

# THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Here's the latest in Irvine news and events



Participants gather at the startline of the 30th annual Orange County Walk MS on April 29 at UC Irvine. (Photo by Rick Valasek)

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### ***Fighting multiple sclerosis***

Nearly 3,500 walkers raised \$332,732 in donations at the 30th annual Orange County Walk MS on April 29 at UC Irvine, an organizer said.

Proceeds from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society event will benefit multiple sclerosis research and programs and services for people with the disease. Donations are accepted through June 1 at [WalkMS.org](http://WalkMS.org).

### ***Chamber gets new leader***



Following an extensive national search, the Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce announced its new president and CEO, Bryan Starr. Starr will take the helm on May 19.

Bryan Starr (Photo by Brandon Okumura)

A long-time Irvine resident, Starr previously served as senior vice president to Orange County Business Council, overseeing external affairs, and as CEO of the Building Industry Association of Southern California, Orange County Chapter.

### ***Marijuana discussion***

UC Irvine will host “Understanding Cannabis: Medicine and Society,” featuring a roundtable discussion by Lori Ajax, chief of California’s Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation, UCI professor Daniele Piomelli and Congressman Dana Rohrabacher.

Topics include legalization, current research, medical marijuana and more. The event is 4-6 p.m. Friday, May 5, at the UCI Student Center.

### ***AIDS Walk***

AIDS Services Foundation Orange County will host its 31st annual AIDS Walk Orange County on Saturday, May 6, at William R. Mason Regional Park.

Whether walkers plan to participate in the 5K walk or the Red Ribbon 5K Fun Run, all are encouraged to don capes, spandex, boots and other favorite super hero gear.

Free HIV testing, counseling and other services are offered. To register, visit [aidswalkorangecounty.com](http://aidswalkorangecounty.com). Info: 949-733-8679 ext. 101, or [ocasf.org](http://ocasf.org).

### ***Best for working parents***

Irvine was ranked the fourth best place for working parents among the 464 largest U.S. cities by the personal finance technology company SmartAsset.

[The study](#) looked at nine factors including the unemployment rate, average high school graduation rate, violent crime rate, household income, average childcare costs, housing costs and average commute time.

### ***Best for entrepreneurs***

Irvine was ranked the seventh best place for Hispanic entrepreneurs among the 150 largest U.S. cities by the personal finance website WalletHub.

[The study](#) looked at 21 metrics such as Hispanic entrepreneurship rate, Hispanic income growth and share of Hispanic-owned businesses.

### ***Only In Irvine***

Voting is underway to select the winner of this year’s Only In Irvine video contest.

You have until May 22 to vote once a day for your favorite video created by teams from six Irvine high schools at [onlyinirvine.com](http://onlyinirvine.com). Online voting comprises 25 percent of the total score. The winning team will receive a \$5,000 prize.

### ***Pancakes with the Patriots***

Beckman High School will host its Pancakes with the Patriots fundraiser 9 a.m.-noon, May 13, at the Main Quad on campus.

Pancake breakfast is \$5 each, with proceeds benefiting the athletic department. The school's band, drill team and drum line, as well as its cheer and dance teams will do performances. The campus is 3588 Bryan Ave.

Information: [www.tustin.k12.ca.us/beckmanhs](http://www.tustin.k12.ca.us/beckmanhs)

### ***Project Scientist***

Concordia University Irvine has partnered with Project Scientist to offer Project Scientist Summer Academy for girls ages 4-12 from June 19 to July 28.

The six-week day camp is focused on empowering girls with a passion, talent and aptitude for science, technology, engineering and math. Participants will explore themes including sports medicine, mythbusters, coding and space explorers.

Registration: [projectscientist.org](http://projectscientist.org)

### ***Business advocate of the year***



Loreen Gilbert (Photo by Sheri Geoffreys)

Loreen Gilbert, founder and president of Irvine-based WealthWise Financial, will be honored Thursday, May 11, at the National Association of Women Business Owners, Orange County Chapter's 21st annual Remarkable Women Awards Gala at the City National Grove of Anaheim.

Gilbert will receive the Women Business Advocate of the Year award, including for her 20th year in business, being in the top 2 percent in gross revenue among 15,000 advisers and being appointed as the only woman and Californian to the 19-member Trump Pence Small Business Advisory Council.

### ***Volunteers sought***

UCI MIND, Orange County's only state and federally funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, is calling on Orange County residents age 65 to 85 who have normal memory function to help in meeting its urgent need for study participants in a clinical study underway.

The current clinical trial for which UCI MIND needs participants is called the "A4 Study." This study will evaluate whether giving an investigational drug can delay or prevent the onset of cognitive decline from Alzheimer's disease.

Participants will receive compensation for their time in participating, as well as access to medication that is believed to hold promise as a potential prevention.

People interested in joining UCI MIND's registry can do so at [www.c2c.uci.edu](http://www.c2c.uci.edu). Those interested in helping to fill the urgent need for participants in the A4 Study can contact the clinical trial team at 949-824-0008 or [research@mind.uci.edu](mailto:research@mind.uci.edu).

