

WRITERS WEEK UC RIVERSIDE PRESENTS

33RD ANNUAL WRITERS WEEK CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 9 ~ 13, 2010

WRITERS WEEK READERS

GREG BENFORD
MICHELLE BOISSEAU
HEIDI DURROW
SHELIA FINCH
JANET FITCH
VICKI FORMAN
TIM GEIGER
TOD GOLDBERG
REBECCA K. O'CONNOR
LAILA LALAMI
LARRY NIVEN
RUTH NOLAN
VICTORIA PATTERSON
DOLEN PERKINS-VALDEZ
DIXIE SALAZAR
DEANNE STILLMAN
JON VEINBERG
LAWRENCE WRIGHT





Michael Jayme

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing , Director of Writers Week

Once again, Writers Week is here! There are many who help make this tremendous reading series possible, and among them I am particularly indebted to those who have helped shape this year's program. Rob Latham, UCR Associate Professor of English, is curating a terrific colloquium devoted to Science Fiction, a first for Writers Week. And it seems most fitting that, thanks to Melissa Conway, Head of Special Collections, this event is being held in the Rivera Special Collections Library, home to the Eaton Collection, which is the premier public repository of Science Fiction literature in the world. I also appreciate the efforts of Maria De Varenne, Editor and Vice President of News at the *Press-Enterprise*, as well as her staff, to continue to sharing their Hays Lecture with the UCR community. The same appreciativeness extends to Marion Mitchell-Wilson, Executive Director of the Inlandia Institute, who have once again partnered with Writers Week to help provide a closing event at the downtown branch of the Riverside Public Library. As the rest of this brochure suggests, this year's edition of Writers Week promises to be full of fascinating fiction authors, poets, investigative journalists, memoirists, novelists, and so on. I do hope you can join us.



D. Charles Whitney

Department of Creative Writing Chair

Welcome to the 33rd edition of Writers Week, one of the longest continuously running celebrations of great writers and great writing anywhere. The Department of Creative Writing is very, very pleased to have you join us in hearing a variety of extraordinarily talented non-fiction and fiction writers and poets. We are especially grateful for our partnership again this year with the Press-Enterprise Foundation in incorporating the Hays Lecture into our program and for the continuing support of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, particularly from Dean Stephen Cullenberg and Associate Dean Georgia Warnke. I would like to take this opportunity, too, to thank the Department's staff and faculty for helping to realize this week, and especially Professor Michael Jayme, our Writers Week director.



Hays Press-Enterprise Lecturer

Lawrence Wright

Lawrence Wright is an author, screenwriter, playwright, and a staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. He is a graduate of Tulane University and the American University in Cairo. In 1971, Wright began his writing career at the *Race Relations Reporter* in Nashville, Tennessee. Two years later, he went to work for *Southern Voices*, a publication of the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, Georgia, and began to freelance for various national magazines. In 1980, Wright returned to Texas to work for *Texas Monthly*. He also became a contributing editor to *Rolling Stone*. In December, 1992, he joined the staff of *The New Yorker*, where he published a number of notable articles, which have won him the National Magazine Award for Reporting as well as the John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism, and the Overseas Press Club's Ed Cunningham Award for best magazine reporting.

Wright is the author of several books. His most recent, a history of al-Qaeda entitled *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*, was published to immediate and widespread acclaim, spending eight weeks on the *New York Times* best-seller list and being translated into twenty-five languages. It was nominated for the National Book Award and won the Lionel Gelber Award for nonfiction, the *Los Angeles Times* Award for History, the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize, the New York Public Library Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism, and the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction. In 2006, he premiered his one-man play, *My Trip to al-Qaeda*. It has been made into a documentary film. Wright is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He also serves as the keyboard player in the Austin-based blues band, Who Do.

The Hays Press-Enterprise Lecture

The Hays Press-Enterprise Lecture Series was begun in 1966 by Howard H (Tim) Hays, then editor of *The Press-Enterprise*, in cooperation with the University of California, Riverside. Upon the sale of the newspaper in 1997 to Belo Corp., his son, Tom Hays, endowed the lecture and the Hays name was added to the title in honor of Tim Hays. Belo Corp. and A.H. Belo Corporation have also contributed to the furtherance of the Lecture series.

