

INSIDE

- 2** [Dynes tours SFREC, meets Yuba County growers](#)
- 3** [Employment opportunities](#)
- 4** [Names in the news](#)
- 5** [CE salaries increase](#)
- 6** [Retirements](#)
[Calsurv.org serves as portal to vectorborne disease surveillance](#)
- 7** [Cal Ag to publish SFREC stories for 50th anniversary](#)
[In memoriam](#)
- 9** [CNAS partners with Chinese university to address environment](#)
[Web site invites SoCal reports of coyote attacks](#)

Five advisor positions approved

Acting VP Standiford has been successful in obtaining approval for increases in specialist and advisor salary scales. The cost of the salary adjustments must be paid from ANR's budget. Despite the expenses, ANR is committed to continuing recruitment and hopes the increased salaries will enhance recruitment.

Five new advisor positions have been approved for recruitment for 2007-08, according to Barbara Allen-Diaz, assistant VP-Programs.

The positions include 4-H youth development advisor for Placer/Nevada counties; environmental horticulture advisor for Fresno County; nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor for Los Angeles County; plant pathology advisor for Imperial County; and entomology advisor for Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties.

Other positions may be approved for recruitment later this fiscal year if funds become available.

PAC discusses UC restructuring, Delta crisis

President Dynes opened the 18th meeting of the UC President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources (PAC) by talking about his priorities for UC as he winds down his term as president. The PAC met Oct. 11 and 12 in Berkeley.

"It's with mixed feelings I am stepping down," Dynes said at the first meeting with the group since announcing he will resign by June. "On the painful side is stepping aside from these experiences with you. I will miss the intellectual stimulation, and the physical stimulation of visiting your communities."

Dynes said his top priorities for UC include enhancing the ability to attract and retain the best faculty in the world, making Research, Development and Delivery (R, D & D) part of the core mission, building international programs and new relations in Canada, Mexico, China and India, playing an increased role in K-12 education, and carrying out the implementation of a long-range vision for the 10-campus system.

In other news, Dynes said, "We're getting very close to announcing a new VP for ANR. I can't tell you who it is, but you'll know very soon. This person believes in the R, D & D mantra." The regents are expected to act on naming the VP during their Nov. meeting.

Other highlights of the fall meeting included presentations on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP), and UC cost and return studies for commodities. In addition UC Provost and Executive Vice President Rory Hume reported on progress in restructuring the Office of the President, acting VP Standiford updated the commission on ANR activities, and ANR Director of Development Services Cynthia Barber reported on the UCCE oral history project.

The major discussion topic for the meeting was "Responding to the Crisis in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Envisioning Futures, Finding Solutions." Rita Sudman, commissioner and executive director of the Water Education Foundation, moderated the panel. Sudman gave an overview of Delta issues, citing its aging infrastructure and the various interests that rely on it for water. She said two-thirds of Californians, 80 percent of the state's fish population, and 45 percent of the fruits and vegetables grown in California depend on Delta water. Residents in the Bay Area, Kern County and much of Southern California receive drinking water from the Delta.

Continued on page 8



From left to right: Rita Sudman, Water Education Foundation; Dynes; Richard Rominger, Rominger Brothers Farm; and Bob Vice, avocado grower and founder of B.L.V. Agribusiness Consultants. Dynes thanked the three PAC members for their six years of service as they completed their second and last terms.

Dynes tours Sierra Foothill REC, meets Yuba County growers

Acting VP Standiford hosted President Dynes on a tour of Yuba County on Sept. 21, meeting with county officials, growers and UC Cooperative Extension specialists and advisors. The visit to Yuba County was the twelfth in a series of ANR tours Dynes has taken around the state since becoming president.

Barbara Allen Diaz, assistant VP-Programs; Kay Harrison Taber, acting assistant VP-Administrative Services, Steve Nation, executive director of Governmental and External Relations, and other UCOP staff accompanied them on the tour.

During the Yuba County visit, a reporter asked the president why he goes on these tours. "If you sit in an office, nobody tells you the whole story," Dynes replied. "It's extremely important to understand the impact of our research."

The first stop was at Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center near Browns Valley. Prior to his arrival, Dynes was briefed on UCCE activities in Sutter-Yuba by county director Mike Murray and research priorities at Sierra Foothill by REC director Art Craigmill. At the center, Glenn Nader, Sutter-Yuba livestock, range and natural resources advisor, and Steve Quarles, UC Cooperative Extension wood durability advisor, led a discussion on wildfire management. Nader outlined the different aspects of wildfire research and management, then introduced local collaborators Hal Stocker, Dennis Pooler and Keith Chambers.

Pooler, the recently retired Yuba County agricultural commissioner, described the collaborative effort to start the FireSafe Council and its community education program. "We couldn't have done it without the leadership of the University of California," Pooler said. "Our relationship with the university is significant."

