Atkinson forms ag advisory commission

Twenty-eight business, consumer, youth and government leaders have accepted an invitation from President Atkinson to serve on the President’s Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources. The commission will advise the University on how to best meet the educational needs of California’s agricultural, natural and human resources communities through science-based research, classroom instruction and educational outreach. The group’s first meeting is scheduled for Sept. 24-25.

Schneeman to step down as UC Davis dean in June 1999

Barbara Schneeman, dean of the UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, will resign from the post effective June 30, 1999, when a new administrative structure for the college, now being developed, will be put into place. She is stepping down so that she can lead the planning effort for this new structure without having a vested administrative interest in the outcome, she said in a letter to CAES faculty.

During the winter quarter, Schneeman proposed to the college’s executive committee and department chairs a revision of the administrative organization of the dean’s office. A task force examining issues related to the proposed reorganization recently recommended that an interim administrative structure for

How to send comments to the Transition Team

The Transition Team has set up an electronic suggestions box to get ideas and comments to them quickly. Send email to: transition.team@ucop.edu
Or you may fax correspondence in care of Kay Harrison Taber (510/451-2317). The mailing address is: Kay Harrison Taber, 1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Oakland CA 94607-5200. All comments (signed or unsigned) will be reviewed.
Natural Reserve System awarded $4 million

The UC Natural Reserve System (NRS) will be able to make some sorely needed facilities improvements and expand its data collection and environmental monitoring capabilities, with the help of a $4 million endowment donated June 11 by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

It is the largest private gift ever received by the NRS and is among the largest endowments ever received by the University.

Earnings from the endowment will generate about $200,000 a year. The funds will support new and renovated laboratories and lodgings and will be used to purchase new data collection and environmental monitoring equipment at NRS sites throughout the state.

“The mounting challenges in environmental management and conservation require imaginative professionals, well-trained in the field sciences,” said NRS Director Alexander Glazer. “Demand for such individuals already far exceeds supply. The Packard Foundation endowment will allow us to educate more students to meet these challenges.”

The NRS manages 33 wildland reserves encompassing more than 120,000 acres, ranging from Pacific marine canyons to the eastern Sierra Nevada and Mojave Desert.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is a longtime supporter of the NRS. Foundation program areas include science, conservation, population, children’s issues and education.

Alameda CE honors volunteers at Open House

ALAMEDA COUNTY CE held an Open House June 16 to familiarize clientele with the office’s new location in Alameda, to celebrate its 50th anniversary and to recognize longtime volunteers. Honorees included, from left, Master Gardener Program Lifetime Members Leonard Skinner, Jack Schweigmann and Jim Hunt, and 4-H Resource Coordinator Caroline Crossett. Also recognized for their support were two agencies, Sealana and Associates and the Comprehensive Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program of the Oakland Unified School District; and Vice President Gomes, who received a commendation for his leadership from Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson.

Advisory commission (from p. 1)

Members include Charles Ablom, founding partner, Hilmar Cheese Co., Hilmar; Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, supervisor, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; Frieda Caplan, founder, Frieda’s, Inc., Los Alamitos; William Chandler, co-owner, Chandler Farms, Selma; Gary Cusmano, president, Newhall Land and Farming, Valencia; John DeLuca, president, Wine Institute, San Francisco; Octavia Diener, president, Densmore Engines/Tavie Farms, Fresno; Daniel Dooley, partner, Dooley and Herr, Visalia; Paul Ecke Jr., retired chairman, Paul Ecke Ranch, Encinitas; Lourdes Gonzales, president, California Latino Agricultural Association, Watsonville; Donald Gordon Jr., president, Agricultural Council of California, Sacramento; Thomas Graff, senior attorney, Environmental Defense Fund, Oakland; Russell Hanlin, president, Sunkist Growers, Inc., Van Nuys; Jeri Hansen, California Women for Agriculture, Stockton; John Kautz, chairman, Ironstone Winery and John Kautz Family Farms, Lodi; Pamela Marrone, president, AgraQuest, Inc., Davis; Amy McCombs, president, Chronicle Broadcasting Co., San Francisco; Karen Miller, co-owner, Clint Miller Farms, Watsonville; Michael Mondavi, president, Robert Mondavi Winery, Oakville; Douglas Mosebar, first vice president, California Farm Bureau, Sacramento; Jack Pandol Jr., president, Grapery, Bakersfield; Judy Pennycook, supervisor, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Salinas; Len Richardson, editor, California Farmer, Concord; Lois Salisbury, president, Children Now, Oakland; Terry Scranton, executive vice president, Bank of America, Fresno; Tom Smith, president, Calcot Ltd., Bakersfield; Dorcas Thille, owner, J.K. Thille Farms, Santa Paula; John Veysey, president, John Veysey Farms, Brawley.

Additional commission members may be added later. Vice President Gomes will be an active participant, and his office will staff the commission.

Budget (from p. 1)

will go to the governor, who has the authority to delete budget items entirely or to “blue-pencil” funding.

“We may need to call on friends of the Division and the University to contact the governor and express their support for these augmentations once the FY 1998-99 state budget is on his desk,” said Steve Nation, director of Governmental and External Relations.

