UCR opens high-security insectary—state-of-the-art facility for combating ag pests

On May 4, the UC Riverside campus officially opened its $15 million, high-security Insectary and Quarantine Facility, the only three-stage quarantine facility in the state.

The 28,000-square-foot insectary will advance the study of exotic pests, the evaluation of potential natural enemies and the development of genetically engineered plants and insects.

Speakers at the opening ceremony included Chancellor Ray Orbach, Vice President Gomes, CANAS Dean Steve Angle and entomology department chair Tim Paine.

“The primary beneficiaries [of the insectary] will be the growers, ranchers and resources managers of the state,” Gomes said. “You will have access to new, economically viable pest management tools developed and field tested at the University of California. These new tools will help you stay one step ahead of insects, rodents, bacteria and other pests while significantly reducing your use of pesticides and other chemicals.”

A new exotic pest is introduced into the state every 60 days, on average. These insects or the pathogens they carry cause an estimated $3 billion in agricultural damage each year in this state alone.

The insectary will expand UC’s role in the fight against pests such as the glassy-winged sharpshooter, ash whitefly and eucalyptus longhorned borer.

Central Coast and South Region welcomes two new advisors—to Santa Cruz/Monterey and San Diego

Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty, a 10-year veteran of the 4-H program and an expert in environmental education, is the new youth development advisor for Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Her program emphasis is on science and technology.

Prior to this assignment, which began June 4, Schmitt-McQuitty was part of the state 4-H office team in Davis, where she developed and evaluated programs in youth leadership, technology education and natural resources/environmental education. Since joining UCCE in 1996, she has also served as 4-H program representative in Butte and on the youth FSN EP staff in Placer.

Schmitt-McQuitty was a youth development agent in Kenosha County, Wisconsin, before coming to California.

Schmitt-McQuitty is a native of Johnsburg, Illinois. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1987 and a master’s degree in outdoor teacher education from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb in 1991. She has also worked as an environmental educator and director of summer programs serving 7- to 18-year-olds and as a naturalist/director of a nature society, where she developed, implemented and evaluated environmental education programs for school children and community groups.

Patti Wooten Swanson is joining the CE office in...
What's new

(Editor’s note: We invite you to announce your new website, program, grant, or publication in ANR Report. Please send the information to the address listed in the masthead on page 4.)

Get CS@work by email

CS@work, a digital newsletter from Communication Services that debuted April 2, is designed to give you quick access to news you can use about CS services, products and people. If you missed the first issue, you can read it online (http://csatwork.ucdavis.edu). The first issue includes, among other topics, details on website training for UCCE personnel and a list of new publications (see sidebar below).

If you didn’t get the first issue, by sure to register at the site to receive each subsequent issue by email.

GWSS Workgroup launches website

The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Workgroup has posted a homepage (http://gwss.ucanr.org) featuring many links to resources for identifying, managing and controlling Pierce’s disease and glassy-winged sharpshooters. According to workgroup chair Rick Redak, the goal is to provide links to everything useful dealing with glassy-winged sharpshooters and the Xylella diseases they vector.

AIC series adds 2 works

The Agricultural Issues Center has two new works in its AIC Issues Brief series:

- “Farmland Conversion: Perceptions and Realities,” by Nicolai Kuminoff, Al Sokolow, Dan Sumner

Both booklets can be read online (http://aic.ucdavis.edu).

Agri-tourism website leads to California farms

An online database—www.calagtours.org—created by the Small Farm Center to connect tourists with genuine farm experiences already lists more than 300 farms.

The site, says Director Desmond Jolly, lists “real working farms that are welcoming visitors to enjoy the rural setting, farm-fresh produce, open space and more simple way of life.”

The database is an outgrowth of the Small Farm Center’s agri-tourism program, launched three years ago to help operators of small farms and ranches market their commodities and the farm experience and ambience to urban visitors.

UC Berkeley professor Sally Fairfax has been selected as the first appointee to the Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Professorship in Forest Policy.

For most of her career, Fairfax has specialized in legal aspects of public resource administration. She is co-author of “Forest and Range Policy,” second edition, as well as other publications.