Stocker, a Yuba County supervisor who helped initiate the Fire Safe program, agreed that UC Cooperative Extension's collaboration with county government, fire departments and landowners helped secure a \$1 million grant to protect the local communities against wildfire damage.

Chambers, vice president of The CHY Company, a diversified timber and land resources management firm, explained that UC's research-based recommendations for

managing forests to reduce fire risk helped save a large stand of his company's timber holdings during last year's Marysville fire.

"There is no insurance for wildfire," Chambers said. "If [the timber] burns, it's like a stock market crash. The fire break is our insurance."

"The UC system is just invaluable in helping us with these efforts," he added. "Keep the research coming and keep it in layman's terms."

Quarles then ignited several small wooden structures in the Sierra Foothill REC parking lot to simulate how different building materials burn in a wildfire. In one demonstration, he showed how fire burned itself out on redwood decking whereas plastic composite decking material burned readily. In adjoining walls of siding, he showed how the different materials burn and demonstrated that fire can enter where the two points join. Quarles also showed how leaves and twigs that collect in rain gutters can be ignited by sparks and fuel a fire under the eaves of a house.

At another location at Sierra Foothill REC, Rob Atwill, UC Davis professor of environmental animal health, Cooperative Extension medical ecologist, and director of the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, showed Dynes a series of test plots that simulate irrigated pastures. Research that Atwill is conducting with Ken Tate, UC Davis CE rangeland watershed specialist, has shown that as little as three feet of vegetation filters pathogens, including *E. coli* and *salmonella*, out of runoff water. The vegetative buffer study is part of a multifaceted project that Atwill characterized as "trying to create a tool box of management practices for dairy and cattle people to use to keep pathogens from moving."

In Marysville, rice growers Charlie Mathews and Don Bransford drove Dynes to a field where rice was being harvested. Along the way, Mathews showed Dynes how he floods harvested fields to provide feed and habitat for migrating waterfowl.

Tim Johnson, president of the California Rice Commission, and Tom McClellan, chair of the California Rice Research Board, met Dynes at the Mathews' rice field and told him that UC research and extension helps keep the rice industry competitive.



Quarles, left, shows that the plastic composite decking on the left burns more readily than the redwood on the right.



Atwill, right, describes how the grass intercepts pathogens from cow manure.



Bransford, second from left, says UC research keeps the rice industry competitive.



Dynes takes questions from the audience.

Continued on page 3

Chris Greer, Sutter-Yuba CE rice advisor, and Jim Hill, UC Davis rice cropping systems specialist, discussed their collaborations with industry on rice variety testing, and research and outreach efforts under way to address invasive pests and diseases.

After Charlie's son Robert showed Dynes a state-of-the-art rice harvester that provides computerized harvest data linked in "real-time" to digitized GPS-calibrated field maps, Dynes had lunch with local officials and members of the agricultural community at the home of Charlie and Sheila Mathews.

At the lunch, Bransford declared the rice industry's success is due in large part to "our relationship with the University of California." As he introduced Dynes, Bransford, who is a member of the UC

President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources, noted how much the agricultural community has grown to appreciate this UC president and his genuine commitment to learn about California agriculture through visits to farms, ranches and packing plants.

Dynes told the group his priorities for UC include quality of the faculty; R, D & D: research, development, and delivery; international strategy; and K through 12 education. He then took questions from the audience.

One grower expressed concern about the future of Cooperative Extension. "What are your plans to make sure we have these people continually at our service to help us in the production end?" he asked.

Dynes said, "Our budgets are beginning to build back up again, in part because of a deal I made with the Governor, but

they're not back up again to where they should be. As a result, there was a reduction in the number of people in the Ag and Natural Resources programs. We're trying to build those back up, and the only way we can get them back up to where they should be is through budgets, either contributions from the counties or [funding] from the state. And that requires advocacy on both parts."

A member of the timber industry said, "I've always viewed the university system as being an impartial advocate, they can bring sanity into the discussions in the political arena," then asked if Dynes supported that role.

"Yes, I think every chance we get," Dynes said. "...We will, when asked – and you may not like some of the answers – we will try to analyze and give our best opinion on anything where we have expertise."

Employment opportunities

Marin County: Sudden oak death outreach assistant

Marin County is recruiting for a half-time position to assist with sudden oak death outreach within California; work closely with the California Oak Mortality Task Force; and assist in developing and implementing outreach tools. The SOD assistant will be based at the UCCE Marin County office in Novato.

Under the supervision of the sudden oak death outreach coordinator and the environmental horticultural advisor, the SOD assistant will help prepare and deliver the statewide sudden oak death outreach program.

