecology ’12] was one of 24 UC Irvine dragon boat alumni to reunite and race at the 2013 Lake Las Vegas Rose Regatta. Representing five club teams, UC Irvine Elements took third place overall. Others on the team: Christian Ismawan [engineering ’07], Theresa Shar [engineering ’07], Jeremy Lee [biological sciences ’12], Nicholas Yeh [humanities ’10], Megan Yeh [engineering ’09], Justin Chi [information & computer sciences ’11], Annie Wu [engineering’12], Patrick Ng [biological sciences ’11], Richard Tom [physical sciences ’12], Bonny Yee [physical sciences ’10, social sciences ’10], Wendy Louie [nursing ’12], Chris Louie [engineering ’13], Terence Leung [engineering ’12], Matt Najera [engineering ’10], Jennie Li, Dennis Chen ’10, Jaydee Choompoo [nursing ’13], Karen Chen ’13, Sarah Leung [engineering ’13], Pauline Phan [social sciences ’13], Joyce Lee [social ecology ’11], Alex San [biological sciences ’13] and Vinne Wu [social ecology ’13].

*UC Irvine Alumni Association member

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

Visit: www.alumni.uci.edu/update

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Men’s basketball wraps up memorable season

They stood tall — the tallest team in collegiate basketball, with three 7-footers on their roster. And while the Anteaters fell short in their quest to make their first-ever appearance in the NCAA tournament, they could point to a number of lofty accomplishments during the 2013-14 season.

• Just two years ago, the team was picked in a number of media preseason polls to finish last in the Big West Conference. This season, they won their first regular-season conference championship in 12 years — an impressive turnaround. Since its inception, the squad has made it to the finals of the Big West Conference tournament five times — including in 2013.

• It was the tallest team in Anteater history, and nobody towered over the competition quite like 7-foot-6 freshman Mamadou Ndiaye — the tallest college basketball player in the U.S. Ndiaye came to Southern California from Dakar, Senegal, at age 17 to pursue basketball and education. He set a UC Irvine and Big West single-season record for 106 blocked shots. In March he was named the Big West’s Best Defensive Player.

• Head Coach Russell Turner — named the Big West Coach of the Year — has rebuilt the program, constructing a deep athletic roster that featured just one senior, Chris McNealy (named to the All-Big West First Team). This means that next year’s team of returning players will also turn plenty of heads.

Ted Newland inducted into USA Water Polo Hall of Fame

Legendary UC Irvine coach Ted Newland was inducted into the USA Water Polo Hall of Fame on April 5.

In his 39 years as the men’s water polo coach (1966-2004), Newland amassed 714 victories and led the Anteaters to NCAA titles in 1970, 1982 and 1989. His ’82 team went 30-0 en route to the national championship.

Revered by his players, “the old man” — as he liked to be called — was inducted into the UC Irvine Hall of Fame in 1999, the Occidental College Hall of Fame in 1996 and the U.S. Water Polo Hall of Fame in 1995. Now a coach emeritus, Newland guided UC Irvine to the Final Four of the NCAA championship 21 times. Fifteen of his Anteater players competed on the U.S. Olympic team, and 113 earned All-America honors.

Newland was a four-time NCAA Coach of the Year and conference Coach of the Year eight times. He

In all levels of his coaching career, Newland won more than 5,300 games. In 2007, he received UC Irvine’s highest honor, the UCI Medal, which recognizes those who have made extraordinary contributions to the university’s mission of teaching, research and public service.

**Volk takes charge of men’s soccer**

Chris Volk has been named head coach of men’s soccer after playing a major role in the program’s rise to national prominence.

As lead assistant coach for the past 17 seasons, Volk has helped guide the Anteaters to four nationally seeded NCAA tournament appearances in the last six years, including two trips to the Round of 16. During that span, UC Irvine won four Big West Conference regular-season titles and four Big West Tournament championships, with an overall record of 80-37-14.

“Chris has an extensive coaching resume, and his knowledge and skills have been key components in the success of our men’s soccer program,” said Athletic Director Michael Izzi. “He’s an outstanding representative of UCI, and we’re extremely confident and excited in his ability to direct our program to perennial postseason competition.”

“I’m highly motivated to build on the winning tradition that has been cultivated within our men’s soccer program and supported by our athletic department and staff members.” — Chris Volk

With Volk as their primary goalkeeper coach, the Anteaters have been one of the top programs in goals-against average, including a No. 6 national ranking of 0.63 in 2011. For the fall 2012 season, the Anteaters recorded 10 shutouts in the team’s 15 victories.