The intent of the *Hays Press-Enterprise Lecture Series* is to bring to Riverside each year someone of exceptional achievement in journalism to address important topics related to the news media and thereby further the knowledge and interests of both the university and community at large.

Coverage of the lecture will also appear in *The Press-Enterprise* and on *PE.com*.

WRITERS WEEK

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

Science Fiction, Rivera Special Collections Library

Curated by **Rob Latham**, Associate Professor of English

12:00 **Greg Benford**, author of *In the Ocean of Night* and *Across the Sea of Suns*

12:30 **Larry Niven**, co-author of *Destroyer of Worlds*, *Juggler of Worlds*, and *Fleet of Worlds*

1:00 **Sheila Finch**, author of *The Guild of Xenolinguists* and *Reading the Bones*

2:00 Science Fiction Writers Reception, Rivera Special Collections Library

Broadside Printing Exhibition, Rivera Special Collections Library

3:00 **Tim Geiger**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

Poetry, INTS 1128

10:30 **Tim Geiger**, author of *Blue Light Factory*

12:00 **Michelle Boisseau**, author of *No Private Life* and *Understory*

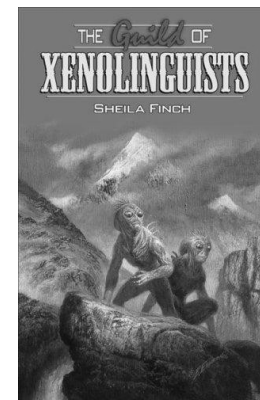
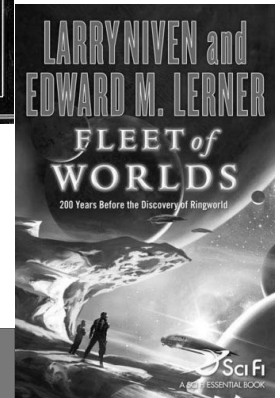
2:00 **Jon Veinverg**, author of *An Owl's Landscape*, *Stickball Till Dawn*, and others.

4:00 **Dixie Salazar**, author of *Hotel Fresno*, *Reincarnation of the Commonplace*, and *Blood Mysteries*

5:30 Poetry Panel: Poets Writing in Other Genres

Keynote Reading, UNLH 1000

7:30 **Janet Fitch**, author of *White Oleander* and *Paint It Black*



WRITERS WEEK

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

Nonfiction, INTS 1128

12:00 Vicki Forman, author of *This Lovely Life*

2:00 Distinguished Alumnus Reading: **Rebecca O'Connor**, author of *Lift*

4:00 **Laila Lalami**, author of *Secret Son* and *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*.

Hays Press-Enterprise Lecture, University Theatre

7:30 **Lawrence Wright**, author of *The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* and others

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12TH

Fiction, INTS 1128

12:00 Distinguished Alumnus Reading: **Victoria Patterson**, author of *Drift*

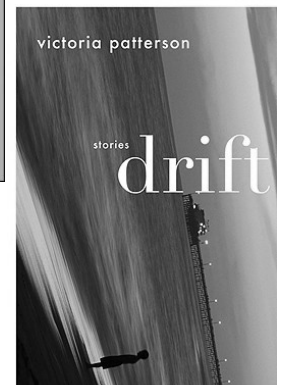
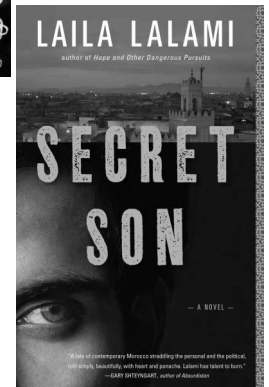
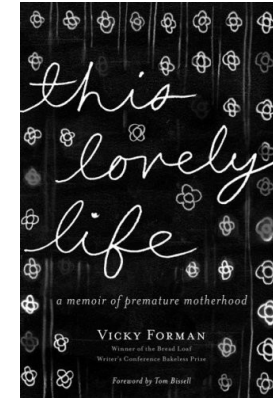
2:00 **Dolen Perkins-Valdez**, author of *Wench*

