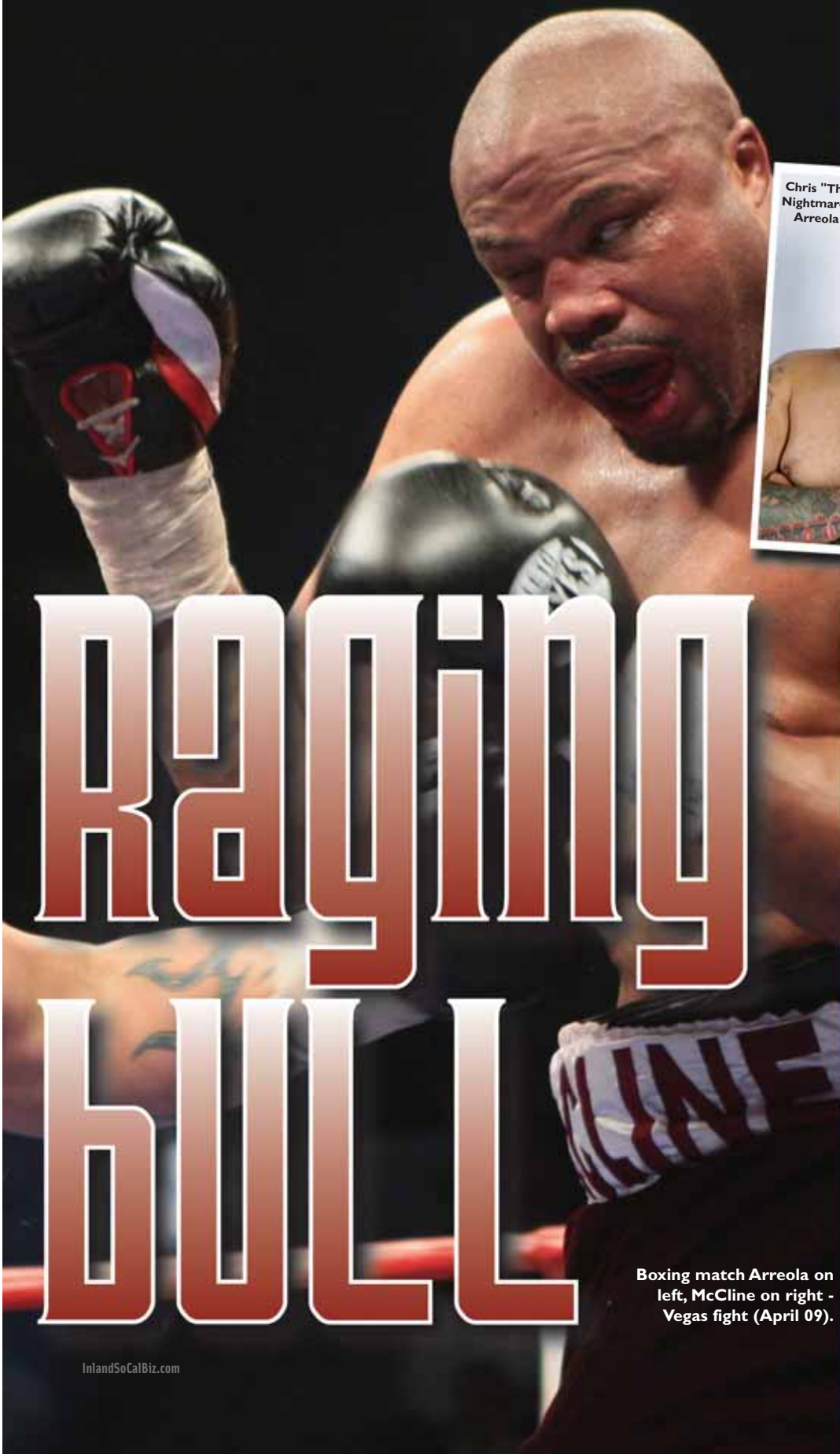


players

Riverside boxer eyes world title

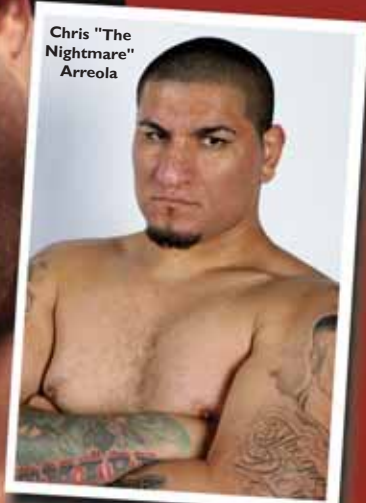
CHRIS ARREOLA TRAINS FOR THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY





It's fitting that "Raging Bull" is boxer Chris "The Nightmare" Arreola's favorite fight movie. Like Jake LaMotta, played by Robert DiNiro, Riverside's heavy-weight hopeful has demons.