“I’m highly motivated to build on the winning tradition that has been cultivated within our men’s soccer program and supported by our athletic department and staff members,” Volk said.

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America named him 2008 Far West Region Assistant Coach of the Year. Volk played soccer at San Diego State from 1987 to 1991, earning the team’s Most Inspirational Player Award in 1990.

**UCI duo honored as Big West Scholar-Athletes of the Year**

Juniors Taylor Sparks (baseball) and Itos Aikhionbare (track & field) were recognized in March as UC Irvine’s Big West Conference Scholar-Athletes of the Year.

The conference annually honors male and female Scholar-Athletes of the Year from each of its member institutions. Sparks and Aikhionbare and their peers from other schools were feted at a banquet at the Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort during the Big West Conference basketball tournament.
Sparks, a third baseman majoring in sociology, was named to four 2014 preseason All-America teams. He was the Big West Co-Field Player of the Year last season after hitting .360 with 10 home runs and a slugging percentage of .581 (total bases divided by at bats).

Aikhionbare, a biological sciences major, set the UC Irvine record in the discus throw last season. She finished third in the shot put and eighth in the discus throw at the 2013 USA Junior Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

Track & field gets new head coach

Jeff Perkins has taken over as head coach of track & field and cross-country at UC Irvine, replacing longtime coach Vince O’Boyle, who retired in December.

“I’m looking forward to the many challenges that a head coach has to face and continuing to build on an already stellar reputation that Coach O’Boyle established in the 32 years that he led the program,” Perkins said.

He joined the staff in 2007, serving the past four years as associate head coach and working primarily with sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers. He has coached 10 Big West Conference champions, 18 NCAA qualifiers, one NCAA champion (Charles Jock) and four school-record holders.

Perkins previously was assistant coach of the men’s program at the University of Oklahoma for two years.

“I’m looking forward to the many challenges that a head coach has to face and continuing to build on an already stellar reputation that Coach O’Boyle established in the 32 years that he led the program.” —Jeff Perkins
‘As You Like It’
April 26–May 4
The drama department will stage the Shakespeare comedy “As You Like It,” a wild romp in which brothers scheme and young couples fall instantly and hopelessly in love. 8 p.m. Saturday, April 26, and Thursday through Saturday, May 1–3; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27, and Tuesday and Wednesday, April 29 & 30; and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27 (includes post-performance talk with the cast and creative team), and Saturday and Sunday, May 3 & 4. New Swan Theater, set up inside the Robert Cohen Theatre. $11–$15.
More: 949-824-2787, artstix@uci.edu or www.arts.uci.edu/event/you-it-apr-26-may-4

‘Physical Graffiti’
May 1–3
Twelve undergraduate dance students will present original choreography. Directed by Loretta Livingston, associate professor of dance. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, May 1–3; 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Claire Trevor Theatre. $11–$15. More: 949-824-2787 or artstix@uci.edu

University Club Forum
May 28
More: 949-824-7960, uclubres@uci.edu or www.uclub.uci.edu/forum

Commencement 2014
June 14, 15 & 16
President Barack Obama will be the keynote speaker at UC Irvine’s 2014 commencement celebration, which will mark the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s dedication of the campus in 1964. All 8,000 graduates and a limited number of guests are invited to attend. The special keynote event will be held at Angel Stadium of Anaheim on Saturday, June 14. In addition, graduates will be individually recognized at eight school-based ceremonies Sunday and Monday, June 15 & 16, at UC Irvine’s Bren Events Center.
More: 949-824-6378 or www.commencement.uci.edu

MORE CAMPUS EVENTS >> http://today.uci.edu/calendar/
Letter from Vice Chancellor Gregory R. Leet

As UC Irvine moves boldly forward as one of the premier research universities in the U.S. and the world, it’s critical that we harness sustaining support from endowments to produce permanent financial resources for the faculty chairs, scholarships and innovative programs that keep UC Irvine academically competitive and ensure its progress far into the future.

Providing endowment support at UC Irvine demonstrates an enduring passion for the excellence that has become the tangible hallmark of our university.

Establishing or building a permanent strategic fund, like an endowment, will enable the campus to make important and often time-sensitive decisions and address unanticipated challenges. Those who run a business, manage a department or even balance a family budget can relate to this constant need.

