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Center for Produce Safety launched

Leading produce trade associations along with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and UC Davis' Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS) unveiled plans for a new Center for Produce Safety on April 11.

The new center is being established with \$2 million from the Produce Marketing Association and \$2 million from Taylor Farms of Salinas. The California Department of Food and Agriculture is contributing \$500,000 to the center. To fund educational outreach programs for fresh produce, ANR is providing \$150,000.

"I am very hopeful that creation of the Center for Produce Safety will be helpful in solidifying the role of the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security as California's focal point for food safety research and extension," said acting Vice President Rick Standiford.

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Task force reports on advisor status

VP Gomes received the Cooperative Extension Advisor Status Task Force's recommendations for updating ANR policies regarding advisors.

The task force was appointed by Gomes in May 2006 to compare policies and procedures for advisors to those of specialists and Agricultural Experiment Station faculty; evaluate the procedures for appointments, merits and accelerations; and recommend policy changes.

Based on the comparisons of academics within ANR and an assessment of current CE advisors, the task force developed nine recommendations designed to support the CE advisor series in a variety of ways that would be more consistent with the treatment of other academic series within the ANR continuum. The recommendations are aimed at improving the recruitment and retention of world-class advisors.

In his response letter, Gomes asked Associate Vice President Rick Standiford to "express my thanks to the Cooperative Extension Advisor Status Task Force for their thoughtful analysis of the issues raised in my charge." He also asked Standiford to begin implementing several key recommendations.

The task force's findings and recommendations are published in a report available on the Web. To read the report, go to <http://ucanr.org/advisorstatus>.

To begin implementing the recommendations, Standiford appointed Fe Moncloa, Santa Clara County 4-H advisor, to a one-year, 50 percent assignment as an administrative intern for ANR. Effective March 1, Moncloa is based part-time at UCOP to oversee the process.

Below is a list of first steps in order of priority approved by Gomes:

1. **Off-scale salary**—Draft a revised version of ANR 330 and begin evaluating a new off-scale policy for CE advisors.
2. **Career equity review**—Draft and implement a formal Career Equity Review for CE advisors that involves minimal paperwork.
3. **APM 335**—Revise APM 335 to reflect the current policies for minimum educational level.
4. **Retention Guidelines**—Develop guidelines to help Regional Directors and the Associate Vice President retain valued CE

advisors when ANR is threatened by their loss to comparable employment opportunities.

5. **Family-friendly policies**—Develop materials that describe "family-friendly policies" available to academics and draft "stop the clock" policies for ANR to accommodate birth or adoption of a child or serious illness.

6. **Term appointments**—Draft policy that improves recruitment and streamlines ANR processes of review and retention of CE advisors.

7. **Merit and promotion**—Appoint a committee to streamline the merit and promotion process.

8. **Housing costs**—Work with UCOP Academic Affairs to identify acceptable ways of addressing high housing costs.

Members of the Cooperative Extension Advisor Status Task Force included Julie Beal, director, Academic Affairs, UCD-CAES; Harry Carlson, CE advisor, Modoc and Siskiyou counties and director, Intermountain Research and Extension Center; Keith Gilles, professor and executive associate dean, UCB-CNR; Sharon Junge, CE advisor and county director, Placer and Nevada counties; Jim MacDonald, professor and executive associate dean, UCD-CAES; Fe Moncloa, CE advisor, Santa Clara County and chair-elect, Academic Assembly Council; Tim Paine, Professor, UCR-CNAS and ANR Agricultural Policy and Pest Management Program Leader; Terry Salmon, CE specialist and county director, San Diego County; Rick Standiford, associate vice president, ANR (task force chair); and Steve Vasquez, CE advisor, Fresno County and immediate past chair, Academic Assembly Council.

President Dynes and Regent-designate Eleanor Brewer listen as Doug Shaw, UCD geneticist, right, explains how he breeds new strawberry cultivars during the president's recent tour of Watsonville. See [page 5](#) for full story.



Employment opportunities

Bay Area: Nursery and floriculture advisor

A nursery production and floriculture advisor is being sought to serve San Mateo, Alameda, Santa Clara, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties.

