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## ANR hiring for 11 academic positions

Vice President Gomes announced the Division will fill 11 academic positions in 2005 to meet the most critical needs and opportunities in the state. The workforce has been badly depleted in recent years by state budget cuts and retirements.

"We are down about 50 county-based positions from where we were two years ago as a result of the state budget downturn," said Rick Standiford, associate vice president. "These new positions show our commitment to rebuilding our programs and serving the people of California."

"They are funded using dollars freed by recent retirements of Division employees," Standiford continued "and careful consideration was given to research and extension priorities expressed by UC Cooperative Extension stakeholders in defining the positions." For example, the air quality advisor, to be housed at the Fresno County UCCE office, will be a new position, funded with reallocated dollars, and serving a four-county area experiencing real chal-

[— continued on page 2](#)

## Message from the Vice President: BUDGET UPDATE

### UC asks Congress to delay formula fund phase-out

**I**N the February issue of ANR Report, we reported that President Bush's budget proposal for fiscal year 2006 calls for elimination of Animal Health and Disease formula funds and

a two-year phase out of Hatch Act and McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry formula funds. The Bush Administration proposal also would eliminate funding for programs authorized under Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Water Quality, Food Safety, Regional Pest Management Centers, Methyl Bromide Transition and three others). No cuts to Smith-Lever formula funds for Cooperative Extension are proposed.

The savings from research formula funds and Section 406 programs would be reallocated for a new State Agricultural Experiment Stations Competitive Grants Program (\$75 million) and to increase support for the National Research Initiative (NRI) from \$180 million to \$250 million in FY2006. The budget proposal would also allow institutions to receive their negotiated reimbursement rate for research overhead costs. Overhead costs for most USDA-Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (CSREES) competitive grants are currently capped at 20 percent.

These proposed changes in federal research funding have prompted concern among some of you.

I can assure you that over the past six weeks there has been a concerted effort by the National Association of Land Grant Universities and Colleges (NASULGC) to reverse the proposed cuts and restore research formula funds to the CSREES budget at the approved FY2005 levels. UC received \$5.8 million for 2005.



UC also has been actively involved. In early March, upon the recommendation of Executive Council and me, UC urged members of the California Congressional Delegation to postpone action on the proposal to reallocate CSREES research formula funds (Hatch, McIntire-Stennis and Animal Health) until deliberations begin on the Farm Bill Reauthorization. Our list of FY2006 Appropriations Priorities shared with our delegation states:

The University of California is principally supportive of the President's proposals to shift CSREES formula-based funding for research to a program that awards funding based on a peer-reviewed competition for grants for basic scientific discovery and problem-solving research at the local and regional level. However, the proposal to complete the transition from formula funding to competitive funding in only two years would be extremely difficult for the majority of public land-grant universities to handle. UC would like to work with Congress and the Administration to address a reasonable transition in the upcoming Farm Bill, with a goal of expanding funding for research.

If formula funds were to be reallocated as competitive grants, I am confident of UC's ability to compete for these funds.

Beginning in early April, the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture will hold hearings on the USDA's FY2006 budget proposal for the CSREES. Californians sitting on the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture are John Doolittle (R-Granite Bay) and Sam Farr (D-Santa Cruz). Senator Dianne Feinstein serves on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture.

We will continue to keep you apprised of developments in the federal budget process.

lenges in attaining air quality standards.

“We have strong air quality research programs at UCD, UCB and UCR,” Standiford said. “We need an advisor to link the research with issues that are affecting agriculture and human health in the southern San Joaquin Valley.”

The 11 county-based academic Cooperative Extension advisor positions are spread over the Division’s three regions:

**Central Coast and South Region:**

- Strawberry and vegetable crops farm advisor – Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties
- Nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor and county director – Contra Costa County
- Nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor – Santa Clara County
- Vegetable crops advisor and director for the Desert Research and Extension Center – Imperial County

**Central Valley Region:**

- Dairy farm advisor – Tulare County
- Area air quality advisor (five-year term) – Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties
- 4-H youth development advisor – Yolo County
- Nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor – Fresno County
- Vegetable crops advisor – San Joaquin County

**North Coast and Mountain Region:**

- Natural resources advisor and county director – Inyo and Mono counties
- 4-H youth development advisor – Lake and Mendocino counties

Two of the jobs have partial county director responsibilities and one has partial responsibility to direct a research and extension center.

“This ties in with what we heard at listening sessions we held throughout the state last year,” Standiford said. “Our clientele believe we need to have a strong leadership presence in every county.”

Job descriptions, salary ranges and qualifications will be posted on the Division’s employment opportunities Web page (<http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml>) in the coming weeks.



Vet Med III is being built adjacent to the Large Animal Clinic at the School of Veterinary Medicine. (Debbie Aldridge/UC Davis photo)

## Vet school restored to full accreditation

**B**olstered by an ambitious \$354 million building program, the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine has been restored to full accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association, ending more than six years of limited accreditation for the school.

