Dooley visits Oakland staff

On Monday, Nov. 19, four days after being named vice president by the regents, Dan Dooley came to meet with ANR staff in Oakland.

Acting VP Rick Standiford introduced Dooley to the gathering.

Dooley noted that he has become acquainted with many ANR members over the years of serving on the President’s Advisory Commission and as a UC representative on the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET).

One of his priorities as vice president, Dooley said, will be advocacy—informing legislators and the general public of how Californians benefit from the research and extension activities of the Division.

Dooley said he will be meeting with some ANR employees and stakeholders around the state before he officially takes office on Jan. 2.


New blog highlights ANR in the news

Among the 100 million blogs on the Internet, there is one written especially for ANR staff that features recent coverage of the Division by the news media. Jeannette Warnert, Web coordinator and public information representative, updates the ANR News Blog at least twice a week.

The ANR News Blog (http://ucanr.org/blogs/anrnews) isn’t a comprehensive listing of all ANR media coverage, it hits the highlights. For example, on Friday, Nov. 16, the day after the regents announced Dan Dooley as vice president, Warnert tracked news coverage of the announcement and included links to the stories. In October, during the Southern California wildfires, she included links to major news stories related to the fires that quoted ANR scientists.

“Blog” is a word made by combining “Web” with “log.” Some blogs are aimed for a wide public audience and others for a small, distinct group. Blogs enable readers to add comments, making the forum interactive.

The ANR News Blog began its beta test in April 2007. Its seven-month archive is keyword searchable. If you would like to see a media story mentioned on the blog, you can either post a comment or e-mail jeannette.warnert@ucop.edu. The blog is RSS compatible. Just add the ANR News Blog to your RSS favorites or load the blog address into your RSS reader to get blog headlines as they are posted.

ANR Communication Services created a blog system that enables all ANR staff to easily create and maintain their own blogs. Advisors may save paper and postage on print copies of newsletters by creating a blog to keep their clientele informed. Just click “new blog” in the ANR portal https://my.ucanr.org to get started. For information about creating a blog, contact Bryon Noel at bjoel@ucdavis.edu.

ANR experts make the news

October was a banner month for ANR experts appearing in the news. As wildfires raged in Southern California in October, ANR scientists were in demand by local and national media for their views on different aspects of the crisis.

Max Moritz, UC Berkeley wildfire specialist; Richard Minnick, UC Riverside geography professor; Gary Bender, San Diego County farm advisor; Greg Ballmer, UC Riverside staff research assistant; Stephen Quarles, UCCE wood durability advisor; Michael Barbour, UC Davis plant ecologist; Scott Stephens, UC Berkeley fire ecology professor; Terry Salmon, UCCE San Diego County director; and Valerie Mellano, San Diego County farm advisor were among those answering calls from the media. (See story below for link to wildfire-related news clips.)

Sabrina Drill, natural resources advisor for Los Angeles County, planned a Santa Clarita Valley workshop on fire resistant vegetation long before the Southern California firestorm. The workshop’s timeliness brought a Los Angeles Times reporter to the Nov. 3 event. An article in the Sunday Times quoted Drill about fire hazards that are introduced when non-native plants are planted in Southern California.

Traffic increased on ANR Web sites related to wildfire—Wildfire Zone, Home Wildfire Mitigation Guide, Los Angeles County Wildland Fire and Center for Fire Research and Outreach— that were mentioned in news stories.

As a result of publicity, the Fire Center’s Web site began escalating, according to Moritz.

“Obviously, we can’t expect this level of outreach all the time, but it’s pretty amazing to think that we went from 3,000 visits per week (which is actually quite good) to 100,000 last week,” said Moritz the week after the fires peaked. “These are preliminary figures, but they at least indicate that we’re reaching substantial numbers of people.”
Changes in UC policy

Out-of-state and foreign travel registration required for accident insurance

In accordance with an announcement issued by the Office of the President, ANR employees are now required to register each out-of-state and/or out-of-country business trip to ensure they have University business travel accident coverage.