### ***Money talk***

Applied Financial Planning, a group of financial advisers, will launch a radio show, “Money Wise with the Money Guys,” on KOCI Radio.

Financial specialist Robert Micone will be the lead host of the program 9-9:30 a.m. Saturdays on 101.5 FM. The show begins May 6 and will broadcast to listeners in coastal Orange County, including Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Irvine and surrounding areas.

Experts will discuss a wide range of current topics and events and how they impact the financial health of Orange County residents and businesses. Topics will include impending tax changes on the market and the effect on your portfolio, saving for college, the pinch on local government pensions and more.

### ***Shooting for the moon***

UC Irvine students will “shoot for the moon” thanks to a \$1 million gift from Base 11, a nonprofit STEM workforce development and entrepreneur accelerator.

The “Moonshot Initiative” will establish a rocketry program at The Henry Samueli School of Engineering, with the intent of making UCI the first academic institution to launch a liquid-fuel rocket into space.

The Base 11 donation will turn an existing area on the Engineering Tower’s ground floor into a rocketry lab that enables students to design, build and test rocket prototypes between 15 and 50 feet long. It will also fund a mobile operations center and assembly trailer that can transport rockets to test sites and will allow students to make repairs off-site as needed.

### ***Stopping tobacco abuse***

UC Irvine student Bhavesh Patel has received \$10,000 from the Donald A. Strauss Public Service Scholarship Foundation to travel to rural India to design and implement a tobacco abuse prevention project in his senior year.

The goal is to create a model intervention program for youth at one public health center that can be spread to other centers.

Patel is a third-year biological sciences major with a minor in medical anthropology.

### ***\$10 million grant***

A UC Irvine study on the impact of environmental changes on malaria in sub-Saharan Africa has been awarded up to \$9.6 million over seven years from the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, a part of the National Institutes of Health.

The funding establishes UCI as one of the International Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research, which will engage in projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Guiyun Yan, professor of public health, leads the UCI project.

### ***Helping low-income students***

UC Irvine is aligning with 67 of the nation's top colleges and universities to increase the number of talented low- and moderate-income students at undergraduate institutions.

American Talent Initiative members will improve their own efforts to recruit, enroll and support lower-income students; learn from each other; and contribute to research that will help other colleges and universities expand opportunity.

### ***Pitch competition***

Synova Life Sciences, a regenerative medicine company, won the fourth Get Started Orange County pitch competition hosted by Cox Business.

Held at Irvine in front of more than 400 entrepreneurs and businesses, John Chi, CEO of the Irvine-based company, delivered a 2 1/2-minute pitch and answered questions from a panel of expert judges, ultimately taking first place: \$10,000 in cash and services from Cox Business.

### ***New liaison***



Michael Artinger

Experienced technology executive Michael Artinger has been named managing director of the Research Translation Group for Applied Innovation at UC Irvine.

The Research Translation Group serves as a liaison for faculty and staff across all UCI departments to help in developing strong ties with industry. Before joining UCI Applied Innovation, Artinger most recently served as vice president for marketing & strategic partnering at ViroCyt, an analytical instrument company.

### ***Scholarship winners***

Musical Theatre West's Footlighters presented 11 Los Angeles and Orange County students with \$1,000 scholarships at its annual awards, including Irvine's Shaden Ahadi and Katherine Paladichuk.

The winners, selected from public and private schools throughout the Southland, performed at the event, held at the Centre at Sycamore Plaza in Lakewood.

Founded in 1999, the Footlighters is a non-profit auxiliary organization created to support Musical Theatre West and its education outreach efforts.

### ***Monkey Business Cafe***

The Fullerton-based nonprofit [Hart Community Homes](#) has opened its second Monkey Business Cafe.

The cafe, which creates jobs and offers work experience for emancipating foster youth, is on the second floor of OC Music and Dance, 17620 Fitch Ave., Irvine. Participants are employed as servers, cashiers, baristas, cooks, food prep workers and dishwashers.

***Fund raised***

UC Irvine's first-ever Giving Day raised \$1.4 million within 24 hours – exceeding its goal of \$1 million – to support students, research and innovative programs across campus.

Giving Day donations poured in from more than 1,800 benefactors in over 30 states and nine countries. A large portion of the gifts came from UCI alumni.

***Library grant***

The UC Irvine libraries have been awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant in the community anchors category for “Transforming Knowledge/Transforming Libraries.”

This three-year research project will explore the outcomes of undergraduate students applying what they learn in ethnic studies combined with lived experience in contributing to community archives.

***Volunteerism award***

Irvine resident Stephanie Cannaday, an associate general counsel for Optum Services in Orange County, was named a OneOC Spirit of Volunteerism Award winner.

Stephanie was recognized for the hands-on volunteer work she has provided over the past several years — both on her own and on behalf of Optum's charity committees — for a diversity of local nonprofit programs and projects.

***Spireon honored***

Spireon Inc., a GPS vehicle tracking and fleet tracking solutions company based in Irvine, received the Silver Stevie Award in the Customer Service Department of the Year category in the 15th Annual American Business Awards.

<http://www.ocregister.com/2017/05/04/heres-the-latest-in-irvine-news-and-events/>