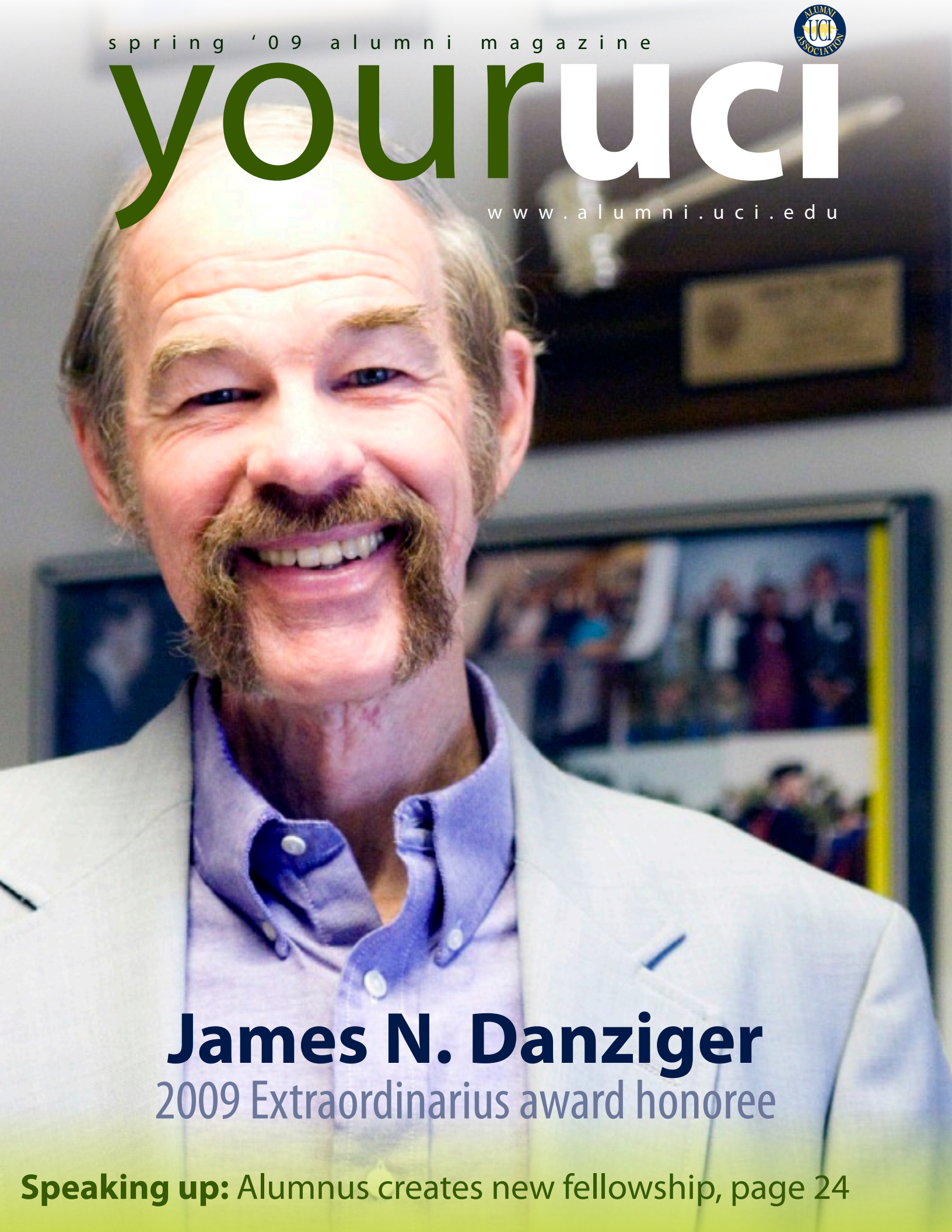


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James N. Danziger
2009 Extraordinarius award honoree

Speaking up: Alumnus creates new fellowship, page 24

identifying an energy- and environment-related problem that, if solved, could greatly enhance humanity.

Good, a film and media studies student, took charge of the video production while Le, a chemistry major, focused on the science behind their entry, dubbed "The Capacitor Challenge."

UCI researchers find way to fight cocaine addiction

UC Irvine pharmacological researchers have discovered that blocking

a hormone related to hunger regulation can limit cocaine cravings. Their findings could herald a new approach to overcoming addiction.

