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Gomes announces plans to retire

After more than 10 years as Vice President – Agriculture and Natural Resources, W.R. “Reg” Gomes has informed UC President Robert C. Dynes of his plans to relinquish his day-to-day duties as vice president and retire from UC in early February. Gomes, 67, is internationally renowned for his expertise in animal sciences, agricultural policy and the research university.

Gomes assumed UC’s top agricultural position on Sept. 1, 1995, after serving as dean of the University of Illinois’ College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Gomes began his professional career in 1965 at The Ohio State University in the department of dairy science. He later moved to University of Illinois at

— continued on page 3

VP Gomes, left, talks with UC Associate President Linda Williams, President Dynes and Jack Pearlstein, owner of Nurserymen’s Exchange. Gomes has announced his retirement.

Ag leaders rally support for Dynes

Nearly two dozen agricultural and environmental leaders wrote to California Senators Jeff Denham and Abel Maldonado on May 5 expressing their full support for President Robert C. Dynes to remain in the University’s top leadership post. The letter came in response to calls by Maldonado and Denham that Dynes resign or be fired over irregularities in executive compensation and other problems revealed in recent audits.

While acknowledging the seriousness of compensation issues at the University, and echoing the need for strong management and oversight systems, the letter said: “All of us have had the opportunity to work with Bob Dynes in one way or another. We find his advocacy of the University’s greatness refreshing and invigorating. He has fostered a serious discussion about where the University and California should be in twenty years. His vision, enthusiasm and quest for knowledge have permeated the University system and fostered a healthy dialogue about the future.”

They urged Denham and Maldonado “to cooperate with President Dynes and the Regents to solve these current transitory problems so he and the University can return to their more substantive endeavors,” and closed by saying: “As business and professional leaders, we can assure you that the

work of the University at all levels drives the health and welfare of California and any significant distractions from its core mission will be felt by all of us. We believe President Dynes understands the University’s importance and relevance better than anyone.”

Signing the letter were Kevin Andrew, Sun World International; Don Bransford, California Rice Commission; Carol Chandler, Chandler Farms; Grant Davis, The Bay Institute; Ralph De Leon, Samco, Inc; Dan Dooley, Dooley Herr & Peltzer, LLP; Mark Emmerson, Sierra Pacific Industries; Ralph Grossi, American Farmland Trust; Ted Horton, California Golf Course Owners; Curt Josiassen, Josiassen Farms and Butte County Board of Supervisors; James Lugg, TransFRESH Corporation; Pamela Marrone, Marrone Organic Innovations; Ken McCorkle, Wells Fargo Bank; Dina Moore, Lone Star Ranch; Joel Nelsen, California Citrus Mutual; Jack Pearlstein, Nurserymen’s Exchange; Richard Rominger, Rominger Farms; Rita Sudman, Water Education Foundation; Bob Vice, BLV Agribusiness Consultants; Paul Wenger, California Farm Bureau; and Stuart Woolf, Woolf Enterprises.

Copies of the letter were sent to the UC Board of Regents, including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez.



PAC discusses invasive species, shows support for Dynes

President Robert C. Dynes greeted members of the President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources (PAC) saying, "This is a meeting I always look forward to because it's a friendly group."

At the PAC meeting in Berkeley on April 27 and 28, Dynes addressed "the elephant in the room," noting there had been much of information and misinformation about UC's executive compensation in the newspapers lately.

Dynes explained that the regents understood that decisions were made for the university to be competitive in hiring, but they were concerned about disclosure. He added that part of the problem is that UC lacks a comprehensive information system to analyze compensation data from the campuses and throughout the UC system.

"I hope to move forward in correcting the situation," Dynes said, listing actions he has begun implementing in response to audit findings.

One member commented, "I don't believe there is corruption or an ethical problem and it bothers me that you're spending time on this... UC is lucky to have a leader like you."

Highlights of the spring meeting included VP Gomes' report on an initiative now under way to augment ANR's budget, presentations on invasive pests and diseases by ANR experts (see below), an update on UC's 2025 long-range planning process by Acting Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Rory Hume, and a briefing on ANR's new reporting and accountability system by Pat Day, director of Program Planning and Evaluation.

In his report, Gomes reminded the commissioners that ANR took a 25 percent cut in state funding earlier in the decade. This resulted in the loss of 347 positions in counties and on the campuses. He explained that a request for new funding to address California's emerging problems is being proposed for inclusion in The Regents 2007-08 budget, noting that the ANR initiative has been developed with input from internal and external focus groups and individual stakeholders.