4:00 **Heidi Durrow**, author of *The Girl Who Fell From The Sky*

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13TH

The Inlandia Institute at the Riverside Public Library

2:00 *No Place for a Puritan* anthology presentation hosted with **Ruth Nolan**, editor, and authors **Tod Goldberg** and **Deanne Stillman**



VISITING WRITERS: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

Rob Latham is an Associate Professor of English at UCR. A coeditor of the journal *Science Fiction Studies* since 1997, he is the author of *Consuming Youth: Vampires, Cyborgs, and the Culture of Consumption*. He is currently working on a book on "New Wave" science fiction of the 1960s and 1970s.

Gregory Benford is a professor of physics at the University of California, Irvine, working in astrophysics and plasma physics. His fiction has won many awards, including the Nebula Award for his novel *Timescape*.

Larry Niven has written fiction at every length, and speculative articles, speeches for high schools and colleges and conventions, television scripts, political action in support of the conquest of space, graphic novels, and a couple of comic book universes. He has won numerous awards, including Hugos for "Neutron Star," *Ringworld*, "Inconstant Moon," "The Hole Man," and "The Borderland of Sol," a Nebula for Best Novel: *Ringworld*, Ditmars for *Ringworld* and *Protector*, Japanese awards for *Ringworld* and "Inconstant Moon," and a Inkpot from the San Diego Comic Convention. His latest work includes *Juggler of Worlds*, *Fleet of Worlds* and *Destroyer of Worlds*.

Sheila Finch is the author of seven science fiction novels and numerous short stories that have appeared in *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Amazing*, *Asimov's*, *Fantasy Book*, and many anthologies. A collection of the "lingster" stories recently appeared as *The Guild of Xenolinguists*. Sheila taught creative writing at El Camino College for thirty years and at workshops around California. She also writes non-fiction about teaching creative writing, and science fiction, most recently, a series of short essays on the field that appear online at the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America web site. Her work has won several awards, including the Nebula for Best Novella, the San Diego Book Award for Juvenile Fiction, and the Compton-Crook Award for Best First Novel.

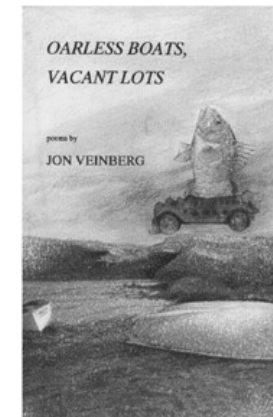
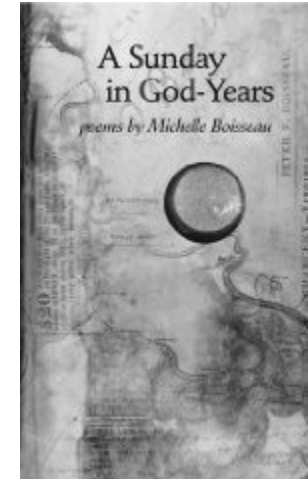
VISITING WRITERS: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

Tim Geiger teaches poetry writing, creative writing, and letterpress printing through his award-winning literary fine-press imprint: Aureole Press. He is the author of the poetry collection *Blue Light Factory* and six chapbooks, most recently *Migratory Patterns*. He has received a Pushcart Prize XIII, a Holt, Rhinehart and Winston Award, and many state and local grants in Alabama, Minnesota, and Ohio. He currently serves as the English Department's Associate Chair for the University of Toledo.

