ANR affirms partnership with Mexican university

A partnership forged over 20 years between ANR in Imperial County and the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) was reaffirmed in June when Vice President Gomes and Associate Vice President Standiford traveled to the border region to sign a memorandum of understanding.

"UC has a tradition of establishing and cultivating collaborative relationships with institutions and organizations in other nations," Standiford said at the signing ceremony in Holtville. "Agreements like this are important because they promote good will and international understanding, and bring multicultural expertise to bear on finding solutions to common problems."

Imperial County farm advisors Juan Guerrero and Khaled Bali and Desert Research and Extension Center-based UC Davis researcher Richard Zinn have worked with about two dozen UABC graduate students and faculty on projects in cattle nutrition, irrigation and alfalfa production.

"If anyone should work together, it should be those on this border . . . a border that has no effect whatsoever on the transfer of the insects and the (plant) diseases that are common to all of us," Gomes said.

Paine, Varcoe named program leaders

Timothy D. Paine and Karen Varcoe have been appointed program leaders for the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Paine, a UC Riverside professor of entomology and director of the UC Center for Invasive Species Research, will begin a three-year term as program leader for agricultural policy and pest management, effective July 1.

"Tim has had a long and distinguished career at UCR as a faculty member and administrator," said Richard B. Standiford, associate vice president. "He has consistently taken on leadership roles within ANR and knows the entire Division well. We are thrilled he is taking on this important position."

"I am excited to have the chance to work with the ANR Program Council to address challenges that face the Division and explore new opportunities to serve the needs of the state of California," said Paine.

In addition to teaching entomology, Paine conducts research on insects that damage ornamental landscape plants, nurserystock and urban or recreational forests. He is currently studying biological
NFCS advisor sought for Fresno County

The Central Valley Region is seeking a nutrition, family, and consumer sciences advisor. The position will administer the EFNEP and FSNEP programs, providing nutrition education to low-income families. It also includes conducting and coordinating a research and education program encompassing the needs of families in Fresno County, and will identify timely and critical issues regarding the health of the community and families within. The advisor will interact as part of a diverse nutrition team, developing community strategies, collaborating with agencies, and building on a strong community network.

A masters degree in one of the disciplines relevant to the duties and responsibilities of this position, including public health nutrition, community nutrition, or family and consumer sciences. In addition, the following experience and skills are required:

- Experience in management, administration, education and outreach, research, and facilitation skills;
- Supervisory experience in community health/nutrition;
- Experience working with low income and diverse populations;
- Skills in public speaking, technical writing, statistical analysis and computer use;
- Ability to plan, implement, evaluate and publish research results.

Beginning salary will be in the UC Cooperative Extension Assistant Advisor rank. See CE Advisor salary scale at [http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/tab0405/table33.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/tab0405/table33.pdf). The full position vacancy announcement and required academic application are available at [http://cvr.ucdavis.edu](http://cvr.ucdavis.edu), or contact Cindy Inouye, UCCE Central Valley Region, 9240 Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA 93648; email cinouye@uckac.edu, phone (559) 646-6535. Complete packets must be received by June 30. Refer to position #ACV 05-02. AA/EOE.

Paine, Varcoe named program leaders — continued from page 2

control of eucalyptus psyllids and other pests of eucalyptus trees.

Paine, who joined UC Riverside in 1986, received the American Nursery & Landscape Association’s Norman Jay Coleman Award for Research in 2001. In 2004, the University of Pretoria, South Africa, named Paine its Hans Merensky Fellow Visiting Scientist and UC Riverside honored him with its annual Distinguished Teaching Award.

He holds bachelors degrees in history and entomology and a PhD in entomology from UC Davis.

Karen Varcoe has been reappointed as human resource program leader for a two-year term. Varcoe has held this position since 1999, providing statewide coordination and guidance for the Division’s research and outreach in nutrition, family and consumer sciences, and other areas of human resources.

“I am very excited that Karen has agreed to continue in her leadership role in the Division,” said Standiford. “She has done an excellent job of bringing the diverse elements of the Division’s human resource programs together. I look forward to working closely with her over these next two years.”

Varcoe currently serves on the board of the American Council on Consumer Interests. In 2001 she was recognized as an Outstanding Fellow by the Association for Financing and Planning Education. She will be leading the new Operation Military Kids program for California to promote the participation of the children of deployed National Guard and Army Reserve in 4-H Youth Development programs throughout the state.