During this immediate transition period, UC employees currently traveling out-of-state and/or out-of-country are covered by University business travel accident coverage even if they haven’t completed the form. However, the registration requirement must be fulfilled for all future out-of-state/out-of-country travel.

The registration requirement does not apply to in-state travel. With respect to in-state travel, no changes in procedure have been made and no action on the University employee’s part is necessary.

Questions from county-based employees should be directed to regional chief administrative officers Kathy Carrington, Nikki Humphreys, or Cherie McDougald. For more information, Research and Extension Center personnel should contact Karen Hamner and Statewide Programs employees should contact Joni Rippee. Oakland-based personnel should direct questions to Linda Harris, risk services specialist. ANR Risk Services web page http://danr.ucop.edu/riskmanagement/ has a link to the form under “Business Travel Accident Ins.”

Registration instructions


Click on “UC Traveler Insurance,” fill out the form, and save changes.

Print and retain the form, which provides the University employee with confirmation of coverage and information to use in an emergency.

Background

Effective Oct. 1, 2007, the University changed its Business Travel Accident insurance provider to ACE USA. When traveling on official University business, employees are covered worldwide, 24 hours a day, for a wide variety of accidents and incidents while away from the workplace. ACE USA coverage is broader and more generous, and is provided at no cost to the employee. However, employees must register each out-of-state and/or out-of-country business trip to ensure coverage.

ACE USA coverage includes travel assistance services such as security extraction, out-of-country medical (deductible $50 per occurrence), loss of personal effects (deductible $25 per occurrence), emergency medical evacuation and repatriation of remains. It also includes accidental death, dismemberment, paralysis and permanent total disability coverage.

This coverage also extends to an employee’s spouse/domestic partner and dependent children when traveling with the employee.

More information is available at the Office of the President Risk Services home page http://www.ucop.edu/riskmgt/ and http://www.uctravel.org/.

Expense policies change for meetings, entertainment, other occasions

The University’s Office of the President recently revised and reissued Business & Finance Bulletin (BUS) 79, Expenditure for Business Meetings, Entertainment, and Other Occasions. The Sept. 12, 2007, revision to BUS-79 includes several key policy changes, making it important to note the following.

A new approval requirement category (“additional approval”) has been added. “Additional approval” requires signature by the ANR Controller or higher.

Employee-morale building expenditures require advance “additional approval.”

Employee-morale building events at which meals are provided should be limited to no more than once a month per group.

Employee-morale building expenditures that include hospitality to spouses, domestic partners, or other family members require advance “additional approval.” The reimbursement request must include written documentation demonstrating that the attendance of the spouse served a bona fide University business purpose.

Expenditures that exceed per-person/per meal maximum rates include labor, sales tax, delivery charges, and other service fees.

State funds may not be used to support expenses that require “additional approval,” expenses that require “exception approval,” tobacco or alcoholic beverages.

County-based personnel should direct their questions to the Chief Administrative Officer in their region. Statewide Programs employees should direct their questions to Joni Rippee at (510) 987-0136 or joni.rippee@ucop.edu. Research and Extension Center employees should direct their questions to Karen Hamner at (530) 752-3931 or kmhamner@ucdavis.edu.

Fire safe landscaping materials available for master gardeners

Materials in Spanish and English about landscaping tips to help defend homes from wildfire are available for master gardeners.

Posters, a list of resources, tip sheets, a PowerPoint and graphics have been developed by the Statewide Master Gardener Program and funded by the Elvinia J. Slosson Foundation. The 10 posters are designed to be used by master gardener volunteers at fairs, nurseries, farmers markets and other places to reach the general California gardening public.

The topics address ANR core issues and are intended to provide master gardeners with consistent messages based on UC research.