Headquartered in San Mateo, the advisor will identify and assess the needs of growers in the nursery and floriculture industry in the five-county area. The advisor will design and implement an educational program to extend new and existing information to identified clientele groups, provide up-to-date and research-based information to clientele, and contribute expertise to Master Gardener programs. The advisor will also design and implement a research program to solve priority problems and publish research results.

A minimum of a master's degree in a field related to plant science, such as environmental horticulture, botany, plant physiology, soil science, and pest management is required. Salary will be in the Cooperative Extension Assistant Advisor rank, commensurate with education and relevant experience.

To see the full description for position #ACCSO-07-05, go to <http://ucanr.org/jobdescript/nursery.pdf>.

The closing date is **May 21**. To request an application packet, phone (951) 827-2529 or e-mail ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu.

Merced County: Pomology advisor

Merced County is recruiting an advisor for tree crop production, with particular emphasis on nut crops including almonds, walnuts, pistachios, other nut crops, as well as for ornamental trees and urban forestry.

A master's degree in a biological, agricultural, or plant science field, or other closely related field; with course work in pomology and/or nut crops, is required. Course work in air quality, water quality, and/or soils is highly desired. Postgraduate agricultural experience in applied research, education, or in private industry is desired. The candidate must acquire a CA Qualified Applicators Certificate (QAC) within nine months of employment.

Beginning salary will be in the UCCE Assistant Advisor rank, commensurate with applicable experience and education.

The full description for position #ACV-06-09 and required academic application are available at <http://ucanr.org/cvr.joblisting>.

Submit applications to Cindy Inouye, UCCE Central Valley Region, 9240 S. Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA 93648; e-mail cinouye@uckac.edu; phone (559) 646-6535. Complete packets must be received by **May 31**.

San Bernardino County: 4-H youth development advisor

Note extended deadline: June 15

San Bernardino County CE is recruiting for a 4-H youth development advisor. The position will establish short- and long-term educational program and research goals/objectives that address needs of the county and youth staff, volunteer leaders/extenders, and interested individuals for a comprehensive county 4-H youth development program. Closing date has been extended to **June 15**.

The complete position description for position #ACCSO-06-05-R and application instructions can be viewed at <http://groups.ucanr.org/ccs/Academic%5FEmployment%5FAnnouncements/>.

San Diego/southern Riverside: Floriculture and nursery advisor

A floriculture and nursery crop production advisor is being sought to serve San Diego and southern Riverside counties.

The advisor will be based in San Diego and conduct applied research and design and implement education and outreach programs to improve production and viability of the floriculture and nursery crop industries. The advisor will implement research programs to develop information to solve priority problems; identify and assess the needs of growers in the nursery and floriculture industry.

A master's degree in pest management, plant science, botany, environmental horticulture, or other related fields is required. Experience and education related to entomology is preferred.

To see the full description of position #ACCSO-07-04, go to <http://ucanr.org/jobdescript/Floriculture.pdf>.

Salary will be in the Cooperative Extension Assistant Advisor rank, commensurate with education and relevant experience.

Closing date is **May 21**. To request an application packet, phone (951) 827-2529 or e-mail ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu.

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

Editor's note: March issue posted incorrectly as Stanislaus/Madera

Stanislaus and Merced counties are seeking an advisor to conduct a county-based extension, educational 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 administers the Stanislaus County Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), will reinstate the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP); and has cross-county responsibilities for the Merced County FSNEP Program. The advisor will be headquartered in Stanislaus County. The deadline to apply is **May 18** (open until filled).

The position requires a master's degree in one of the disciplines relevant to this position, including public health nutrition, community nutrition, or family and consumer sciences. Licensure as a Registered Dietitian is preferred.

Beginning salary will be in the CE Assistant Advisor rank, salary commensurate with experience and education. For information regarding UCCE merit and promotion procedures, please refer to the ANR Administrative Handbook, Series 300, Section 315 at <http://danr.ucop.edu/admin-handbook/300>.

If the successful candidate is currently a CE advisor, the candidate will be offered the position as a lateral transfer, retaining their current rank, step, salary, and definite or indefinite status.

Go to <http://ucanr.org/cvr.joblisting> to view the full description for position #ACV-06-03-R, to learn more about the application process, and to download the ANR Academic Application form.