Michelle Boisseau's fourth book of poems, *A Sunday in God-Years*, was published in 2009 by University of Arkansas Press. Her other books include *Trembling Air*, a PEN USA finalist, University of Arkansas Press 2003; *Understory*, winner of the Morse Prize, Northeastern University Press, 1996; and *No Private Life*, Vanderbilt, 1990. Her college textbook, *Writing Poems*, is in its 7th edition. Her poems and essays have appeared in *Poetry*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *Southern Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Ploughshares*, and elsewhere. She has received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and two prizes from The Poetry Society of America. She is a professor of English at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Jon Veinberg is the author of several poetry collections including, *An Owl's Landscape*, *Stickball Till Dawn*, *Oarless Boats*, *Vacant Lots* and recently published *The Speed Limit of Clouds*. In addition, he was co-editor of *Piecework: 19 Fresno Poets*. His poems have appeared in many literary magazines including *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, *The Antioch Review* and *The Missouri Review*. His work has also been included in many anthologies such as *Highway 99: A Literary Journey through California's Great Central Valley*, *The Geography of Home: California's Poetry of Place* (California Poetry Series), *What Will Suffice – Contemporary American Poets on the Art of Poetry*, and *Many Californias: Literature from the Golden State*.

Dixie Salazar has published three books of poetry: *Hotel Fresno*, *Reincarnation of the Commonplace*, *Blood Mysteries* and forthcoming from University of Arizona Press in 2009, *Flamenco Hips and Red Mud Feet*. She has a novel, *Limbo*, from White Pine Press and is also a visual artist, working primarily in oils. Her art studio, Silva Salazar Studio is located at 654 Van Ness. She has taught extensively in prisons and currently is involved with a project for creating a homeless drop-in center in downtown Fresno.



VISITING WRITERS: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

Rebecca K. O'Connor has published essays in *South Dakota Review*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *West, divide*, and was a Pushcart Nominee for the 2008 Prize. Her novel, *Falcon's Return*, was a Holt Medallion Finalist for best first novel and she has published numerous reference books on the natural world.

Laila Lalami was born and raised in Morocco. She studied Linguistics at University Mohammed-V in Rabat, University College London, and the University of Southern California. Her work has appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and elsewhere. She is the recipient of a British Council Fellowship and a Fulbright Fellowship. She was short-listed for the Caine Prize for African Writing (the African Booker) in 2006 and for the National Book Critics Circle Nona Balakian Award in 2009. Her debut collection of short stories, *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*, was published in the fall of 2005 and has since been translated into six languages. Her first novel, *Secret Son*, was published in the spring of 2009. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside.

Vicki Forman is the author of *This Lovely Life: A Memoir of Premature Motherhood*, winner of the Bread Loaf Writers Conference Bakeless Prize. She teaches creative writing at the University of Southern California and lives outside Los Angeles with her husband and daughter.

VISITING WRITERS: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Dolen Perkins-Valdez is the author of *Wench: A Novel*. Her fiction and essays have appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, *StoryQuarterly*, *African American Review*, *PMS: PoemMemoirStory*, *North Carolina Literary Review*, *Richard Wright Newsletter*, and *SLI: Studies in Literary Imagination*. She is a 2009 finalist for the Robert Olen Butler Fiction Award. A graduate of Harvard and a former University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow, she splits her time between Seattle and Washington, DC.

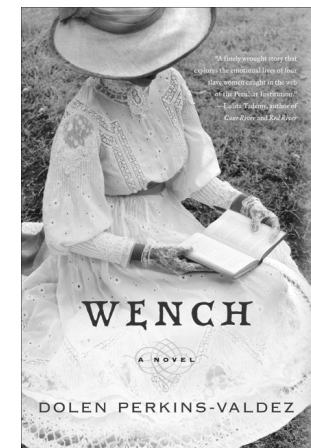
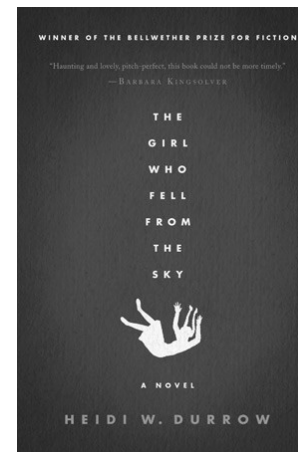
Victoria Patterson is the author of *Drift*, a collection of interlinked short stories, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in June 2009. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in various literary journals, including the *Southern Review*, *Santa Monica Review*, and *The Florida Review*. Her short story "Johnny Hitman" was listed in the 100 Distinguished Stories in *Best American Short Stories 2009*.