Employment opportunity

Imperial County: Vegetable crops advisor

UCCE seeks a career-track academic candidate for a vegetable crops advisor in Imperial County. Deadline to apply is Jan. 4.

The advisor will focus on education and research activities in vegetable crop production. The advisor will be expected to design and implement an applied research program to develop information to resolve priority problems; and design and implement an educational program to extend new and existing information to identified clientele groups. The advisor will have the responsibility to initiate, develop and conduct educational and applied research programs in vegetable crop production.

A master’s degree is required in horticulture or a related field. Competency and practical experience in vegetable crops is preferred. The ability to effectively convey research-based information to the public, conduct issue-focused research, and publish research results is required.

Beginning salary will be in the CE Assistant Advisor rank, commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications.

To view the full position vacancy announcement for #ACCSO-07-03-R, go to http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml#cssj. Request an application at (951) 827-2529 or ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu.

Call for proposals

IREC

Intermountain Research and Extension Center in Tulelake is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research projects for calendar year 2008.

IREC provides labor, equipment, facilities and technical support to UC academics and personnel from cooperating agencies. Grants of center-provided labor to support approved projects are awarded annually.

IREC is a 140-acre research facility located at 4,000 feet elevation near the Oregon border. The center specializes in potato, small grain, onion, peppermint, forage grasses and alfalfa research; however, most cool season field and vegetable crops can be accommodated and grown on the center.

Main topics of research interest include variety development; weed, insect, and disease control; water management; and plant nutrition. Facilities and equipment include a greenhouse, controlled postharvest facility, drying ovens, an automated potato grading line, a mini-still for essential oil extraction, specialized small plot irrigation equipment, small plot planters and harvesters, and a full line of commercial farm equipment for field and vegetable crop production.

Technical assistance is available for all farming practices, field instrumentation and data collection.

Proposal forms can be obtained from the IREC Web site at http://groups.ucanr.org/intermountain/Research/Proposal_Forms.htm. Completed forms are due Jan. 10 and should be submitted electronically to ucrec@ucdavis.edu.

For more information about research support or facilities, contact IREC director Harry Carlson at (530) 667-2719. For information on electronic submission or forms, contact Linda Woodley or Jennifer Engel at (530) 667-5117.

Names in the news

Barnett named 4-H advisor

Cynthia Barnett joined San Bernardino County as the 4-H youth development advisor on Oct. 1.

Barnett’s focus is evaluation systems for teaching and learning within the context of extension education aimed directly at youth development. Barnett’s specialty areas include curriculum development and program planning. She is very interested in studying and evaluating the outcomes and impacts on youth in relation to learning in a social environment. She is also interested in the methodology for qualitative program evaluation, participatory evaluation, and participatory action research.

Before joining UCCE, she studied the impact of learning communities on upper-level college students’ oral and written communication, team-building skills and problem-solving abilities.

Barnett participated in the Idaho and Iowa 4-H programs. She was a 4-H volunteer project leader for the veterinary science project for six years, showing 4-H young people how to properly care for and feed their animals while providing them with real-life experiences to apply the knowledge they learn.

She studied the impact of the “Character Counts!” curriculum on ethics used in livestock projects and shows, as well as the impact 4-H has on 5th, 7th, and 9th graders’ at-risk behaviors — property damage, cheating, stealing — when compared to young people in the same age category. As an Iowa 4-H volunteer in Boone County, she developed and administered an experiential Food Safety and Quality Control curriculum for elementary-aged home-schoolers. Barnett also taught older home-schoolers about biosecurity and how it relates to proper nutrition for animals.

Barnett was born in Twin Falls, Idaho. She earned her BS in animal science at Montana State University-Bozeman, and her MS from University of Idaho and her Ph.D. from Iowa State University, both in agricultural education.

Barnett can be reached at (909) 387-2193 or ccbarnett@ucdavis.edu.