Duties include but are not limited to Education and Training: Assist in implementing a comprehensive education and training program for the statewide SOD outreach program; assist in coordinating up to 60 educational sessions annually with County departments, resource agencies, and other public entities in addressing SOD issues; assist in the design, writing, and editing of public education pamphlets, publications, and other materials; give slide-show presentations to public groups such as garden clubs,

neighborhood/homeowner associations, etc.; answer or redirect phone calls and e-mails related to SOD.

Statewide Coordination: Work collaboratively with COMTF staff to deliver SOD outreach materials; assist in coordinating educational efforts among the counties to avoid duplication; assist in coordinating multi-county conferences to provide updated information and share resources among the counties.

Graphic design: Collaborate on written materials for public distribution; develop posters, brochures and other visuals to aid in delivering outreach message.

Good writing and organizational skills are necessary. A cooperative attitude and relevant computer experience are essential. A background in natural resources or education/outreach is beneficial and relevant. For the full position description, see <http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml#ncmj>.

Applicants should e-mail their resumes to Janice Alexander at jalexander@ucdavis.edu by **Nov. 9**.

For questions or more information, contact UCCE in Marin at (415) 499-4204 or jalexander@ucdavis.edu.

Stanislaus/Merced counties: Nutrition, family & consumer sciences advisor

Cooperative Extension is seeking a career-track academic candidate to conduct and coordinate a multi-faceted program of education and applied research program in nutrition, family and consumer sciences (NF&CS) for all ethnic and socioeconomic groups, individuals, community agencies, associations and non-profit groups. This position will administer the Stanislaus County Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), and the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Programs (FSNEP) in Stanislaus and Merced counties. The position will be headquartered in Modesto.

A master's degree is required in one of the disciplines relevant to the responsibilities of the position, including public health nutrition, community nutrition, or family and consumer sciences. Licensure as a registered dietician is preferred.

Beginning salary will be in the UCCE Assistant Advisor rank, salary commensurate with experience and education. The full position vacancy announcement and required academic application form are available at <http://ucanr.org/cvr.joblisting>, or contact Cindy Inouye at cinouye@uckac.edu, or (559) 646-6535. Complete packets must be received by **Nov. 19**. Refer to position #ACV 06-03-R2.

Names in the news

Bethke named farm advisor

Jim Bethke joined ANR as floriculture and nursery crop production farm advisor for San Diego and southern Riverside counties on Sept. 1.



For the past 22 years, he served as a staff research associate in UC Riverside's Department of Entomology. Bethke has worked with many UC researchers, CE specialists, advisors, the ornamental industry and growers during his career. Most of his work has dealt with understanding and solving insect problems in ornamental plants. He is widely recognized for his work on the national sweet potato whitefly Q-Biotype and its implications for the nursery and ornamental industries on a national level. Recently, he has been a leader in the efforts to eradicate the Diaprepes root weevil, a new invasive insect in Southern California.

He is actively involved in the Entomological Society of America and California Ornamental Research Federation, among other professional organizations. He is a member of the Q-Biotype Technical Advisory Committee and is part of the multi-agency team working to eliminate Diaprepes.

Bethke earned his bachelor's and master's degrees, both in entomology, from UC Riverside. He lives with his wife, Lisa, and their three children in southern Riverside County.

Bethke is located at the UCCE San Diego North County office in San Marcos and can be reached at jabethke@ucdavis.edu or (760) 752-4715.

Zagory named interim director of Center for Produce Safety

The Center for Produce Safety has named Devon Zagory as interim executive director, effective Sept. 27.

Zagory has 25 years of experience working on produce



safety with agricultural producers, fresh-cut industries, and university researchers. He has worked internationally as a consultant in the fields of food microbiology and modified atmosphere packaging. He was a founder of Davis Fresh Technologies, now NSF Davis Fresh, and continues to serve as senior vice president for food safety and quality programs.

Zagory has a doctorate and a master's degree in plant pathology, and a bachelor's degree in agricultural science from UC Berkeley. He spent eight years as an associate pomologist at UC Davis.

The Center for Produce Safety was established following national *E. coli* outbreaks last year. Located in UC Davis' Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, the center serves as a central database for research information on produce safety. Initial funding for the center came from a coalition of the Produce Marketing Association, Taylor Farms of California, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and ANR.

Zagory can be reached at (530) 757-5777 or devon.zagory@cps.ucdavis.edu.

Kremen receives "genius" award

Claire Kremen, a UC Berkeley conservation biologist, was named a MacArthur Fellow, one of 24 nationwide "genius" award recipients announced Sept. 25 by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



The foundation recognized Kremen's pioneering conservation planning initiative in Masoala National Park, Madagascar's largest nature reserve. She helped establish the protected region on conservation principles that also considered the needs of the local people.

"We've learned in conservation management that it is so important to get buy-in from the locals, who are most likely to take immediate action to support the park or not," said Kremen. "That's why we included a sustainable forestry plan to provide local people with a source of income, while saving enough of the forest to ensure the survival of protected species."