"We began by talking about issues, directions and opportunities, not about

geography and disciplines," Gomes said. "We're not going to do what we used to do. The 'new' ANR will devote significantly more resources to coordinated, multidisciplinary teams using systems approaches to address major issues facing California. Our mission has not changed, but our approach will take on new dimensions."

Rick Standiford, associate vice president, announced that ANR expects to fill 12 to 17 positions in 2006-07, with a strategic review of emerging and future issues in California playing a major role in the decision-making process. He said ANR is working to cultivate greater interest among Division membership in pursuing leadership positions. Standiford noted that 57 academics and staff hired in the past five years attended an orientation session on April 25-26, which ANR sees as a first step in promoting leadership succession.

Our mission has not changed, but our approach will take on new dimensions."

For the PAC meeting, the major presentation theme was "Invasive Pests and Diseases: Plant, Insect and Microbial Threats to California."

Timothy Paine, UC Riverside professor of entomology and ANR program leader for Agricultural Policy and Pest Management, gave an overview of UC's invasive species programs and then focused on terrestrial systems and threats. He noted that ANR scientists and advisors are heavily involved in invasive species research, but that UC experts from every campus are working with ANR on high visibility projects.

Carol Cardona, UC Davis veterinarian and poultry specialist, talked about her work with the poultry industry to prevent H5N1 avian influenza from spreading if it enters this country. She emphasized that people who have contracted the disease have had direct contact with infected birds; the disease has not yet been transmitted between humans. To reduce risk if the virus reaches California, Cardona has been providing educational material to backyard poultry owners and to consumers who handle poultry at live markets.

Edwin "Ted" Grosholz, UC Davis marine species specialist, explained how invasive marine and aquatic species can

disrupt the ecosystem and, in one case, nearly shut down the Delta pumps. He noted that most introduced marine and aquatic invasive species have no natural enemies; this has led to rapid distribution of pests that can overwhelm local ecosystems. Many scientists believe that the recent steep drops in fish populations in the Delta are directly related to the introduction of the Asian clam *Potamocorbula amurensis*. With three of the nation's five busiest ports, a thousand-mile long coastline and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California is continually at risk from introductions on ship hulls and discharge of ballast water.

Kevin Andrew, commissioner and senior vice president of Sun World International, moderated the presentations and discussed the challenges invasive species pose for California agriculture. He outlined environmental, economic and health threats from invasive pests and diseases and the means of excluding, detecting and controlling or eradicating

them. Preventing pests from infesting California depends on a steady stream of research, Andrew said. He warned that recent new exotic pest invasions indicate an erosion of exclusion effectiveness, noting that there were four Medfly infestations in 2005. When convincing policy-makers that pest prevention is necessary and urgent, Andrew advised the group to explain its broad societal benefits.

Hume, who is co-chair of UC's long-term guidance team, said that in light of declining state support per enrolled student, the university has tried to identify its strongest assets and begin eliminating duplication and weaker programs. "We must more than ever plan as a system rather than 10 separate campuses... It's been okay for campuses to compete until this time," Hume said. As part of the UC2025 long-range planning process, the team held a series of web chats to get input from UC faculty, staff, alumni, students and other friends.

At the conclusion of the two-day meeting, the PAC members voiced their unanimous support for President Dynes and gave him a standing ovation.

The next biannual meeting of the President's Advisory Commission will be Oct. 26 and 27, in Berkeley.

KREC seeks input on organic research



Gomes —continued

Urbana-Champaign, where he was head of the department of animal sciences and head of the department of dairy science, before being appointed dean.

Under his leadership, UC's agricultural, natural and human resources research and public service programs have continued to garner international recognition for creativity, scientific discovery and dissemination of science-based and practical knowledge despite a series of budget cuts earlier in the decade.

"The University of California is one of the world's leading research universities and our agricultural and natural resources programs are recognized around the globe for creating scientific breakthroughs, developing new technologies, and delivering practical results to local communities and entrepreneurs," Gomes said. "I am honored that three UC presidents have placed their trust in me to help guide these world-class programs."

In addition to serving as vice president, Gomes is director of the California Agricultural Experiment Station and director of UC Cooperative Extension. He provides systemwide leadership, through ANR, for research and extension efforts in agricultural, natural and human resources on the Berkeley, Davis and Riverside campuses, at nine research and extension centers, and for Cooperative Extension offices serving California's 58 counties.