Heidi W. Durrow has won the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition and the Chapter One Fiction Contest. She has received grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the American Scandinavian Foundation, and the Lois Roth Endowment, and a Fellowship for Emerging Writers from the Jerome Foundation. Her writing has been published in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The Literary Review*, and others. Her debut novel, *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky*, is the winner of Barbara Kingsolver's Bellwether Prize for Literature of Social Change.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Janet Fitch, a native of Los Angeles, is best known for her novel, *White Oleander*, an Oprah Book Club selection, which was translated into 24 languages, and made into a major motion picture in 2000. Her second novel, *Paint It Black*, was published in 2007, also by Little Brown, a novel of love and suicide set in punk-rock LA. Fitch's short stories have appeared in anthologies and journals such as *Los Angeles Noir* (Akashic Press), *Black Clock*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Room of One's Own*, *Rain City Review* and *Speakeasy*, and essays in publications as *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *Vogue*, and *Salon.com*, and anthologized in *Because I Said So: 33 Mothers Who Think and Writers Workshop in a Book: The Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Fiction*. She was the 2001 Moseley Fellow in Creative Writing at Pomona College Claremont, and currently teaches advanced fiction writing in the Master of Professional Writing program at the University of Southern California, and at the Squaw Valley Community of Writers.

Photo courtesy of Claudia Kunin.

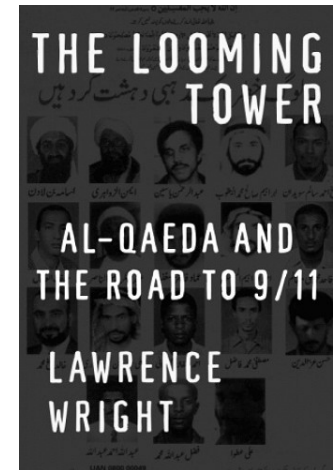
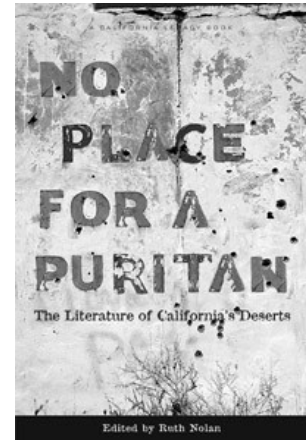


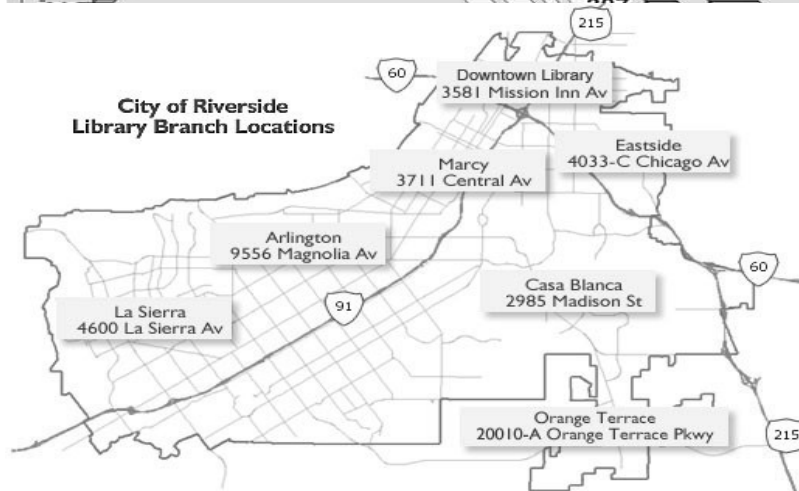
VISITING WRITERS: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

Ruth Nolan is Associate Professor of English at College of the Desert, where she teaches poetry, creative writing, and desert and Native American literature. She is also founder and advisor of the College of the Desert literary and visual arts magazine *Solstice*. She has published poetry in *Pacific Review*, *Mosaic*, and *Women's Studies Quarterly*, academic articles in journals such as *American Indian Review* and *Journal of Excellence in Higher Education*, has twice been recipient of a Vermont Studio Fellowship, and has recently published poetry in *Inlandia*, an anthology chronicling Southern California's Inland Empire and desert regions. She is currently co-authoring a bird-guide book to California's Palm Springs and nearby desert areas.

