

UCI Arts Quarterly



UCI Arts
Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Arts Plaza's Coming-Out Party in October

The Claire Trevor School of the Arts will unveil its newly renovated Arts Plaza, the School's creative centerpiece designed by renowned artist Maya Lin, during a public celebration Oct. 25.

Expected to attend include Lin, UCI Chancellor Michael V. Drake and UCI Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Michael R. Gottfredson.

The event will take place 4-5:30 p.m. and feature music, drama and dance performances at the new amphitheater, and a showing of Takagi

Masakatsu's video art at Winifred Smith Hall's new Digital Exhibition Space.

"Every great university has a particular public space that creates identity, bonds students and visitors to the campus and establishes life-long memories," says Gottfredson. "The Arts Plaza will be that place for UCI – a vital environment for reflection, for inspiration, for coming closer together."

Lin, creator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., was commissioned in 2000 to transform the School's bland concrete courtyard. She collaborated with Santa Monica landscape architect Pamela Burton on the 30,000 square-foot project.

The Arts Plaza now includes a 200-seat outdoor theater across from the Beall Center for Art and Technology that will present live performances and screen films and videos. Pathways with multi-colored lighting lead visitors to the plaza and nearby venues.

At the plaza's heart is one of Lin's signature "water table" sculptures flanked by "whispering" benches that capture and reflect sound from the plaza. Lin and School officials hope this will

become a hub where students and visitors gather to reflect, study and socialize. Landscaping surrounding this area and throughout the plaza includes fragrant and colorful plants, among them native flowers, orange trees and tall sycamores.

The Digital Exhibition Space is sure to be another focal point. The four screens, which are embedded in Winifred Smith Hall's facade, are web-linked to display images from around the world along with more locally curated exhibits of digital art or video.

The plaza renovation, which cost about \$3.6 million, is the final phase of the 1998-2001 capital campaign that renovated Winifred Smith Hall, converted the Village Theatre into the Claire Trevor Theatre, established the Beall Center and created the CyberA Café.

School officials are excited over the opportunities provided by the plaza's new elements and are busy determining what will be offered in coming months. Eleanore Stewart, the School's assistant dean for technology and director of the Beall Center, is organizing a committee to make the

continued on page 2



Arts Plaza Water Table
Photo: Jacqueline Sisemore

New Faculty Known for Talent and Experience

The Claire Trevor School of the Arts has grown, with seven professors joining the faculty. Among them is Yvonne Rainer, the School's first Distinguished Professor and only the fifteenth faculty member at UCI currently holding that prestigious title.

The faculty now includes Rainer, Distinguished Professor of Studio Art; Bill Rauch, Claire Trevor Professor of Drama; Colleen Reardon, professor of music; Amy Bauer, assistant professor of music; Martha Gever, associate professor of studio art; and Frank B. Wilderson III, assistant professor of drama.

Reardon will also serve as associate dean, overseeing the School's graduate affairs and much of the academic personnel issues. Professor Emeritus of Dance James Penrod was

named associate dean for undergraduate affairs. Cynthia Bassham has also been hired as a lecturer in Drama with an emphasis on voice and dialect.

Rainer is known as a pioneer of post-modern dance and author of the seminal *No manifesto* that outlined her minimalist dance aesthetic and signaled a revolution in modern dance in the 1960s. Today, she is a multi-faceted artist who incorporates experimental cinema, choreography and movement, feminism, politics, writing and visual art into her work. At UCI, she will teach courses open to students in art, dance, drama, and film and media studies, primarily at the graduate level.

"Yvonne Rainer is one of the most original and influential artists of the

last 40 years, and we're enormously pleased she has chosen to make UCI her home base for continuing her creative research," says Dean Nohema Fernández. "Rainer's impact as an avantgarde artist and her 40 years of



Yvonne Rainer



Bill Rauch
Photo: Jacqueline Sisemore

continued on page 2

INSIDE

- Dean's Message Page 2
- In the Spotlight Page 3
- Development Directions . . . Page 4
- Alumnus Michael Ramirez . . Page 4

University of California, Irvine
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
300 Arts
Irvine, CA 92697-2775
18

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Ana, CA
Permit No. 1106

From the Dean's Desk

Dear friends,

UCI opened its doors for the first time four decades ago. The first students joined a talented and enthusiastic group of faculty and staff who, over time, would turn their vision for the future into reality. As we begin UCI's 40th anniversary celebration this fall, we will gaze back at our early years, as well as look ahead to what will come. The arts were an integral part of the new campus in the beginning, and they continue to be.

