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## Yee added to VP search committee

UC Provost W. Rory Hume has added Larry Yee, UCCE county director for Ventura County, to the search committee for the Vice President – ANR position.



Larry Yee

Other members of the search committee were announced on May 31:

**External members:** Richard Rominger (chair), a fourth-generation farmer from Winters and member of the UC President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources; Don Gordon, president, Agricultural Council of California; Jonathan Kaplan, director, Natural Resources Defense Council Sustainable Ag Project; A.G. Kawamura, secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture; Doug Mosebar, president, California Farm Bureau Federation; Judith Redmond, president, Community Alliance with Family Farmers; Karen Ross, president, California Association of Winegrape Growers; and Stuart Woolf, president, Woolf Enterprises and chair, UC President's Advisory Commission.

## Yates, Kaiser appointed as program leaders

Marylynn V. Yates and Lucia Kaiser have been appointed program leaders, effective July 1, by acting Vice President Rick Standiford.



Marylynn Yates

Yates, professor of environmental microbiology at UC Riverside, will serve as program leader for natural resources and animal agriculture for three years. Yates has a background in academic leadership, having served in the UCR Provost Office and as a department chair in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. Yates also has a strong academic background in water quality,



Lucia Kaiser

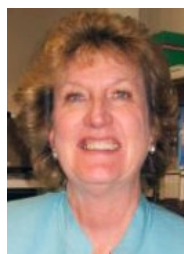
and has a split academic appointment with Agricultural Experiment Station and instruction and research.

Kaiser will serve as program leader for human resources for three years. As a Cooperative Extension specialist in nutrition at the Davis campus, Kaiser has linked campus and county resources well, according to Standiford.

Bill Frost – who preceded Yates as program leader for natural resources and animal agriculture – will continue to serve as acting director of ANR statewide programs, until the end of September.

## Junge named acting 4-H director, regional coordinators appointed

Acting VP Rick Standiford appointed Sharon Junge acting director of the 4-H Youth Development Program, effective July 1. She will have a two-month overlap with outgoing director Carole MacNeil. Junge, who is county director, 4-H advisor and nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor in Placer and Nevada counties, will be working on the 4-H pilot leadership plan that began July 1.



Sharon Junge

"I very much appreciate her willingness to step forward in this important transition period," Standiford said.

The 4-H statewide pilot leadership plan has been funded for a trial period to improve coordination among the 4-H staff, volunteers, and the youth they serve. Standiford has appointed an academic in each region to coordinate a "cluster" of county 4-H staff and volunteers. Jane Chin-Young, Marin County 4-H advisor, will work with all 4-H staff and volunteers in the North Coast and Mountain Region. Marianne Bird, Sacramento County 4-H advisor, will work with those in Sacramento, Yolo, San Joaquin and Solano counties. Steve Dasher, San Diego County 4-H advisor, will work with those in San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange.

**UC members:** Fred Ruiz, UC regent and co-founder and chairman, Ruiz Foods; Michael Drake, chancellor, UC Irvine; Bob Foley, vice president, Laboratory Management; John Oakley, chair, Universitywide Academic Senate; and Neal Van Alfen, dean, UCD College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

On July 2, the committee coordinating the 4-H pilot leadership plan met in Sacramento to lay the groundwork. They agreed that the plan is a transition to a new way of administering the 4-H program. The Center for Youth Development is a partner in the project as well and is charged with the evaluation of the

*—Continued on page 2*

## Employment Opportunities

### Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties: Agriculture & environmental issues advisor

The Central Coast and South Region seeks an agriculture and environmental issues advisor to serve Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. The deadline for applications is **July 30**.

Headquartered in Lancaster, the advisor will design, develop, implement and evaluate educational programs for high desert growers and the public on crop production and related environmental issues, particularly those related to the agriculture/urban interface, dust control and waste management.

The advisor will provide a direct link between UC and the community, seeking creative research-based solutions to local agricultural/environmental problems, helping local growers stay on the cutting edge of production technologies, and educating urban residents about local agriculture and its value.