DANR State and Local Governmental Relations Coordinator Claudia Reid caution that passage of the budget could be delayed until mid-July or later.

This is a distinct possibility if agreement cannot be reached between the governor and the leadership in the Senate and the Assembly over tax relief and other fiscal reforms outside of higher education. As a result, there also is a chance that the Joint Legislative Conference Committee on the Budget could reopen and reconsider all of the budget augmentations it already has approved, including ours — but Reid hopes this will not occur.
Interim SAREP director is named

Robert J. Reginato, formerly associate administrator of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), has been appointed interim director of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP). Reginato began his duties July 6 and will serve until a permanent director is selected.

“I am grateful to Bob for his willingness to take on the important assignment of guiding SAREP through its upcoming transition period,” said Associate Vice President Henry Vaux Jr.

SAREP is a systemwide program based on the UC Davis campus. William Liebhardt, the program’s director since its inception in 1987, stepped down from the post June 30 to return to extension work in the UCD department of agronomy and range science.

Reginato received a BS in soils from UC Davis, MS in soil physics from the University of Illinois and PhD in soil physics from UC Riverside. He began his career as a soil scientist with the ARS Water Conservation Laboratory in Phoenix, where he served from 1959 to 1989. He was research leader of the ARS Soil-Plant-Atmosphere Systems Research Unit (1980-89) before being named associate director of the ARS Pacific West Area in Albany, California (1989-91). He was appointed director of the Pacific West Area in 1991 and in 1996 became associate administrator of ARS in Washington, D.C. He retired from federal service in 1997.

In the Pacific West Area, Reginato managed all ARS programs in the eight western states. These programs were carried out by 400 scientists at 25 sites with a budget of $80 million.

As associate administrator of ARS in Washington, Reginato oversaw a program with an annual budget of $750 million and comprising 1,100 scientists and 6,900 support personnel working at more than 100 locations.

Reginato is an accomplished researcher specializing in the loss of water from soils and plants, methods for sealing stock ponds and the use of remote-sensing techniques to assess crop stress. He has been recognized for these achievements with his election as a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy.

Funding alert

USDA’s Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program has released its general calls for proposals for research, education and professional development grants (available at http://ext.usu.edu/wshare/). Call 435/797-2257 for application materials.

UC proposes salary and parity raises in 1998-99

The budget UC proposed for 1998-99 includes a 2 percent general salary increase and a 2.5 percent parity increase for ladder rank faculty, with a proposed effective date of Oct. 1, 1998. The proposed 2.5 percent parity increase for eligible faculty titles, if funded by the final state budget, is part of the Salary Scale Parity Adjustment Plan issued Oct. 24, 1995, and is intended to bring the ladder rank faculty salaries to parity with faculty salaries at the University’s Comparison 8 institutions.

This notice may be found online (http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/parity.html).

Comments should be forwarded to Coordinator Virginia Vogel (virginia.vogel@ucop.edu) by July 24.

Names in the news

James MacDonald, chair of the UCD department of plant pathology, received the 1998 Media Award of Excellence from the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture for his instructional compact disc, “Turfgrass Diseases: Diagnosis and Management.”

Nancy Hudson, director of the Dietetics Program in the department of nutritional sciences of the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley, received CNR’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

Seymour Van Gundy, professor emeritus of nematology at UC Riverside, received a faculty service award from the Conferences and Professional Programs of the University of Continuing Education Association and was elected an Honorary Member of the Society of Nematologists.

On the move

Steve Mendivil has resumed his duties as coordinator of administrative policies and analysis in the office of Assistant Vice President Toby Winer. Key duties include overseeing independent consultant agreements, memoranda of understanding, delegations of authority and revisions to the DANR Administrative Handbook, and serving as liaison with Division support groups.

Fred Perry will continue as interim director of the Office of Facilities Planning and Management. The Division was unsuccessful in a nationwide search for a new director and is exploring various models of management for OFPM and the research and extension center system.

Rachel Elkins is now principal pomologist for Mendocino County in addition to serving as Lake County farm advisor. A statewide expert in pears, she also works with pear growers in Sutter and Yuba counties.
Natural resources meeting in August will focus on salmon

The sixth Natural Resources Continuing Conference will give DANR advisors, specialists and faculty an opportunity to learn more about California salmon Aug. 12-14 at the Bodega Marine Laboratory.

“Issues related to salmon are important to many aspects of California’s economy,” said Sea Grant Marine Fishery Specialist Chris Devaux.

“Coho salmon and steelhead in our coastal streams are already listed under the Endangered Species Act, and the three remaining unlisted runs of Chinook salmon in the Central Valley are proposed for listing. Water policy changes affecting California agriculture are occurring as a result.”

The Sea Grant Extension and Integrated Hardwood Range Management programs organized the training. Updates on salmonid research and field trips to a local watershed and to the ecological reserve surrounding Bodega Marine Lab will be included.

Limited funding is available to help CE county advisors pay for room and board. For registration materials contact Jill Frommelt (530/752-5797; jwfrommelt@ucdavis.edu).

Editors for this issue of ANR Report are DANR information representatives Jill Goetz and John Stumbos.