They're best told from the tattoos that grace the canvas of his 240-pound, 6' 4" body. His deceased best friend who died way too young from a stray bullet peers from his left shoulder. An Aztec warrior and Statue of Liberty sprawled elsewhere define his proud heritage, and a turd — inked on a dare — kisses his wrist.




"I went to seven high schools in three years but only got kicked out of one," Arreola, 28, says of his teen years after moving to Riverside from East L.A., where he was born.

He says his mother still has the drawings of him boxing in a ring he sketched as a child. "It's what I always wanted to do."

After his last victory against journeyman Jameel McCline televised on HBO in April, he's getting closer to his dream of making history as America's first Mexican-American to nab the World Boxing Championship title. That means going after reigning champ Vitali Klitschko, the Ukrainian known as Dr. Fist because he has a PhD in sports medicine and philosophy.

Trainer "Electric" Henry Ramirez is readying Arreola, undefeated with 27 wins (24 knockouts), for what could be the fight of the century.

Not since Mike Tyson bit off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear in 1997 has heavy-weight boxing been in the limelight.

A professed movie and video game freak, Arreola, who has three bulldogs and is married with a seven-year-old, says his family motivates him to press forward. "I think of my daughter when I'm in the ring." 

—Allie B. Kagamaster

Boxing match Arreola on left, McCline on right - Vegas fight (April 09).

photo credits: Jan Sanders/Goossen Tutor Promotions

Noir author sees stars

Guggenheim confers fellowship for “stellar achievement and exceptional promise”

When Christopher Abani, PhD, isn't running workshops in his creative writing classes at the University of California, Riverside, he's catching planes. The prolific author, who's put pen to paper since childhood, belongs to an elite group of a lecture circuit.

Born in Nigeria and schooled in London and at USC, Abani's first story, “The Lion,” was written when he was 10. “It was about a boy who tried to save his friend from a lion attack and ended up sacrificing himself.”


But Abani, 44, knew then that short stories weren't his forte, so at 16 he published his first novel “sort of about a Nigerian James Bond.”

“Noir is at the bottom of everything I write,” he says. And creating great noir is what got him one of only 180 fellowships awarded by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation this year. He'll use the

undisclosed funds to finish his sixth novel.

“Any boon I win reflects well on the campus as a whole,” the UCR professor says of the tremendous honor.

He says his win is proof of the university's viable and diverse presence in the community.

Given a year to write “Fire and His Brother,” about a Nigerian circus act in Las Vegas, Abani will travel from his home in Los Angeles to South Africa and the islands of South Georgia. 

—Allie B. Kagamaster

Sports medicine man

Temecula doctor keeps athletes on the field

Ask some doctors about their first year on a new job, and they might tell you about meeting their co-workers or one particular patient they treated. For Temecula's Dr. Jerry Hizon, it's all about a trip Down Under.


“In 1999 I was selected as head primary care physician for the San Diego Chargers, and my first road trip was to Sydney, Australia for a pre-season game against the Broncos.”

In addition to his position with the Chargers, Hizon spends his off-season and the better part of football season as medical director of OUCH Sports Medicine in Temecula, which he co-founded in 2001 with Brent Kay.

2009 will mark Hizon's 21st season with the Chargers, a tenure that began in 1989 when Oasis Sports Medicine, who then handled

orthopedics for the Chargers, recruited Hizon to join their team.

The Chargers aren't the only Southern California sports team Hizon and OUCH work with. They've served as primary physicians for the San Diego Padres, the San Diego Gulls hockey team, most high schools in the Temecula/Murrieta area, AMA Motorcross, the U.S. Olympic team, and even controversial Tour de France winner Floyd Landis.

Still, it's the Chargers people always ask him about. Hizon's fondest memory with the team? Working with late General Manager John Butler. “He was giant of a man and demonstrated amazing courage while he continued to mold the Chargers almost to the moment he passed away from lung cancer. His record and legacy speak for themselves.” 