It is timely, therefore, that this fall will be marked by the opening of the finished Arts Plaza, designed by artist Maya Lin. Please come and join us for the public dedication on Oct. 25. The Plaza will be a powerful symbol of the centrality of the arts in the life of the campus and the Orange County community. Appealing to all five senses, the plaza will create a living environment where you can linger and enjoy not only the creation of art and live performances, but also relax under the shade of large sycamores and take in the fragrance of native plants. This will not only be "our" Arts Plaza; it will be Orange County's Arts Plaza.

Elsewhere in the *UCIArts Quarterly* you will read about the new, incredibly talented faculty that join us this fall. At the same time, our continuing faculty and students come back after another productive summer. You'll learn about their accomplishments in this and future editions of the *Quarterly*. I hope you will take the opportunity to experience our many exhibitions and performances throughout the year.

All the best,


Nohema Fernández
Dean



Arts Plaza's Coming-Out Party in October *continued from page 1*

most of the "whispering" benches, video screens and related technology.

"It will be an on-going process where we'll discover what can be most effectively displayed through the plaza's electronic elements," she says. "We're considering both the aesthetic opportunities and the practical issues that come with something this unique."

Lin says she was eager to take the project because it was clear to her early on that the old plaza was ripe with possibilities. Further, she virtually grew up on an arts campus – her father was dean

of the fine arts program at Ohio State University when Lin was young – and immediately felt connected to the space.

"I know exactly what goes on in and around an arts campus," Lin says. "I was really excited about exploring and giving identity to the School through the plaza. I wanted to create an identity that would draw people to the theaters and let everyone know that something special is going on here."

Besides providing an accommodating area for outdoor performances, Lin wanted to create an environment that,

at its core, would tap into the senses. Once she imagined the "water table" surrounded by the evocative benches, Lin began to look at the overall space as "a garden about perception."

"I think the whole thing became not just an artwork, but also a garden with separate zones, areas where students and the public can gather," she says. "I hope that, if you're paying attention, you'll experience all of your senses as you visit and pass through it."

New Faculty Known for Talent and Experience *continued from page 1*

sustained production are as galvanizing to today's generation of young artists as she was when she first emerged."

Rauch also arrives with impressive hands-on experience. He is best known as the artistic director and co-founder of the groundbreaking Cornerstone Theater Company, a Los Angeles-based performing company that uses theater as a community-building tool. The company, which opened in 1986, casts local residents alongside professional actors and adapts classical and original plays to reflect contemporary and local issues.

At UCI, Rauch will teach a broad range of courses across the fields of directing, acting and community-based theater. Students will have the opportunity to be involved in his research and creative activities.

Reardon's scholarship has focused on music in Siena, Italy from the late 16th through the early 18th centuries. She is the author of two monographs

and co-editor of two collective volumes of essays, and has been the recipient of both a Fulbright Fellowship and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She serves on the American Musicological Society Council and holds three degrees from UCLA. Prior to joining UCI, she taught at Western Kentucky University and the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Bauer's research focuses on 20th century music, especially that of composer Gyorgy Ligeti and issues surrounding the reception and analysis of post-1945 music. She has also studied the music of Miles Davis and Mary Lou Williams. She is currently completing the first full-length study of Ligeti's work. Bauer earned her PhD from Yale University and has served on the faculties of Washington University in St. Louis, MO and the University of Colorado.