A minimum of a master's degree in an agricultural field is required. Knowledge of crop production practices, soil science, and pest management is essential. Knowledge of emerging environmental issues is helpful.

Salary is in the CE Assistant Advisor rank, commensurate with the candidate's education and relevant experience.

Go to <http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml#ccsj> to view the full description for position #ACCSO-07-06.

To request an Academic Application packet for #ACCSO-07-06, or for questions regarding the application process, call (951) 827-2529 or e-mail [ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu).

### Madera and Merced counties:

#### Agronomic crops & weed control advisor

Madera and Merced counties are seeking an agronomic crops and weed control advisor to serve both counties.

The Madera-based advisor will focus on agronomic crops – such as alfalfa, cotton, field corn, cereal grains, rice, dry beans and sugar beets – and weed management and control in all crop areas and non-crop areas, such as ditch banks and rangelands.

A master's degree in plant science or a related discipline is required. A specialization in agronomic crops or weed science is preferred. Soil and water coursework and/or experience are desirable. The advisor must acquire a California Qualified Applicators Certificate (QAC) within nine months of employment.

Beginning salary will be in the CE Assistant Advisor rank, commensurate with applicable experience and education.

The full description for position #ACV 06-10 and required academic application are available at <http://ucanr.org/cvr/joblisting>. Deadline to apply is **Aug. 17**.

Submit application for #ACV 06-10 to Cindy Inouye, UCCE Central Valley Region, 9240 S. Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA 93648; [cinouye@uckac.edu](mailto:cinouye@uckac.edu), (559) 646-6535.

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program's effectiveness. The three-year plan will be evaluated during the first year and modified as appropriate for each cluster.

MacNeil, Junge and 4-H Assistant Director Mignonne Pollard met with the three 4-H regional academic coordinators Bird, Chin-Young and Dasher. They were joined by Aarti Subramaniam, postgraduate researcher; Katherine Heck, youth development researcher; Jim Grieshop, community education development specialist; Peggy Mauk, Central Coast and South Region director; Ramona Carlos, youth development researcher; Lucia Kaiser, human resources program leader; Linda Manton, Central Valley Region director; and Kim Rodrigues, North Coast and Mountain Region director. Dan Desmond, 4-H advisor emeritus, facilitated the meeting.

The committee established desired outcomes of the pilot leadership plan:

- Statewide consistency
- Improve management and delivery of programs
  - Connection to ANR programs
  - Effective engagement of program representatives
- Improve role of academics in research and creative activity
  - Educational content of curriculum
- Define and measure the role of academic coordinator
  - Support to program representatives
  - Bridge research to practice
  - Policy coordination

Professional development for 4-H staff and volunteers will be provided to improve their effectiveness. To help identify training needs, all 4-H staff will be asked to complete a 4-H professional research knowledge and competencies assessment. Volunteers will be asked to do a similar self-assessment.



Bird



Chin-Young

## Communication Advisory Board seeks nominations

The advisory board to ANR Communication Services is seeking to fill positions on the board. Nominations can include, but are not limited to, specialists, advisors, and faculty affiliated with ANR.

The board provides advice and support to Director Bob Sams on Division program connection, resource allocation prioritization, major policy issues, budget, and long-range planning. The board also provides oversight of the peer review process for ANR educational materials.

Board members, appointed by AVP Rick Standiford, serve three-year, rotating terms. The board meets on a

quarterly basis. The new appointments begin in November 2007. Existing board members whose terms are ending may reapply.

The deadline for nominations has been extended to **Aug. 3**. You may nominate yourself or someone else. Send nominations, along with the addresses of the candidates, to Communications Advisory Board Chair Ed Weber at [eaweber@ucdavis.edu](mailto:eaweber@ucdavis.edu). If nominating yourself, please submit a curriculum vitae and the following online application [http://anrcs.ucdavis.edu/contactus/Communications\\_Advisory\\_Board.htm](http://anrcs.ucdavis.edu/contactus/Communications_Advisory_Board.htm) to Ed Weber at [eaweber@ucdavis.edu](mailto:eaweber@ucdavis.edu).

