



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE - STAFF ASSEMBLY

Campus Update February 2006

Staff Assembly News

- ❑ The Staff Assembly's Winter general meeting held February 23rd, featured speakers Walter Caiazzia and Sarah Moran from the UCR Ergonomics Committee. They brought samples of new ergonomic tools, chairs, keyboards etc. The meeting was held in the Surge building, giving the staff an opportunity to see this near campus building for possibly the first time. Chancellor France A. Córdova greeted staff and presented service awards to staff members who had reached their 10-, 15-, 20-, 25-, 30- and 35-year anniversaries at UCR. A pizza lunch was donated by Papa John's Pizza.
- ❑ **Staff Survey period: February 13th – February 27th**
UCR is interested in how it can improve the workforce environment to better retain valuable faculty and staff – and who better to ask than the faculty and staff who call UCR home. The idea of a faculty and staff survey program began in 2005 with a request from Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Ellen Wartella that a survey be conducted of all faculty and staff so that the current “climate” of the campus could be measured. An outside survey firm, **Wonderlic Consulting, Inc.**, was retained and is administering the survey. The results of the survey will be used to identify areas where UCR can improve, and to develop action plans to implement those improvements. Surveying will be conducted on a regular basis in order to chart the progress of goals developed from survey results. Over time, additional surveys will be added to the program for new hires and separating faculty and staff.
- Since 1994, UCR has participated in the Corporate Games, in which various teams from local Riverside companies and governmental organizations face off in a variety of events aimed at **fostering healthy competition, team work and positive community relations**. With events including Pictionary, Darts, Basketball, Trivial Pursuit, Swimming, Horseshoes, Bowling, Tug-of-War, Softball, and the newly-added Soccer competition, there's something for everyone to try. Aside from the dedicated training and focus on the competition, participants become part of a great team, made up of others in the University family. Whether you're a vice chancellor or an administrative assistant, a cook or an associate professor, you're all on the same playing field, **working together toward the same goal**. The 2005 Games spelled victory for UCR, which earned **first place in six events**: Pictionary, Bowling, Swimming, Soccer, the Car Rally and Basketball. The University came in first overall, beating out The Gas Company and city of Riverside (Gold Team) – who received second and third places, respectively.



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Campus News

UCR's Front Door Unlocks

Seventeen years, three redesigns and \$5 million later, the UCR Alumni Association is about to realize its long – held objective: breaking ground on a center for alumni and visitors. The 12,000-square-foot, split-level building designed by local architects HMC, will house a large lobby, meeting rooms, a library of works by UCR authors, a formal board room and a dining facility that can serve as a university club and can also double as a banquet space for 200. Most of all, the UCR Alumni Association, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2005-06, wanted a “front door” to the campus – a distinctive arrival point that showcased alumni achievements while welcoming friends and visitors. “Achieving the best combination of facilities with the limited financial resources available has been a difficult exercise,” says Judge Ron Stovitz, the current Alumni Association president. “Getting the buy in from various campus groups including the student population, faculty, alumni leaders and the administration was also a priority.” Construction is slated to finish by mid-2007.

Nobel Prize-Winning Career

Nobel laureate Richard Schrock came to campus in late January and left with a medal, his second in as many months. Schrock, who gave a talk on campus to a packed house as part of the Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series, was awarded UCR Chancellor's Medal, the University's highest accolade bestowed upon an individual for exceptional achievement. Noting that the medal was being given with humility and pride, Chancellor France Córdova presented the medal to Schrock just before he began his lecture on how basic chemical research led to a Nobel Prize.

UCR to Submit Medical School Proposal to UC Officials

If California needs another medical school, as many have suggested, what kind of school should it be? The question, of special and immediate interest to UC Riverside, was what Steven Schroeder, a distinguished professor of health and health care at UC San Francisco, addressed during a Jan. 23 campus visit. He was the second speaker in “The Design of New Medical Schools in the 21st Century” seminar series. In his lecture, he elaborated on the benefits of establishing a medical school, the special health needs of California and the Inland Empire, and funding issues to which UCR might pay attention. UCR's most important decision, Schroeder predicted, would be who it chooses to lead its medical school.