In a letter dated May 1 to Dynes, Gomes wrote: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at UC and working with you ... but I think we have reached the place in the ... recovery of the California economy that will allow positive planning for the future of ANR programs at UC; new leadership should be put in place to complete and implement those plans."

Gomes made it clear that his decision was in no way influenced by the recent controversy involving UC compensation practices. "I have assured (Bob) Dynes that I fully support his leadership as president of the University of California," Gomes said, "and I will do everything within my power to help him move forward with reforms over the next eight months and beyond."

Dynes, who will conduct the search for the next Vice President – Agriculture and Natural Resources, said: "Reg Gomes has provided steady leadership, and been a strong advocate throughout his tenure, for the university's agricultural, natural and human resources, and related-environmental programs. I have truly valued his knowledge, counsel and insights into the research and extension needs of agriculture – California's leading industry – and his unwavering support for the university's land-grant mission."

Gomes was recently named chair of the National Research Council's Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources. He also serves on the Farm Foundation's Bennett Agricultural Round Table, the California Board of Food and Agriculture, the California Farm Bureau Board of Directors and the California Biodiversity Council. He was named a Fulbright-Hays Distinguished Traveling Professor in 1974 and a Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science in 1980. Earlier this year he was honored as "Distinguished Graduate: Science, Education and Technology" by Washington State University.

Gomes holds a bachelor's from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; a master's from Washington State University; a Ph.D. from Purdue University; and was awarded an honorary doctorate by Moldova State University.

Should some land at Kearney Research and Extension Center be certified organic to support research addressing needs associated with organic farming in the San Joaquin Valley?

The KREC Research Advisory Committee is requesting input from university researchers to help determine the level of interest in establishing an area certified for organic production that will be available for research.

If you have an interest in conducting research that would benefit from certified organic field locations at Kearney, please use this link to respond to five very brief questions: <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=1343>.

For additional information, please contact Richard Molinar, rhmolinar@ucdavis.edu or (559) 456-7555 or Fred Swanson, fswanson@uckac.edu or (559) 646-6060.

Giannini Foundation celebrates 75 years



A.W. (Tom) Clausen, retired CEO of Bank of America, reminisces about A.P. Giannini, whose gift of \$1.5 million gave life to the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics. Giannini was founder and president of Bank of America. The systemwide foundation celebrated its 75th anniversary with a symposium May 3 at UC Davis featuring foundation members, alumni and stakeholders.

Geisel named statewide Master Gardener coordinator

California's extensive network of volunteer Master Gardeners will have a statewide coordinator for the first time beginning in July, when Fresno County UCCE environmental horticulture advisor Pamela Geisel assumes the new position in Davis.

Geisel, who has served as a UCCE environmental horticulture advisor since 1980, established the Fresno County Master Gardener program in 1981. The program's annual training sessions are so popular, volunteers are selected through an application and interview process. Geisel holds bachelor's and master's degrees in plant science from California State University, Fresno.

The new coordinator position gives statewide continuity to a program that has unique characteristics in each of the 32 California counties where it is offered. Geisel will facilitate the distribution of research-based information and knowledge to the Master Gardener programs statewide. She will identify training needs, develop programs for the volunteers and coordinate the development of a new Web site to compile Master Gardener information



and ideas for more efficient collaboration.

"I am very excited about taking on this new role in my extension career," Geisel said. "Master Gardener volunteers have waited 25 years for cohesive statewide leadership. One of my goals as the statewide coordinator is to facilitate a unified voice on issues important to the university and to the residents of California. When the approximately 3,000 Master Gardeners speak with one voice, we can have a greater impact on society and on our outreach to our clientele."

Geisel and Fresno County Master Gardener coordinator Leslie Feathers

conducted a survey from 1997 to 2001 to estimate the value of the volunteers' cumulative contribution statewide. During the four-year period, Master Gardeners donated 890,238 hours of service to the public. If these volunteers had been paid \$12 an hour, the value of their contributions would have amounted to \$10.6 million.

Geisel will be reachable until July 1 at pmelam@ucdavis.edu and (559) 456-7554. After July 1, she will be located in the ANR building at UC Davis, where her e-mail will be pgeisel@ucdavis.edu and she will have a new phone number.

— Jeannette Warnert

Essential Facilitation training offered Sept. 27-29

A three-day Essential Facilitation workshop will be held Sept. 27-29 in the Central Valley. The workshop will provide practical, proven models and tools for planning and conducting effective meetings through an interactive format that includes a comprehensive manual, practice sessions, discussion and video feedback. Participants will learn and practice a facilitated approach for building understanding and agreement among people.