## Names in the News

### Basinger named horticulture advisor

Ashley R. Basinger joined UC Cooperative Extension as environmental horticulture advisor for San Joaquin County on July 1.

Basinger earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture and her PhD in agronomy at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

Most recently she worked as a teaching assistant in the Plant and Soil Sciences Department at Texas Tech.

She can be reached at [arbasinger@ucdavis.edu](mailto:arbasinger@ucdavis.edu) or (209) 468-8090. Her mailing address is 420 South Wilson Way, Stockton, CA 95205.



The center is made up of 20 specialists who run courses designed to keep industry professionals up-to-date on the latest research on produce and ornamental handling and quality control. It serves as a liaison with the fresh produce industry and provides research information to industry and the general public on how fresh fruits and vegetables should be handled after they are harvested in order to maximize quality, safety and marketability.

"James Gorny is one of the most respected technical leaders in the produce industry and postharvest academic community, and we are fortunate to add him to our team to significantly expand the center's established outreach programs," said Jim Thompson, faculty director of the center.

For the past two years, Gorny has served as the chief food safety officer for the United Fresh Produce Association, a leading industry group. Gorny, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., earned a bachelor's degree in food science from Louisiana State University, before attaining his PhD in plant biology from UC Davis. He has been an adjunct faculty member at UC Davis since 2000.

Gorny can be reached at (530) 754-9270 or [jrgorny@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jrgorny@ucdavis.edu) as of Aug. 1.

### Gorny to head Postharvest RIC

Food safety expert James Gorny has been named the first full-time executive director of the Postharvest Technology Research and Information Center at UC Davis, effective Aug. 1.



### Hayden-Smith named to state committee

Rose Hayden-Smith, 4-H youth development and master gardener advisor for Ventura County, has been appointed by State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jack O'Connell to the School Garden Advisory Committee (Assembly Bill 1535).

In his letter, O'Connell wrote: As a committee member, Hayden-Smith will "support and promote California instructional school gardens by advising the State Superintendent and the California Department of Education on partnerships and opportunities to create, enhance and maintain instructional gardens in California's public schools."

Assembly Bill 1535, which was approved by the governor last year, authorizes the CDE to award \$15 million for grants to promote, develop, and sustain instructional school gardens.



## Crucial conversations workshops offered in 2008

Darlene Liesch and Linda Marie Manton have been offering two-day workshops on how to communicate more effectively during "crucial conversations," and have scheduled workshops for 2008.

Crucial conversations refer to when the stakes are high and there are opposing opinions and strong emotions. The goal is to get back into dialogue instead of turning to silence or violence. Dialogue provides more information, which helps in finding a solution, correcting a misconception, or making a better decision.

The training helps participants to identify whether the conflict arises from the content, pattern or relationship, and to create a mutual purpose.

The training is based on the book "Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When the Stakes Are High," by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and Al Switzler.

Liesch, UCCE Kern County director, and Manton, Central Valley regional director, have trained more than 100 ANR people so far.

"Following Crucial Conversations workshops, individuals have contacted me expressing their appreciation for the tools that Darlene and I provided them through the training," Manton said. "They now can move forward with those crucial conversations and know that they have the tools to build safety, develop successful dialogue, and meet their objective."

In 2008, they will offer workshops on Jan. 22-23, Feb. 19-20, April 29-30 and May 28-29. The workshop locations will be determined by where the participants are based.

To register for the workshop, e-mail Manton at [lmanton@uckac.edu](mailto:lmanton@uckac.edu). For more information about the workshops, go to the Central Valley Region Web site at <http://cvr.ucdavis.edu/>.

In October, Liesch and Manton will be recognized at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Annual Meeting with the Excellence in Teamwork Award for their work in Crucial Conversations.

## Retirements

### Harry Andris

After 35 years of serving California growers through the University of California, Harry Andris retired July 1.