Kremen continues her work in Madagascar by studying the impacts of deforestation on species distributions and the creation of a Web-based biodiversity database. The foundation also highlighted Kremen's recent studies of the behavior of bees and other natural pollinators, and their critical role in the global human food supply. The studies showed that the ability of native bees to pollinate farm crops adequately is dependent on their access to natural habitats, underscoring the importance of restoring and protecting natural environments on farms. She also has found that one-third of the world's crop production relies upon pollinators.

Several NF&CS advisors win awards

Several ANR nutrition, family and consumer science advisors won 2007 National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences awards.

Margaret Johns, NF&CS advisor for Kern County, received the national Distinguished Service Award.



Margaret Johns

Mary Blackburn, NF&CS advisor for Alameda County; Marilyn Townsend, UC Davis nutrition education specialist; Lucia Kaiser, UC Davis nutrition specialist; Anna Martin, NF&CS advisor for San Joaquin County; Estella West, NF&CS advisor for Santa Clara County; the late Barbara Turner, NF&CS advisor for Los Angeles County; and Amy Block Joy, UC Davis nutrition education specialist, were the Western Region winners in Program Excellence Through Research. They won for authoring "Food behavior checklist effectively evaluates nutrition education," published in the January-March 2006 issue of *California Agriculture* (Vol. 60, No. 1).



Left to right are Anna Martin, Mary Blackburn and Linda Gossett, NEAFCS Western Region director, Idaho.

— continued on page 5

Cathi Lamp, NF&CS advisor for Tulare County, was the Western Region and national winner in Newsletters.



Carol Schlitt of Illinois, left, presents Cathi Lamp with award.

The NEAFCS awards program recognizes members who excel in professional development, communications, program development and public relations. The awards were presented at the NEAFCS Annual Session and Exhibits in St. Paul in September.

Lemaux, van Kessel named CSSA fellows

Peggy Lemaux, UC Berkeley Cooperative Extension biotechnology specialist, and Chris van Kessel, chair of the UCD Department of Plant Sciences, have been named fellows of the Crop Science Society of America. Fellow is the highest recognition bestowed by CSSA.

CSSA members nominate colleagues who have made outstanding contributions in an area of specialization whether in research, teaching, extension, service, or administration and whether in public, commercial, or private service activities.

Lemaux's outreach program involves interacting with the public on issues relating to agricultural practices, food production and the impact of new technologies on food and agriculture. These efforts included the development of a Web site, <http://ucbiotech.org>.

Agronomist van Kessel studies soil fertility, nutrient cycling, cropping systems and international agriculture. He has also been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Society of Soil Science.



Peggy Lemaux



Chris van Kessel

Kaya named ESA fellow

Harry Kaya, UC Davis professor of entomology and nematology, has been named a fellow of the Entomological Society of America for his contributions to insect pathology and nematology.



Kaya will receive the award at ESA's annual meeting in December in San Diego.

Kaya is internationally known for his contributions, which include more than 220 peer-reviewed publications on insect nematode behavior and ecology, microbial control of soil insects, and interactions between insect pathogens and other natural enemies. He also co-authored an insect pathology book and co-edited five books on invertebrate pathology, insect nematology and forestry.

CE salary ranges increased

UC regents have approved the first year of a four-year plan to raise faculty salaries to market competitiveness and to restore the integrity of the rank and step system of faculty advancement. Acting VP Standiford successfully documented the need for market adjustments for Cooperative Extension specialist and advisor salary scales to the UCOP Academic Advancement office, the provost, and the president. The new salary scales will apply the same percentage increase for CE academics as for the faculty.

The first year of the plan has two important components. First, there is an across-the-board 2.5 percent general range adjustment that will raise the salary of all CE specialists and advisors. Second, there will be an additional market adjustment to the salary scales for each rank and step. The market adjustment for each rank and step follows the same percentage increase for the faculty scales.

The range adjustment and the market adjustment are combined to create new salary scales effective retroactively to Oct. 1, 2007. The new CE Specialist and CE Advisor salary scales are available on the Office of the President Academic Advancement Web site: <http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/tab0708/tabcont.html>.

The amount of the market increase that a particular individual receives will depend upon any off-scale adjustments that an individual currently has.

"It is important to stress that this represents the first year of an intended four-year program," Standiford said. "The future three years depend on favorable University budgets. However, the current salary increases are an important first step, and we are very pleased about the enthusiastic and unequivocal support of The Regents and the President's Office for the overall program. This is an important recognition

that success of the research-extension continuum requires market-based salaries for AES faculty, CE specialists, and CE advisors."

The cost of paying for these large salary increases in Year One are greater than the funds provided by the Legislature.