Fairfax currently focuses on the changing institutions of resource management, with an emphasis on the emergence of land trusts. She joined the UC Berkeley faculty in 1978 and has received the Chancellor’s Educational Initiatives Award.

Vaux, an innovator in the forest policy arena, died in December 2000 at age 88. He was a former dean of the UC Berkeley School of Forestry and a former chairman of the state Board of Forestry. He retired from UC Berkeley in 1978.

For our clientele

Recent publications from Communication Services

- “The Measure of California Agriculture (revised),” Nicolai V. Kuminoff (Pub. #M OCA), $15
- “Chemigation in Tree and Vine Microirrigation Systems,” Larry Schwankl, Terry Prichard (Pub. 21599), $5
- “Integrated Pest Management for Floriculture and Nurseries,” Steve Restiad (Pub. 3402), $45
- “Pierce’s Disease,” Lucia Varela, Rhonda Smith, Phil Phillips (Pub. 21600), $6
- Pest Note: “Common Knotweed” (Pub. 7484), electronic
- Pest Note: “Russian Thistle” (Pub. 7486), electronic
- “Frequently Asked Questions about Food Irradiation” Christine Bruhn (Pub. 7255), electronic
- AIC Issues Center: “California Farmers and Conservation Easements,” Ellen Rilla (Pub. #CFCE), $10

New advisors (from p. 1)

San Diego County on June 25 as a nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor.

Swanson, who has 22 years of experience as a teacher and administrator in higher education, comes to UC from Azusa Pacific University, where she was an assistant professor of human development and graduate education and the program representative and advisor for accelerated degree programs for adult learners.

Swanson is certified in family and consumer sciences and has co-authored a secondary textbook, “Personal and Family Economics.” Since 1987, she has taught in a leadership studies master’s degree program for expatriates and nationals in Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, and Central and South America.

Swanson, who was raised in Fort Worth, has a doctorate in consumer science and family economics from Texas Woman’s University, a master’s in vocational education from the University of North Texas, and a bachelor’s in home economics education from Texas Christian University.
Valued at $500,000+

Kearney REC receives in-kind gifts to support research, extension

Kearney Research and Extension Center in Parlier has received “in-kind” gifts valued in excess of $500,000, according to A N R’s Office of Development Services.

Fred Swanson, Kearney’s superintendent, said that Panelized Structures, a Modesto-based industrial construction company, was the donor. The company contributed various items of equipment previously used in private research. “We are very pleased to support the research efforts of the University of California in the Central Valley region,” said Panelized Structures CEO Peter “Hoppy” Post.

The equipment will support several projects at Kearney and advance research and extension programs. The donated items include a growth chamber—its replacement cost is valued at $155,000—vacuum and specialized lighting systems, water pumps and sinks.

“We are going to use the growth chamber in the study of the vine mealybug (Planococcus ficus), an invasive species attacking grapes in California,” said IPM entomologist Walt Bentley. “The chamber will specifically be used in our biological control program on this pest.”

For more information about receiving and processing in-kind gifts, please contact Ricardo Fouster at Development Services, (510/987-0376; ricardo.fouster@ucop.edu).

Now it’s easy for donors to use credit cards to make contributions to ANR

By Cindy Barber

Have you ever had to disappoint a donor who wanted to make a contribution by credit card because no procedures were in place for accepting it? That needn’t happen again.

A N R is now able to accept charitable contributions made by credit cards—mail-in, phone-in or walk-in.

In fact, our new A N R gift form specifically gives donors the option of using credit cards. A credit card account to handle these transactions has been set up at UC Davis, which processes donations made to the Division.

To accept a credit card gift, you’ll need to complete a sales draft form. If the gift is over $75, be sure to telephone the credit card company first for authorization. A N R gift forms and detailed information regarding credit card procedures have been sent to the regional offices for further distribution to county offices.

If you have any questions about this new opportunity, please feel free to call me at 510/987-9139.

Barber is assistant for special projects in A N R’s Office of Development Services.

Names in the news

Anthony E. Hall, a professor and crop ecologist at UC Riverside, has received USDA’s Honor Award, its most prestigious award.

Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman made the presentation on June 4. Hall’s award was for “promoting health by providing access to safe, affordable and nutritious food.”