For more information, contact Cindy Inouye at (559) 646-6535 or cinouye@uckac.edu.

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CalAgrAbility seeks community health program rep

The California AgrAbility program is seeking a senior community-health program representative, to be based at UC Davis and not represented by a union. The salary range is \$2,921–\$4,966 monthly. This is a limited appointment of less than 1,000 working hours (about 5 months). This position ends May 31, 2007, with the possibility of being extended and/or becoming a career position, depending on funding.

This position works as part of a bilingual (Spanish/English) agricultural rehabilitation team to arrange and deliver services that will enhance opportunities for rural residents in agricultural areas

to continue working in agriculture. The program representative must be fluent in Spanish and English.

The full description for position VL# 7418 can be viewed at <http://jobs.hr.ucdavis.edu/jm/ViewVacancy?id=7418>.

Apply online at http://www.hr.ucdavis.edu/Emp/Careers/Application_Process or at UC Davis Human Resources Administration Bldg., Orchard Park, Davis, CA 95616. Applications must be received before 5 p.m. on **April 27** for consideration. For more information, call (530) 752-7520.

Norton reappointed program leader

Maxwell Norton has been reappointed as program leader for Agricultural Productivity for an additional year from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. He was initially appointed to the post on Oct. 1, 2004.



“Maxwell has been a valuable member of ANR’s Program Council and Ag Productivity Program Leader,” said Rick Standiford, acting vice president.

Norton is also a Merced County farm advisor specializing in tree fruit, viticulture, land use/farmland protection, economic development and public policy education.

UC Statewide IPM Program completes review

The UC Statewide IPM Program (UCIPM) has completed its external review as required by ANR’s Program Council for every statewide project and program. This extensive review included development of a strategic plan and a nationally regarded panel of university faculty, public agencies and commodity interests representing agricultural and nonagricultural sectors. The panel met with UCIPM staff as well as internal and external stakeholders.

The review panel’s report was presented to and approved by PC at their January 2007 meeting. The review panel reported that the UCIPM was functioning very well, achieving its mission and was regarded nationally as the “Gold Standard” for a university IPM program. They found that the program’s IPM advisors are “invaluable partners to UC Cooperative Extension Advisors in the counties as well as to Agricultural Experiment Station researchers on campuses.” They noted that the UC IPM program’s publications are “recognized and valued worldwide.”

The review panel strongly recommended that the program “build on its strengths and reputation” and expand into the urban sector to address the “needs of all California’s citizens and thereby make IPM a household word.” They also suggested that the program merge

its publications and IT functions and seek resources to hire more IPM advisors, especially for the urban sector. Finally, a renewed commitment to research and demonstration was urged by the panel.

UCIPM has already implemented actions to address these recommendations. First, the program has restructured to integrate resources allocated for publication and Web development. Joyce Strand has been appointed Associate Director for Communications in which she will oversee the management and administration of these core IPM resources. Mary Louise Flint has been appointed Associate Director for Urban IPM Planning and Implementation and will lead and coordinate UCIPM’s commitment into this area while coordinating with ANR’s existing programs to ensure smooth communication and planning. Carolyn Pickel will perform a similar role as acting Associate Director for Agricultural IPM.

During its 27-year history, UCIPM has provided leadership and coordination to IPM in ANR. This Program has functioned successfully because it allows ANR academics to focus on pest management issues through research, extension, outreach and education. It is a major resource for ANR academics to utilize in order to improve the quality of life for all Californians. -- Peter Goodell, *Interim IPM director and IPM advisor*

Center for Produce Safety —

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The Center for Produce Safety will serve as a clearinghouse for research on produce safety and will fund new scientific studies aimed at mitigating risks associated with the nation’s produce supply. This partnership is focused on improving research, training, quality verification and consumer education to enhance the safety of fresh produce.

Creation of the center is the direct result of an industrywide collaborative response to recent *E. coli* outbreaks. The fresh produce industry has been working with government agencies and UC to determine how the 2006 spinach *E. coli* outbreak occurred and how future outbreaks in fresh produce can be prevented.