Gever's current work centers on the critical study of television, video

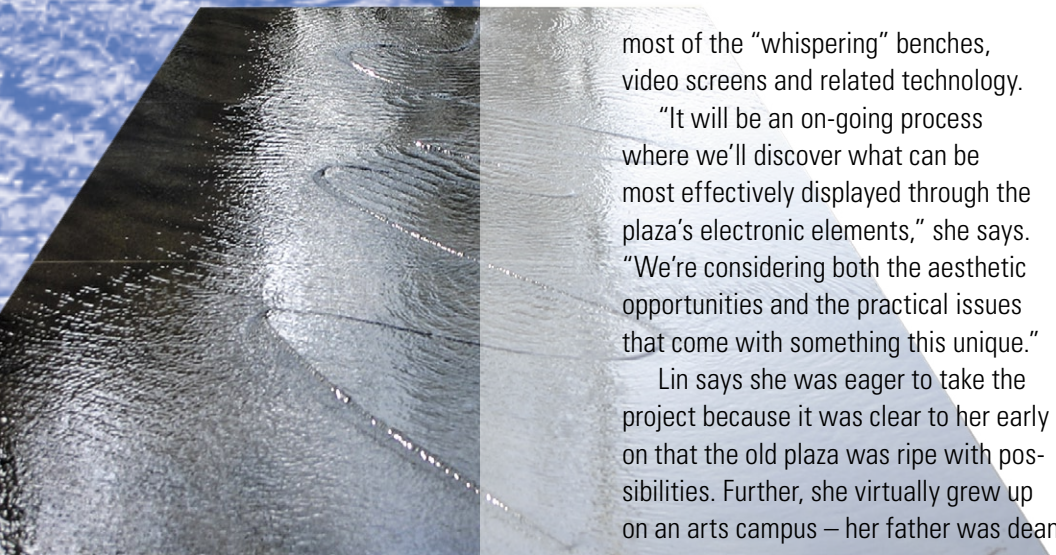
and "digital visual culture." She is the author of *Entertaining Lesbians: Celebrity, Sexuality, and Self-Invention*, and has received advanced degrees from the University of New York and the State University of New York.

Wilderson is a noted dramaturge and author who has frequently explored issues affecting African-Americans. He was the dramaturge for Lincoln Center productions of plays by Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes, and received the Eisner Prize for Creative Achievement of the Highest Order, among other awards.

Bassham teaches voice and speech and works as a voice and dialect coach for professional and community productions. Bassham has received degrees from the University of Washington and the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco and is a member of UCI's Academic Senate.



Nohema Fernández



Arts Plaza Water Table
Photo: Jacqueline Sisemore



Colleen Reardon
Photo: Jacqueline Sisemore

In the Spotlight

Faculty



◀ **Bob Boross**, assistant professor of dance, was the keynote guest artist for the 5th Annual Young Choreographer's Choreography Competition (April 2005), sponsored by the Kannon Dance Company in St. Petersburg, Russia. During his residency, Boross taught master classes, lectured and was commissioned to

create the dance piece, *Love Come Quick*.

▶ Music professor **Christopher Dobrian's** composition *Mannam (Encounter)* for daegeum (Korean bamboo flute) and computer was performed at the 2005 International Computer Music Conference in Barcelona, Spain.



◀ In April 2005, Dance professor **Donald McKayle** was honored at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and presented with a medal as a Master of African-American Choreography. In August, McKayle received the American Dance Legacy Institute's Distinguished and Innovative

Leadership Award, and his autobiography, *Transcending Boundaries: My Dancing Life*, published by Routledge, was honored with the Society of Dance History Scholars' De La Torre Bueno Prize.

In Spring 2005, Dance professor **Nancy Lee Ruyter** presented papers for the conference on Mexican arts and literature at UCI, the World Dance Alliance Americans Assembly in Mexico City, and for the Ektaa conference and festival, *Dance Conversations: Indian Dance in California – Past, Present and Future*, in Irvine, CA.

◀ Pianist **Nina Scolnik**, lecturer in music, was invited to join the faculty of the Schlern International Music Festival in Voels am Schlern, Italy, where she taught and performed with international artists during July. In June, she was awarded a UCI Faculty Career Development Award.



