

UC IRVINE

THIS WEEK'S UC IRVINE EXPERT



Barbara Sarnecka

Helping children grasp math beyond counting

Editor's note: "This Week's Expert" is a feature in which experts from UC Irvine will share their knowledge with Orange County on a variety of issues and topics ranging from local to international importance.

To adults, cardinal number concepts – two, three, four, etc. – may seem easy for children to understand.

But research in developmental psychology shows there is a long gap – often more than a year – from when children learn to count and when they understand the meanings of number words.

While children begin learning to count – reciting a list of numbers and pointing to objects one at a time – between the ages of 18 months and 3 years, many 4- and 5-year-olds still don't understand the meaning of the numbers. To them, counting is still like patty-cake: a little song you sing and a series of gestures you make with your hands, and maybe it has something to do with quantity. But the way counting relates to quantity is not yet clear to them. Many parents are unaware their children don't understand numbers because they count well.

The problem is that when children start school, they need to understand the logic of counting. They need to understand numbers as specific, cardinal quantities. If they don't, none of the math they hear in school will make any sense. They can't understand anything mathematical if they don't have the foundational concept of what a number is.

SEE EXPERT • PAGE 3

Barbara Sarnecka, Ph.D.

UCI assistant professor of cognitive sciences



H. LORREN AU JR., ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

UC Irvine School of Law's first graduating class is well represented here by, clockwise from left, Isra Shah, Luke Boughen, Mohammed Elayan and Daniel Phan.

UCI LAW STATS

- The first and so-far only graduating class of **56 students** earned the second-best bar exam pass rate in California (90 percent), beating UCLA and UC Berkeley.

- Nearly **100 percent** of those graduates participated in pro bono work during their time at UC Irvine Law.

- In the 56-member class of 2012, **14 grads** obtained jobs clerking for judges, a good job for a recent law grad.

- Of last year's graduates, **91 percent** had law-related employment eight months after graduating.

- The school was **ranked seventh** in the nation in terms of scholarly impact, or how often professors were cited in scholarly journals.

FIVE YEARS IN

UC Irvine School of Law works to become one of the 20 best law schools in the United States.



LAUREN STEUSSY
REGISTER WRITER

Five years ago, 17 educators walked into a UC Irvine office building with the ambition to create a new brand of legal professionals and a world-class law school to compete with the nation's best.

They set an audacious goal: Get ranked in the top 20 law schools in America when the school debuts in the U.S. News & World Report list in 2015.

They were backed by multi-million dollar donations and endorsed by some of the country's most prominent judiciary leaders. Records documenting the goals of founding administrators showed that the school would train students to work in public service, where jobs are competitive but the work is noble.

Professors flocked from prestigious schools like Duke, UCLA and USC to join the new school, which showed much promise.

The school is now succeeding in several measures, but challenges remain. With the school's foundation firmly in place, it is now focusing on growth, both physically and academically. Administrators expect the student population to grow and change with the area's economic needs.

Many recent graduates are already carving out their own paths, some consistent with the school's founding vision and some divergent. **STORY ON PAGE 2**

“What really helped me start my career with confidence was the school's emphasis on experiential learning, the pro bono work, the externships. These experiences help me think critically and creatively as opposed to just memorizing the law without considering its real-world application in a business and legal context.”

DANIEL PHAN
SPECIALIST AT PACIFIC ALTERNATIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT CO.

EXPLORE UCI WITH OUR NEW SECTION

There's nothing quite like walking across a college campus on a nice day. Yet, unless you're taking classes, there's a pretty good chance you don't often get to experience the energy felt at one of Orange County's universities.

And that's the reason behind the Register's new weekly sections dedicated to UC Irvine, Chapman University and Cal State Fullerton.

This is an opportunity to really explore the community that exists inside our great places of learning so we can share in their sense of enlightenment,

spirit and culture. And in the process, maybe we can see an amazing piece of art, learn something we've always been curious about or just catch a ballgame.

Each week, we'll look at our universities' vibrant communities of faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners and neighbors and turn to them to help us better understand the things happening not only in our hometowns, but across the world.

Plus, we'll make sure you know well in advance of the interesting things happening on each campus.