In addition to the investments in new research, produce industry leaders and food safety experts from UC and the state of California are launching science-based training and outreach programs. The field-level training support will supplement programs already in place by individual produce growers and handlers and ensure that they include the latest scientific information and established good agricultural practices.

Names in the news

Roose named CNAS associate dean

Mikeal L. Roose will serve as associate dean of Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension for the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences during Don Cooksey's service as interim dean.



Roose is a professor of genetics and geneticist in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences. He has been a UCR faculty member since 1982 and previously served as vice chair for teaching in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences.

Atwill named WIFSS interim director

Rob Atwill, UC Davis veterinarian and Cooperative Extension specialist, will be interim director of the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, effective July 1. Atwill will assume oversight of the UC Davis-based institute when founding director Jerry Gillespie retires.



WIFSS was established in 2002 by the School of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and School of Medicine, in partnership with California Department of Food and Agriculture, and California Department of Health Services. Federal agencies and various food industries also contribute to the institute.

Ferris named ASI interim deputy director

Howard Ferris, UC Davis nematologist, has been named the interim deputy director of UCD's Agricultural Sustainability Institute. Tom Tomich is the director.



ASI draws together several UC Davis campus programs and numerous faculty members whose research and teaching interests span a broad array of disciplines. The institute works collaboratively with SAREP,

ANR's statewide Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

Hartz named VRIC director

Ted DeJong, outreach and extension vice chair for the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences, has appointed Tim Hartz as the new director of the Vegetable Research and Information Center effective May 1. Hartz, a CE vegetable crops specialist, succeeds Don Nevins, UC Davis plant physiologist, who decided to step down as director and will be retiring soon.



Merrill named Modoc CE advisor

Melissa Merrill joined ANR as the rangeland, watershed and livestock advisor for Modoc County on April 2.



Merrill, who was raised on cattle ranches in southwest Montana, focused her doctoral studies on the use of grass seed straw in rations, early weaning and alternative protein sources in winter feeding operations.

Prior to coming to UC, she worked as a graduate research assistant in Oregon State University's Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, assisting in the reproductive management of the research center's cows and general managing of herds. She received her PhD in Animal Science from Oregon State University and her master's in Reproductive Physiology along with a bachelor's in Animal Science from Montana State University.

Merrill can be reached in the Alturas office at (530) 233-6417 and mlmerrill@ucdavis.edu.

Mitloehner wins EPA award

Frank Mitloehner of the animal science department has been honored with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2007 Environmental Award for the Pacific Southwest. This distinguished award acknowledges individuals and groups outside of the EPA who are working to protect

public health and the environment. The ninth annual Environmental Awards Ceremony will honor more than 25 recipients, and will be held in San Francisco in late April.

Mitloehner is an air quality extension specialist in animal science at UC Davis. His research is centered on air quality in relation to livestock production, as well as in the field of environmental physiology, focusing on the effects of air emissions on animal health and welfare.



Bunge returns to Budget Office

Jennifer Bunge re-turned to ANR March 19 as principal budget analyst. Bunge handles various budget issues for federal formula funds, endowments, STIP and other non-state general funds.

Bunge had worked for ANR for nearly seven years before leaving last year to be an internal auditor with UCSF Audit Services.

She is located in her old cubicle, 6317A, and can be reached at (510) 987-0102 and Jennifer.Bunge@ucop.edu.



Zangeneh-Azam joins ANR

Alex Zangeneh-Azam has joined Communication Services as Web designer. He fills the position left by Valerie Griffith, who accepted a position with Stanford University to design Web sites for the Hopkins Marine Station in Monterey.

Prior to joining ANR, Zangeneh-Azam worked as a freelance designer, art director for marketing firm Crocker/Flanagan, graphic artist for the Sacramento Bee, art director for Tower Records Online, and senior Designer for PULSE! Magazine.

He is located at UC Davis and can be reached at zangeneh@ucdavis.edu and (530) 297-4436.



Dynes tours Moss Landing, Watsonville area

On March 23, acting Vice President Rick Standiford hosted President Dynes, Regent-designate Eleanor Brewer, Associate President Linda Williams and other UCOP colleagues on a visit to Moss Landing and Watsonville, where they met with fresh produce, strawberry and flower growers to talk about how UC scientists are helping them prevent *E. coli* contamination, find alternatives for methyl bromide fumigation and otherwise stay competitive in the marketplace. During the visit, Dynes also toured the UC Davis Watsonville Strawberry Research Facility.

