

Our University

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESIDENT FOR THE UC COMMUNITY



February 2008: Printer-friendly version

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UC Day in Sacramento

Assemblymember John Laird remembers well his first visit from a delegation of UC alumni during the university's annual advocacy day in Sacramento.

Laird, D-Santa Cruz, knew exactly what the alumni lobbyists were going to tell him since he'd delivered the same message many times himself.

"I was on the alumni lobby team for 20 years before I was elected to the Legislature," said Laird, a 1972 UC Santa Cruz graduate, who along with Sen. Jack Scott, D-Pasadena, has been named 2008 Alumni Associations of the University of California Legislators of the Year.

On his annual pilgrimage to Sacramento before being elected to the Assembly in 2002, Laird enthusiastically told lawmakers the difference a UC education made in his life, the importance of keeping such a life-changing education accessible and affordable and the need to support UC's mission of discovery and innovation.

Laird expects to hear these same messages from this year's crop of alumni advocates, and he'll give some honest advice to his visitors.

"I'm going to tell them I can't consider UC issues in a silo this year," Laird said. "They're going to have to join with advocates in health care, K-12 education and parks. We need to form a coalition. This budget as proposed does not reflect the California we want to see over the next generation."

Speaking up. The budget Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed would slice \$417 million from the budget the Regents requested. Given that bleak funding outlook, the 300 alumni and friends who will partake in UC Day on March 4, still can make a difference, organizers say.

"It's very important that we have a day in Sacramento when we show the UC colors," said Donna Blitzer, UC Santa Cruz director of community and government relations. Between 20 and 30 alumni from her campus will attend the daylong event.

"UC is a critical part of California's future," said Blitzer. "An investment in UC is an investment in the state. We hope the legislators will consider the return on their investment."

Green scene. To emphasize the impact the university has on the state, nation and the globe, UC Day will feature a display of UC's cutting edge climate change and alternative energy research. With a slogan of "UC goes green," dozens of research projects will be showcased in a tent on the Capitol lawn.

In addition to the visits with legislators from their home districts, alumni will attend a reception to honor Legislators of the Year awardees Laird and Scott.

Students united. Legislators will get a healthy dose of UC advocacy that week. The University of California Students Association will hold its annual Student Lobby Conference March 1 to 3. More than 340 students are expected to descend on Sacramento. Students will visit with every lawmaker who will take their appointments.

The conference begins with workshops that teach students how to lobby their legislators.

"A lot of people think lobbying is intimidating, especially young students" said Courtney Weaver, legislative director for the student association and a 2006 UC Santa Barbara alumna. "We'll teach them it's not such a scary process. They have the right to go in and fight for their cause."

Still hopeful. The escalating state budget deficit hasn't dampened student optimism.

"Although we are facing a \$14.5 dollar budget deficit, there is no slowdown in student activism for higher education issues," said UC Berkeley political science major Maximillian Reyes. "In fact, it has been only making us do more organizing. We know it's going to be an uphill battle to keep the UC a truly public institution, but I believe that students across the state are doing an excellent job of making the public aware about the crisis college students are in and what negative consequences will occur if this trend in fee increases continues."

Learning the ropes. Melissa Atkins, the UC Irvine student legislative liaison, will be attending her first UC Student Lobby Day, but she has been involved in student government since high school. At UC Irvine she teaches a one-unit class in lobbying. Her campus student association is sending 52 students to the three-day event where they will have more instruction in the art of advocacy and lobbying, skills they can carry back to their campuses and communities. Although Atkins will graduate this year, she said she wants to do something to benefit future UC students.

"Our main goal is to insure access and affordability for UC and higher education in general," said Atkins.

The student groups will be asking legislators to freeze fees, Atkins said, but if that isn't possible, they want lawmakers to minimize budget cut impacts by maintaining funding for financial aid, student mental health services, graduate student support and academic preparation.

UC San Francisco pharmacy student Aprille Espinueva points out that the suggested 7 to 10 percent increase in students fees would come on the heels of a 19 percent professional schools fee increase approved in 2007.

"Our goal this year is to protect current and future UC students by getting the legislature to freeze fees and fund enrollment growth for 2008-2009," said Espinueva, who will be one of six UCSF pharmacy and medical doctoral students traveling to Sacramento. "We hope to gain the attention of the current legislators and let them know that we have the strong support of many students across the state who are concerned about their education."