Photo: Jacqueline Sisemore

An \$80,000 Nicholas Foundation Prize for Cross-Disciplinary Research has been awarded to **Bill Tomlinson**, professor of informatics and drama, and **F. Lynn Carpenter**, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology. Tomlinson and Carpenter are collaborating on an interactive exhibit known as the EcoRaft. ▶

Students

▼ **Max Haymer**, junior in Music, took second prize in the TIME Montreux Jazz Solo Piano Competition in Switzerland (July 2005). Haymer was among twelve finalists from around the world. Besides winning a cash prize, he will perform and give

a master class at the International Association for Jazz Education conference in New York in Jan 2006. IAJE is the world's largest gathering of the global jazz community, with over 7,000 educators, musicians, students and industry representatives from 35 countries expected to attend.



In Summer 2005, **Sean Tarrant**, graduate student in Drama, was an actor with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

Pianist **Shoko Fukumaru**, senior in Music, participated in the renowned Schlern International Music Festival in Italy during Summer 2005.

Alumni

Carrie Ann Inaba, a teen pop star in Japan before studying choreography at UCI in the late 1980s, went on to become a Fly Girl dancer on the television show *In Living Color*. She has since choreographed for TV pageants and reality shows, and is a judge on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*.

Matt McNally (MFA Drama 2005) has been hired as top stage manager for Caesars Entertainment's production of *Jubilee!* at Bally's in Las Vegas. Matt will oversee the multi-million dollar production's 150-member cast and crew.

In August, **Teresa K. Pond** (MFA Drama 2003) directed *Half Life*, a new play by Robert Moulthrop, at the New York International Fringe Festival (Fringe NYC), the largest multi-arts festival in North America.

In July, the Los Angeles Contemporary Art and Opera Festival presented *DIVA! The funny sexy sultry – secret – world of opera*, featuring soprano **Susan Asbjornson** (BM Music 1999 and MFA Music 2001) and pianist **Bill Protzmann** (BM Music 1999).



Photo: Jacqueline Sisemore

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTIONS

Arts Plaza Raised on Community Support

We are proud to be officially opening the Arts Plaza next month. The Claire Trevor School of the Arts' faculty, students and staff look forward to the possibilities presented by Orange County's newest outdoor venue for the arts, and invite the public to come and see Maya Lin's latest creation. Together with landscape architect Pamela Burton, Lin has transformed the School's central plaza into a garden of the arts.

This project would not have been possible without community support. Early advocates such as John Stahr, Joan Beall, Lydia Wang Himes and members of the UCI Foundation helped launch the project. In subsequent years, Tom and Marilyn Nielsen, Robert and Margaret Sprague, John and Elizabeth Stahr, William Pereira, Jr. and the members of the Campaign Cabinet – Kris Elftmann, Janice Smith and Ann Sim – were instrumental in raising construction funds. Many community members volunteered time, offered valuable advice and gave generously, including many representatives of the School's Dean's Leadership

Council and local industry and foundations. Conexant Systems, Inc. advised Lin on much of the project's technology. The Segerstrom Foundation, which has been so important to Orange County arts, generously supported the plaza.

It takes a dedicated group of people to realize a major project like this one, and I would like to thank everyone who has been involved. You can be proud of the role you played. Let me remind those who would like to become involved that there are still naming opportunities available. If interested, please contact the School's development office at (949) 824-0085.

It has been a pleasure working with the School's dedicated volunteers and friends on this project and many others, but it is now my time to say good-bye. This will be my last column for the *UCIArts Quarterly*, as I will soon be moving to a new position at UCI as associate director of the Campuswide Honors Program. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to get to know the extraordinary group of people who support the School, and wish you all the best in your coming endeavors.



Lisa Roetzel,
Director of Development
Photo: Tavo Olimos

ALUMNI PROFILE

Michael Ramirez - Studio Art to Pulitzer Prize

Los Angeles Times political cartoonist Michael Ramirez is best known for his conservatism, but he's also recognized as one of the more skilled artists in his field. Ramirez has honed his drawing talents over many years, including those in the early '80s as a UCI Studio Art student.

Ramirez graduated from UCI in 1984 with a Studio Art bachelor's degree. During that time he drew cartoons for the campus newspaper, the *New University*, and later for the local *Newport Ensign*. He went on to bigger things, such as winning a Pulitzer Prize in 1994 and eventually becoming the *Times'* top editorial cartoonist, replacing the legendary Paul Conrad.