Hall’s research to identify traits conferring heat tolerance and adaptation to drought in blackeye pea (also known as cowpea) has benefited both the U.S. ag community and West Africa’s Sahelian zone, which regularly experiences severe droughts. Improved varieties of cowpea have been introduced in both regions and have helped alleviate hunger and poverty for millions of people in the Sahel.

Last September Hall was also honored by the U.S. Agency for International Development. (UCR News)

Miguel A. Marino, professor of hydrologic sciences and civil and environmental engineering at UC Davis, has been elected a fellow of the American Geophysical Union for fundamental and outstanding contributions to the theory and practice of groundwater hydrology and water resources management.

Melvin George, CE range-land management specialist, received a professional achievement award from Utah State University and the College of Natural Resources Alumni Association for his many professional achievements and his dedicated stewardship of range-land resources.

Contra Costa County CE won a 2000 Challenge Award from the California State Association of Counties for an integrated pest management outreach and education program. When the sanitation district asked for help to reduce harmful garden chemicals in water being treated, CE trained master gardeners to deliver workshops at which residents were taught to identify pests and use safe options for control. The master gardeners delivered 85 workshops to more than 3,000 residents.

Only 11 programs out of 162 entries won this award.

EEO/PER (from p. 1)

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On the move

Karen Klonsky, extension specialist in the UC Davis department of agricultural and resource economics, is the Agricultural Issue Center’s new associate director for issues involving agricultural environmental management.

Klonsky is well known for her work with multidisciplinary teams and is also a national leader in understanding the expanding role of organic agriculture.

CS advisory board seeks nominations

The advisory board to ANR Communication Services is seeking to fill four positions on the board and is also accepting nominations that can include, but are not limited to, specialists, advisors and faculty.

Nominations are due by July 13. You may nominate yourself or someone else. Send nominations, along with the addresses of the candidates, to advisory board chair Susan Laughlin (sglaughlin@ucdavis.edu).

If nominating yourself, please indicate your areas of expertise, what prior involvement you have had with Communication Services, and your membership in workgroups, continuing conferences or other coordinating bodies.

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

Board members, appointed by Associate Vice President Henry Vaux Jr., serve three-year rotating terms. New appointments begin in November. The board meets quarterly. Current members on the board are: Monterey advisor Bill Chaney; UCR specialist Joe DiTomaso; IPM Education and Publications Director Mary Louise Flint; San Joaquin advisor Joe Grant; Mendocino County Director John Harper; Regional Director Susan Laughlin; Madera advisor Martha Lopez; UCR specialist Milt McGiffen; Vet. Med. Tulare assistant professor Dale M oore; Program Leader Michael Reid; Santa Cruz advisor Steve Tjosvold.

Approaching deadlines

Aug. 7: Last day for CE specialists and advisors to turn in requests for reimbursement funds for professional society meetings held between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2001. Contact Mary Lu McGuire at 510/987-0067.

Job opportunities

N. Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Science Advisor Ventura County #ACCSO-01-04 Closing Date: Aug. 15

Specialty Crops’ Small Farm Advisor Santa Clara (headquarters), Santa Cruz and San Benito counties #ACCSO-01-05 Closing Date: Aug. 15

For info, contact Cheryl Gneckow (ccsradadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu; 909/787-2529; fax 909/787-2328).

Funding alert

The Center for Invasive Species Research and the Statewide IPM Project are soliciting proposals for developing and promoting research and extension programs related to exotic pests and diseases in agricultural, urban or natural environments.

RFP is at http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/IPMPROJECT/cisrrfp.html.

About $1.1 million has been provided by USDA/CSREES for projects under this program.

Proposal deadline is July 6.

ANR REPORT

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Serving California through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources. We invite you to visit ANR’s website: http://danr.ucop.edu, where you can also access the current issue of ANR Report as well as back issues by simply clicking on the publications button.

Send news items and comments to Gabriele Kassner, ANR REPORT editor, Office of Governmental & External Relations, 1111 Franklin St., 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607-5200. Telephone: 510/ 987-0067; fax: 510/ 465-2659; email: gabriele.kassner@ucop.edu

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