Endowments offer stable, predictable and flexible funding for our core mission, including fellowships for promising graduate students and their research, innovative academic programs, scholarships to attract the world’s best students, the ability to compete for internationally renowned or rising-star faculty, upgrades to enhance our campus facilities and ever-accelerating technology demands.

An endowed philanthropic investment in UC Irvine ensures the necessary means to implement the university’s future plans and achieve its most important strategic goals. By providing endowment support, individuals and families permanently connect themselves with UC Irvine’s reputation for world-class excellence — and proudly link their names with the university in a highly visible and enduring way.

UC Irvine is honored by the many friends and alumni who enable the inspiring work of our faculty, researchers, clinicians and students in this far-reaching way. In a broader sense, this also affirms their well-placed confidence and belief in the public research institution — a commitment to an entity that helps underpin America’s enviable success and influence, maintain its critical global competitiveness and enhance the quality of life that we enjoy.

Best regards,

Gregory

Gregory R. Leet
Vice Chancellor | University Advancement
“Shaping the Future” campaign
www.ucifuture.com
Aerospace seamstress funds engineering fellowships

Ida Melucci, a seamstress who worked for McDonnell Douglas and then – after their 1997 merger – Boeing, has left a bequest of $1.5 million to UC Irvine’s Henry Samueli School of Engineering for graduate fellowships.

“We are honored that Ida Melucci entrusted us with her gift to continue to support and enhance the education of graduate students working in space exploration and space technology,” said Gregory Washington, dean of the engineering school. “We have researchers working on the Rover guidance system for landing on Mars, on electric propulsion for spacecraft, as well as people looking at combustion and structures. This gift will be put to good use.”

Ida Melucci and her husband were both long-standing and dedicated employees of the Huntington Beach aerospace company. The late William Melucci worked in sealing and bonding. Ida Melucci worked on space blankets for Delta rockets, missile bags and insulation blankets for the International Space Station, and slipcovers for cargo boxes carrying high-tech space tools on the Endeavour space shuttle.

“My aunt was very proud of working in the aerospace industry and with engineers,” said Julie Weisert. “She had very little formal education but appreciated that the engineers consulted her and acknowledged her work. I think that’s why she decided to donate her money to support engineering education at UC Irvine.”

Ida Melucci learned to sew from her Italian-born mother, a master garment maker. She and her husband lived a modest life in Garden Grove. William Melucci died 20 years before his wife, who worked well into her 70s. The William & Ida Melucci Space Exploration & Technology Fellowship will provide graduate support in perpetuity in memory of the couple.

Lori Brandt, The Henry Samueli School of Engineering

Campus wins state’s top environmental honor — again

UC Irvine’s Smart Labs program has earned California’s highest environmental honor, the Governor’s Environmental & Economic Leadership Award.

The award acknowledges individuals, organizations and businesses that demonstrate exceptional leadership and make notable, voluntary contributions toward conserving California’s precious resources, protecting and enhancing the environment, building public-private partnerships and strengthening the state economy. The 2013 award, in the category of sustainable practices or facilities, is UC Irvine’s second GEELA; the first was in 2008 for programs that minimize the effects of transportation on climate change.

Wendell Brase, vice chancellor for administrative & business services, said that the campus and the entire University of California system are committed to achieving the governor’s environmental goals.

“Our Smart Labs program addresses the university’s most energy-intensive facilities: its laboratories,” he said. “And it demonstrates the feasibility of cutting laboratory energy consumption by more than half.”
Alumna balances ballet and biology

It’s not your typical scientist who has danced in “Swan Lake,” but UC Irvine alumna Amanda Janesick ’08, Ph.D. ’13 has successfully balanced two career paths: ballet and biology.

Growing up, Janesick — whose engineer father, James Janesick, designed the imaging system for the Hubble Space Telescope — showed an early aptitude for math and science. She also showed grace as a ballerina.

After graduating from Tustin’s Pacific Coast High School in 2002, she danced professionally for the Nevada Ballet Theatre in Las Vegas for four years. Although a self-proclaimed introvert, Janesick loved performing on stage, but she missed the mental stimulation of academia.

Her desire for higher education led her to enroll at UC Irvine, where in 2008 she earned a bachelor’s degree in genetics, with a minor in math. She decided to pursue a doctorate in biology after taking an undergraduate class in genomics and proteomics taught by Bruce Blumberg, professor of developmental & cell biology.