At UC Merced, students share the additional concerns of maintaining support for the UC's newest campus.

"At UC Merced the general socioeconomic status of students is low," said Danielle Traphagen, a junior majoring in political science and literature. "As one main intent of establishing a University of California in the Central Valley was to make a positive impact on the region, the students find it essential to continue support to Merced until it is self-sustaining."

The students want to work collaboratively with their legislators, she said, to preserve state support for public education.

ASK IT!

Q. Would taking steroids or human growth hormone for a brief time, to aid recovery from an injury, be worth it? As a 50-plus athlete I don't care about improved performance, I care about decreasing injury recovery time.

A. There has been a great deal of information about anabolic steroids and human growth hormone (hGH) in the news lately, and many professional athletes have claimed to have used these substances to recover from injuries. While high doses of anabolic steroids have been shown to increase lean muscle mass when combined with high-intensity exercise, the data on hGH has not been very convincing.

Studies have failed to show significant muscle gains with hGH alone, and there have not been any definitive studies with respect to injury recovery. Unfortunately, this lack of scientific information has not stopped athletes from trying it. The use of hGH has spread beyond elite athletes, and, as this question indicates, a whole host of people have become interested in hGH. A quick Google search of "buy human growth hormone" yields about 1 million Web sites! Clearly these sites are not just pandering to elite athletes.

Before considering trying hGH or anabolic steroids, there are a few things one should know. First, these drugs have the potential for significant adverse effects. Anabolic steroids can cause heart disease by lowering HDL or good cholesterol and many types of liver problems. In men, anabolic steroids can cause testicular shrinkage, impotence, reduced-to-absent sperm counts, potential for prostate cancer and gynecomastia (overdevelopment of male breasts). Women can experience even more devastating effects with deepening of the voice, menstrual irregularities, hirsutism and clitoromegaly (enlargement of the clitoris). The use of high doses of hGH can cause carpal tunnel syndrome, coarsening and swelling of the hands, feet and face, diabetes and potential for cancers of the GI tract.

Secondly, these drugs can only be legally used for a small number of medical indications. Anabolic steroids are a Schedule III drug and can only be prescribed for conditions such as hypogonadism (low functioning testicles) in men, certain types of anemias, some advanced forms of breast cancer, and a few other rare conditions. A physician who prescribes them for any other purpose is potentially violating the law and is committing a felony. Human growth hormone has similar restrictions and can only be used for approved uses, such as growth hormone deficiency and a few relatively rare conditions. A prescription for any other use, even by a licensed physician, is not valid under the United States Code. That means that all of the "anti-aging" clinics around the country that are dispensing hGH are operating illegally. Many of these operations have been recently indicted along with the compounding pharmacies that were working in conjunction with them. A few hundred years ago, Ponce de Leon died trying to find the Fountain of Youth. A similar search today might result in significant medical and legal problems and probably prove just as fruitless as old Ponce. Even with the Internet.

[Gary A. Green, MD](#), is a clinical professor in the UCLA Division of Sports Medicine and the consultant to Major League Baseball on anabolic steroids and performance-enhancing drugs. He is in private practice at the [Pacific Palisades Medical Group](#), a clinical affiliate of the UCLA Medical Group.

SYSTEMWIDE NEWS

UC centers groom next generation of leaders

When Angela Wagner arrived at the UC Center Sacramento in spring 2005, a career in public policy wasn't on her to-do list. An internship in the capital office of then-Sen. Liz Figueroa and the center's rigorous academic program changed her career direction.

Always a straight-A, serious student, Wagner said the Scholar Intern Program increased the intensity of her commitment. "That's when I found my spark," she said.

Today she's a legislative advocate with Political Solutions, juggling nine health-related clients for the Sacramento lobbying firm, including the March of Dimes and the California Nurse Midwives Association.

"I thought I would go into business and work for a corporation," Wagner said. "Politics never entered my mind until I was exposed to the center."

Wagner is one of 328 UC students who have had internships through the 5-year-old center. The program has placed students in more than 160 legislative offices, nonprofits and government agencies. The Sacramento center is patterned after the UC Washington Center, which provides similar internships in the nation's capital to more than 800 UC students annually.

Both programs have the same goals: to introduce students to the world of politics and public service and to train them for future leadership roles.

