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PAC discusses UC's long-term strategy

The fall meeting of the UC President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources was held in Berkeley on Oct. 7-8. President Robert C. Dynes opened the session by welcoming nine new commissioners for what proved to be a dynamic and extremely productive two-day meeting. (See Oct 2004 ANR Report for a full list of commissioners.)

Highlights were a major presentation on food, nutrition and health by experts from ANR and USDA, a strategic planning exercise led by President Dynes, a UC budget and advocacy update by Senior Vice President—University Affairs Bruce Darling, a presentation on ANR future directions and priorities with Vice President—Agriculture and Natural Resources Reg Gomes and Interim Associate Vice President Lanny Lund, and remarks by Secretary for Food and Agriculture A.G. Kawamura.

The theme of the major presentation was *Nutrition, Food & Health: Research and Extension Making a Difference for Californians*. Featured speakers were Sharon Fleming, Barbara Sutherland, Lindsay Allen and Patricia Crawford.

Fleming, a professor and food scientist from UCB's College of Natural Resources, provided an overview of nutrition and health challenges facing Californians. She

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Dynes visits sudden oak death site



Julia Clothier, Fairfield Osborn Preserve site manager and education coordinator, sanitizes the shoes of President Dynes (seated on left) and Senior VP Bruce Darling to prevent the spread of sudden oak death disease. UC Davis plant pathologist Dave Rizzo showed Dynes and Darling plants infected with the pathogen during Dynes' tour of the North Coast. See story on [page 2](#).

AAC to look at consulting policies

Academic Assembly Council will be reviewing the pros and cons of campus and Cooperative Extension policies for specialists and advisors who do consulting work. An ad hoc committee was appointed to make recommendations for modifying the policies for greater consistency, according to Gloria Barrett, AAC president. Juan Guererro chairs the committee, which is composed of Jim Hill, Gerald Higginbotham and Cindy Fake.

VP Gomes met with the AAC, which convened in Riverside on Oct. 12 and 13, and gave an update on ANR and responded to questions from council members. Interim Associate VP Lanny Lund discussed the recent advisor salary scale adjustment.

At the request of VP Gomes, AAC is developing a standard set of questions to ask employees who leave ANR. Suggestions for the exit interview form can be sent to Dorothy Smith, chair Welfare and

Benefits Committee, at dorsmith@ucdavis.edu or (209) 754-6477.

In other business, Diane Metz was appointed secretary. Chris Greer, chair of Sub-Region 2 CVR and Art Craigmill, campus chair, were selected to serve on the AAC Executive Committee. The Personnel Committee is continuing to conduct program dossier training.

Applications for expense reimbursement from the Professional Society Meeting Fund are accepted only online at <http://groups.ucanr.org/AAC>, reported Fake, Program Committee chair.

For details about the meeting, see the minutes on the AAC Web site <http://groups.ucanr.org/AAC>. AAC's next meeting is scheduled for April 26 and 27 at the Alumni Center at UC Davis. Anyone interested in future university service with AAC should contact Doug Gubler at wdgubler@ucdavis.edu.

Dynes visits North Coast

From vine mealybug to Pierce's disease, UC President Bob Dynes saw firsthand some of the major problems grape growers in Napa and Sonoma counties are encountering and how ANR scientists are helping to solve them. He also visited a dairy, toured a sudden oak death-infested site, and experienced a 4-H Windsor Bloco performance. Dynes and other senior UC staff joined local cooperators, Vice President Gomes and ANR advisors, specialists and researchers for a tour of California's north coast on Oct. 25 and 26.

The visit began at Buena Vista Vineyard in the Carneros region of Sonoma County and Monticello Vineyard in Napa.

Over lunch, Buena Vista vineyard manager Craig Weaver gave the group an overview of grape-growing on the North Coast. In the vineyards, UCCE entomologist Kent Daane and Sonoma County farm advisor Rhonda Smith discussed how the vine mealybug infestation has increased in California since it was first noted around 10 years ago. They talked about approaches for controlling this exotic pest, which can reduce yields and fruit quality, and passed around samples of these tiny insects. The adult male vine mealybug can fly, yet is only the size of a pinhead. The crawlers, which are the individuals that hatch from eggs and cause damage on grapes, are only slightly larger than the period at the end of this sentence.