“I am very pleased to be continuing in this role and having the opportunity to be part of the many changes that will be occurring in the Division as we rebuild UCCE,” Varcoe said. “I have enjoyed working with all facets of the Division’s Human Resource Programs and look forward to the new challenges that will occur in the next two years.”

Based at UC Riverside, Varcoe has been a UC Cooperative Extension consumer economics/management specialist since 1981. She earned her PhD in family and consumption economics from the University of Illinois in 1975.

CCSR seeks vegetable and strawberry advisor

The Central Coast and South Region is seeking a career-track academic candidate to conduct an educational and applied research program for the vegetable and strawberry industries in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. The advisor’s responsibilities will be to identify and assess clientele needs; conduct surveys and field trials to address identified problems; and develop appropriate educational outreach programs to bring about improved practices among clientele. The position will be based in Santa Barbara County.

A master’s degree is required in plant science or pest management, or a closely related discipline. Training and/or experience in vegetable production, entomology, plant pathology, pomology and postharvest physiology is preferred. Salary will be in the CE Assistant Rank commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications. See CE Advisor salary scale at [http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/tab0405/table33.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/tab0405/table33.pdf).

Application deadline is Aug. 1 (or open until filled).

To apply, e-mail a request to ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu and refer to #ACCSO-05-01. For more information, contact Cheryl Gneckow, ANR-CCSR, #213, UC Riverside, CA 92521, phone (951) 827-2529; fax (951) 827-2328.
Ag Personnel launches new Web site

The Agricultural Personnel Management Program has launched a new Web site at http://apmp.berkeley.edu. The old site (are.berkeley.edu/APMP) automatically redirects visitors to the new site.

The new site provides easier topic-oriented navigation, timely news, visitor contributions, and quick access to information on existing law and pending legislation, says farm personnel management specialist Howard Rosenberg.

“I have recast the site as a broad community resource on farm employment, management, and related regulatory issues,” says Rosenberg, who manages the site. “I aim for people to think of and use the site as a unique portal to references on the many facets of human resource management in agriculture.

“It’s an incredible hassle for growers to try to learn about the array of regulatory requirements they face, no less keep up with recent and proposed changes in them.”

The new APMP site provides links to many public agencies, associations and other service providers that deal with agricultural employment on subjects such as pesticide regulation, transportation safety, wage and hour standards, payroll taxes, sexual harassment and unlawful discrimination, immigration and employment eligibility verification.

The Federal and California Regulation pages in the Laws and Agencies section include clickable lists that visitors can use to access current information about the substance and status of selected bills. In addition, six customized newsfeeds present late-breaking items on topics that generally correspond to the respective pages on which they are found. The newsfeed on the right side of the homepage is presently set up to automatically find recent articles about immigration reform bills.

Another new feature is an Events page in the Keeping Current section which anyone can use to publicize a workshop, seminar, conference, hearing, or other meeting related to human resource management in agriculture. Visitors can share items in the site using Web site features that, at the touch of an icon, can turn any page into a pdf or email a URL directly from the browser window.

Desert REC dedicates new facility

Vice President Gomes clipped a ribbon June 1 officially opening the newest laboratory facility at the Division’s oldest and southernmost research and extension center.

“In 1912, the Desert Research and Extension Center was established in the Imperial Valley as the Meloland Field Station through a partnership between the University of California, Imperial County and local producers,” Gomes said. “This ribbon cutting signifies UC’s continuing commitment to this valley.”

Gomes said there are many reasons for UC’s presence in the Imperial Valley. The low desert valley that straddles the Mexican border is the largest year-round irrigated agricultural area in North America and the seventh leading food producer in the world.

“Growers in the Imperial Valley and surrounding areas provide 80 percent of the United States’ fresh winter fruits and vegetables – virtually the entire winter supply of head and leaf lettuces, broccoli and cauliflower,” Gomes said. “UC scientists help support the valley’s vast agricultural enterprise.”

The new $1.5 million laboratory facility was funded with monies from the 2001-02 State Capital Outlay Program, the 1998 Higher Education Capital Outlay Bond Fund totaling $1.3 million. ANR provided the rest of the funding.