The decision came March 7 following a full review by the AVMA accreditation team, including a December site visit and facilities inspection.

“We are thrilled that our school now meets or exceeds all 11 AVMA accreditation standards,” said Bennie Osburn, dean of the veterinary school.

“Bold action by state leaders, working in concert with campus and UC officials and concerned friends, brought in an amazing \$140 million in public and private funds. As a result, we have begun or completed five new building projects in the past five years that directly address teaching priorities,” Osburn said. “Our faculty, staff and students also have worked so hard to help

assure that the school would be restored to full accreditation.”

The veterinary school has been on limited accreditation since the summer of 1998, when the AVMA cited it for inadequate facilities for teaching, research and clinical care. Other than facilities, the school passed that review in all areas.

The 1998 accreditation review committee recommended that the campus update or replace aging facilities and unite all veterinary faculty and staff with the rest of the campus’s health-science programs.

Since being placed on limited accreditation, the veterinary school has continued its teaching, research, clinical and public service programs, while working to upgrade its facilities. The past six years have seen unprecedented planning and growth for the school.

Newly completed veterinary facilities include the 63,000-square-foot Veterinary Medicine Instructional Laboratory and a 36,000-square-foot building added for the Center for Companion Animal Health.

Veterinary school facilities now under construction include the Veterinary Medicine Instructional Facility, the six-story Veterinary Medicine 3A building, and a 20,000-square-foot Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory.

In addition to the new buildings, a number of upgrades have been made to existing facilities, some of which are more than 50 years old.

### PAC to meet in spring

The President’s Advisory Commission will meet in Berkeley on April 7 and 8. The major presentation topic for the Spring 2005 meeting is “International Trade and Global Competition.”



# Dynes tours Imperial Valley

Cooperative Extension is a model for research, development and delivery, UC President Robert C. Dynes told growers, ranchers and collaborators from other government agencies who gathered for lunch at the Desert Research and Extension Center in El Centro.

"The best example of technology transfer I have ever seen is here, Cooperative Extension," Dynes said. "The research from the laboratories of the University of California flows through the advisors through Cooperative Extension to the growers, to the people who care about these things. I have never seen such efficient flow of knowledge to benefit society."

As part of his ongoing tour of California communities, Dynes and other senior UC staff visited the Imperial Valley with Vice President Gomes, Associate Vice President Rick Standiford and ANR advisors, specialists and outreach coordinators on March 4.

Eric Natwick, UCCE Imperial County director, joined Dynes en route to El Centro to brief him on Imperial Valley agriculture and local issues. Later, Central Coast & South Regional Director Cuco Gonzalez, who grew up near Calexico, talked with Dynes about issues in his region and his perspectives of Imperial Valley.

At El Centro, hay growers Jack and Pauline McConnell welcomed Dynes to their farm. They told him how farm advisors Juan Guerrero and Khaled Bali are helping them reduce sediment and fertilizer in their irrigation tailwater by lining ditches with plastic. The project is designed to reduce silt and fertilizer input to Salton Sea, where the nutrients fuel algae growth, which pulls oxygen from water, killing fish and the birds that feed on the fish. The McConnells also conserve water by using the tailwater to irrigate bermudagrass grown for forage.

After lunch at the Desert Research and

Extension Center, educational outreach coordinator Nancy Wade described the center's Farm Smart and Winter Visitor programs, which teach K-12 and retirees, respectively, about agriculture.

Before leaving DREC, Dynes visited the cattle feedlot, where UCD animal science professor Richard Zinn discussed his animal nutrition research projects and how they benefit California beef producers. Jose DeSoto, assistant REC director, briefed Dynes on the center's history and described current research activities during a driving tour of the 255-acre facility.

At the junction of Interstate 8 and Highway 7 in Holtville, Caltrans engineer Jay Goyal explained to Dynes that consulting UCCE advisors Bali and Herman Meister about soil and environmental conditions while building the new highway saved the state \$1.2 million. The highway project runs through prime farmland, connecting I-8 to a busy truck inspection station at the border with Mexico.

Earlier in the day, Dynes made a brief stop in San Diego County to learn about local agriculture, natural resources and human resources issues facing one of the state's fastest growing counties. Terry Salmon, county director, talked with Dynes about Cooperative Extension programs and highlighted efforts under way following the devastating 2003 wildfires to bring federal, state and local government agencies together to develop better response plans and fire policies. UCCE San Diego has received a \$450,000 grant from the county for wildfire outreach.

