Helping children grasp math beyond counting

A recent study by Barbara Sarnecka, UC Irvine assistant professor of cognitive sciences, suggests that many children do not have a foundational concept of what a number is. They can’t understand anything mathematical if they don’t have the foundational concept of what a number is. When 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 old, still don’t understand the meaning of the numbers. To them, counting is still like patting – 1-2-3 means you sing a little song 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. So, they need to understand the concept of what a number is. 

Five years ago, 17 educators walked into a UC Irvine office and, with the support of multi-million dollar donations and endorsements by some of the country’s most prominent judiciary leaders, they started a new law school, which showed much promise. Records documenting the goals of founding administrators were backed by multi-million dollar donations and endorsements by some of the country’s most prominent judiciary leaders. The school is now succeeding in several measures, but challenges remain. 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 old, still don’t understand the meaning of the numbers. To them, counting is still like patting – 1-2-3 means you sing a little song 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. So, they need to understand the concept of what a number is.

There’s nothing quite like walking away from the classroom on a nice day. Yet, unless you’re taking classes, there’s a pretty good chance you don’t often get to appreciate the energy felt at one of Orange County’s universities. And that’s the reason behind the Register’s newest weekly sections dedicated to UC Irvine. Co-written with Sara M. Barger and Cal State Fullerton.

It 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 new or simply enjoy a quiet stroll, a short drive or a good book. This week, I’ll look at our university’s vibrant community of faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents 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.

UC Irvine School of Law’s first graduating class is well represented here by, clockwise from left, Jora Shoh, Luke Brooksh, Mohammed Elayan and Daniel Phan.

**What really helped me start my career with the school’s emphasis on experiential learning, the pro bono work, the externships. Those experiences help me think critically and creatively as opposed to just memorizing the law without considering its real-world applications or a business and legal context.**

Michael H. Lorrin Au Jr., Orange County Register Special to the Register

SPECIALTY AT PACIFIC ALTERNATIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT CO. 

**SAYING ADIEU TO AFRID THUNDER**

Michael “Afro Thunder” Wilder, the star forward/guard of the UC Irvine men’s basketball team, became quite a celebrity in the UC Irvine community in just four years. But alas, the 21-year-old senior is moving on, his hair and his personal flair. They will definitely miss his play, his style.

**EXPLORE UCI WITH OUR NEW SECTION**

If Spoolbound were a car, it would be a Ferrari.*

* Spoolbound is an art form that combines contemporary ballet and acrobatics.

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The first and so far only graduating class of 80 students earned the second highest 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 B-a-men’s class of 2012, 94 graduates obtained jobs clerking for judges, a good job for a recent law grad.

Of last year’s graduates, 91 applied for law-related employment – nine months after graduating.

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

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## UC Irvine Law Stats

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UC Irvine 2

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