"Because we place such great value on our existing academics," Standiford explained, "we will be funding this through a combination of administrative streamlining, and capture of vacant academic FTEs."

He added: "This plan provides us all with an opportunity to make a renewed commitment to our ANR academics, an extraordinary resource to the people of California."

For more information, contact Carolyn Frazier, ANR director of Human Resources, at (510) 987-0034 or carolyn.frazier@ucop.edu.

Retirements

Benny Fouché

Benny Fouché, small farm advisor for San Joaquin County, retired Sept. 14 after a 20-year career with UC Cooperative Extension.

“While I grew up helping my father work on a farm in Virginia, I never thought of agriculture as a viable occupation,” he recalled. But after attending a gardening class at CSU Fresno, Fouché realized he could apply his skills in science, technology and math to agriculture.

Fouché began working with UCCE as a staff research associate at Berkeley in 1987. In 1996 he became the small farm and specialty crops advisor for San Joaquin County.

Fouché studied less toxic solutions for managing garden centipede, southern fire ants and pavement ants. He pioneered work with nicotinoids, considered “extremely safe” for controlling wire worm, a pest that chews on the roots of fruit and vegetable plants. For weed control, he introduced organic options, using natural acids and oils, as well as flame and solarization techniques. He partnered with California Certified Organic Farmers and the Going Organic project to help mentor growers about organic weed control.

To help small-scale farmers differentiate themselves in the marketplace, Fouché also field tested specialty fruit and vegetable varieties—including blueberries, peppers and Asian vegetables.

“Over the course of time, Benny has developed a tremendous program for small farms and limited resources farmers (in San Joaquin County),” said Mick Canevari, San Joaquin County Director. “He’s taken it from a program that was an idea 12 years ago to now a full-fledged, in-depth program where I would say 90 percent of the clientele is brand-new to Cooperative Extension.”

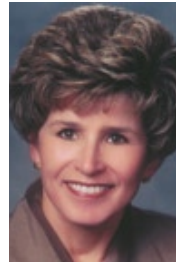
Fouché earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in plant science from CSU Fresno, while working as an owner of Round Mountain Farms near Sanger.



– Brenda Dawson

Martha Lopez

Raised in a Kern County family that traveled often for agricultural work, Martha (Martie) Lopez’s experiences would nurture her 36-year UC Cooperative Extension career helping immigrant families. She will retire on Nov. 1.



Lopez joined UC in 1971 as an Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program educator in Fresno County. In 1977 she was named the 4-H and nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor in Madera County, later adding Merced and Mariposa counties. Lopez capped her career with five years as the NF&CS advisor in Ventura County.

Fluent in Spanish, Lopez served as a Latino cultural expert. When the USDA launched its Food Guide Pyramid in 1992, she created a *Food Guide Pyramid with Mexican Flavor*, which blended good nutrition with cultural food preferences. The curriculum, video and poster created with the pyramid were among UCCE’s best-sellers. To serve the deaf, Lopez redesigned the video to include captioning and sign language. It became the first nutrition video accepted in the National Library for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

To prevent lead poisoning, she and NF&CS advisors in 20 California counties tested nearly 6,000 items of ceramicware, finding that 51.9 percent of the Mexico-made items leached lead. Lopez produced a video on lead poisoning and lobbied for changes in ceramicware manufacturing methods.

She also took part in a 16-state study that revealed poor families weren’t taking advantage of food stamps, low-cost health coverage, and the earned income tax credit.

In 1997 and 1999, Lopez was awarded the Western Region Extension Home Economist Award by the National Association of Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Association. She also received the group’s national award, which funded her doctoral work in multicultural education at the University of San Francisco. She earned her B.A. in home economics and M.S. in consumer education from CSU Fresno.

Following retirement, Lopez will move to Bellingham, Wash. – *Jeannette Warnert*

Read the full story at <http://news.ucanr.org/newsstorymain.cfm?story=1033>

Calsurv.org serves as portal to vectorborne disease surveillance

Comprehensive information on the West Nile virus, plague, malaria, Lyme disease, trench fever and other vectorborne diseases in California – where they are, where they’ve been, where they may be headed and what new diseases may be emerging – is now just a click away on a new UC Davis Web site.

The site, at www.calsurv.org, is “one-stop shopping for vectorborne disease surveillance information in the state,” said Bruce Eldridge, emeritus professor of entomology at UC Davis who directs the technical development and maintenance arm of the project.

Nicknamed CalSurv and funded by federal grants awarded to UC Davis research entomologist William Reisen, the Web site is a cooperative effort of UC Davis and the Center for Vectorborne Diseases; California Department of Public Health; and the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California, which represents 61 mosquito and vector control districts.

“We are accommodating both the scientific community and the general public,” said Eldridge. “CalSurv is another example of our ‘three-legged stool’ approach to vectorborne disease surveillance, prevention, and control in California.”