Tod Goldberg is the author of seven books, including the novels *Living Dead Girl*, a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, *Fake Liar Cheat* and the popular *Burn Notice* series, as well as the short story collections *Simplify*, a finalist for Southern California Book Sellers Association Prize in Fiction and winner of the Other Voices Short Story Collection Prize, and *Other Resort Cities*, which was released in November 2009. His short fiction and essays have appeared in numerous journals and magazines, including *The Sun*, *Post Road*, and *The Santa Monica Review*, and several anthologies, twice earning Special Mention for the Pushcart Prize and notation as a Distinguished Story in the 2009 Best American Mystery Stories. A four-time winner of the Nevada Press Association award in journalism and arts criticism, Tod's work appears frequently in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Las Vegas CityLife*, and *The Chicago Tribune*. His next novel, *The Giveaway*, will be released in July of 2010. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing & Literature from Bennington College and is the Administrative Director of the UCR-Palm Desert MFA Program in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts.

Deanne Stillman brakes for sand. A widely published, critically acclaimed writer, she is the author of *Mustang: The Saga of the Wild Horse in the American West*, which was named a "Best Book 08" by *The Los Angeles Times* and won a California Book Award silver medal for nonfiction. In addition, it has received excellent reviews in many places, including the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Orion*, *The Economist*, NPR's *On Point*, *The Missoulian*, and elsewhere. Deanne is also the author of the bestseller *Twentynine Palms: A True Story of Murder, Marines, and the Mojave*, a *Los Angeles Times* "Best Book 01" which Hunter Thompson called "A strange and brilliant story by an important American writer." It was recently published in a new, updated edition, with a preface by T. Jefferson Parker and foreword by Charles Bowden. She also wrote *Joshua Tree: Desolation Tango*, a tribute to Joshua Tree National Park, for the University of Arizona Press. She is currently writing *Mojave Manhunt* for Nation Books, based on her *Rolling Stone* piece of the same name. It was a finalist for a PEN journalism award. Deanne's work is widely anthologized, and she is a member of the core faculty at the UC Riverside-Palm Desert MFA Creative Writing Program.





Sponsors and Supporters

The Department of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside is especially grateful to the many sponsors of this program, especially Stephen Cullenberg, Ph.D., the Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences; the Abraham Polansky Fund; and the Tomás Rivera Endowment. This event is also supported by Poets & Writers Inc. through a grant it has received from the James Irvine Foundation. We are additionally indebted to the faculty and staff of the Creative Writing Department for their volunteer time and effort and also to the programs staff at the Riverside Public Library.

Basic Directions to UC Riverside

FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY

From the 91 Freeway: Take CA-91 east to the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

From the 10 Freeway: Take the I-10 east to the I-15 south and then to CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

From the 60 Freeway: Take the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

FROM ONTARIO AIRPORT

From the 10 Freeway: Take the I-10 east, to the I-15 south and then to the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

From the 60 Freeway: Take the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

FROM ORANGE COUNTY

Take the CA-91 east to the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

FROM PALM SPRINGS

Take the I-10 west to CA-60 west. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

FROM SAN BERNARDINO

Take the I-215 south to the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

FROM SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Take the I-15 north to the I-215 north to the CA-60 west. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

Visitor Parking

University visitors may obtain parking permits for \$6 at the Information Kiosks or self-service dispensers. Permits are valid in visitor lots or Gold parking zones. Zones are enforced 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Every vehicle, unless otherwise exempt, must display a valid parking permit when parking on UCR property.

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY branch at 3581 Mission Inn Ave

FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE:

1. Head south on University Ave toward N Campus Dr
2. Take the 1st right to stay on University Ave
3. Slight right to stay on University Ave
4. Turn right on Mulberry St.
5. Take the 1st left onto Mission Inn Ave, destination will be on the right