E. coli O157:H7 issues

En route from Monterey to Moss Landing, Jim Lugg, Fresh Express executive and UC President's Advisory Commission member, drove with Dynes and explained the impact *Escherichia coli* O157:H7-related illnesses associated with San Benito County spinach have had on the fresh leafy greens industry. Fresh Express is the nation's leading producer of packaged salad mixes.

At an artichoke field in Moss Landing, Dynes met with Mike Manfre, co-owner of Capurro Farms; Trevor Suslow, UC Davis postharvest specialist; Royce Larsen, UC Cooperative Extension area natural resources and watershed advisor; Steve Koike, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties plant pathology advisor; Mary Zischke, Lettuce Research Board CEO, and several cooperators. Dynes and Brewer engaged in a conversation with the group about the complex issue of preventing *E. coli* O157:H7 contamination of leafy greens and vegetables.

In light of the *E. coli* O157:H7 crisis, Zischke said that the Lettuce Research Board has raised its grower assessments and invited spinach and other produce commodities to contribute more funds for *E. coli* research.

Because as many as 2 percent of cattle can harbor the bacteria, food processors are mandating buffer zones of 100 to 800 feet between livestock and produce fields. Manfre pointed out the empty lot adjoining his artichoke field where a neighboring dairyman had voluntarily removed his cows to avoid any potential conflicts.

Suslow talked about several UC studies he has been conducting since before the 2006 *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak. For the past few years, Suslow and local farm advisors have been sampling water, soil and lettuce plants from Monterey County farms to test for *E. coli* O157:H7, never detecting the lethal strain of bacteria. Suslow's *E. coli* studies are ongoing.

Larsen described the "collision" between environmentally friendly land-management practices and food safety. Daniel Mountjoy of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, who collaborates with Larsen on environmental studies, explained that his agency encourages farmers and ranchers to plant grasses and shrubs along streams and other waterways to reduce erosion and water pollution. Because it is unknown how many animals besides cattle carry *E. coli* O157:H7, processors, fearing that plants may attract wildlife, are asking farmers to tear out the vegetation. As the noisy crowing of a large group of birds that had gathered on the powerlines

overhead drowned out his voice, Larsen shouted that it's difficult to exclude wildlife from crop fields.

Larsen is working with UC Davis veterinarian and specialist Rob Atwill, UC Davis rangeland watershed specialist Ken Tate, and USDA researcher Robert Mandrell on a new study to test for *E. coli* O157:H7 in domestic animals and wildlife; streams and in the natural areas surrounding Salinas Valley farms.

Scott Violini, president of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association, lauded UC's water quality shortcourses and said that ranchers have achieved benefits from the vegetative strips. "I fear a reversal with the vegetation being removed," Violini said.

Explaining the rush to implement policies that aren't based on science, Suslow told Dynes, "Everyone is trying to be proactive." He hopes that UC studies will provide a basis for future policy making.

Breeding a better berry

Dynes also toured UC Davis Watsonville Strawberry Research Facility, where UC Davis geneticist Doug Shaw described UC's strawberry breeding program, explaining the fruit qualities and plant characteristics they seek and the seven-year process it takes to bring a variety to commercial production.

UC holds 33 patents on strawberry cultivars and this spring released Palomar, its 54th variety. Last year, UC earned nearly \$5 million in royalties from strawberry licensing. Shaw estimates that UC varieties account for 80 percent of California

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Fresh produce grower Mike Manfre, right, talks with Dynes, Veterinary Medicine Dean Bennie Osburn, Brewer and Williams.



Larsen explains why dairy cows were moved from the lot behind him and away from the artichoke field.



Shaw (wearing hat) points out difference between strawberry cultivars.

strawberry production and more than half worldwide. Mark Bolda, strawberry advisor for Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties, talked about the contrasts between Central Coast strawberry production and that of the south coast – such as the Ventura County strawberry farm Dynes visited in January – due to climate differences.