Examples of the “three-legged stool” approach include these CalSurv features:

- The CalSurv Vectorborne Disease Surveillance System, which contains information on the state’s vectorborne diseases
- The California West Nile virus Web site (www.westnile.ca.gov), managed by the California Department of Public Health
- California Surveillance Gateway, restricted to administrators and biologists working in local mosquito and vector control agencies

Cal Ag to publish Sierra Foothill REC stories for 50th anniversary

California Agriculture plans to publish a special collection issue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center (SFREC). The special section/issue, tentatively scheduled for April 2010, will focus on previously unpublished, significant original research, or reviews of such research, conducted in conjunction with or at the SFREC.

Subject matter will include, but is not limited to, animal health and beef cattle management; oak woodlands management and regeneration; agricultural and horticultural studies; ecology and management of annual grass-legume rangelands associated with oak woodlands; watershed management; determinants of water quality; and the Yuba River fisheries.

SFREC Editors for this issue include Charles Raguse, professor emeritus, Department of Agronomy & Range Science; and Ken Tate, Cooperative Extension rangeland watershed specialist; co-associate editors are Chris van Kessel, professor and chair, Plant Science Department; Mary Delany, associate professor and chair, Animal Science Department; and Jan Hopmans, professor and chair, Land, Air and Water Resources Department, all of UC Davis.

To contribute to this special issue, provide a brief abstract of proposed manuscript by **Jan. 15** to Raguse at caraguse@ucdavis.edu.

Following evaluation of the submitted abstracts for suitability for this special issue, authors will be invited to submit manuscripts (by June 15); draft manuscripts must then be submitted by Jan. 15, 2009. Prospective authors should review *California Agriculture's* Writing Guidelines at <http://californiaagriculture.ucop.edu/submissions.html>. All research and review articles will be peer-reviewed in accordance with *California Agriculture* standards; an invitation to submit a manuscript does not guarantee its publication.

For more information, contact Raguse, who is also coordinating the SFREC 50th anniversary celebration, at (530) 662-7395 or caraguse@ucdavis.edu; or *California Agriculture* managing editor Janet Byron at (510) 642-2431 or janet.byron@ucop.edu.

In memoriam

Barbara J. Turner

Barbara Jean Turner, retired Los Angeles County nutrition, family and consumer science advisor, died on Sept. 9.

Turner, who retired in December, served UC Cooperative Extension and Los Angeles communities for 35 years, overseeing the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) for adults and youth.

As an advisor, Turner maintained a strong interest in nutrition-related diseases among African-Americans, and made special efforts to ensure that UC's nutrition education programs remained accessible and addressed the needs of the African American communities. Concerned with rising obesity rates and nutrition/health trends, Turner conducted research that evaluated the effectiveness of nutrition programs and how they addressed the important issues.



"Along with wonderful leadership skills, she had a gentle, unique talent that allowed her to facilitate community input for collaborative work such as the Los Angeles Children and Weight Coalition," said Rachel Surls, UCCE Los Angeles County director.

"Barbara was a wonderful friend and a hard-working colleague to all of us at Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles County," Surls added. "We are honored to have worked with her and will miss her greatly."

Turner received her bachelor's degree from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark., and her master's degree from the California State University in Los Angeles.

Turner had a genuine love of life and people, and cherished her family and friends. Turner is survived by her husband, Dave; her children, Cheryl and Michael; her grandson, Marcovicki Turner; and six brothers and sisters.

— Dohee Kim

Victor Voth

Victor Voth, UC Davis emeritus pomologist and extension specialist, died Aug. 31.

Born in Shafter in 1920, Voth obtained his BS from UC Davis in 1942. He began his career as a strawberry researcher in 1946 assisting Richard Baker in the UC Davis Department of Pomology. In 1952 he was transferred to Southern California to head a temporary branch strawberry research station at Torrey Pines. Later in 1956, he transferred his work to South Coast Research and Extension Center in Irvine, and was in charge of the strawberry program until his retirement in 1991.

Since 1953 Voth worked jointly with Royce Bringhurst, UC Davis pomologist to develop a steady succession of strawberry varieties grown throughout the world. As a result of more than 35 years of their combined expertise, UC currently holds more than 30 patents on strawberry varieties.

But Bringhurst and Voth's contributions to the strawberry industry went beyond developing varieties. "They were also instrumental in developing strawberry cultural systems that optimize the production and quality of their varieties," said Daniel Hagillih, director of the South Coast REC. "Their system of raised beds, plastic mulch and drip irrigation is now copied throughout the world."

In recognition of their introduction of 30 strawberry varieties considered valuable to growers worldwide, Bringhurst and Voth jointly received an Award of Distinction from the UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in 1990. Also, to recognize their achievements, the volume of *Acta Horticulturae* presenting the proceedings of the 2nd International Strawberry Symposium in 1992 was dedicated to Voth and Bringhurst.