Valuable connections. In addition to attending classes, lectures and seminars, the interns work 30 to 40 hours a week. They earn credit for a full quarter or semester, depending on the academic schedule of their home campus.

"They teach you a lot of real-world skills like networking and making business connections, learning from other students and how they can be a resource," said Wagner of her Sacramento experience.

Career stepping stone. After graduating from UC Davis, Wagner made use of a valuable skill she had learned at the UC Center – the art of the informational interview – to find out about lobbying. That interview with Political Solutions led to a job.

"It's been beyond my wildest dreams," she said. "It's definitely not your typical desk job."

Leaders in training. About 10 percent of the students who complete the internship program end up landing jobs in Sacramento after graduation.

"We're doing our part in building up the next generation of leadership for the state," said center Director Gary Dymski. "In the Sacramento community many of the players are Kennedy generation folks. They're in their 50s and 60s and contemplating retirement. Those people need to be replaced. We're part of creating a transition in bringing these young, talented people in."

California's future. Nina Kapoor spent her 2005 internship with the California Assembly Committee on Public Safety. After graduating from UC San Diego with an economics degree, she worked at the UC Center Sacramento before winning a Senate Fellowship with Sen. Joseph Simitian.

"Sacramento is such an insider game," she said. "When you're part of it, you feel like you're part of something special. You're getting to be a part of the future of California."

Alumni support. At the UC Washington Center, 10 percent to 15 percent of the student interns land jobs in Washington. Ten years after his first internship in the nation's capital, David Bortnick keeps going back.

A legislative analyst in the White House Office of Management and Budget, Bortnick returns to the center every year to offer career advice and mentoring to the student interns. Many arrive motivated and eager to make a mark but not exactly sure of how and where to do that.

In 1997, Bortnick, a political science major from UC Santa Barbara, arrived in Washington facing the same challenge. The center program gave him the opportunity to figure out how he could best participate in public affairs, he said.

Washington tryouts. At the UC Washington Center, internships include not just public policy experiences but also work in museums and cultural institutions. In 2006, the center inaugurated a summer science program to create more learning opportunities for science and technology majors.

"Many students regard this as the highlight of their undergrad experience," said center Director Bruce Cain. "They have a chance to try on careers and the Washington scene."

UC faculty members conduct classes, and several university research programs call the center home including the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation.

"Washington couldn't function without interns," Cain said. "The nonprofits really couldn't function. Our interns are among the most prized because they're good students."

When Bortnick attended the program, he interned for U.S. Rep. Walter Capps, the now-deceased congressman from Santa Barbara, and in the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, editing and translating documents for the Cold War International History Project.

After more government internships, and a master's degree in public policy from UCLA, Bortnick returned to Washington where he has held various staff and analyst positions. In 2003 he joined the budget office.

The center, Bortnick said, is one of the best things UC has to offer.

"You're taking students to a level you just can't achieve in a classroom," he said. "You can bring a petri dish to a science class, but you can't bring Congress to a political science class. There's nothing like being here for a semester."

Take action now on the UC budget

Send a message to California policy-makers through this online advocacy tool. Tell your legislators how UC has impacted your life, your children's lives or your community. Ask them to continue their investment in the future of California by continuing their support for UC.

http://www.ucforcalifornia.org/campaign/08budget_campaign

For the latest in budget news updates and to learn more about what UC does for California, visit:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/budget>

President Dynes Video Letter Transcript - February 2008

Hi. Thank you for tuning in.

I want to talk to you today about a pretty serious issue that we're all facing. And that is the budget – the budget for the state of California and the budget for the University of California in the next year.

As you know, the state is facing serious budget problems and it's projected now that there will be at least a \$14.5 billion budget deficit in the state. The governor has asked in his proposed budget that the University of California take on a \$427 million budget cut in the next budget year. I would like to ask you to help me in the process.

You all know, as I have been saying for many years, the University of California is an investment, not an expenditure. And I would like you to help me make that point. It's an investment in our innovation, in our jobs. It's an investment in our health care and our future quality of health. It's an investment in the environment that we face and the crises that we face in the environment. But most of all, it's an investment in people; it's an investment in educating young people who will be the next generation leaders for the state of California. It truly is an investment.