Janesick received her initial training in theoretical, computational biology, but she found her passion in wet-lab biology. “Although mathematical models and informatics are important, I was excited to actually test my models in vivo — to work within whole, living organisms,” she said. She worked in Blumberg’s lab as a graduate student researcher, completing her Ph.D. in September 2013.

Her research in the field of developmental biology examines how the early embryo “knows” how to pattern and program particular structures in the body. Specifically, Janesick focuses on how retinoic acid controls the development of sensory organs, the central nervous system and the vertebral column.

In 2013, she received the Most Promising Future Faculty Member Award from UC Irvine’s Academic Senate Council on Student Experience. Recipients are engaging instructors with a deep commitment to helping students reach their potential — both in and out of the classroom. They also must excel in research and service.

“I like building upon what students learn in a textbook,” Janesick said. “There’s a particular excitement that I observe in students when they actually get to apply a theory to the wet lab. This is when science really comes to life, and I enjoy watching this process time and again in the lab.”

She hopes to return to a career in science after pursuing ballet for a couple more years. She’s currently a guest artist with Central West Ballet in Modesto. [Watch a YouTube video of her dancing at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UbV0t52JJo.]

“I’m a driven and focused person, to a fault,” Janesick said. “I think the break will be healthy and allow me to refocus and accumulate energy for a postdoc [position] in a high-achieving lab. It’s about having a little balance in life.”

Wida Karim, UC Irvine Graduate Division

Professor receives $11 million grant from U.S. Department of Education

Carol Booth Olson, director of the UC Irvine Writing Project and associate professor of education, has received an $11 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand a reading and analytical writing intervention program for English-language learners to Southern California middle and high schools. The program — which Olson and her colleagues in UC Irvine’s Department of Education conducted for teachers in the Santa Ana Unified School District — will reach more
than 100,000 students and 240 teachers in districts with predominantly low-income populations.

“English-language learners are much less likely than their mainstream peers to graduate from high school and go on to postsecondary education,” Olson said. “This intervention program will help level the playing field by providing a rigorous analytical writing curriculum that will help bring students up to a place where they can compete academically and experience success.”

She applied for the grant through the Department of Education’s Investing in Innovation competition, which promotes novel approaches to improving student performance and attainment.

“The project aims to close the achievement gap for English learners by providing high-quality professional development to teachers,” Olson said. “They tend to be incredibly dedicated but are overworked and deal with large class sizes and other challenges. We treat them as professionals and provide support, materials and ideas. Our goal is to create professional learning communities at our school sites.”

Frank LaFerla appointed dean of biological sciences

Frank M. LaFerla has been named the Hana & Francisco J. Ayala Dean of the biological sciences school, effective Jan. 1.

LaFerla, Chancellor’s Professor and chair of the Department of Neurobiology & Behavior since 2011, joined UC Irvine in 1995 as an assistant professor in the then-named Department of Psychobiology.

Since that time, he has served in numerous leadership roles, including as associate director and now director of the Institute for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders (UCI MIND), a research center internationally acclaimed for its work on brain disorders.

LaFerla also was founding director of the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program, which united several departments and faculty concerned with neuroscience under one major programmatic initiative and has since facilitated the recruitment to UC Irvine of numerous outstanding graduate students.

Two from UCI named AAAS fellows

UC Irvine neurobiologist Leslie M. Thompson and mathematician Qing Nie have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Thompson, professor of psychiatry & human behavior and neurobiology & behavior, was selected for her distinguished contributions to the Huntington’s disease field, particularly relating to mechanisms underlying the cause of the disease, to medical school teaching and to HD-related professional societies.

Nie, professor of mathematics, was chosen for his work in the field of systems biology and for developing pioneering educational programs for students in mathematical and systems biology.

He and Thompson are the 133rd and 134th UC Irvine researchers to be named AAAS fellows, an honor bestowed upon association members by their peers.

Elghobashi joins National Academy of Engineering

Said Elghobashi has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

A professor in the mechanical & aerospace engineering department of The Henry Samueli School of Engineering, Elghobashi is among 67 new members and 11 foreign associates inducted for 2014. His citation reads: “For
pioneering contributions to the fundamental understanding and modeling of multiphase turbulent flows with characterization of key physical mechanisms."

The goal of Elghobashi’s work is to predict turbulent flows laden with particles or droplets – the flow inside a jet engine combustor, for example — using computer simulations. His leadership in the area has been recognized for decades.

“It’s a good feeling to know that your peers have read your work and then voted to bestow this honor,” Elghobashi said.