Voth is survived by his wife, Virginia, and daughter, Susanne.

— Daniel Hagillih

Other presenters included Jeffrey Mount, professor of geology and director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis; Tom Zuckerman, a retired water attorney and co-counsel of the Central Delta Water Agency; and Grant Davis, commissioner and executive director of The Bay Institute.

Mount, who co-authored the recent Public Policy Institute of California report "Envisioning Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta" with UC Davis colleagues Jay Lund, William Fleenor, Richard Howitt and Peter Moyle, and PPIC program director Ellen Hanak, said this landmark economic, environmental and public policy study provides nine alternative approaches for sustaining the Delta. These range from strengthening the levee system, to building a peripheral bypass canal, to phasing out farming in the Delta and reducing or eliminating water transfers to other regions. The PPIC report is available at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=671>.

Zuckerman talked about the importance of the waterway to "In-Delta" users and offered several alternatives for restoring natural habitats while still meeting the state's water needs. He said that current policies result in excess water flowing through the Delta to the Golden Gate during wet years. A better alternative, in Zuckerman's view, would be to redirect excess flow to the San Joaquin Valley to recharge groundwater supplies for pumping and use during dry years.

Davis presented the environmental community's perspective, and said that recent legal rulings make it clear that fish kills at pumping stations and the continued destruction of fish and wildlife habitat will need to be dealt with proactively. He talked about the competing water bond initiatives being developed by the governor and the state senate, and why environmental and conservation groups oppose the publicly funded surface water storage facilities being promoted by agriculture and the Schwarzenegger Administration.

Tim Quinn, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), had been scheduled to be on the panel, but while en route to the PAC meeting he was called back to Sacramento to participate in water bond negotiations with the governor's office.

In another presentation, Roger Bales, UC Merced professor of engineering and acting director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute, and Scott Stephens, UC Berkeley associate professor of fire sciences and co-director of the Center for Fire Research and Outreach, described their collaboration on the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project.

This federally funded project is investigating the impacts of the U. S. Forest Service's ongoing efforts to implement a series of planned fire treatments called Strategically Placed Land Area Treatments. The UC scientists will develop, implement and test the efficacy of adaptive forest and land management methods on federal lands in the Sierra Nevada Range, and examine their effects on wildlife, water, fire, forest health and public participation. Bales concluded with an update on other watershed-related research under way.

Karen Klonsky, UC Davis CE agricultural economics specialist, gave a presentation on the commodity cost and return studies she produces with staff research assistants Pete Livingston and Rich DeMoura in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ARE). The popular reports, which focus on a range of commodities and growing regions, are compiled by CE advisors based on interviews with growers, knowledge of local growing conditions and a set of economic assumptions. Klonsky said the cost and return studies are used by growers, bankers, rural appraisers, insurance adjusters, risk managers, researchers, lawyers and public agencies. The ARE Web site (<http://coststudies.ucdavis.edu>) currently features 125 cost studies and averages 220,000 downloads per year by users in more than 70 countries.

In his remarks to the PAC, Hume reported on UCOP's restructuring plans. He described the restructuring as a partial response to "a pretty blistering assessment" of the Office of the President by The Monitor Group, a consulting firm hired by the regents.

When asked if the UCOP restructuring would affect ANR, Hume said, "Yes, it's appropriate to look at all operations, to look and see if there are duplications or inefficiencies."

"We want to move as much of our resources as we can to academic programs," Hume explained. "If we pay a lot of attention to getting the Office of the President into shape, the campuses will follow suit."

Hume, who is serving as chief operating officer for UC until a new president is named, also announced that after the VP is hired that a review of ANR programs will take place. "While I believe it is running well, I'm very, very interested in reviewing ANR to get it in the best possible shape," Hume said.

During the Vice President's Report, Rick Standiford provided updates on progress in filling CE advisor positions already approved for recruitment and a breakthrough in adjusting salary scales for CE specialists and advisors. He noted that salary scale adjustments for CE specialists and advisors have been authorized over the next four years and that the first increase retroactively effective Oct 1. However, to cover the expenses associated with the first-year salary increases, the number of new advisor positions ANR will be filling in 2007-08 will need to be reduced.

Standiford also reported that the UCCE oral history project is moving forward and asked Barber to provide an update on this ambitious effort to capture and record the recollections and living memories of CE specialists and advisors, campus faculty, farmers and ranchers and key administrators who played an important role in building UC Cooperative Extension into what it is today.