Led by Shinjae Chung and Olivier Civelli, the study identified how the melanin-concentrating hormone works with dopamine in the brain's "pleasure center" to create an addictive response to cocaine use. The researchers further found that blocking MCH in these brain cells limited co-

caine cravings.

Dopamine is a neurotransmitter essential to the normal functioning of the central nervous system. It also is associated with feelings of pleasure and is released in the brain during eating, sex and drug use. Heightened levels of the neurotransmitter have been detected in the nucleus accumbens of drug addicts.

The study is the first to detail the interaction of MCH and dopamine in cocaine addiction and show that it occurs in the

nucleus accumbens, a portion of the forebrain believed to play an important role in addiction and feelings of pleasure and fear.

UCI receives \$2 M to study brain region linked to autism

UC Irvine neuroscientists have received \$2 million to study a brain region associated with language abilities. Study findings could lead to clinical research and treatment of developmental and psychiatric disorders from schizo-

phrenia to autism.

Cognitive sciences professors Gregory Hickok and Kourosh Saberi hope to gain a greater understanding of the overall function of the planum temporale, located within the auditory cortex.

In the human brain, the planum temporale is found in both left and right hemispheres. Studies have shown that professional musicians with perfect pitch have an asymmetric left planum temporale.

Schizophrenia has been associated with an enlarged right planum temporale, while a lack of normal asymmetry in both hemispheres has been found in people with autism.

UCI researchers plan to map the planum temporale's functional organization. Using specialized MRI technology, they will observe the brain activity of subjects performing tasks that involve auditory and motor skills.

UCIAA scholar wins Goldwater Scholarship

Maryjane Vennat, a UCI Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship recipient, was recently recognized as a 2009 Goldwater Scholar.



First law class set; 4% get in

The School of Law has admitted its inaugural class, accepting only 4 percent of its applicants and making it the most selective of any law school in the nation.

UCI accepted 110 of a total of 2,741 applicants to fill its 68 first-year

positions. By comparison, Yale at 7 percent, and Stanford at 9 percent, are the only other law schools with single-digit acceptance rates, according to the most recent data available from the American Bar Association.

UC Irvine received more than 40 applications for each of its openings in its first class. As of April 15, all 68 openings were filled, with half of those accepted before the school hosted its first Admit Day on April 3.

The law school's high

selectivity allowed it to field a class mirroring that of top law schools. UCI's first class has a median grade point average of 3.65 and a median LSAT score of 167. That puts it on par with the top 20 law schools in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.

"We are extremely pleased to have fielded such a high-caliber inaugural class," says Erwin Chemerinsky, founding dean. "Along with a faculty that was ranked in the top 10 in the nation in a recent study, this will allow us to be considered among the best law schools in the country from the very start," he says.



Modern day explorer

Professor James N. Danziger earns UCIAA's highest honor

By Heather Wuebker
School of Social Sciences

If political science research professor Jim Danziger had been born centuries ago, he might have been an explorer.

He has, after all, visited more than 50 countries – 14 just this past year alone while serving as a core faculty member aboard a 590-foot cruise liner for the Semester at Sea program.

His research into the uncharted territory of information and communication technologies some 25 years ago has proven invaluable given the pervasiveness of both in our lives today. His textbook, "Understanding the Political World", now in its ninth edition, is considered pioneering for its world view approach to teaching introductory political science. And he has, on more than one occasion during his 37-year tenure at UCI, been hailed as a trailblazer for his ability as an administrator to garner consensus among competing crowds.

This year, Danziger's career-long university-wide contributions earned him the 2009 Lauds & Laurels Extraordinarius. Considered the association's most prestigious honor, the award recognizes "those extraordinary individuals who support the university's fundamental missions of teaching, research and public service."

"If the Lauds and Laurels Extraordinarius Award is intended to reward one who

Annual Lauds & Laurels

'best exemplifies the spirit and purpose of UCI,' Jim Danziger fits that description perfectly," says Manuel Gomez, vice chancellor for student affairs who worked closely with Danziger when Jim was dean of UCI's division of undergraduate education.