During his career, Fresno County pomology advisor Andris introduced the concept of composting lawn and yard trimmings to turn waste into fertilizer. He also was the first to harness the sun, using reflective materials, to give ripening tree fruit more color.

Born and raised in Fresno and having earned a bachelor's degree in zoology and biology and later a master's in plant science from Fresno State University, Andris started working for UC in 1972 as a staff research associate at Kearney Agricultural Center in Parlier. He assisted with research on the disease *Verticillium* wilt of cotton and tomatoes and on a plant parasite called broomrape. In 1975, he joined Cooperative Extension as a staff research associate working in pomology and viticulture. In 1978, he became the viticulture advisor for Fresno County, then in 1991, he switched to pomology advisor to work with fresh tree fruit.

His research has had a dramatic impact on the grape and tree fruit industries.

After rains destroyed raisin crops in 1976 and 1978, Andris and UC viticulture specialist Fred Jensen evaluated methods of ripening the crop faster so that it could be harvested before the autumn rains began. In 1980, their research led to the state issuing a special use permit for ethephon to enhance maturity of raisin grapes. Applying ethephon became standard practice and raisin growers have not sustained any major rain-related crop losses since.

Wine grape growers have improved their fruit production and profitability by planting vines with 10 feet between rows instead of the traditional 12 feet as a result of Andris' research.

His pioneering work with composted green waste as a fertilizer not only provided a use for lawn trimmings, but led to development of a highly effective biological fungicide for brown rot disease in peaches.

Andris has been granted emeritus status and intends to finish remodeling his home.



### David Snell

4-H has defined Dave Snell's life. As a youth, his whole family was involved in 4-H. He achieved All-Star status, and went to the National 4-H Congress, where he won national honors for his field crop project. After college, Snell made 4-H his career, devoting 30 years to leading the youth development program in Fresno County. He retired June 28.

Snell earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural science at California State University, Fresno, then earned a teaching credential and a master's degree in agricultural education at UC Davis. He taught vocational agriculture at Madera High School for eight years before joining UCCE.

"I take pride in the fact that I have so many kids in the program who are the children of people I had in 4-H a long time ago," Snell said.



Snell reached out to children who aren't in 4-H clubs by offering a school enrichment curriculum on avian embryology. Almost 100,000 Fresno County children have witnessed eggs hatching as part of the program.

In the 1980s, Snell was a leader in researching "latchkey children." He chaired a 4-H advisors workgroup that formed to find ways to provide adult supervision with educational activities for these children after school. Over 20 years, Snell offered 4-H curriculum and staff training for after-school programs at more than 100 sites.

He advocated for 4-H advisors to conduct research and received the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents distinguished service award in 1998.

During retirement, Snell plans to supervise construction of his home on Whidbey Island, north of Seattle.

— Jeannette Warnert

### Isela Valdez

Isela Valdez, 4-H youth development advisor for Sutter-Yuba and Colusa counties, retired on June 30 after 33 years with UC.

Valdez, who was born and raised in Hanford, earned her BS degree in home economics from South Dakota State University. With a desire to teach, but not in a classroom setting, Valdez joined UC Cooperative Extension as the Sutter-Yuba 4-H youth development advisor in 1974. In 1994, her responsibilities were expanded to include Colusa County.

During her career, Valdez introduced gardening, nutrition and science literacy projects in schools and initiated three 4-H garden clubs. She trained teachers to use community gardens and school gardens to deliver nutrition education to students. For 27 years, she collaborated with the Sutter County Office of Migrant Educa-



tion to coordinate a summer camp that provides educational outdoor experiences for children of Latino migrant workers.

As part of a 4-H project on preparing low-income, urban adolescents for work, she wrote the publication, "Entering Today's Job Market," which was adapted for use statewide.

Valdez said it has been rewarding to see young people apply the skills they learned through 4-H. "I especially get great satisfaction when I see young people who have been 4-H members become productive citizens of our community," she said. "When a past 4-H member writes me and tells me I have influenced their career choice, or that who they are today and who they will be tomorrow is a result of my touching their life, it is very powerful. Knowing that I might have had a little positive influence in their lives feels good."

