

summer '09 alumni magazine



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Best in the U.S.

Men's Volleyball claims second NCAA championship in three years



AGAIN



Nursing O.C. back to health

UC Irvine's Program in Nursing Science, which trains the nurses of tomorrow, received accreditation for its bachelor's program from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, or CCNE.

The commission awarded the program the maximum five-year accreditation and noted no compliance or deficiency concerns, a reflection of the strength of the Program in Nursing Science.

Well on its way to becoming a national

leader in nursing education, the program graduated its first class on June 14, 2009, with 36 students earning degrees. The program, which will help alleviate the acute nursing shortage in Orange County by training new nurses and future nursing professors, currently has 164 undergraduate students. A master's degree program will start in the fall of 2009.

For more information, visit <http://www.cohs.uci.edu/nursing/>

Scientist tapped to create large-scale brain

Neural computing power is about to increase exponentially in the research lab of cognitive neuroscientist Jeffrey Krichmar. The new UCI assistant professor is part of a research team headed by HRL Laboratories in Malibu that was recently awarded a multi-million dollar, multi-year grant to fund development of an electronic brain with functional and cognitive capabilities similar to the

brain of a small mammal.

The project is one of three being funded by the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency's Systems of Neuromorphic Adaptive Plastic Scalable Electronics program, or SyNAPSE. The goal of the SyNAPSE program is to bridge biology and electronics and establish a new paradigm for creating more intelligent machines that can interact with, react to, and actually learn from their environments.

The HRL team will begin with a model developed at the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego that mathematically represents how synapses and neurons in the brain work together to perform cognitive functions. Using this algorithm, the researchers will develop nanotechnology-based hardware and software that will result in a large-scale electronic brain capable of performing functions such as visual perception, planning, decision-making and navi-

gation. Once completed, the electronic components of the artificial brain will number one hundred million neurons and one trillion synapses, equivalent to the brain of a small mammal.

UCI Medical Center now treating critical stroke-neurovascular patients

Recently, Orange County's Health Care Agency designated UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange a Stroke-Neurology Receiving Center. It joins five other such sites offering high-level neurovascular care to which paramedics and ambulance drivers take stroke cases.

"Studies show that immediate treatment in the early stages of a stroke can significantly improve outcomes for patients," says Dr. Steven C. Cramer, director of UC Irvine's Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center. "The key is to have a system in place to quickly recognize stroke symptoms, properly triage patients and then deliver them to a hospital that is prepared to rapidly assess their condition and begin treatment."

Not all hospitals have the resources or personnel to effectively treat a stroke. The county requires that a Stroke-Neurology Receiving Center have a dedicated medical director, an emergency-med-

Because axolotl, mice and humans have similar genetic pathways, scientists hope to identify regeneration signals that could lead to human therapies.

Ken Muneoka at Tulane University, a UCI alumnus, is heading the project, which also involves the University of Kentucky. The award is part of \$260 million allocated over five years to academic institutions nationwide for multidisciplinary basic science research.

UCI awarded \$45M for infectious disease research

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, has awarded UC Irvine \$45 million over five years for infectious disease research.

The renewal grant, which is the campus's largest ever, went to the Pacific-Southwest Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research and its director, Dr. Alan Barbour, a UCI infectious disease expert. Created in May 2005 with a four-year, \$40 million NIAID grant, the center is one of only 11 federally funded research sites

dedicated to countering threats from bioterrorism agents and emerging infections.

"Our center brings together some of the region's best scientists to cooperate in research teams. Each person brings a special expertise. Our common goal is prevention and cure of illness by some of the most serious pathogens facing people in the U.S., Latin America and Pacific Rim countries," Barbour said. "We appreciate the new vote of confidence by the National Institutes of Health."

The center's main objective is to provide the science for creating a defense against emerging diseases, like dengue fever, and potential bioterrorism agents, such as the botulism toxin. It also seeks to train next-generation scientists and educate researchers about lab safety.

Anesthesiology program receives accreditation, rankings boost

The residency program in the Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Care has received a full five-year accreditation and will expand from a traditional three-year program to

Baghdad project supports Iraqi children

UC Irvine's Baghdad School Project has shipped 7,500 packets of notebooks, pencils, erasers and rulers to the war-torn country over three years.

"Children in Iraq lack the basic educational tools that American students take for granted," founding member Danielle Al-Chalati '09 says. "We hope the donations can enrich their classroom environment."

The project, a student-run group that raises money to buy classroom supplies for Iraqi



schoolchildren, fills a need not met by established relief groups, which focus on such basics as food, medical supplies and clothing.