Analytical Lab adjusts fees July 1

New farm advisors will get free lab testing from the Analytical Laboratory and some complimentary services will be offered to program representatives. Those were among program changes the lab’s Advisory Committee approved at its May 16 meeting.

A pilot program will be implemented whereby new farm advisors are provided with the equivalent of $1,500 of analytical testing support. This one-time allocation to new advisors will be available for a period of not more than three years and is intended to aid advisors in activating their research activities.

The $200 (equivalent) annual complimentary allocation currently available to farm advisors and CE specialists will be extended to program representatives.

A modest increase in testing fees will be implemented July 1, 2005. In the past, increases to the Lab’s fees were implemented in an across-the-board fashion. Based on the recent rate structure process required to meet federal guidelines, the cost of each analysis was calculated (time, supplies); some tests therefore decreased in price while others increased. The new fees will be effective with samples received after 5 p.m. on June 30.

Continued efforts to streamline and automate operations contribute to the Lab’s ability to maintain economical testing fees.

Questions or comments concerning the Lab can be addressed by director Dirk Holstege at (530) 752-0148 or dmholstege@ucdavis.edu.

– Nikki Schwab
Montano named coordinator

Catherine Montano has been named Coordinator - Administrative Policies & Business Contracts in the Office of the Controller & Business Services. She will assume her new responsibilities on July 1.

Montano has been with UC for over 15 years, and has served on the Berkeley campus and in the Office of the President. As a Berkeley campus contract administrator for 10 years, she managed the Contract Administration Unit of the Capital Projects Department. At UCOP over the last five years, she has served as a principal budget analyst in the Budget Office with the primary responsibility of securing Regental approval of all non-State funded capital projects.

“Given her work experience with the University and demonstrated service and results orientation, Catherine brings excellent skills and knowledge to the Coordinator position which has responsibility for managing the policy development and implementation process for ANR, coordinating the development of all business contracts; serving as the ANR coordinator of information practices and conflict of interest; serving as liaison with USDA/CSREES, as well as various UCOP offices on issues of importance to policy compliance and business contracts; and serving as co-chair of the 4-H YDP Policy Advisory Committee,” said Jake McGuire, interim assistant vice president controller & business services director.

She succeeds Carol Omelicich, who will be retiring July 1. Montano can be reached at (510) 987-0103 and catherine.montano@ucop.edu.

Changes in Budget Office

Jennifer Bunge is now the senior budget analyst who deals primarily with State General and University funds. Yuliya Elbo came back to the Division to takeover Bunge’s position and is the senior budget analyst who handles Federal funding. They both report to Budget Director Donna Jones.

Bunge can still be reached at (510) 987-0102 and Jennifer.Bunge@ucop.edu. Elbo is located in room 6317-B in the Franklin Building and can be reached at (510) 987-0049 or Yuliya.Elbo@ucop.edu.

Mercy joins Communication Services

Jon Mercy is Communication Services’ new fulfillment manager as of May 2.

“Jon brings impressive experience and obvious skill to Communication Services,” says Bob Sams, Communication Services director. “With our new web catalog system and additional upgrades to our business systems, Jon has already shown that he is going help to us improve our services and productivity. We are very happy to have him.”

Mercy brings over 20 years of experience in distribution, traffic, warehousing, customer service, and inventory control. Most recently he worked at Portal Publications, where he oversaw the inventory, distribution and receiving of over $60 million annually in greeting cards and fine art posters.

Mercy is based in Oakland and can be reached at (510) 642-2431, ext. 26 or jrmercy@ucdavis.edu.

Ogawa research grants awarded

Steve Koike, plant pathology farm advisor for Monterey County, is a 2005 recipient of a $1,000 award from the Joseph M. Ogawa Research and Teaching Endowment, which is administered by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Also receiving awards were graduate student Monica Britton, Pomology, UCD; graduate master David A. Doll, Plant Pathology, UCD; staff researcher Ascunia J. Feliciano, Plant Pathology, UCD; graduate student Loukas Kanetis, Plant Pathology, UC Riverside, postgraduate researcher Jinya Jack Qiu, Nematology, UCD.

