

UCLA In the News February 22, 2016

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[According to its candidates, the GOP race is full of liars](#) | Washington Post
Richard D. Anderson, Jr., a professor of political science at UCLA who has studied political linguistics, said the tone has something to do with the dynamics of the race, including the public's distrust of career politicians. The word liar, Anderson said, is "evoking people's anger and unhappiness with fellow politicians."

[Risk of Zika virus concerns prospective Olympians](#) | Los Angeles Times
But for most other people, experts say, Zika presents minimal risk. "It's a very mild illness," said Dr. Karin Nielsen, a specialist in pediatric infectious diseases at UCLA. "Fever happens in only about a quarter of the patients." That might not comfort Olympic athletes who wear minimal clothing and compete during the day when mosquitoes are most likely to bite.

[Meditation can improve sleep](#) | Los Angeles Times
The form used in the current study is mindfulness meditation, which is characterized by paying attention to the moment, "and not judging your thoughts or observations," said the senior researcher, Dr. Michael Irwin, a UCLA psychiatry professor and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute. UCLA and USC collaborated on the research.

[Art series imagines an all-Latino Oscar race](#) | Los Angeles Times
"Like everybody, I read the front page of the L.A. Times about the Oscar nominations and I thought, 'We have to be able to do something,'" said Chon Noriega, a professor of cinema and media studies at UCLA, who also oversees the university's Chicano Studies Research Center. "There has been a lot of indignation and a lot of calls for change. And there have been changes, incremental changes, at the academy. But I wanted to do something that could change the way people look at things rather than simply arguing them down."

[Super Bowl concession company sued for wage theft](#) | Slate
For many workers, wage theft is routine. In 2009, a study by three organizations — the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, the National Employment Law Project, and the University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Urban Economic Development — found that low-wage workers in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City lost more than \$56 million per week due to various forms of wage theft and other forms of labor violations.

[Online courses may have caused rise in LAUSD graduation rate](#) | Los Angeles Times

"This does raise questions about the integrity of the system," said UCLA education professor Pedro Noguera. "A number of school districts around the country are using online classes for credit recovery. It's partially responsible for the increase in the national graduation rate that everyone from the secretary of education to the president has been celebrating."

[Study suggests harmful effects of missing pesticides](#) | Bloomberg

The UCLA study recommended the state test pesticides that are sold as part of a mixture for interactive toxic effects before approving their use, require evaluation of products that are not used as a mixture but are used in combination or sequentially with other pesticides to determine interactive effects, and consider interactive effects in performing risk assessments and establishing regulations.

[Brain fitness program could slow cognitive impairment](#) | Reuters

"It is not yet proven how such an approach staled atrophy or encouraged regrowth as measured by an increased volume," said Dr. Dale Bredesen, founding president of the Buck Institute for Research on Aging and a researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, in an email. Bredesen wasn't involved in the study.

[The impact of "To Kill a Mockingbird"](#) | CNN

"Ideally, I think you would say that no book finds a readership that is quite ready for it," said UCLA's David Kipen. "I think a book not just finds, but makes its readership if it's good enough. And a lot of people that read it weren't ready for it at the beginning, but by the end might well have realized that this was a book they should have been ready for far earlier."

[Chicago homeless shelter serves LGBT youth](#) | Chicago Tribune

A study done by the Williams Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles in 2011-12 found that about 40 percent of homeless young people served by agencies identify as LGBT, many because they have been rejected by their families on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

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