—Chris Kern

Law and justice

LSU professor publishes book

Cambridge University Press in September will release Economic Justice and Natural Law, by Gary Chartier, La Sierra University associate professor of law and business ethics. Chartier's book, is “an account of justice and economic life that draws on new classical natural theory,” says Chartier. Natural law theory, rooted in ancient Christian and classical sources, emphasizes that varying aspects of human welfare “are distinct and diverse, and that they all matter.”

This is Chartier's second book. His first, 2007's The Analogy of Love, explores Christian beliefs and why they matter in today's world.

Chartier joined the La Sierra faculty on a full-time basis in 2001, but began teaching on campus in 1992. He earned a doctorate in Christian theology and ethics from the University of Cambridge in 1991 and a law degree from UCLA in 2001. In addition to School of Business courses in business ethics and public policy, he team-teaches a Scientific Foundations course, Religion and Rationality. 

Two University of California professors honored

Distinguished Professor of Psychology Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

University of California, Riverside professor Robert Rosenthal is one of 210 new fellows in the U.S. to join one of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies and a center for independent policy research, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Rosenthal, who spent 37 years as a professor at Harvard University before joining the UCR faculty in 1999, is internationally known for his foundational work in statistical analysis of social science literature, the influence of expectations, and nonverbal behavior.

His groundbreaking research into experimenter bias and self-fulfilling prophecy — known as the

Rosenthal Effect — led to the development of double-blind studies in the social and biomedical sciences and ultimately challenged two generations of researchers to focus on how body language and tone of voice can influence the results of jury trials, student performance and patient outcomes.

Since its founding by John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock and other scholar-patriots, the Academy has elected as members the finest minds and most influential leaders from each generation, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in the eighteenth century, Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the nineteenth, and Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill in the twentieth. The current membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates and more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners. 🇺🇸

Survive and thrive

Bill improves care of childhood cancer survivors

Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack (CA-45) received The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) National Capital Chapter's prestigious annual award for her support of initiatives for cancer research and patient services. She, along with Senator Edward Kennedy, was named this year's recipient of Congressional Honors at LLS' Congressional Honors Program,

Entomologist Alexander Raikhel is elected member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences



University of California, Riverside's Alexander Raikhel, professor of entomology, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for his excellence in original scientific research. Membership in the NAS is one of the highest honors given to a scientist or engineer in the U.S.

He is recognized internationally for his significant contributions to insect science and vector biology. A leader in insect and mosquito reproduction and immunity, he is the author or coauthor of more than 150 research papers in international peer-reviewed scientific journals and books.

Raikhel was raised and educated in the Soviet Union. He obtained his M.S. in zoology from Leningrad (St. Petersburg) University and his Ph.D. in biological sciences from the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He and his family immigrated as political refugees to the United States in 1979.

There are currently just over 2,000 active NAS members. Among the most renowned are Albert Einstein, Robert Oppenheimer, Thomas Edison, Orville Wright, and Alexander Graham Bell. More than 180 living NAS members have won Nobel Prizes. 🇺🇸

which also supports funding for world-renowned researchers at some of the country's leading research facilities.

Mack sponsored legislation that will improve and expand delivery of medical and psychosocial care to people who survive childhood cancer. A growing number of children diagnosed with cancer are surviving the disease to find they may need lifelong screening and care. 🇺🇸





photo by Melissa Addison

CBU nurses Rwandans

Nursing students trek to Africa to administer education, medicine

“We were struck by how fresh and vibrant the memories of the genocide are in the minds of these women. For them life stopped during events of the genocide, and they have spent the past 15 years rebuilding some sense of being within these overwhelming losses.”

California Baptist’s School of Nursing is deploying another international service project group to the villages of Rwanda hit hardest from the genocide of 1994 that killed some 800,000 people. Their visits are part of an ongoing effort to heal Rwandans of what associate professor Geneva G. Oaks says no human should ever have to endure.


Oaks, along with co-leader Susan Drummond says, “We were struck by how fresh and vibrant the memories of the genocide are in the minds of these women. For them life stopped during events of the genocide, and they have spent the past 15 years rebuilding some sense of being within these overwhelming losses.”

While most of their work in Rwanda deals with educating nurses to improve public health, their visits also pack in some fun. Student nurses gave massages, manicures and pedicures to the women. And for the kids,

“We brought Vacation Bible School in a bag!”