During her retirement, Valdez plans to travel and enjoy peaceful ocean views.

—Continued on page 5

**Ken Willmarth**

Ken Willmarth, 4-H youth development advisor in Stanislaus County for past 24 years, ended a career June 28 that gave him the satisfaction of bringing structure, a clear purpose and resources to communities for the benefit of the children.



Willmarth managed a program that currently has 25 traditional 4-H clubs with a membership of 1,350 children and 500 adult volunteers. Willmarth's 4-H career was aimed at maintaining a strong 4-H club program and bringing it to new communities.

"I worked to empower people to raise their own children within the values of the 4-H Youth Development Program and their own values, bringing their talents to bear," Willmarth said.

"The stronger and the better the parents feel about 4-H, the stronger the community becomes. I don't think there is a better educational program as a complement to academic learning than this one," he said.

Willmarth was born in Los Angeles and raised on a 60-acre gold mining claim near Downieville, in Sierra County. At age 13, his family moved to Berkeley. Willmarth earned a bachelor's degree in political science from UC Berkeley in 1966.

After graduation, Willmarth and his wife, Jenny, spent two years as Peace Corps volunteers in Chavin, Peru, where he was introduced to agricultural science and youth development programs. He also was a farm and 4-H agent, school teacher and coordinator of a small farms program before taking the UC 4-H position in Stanislaus County in 1983.

Since being diagnosed with cancer, he says he can deal better with "people problems." Willmarth, who was honored with emeritus status, plans to volunteer to bring 4-H to two low-income, high-minority communities in Modesto.

Retirement will also give him time to complete a master's degree that has been set aside three times due to work, raising a family and fighting cancer.

— Jeannette Warnert

**Cheryl Dempsey**

Cheryl Dempsey, marketing assistant in ANR Communication Services, retired on June 28 after 38 years of service to the division.



Dempsey's UC career started in the International Visitors Office in Davis and spanned many incarnations of Communication Services, from the early days of Ag Publications to its present day form. As the ever-cheery, chatty person behind a table loaded with publications at trade shows, classes, and field days, she became the face of the division to many.

Dempsey recounts many stories of the public seeking advice on all manner of topics – agricultural and otherwise – including the day a man brought a turtle into the Ag Publications office inquiring how old it was and how long it might live.

In a typical display of generosity, Dempsey asked that in lieu of a retirement gift or a party, donations can be made to Loaves and Fishes, a Sacramento charity feeding and sheltering the homeless.

— Cynthia Kintigh


**Snapshot of acting VP activities**

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

- 6/18 ANR VP Cabinet
- 6/19 Provost and Executive Vice President Hume
- 7/3 Acting Dean Keith Gillies, College of Natural Resources, Berkeley
- 7/5 Central Valley Region 4-H Pilot Program, Davis
- 7/6 Provost and Executive Vice President Hume
- 7/9 President Dynes Cabinet
- 7/10 4H Foundation Blue Ribbon Award Videotaping, Davis  
CE Administrative Working Group, Davis Program Council, Davis
- 7/11 Senior Administrative Council and Academic Assembly Council Personnel Committee, Davis  
Program Council, Davis
- 7/12-17 Western Extension Directors Association Joint Summer Meeting, Jackson Hole, Wyoming

**Add an ANR contact to Microsoft Outlook**

Manually adding an ANR colleague as a contact in your Microsoft Outlook directory can be time-consuming and tedious. Now it can be done with a few mouse clicks.

Start by looking up the person in the ANR online directory: <http://ucanr.org/direct.cfm>. Then click on the person's name to launch the pop-up box containing the person's profile. In the profile, next to the e-mail address is a business card-looking icon like the one shown here: 

Click on the icon, then click "open." It automatically loads the information into an Outlook "contact" window. Click "save and close" to save the entry in your Outlook contacts.

**ANR REPORT**

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