California Giant Strawberry grower and research cooperator Daren Gee brought samples of the UC variety Albion, picked in Santa Maria, for the group to taste. He noted that strawberries recently surpassed bananas as Americans' favorite fruit.

Reducing environmental impact

In Moss Landing, Dynes met with executives of Golden State Bulb Growers, who talked about their collaboration with UC scientists. Justin Brown, vice president, production manager and great-grandson of the Golden State Bulb Growers founder, credited Ian Greene, who studied for his master's degree under UC Davis professor



Ian Greene (green shirt) describes challenges of breeding calla lily and begonia varieties.

Mike Parrella, for tapping UC's resources. Greene, Golden State's research and development director, collaborates with UC scientists on a wide range of projects for calla lily and begonia bulb and cut flower production.

Before Brown led Dynes on a tour of the greenhouses, Michael Cahn, water resources advisor for Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties, talked about water conservation and water quality projects at the site. To conserve irrigation water, Cahn has been working with Greene to develop

crop coefficients for calla lilies and begonias in order to calculate more precisely how much water is needed by the plants.

"Using the evapotranspiration information, we can use water much more efficiently by applying the appropriate irrigation sets as a function of actual plant usage," said Greene.

UC Davis vegetable specialist Husein Ajwa, who is based at the USDA-ARS station in Salinas, talked about field trials he is conducting with Golden State comparing methyl bromide alternatives for fumigating soil before planting flower bulbs. Because methyl bromide is believed to deplete the ozone layer, the federal government is phasing out the chemical. Ajwa, who also studies methyl bromide alternatives for strawberry production, said that there are many more variables to consider when evaluating products for growing the different flower varieties.

View videos of Dynes tour

On the University of California Web site, a minute-long video gives an overview of President Dynes' tour of Monterey and Santa Cruz counties on March 22 and 23.

The video follows Dynes to Watsonville High School to hear about UC's MESA program, to Plazita Medical Clinic, where UC Santa Cruz has an undergraduate health-sciences-major internship program, as well as to ANR cooperator sites.

Four other videos briefly describe UC projects being conducted at the sites. The *E. coli* video features Royce Larsen, UCCE area natural resources and watershed advisor based in San Luis Obispo. The methyl bromide video features Husein Ajwa, UCCE soil and water specialist based at the USDA-ARS office in Salinas.

To see the videos, go to http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/everyday/dynes/dynes_monterey07.html.

In memoriam

Rod Shippey

Rod Shippey, former Mendocino County farm advisor, died at his Ukiah home on April 8. He was 82.

"Uncle Rod" was born in 1924 in Long Beach. After serving in the Navy, he earned a bachelor's degree in Animal Husbandry from UC Davis in 1951, and became Mendocino County livestock advisor in 1955. As a farm advisor, he worked with sheep and cattle ranchers, suggesting animal breeds and researching grasses for better production. He introduced methods of modifying beef cattle behavior and started sheep shearing schools. He brought from New Zealand information about new sheep breeds, electric fences and mob stocking—a way of moving and grazing sheep.

Shippey also established the 4-H Jr. Livestock Auction and developed "Rate of Gain," whereby 4-H'ers bought feeders and kept records of costs and weight gain of their animals.

In the late 1960s, when "back-to-the-land'ers" began arriving in Mendocino County, he offered Simple Living workshops. To disseminate more information, he wrote articles for the Family Farm Gazette.



To advise ranchers and timber managers on what types of grasses or trees would grow best on various soils, he made soil boards – cutaways of several feet of soil profile – showing the composition of the layers of soil. Because he owned 50 acres of wine grapes, Shippey could better understand farmers' problems with weather, growing and selling crops.

Shippey retired from UC in 1989, then worked for filmmaker George Lucas advising on cattle and fencing. His work with Volunteer Overseas Cooperative Assistance took him to Barbados, Egypt, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Slovakia, Russia and Azerbaijan.

He is survived by his wife, Arleen, daughter Suzie, sons Jon and Rick and their wives, and grandchildren Caroline and Will.