A branch of the Dean's Ambassadors Council in the School of Social Sciences, the Baghdad

School Project works with the U.S. Military Postal Service to deliver the supplies, saving thousands of dollars in shipping costs.

Each packet costs about \$20, and the project relies entirely on donations.

a four-year program providing complete training for future anesthesiologists.

UCI now offers one of only two California anesthesia four-year residencies with full accreditation. In addition, the department moved from 44th to 26th nationally in National Institutes of Health research funding for anesthesiology departments.

Scientists receive \$2M to build sustainable energy

UCI will receive \$2 million over five years as part of two of 46 Energy Frontier Research Centers recently announced by the U.S. Department of Energy. The goal is to accelerate scientific breakthroughs necessary to build a sustainable energy economy.

UCI chemists Matt Law and John C. Hemminger

'71 (dean, School of Physical Sciences) are part of the Center for Advanced Solar Photophysics involving Los Alamos National Laboratory and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado, which will develop materials that convert sunlight to electricity.

For the latest campus news, visit:
<http://today.uci.edu/>

from Anteater authors

Newest books by UCI alumni and faculty

Les Herschler [SOCSCI '79] published a new book entitled *The Complete Guide to Student Teaching* on April 2.

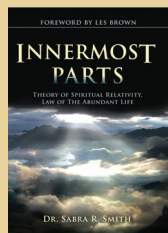
Dac-Buu Cao [ICS '85], recently published a new book entitled *Critical Success Factors in Agile Software Development Projects*. He is currently Director of Product Development & Support Systems at Siemens PLM Software in Cypress, Calif.



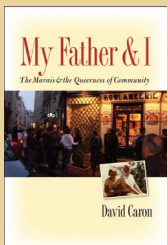
Carl Henry Marcoux [HUM M.A. '88] has published his second novel, *A Few Years At Sea*, a story from World War II. Carl sailed in the merchant marine during that conflict.

Steven Taylor [SOCSCI '90] recently published a book with the University Press of New England: *Voting Amid Violence: Electoral Democracy in Colombia*.

In her new book, *Innermost Parts: Theory of Spiritual Relativity, Law of the Abundant Life*, **Sabra Smith** [BIOSCI '92] is turning inward and going global. Published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, the book was released nationwide April 6.



David Caron [HUM Ph.D. '94], associate professor of French and women's studies at the University of Michigan, published a new book entitled *My Father and I: The Marais and the Queerness of Community*.



Glen David Gold [M.F.A. '98] published *Sunnyside* in May at Random House. In his new book, *International Norms and Cycles of Change*, UCI political

scientist **Wayne Sandholtz** and co-author Kendall Stiles examine how such rules against piracy and other international norms from the 1500s to the present emerge and change over time.

UCI political scientist **Alison Brysk** examines international human rights success stories in new book, *Global Good Samaritans* in which she provides a comparative look at human rights foreign policy best practices abroad.

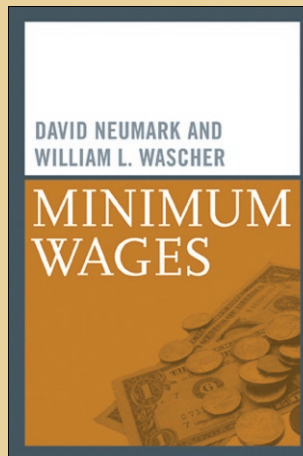
Mary Yukari Waters [M.F.A. '02] published her first



novel, *The Favorites* in June by Simon & Schuster where she explores the complex relationships among three generations of women bound by a painful family history and a culture in which custom dictates behavior.

Minimum wage revisited

New book explores how increases to minimum wage will hurt young workers, economy



Included among President Barak Obama's plan for strengthening the economy is an increase to the federal minimum wage, a move UC Irvine economist **David Neumark** warns against in his new book, *Minimum Wages*.

The book draws upon his and co-author William L. Wascher's more than 15 years of expertise on the topic in a comprehensive overview of the policy's distributive effects across different population groups.

Neumark and Wascher discuss the effects of minimum wages on employment and hours, the acquisition of skills, the wage and income distributions, longer-term labor market outcomes, prices and the aggregate economy.

Arguing that the usual focus on employment effects is too limiting, they present a broader, empirically based inquiry that will better inform policymakers about the costs and benefits of the minimum wage.

"As with any one plan or policy, there are winners and losers," says Neumark. "Unfortunately, in the case of increasing the minimum wage, there are more losers than winners," he adds, explaining that among them are some of the very people the increased wage is purported to help.