BY THE NUMBERS

142,000
Alumni

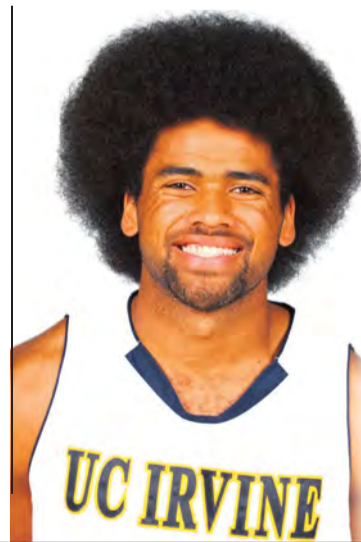
28,184
Students

2,883
Faculty

4,799
Campus staff

4,661
Medical staff

Source: UC Irvine



SAYING ADIEU TO AFRO THUNDER

Michael "Afro Thunder" Wilder, the star forward/guard of the UC Irvine men's basketball team, became quite a celebrity in the UCI community in the past four years. But alas, the 21-year-old senior is graduating this year, and fans say they will definitely miss his playing, his hair and his personal flair. **SEE SPORTS PAGE 4**

IRVINE BARCLAY PRESENTS
The best of the world's stages

"If Spellbound were a car, it would be a Ferrari."
- Annenberg Center for the Arts

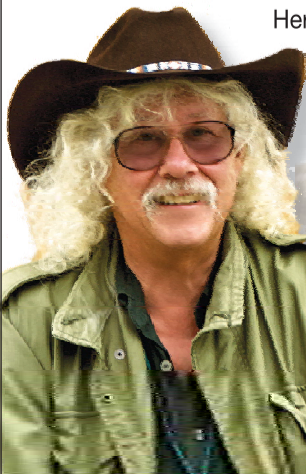
Spellbound
Contemporary Ballet April 2 at 8pm
(Rome, Italy)

The only California engagement of the U.S. debut tour

Series support provided by the Cheng Family Foundation

Arlo Guthrie
Here Comes The Kid

The Tradition Lives...
April 13-14



The Tradition Lives...
April 13-14

C'est si bon!
Paris Combo
Apr 28 at 3pm



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A CASE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

UCI Law is strong by some measures, but the jury's still out on one of its missions.

Five years ago, UC Irvine School of Law's founding administrators had in mind a top law school that wouldn't just teach students the legal profession - it would do so with the mission of serving the public interest, making social justice issues central to the curriculum.



LAUREN STEUSSY
REGISTER WRITER

Now, the school's first students are putting their training to work - but not entirely in the public service sector, as many envisioned they would. American Bar Association data shows that just one of the school's 56 graduates is working in public interest, though more than a quarter are clerks for judges and could be headed toward public service jobs in the future, said the school's dean, Erwin Chemerinsky.

Based on measures such as high student test scores, faculty prominence, and job placement, members of the legal community say Irvine is likely to rank among the top 25 law schools in the country when U.S. News and World Report starts including Irvine in its 2015 report.

"The school has succeeded all expectations on every front - and that's an aggressive statement for a lawyer to make," said Gary Singer, an Orange County corporate lawyer and partner at O'Melveny & Myers.

Part of its recipe for success was a \$20 million endowment from local real estate investor Donald Bren. The donation funded salaries for 11 distinguished faculty members. Other donations enabled the full-ride tuition of the school's first graduating class.

Now, students set to graduate in 2015 are the first to pay the full tuition of approximately \$46,800 a year - about \$4,000 less than the tuition at USC and Stanford law schools.

Chemerinsky argues that the type of public service-



JOSHUA SUDOCK, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

UCI law professor Joseph DiMento discusses legal complexities of intellectual property law on the world stage with students recently.

5K 'for Justice'

What: UC Irvine School of Law 5K Run/Walk for Justice
Why: Funds raised will provide stipends for law students who accept non-paying public-service jobs this summer for under-represented communities.
When: 9 a.m. Sunday
Where: UCI Ring Road, next to Aldrich Hall, #111
Registration: \$35 adults; \$20 kids
Information: 949-824-2921 or uciilaw@law.uci.edu.

cused education Irvine's students are receiving is worth the relatively-high cost of tuition. Professors thrust students into the practice of law by requiring them to participate in the school's legal clinics. These clinics introduce students to clients in a variety of service fields.

Professor Katie Porter runs the Consumer Protection Clinic at the school. She was chosen to oversee California's implementation of a \$25 billion national mortgage settlement designed to penalize foreclosure misconduct. Porter now

works with her students in the clinic to make sure the money is doled out to homeowners.

The school's ability to meet its potential growth will be closely watched. Class sizes will grow from the first class of 56 to about 200 students. While the university plans to meet student demand with more than 50 faculty members, up from the current 36, some alumni worry the growing student population will force the school to depart from what originally made it so appealing.

"At the beginning...it was

more forging your own path. But having 600 students will make it hard to encourage all those students to forge their own path," said Mohammed Elayan, a member of the 2012 class and an associate at Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth.