"Jim's defining quality is his passion for optimizing the whole university experience for students," he says, a passion which led Danziger to create the UCI branch of the UCDC Washington Academic Internship Program which he still directs today, along with development of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

"Jim is one of those rare individuals whose devotion to students has led him to make contributions at every level of the university, from leadership roles in administration to his very popular and thought-provoking lecture classes for undergraduates," says Barbara Doshier, School of Social Sciences dean.

In his administrative roles as division of undergraduate education dean, chair of the UCI academic senate, and department chair, he was

known for his collaborative leadership style.

"His administrative positions were challenging posts in which he became well known to faculty and staff across campus for his articulate defense of educational quality and his commitment to undergraduate education," says Meredith Lee, German professor emerita and former division of undergraduate education dean.

That same passion and commitment has not wavered in his nearly four decades of service on the UCI campus.

Through the many courses he has taught, including UCI's largest introductory political science course which he has taught for nearly three decades and one he continues to teach despite his official retirement in 2007, Danziger estimates he's reached more than 18,000 students.

"I love teaching the intro course because I get to show students the full range of what political science is all about, the way political scientists think and the nature of the contemporary political world," he says.

His experiences and anecdotes from traveling all over the world are an integral part of his lessons and global perspectives.

"Jim's defining quality is his passion for optimizing the whole university experience for students."

Manuel Gomez
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

His worldly view of politics comes from his interest in British politics, a topic the Los Angeles native studied after completing his undergraduate degree at Occidental College and spending two years in Britain on a Marshall scholarship.

It was there, he says, where he discovered two loves – travel and his future wife, Lesley.

When he returned to the states to further explore political science in graduate school, earning a Ph.D. from Stanford, he focused on British politics so he could, as he somewhat jokingly says, "find anyway I could to get back to Britain."

He came to UCI in 1972 where he has spent his entire career.

"[He was responsible for] driving in me a passion

that persists to this day for learning, for teaching, for writing, and for excelling in everything that I apply myself to," says Phillip Rudolph '80, senior vice president and general counsel for Jack in the Box, "Perhaps most importantly, he instilled and fostered an insatiable curiosity – a hunger for learning."

Danziger's efforts as a teacher have been widely recognized, most notably with the Lauds & Laurels Distinguished Teaching Award in 1979, the inaugural Academic Senate Distinguished Faculty Lectureship Award for Teaching in 1987 and the Teaching Excellence Award for Social Sciences from UCI's Division of Undergraduate Education in 2005.

"It's really been a plea-

sure working with so many wonderful students," he says.

Equally rewarding, he says, is the research side of his work, which shifted more than 25 years ago from organizational decision-making and British politics to include the new area of information and communication technologies.

"When I first got into this field, it was quite undefined and many political scientists looked at me like I was a little crazy to take an alternative study route in this uncharted area," he says.

One of his first published studies which came out in the 1977 issue of *Public Administration Review* looked at the way new technology was being used by local governments. It was named Best Article of the Year by the prestigious journal.

When asked if he plans to make any changes since he is now retired, the modern day explorer says he plans to travel a bit more, but he won't stray far from campus for too long.

"I've been doing what I love for the past 37 years and I don't see that changing."

Sam W. Downing '67 School of Social Sciences

Sam W. Downing, president and chief executive officer of Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System, remembers the buzz that surrounded UCI's launch in 1965.

A Newport Beach resident and transfer student from Orange Coast Community College, he was one of UCI's inaugural 1,500 students.

He majored in economics where he studied the impacts of social, political and economic policies on society with a focus on underserved populations. He graduated in '67 going on to complete his M.B.A. at California State University, Long Beach and at UCLA where he earned a master's in public health in 1971.

The following year, he was hired as assistant hospital administrator for SVMHS where he has been ever since, taking the reigns as president and CEO in 1985.

In his 37-year career with SVMHS, Downing has been credited with leading what was once a small rural hospital in an agriculturally dominant area of California to a nationally recognized 269-bed advanced healthcare center with



many satellite facilities.

His interest in and commitment to technology-driven healthcare research led SVMHS in 1998 to become the only community hospital in the United States to have a Space Act Agreement for research with NASA.

His efforts to advance access among rural populations have crossed international borders through his volunteer work with Assist International and Rotary International. Downing, his wife and a team of physicians, specialists and technicians travel annually to remote places in the world installing medical equipment and training local medical providers on how to operate the equipment. Their work has ranged from building a small hospital in South America to setting up advanced ultrasound equipment and intensive care unit monitors in rural areas of Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia.