Vasilevsky joins Contracts and Grants

Flora Vasilevsky joined ANR’s Office of Contracts and Grants in Oakland as a senior federal subaward analyst on Oct. 22. She is responsible for assisting Division faculty in the coordination and -- continued on page 4
Names in the news — cont’d from page 3

management of federal subawards. As an ANR research administrator, she shares responsibility for ensuring stewardship of funds provided by external sponsors and participates in the preparation, review and submission of proposals and the review, negotiation and acceptance of resulting awards.

Prior to this appointment at ANR she worked as a contracts and grants accounting analyst for UC Berkeley’s Department of Physics. Since 2000 she has been working in various areas of UC Berkeley business administration including the Budget Committee of the Academic Senate and contracts and grants administration for the Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences Department.

Vasilevsky recently received her Certificate in Business Administration from UC Berkeley Extension. She earned her Ph.D. in Earth Sciences in 1993 from the Russian Academy of Sciences and for about 10 years worked as a researcher for geophysical and environmental programs. She has extensive experience related to conducting and administering research.

Vasilevsky can be reached at (510) 987-0619 or Flora.Vasilevsky@ucop.edu.

Communication Services welcomes new staff

Andrea Laue joined California Agriculture journal as Web Editor on Aug. 1. She is leading a new digital publishing initiative to digitize copies of the journal dating back to 1946, and to redesign content and information architecture of the journal’s Web site.

Laue has worked on several scholarly digital publishing projects, including the Mark Twain Project Online at UC Berkeley. Andrea recently earned her Ph.D. in English and Digital Humanities from the University of Virginia. In concert with California Agriculture and Communication Services staff, she is beginning to implement a comprehensive proposal integrating the ideas and skill sets of collaborating staff.

Laue can be reached at (510) 642-2431 ext. 16 or andrea.laue@ucop.edu.

Sherrell Cline-Richmond joined Communication Services as business manager on Aug. 27. She is responsible for managing business functions, human resources, budgeting and administrative procedures for the department. She has worked at UC Davis since 1988 in various areas of administration, finance, business and human resources management. Cline-Richmond earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from California State University, Sacramento, and completed graduate work in mathematics.

She can be reached at (530) 297-4439 or srichmond@ucdavis.edu.

Debbie Smith joined Communication Services as the administrative assistant responsible for purchasing, accounts payable and payroll on Aug. 1. Prior to coming to UC, Smith worked with developmentally disabled children and was part owner of a truck repair business for 22 years.

Smith can be reached at (530) 757-8306 or debsmith@ucdavis.edu.

Jerri Hansen has changed roles in ANR Communication Services. Hansen was previously the administrative assistant in the Business Unit responsible for purchasing and payroll. In April Hansen assumed her new responsibilities as the CS marketing assistant. She is now responsible for publication sales and staffing trade shows.

Hansen can be reached at (530) 757-8304 or jghansen@ucdavis.edu.

ANR members named AAAS fellows

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has named four ANR researchers as 2007 AAAS Fellows:

J. Ole Becker, UC Riverside Cooperative Extension specialist and nematologist, develops environmentally conservative approaches and alternatives to pesticides and has advanced understanding of ecosystems with naturally occurring biocontrol of plant-parasite nematodes.

Thomas Scott, UC Davis entomology professor, studies the ecology, evolution and control of mosquitoes and how they transmit diseases such as dengue fever, yellow fever, St. Louis encephalitis and West Nile fever.

Peter Richerson, UC Davis professor, has contributed to the newly emerging field of evolutionary social science, particularly for the development and application of cultural evolutionary theory.

Richard Stouthamer, UC Riverside entomology professor, contributed to the understanding of how endosymbiotic bacteria, especially species of Wolbachia, affect sex determination in invertebrates, particularly in endoparasitic wasps.

AAAS fellows are chosen by their peers in recognition of their efforts to advance science and its applications in a wide variety of fields. This year, 471 members were elected as association fellows. The new fellows will be honored in a ceremony during the AAAS annual meeting in Boston in February.