And so I will ask you to be an advocate with me for the investment in the University of California. When you're finished looking at this, I'll ask you to please go to www.ucforcalifornia.org. It's a website that will allow you to speak to your local representatives, your state representatives and your federal representatives, expressing your own views about the University of California. If you've already signed up, go on that website to tell a friend and have a friend advocate for us as well.

This, I think, is the only way that we can convince our leaders, our legislators, that the time of budget crisis is the time to invest – not the time to reduce our budgets. Thank you for clicking on. I will keep you abreast of how these budget hearings and discussions proceed in the future.

Thank you.

17 UC faculty members awarded Sloan Research Fellowships

University of California faculty members received more Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowships than any other university. The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awarded the prestigious fellowships to 118 young scientists, mathematicians and economists Friday (Feb. 15), with 17 going to UC researchers.

Overall, the New York-based Sloan Foundation awarded \$5.9 million in fellowships to faculty members at 64 colleges and universities in the United and States and Canada who are conducting research in physics, chemistry, molecular biology, computer science, economics, mathematics and neuroscience. Fellows can use their two-year, \$50,000 grants to pursue whatever lines of inquiry are most of interest to them.

The Sloan Research Fellowships, which support the work of exceptional young researchers early in their academic careers, have been awarded since 1955. Since then, 35 Sloan Research Fellows have gone on to win the Nobel Prize in their fields and 14 have received the Fields Medal, the top honor in mathematics.

Here is a list of UC winners:

UC Berkeley

Sanjit A. Seshia, computer science
Yun S. Song, molecular biology
Noureddine El Karoui, mathematics
Feng Wang, physics
Raj Chetty, economics
Diana Bautista, neuroscience
Stefano Della Vigna, economics

UC Davis

Xi Chen, chemistry
Katherine S. Pollard, molecular biology

UC Irvine

Bill Tomlinson, computer science
Alan F. Heyduk, chemistry

UCLA

Inwon C. Kim, mathematics
Yaroslav Tserkovnyak, physics

UC San Diego

Adam R. Aron, neuroscience
Congjun Wu, physics

UC San Francisco

Yuriy Kirichok, neuroscience

UC Santa Barbara

Paolo Cascini, mathematics

For a complete list of winners: www.sloan.org/programs/fellowshiplist.shtml

For more information about the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation: www.sloan.org

Lake Mead could be dry by 2021

There is a 50 percent chance Lake Mead, a key source of water for millions of people in the southwestern United States, will be dry by 2021 if climate changes as expected and future water usage is not curtailed, according to a pair of researchers at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego.

Without Lake Mead and neighboring Lake Powell, the Colorado River system has no buffer to sustain the population of the Southwest through an unusually dry year, or worse, a sustained drought. In such an event, water deliveries would become highly unstable and variable, said research marine physicist Tim Barnett and climate scientist David Pierce.

Barnett and Pierce concluded that human demand, natural forces like evaporation, and human-induced climate change are creating a net deficit of nearly 1 million acre-feet of water per year from the Colorado River system that includes Lake Mead and Lake Powell. This amount of water can supply roughly 8 million people. Their analysis of Federal Bureau of Reclamation records of past water demand and calculations of scheduled water allocations and climate conditions indicate that the system could run dry even if mitigation measures now being proposed are implemented.

The paper, "When will Lake Mead go dry?," has been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Water Resources Research*, published by the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and is accessible via the AGU's website (see instructions below).

"We were stunned at the magnitude of the problem and how fast it was coming at us," said Barnett. "Make no mistake, this water problem is not a scientific abstraction, but rather one that will impact each and every one of us that live in the Southwest."

"It's likely to mean real changes to how we live and do business in this region," Pierce added.

The Lake Mead/Lake Powell system includes the stretch of the Colorado River in northern Arizona. Aqueducts carry the water to Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Diego, and other communities in the Southwest. Currently the system is only at half capacity because of a recent string of dry years, and the team estimates that the system has already entered an era of deficit.

"When expected changes due to global warming are included as well, currently scheduled depletions are simply not sustainable," wrote Barnett and Pierce in the paper.

Barnett and Pierce note that a number of other studies in recent years have estimated that climate change will lead to reductions in runoff to the Colorado River system. Those analyses consistently forecast reductions of between 10 and 30 percent over the next 30 to 50 years, which could affect the water supply of between 12 and 36 million people.