Napa County viticulture advisor Ed Weber pointed out Pierce's disease symptoms in an infected Napa vineyard and showed Dynes and Senior Vice President Bruce Darling specimens of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) and other species of sharpshooters that spread the bacteria that cause Pierce's disease. He talked about the need to keep GWSS out



Ed Weber, left, points out to Dynes and Darling the different species of sharpshooters that spread Pierce's disease.

of Napa Valley vineyards – to date the slower moving blue-green sharpshooter has caused only limited PD damage near riparian areas—and field trials under way to monitor Pierce's disease and its spread.

At the UC Davis Oakville Experimental Vineyard, Jim Wolpert, Department of Viticulture & Enology chair and Marvin Sands Endowed Chair, showed Dynes the station's modern research facilities, then led a tour of the research vineyards and various production experiments he and other UC scientists are conducting on winegrape varieties. Dynes also learned about the one-of-a-kind zinfandel clone library on site that preserves specimens of this grape variety collected from active and abandoned vineyards across California.

Following an alumni reception at Copia, Robert and Margrit Mondavi hosted a dinner for Dynes and wine industry leaders at Robert Mondavi Winery in Napa. Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Neil Van Alfen, acknowledged the university's longstanding relationship with the Mondavis, who donated \$25 million in 2001 to UC Davis to establish the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science.

On Oct. 26, Rich Silacci, owner of Silacci Dairy, drove with Dynes from Napa to his dairy in Petaluma. Enroute he talked about some of the regulatory changes his family's dairy has seen over the decades since his grandfather started the business and the invaluable assistance he receives from UC today. At the dairy, Stephanie Larson, UCCE Sonoma County livestock and natural resource advisor, and Dayna Ghirardelli, UCCE program assistant, talked about the university's programs for dairy operators on the North Coast. These focus on dairy water-quality management, including



Dayna Ghirardelli (on right) and Stephanie Larson (on Dayna's right) explain how ranch plans help dairies comply with environmental regulations.

nutrient budgeting and ranch plans.

At nearby Adobe State Park, Dave Lewis, UCCE Sonoma County watershed management advisor, and Michael Lennox UCCE staff research assistant, used a restoration site along Adobe Creek to discuss results from their evaluation of more than 80 riparian revegetation projects on the North Coast.

At Fairfield Osborn Preserve, Dynes saw oak trees afflicted with sudden oak death disease and signs of infection on bay laurel, the host plant most conducive to *Phytophthora ramorum* spore production. Dave Rizzo, UC Davis plant pathologist, talked about his research at the site and collaboration with Sonoma State University, which manages the preserve. California Oak Mortality Task Force chair Mark Stanley talked about collaborative educational outreach efforts involving UC, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, county agricultural commissioners, U.S. Department of Forestry and many local organizations to prevent the spread of *P. ramorum*.

Sonoma County CE director Linda Garcia rode with Dynes from the reserve to Rohnert Park and concluded the ANR portion of the tour with a lunch with 4-H members and volunteers, Sonoma State scientists, agricultural leaders and UCCE staff at the 4-H center in Rohnert Park. After lunch, Evelyn Conklin-Ginop, Sonoma County 4-H advisor, introduced a performance by the 4-H after-school program's Windsor Bloco drum and dance ensemble, which rocked the room by beating a Brazilian rhythm on their drums.

Dynes concluded his North Coast tour with a visit to the UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab Natural Reserve area before returning to the Bay Area.



Windsor Bloco entertains lunch guests at the 4-H Center in Rohnert Park.

UCR to host symposium on impact of excess nitrogen

The University of California, Riverside, and University Extension, will host a symposium on the sources and impacts of excess nitrogen in the xeric regions of the western United States. "Nitrogen Eutrophication in Xeric Wildland and Agricultural Systems" will be held Jan. 19 and 20, 2005, at UC Riverside Extension in conference rooms D & E.