Weed School offered in September

The Weed Science School 2007 will be held Sept. 24-26 at UC Davis. The intensive 2-1/2 day course will focus on the mode and mechanism of herbicide activity in plants and the fate of herbicides in the environment. The course covers herbicide selectivity, resistance and additives. Weed biology, ecology and seed bank dynamics are also covered. These topics are presented in a lecture format. Laboratory activities focus on recognition of herbicide symptoms and broadleaf and grass weed identification. Participants will also tour the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity (formerly UC Davis Herbarium).

The school is designed to update those involved in consulting, research, development, or sales of agricultural chemicals in the private or public sector. Emphasis is on herbicides registered for use in California and important weeds within the state. A handbook will be provided with lecture summaries and additional information.

The school starts at 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 24 and ends at 5 p.m. on Sept. 26.

Topics include general botany; herbicide absorption; translocation and metabolism; photosynthetic and pigment synthesis inhibitors; free radical generators;

growth regulators; amino acid inhibitors; lipid synthesis inhibitors; cell division and cell wall inhibitors; adjuvants; transgenic crops; IR-4 program; herbicide resistance and tolerance mechanisms, regulatory process, degradation and physical removal; environmental impacts; seed biology; weed biology and competition; organic weed management strategies; herbicide symptomatology and drift; broadleaf and grass weed identification; and herbarium tour.

The course is approved for 20.5 hours of DPR continuing education.

For more information, visit <http://wric.ucdavis.edu> or contact Joe DiTomaso at (530) 754-8715 or jmditomaso@ucdavis.edu, or Tom Lanini (530) 752-4476 or wtlanini@ucdavis.edu.

The course fee is \$550 (\$575 if received after Sept. 10) and includes all course materials and lunch each day. A comprehensive handbook of materials is included. Class size is limited to 60, so early enrollment is suggested.

To register, go to [Online registration](#) for credit card only, [Online registration](#) for UC recharge only or [Print registration form](#) to fax or mail.

Exotics/Invasives Program suspends new grants for 2007-08

There will be no call for new proposals for 2007-08 funding by the UC Exotic/Invasive Pests and Diseases Research Program, and it is unlikely that new projects will be funded during the next several years. However, funding commitments to all projects that began in 2005-06 or 2006-07 are assured and investigators will receive funds on schedule, according to Peter Goodell, principal investigator and interim director of the UC IPM Project, and Mark Hoddle, project director and director of the UCR Center for Invasive Species Research.

This program was funded through a Special Research Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These grants are part of the Congressional earmarks that have received so much attention recently. Congress removed all earmarks

from the current year's budget, including the funds that would have been used to fund new Exotics Program grants over the next three years. The number of these special projects that UC may request has been reduced, and the prospect for future earmark funding is unclear.

The Exotics Program has funded researchers working on more than 100 projects that address more than 100 pest problems in nine disciplines. As the program ends, staff will be working to get the word out about the successes of the program and its investigators, including publishing stories such as news releases or other reports, and holding workshops to feature the work sponsored by the program. In addition, program leaders will be looking for other avenues to fund this important area of research.

– Stephanie Klunk

Snapshot of Acting VP activities

Over the past four weeks, Acting VP Standiford engaged in the following meetings:

- 3/16 CNR Dean Paul Ludden
- 3/19 UC Provost Hume
- 3/20 Orange County Community Agriculture with County Director John Kabashima and Bob Santos, Irvine
CDFA Secretary A.G. Kawamura with Steve Nation, Sacramento
- 3/22 North Coast/Mountain Region County Directors conference call
- 3/23 UC President Dynes' agricultural tour, Moss Landing and Watsonville area
- 3/26 ANR staff meeting
- 3/27 UC Vice Provost for Research Coleman
- 3/28 Conference call with Bob Wynn, CDFA, and Steve Nation
- 3/29 San Joaquin Endowment, Stockton
- 4/10-11 ANR Program Council, Berkeley
- 4/11 ANR Regional Directors, Berkeley
- 4/12 UC Provost Hume
UC President Dynes
- 4/13 CAES & Environ Sci Exec Assoc Dean Jim MacDonald and Assoc Dean Lovell Jarvis, Davis
Karen Ross, Calif Assoc of Winegrape Growers, with Steve Nation, Sacramento
Anthony Eggert, Inst of Transportation Studies, Davis

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Twice monthly
UC VP Cabinet with the President

Twice monthly
ANR VP Cabinet

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