The researchers estimated that there is a 10 percent chance that Lake Mead could be dry by 2014. They further predict that there is a 50 percent chance that reservoir levels will drop too low to allow hydroelectric power generation by 2017.

The researchers add that even if water agencies follow their current drought contingency plans, it might not be enough to counter natural forces, especially if the region enters a period of sustained drought and/or human-induced climate changes occur as currently predicted.

Barnett said that the researchers chose to go with conservative estimates of the situation in their analysis, though the water shortage is likely to be more dire in reality. The team based its findings on the premise that climate change effects only started in 2007, though most researchers consider human-caused changes in climate to have likely started decades earlier. They also based their river flow on averages over the past 100 years, even though it has dropped in recent decades. Over the past 500 years the average annual flow is even less.

“Today, we are at or beyond the sustainable limit of the Colorado system. The alternative to reasoned solutions to this coming water crisis is a major societal and economic disruption in the desert southwest; something that will affect each of us living in the region” the report concluded.

The research was supported under a joint program between UC San Diego and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and by the California Energy Commission. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the California Energy Commission, its employees, or the state of California.

Note to journalists: Journalists and public information officers of educational and scientific institutions (only) who have registered with AGU for direct electronic access and received a username and password, can download a PDF copy of this paper by clicking on this link <http://www.agu.org/journals/pip/wr/2007WR006704-pip.pdf>

If you need instructions for downloading, please see <http://www.agu.org/jinstructions.shtml>.

Or, you may order an emailed copy of the paper by sending a message to Peter Weiss at pweiss@agu.org. Please provide your name, the name of your publication, and your phone number.

Note to broadcast and cable producers: UC San Diego provides an on-campus satellite uplink facility for live or pre-recorded television interviews. Please phone or e-mail the media contact listed above to arrange an interview.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography: <http://scripps.ucsd.edu>

Scripps News: <http://scrippsnews.ucsd.edu>

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, at UC San Diego, is one of the oldest, largest and most important centers for global science research and graduate training in the world. The National Research Council has ranked Scripps first in faculty quality among oceanography programs nationwide. Now in its second century of discovery, the scientific scope of the institution has grown to include biological, physical, chemical, geological, geophysical and atmospheric studies of the earth as a system. Hundreds of research programs covering a wide range of scientific areas are under way today in 65 countries. The institution has a staff of about 1,300, and annual expenditures of approximately \$140 million from federal, state and private sources. Scripps operates one of the largest U.S. academic fleets with four oceanographic research ships and one research platform for worldwide exploration.

Judge orders extremists to stop harassing UCLA researchers

UCLA has sued extremists to stop a campaign of terrorism, vandalism and menacing threats directed at faculty and administrators who conduct or support research involving laboratory animals.

The lawsuit was filed today in Los Angeles County Superior Court. After a hearing, Judge Gerald Rosenberg granted a temporary restraining order prohibiting the defendants from harassing UCLA personnel or coming within 50 feet of them during a demonstration. The restraining order also requires that personal information about UCLA personnel be removed from Web sites maintained by extremists. Those failing to comply with the terms of the restraining order are subject to contempt of court. A hearing on a preliminary injunction is scheduled for March 12.

The lawsuit names three groups and five individuals as defendants and seeks a permanent injunction prohibiting them from harassing UCLA personnel or facilitating their harassment. The University of California Regents, which oversees all 10 UC campuses, is serving as the plaintiff of record on behalf of UCLA.

On three occasions since June 2006, Molotov cocktail-type devices have been left near the homes of UCLA faculty who conduct or oversee research involving animals. In addition, their homes have been vandalized and they have received threatening phone calls, e-mails and, on at least one occasion, a package rigged with razor blades. Extremists have appeared at residences in the middle of the night, worn ski masks to conceal their identity and used megaphones to shout threats, obscenities and epithets.

The defendants are groups known as the UCLA Primate Freedom Project, the Animal Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Brigade, as well as several individuals believed to affiliate with these groups, including Linda Faith Greene, Hillary Roney, Kevin Olliff, Ramin Saber and Tim Rusmisl. The suit alleges that these groups and

individuals have promoted and facilitated unlawful activities directed against UCLA faculty and administrators. The Animal Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Brigade have in some cases claimed responsibility for unlawful activities directed against UCLA personnel and their homes.