In 1997, Ramirez received the UCI Medal, the university's highest honor. He's also served as the president of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists. More significantly, his clout is felt from Los Angeles public offices to the halls of Sacramento and all the way to the nation's capitol. Remarkable, especially when considering that Ramirez planned to be a doctor when he entered UCI in

1979. But his love of drawing, and expressing his political views, took him to the *New University* and another path.

"You don't really entertain those kinds of thoughts at first, because you don't think certain things can be realized—that someone would actually pay you to be an obnoxious illustrator of editorial commentary," Ramirez says. "So when you get a first taste of it in college, and come to realize there are jobs like that out there, you can't help but get excited."

Ramirez proudly describes himself as both a Republican and a conservative, but notes that being an editorial cartoonist means he must look for flaws on both sides of the aisle. "We don't really approach the issues in that respect, we kind of judge each issue on its own merits," he says of cartoonists. "We are equal opportunity offenders. It really defines what we do as editorialists."

He continues, "We're not out to get personalities, we're out to attack issues. And if those personalities happen to support issues that we don't, we get them both."



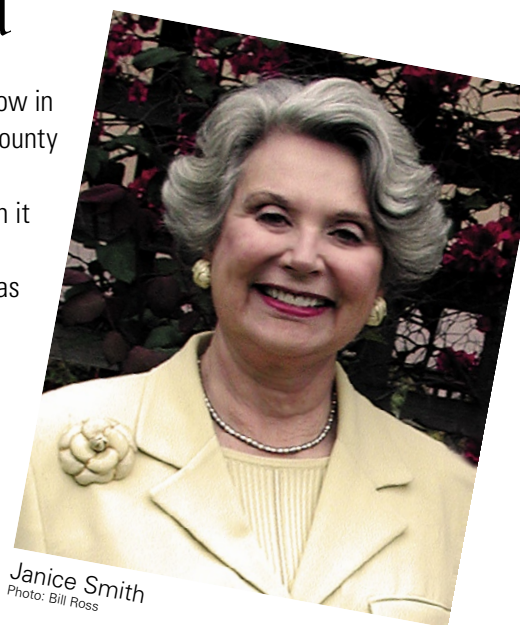
Michael Ramirez
Photo: Los Angeles Times

Smith Receives UCI's Top Award

Janice Smith, recipient of the UCI Medal, the university's highest honor, understands the dynamic between education and community involvement. Smith has long supported the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. "I've always been really interested in music and all the arts," she says, "and especially how there's cooperation between the university and the local public schools."

Besides being a member of the Dean's Leadership Council for the School, Smith and her husband, Ted Smith, created the Ted and Janice Smith Family Foundation Chair in Information and Computer Science. She also co-chaired the 2000 UCI Medal Ceremony and volunteers on the boards of the Bowers Museum of Art, Orange County High School of the Arts and the Pacific Symphony.

Smith praised UCI, now in its 40th year. "Orange County didn't have an academic system like UCI, so when it came it was a real addition. I have friends that as soon as it opened, they went back and finished their degrees," she recalls. "UCI reaches out to the community, and it's a wonderful thing for everyone in Orange County."



Janice Smith
Photo: Bill Ross



Photo: Jacqueline Sisemore

▲ Stephen Kim has been named the new *UCIArts* Box Office manager. He can be reached at (949) 824-2787. Box office hours are noon-4 pm, Mon.-Fri., and one hour before each performance.

UCIArts Quarterly

October, 2005, No. 15
UCIArts Marketing
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
Dean: Nohema Fernández
Marketing: Wendy Day-Brown
Editor: Mark Chalon Smith
Contributing Writers: Mark Chalon Smith, Scottie Hinkey, Catlin Moore
Marketing Coordinator: Jacqueline Sisemore
Masthead Photographer: Paul Kennedy
Design: Rob Sexton,

Voices – Arts Patrons Speak Out

"If we want a strong cultural community, we need to make sure that we educate the next generation of artists and provide them with the opportunity to choose art as a career."

—Susan K. Hori, a Dean's Leadership Council member

"We choose to support the excellent musical theatre program at UCI. Where else can you see all these wonderful actors in a Broadway-caliber production? We've been very impressed."

—R. Laudati and James Pick, Dean's Leadership Council members