Barber said that an oral history project committee, appointed and chaired by Standiford, has met twice to identify major themes and develop a working list of retirees and other individuals to interview. The plan is to interview between 80 and 100 individuals. Barber noted that a campaign committee, co-chaired by Carol Chandler, commissioner and Selma grower, and John De Luca, senior advisor to the president on agricultural and business initiatives, is being formed to spearhead a private effort to raise \$400,000 for the project. She announced that the California Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors, in approving a contribution of \$26,500 for the UCCE oral history, has challenged all 53 county farm bureaus to make a \$500 match (this would double the CFBF total!).

Commissioner Bob Vice, a past CFBF president, urged his fellow commissioners to support the project. "If we don't document how important Extension has been to the state, we're going to start losing that institutional memory," Vice said.

The PAC will next meet on April 3 and 4.

CNAS partners with Chinese university to address environment

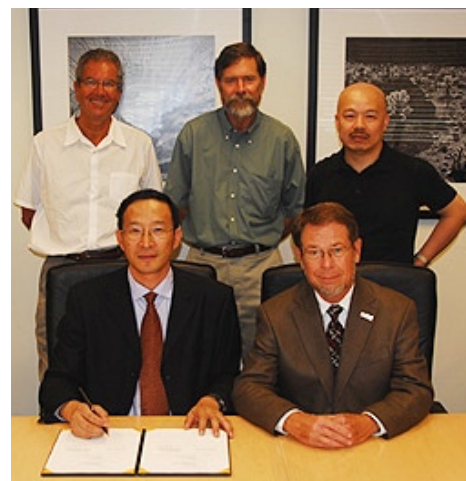
To address China's increasing environmental challenges, such as smog, acid rain and water pollution, scientists at UC Riverside and China Agricultural University (CAU) have teamed up to launch a new center: the CAU-UCR International Center for Ecology and Sustainability.

Located in Beijing, China, the center will attempt to solve environmental and agricultural problems, restore damaged ecosystems, and ensure food safety – concerns common not just to China and Southern California but the world at large.

"The issues of ecology and sustainability facing China today are massive and, in many cases, mirror those faced by California," said Bai-lian (Larry) Li, UCR professor of ecology, who joins Wenliang Wu, the chief scientist of the National Agroecology Program and provost at CAU, in co-directing the center.

The center's six initial research areas of focus are: (1) ecosystem complexity and regional sustainability; (2) management and treatment of agricultural nonpoint (indirect) pollution; (3) conservative farming and ecological restoration; (4) effective use of agricultural wastes and "circulative agriculture" (agricultural systems that recycle materials/resources); (5) environmental security and food safety; and (6) microbial ecology and molecular ecology.

"These initial research foci reflect many of the hot-button topics that the faculty and researchers in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences are working on right now," said Donald Cooksey, acting CNAS dean. "Ecological issues today transcend national or even crop-level boundaries – we all have similar sustainability problems, whether we're growing rice or oranges."



Principals sign the agreement at UCR to establish the CAU-UCR International Center for Ecology and Sustainability. Front row, left to right: Zhangliang Chen, president of China Agricultural University; and UCR acting Chancellor Robert D. Grey. Back row, left to right: UCR's Charles F. Louis, Donald Cooksey, and Larry Li.

Web site invites SoCal reports of coyote attacks

A new Web site created by Bob Timm, UC Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist, invites residents of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties to report incidents where coyotes have attacked pets or people. CoyoteBytes is at <http://CoyoteBytes.org>.

Because no single agency or organization collects information on coyote incidents, Timm has launched an effort to gather data on coyote problems in Southern California. While new media and agency records have allowed Timm and his colleagues to document more than 100 incidents of coyote attacks on people in Southern California, mostly within the past 10 years, little is known about coyote attacks on pets, other than that the problem is widespread and apparently continues to increase.

Maggi Kelly, UC Berkeley Cooperative Extension specialist and director of the Geospatial Imaging & Informatics Facility, and Karin Tuxen-Bettman, GIIF facility manager, built the Web site, including the database for reporting coyote encounters. The GIIF staff are managing and maintaining the Web site.

Persons wishing to report coyote incidents or encounters can provide details on attacks on pets, injuries or fatalities sustained, and the cost of veterinary treatment to pets or hobby animals. In the case of attacks on people, they can specify whether an injury occurred, and whether the victim had to undergo rabies inoculations. As reports are entered, the GIIF staff will be analyzing the data, and using GIS technologies to place coyote incidents on an interactive map, enabling users to see where and when coyote encounters are occurring.

CoyoteBytes provides the most recent information on coyote management techniques that can be used by homeowners, neighborhoods and municipalities to prevent or reduce the occurrence of conflicts. In future months, the Web site's data collection will be expanded to include other California counties.

Business cards and posters advertising CoyoteBytes are available and can be ordered from the Web site. For more information about the site, Timm, who is based at Hopland Research and Extension Center, can be reached at (707) 744-1424 or rmtimm@ucdavis.edu.

ANR REPORT

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