Christina Giguere, M.A. '03 Department of Education

After she earned her M.A. in Teaching and Multiple Subject Credential Program, Christina Giguere, M.A. '03 became a first and third grade teacher at Irvine's Turtle Rock Elementary School where she helped design a research-based curriculum and provided leadership to faculty and staff in the area of technology.

For parents and students, she created a family literacy and math

program. Acknowledging important distinctions, Giguere also implemented a differentiated language arts, math, science and social studies program for advanced learners and students with special needs.

Currently, Giguere is the Academic Coordinator of the Multiple Subjects Teacher Credential Program, the same program she graduated from just a few years ago.

Under her mentorship

and counseling, Giguere works with more than 90 students, each an elementary school teacher hopeful, every year. Taking the candidates under her wing, she provides direction for these student teaching assignments and help link their university education to field experiences. Giguere, playing an integral part in the personal development and training of new school teachers, ultimately secures field placements for these individuals in local schools.



David Feign, Ph.D. '80 Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences

David Feign's involvement with computing began in 1949, the very beginning of the revolution.

Upon receiving his bachelor's degree from City College of New York in 1944, he went to work for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the predecessor to the NASA space program. There, Feign, Ph.D. '80, helped set up a wind tunnel for dynamic aircraft stability research.

He later went to work for Boeing, where he programmed the FADAC computer – the first digital computer for field artillery. And he was part of the team that worked on the first Space Shuttle, where he was charged with writing flight-control programs for the Shuttle's computer system.

Feign revolutionized space flight-control and provided the building blocks that modern-day

programmers use today. He matriculated into UCI in 1964 to pursue his doctorate in computer science, where he helped the ICS department design its computer center. Here he developed a requirement to accept passwords at individual computer terminals and send back asterisks instead of the actual characters entered; a technology today that one couldn't imagine being without.



Outstanding Student Athlete Jon Steller, UCI Men's Volleyball

Men's volleyball player Jon Steller was named an All-American last season, but his proudest moment came earlier this year.

"I am not a big awards guy, so it was nice to earn the All-America honors last year, but my proudest moment was when I got the phone call from the Dean telling me I was admitted into UCI's medical school," Steller says. "To see all the years of hard work pay off was like seeing my dreams come true. I think I still haven't realized it all yet."

Medical school may not be the only post-graduate work Steller is interested in tackling.

"I am also considering getting my M.B.A. at UCI because I would like to open my own non-profit business someday."

Steller's not-for-profit aspirations stems from traveling to Mexico and the Ukraine to do mission work. In Mexico, he conducted a walk-in treatment for patients fitting them for glasses and testing blood/glucose levels for diabetes. He worked with orphans and children on the streets of Ukraine, treating those who suffered from fetal alcohol syndrome and other illnesses.

"It was fun to take some of the kids to McDonald's or to organize a soccer game with them. Serving others is great because we are able to learn something about ourselves," Steller explains.



Outstanding Undergraduate Student Ali Malik

A fourth-year history major with a minor in religious studies, Ali Malik is a student of life, history, religion and the globe.

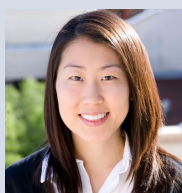
Malik's work extends far beyond the theoretical boundaries of the classroom. He studied Arabic in Damascus through UCI's International Opportunities Program and most recently spent the

fall quarter working at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars through the UCI Washington D.C. Academic Internship Program.

Most indicative of Malik's application of the knowledge he's obtained is his work with the Olive Tree Initiative, a campuswide project designed to increase awareness of the highly volatile political

situation in the Middle East and the importance of creating peace in the region.

His work with the Olive Tree Initiative earned him one of two \$10,000 XIV Dalai Lama Endowed Scholarships this year, recognizing students with a demonstrated commitment to ethics and leadership on campus and in the community.



Outstanding Graduate Student Kathy H. Rim

Political science graduate student Kathy Rim says she often felt a disconnect between the history she read about in textbooks growing up and her own history as a Korean American.

"I didn't feel like we learned much about Asian American history at all," she says.

She has been working to fill that gap since.