Much research has been done to address the problem of global nitrogen eutrophication caused by increased agricultural fertilizers, domestic animal wastes, and nitrogen emissions from industry and internal combustion engines. However, less is known about the magnitude and impacts of nitrogen pollution in the xeric environments of the western United States. This symposium will address the problems unique to xeric ecosystems ranging from desert to seasonally dry coniferous forest.

Talks will be given from all

perspectives so that the problems of nitrogen excesses faced by regulators and managers are identified, and consequently can be dealt with from scientific, regulatory and management aspects. A proceeding will be produced from the symposium that will consist of synthesis papers based on talks and discussions.

A list of presentations and speakers will be posted at <http://unex.ucr.edu>.

Registration is \$55 for one day or \$99 for both days and includes continental breakfast, lunch, coffee and the poster mixer. To receive a registration form, contact UCR Extension at (951) 827-5804 or sciences@ucx.ucr.edu.

Travel reimbursement is available for county-based advisors. For more information, contact symposium organizers Edith B. Allen at edith.allen@ucr.edu or (951) 827-2123 or Laosheng Wu at laosheng.wu@ucr.edu or (951) 827-4664.

IREC solicits research proposals

Intermountain Research and Extension Center in Tulelake is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research projects for calendar year 2005.

The Intermountain Research and Extension Center is a 140-acre research facility located at 4,000 feet elevation near the Oregon border. The center specializes in potato, small grain, onion, and forage research; however, most cool season field and vegetable crops can be accommodated and grown on the center. Available center facilities and equipment include a greenhouse, controlled post harvest facility, drying ovens; an automated potato grading line, a mini-still for essential oil extraction, specialized small plot irrigation equipment, research adapted small plot planters and harvesters, and a full line of commercial farm equipment for field and vegetable crop production.

Technical assistance is available for all farming practices, field instrumentation and data collection.

IREC provides labor, equipment, facilities and technical support to UC academics and to personnel from cooperating agencies. Grants of center-provided labor to support approved projects are awarded annually.

Proposal forms are due by Jan. 6, 2005 and can be obtained from the Intermountain Research and Extension Center's web site at http://danrrec.ucdavis.edu/intermountain/research_forms.html. Please submit required forms electronically to ucirec@ucdavis.edu.

For more information about research support or facilities contact IREC Director, Harry Carlson at (530) 667-2719. For information on electronic submission or forms, contact Linda Woodley at (530) 667-5117.

Liesch, Manton receive national awards

Darlene Liesch, Kern County director and Linda Manton, Central Valley regional director, were honored recently by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) at their national professional society meeting in Oklahoma City.

Liesch was honored with the Distinguished Service Award. This award is based on work with profession association and Extension committees, professional improvement, professional accomplishments and community contributions. Liesch was recognized for her outstanding support of the California 4-H Program and contributions to youth in Kern County.

Manton received the Meritorious Service Award, which is based on the same criteria as the Distinguished Service Award recognition. Manton was recognized for her years of service to the 4-H Program, contributions to NAE4-HA, and continued support of the California 4-H Youth Development program and 4-H staff in the Central Valley Region.

In memoriam: Paula Fitch

Paula Fitch, UCCE nutrition, family and consumers sciences advisor for Imperial County, succumbed to cancer on Oct. 20 at age 49.

In 1992, Fitch joined UCCE as the NFCS advisor. As coordinator of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program for Imperial County, she worked with low-income families in the valley, mostly those living below the poverty level. Fitch wrote and produced a quarterly newsletter, "Today's Families," in a bilingual format. She also wrote consumer articles for the In-Our-Field column for the Imperial Valley Press.

She implemented "Money 2000 for Teens," and conducted focus groups with six local high school classes.

Fitch was honored by the Imperial Valley Housing Authority Family Self-sufficiency Program for her participation, dedication and commitment as the chair of the Program Coordinating Committee from 2000 to 2002. The Imperial County Public Health Department recognized Fitch for her contributions to the Imperial County Safe Communities Project in 2000 and 2001.