The UCLA Primate Freedom Project maintains a Web site displaying the photographs, home addresses and phone numbers of targeted UCLA personnel, and the Animal Liberation Front press office regularly posts anonymous communiqués about the Animal Liberation Brigade's unlawful activities. The FBI has identified the Animal Liberation Front, which publicly advocates violence to advance its aim of discontinuing the use of lab animals in research, as a top domestic terrorism threat.

Several of the individual defendants named in the lawsuit have recently been the subjects of temporary restraining orders and injunctions prohibiting them from harassing employees affiliated with the City of Los Angeles and private institutions.

Extremists also have targeted research personnel affiliated with other UC campuses in Berkeley, San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

The lawsuit alleges that the defendants have invaded researchers' privacy, interfered with business practices and intentionally caused emotional distress, among other unlawful activities.

The lawsuit asks a judge to prohibit the defendants from committing violence or threatening violence against UCLA personnel who conduct or support animal research; vandalizing or threatening to vandalize their property; violating local noise ordinances; and posting on Web sites - or otherwise disseminating - personal information about the UCLA personnel. It also asks a judge to order the defendants to post information on their Web sites indicating that the restraining order prohibits certain activities relating to the UCLA personnel.

In 1989, UCLA filed suit against different animal research opponents and received a permanent injunction after extremists held unruly demonstrations outside the homes of researchers.

UCLA is cooperating with the FBI and the Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force in criminal investigations of the attempted firebombings and other activities directed at UCLA personnel. UCLA and various law enforcement units are offering a combined \$170,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the attempted firebombings.

Persons with information are encouraged to contact the FBI at (310) 477-6565.

Representing UCLA and the Regents in the lawsuit are John C. Hueston and Wendy A. Sugg of the law firm Irell & Manella.

UC files unfair labor practice charge against patient care employees' union

University of California officials announced today (Feb. 20) that UC has filed an unfair labor practice charge with the Public Employment Relations Board against the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the union that represents approximately 11,000 UC patient care technical employees. UC's charge was made in response to the union's failure to bargain about reasonable parameters for the union's distribution of leaflets to patients and visitors outside UC medical centers. UC has longstanding policies about leafleting for any purpose near its medical facilities. These policies balance free speech rights with the need to provide safe access to the facilities and protect the privacy and safety rights of patients and their families.

The union violated its agreement with UC to follow these reasonable access policies and instead went to court to prevent UC from enforcing these longstanding policies and practices. The union bypassed the Public Employment Relations Board, which has the authority and responsibility to regulate access issues and bargaining conduct. UC believes the union's actions demonstrate a failure to bargain in good faith, a refusal to participate in impasse procedures in good faith, and a disregard for patients and their families visiting the medical centers.

In the past few months, AFSCME has attempted to raise concerns regarding the quality of care provided by the University of California's five medical centers. In actuality, all UC medical centers have repeatedly been recognized for providing outstanding patient care:

-- UC Davis Medical Center ranked among America's Top 50 Hospitals for the 15th consecutive year in 2007, according to U.S. News & World Report, and was rated one of the nation's top hospitals for quality and safety by the Leapfrog Group.

-- UC Irvine Medical Center ranked 12th among the nation's best public universities by U.S. News & World Report, and was rated one of the nation's top hospitals for quality and safety by the Leapfrog Group.

-- UCLA Medical Center ranked as one of the top three American hospitals in 2007 - and the best hospital in the western United States for the 18th consecutive year, according to a U.S. News & World Report survey that reviewed patient outcomes data, reputation among physicians and other care-related factors.

-- UC San Diego Medical Center is the only San Diego hospital that ranked among the best in the nation in six specialties in the 2007 U.S. News & World Report's "Best Hospitals" issue. UCSD Medical Center also received full accreditation from The Joint Commission after passing a recent survey by The Joint Commission, California Department of Public Health and Institute for Medical Quality.

-- UC San Francisco Medical Center ranked in the top 10 for overall quality - among premier academic medical centers nationwide - by the University HealthSystem Consortium. The medical center was named No. 1 by UHC for serving a diverse patient population in terms of gender, race and socioeconomic status and eighth in patient-centered care.

Throughout the past six months of bargaining with the union, UC has proven its interest in reaching an agreement for our patient care technical employees. As part of the university's ongoing commitment to recognizing the contributions of its employees, UC medical facilities have a proven record of offering some of the most competitive compensation and benefits packages available in today's health care market.