George receives Distinguished Achievement Award

In recognition of his work in extension education and research, the UC Davis Academic Federation selected Mel George, rangeland management specialist, as the 2007 recipient of the James H. Meyer Distinguished Achievement Award, the federation’s highest honor. The award recognizes George’s national and statewide leadership in the development and delivery of rangeland management education and research programs, especially those focused on grazed watersheds and water quality.

The award is named after a former UC Davis chancellor and professor of animal science.

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Hayden-Smith wins Food & Society Policy Fellowship

The Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Institute has awarded Rose Hayden-Smith a Food & Society Policy Fellowship for 2008-2009.

Hayden-Smith is a Ventura County 4-H and Master Gardener advisor, whose work has focused on increasing agricultural literacy in youth and adults via garden-based learning and food systems education. She is also the academic advisor for youth, adult and community educational programs relating to food systems for the UC Hansen Agricultural Center, a historic farm and research center located at the Faulkner Farm. A practicing U.S. historian, Hayden-Smith focuses on the history of agriculture and gardening; the American homefront during wartime; and public history, including news media. She has experience in marketing and communications, having worked as a public relations manager, corporate marketing associate and technical writer previously in her career.

The Jefferson Institute is a nonprofit organization based in Missouri that conducts agricultural education and research projects. Recipients of this prestigious fellowship were selected from a highly competitive North American group of applicants. The program provides a two-year annual stipend to professionals in food and agriculture from across North America, enabling them to use mass media channels to inform public viewpoints in alignment with the goals of creating sustainable food systems that promote good health, vibrant communities and environmental stewardship.

Eldridge wins international medal

Bruce Eldridge, UC Davis medical entomologist, is the recipient of the international Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology.

Eldridge received the prestigious medal at the 56th annual meeting of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), held earlier this month in Philadelphia.

“Throughout his career, Bruce has remained the consummate professional, always representing himself, his country, his state and his university at the highest professional and personal level,” wrote UC Davis entomologists William Reisen and Thomas Scott, who nominated Eldridge for the award.

Eldridge served as chair or president of the four primary American medical entomology societies, and head of the entomology department at the prestigious Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

Dairy publication wins agronomy award

A UC publication for the dairy industry has received an Award of Excellence from the American Society of Agronomy.

“We are thrilled with the award for this publication, which outlines management practices that protect surface and groundwater quality,” said Stu Pettygrove, UC Davis Cooperative Extension soils specialist, who co-authored the publication. California Dairies: Protecting Water Quality was selected for the award by the agronomy society’s Extension Education section.

The guide is aimed at lending institutions, consulting engineers and crop management companies that work with dairy producers, as well as regulatory bodies like county environmental health departments and the regional water quality control boards.

Co-authors are Patricia Ristow, former UC Davis postgraduate researcher; Deanne Meyer, UC Davis livestock waste management specialist; David Lewis, watershed management advisor for Sonoma, Marin and Mendocino counties; Nyles Peterson, San Bernardino County dairy advisor and county director; and Janet Broome, UCCE, area plant pathologist for Sacramento, Yolo and Solano counties. Will Suckow, UC Davis plant sciences department graphic artist, did layout and design. Bevansom of the UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute/UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program helped manage the project.

The 16-page guide was produced with funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s “Buy California” Initiative, the USDA, the US-EPA Clean Water Act, and the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

Five ANR members receive national 4-H honors

Three 4-H youth development advisors, a county director and a regional director were honored at the annual meeting of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in Atlanta on Oct. 25.

Darlene Liesch, Kern County director, was named California’s Meritorious Service Award recipient. This honor is bestowed on an association member who has been in extension for at least 15 years and has a strong career program. Liesch was selected for her 23 years of service. She began as a 4-H youth development advisor in Kern County in 1969. After a time devoted to raising her children, she returned to CE and has served as an interim family and consumer science advisor, a 4-H youth development advisor and county director. As county director, Liesch ensures community awareness and support for the 4-H program through networking and careful fiscal management.