At a vista point off Interstate 8, Valerie Mellano, UCCE San Diego County environmental issues advisor, told Dynes about projects she's involved in to prevent a recurrence of the catastrophic fires. She is developing a wildfire database of subjects

*Left, Valerie Mellano explains UCCE's wildfire prevention outreach efforts in San Diego County to (from left) Max Moritz, Terry Salmon and Bob Dynes. Center, Khaled Bali, on left, describes UCCE's collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to enhance water quality and conserve water at McConnell farm. Pictured from left are Bali; Ty Mull, USBR agricultural engineer; Mark Stutes, UCCE Imperial County laboratory assistant; Juan Guerrero and Dynes. Above, Nancy Wade explains to Dynes and Winston Doby how she uses this water delivery model to demonstrate to youths how irrigation canals bring water to farms and how dangerous the current can be.*

including fire history in the county, fire safe landscapes, fire safe home construction and invasive plants related to fire danger and revegetation. Mellano is also working with the county department of parks and recreation to install fire-resilient demonstration landscapes at various locations for homeowners to view.

Max Moritz, statewide wildfire specialist based at UC Berkeley, talked with Dynes about ANR's Fire Workgroup and statewide fire issues, including the complexity and uncertainty in natural fire regimes and debate in the scientific community as to how to manage them. UC can play a role in providing location-specific solutions and evaluating the costs and benefits of fire prevention activities, he said. Moritz also described a Web-based program he is developing to assess fire risk based on landscape vegetation, building materials and other factors.

"The trip to Imperial County provided a unique opportunity to experience the far-reaching educational, economic and social impacts the University has on the state and its residents," Vice President, Student Affairs Winston Doby said. "It was impressive to see firsthand how Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station play an integral role in the success of the state's farmers and business leaders."

*On March 11, Dynes visited Cooperative Extension programs in Los Angeles. In the next ANR Report, we'll provide details about the visit.*

### Lindcove REC calls for research proposals

Lindcove Research & Extension Center has the following available for qualified research projects. These projects are not limited to citrus and any project will be considered for inclusion in the 2005-2006 research year.

#### Available to researchers:

1. Approximately 8 acres of open ground available  
Three areas includes: 2 acres, 3 acres and 3 acres
2. The following is available for citrus research projects:
  - a) 4 acres x 399 trees planted 1970 — Atwood Navel/Trifoliolate
  - b) 2-1/2 acres x 396 trees planted 1996 — 8 mandarin/4 rootstocks
3. Fruit packing house with electronic grading, fruit washing and waxing.  
Three Cold Storage rooms holding 50 fruit bins each and de-greening rooms for all tree fruits.
4. Fresh citrus Fruit Quality Evaluation Laboratory capable of performing color, rind thickness, granulation, puff and crease, juice and fruit volume and sugar/acid ratios.

Project proposal forms are available on the Research & Extension Center Web site: <http://danrec.ucdavis.edu/rec/form/index.html>. Final filing deadline is **April 15**. For further information, contact Lindcove Research & Extension Center, 22963 Carson Avenue, Exeter, CA 93221, (559) 592-2408, fax (559) 592-5947, [wastutsman@ucdavis.edu](mailto:wastutsman@ucdavis.edu)

#### Nelson joins Sea Grant

Peter Nelson has joined the California Sea Grant Extension Program in Northern California as a marine advisor. On March 7, Nelson began working in Del Norte and Humboldt counties.

"We're delighted to have Pete come on board with the Sea Grant Extension Program as part of a national fisheries extension enhancement initiative," said Paul Olin, California



Peter Nelson

Sea Grant Extension director. "His research background, coupled with his outreach experience in the fishing industry, provides a unique skill set well-suited to tackle the challenges and opportunities of this position."

Prior to joining Sea Grant, Nelson was a postdoctoral researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography since 2003. His prior experience includes work on bycatch reduction in the Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna purse-seine fishery, as well as studies on habitat selection by juvenile kelp rockfishes and the effects of fish aggregation devices on recruitment patterns. He earned his Ph.D. in biology from Northern Arizona University and his master's degree at UC Santa Cruz. He also worked on near-shore fisheries while a technician with the California Department of Fish and Game in Monterey.

The position is funded by a special grant from the National Sea Grant College Program and ANR.

Nelson can be reached at 2 Commercial Street, Suite 4, Eureka, CA 95501, (707) 443-8369, [panelson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:panelson@ucdavis.edu).

#### Krieger receives top chemical society award

Robert Krieger, a Cooperative Extension toxicologist in the department of entomology at UC Riverside, received the International Award for Research in Agrochemicals, the most prestigious award given by the Agrochemical Division of the American Chemical Society. He was honored on March 14 at the 229th ACS National Meeting & Exposition in San Diego.

"Professor Robert Krieger has made extremely important contributions to our understanding of human exposure to pesticides, especially



Robert Krieger

developing methods for determining actual exposure and uptake, as well as interpretation of that information as it relates to the significance of the pesticides in our environment (including homes and lawns)," said James Seiber, director of the Western Regional Research Center.