UC and AFSCME are currently in mediation with a state-appointed mediator, which UC hopes will help achieve an agreement.

FEATURED CAMPUS: Irvine

Catching the American Indian spirit

Belonging to the badger and spider clans of the Hopi Tribe has always been a source of pride to Nikishna Polequaptewa '05, perhaps because he knows what it's like to be alone – to feel like he's in a tribe of one. His mother left home when he was a baby. His father went to prison when he was 3. He lived in foster homes or with relatives on and off the Arizona reservation.

"Even though I moved around, I always knew my American Indian identity," Polequaptewa says. "I always felt closely tied to my reservation, my tribe and its customs."

Today, as director of the campus's new American Indian Resource Program, he works to instill the same sense of pride and belonging in American Indian students at UCI as well as at elementary and high schools throughout Southern California.

"I want American Indians to have the kind of role models and resources I didn't have," he says.

Established by Student Affairs, the program aims to increase the number of American Indian students on campus (currently about 100) through K-12 outreach, and to serve the population now on campus and graduates.

Projects include a FIRE Mentorship Program to encourage American Indian high school students to attend college, summer academies to introduce high school and transfer students to life at UCI, and an Anteatler Bridge program to start American Indian students in grades 6-8 on the path to academic success. Polequaptewa also

organizes on-campus events to spread awareness about American Indian issues and customs. An Ancestor Run/Walk 5K and Kid's Fun Run is set for 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 8.

"We want to create an American Indian presence on campus and in the community," he says. "It makes American Indian students feel less alone."

Polequaptewa knows firsthand the importance of outreach. While attending Sherman Indian High School, a boarding school in Riverside, he participated in UCI's American Indian Summer Institute in Computer Science residential program and the California Alliance for Minority Participation, a summer program that prepares incoming freshmen for UCI. The programs gave him the mentors – spiritual guides – he needed.

"I've always known I'd go to college, even though I had no parents or way to pay for it. I did it by doing the best I could at school," he says. He enrolled in UCI's information & computer science program, switching majors in his fourth year to environmental analysis & design to "build things that help people directly."

"College was difficult. I had a lot of extra stress because there were so few American Indian students."

He served as president of the American Indian Student Association all four years, with only a few active members to help with projects such as tutoring American Indian high school students, expanding American Indian summer programs, staging the annual UCI powwow in June and presenting workshops to elementary and middle school children to "let them know the culture's still alive."

After graduating, he earned his master's in resource management from Central Washington University, then developed an air-monitoring program for the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians. He returned to UCI in October after Manuel Gómez, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, supported his proposal for the program.

Polequaptewa runs the program out of The Center for Educational Partnerships, which provides office space, support and supplies, and hopes to someday establish a permanent center. His wife, Yolanda Leon, serves as program coordinator, and they have a young daughter. His tribe is growing.

He hopes the program will become a model for the entire UC system, helping students like him who have little support.

"I grew up with nothing and I made it. I want other American Indian students to know they can make it, too."

—*Kathryn Bold, University Communications*

PEOPLE

Learning as she grows

Lauri Twitchell first made her mark on Blake Garden as a student in the UC Berkeley landscape architecture program.

"I made this for a design project," Twitchell says, pointing to a patch of paving bricks between the stone grotto and reflecting pool that showcase the grand entrance to Blake House, the official UC president's residence.

Like generations of UC students who have used the historic garden as a laboratory, Twitchell had an opportunity to practice her skills there while she earned a master's degree in [landscape architecture](#). Now she is garden manager, overseeing the care and preservation of 10.5 acres of redwoods, creeks, pools, statuary, winding paths and thousands of botanical specimens, both rare and native.

For Twitchell, Blake Garden reflects the successful grafting of her previous career to a lifelong love of gardening. Before entering the landscape architecture program, she was a full-time professor of printmaking at the Maine

College of Art in Portland, Maine.

"It's a perfect job for me," she says as she strolls along the creek meandering through the redwood grove. "It pulls together everything I've ever done in art and design, education and gardening."

Soothing souls. Twitchell has a hard time choosing a favorite spot in the garden. From majestic views of the Golden Gate Bridge to tranquil perches along the rambling creeks, what's not to like? Garden visitors certainly share the sentiment. On a foggy February morning, a young mother parks a baby stroller on the banks of the gurgling creek where the sound has lulled her infant to sleep. The mother sits cross-legged on the ground, smiling in the respite the creek has given her.