The training will be conducted by Linda Manton and Carole Paterson, who are UC ANR "in-house" trainers and have been certified by Interaction Associates to deliver the Essential Facilitation training.

Anyone who leads groups, teams or meetings can benefit from learning to serve as a facilitator.

The training session will be Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants are expected to attend all three days. The training will take place in Stanislaus County or Fresno County, depending upon the location of the individuals registering.

Enrollment is limited to 14 participants. There is no cost to Central Valley Region CE advisors, county-based and regional staff members. For more information about the training and costs, contact Sandi Gumber-Bach at sgumberbach@ucack.edu or (559) 646-6543.

Tuolumne recruits CD/natural resource advisor

Tuolumne County CE is recruiting for the position of County Director (25%), and Natural Resources Advisor (75%) based in Sonora. This is a 12-month academic career track appointment in the Cooperative Extension Associate through Full Title Advisor rank. Initial appointments will be for definite periods. Deadline to apply is **June 30**.

This position will have the responsibility to initiate, develop and conduct educational/research programs in areas of Natural Resources (sustainable use of natural resources, invasive species, water quality) and Agriculture (including orchard, vineyard, livestock-based and Master Gardener Program) relevant to the needs of the county and its residents.

Minimum qualifications include a master's degree in a field related to natural resources, such as range science, hydrology, soil science, forestry, plant ecology, wildlife biology, or other natural resource-related field.

Beginning salary will be in the Cooperative Extension Associate to Full Title rank, commensurate with experience and professional qualifications <http://ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/tab0506/table33.pdf>. In addition, an annual administrative stipend is included.

For more information regarding definite appointments, see Series 300, Section 310 at the ANR Web site: <http://danr.ucop.edu/admin-handbook/300/>. This position is subject to administrative review of the need for the position and the incumbent's performance in three, two-year renewable terms.

Applications are available from <http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml>. For more information about position #ANCM 06-01 and/or to return completed application materials, contact Pam Tise, North Coast & Mountain Region, (530) 754-8509, fax (530) 754-8540 or ptise@ucdavis.edu

Names in the news

McDougald named Madera County director

Neil McDougald, farm advisor in Madera and Fresno Counties, has accepted the position of Madera County director beginning July 1, following Ron Vargas' retirement. The appointment is for three years through June 30, 2009, with an option for renewal.



McDougald

Walton joins Communication Services

Robin Walton has joined Communication Services as a Senior Artist. She will design and produce ANR publications and visual materials.



Walton

Robin was a production artist/graphic designer at Page Design, a fast-paced Sacramento design firm, for 6 1/2 years. She also has had her own freelance design business.

Walton can be reached at (530) 297-4446, rewalton@ucdavis.edu and 1850 Research Park Dr., Ste. 2, Davis, CA 95616.

Banfield, Doi elected to NAS

Two ANR professors are among the newest members of the National Academy of Sciences. Jillian F. Banfield, UC Berkeley professor of earth and planetary science and of environmental science, policy and management, and Roy Doi, UC Davis professor of molecular biology, are among 14 UC researchers elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences this year in recognition of their original research contributions to science and engineering.



Banfield



Doi

At its 143rd annual meeting in Washington, D.C., the academy announced that 72 new members and 18 foreign associates from 16 countries were elected to the distinguished organization. For the second consecutive year, no other university, college or research organization in the

country or in the world had more than six new members.

"Election to the academy is considered one of the highest honors in American science and engineering," academy president and former UC Irvine Chancellor Ralph Cicerone said in a news release.

Peluso awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

Nancy Lee Peluso, CNR professor of Society and Environment and program director of the Berkeley Workshop in Environmental Politics at the Institute for International Studies, has been awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship for 2006-07.



Peluso

Peluso will spend her fellowship period

completing a book on how ethnic and state violence and conflicting territorial claims affect the composition and control of the agrarian landscape and the representations of its history in West Kalimantan, a province in Indonesian Borneo.

Zamora-Bonilla wins health advocacy award

Eustolia Zamora-Bonilla, Central Valley *Latino 5 a Day* program coordinator, has been selected as the 2006 recipient of the CDC/DHPE (Centers for Disease Control/Directors of Health Promotion and Education) Health Promotion and Education Advocacy Award. This



Zamora-Bonilla

— continued on page 6

Buchanan, Lemaux land \$600,000 to study sorghum

The Africa Biofortified Sorghum project is funded by a \$17.6 million grant from the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative to Africa Harvest Biotechnology Foundation International, a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty in Africa.