John Borba was named Distinguished Service Award Recipient. Borba’s career in extension spans 15 years, including work in Tulare County as a 4-H program representative, in Oregon as a 4-H agent and in Kern County, where he serves as the 4-H youth development advisor. He provides leadership for a strong 4-H community-based program with more than 40 clubs, as well as school enrichment projects, Operation Military Kids events and special outreach programs. He also provides statewide leadership for the 4-H shooting sports program.

The national award for Excellence in Camping by the individual was presented to Marianne Bird, Sacramento County 4-H youth development advisor. Bird convened a taskforce of youth agencies, organizations and academic institutions to review and improve California’s 4-H — continued on page 6
coping experience. This work yielded a statewide camping risk management workbook, and improved the training of camp counselors, as well as heightened the visibility of the camping program statewide. Under her leadership, this program has become a national model for creating change in 4-H camping experiences.

The national award for Excellence in Teamwork was awarded to Linda Marie Manton, Central Valley Region director, and Liesch for their work in leading the “Crucial Conversations” training program. The research-based program assists county-based academics and support staff in building greater personal influence, moving professional and personal relationships and projects forward, improving team results, and reducing stress from team frustration and poor communication. UCCE has held six workshops and trained 94 county-based employees since it began the program in 2006.

Keith Nathaniel, Los Angeles County 4-H youth development advisor, was selected as the regional winner in the 13 western states for Excellence in After School programs. The objectives of the program for students from the Frank L. Walton Middle School and Compton High School in Compton are to help teens stay in school and make successful transitions into college or a career. The program provides youth innovative ways to address community issues, both proposing and implementing solutions to improve their community.

In memoriam

Les Stromberg

Leslie K. Stromberg, Fresno County farm advisor emeritus, died Nov. 5 in Sterling, Va. He was 89.

Born in Woburn, Mass., Stromberg was raised in Napa. He earned a bachelor’s degree in soil science from UC Berkeley in 1939. After graduation, Stromberg became a lab assistant in UC’s Division of Soils for a year, then a soil surveyor for the Soil Conservation Service in Albuquerque, N.M. for two years. He served as a U.S. Navy lieutenant in World War II. In 1946, he moved his family to Fresno and worked for UC in the San Joaquin Valley as an assistant soil specialist. In 1951, he became the Fresno County farm advisor for cotton, soils and water.

Stromberg retired in 1981 after serving ANR for 35 years. His research and extension activities on soil reclamation and irrigation contributed to the development of western Fresno County. His early research on plant nutrition remains relevant. Stromberg’s research on cotton potassium nutrition clearly established an association with plant deficiencies and soil potassium levels. His research, published in 1960, became the standard in potassium recommendations and additional research has corroborated his initial findings. Stromberg was invited to present his research findings to the 16th International Congress of Horticulture in Brussels, Belgium, in 1962.

Over the course of Stromberg’s career he served as a mentor to many individuals involved with ANR and statewide agriculture. His gentle manner and deep understanding gained respect and admiration from farmers, fellow extension advisors and university scientists. His career activities served to encourage many younger agriculturists to pursue careers in Cooperative Extension.

Stromberg is survived by Virginia, his wife of 64 years of Sterling, Va.; their two sons, Erik of Blacksburg, Va. and Roger of Ashburn, Va.; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Power of the press

Bob Timm, UC Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist, learned that a story in the Los Angeles Times can drive visitors to a Web site.

CoyoteBytes.org was averaging 288 visits per week before a story about the new Web site collecting and offering information about coyotes appeared on page 6 of the Home section of the newspaper on Oct. 4. Visits spiked to 600 that day, then leveled off to 650 per week. After the article was published, visitors spent more time on the site and clicking on more of its links.