Koike will conduct plant pathology work with strawberry growers. Britton will study Pratylenchus vulnus, a pest of walnut roots. Doll will study replant disease. Feliciano will prepare a field guide on symptoms of anthracnose disease in strawberries. Kanetis will research resistance to new postharvest fungicides in citrus. Qiu will develop a molecular assay for identifying root-lesion nematodes.

Enfield appointed CD for SLO County

4-H youth development advisor Richard Enfield will assume the additional role of county director for San Luis Obispo County on July 1. Enfield was honored in May as SLO County’s Office of Education “Lay Citizen of the Year.” The award recognizes individuals who give freely of their time to support local schools and the children who attend them.

Shirley Peterson, who is currently SLO county director and nutrition, family & consumer sciences advisor, will resume her role of NFCS advisor full time for SLO County. She will also continue to provide oversight for the FSNEP program for northern Santa Barbara County.

Enfield can be reached at (805) 781-5943 or ppenfield@ucdavis.edu.

Murdock named Contra Costa acting CD

Shelley Murdock, Youth Development Advisor for Contra Costa County, is serving in an additional role as Acting County Director, effective March 1, 2005. (The recruitment for a permanent County Director/NFCS Advisor will begin in the next month or so.)

Smith honored by grape growers

Rhonda Smith was recently honored with the 2005 Viticulture Award of Excellence from the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association and resolutions from the Honorable Noreen Evans, 7th Assembly District and the Honorable Wes Chesbro, 2nd Senatorial District.
Mary Lavender Fuji

Mary Lavender Fuji, UC nutrition advisor in Contra Costa County, will retire June 30.

“I feel like the luckiest person in the world,” Fuji said. “In this county, I have had wonderful colleagues, I have been able to work on local projects that really meet people’s needs and I’ve had the opportunity to work with campus-based nutrition specialists who are world-famous.”

Fuji, a native of Sandusky, Ohio, earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1974 and a master’s degree in nutritional sciences from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1978. She was a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutritionist in Wisconsin before moving to the Bay Area and working in a preschool public health nutrition program.

In 1980, Fuji joined UC Cooperative Extension as the coordinator of Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. Two years later, she became the nutrition advisor in Contra Costa County.

Early in her career in Contra Costa County, Fuji’s work focused on hunger issues. With UC specialists, Fuji documented the number of people and the characteristics of the people in Contra Costa County who stood in line for free food in 1985, 1990 and 1995.

“The first time, the biggest (demographic) group standing in line for free food was single men. The second time it was families with young children and the third time it was families again,” Fuji said.

Fuji co-founded the Contra Costa County Hunger Task Force, which pooled the expertise and resources of various social services agencies.

During her retirement, Fuji plans to volunteer in various community projects including the group which supports the sister city relationship between Concord and Kitakami, Japan. – Jeannette Warnert

For full story, go to http://news.ucanr.org/newsstorymain.cfm?story=668

Ron Voss

Born in a farmhouse and having worked on the family farm in the Sand Hills of Nebraska, Ron Voss entered college intent on finding a career outside of agriculture. He earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Nebraska in chemistry, math and physics. But he realized those sciences could be applied in agriculture and earned a master’s degree in soils at the University of Nebraska and a doctorate in agronomy and soils at Iowa State University. Voss retired May 1 after 36 years as a UC Cooperative Extension vegetable crops specialist.

In 1969, Voss was hired as the vegetable crops specialist, based at UC Davis. His research concentrated on potato variety development, garlic germplasm evaluation and cultural practices related to potato, onion, garlic and sweet potato production.

Among his top research achievements was the release of the Cal White potato, a long white variety that is now grown extensively in California and around the world. Cal White matures early and yields a big crop.

In addition to his research, Voss enjoyed helping small-scale farmers.

“I think small farms and the small farm community make a big contribution to California agriculture that doesn’t show up in the statistics or in the image of the industry,” Voss said. “Members of the small farming community have been leaders in organic agriculture, specialty crop production, direct marketing and sustainable agriculture, all areas in which larger-scale agriculture has followed.”

Voss was involved in the development of the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program. In 1985 he was named director of the UC Small Farm Program. In 1996, Voss left the Small Farm Program to head the newly created Vegetable Research and Information Center.

Voss plans to retire on his Lambs Valley farm in Yolo County, where he and his wife grow organic lemons and a few other crops.