"Our goal is to develop sorghum that will provide increased calories and needed protein in the diet of African consumers," said Bob Buchanan, UC Berkeley professor of plant and microbial biology and one of the lead scientists on the project.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation recently added \$627,932 to fund Buchanan and co-researcher Peggy Lemaux, UC Berkeley Cooperative Extension specialist in plant and microbial biology, to address digestibility of sorghum.

Sorghum is valued for its resiliency, growing well in dry, hot climates and on poor soils, but it lacks high levels of vitamins and minerals and is difficult to digest, especially when cooked. Buchanan and Lemaux expect their sorghum seed to have enhanced protein and starch digestibility so people can



Peggy Lemaux and Bob Buchanan

obtain improved nutritional value from sorghum.

The Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative is funded by the Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

national award recognizes one individual each year for exceptional dedication to an area of health promotion. The award honors Zamora-Bonilla's advocacy to further health education and her service as a champion in promoting the science of health promotion and disease prevention at the state or national level. Bonilla will receive this award on May 25 at the National Conference of Health Education and Health Promotion in Washington, D.C.

Haver receives CANGC research award

Darren L. Haver, UCCE watershed advisor for Orange County, is the 2005 recipient of the Research Award given by the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (CANGC). To mitigate pesticides and nutrients in irrigation and stormwater runoff, Haver develops low-cost best management practices and assists nurseries with their implementation to reduce tailwater discharge and to improve water quality. He also helps nurseries meet water-quality regulations through on-site assessment.



Haver

Oster elected to AAAS

George Oster, UC Berkeley professor of environmental science, policy, and management and of molecular and cell biology, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Fellows and foreign honorary members are nominated and elected to the academy by current members. A membership comprised of scholars and practitioners from mathematics, physics, biological sciences, social sciences, humanities and the arts, public affairs and business, enables the academy to conduct a wide range of interdisciplinary studies and public policy research.



Oster

Hess honored with lifetime leadership award

Charles Hess, former dean of UCD's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, was honored with the Lifetime Recognition for Distinguished Leadership Award at the 13th Annual Rutgers' Cook College and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Awards ceremony on April 27.



Hess

An alumnus of Rutgers' College of Agriculture, Hess' career includes appointments as the first dean of Cook College, assistant secretary of science and education in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Biotechnology Science Advisory Committee, and chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR).

Hess retired from UC Davis in 1990, but continues to work as a special assistant for the provost and chancellor.

Mitloehner wins UCD research award

Frank Mitloehner, Cooperative Extension air quality specialist based at UC Davis, has received the 2006 Academic Federation Award for Excellence in Research. The award is given in recognition of the contributions made to the research mission of the Davis campus by non-senate faculty members, and carries with it a \$500 stipend.



Mitloehner

Windbiel-Rojas joins IPM

The UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program has selected Karey Windbiel-Rojas as its urban IPM educator.

Although public attention is often focused on agricultural pests and chemicals

used to control them, more than half of all pesticide use in California is in urban environments.

"We are delighted to have Karey on board," said UC IPM Education and Publications director Mary Louise Flint. "She will bring new insights, skills, and enthusiasm to our great team at the UC IPM Program and give a needed punch to our urban IPM outreach effort."

In this new position, Windbiel-Rojas will coordinate urban outreach activities with Master Gardener programs, public agencies, nongovernment organizations, and others involved in urban pest management throughout California. A big part of the job is to organize and implement train-the-trainer programs, work with experts to develop outreach and educational materials, and find innovative ways to inform the general public about integrated pest management.



Windbiel-Rojas

Windbiel-Rojas has a bachelor's degree in biology from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and a master's degree in integrated pest management from UC Davis. She brings several years experience in teaching and working with community groups, including a two-year stint in Ghana with the Peace Corps. In addition, she monitored water quality in the Morro Bay Estuary and has been involved in a study of the impacts of insecticides on nontarget species in rice fields.

Windbiel-Rojas says her priority is to familiarize herself with existing materials and to establish personal contacts in urban pest management, specifically with UCCE advisors, Master Gardeners, public agencies and water quality experts.

Windbiel-Rojas can be reached at kwindbiel@udavis.edu and (530) 752-3941.

— Stephanie Klunk

Retirements

Frank C. Beall

Frank Beall, professor of wood science, is retiring after 18 years with UC Berkeley.