A few feet away Natasha Liu digs in the moist black earth transplanting moss. The Kensington resident has been volunteering in the garden for seven months. She has an idea, she tells Twitchell, to write poetry on one of the boulders guarding the creek bank. When it rains, the words written in chalk will wash away. Twitchell agrees to the project, giving Liu another opportunity to express her creativity in the garden – something she says she treasures.

"I have post-traumatic stress disorder," Liu says. "It's really calming here. It's a good atmosphere for me. I can't really have a job, and this is something for me to do."

In the garden, there is never a lack of something to do.

Hidden in the hills of Kensington three miles north of the UC Berkeley campus, Blake Garden requires the nurturing of five gardeners, including Twitchell. The Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning department uses the garden for classes as do East Bay community colleges and UC Berkeley Extension. Work-study students and volunteers aid the gardening crew in the upkeep and constant improvement projects.

"A lot of things probably wouldn't have been done or developed without the students," says Twitchell.

Growing history. Long before Anson and Anita Blake, both UC Berkeley alumni, [donated their estate](#) to the Landscape Architecture Department in 1957, their garden and the vast collection of botanicals were open to university students. Anita Blake's sister, Mable Symmes, was one of the first graduates of UC Berkeley's landscape program. When the Blakes bought the original 22-acre site for their estate in 1922, Anita and her sister designed the garden.

Anson Blake and his brother, Edwin, made their fortunes in the family quarry business. Each built a home on the property. When Edwin died, his half of the estate was subdivided and his house and two surrounding acres were left to the Catholic Church. The home now houses the Carmelite Monastery on Rincon Road across from the garden. Anson and Anita Blake bequeathed their estate to the university with the provision that they live there until their deaths. After the widow Blake passed away in 1962, the university used the house as a dormitory for women graduate students.

"They didn't feel safe in the wilds of Kensington," Twitchell jokes, so the housing arrangement lasted only two years and the house remained empty.

In 1967, the Regents designated the imposing Mediterranean house as the official UC president's residence. President Robert Dynes divides his time between Blake Garden and his home in San Diego, and the house is used for university functions. The demonstration organic kitchen garden on the property grows food for the president's table and cut flowers for events.

Kids' paradise. The garden is a favorite elementary school field trip destination, and Twitchell is hoping to expand that educational resource. Next to the kitchen garden she's creating an outdoor classroom. A tree brought down in a recent storm provided 30 stumps for seating under a shady oak.

In March, children from Franklin Elementary School in Oakland will visit, the first time children will be bused to the garden, extending the welcome mat outside the immediate neighborhood. Twitchell thinks the compost pile and worm bins will be a hit.

"These are urban kids," she says. "Probably some of them have never seen a redwood grove."

Digging in. In the six months she has been garden manager, Twitchell has been getting to know the meandering twists and curves of the land and looking for ways to enhance its beauty. The gardeners have been working to free a tributary of Cerritos Creek overgrown with invasive blackberry vines and acacia. At one turn they uncovered a wooden footbridge built by students in the '70s, and they plan to rebuild it. From the greenhouse, a student has set up a Web cam to document how rapidly the creek rises during a storm. The information will be used to apply for creek restoration grants. A doctoral student is mapping the topology of the garden to document the flow of other creeks and runoffs. As it has been from the first sprout, the garden is a living source of knowledge.

"You really learn your plants here and propagation techniques," says Roshie Ravan, as she transplants clumps of ferns to a patch of shady earth outside the greenhouse. "It's a great tool for the department."

Ravan, a work-study student who has been toiling in Blake Garden since 2005, earned a bachelor's degree in December. She's working in the garden until June while she searches for a job in an architecture firm. Ravan has used the garden many times as a resource for class projects and ideas for plant selection.

"It's a wonderful hands-on resource for the profession," she says. "I learned so many valuable skills I can carry on with me."

DID YOU KNOW?

- UC produces an average of three inventions every day. 54 percent of UC undergrads received a grant or scholarship in 2006-07. The average amount was \$9,680.
- More than 1,100 California biotech and R&D companies have benefited from UC research.
- Technology from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory alone has formed the basis for 20 startups since 1990, creating 1,000 new jobs.

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