Graduate scholars win Public Impact Fellowships

Five UC Irvine graduate students whose research has outstanding potential for public impact recently received fellowships from the Graduate Division and UC Irvine supporter Stanley Behrens.

Two were awarded $20,000 UCI/Stanley Behrens Public Impact Fellowships to fund their work:

• A. George Johnson: A doctoral candidate in organic chemistry, Johnson studies nickel-catalyzed methods of bonding carbon atoms to make asymmetrical molecules, which has led to the development of compounds shown to be active against breast cancer cell lines while leaving healthy cells unharmed.

• Sharine Wittkopp, M.S. biological sciences ’10: A medical student and doctoral candidate in environmental toxicology, Wittkopp explores the link between air pollution exposure and cardiovascular disease in elderly residents of Los Angeles.

Three graduate students garnered $10,000 Public Impact Fellowships:

• Luis Alonzo, M.S. biomedical engineering ’11: Alonzo is a doctoral candidate in biomedical engineering whose work advances the understanding of tumor growth and development.

• Teomara “Teya” Rutherford, M.A. education ’12: A doctoral candidate in education, Rutherford aims to improve mathematics learning through interventions and technology. She’s especially concerned with reaching underserved populations.

• Brian Tarroja, mechanical engineering, aerospace engineering ’09, M.S. mechanical & aerospace engineering ’11: Tarroja, a doctoral candidate in mechanical & aerospace engineering, focuses on options for simultaneously meeting sustainability goals in major, co-dependent resource sectors, including electricity, transportation and water supply.


In memoriam: Seymour Menton

Seymour Menton, professor emeritus of Spanish & Portuguese, died March 8 at the age of 87.

A noted scholar of Latin American literature, Menton received a bachelor’s degree from The City College of New York (1948), a master’s from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (1949) and a doctorate from New York University (1952).

He taught at Dartmouth College and the University of Kansas before joining UC Irvine in 1965 to serve as founding chair of the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures. He also chaired the Spanish & Portuguese department (1965-70, 1979-82 and 1984) and the Academic Senate (1985-86).
Menton was appointed UC Irvine’s first Education Abroad Program coordinator and helped UCI Libraries expand its collection of Latin American literature. He taught, lectured and presented conference papers in almost every Latin American country and Spain, as well as throughout the U.S. and Europe. Menton’s many published works include book-length studies on the literature of Guatemala, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico. He retired from UC Irvine in 1994 but continued teaching at least one graduate or upper-division course every year until 2011.

Among Menton’s numerous accolades are the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the Mexican government’s highest award to foreigners, bestowed for his contributions to the worldwide understanding of Mexican literature; the Guatemalan government’s Order of Miguel Ángel Asturias; and Venezuela’s Order of Andrés Bello and Order of Francisco de Miranda. In 2007, he was named to Sigma Delta Pi’s Order of Don Quijote, the supreme honor from the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, joining such literary luminaries as Carlos Fuentes and Carmen Laforet.

In 1980, he received the UC Irvine Academic Senate’s Distinguished Faculty Award for Research. In addition, the conference room in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese is named in his honor.

Menton is survived by his wife of 55 years, Cathy; sons Tim and Allen; and many loving relatives, friends, colleagues and students.

President to address class of 2014

President Barack Obama will be the featured keynote speaker at an all-graduate commencement celebration Saturday, June 14, at Anaheim Stadium of Anaheim. The event commemorates the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s dedication of the campus in 1964. Details of other upcoming anniversary events will be featured in a special summer/fall issue of UC Irvine Magazine in September. In keeping with past tradition, graduates also will be individually recognized at ceremonies for eight schools Sunday and Monday, June 15 & 16, at the Bren Events Center.

For more information, visit www.commencement.uci.edu.
Tap into the Anteater Network!

Showing their Anteater pride at the class of 2004 reunion, held homecoming weekend in January, are (from left) alumni Amber Kandarian, Laura (Wright) Teclemariam, Jeff Minhas, Marijana (Lukin) Lekousis, Beril Unver, Erick Rector, Teresa Tovar and Tony Nguyen.

The UC Irvine Alumni Association leverages the success of the university’s more than 150,000 alumni by providing networking opportunities and a wide range of university resources.

Membership is the best way to keep in touch with other Anteaters and stay up to date on the exciting things happening in the campus community. As a UCIAA member, you’ll receive invitations to exclusive events and programs; valuable discounts on travel, financial services and entertainment; and so much more.

To join, call 949-824-2586 or visit www.alumni.uci.edu.