Beall joined ANR as director of the Forest Products Laboratory and UC Berkeley professor in the department of forestry and resource management in 1988. Prior to coming to UC, Beall taught at Pennsylvania State University and the University of Toronto, and worked as a moisture measurement specialist for Weyerhaeuser Company.

As a wood scientist, Beall researched the effects of decay, earthquakes, and in particular, fire on wood performance. He sought to improve the durability of wood and over the course of his career, published over 160 papers and 11 papers in the area of wood physics and fire research. Beall's work in the field of non-destructive testing and evaluation of wood products — detecting defects with ultrasonic elastic waves using acoustic emission and acousto-ultrasonics — is internationally recognized for its revolutionary approach, moving the discipline from “bench science” to practical application. He has been a visiting professor at universities in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Nanjing, China; and New Zealand.

In addition to his teaching and research, Beall has served various executive positions in many professional societies and organizations, including president of the Society of Wood Science and Technology and the Forest Products Society, secretary-treasurer of the International Academy of Wood Science, chairman of the Committee on Wood for the American Society for Testing and Materials, and chairman and associate editor for the Acoustic Emission Working Group. Beall will soon become vice president of the International Academy of Wood Science, after serving as secretary and treasurer for the last 12 years.

Beall earned his BS in Wood Utilization in 1964 at Pennsylvania State University and an MS and PhD in Wood Products Engineering at Syracuse University of New York.



Ron Vargas

UCCE agronomy farm advisor and Madera County director Ron Vargas will retire June 30, after 33 years at UC.

Vargas grew up on a 640-acre dry-land grain and cattle ranch established by his grandfather near Livermore.

“Farming was my No. 1 first love and always has been my entire life,” Vargas said.

After earning a bachelor's degree in crop science and a teaching credential at California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, Vargas was assigned to Madera High School's vocational agriculture department for student teaching.

In 1973, after earning an agriculture science master's degree at Cal Poly, he was offered a position as a 4-H advisor three-quarters of his time, with the remaining percentage devoted to weed control. It was in weed control that he made his mark. Though his job changed dramatically over 33 years — with Vargas taking on the role of cotton specialist for almost four years and being named county director in 1993 — his focus was always on weeds.

Among his accomplishments was development of control strategies for summer grasses in alfalfa. He also conducted five years of research to help justify registration of a new over-the-top broad leaf herbicide for cotton, while encouraging growers to combine chemical control with mechanical control. Vargas also studied recent developments in integrating herbicide-tolerant crops for weed control.

Vargas has received many honors for his service to agriculture. This year he was inducted into the inaugural Farm Press (magazine) Researcher Hall of Fame. In 1996, he received the National Cotton Council's Cotton Extension Education Award. In 2001, he was awarded a lifetime honorary membership to the California Weed Science Society and named the Agriculturist of the Year by the Cal Poly crop science department.

In retirement, Vargas said he will stay at his 20-acre Madera County ranch and work on a long list of improvement projects.



Snapshot of VP & AVP activities

Over the past four weeks, VP Gomes engaged in the following meetings:

- 4/18 Academic Assembly Council, Berkeley
- 4/21 Chancellor's Agricultural Advisory Council, Riverside
- 4/22 Citrus Experiment Station Centennial celebration, Riverside
- 4/25 Executive Council, Sacramento
- 4/25 2006 ANR Academic Orientation, Sacramento
- 4/26 Regents Agenda, Oakland
- 4/27 Warren Muir, Executive Director of The National Academies, Oakland
- 4/27-28 President's Advisory Commission, Berkeley
- 5/3 The Giannini Foundation's 75th Anniversary Symposium, Davis
- 5/11 Executive Council, Oakland

Every Monday
President's Cabinet

Twice monthly
UC VP Cabinet with the President

Every Monday
ANR VP Cabinet

Over the past four weeks, AVP Standiford engaged in the following meetings:

- 4/15-22 Accreditation Review, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- 4/25-26 New Academic Orientation Conference, Sacramento
- 4/26 Executive Council, Sacramento
- 4/27-28 President's Advisory Commission, Berkeley
- 5/3 University/Industry Consortium, Oakland, The Giannini Foundation 75th Anniversary Symposium, Davis
- 5/11 Executive Council, Oakland
- 5/12 ANR Analytical Laboratory Advisory Committee, Davis, Leadership Development Oversight Committee, Davis
- 5/15 Assistant VP, Academic Affairs and Vice Provost, Office of Research, Oakland

ANR REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

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