Krieger established and directs the Personal Chemical Exposure Program at UCR. His research focuses on the development and use of advanced analytical methods to identify the movement of pesticide residues from the environment to children and adults.

#### Three counties get new directors

Carole Paterson has been named county director for UCCE Solano County. Paterson, a 4-H youth development advisor, took the position effective March 23. She can be reached at [capaterson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:capaterson@ucdavis.edu) or (707) 421-6791.

Diane Metz, a nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor, has been appointed county director for UCCE Yolo County. Her appointment is effective April 1. Metz can be reached at [dlmetz@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dlmetz@ucdavis.edu) or (530) 666-8143.

Karen Robb, has been named county director for UCCE Mariposa County. Robb was floriculture advisor for San Diego for 16 years before assuming her new position effective March 21.



Karen Robb

She can be reached at (209) 966-2417 or [klrobb@ucdavis.edu](mailto:klrobb@ucdavis.edu).

#### Center to advise UNESCO

The Center for the Study of the Environment has been appointed by the U. S. Department of State to serve on the United States National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Michael Marzolla, 4-H youth development program advisor in Santa Barbara County, is vice president of the nonprofit center's board.

The appointment of members to the U.S. Commission is part of the United States' re-entry into UNESCO, which occurred Oct. 24, 2004.

#### AAC to meet

ANR's Academic Assembly Council will hold its spring meeting April 26 and 27 at the UC Davis Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center.

## Retirements

### Svihra retires after 30 years

Pavel Svihra will retire in April after 20 years as the UCCE horticulture advisor for Marin County.

Before other UC scientists identified *Phytophthora ramorum* as the pathogen killing oak and tanoak trees, Svihra and an Associated Press reporter coined the moniker "sudden oak death." Svihra said that in 1995 three hikers called his attention to dying trees on Mt. Tamalpais. He monitored and described this new disease in tanoaks. In 1998, the subject caught the attention of an Associated Press reporter.

"I was calling the disease 'sudden death of tanoak,'" Svihra said. "The reporter asked, 'Why don't we just call it sudden oak death?' I said it sounds fine and the term stuck."

Svihra, a Czechoslovak native, received a doctorate from the University of Forestry and Wood Technology in Zvolen, Slovakia.

He began his career with UC in 1975

as a research scientist in the UC Davis department of entomology. In 1977, he was named a specialist at UC Berkeley, where he focused on the interaction between the European bark beetle and the Dutch elm disease fungus.

In 1985, Svihra became a horticulture advisor in Marin County, where he contributed to developing control strategies for peppertree psyllid, flatheaded borer in white alder, sycamore scale, sycamore anthracnose, bark beetles in pines, bronze birch borer in birches, and more. He organized 60 seminars and conferences, gave over 300 talks, and wrote 63 peer-reviewed articles, 94 popular articles and 29 leaflets.

Svihra has received emeritus status from ANR and plans to continue work on sudden oak death. — *Jeannette Warnert*



## ANR REPORT

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

#### Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

#### (ANR)

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For nondiscrimination policy, click [here](#).

## In memoriam

### Seward T. Besemer

Seward Thayer Besemer, floriculture farm advisor emeritus, passed away Feb. 22 at age 77 in Spokane Valley, Wash.

"Bese" Besemer was hired as a UCCE assistant in Los Angeles County in 1955. In 1957, he was offered the position of floriculture farm advisor in San Diego County. He served the nursery industry until his retirement in 1987.

Besemer was involved in all aspects of nursery crop production and marketing, but he is perhaps best known for bringing in new crops. He helped introduce new varieties to help growers diversify and better compete with flower growers in other countries.



In a letter he wrote to his successor, Karen Robb, Besemer stated, "I love my job as floriculture advisor in San Diego County, and there have been darn few miserable days in my whole career. I love the people, particularly the flower growers, but also all the public that seeks my help . . . The greatest satisfaction of extension work is not what you achieve, but to see other people develop and succeed."

Besemer completed his bachelor's degree at Cornell in 1950 and master's degree in floriculture economics and marketing from Colorado State University in 1966.

Survivors include his wife, Ginny, two daughters and two sons.

## Dynes tours on video

Larissa Branin, director of UC's radio show Science Today [www.ucop.edu/sciencetoday](http://www.ucop.edu/sciencetoday), filmed Pres. Dynes and VP Gomes as they met with ANR employees and stakeholders in Imperial County and Los Angeles County in March. For each location, she produced a three-minute video. To view the videos, click on the links below.

Imperial County tour:  
[http://ucanr.org/internal/Imperial\\_rm](http://ucanr.org/internal/Imperial_rm)

Los Angeles County tour:  
[http://ucanr.org/internal/LA\\_Tour.ram](http://ucanr.org/internal/LA_Tour.ram)