As an undergraduate at UCI, Rim majored in Asian American studies. Now, as a graduate student, she is contributing to the ground-level research on the Asian

American population that is being written into new textbooks.

"It's really exciting to be part of the research being done on my own community where, until recently, little had existed," she says.

Rim studies the political behavior and participation of Asian Americans, a group which, despite growing numbers throughout the U.S., has historically experienced low voter turnout.

Her research has been published in the *Asian American Policy Review* as well as a book chapter on engaging immigrant

groups. She also has articles forthcoming in *American Politics Research*, *Social Science Quarterly* and *Urban Affairs Review*.

"I have never seen this level of successful scholarly productivity from a graduate student, never mind one only in her fifth year of study," says Mark Petracca, political science department chair.

Whether it is working with fellow graduate students or supporting educational pursuits of Cambodian students, Rim creates opportunities for others every chance she gets.



Outstanding Staff David Leinen

In every organization, there are those go-to people who, day in and day out, can be counted on to make sure things run smoothly. For 25 years, Dave Leinen has been “that guy.”

Whether it’s making tough decisions in order to manage the School of Social Sciences’ budget and staff – a job he has consistently done for the past 10 years as assistant dean of the largest academic unit on campus – to serving up hot dogs and hamburgers to hundreds of incoming freshmen, Leinen can always be counted on to

be there with, according to UCI’s director of institutional research, “a smile on his face and a cheerful word for everyone.”

When Leinen began his career at UCI in 1984, it was “intended to be temporary,” he says with a laugh. The Iowa native was coming off a successful college baseball career as a pitcher and a two-year run in professional baseball. He headed West with plans to become a firefighter, leaving the Midwestern plains, but not the hard-working down to earth mind-set he developed from summers spent working on his grandpar-

ents’ farm.

In a show of humor for which Leinen is known across campus, he notes that while his career path may have deviated following his hire into UCI’s accounting office rather than the fire department, he’s still found a way to put his interest to use.

“I love the people aspect of my job, finding ways to bring everyone together to solve problems, and sometimes that involves putting out fires,” he says, adding, “although, if not careful, one can create some fairly serious water damage trying to extinguish a small fire.”



Outstanding Faculty Prof. Donald R. Blake

Professor Donald Blake is the world’s leading expert for making accurate measurements of trace gases in the atmosphere, especially volatile organic compounds. His developed techniques produce accurate analysis of more than 200 separate compounds every 20 minutes without interruption. His techniques have earned UCI’s geosciences programs national acclaim.

In addition to academic recognition, his work has a profound impact on human health. He discovered that substantial portions of Mexico City’s smog pollution results from propane used as cooking fuel, a source that had not been taken seriously. More recently, his research group has employed analytical techniques to expand into the field of noninvasive diagnostic medicine, utilizing comprehensive breath analysis tests to assist with disease diagnosis and treatment.

Despite the enormous time and effort that achieving this level of success and recognition takes, Blake often teaches academic sections of freshman chemistry and his commitment to diversity and mentorship to underrepresented science students is legendary.



Outstanding Community Service Pamela A. Kelley '89

For Pam Kelley '89, the desire to give back to the UCI community stems from her early experiences as an Ant eater which began nearly 25 years ago.

An Orange County native, Kelley was the first in her family to go to college. Her experience as an undergraduate

political science major, she recalls, was a turning point in her life.

“I benefited greatly from the quality mentorship and education I received from the social sciences faculty,” she says.

Graduating in 1989 with honors, Kelley attended Yale Law School. During her third year, she co-taught a seminar on

Women and the Law.

In 1992, she returned to California, her law degree in tow, and began working for a Los Angeles-based firm. It wasn’t long before she made her way back home to UCI as a teacher.

Today, she impacts the UCI student community on a daily basis and her efforts in the classroom

earned her the Social Sciences’ Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001. Her most notable work, however, is the UCI Law Forum, an undergraduate program she helped found in 2001 in order to help students develop the critical writing and advocacy skills necessary for successful careers in law and public policy.

Her passion for serving others has extended beyond UCI and her work as a private practice attorney to her involvement in the Orange County community.

At Camp Pendleton, she developed a civics class for active duty combat Marines recovering in the Wounded Warrior Center to encourage educational aspirations.