– Jeannette Warnert

Grieshop named director of 4-H Center for Youth Development

James Grieshop has been appointed Director of the 4-H Center for Youth Development, in light of the departure of the present Director, Marc Braverman, from UC Davis this summer. Richard Poncio has become Associate Director. Both appointments became effective June 1.

Grieshop, a community education development specialist at UC Davis, has been a specialist and lecturer in the Department of Human and Community Development since 1975. He has had a great deal of experience in working with community-based projects that serve youth and families.

A major focus over the years has been his work with Latino youth and families, as well as community-based education programs with a leadership component. He also launched the UCCE Master Gardener Program in 1980.

Poncio, a 4-H youth development specialist at UC Davis, has been a national leader in promoting science literacy and nonformal science education for many years. He led the development of the 4-H SERIES (Science Experiences and Resources for Informal Educational Settings) project, which has been delivered successfully across the United States and in many foreign countries. He also was instrumental in the development of the Youth Experiences in Science (YES) program and other innovative curricula. Most recently he has been an investigator at UC Davis’ Center for Biophotonics Science and Technology.

Braverman, who has directed the Center for the past year, will be leaving UC to take a position as Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore.
UC IPM celebrates 25 years

The UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program recently celebrated its 25th anniversary as an organization committed to reducing pesticide use and to finding nonchemical alternatives to keep pests in check.

Following on the heels of an Environmental Pesticide Assessment Report by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, UC researchers developed a proposal for a statewide integrated pest management program. In 1979, the state legislature funded UC to create the UC IPM Program.

Staff used a holistic problem-solving approach, combining the talents and insight of interdisciplinary teams of researchers to develop a comprehensive approach to pest management.

“UC IPM is the very best example of the research and extension continuum that we strive to instill in our programs to better serve the public — IPM academics and staff create, develop and deliver new information to the public,” said VP Gomes at IPM’s 25th anniversary dinner held in Davis on May 11. “… UC IPM has become the model for other IPM programs in the nation and the world.”

Over the years, UC IPM has expanded its educational and research arm beyond agriculture to include urban residents, schools, public agencies, landscape professionals, and public health.

Over its 25-year history, UC IPM has funded 424 research projects on 247 pests. The program has produced 14 integrated pest management manuals covering 20 crops, as well as numerous publications and online resources. The UC IPM Web site contains guides to manage more than 100 home and landscape pests; natural enemies and weed photo galleries; and a degree-day calculator linked to a weather database.

UC IPM has also partnered with many public agencies to expand the use of integrated pest management to reduce pesticide use and to educate the public.

“The real soul of the UC IPM Program, and reason for its success, has been the skill, innovation and cooperation across the UC, and the dedication of its staff,” says Rick Roush, director of the UC Statewide IPM Program.

— Stephanie Klunk

Cal Ag marks KREC’s 40th anniversary

On May 26, Kearney Research and Extension Center (KREC) near Parlier (southeast of Fresno) marked the 40th anniversary of its dedication. On that date in 1965, several hundred farmers, farm advisors, specialists and UC administrators gathered to usher in a new era in Central California agricultural research.

“I think we can say without quibble that this capital investment will be repaid many times over,” UC Dean of Agriculture Maurice L. Peterson told the Fresno Bee at the dedication.

The October 1966 issue of California Agriculture featured Kearney on the cover. The article noted, “Kearney Horticultural Field Station, newest of 10 operated by the University of California Division of Agricultural Sciences, is now in full operation with a comprehensive schedule of research projects keyed basically to the horticultural future of the San Joaquin Valley.”

The anniversary of the center’s dedication has been marked with the publication of a special issue of California Agriculture magazine focused exclusively on the research and accomplishments at Kearney. The expanded, 96-page magazine – the longest in California Agriculture history – includes news articles and a time line on the history of KREC, and an editorial overview by KREC director Fred Swanson, UC Central Valley Region director Linda Manton and Kearney Agricultural Center director David Grantz.

“We are pleased to publish this special collection of original, peer-reviewed research articles on the occasion of Kearney’s 40th anniversary,” said California Agriculture executive editor Janet White. “Many people came together and worked overtime to make this issue a reality, and we are grateful to all of them.”

The entire issue can be accessed online at http://CaliforniaAgriculture.ucop.edu/ or e-mail calagdesk@ucop.edu for a single copy.

— Janet Byron

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