Each team member shared a favorite Bible story with the children who, like any Sunday school student, got to color and play with balls, stickers and jump ropes. A change of pace from the usual banana leaves rolled into a ball and empty water bottles that serve as toys.

Not only did the group vaccinate newborns and check them for the prevalent HIV/Aids virus, but CBU’s nursing team delivered a baby girl whom the mother named Faith or Quezella, in Kinyarwanda.

After that trip, Oakes and Drummond submitted an article to Nursing Science Quarterly detailing their students’ experiences in Rwanda. “And we are hoping to complete a book of encouragement for women which will contain the lessons we learned from the women of Rwanda.” 

—Allie B. Kagamaster

Whole health

Inland SoCal gets its first holistic expo



The mantra “take two aspirin and call me in the morning” became one woman’s catalyst to turn to Eastern medicine to rid the nagging pain.

Darlene Merkle, who owns Merkle Consulting Services, a senior healthcare firm in Redlands, was 39 when 20 years ago her physician diagnosed her with osteoarthritis, a degenerative disease that would put her in a wheelchair by age 55. Now, years past that timeline, Merkle is not only ambulatory, she’s active. How’d she do it?


“I started researching every place I could think of, asking everyone I came into contact with about other options,” says Merkle.

Deep massages and acupuncture treatments worked, as did reflexology and meditation. “Eastern medicine looks at the whole body and gets to the root of the problem.”

Merkle, living in her home state of Maryland at the time, longed to share what worked for her with other sufferers so she formed a networking group. This led to an annual holistic expo there where practitioners and patients merged for a day.

It’s taken her four years, the amount of time she’s lived in Redlands, to come up with time and a plan to continue here where she left off in Maryland.

On July 25, Merkle’s launching what she says is the first holistic expo in the region, aiming for 100 exhibitors to include demonstrations, homemade jewelry, organic foods and a holistic veterinarian.


After two hip replacements, Merkle, who has three grown sons and five grandchildren, remains optimistic. “[Eastern medicine] has helped me to lead a more active lifestyle, have a more positive approach to life in general, and kept me from taking so many medications.” 

—Allie B. Kagamaster

transitions...

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) Inland Empire Committee recently appointed David Neault as vice chair. ULI is a worldwide nonprofit organization that promotes best practices in land-use policy. Neault is a three-year member of ULI. His goal as vice chair will be to build subcommittees around key issues that will change the way the industry looks at land-use planning and real estate development.

Best Best & Krieger has hired Maggie T. Watkins as chief marketing and business development officer. She worked for more than 10 years as the marketing director at Luce Forward, a national law firm and served as the chief executive officer of an international network of 175 law firms with more than 5,000 attorneys in 60 countries. Watkins graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles and has served on numerous industry and civic boards, including Girl Scouts, Legal Marketing Association (LMA), LEAD San Diego, Inc. and the YMCA.

La Sierra University has selected Dr. Jim Erickson to serve as director of its new Center for Philanthropy. The Center will begin enrolling students in the fall and offers free training seminars for local nonprofit organizations, a Master’s of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in philanthropy and certificate programs in philanthropy. Erickson is a University of California vice chancellor emeritus and former president and chief executive officer of the Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. He has served as vice chancellor for advancement at the University of California, Riverside and UC Merced. 



Equal justice

La Verne College of Law hosts visiting Afghan women


Seeking a way to better administer justice, fourteen women attorneys and judges from Afghanistan and their translators toured local courthouses to meet with law officials.

When Charles S. Dostrow, professor of law and dean emeritus, who teaches at the University of La Verne College of Law in Ontario, got wind of the visiting delegation he arranged a dinner and dialogue with one of the organizers. “I knew about their visit and wanted to be sure the law school had some kind of role entertaining them and hearing their story.”

The women, who observed the American justice system firsthand, arrived as part of a privately funded program created by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan supports reform in a post-Taliban society.

The women, who mostly kept their identities secret while here, practice law openly as their country recovers from decades of turmoil. Dostrow says he quickly learned how difficult life is for them. “The one judge who was here, her predecessor was shot dead six months earlier.”

Another told of threatening text messages she receives from the resurging Taliban.

After touring the region, visiting Knott’s Berry Farm, and spending some time at the beach in Santa Monica, the women headed for Washington, DC, where they met with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. 

—Allie B. Kagamaster