In 1999, she received the UCCE Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her outstanding and creative teamwork on the "Gateway to a Better Life" program, which helps prepare welfare recipients to work and successfully remain employed.

She is survived by her husband, Paul, of La Mesa.



Manton, left and Liesch



ANR consolidates Oakland offices

Nearly 40 members of ANR located at the Kaiser Center have moved so all Oakland-based staff are now located in the UC Office of the President on Franklin Street. Below are the new office numbers for those who have moved*. A few people have joined the ANR family recently so we've included a brief description of their duties.

Telephone numbers remain the same. Mailing address, unless otherwise **indicated in red**:

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* For a complete list of Oakland-based ANR staff, go to <http://ucanr.org/internal/Oaklandcontacts.pdf> (Note: This list is in the process of being updated and will be posted by Dec. 1st)

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Update your listing in the ANR directory

Office locations change, phone numbers change, titles change and hair styles change. Make sure your information is current in the online ANR directory.

You can check your listing by going to <http://ucanr.org/direct.cfm> and entering your first or last name. For the full listing, click on your name. If you'd like to update the listing, go back to <http://ucanr.org/direct.cfm> and click on "update or add directory entry," which is near the bottom of the page.

Because the Division is spread out across the state, we don't get to see everyone we work with. It's nice to be able to put a face with the name of the people we e-mail and talk with on the phone so the directory contains space for your photo. Send photographs as an attachment to David Underwood at David.Underwood@ucop.edu. He can size and crop photos to fit the space.

Modifications are not automatic. All directory updates are reviewed prior to entering in the database to prevent one's friends from ending up with titles like "assistant to head down" or being shown in particularly unflattering photos.

PAC — from page 1

noted that California ranks number one in the nation for agricultural productivity and variety of foods produced, yet eleventh in food insecurity. Sutherland, the director of the statewide Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), covered nutrition education for low-income families.

Allen, the director of the USDA Western Human Nutrition Research Center, talked about the move from the Presidio San Francisco to new facilities and labs at UC Davis and partnering opportunities for USDA-UC. Crawford, a Cooperative Extension nutrition specialist and co-director of the Center for Weight and Health at UCB, discussed obesity and what will be needed to reverse the factors contributing to this growing national crisis.

On Oct. 8, Dynes offered the commissioners an opportunity to assist him in planning for UC's future.

"We're the best university in the world, but we can do better," Dynes said.

He has been meeting since mid-July with the Regents, the chancellors, his cabinet (including Vice President Gomes),

members of the Academic Senate and other UC communities to begin thinking about what the university should look like 10, 15 and 20 years from now.

Dynes said he has asked these groups to think about "what is success?" How do we ensure that UC is responsive to the state's educational, research and public service needs while maintaining its reputation as the world's leading university system?

Dynes said that he will be going outside the UC community to engage California's business sectors – including agriculture – to better understand their needs. He noted that UC contributes to California's economic prosperity in many ways – through educating tomorrow's leaders and innovators, through development of new technologies and inventions, through delivery of science-based information to local communities – and that the University is committed to having a continued role in the state's economic future.

The commissioners responded to Dynes' challenge to "express their views, positive and not so positive" – sharing with him what they saw as the University's

strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and their ideas for what California agriculture would look like in 2025.

Dynes thanked the group for their input and said this will help UC leadership get a better idea of the shape of the "playing field" and options for guiding the University's research, development and delivery priorities in the future.

He said he will continue the strategic planning discussion at the Spring 2005 PAC meeting, telling the commissioners he appreciated their willingness to be the first external group to share their ideas for the future of the University of California.

The PAC brings together senior leaders from UC and the state's agricultural and natural resources sectors to share new information and ideas, surface emerging issues and challenges facing agriculture, and gain exposure to the breadth and range of UC research and CE programs. This was the twelfth meeting of the PAC, which was established in 1998. The next meeting of the President's Advisory Commission will be Apr 7-8, 2005, in Berkeley.

— Steve Nation

ANR REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

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ANR Report is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, W.R. Gomes, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of California.

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