Chemerinsky's public service vision for the school in the coming years is unwavering, though. "In fact," he said, "five years of experience has confirmed it for me."

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Tuition costs

How the annual law school tuition at the University of California, Irvine compares to the top-ranked schools in U.S. News and World Report's 2013 guide:

Rank	Yearly tuition
Yale 1	\$53,600
Harvard 2	\$50,880
Stanford 2	\$50,802
Columbia 4	\$55,488
Univeristy of Chicago 4	\$50,727
New York University 6	\$51,150
University of Pennsylvania 7	\$53,138
University of Virginia* 7	\$51,400
UC Berkeley** 9	\$51,250
University of Michigan* 9	\$49,740
UC Irvine** ~	\$46,804.50

*Out-of-state tuition **In-state tuition
Source: U.S. News & World Report

The Register

NEW \$85 MILLION LAW SCHOOL BUILDING PLANNED

By **LAUREN STEUSSY**
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Planning is under way for a new, \$85 million home for the burgeoning UC Irvine School of Law.

Just five years have passed since the first group of 17 faculty and staff members walked through the doors of the existing facility on the northwestern outskirts of the Irvine campus. An upgrade is now in the works, earlier than expected.

"Most professional schools start by building a nice building, and then they build the faculty, and then they build the student body," said Charles Cannon, assistant dean of development and

external affairs.

Instead, Irvine hired competitive professors and then admitted high-performing students, school officials said. Now, they're working on the nice building to go with them.

The building will be entirely privately funded through donations, which a planning committee believes will be attained over the next two to three years. Construction should take another three years.

Cannon said the planning committee is in talks now with a real estate developer to determine how exactly a private building can be built on the state-owned land that UC Irvine sits on.

Finishing the school on such an ambitious deadline will require bypassing special state regulations imposed on construction of buildings on UC campuses.

Cutting through the red tape of such a large institution adds both time and money to the building process, but UCI law school can't afford to wait for approval at the rate it's growing, Cannon explained.

The current facility was built in place of a 24-hour fitness gym about 15 years ago. It was then converted to administrative offices for the university about four years ago, when the first graduating class arrived. But the building lacks some of the

features Cannon hopes will increase admission and financial support.

"Part of our innovative curriculum requires space that most law schools don't use," Cannon said. "We do intense clinical experiences. That takes a lot more space, offices, interview rooms, more mini law firms than most law schools."

Though planning has only just begun, the planning committee expects that the building will be about 180,000 square feet and will be located on an empty parking lot, possibly on Campus Drive.

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5 QUESTIONS

UCI law school Dean
ERWIN CHEMERINSKY

Even with UC Irvine's relatively new School of Law climbing the ranks in academic measures, Dean Erwin Chemerinsky is striving to meet the expectations and legacy he laid out for the school five years ago. We checked in with him for a progress report.



1. Are there any recent hires worth noting?

A. Bryant Garth, who was the dean at Southwestern Law School, will be joining us July 1. This year we brought in two faculty members who were at UCLA: Ezra Ross and David Kaye. Last year we had Bob Solomon join our faculty after 23 years at Yale. Katie Porter, who was a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, joined us in 2011. Those are just examples, but it's a terrific group of faculty.

2. Are you surprised at the caliber of professors you've attracted?

A. I'm pleased with the faculty. I'm not going to say I'm surprised. It's reflective in the measures like the scholarly impact report. And it's reflected in the quality of the teachers. We've been able to bring together one of the best law faculties in the country.

3. Have you accomplished all your goals?

A. I think we're on the path to being a top 20 school. I would never say we've achieved everything we want to achieve. I think that there's few things in life that go better than one could have hoped. But I would say that the law school has gone better than any of us could have hoped.

4. What are some of your biggest challenges going forward?

A. We have to build a new building. We have a beautiful space, but we're outgrowing it. And this was all space that was built for other purposes. So we have to raise \$85 million to build a new building. That, I think, is the hardest challenge. We also need to continue to recruit great faculty and students to come here.

5. What's one class at the law school you think is most unique?

A. Our first-year course in the legal profession. If we had a signature course, that certainly would be it. It is a year-long course, in part about teaching students ethics at the beginning of law school. But it also teaches the students about the profession - the economics of being a lawyer, the sociology of being a lawyer, and the different areas of practice.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$85 million
Amount needed from private donors for the new building.

\$5 million
Amount administrators say they already have lined up for the building.

180,000
Square feet of space in the planned building.

18-20
Estimated number of planned classrooms and seminar rooms.

5
Years administrators say it will take to finish the building.

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