PAC discusses budget, initiatives, research-extension continuum

The President’s Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources met May 6 at the Waterfront Hotel in Oakland to discuss UC’s budget, ANR’s initiatives and the research-extension continuum.

The commissioners were joined by guests AG Kawamura, CDFA secretary, and Rich Rominger, farmer, former regent and former PAC member. New member Jean-Mari Peltier, president of the National Grape and Wine Initiative and recently appointed UC CARET representative, joined the discussion.

UC’s budget

President Mark Yudof told the commissioners that when he met with Gov. Schwarzenegger on April 27 for the 50th anniversary of the Master Plan, the governor promised not to sign a budget for FY 2010-11 that didn’t include an increase for higher education.

“It’s better to have a promise than not,” said Yudof, adding that we have to be realistic about the state’s financial situation.

Yudof said that the constitutional amendment the governor had proposed in January limiting the state correctional budget to no more than 7 percent of state general fund revenue and guarantee that UC and California State University together would receive no less than 10 percent was not introduced to the Legislature. However, he will continue to press the issue of state funding for higher education.

“Even in a bad economy, the state needs to have priorities,” Yudof said, to move the economy and ensure the well-being of people long term.

“We’re going to fight for dollars in Washington,” Yudof said. “We’ll keep fighting for dollars in Sacramento.”

UC’s Commission on the Future is exploring ways to reduce costs, such as administrative changes, shortening the time it takes to get a degree, and virtual education via the Internet.

Naming some research accomplishments, Yudof said he is optimistic about UC’s future. “UC remains the best public university in the world, even in these difficult times,” he said.

Research-extension continuum

Barbara Allen-Diaz, associate vice president for academic programs and strategic initiatives, described implementation of the strategic initiatives to the PAC members. She explained that ANR is focusing on four initiatives, forming teams to solve big, multidisciplinary issues and provide science-based knowledge to inform policy decisions.

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Allen-Diaz introduced a panel of UC scientists, who gave presentations on major science initiatives to illustrate how the Agricultural Experiment Station works with Cooperative Extension to form the research-extension continuum that serves California.

Christine Kreuder Johnson, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine associate professor, discussed the relationship of ecosystems with human health and how animal pathogens evolve to infect humans. Johnson is part of a team working on a $75 million, 5-year grant to examine pathogens in wildlife that may move to humans.

“We look for areas of rapid ecosystem change to predict hot spots for pandemics,” she said.

Gary Sposito, UC Berkeley soil science professor, described how antibiotics are emerging as environmental contaminants. He explained how the antibiotic Cipro was shown to interfere with photosynthesis in plants, acting like a herbicide. This example shows the need to consider the toxic effects of antibiotics on nontarget organisms in aquatic ecosystems, he said.

Beth Grafton-Cardwell, director of Lindcove Research & Extension Center and entomology specialist, talked about UC’s development of the seedless mandarin variety Tango. She also described UC’s role in preventing the Asian citrus psyllid from spreading Huanglongbing disease in California citrus.

At the close of the meeting, Dooley announced that Stuart Woolf is stepping down as PAC chair, and that a new chair will be chosen before the next meeting, scheduled for Oct. 21.

Program Support Unit launches website

The Program Support Unit (PSU) has launched a new website, http://ucanr.org/sites/PSU, which details its services and the process for requesting assistance from the staff. The site also has a blog that the unit plans to use to communicate the latest news on ANR Competitive Grants, sources of funding, and event planning. A page called "Resources" will be added to offer tips and tricks on event planning, database management, websites and more.

The program support team, which includes the Program Support Unit and AVP Barbara Allen-Diaz’s staff in Oakland, will also provide support to facilitate preparation of grant documents and/or coordinate meetings to discuss AFRI proposals. Contact your Strategic Initiative Leader to obtain approval for AFRI assistance:

- **Endemic & Invasive Pests and Diseases (EIPD),** Ian Gardner, (530) 752-6992, iagardner@ucdavis.edu
- **Healthy Families and Communities (HFC),** Sharon Junge, (530) 754-8518, skjunge@ucdavis.edu
- **Sustainable Food Systems (SFS),** Joe DiTomaso, (530) 754-8715, jmditomaso@ucdavis.edu
- **Sustainable Natural Ecosystems (SNE),** James Bartolome, (510) 642-7945, jwbart@berkeley.edu

PSU was created to provide programmatic support in key areas to ANR members working in the area of initiatives, programmatic and advocacy efforts, statewide programs and leadership groups. Some of the services PSU provides include:

- Assisting with planning, coordination of meetings to facilitate development and implementation of advocacy goals.
- Facilitating development of requests for proposals, coordination of review panels, compilation of funding decisions and interface with Business Operations Center for distribution of funds.
- Providing support for workshops, conferences, symposia that are of regional or statewide scope.
- Providing meeting agenda development, facilitation and note taking assistance for ANR efforts, such as Program Council, Executive Working Group, and others as requested by ANR leadership.
- Working with the leaders of the Strategic Initiatives to plan, coordinate and conduct meetings of advisory teams and other groups to facilitate the development and implementation of the Initiative missions and programs.

For more information about PSU, contact Joni Rippee at joni.rippee@ucop.edu.
Employment Opportunities

San Joaquin County: Environmental hort advisor

UC Cooperative Extension in San Joaquin County is seeking an academic advisor to conduct a county-based extension, education and applied research program in environmental horticulture. The position will support clientele and educate members of the general public on environmental horticultural urban water quality issues.

This advisor will conduct a county-based extension program of education and applied research in environmental horticulture with a clientele involved in public and private landscape management and nursery production, and agricultural related entities. The position will work with public and private landscapers with an emphasis on sustainable urban landscape management with a goal of green waste utilization and its effect on water quality and the overall health of local watersheds. This may include addressing environmental issues related to pesticides, fertilizer practices for the ornamental plant and home landscape industry. The advisor will also help public and private agencies address green waste utilization, and water-related problems specifically addressing sources of pollution.

A master’s degree in ornamental or environmental horticulture or a related field is required. A minimum of two years experience working with or in the wholesale nursery and/or landscape industry is highly desired. Experience in Cooperative Extension or similar educational organization is desirable. Candidates must possess organizational and management skills and abilities to facilitate and conduct group processes.

This is an academic term appointment through Oct. 31, 2014. Based upon San Joaquin County Government funding availability and satisfactory performance of the candidate conducted by UC, the term appointment may be renewed for another four years.

To assure full consideration, application packet must be received by June 11 (open until filled).

To see the full description for position #10-01 or to download an application form, go to http://ucanr.org/jobs/.

To submit an application or for more information, contact Pam Tise in Academic Personnel at (530) 754-8509 or pdtise@ucdavis.edu.

Kearney director

ANR is seeking a director who can provide leadership and operational management for the Kearney Research and Extension Center (KREC) and the Kearney Agricultural Center Academic Group (KAC).

The director will provide researchers and educators with managed and sustainable resources to conduct quality research and extension programs on high-priority local, regional, and statewide issues.

As an academic, the director will maintain an active applied research and education program that addresses critical issues in the Central Valley region and the state.

Based in Parlier, the director has overall supervisory responsibility for all 35 career staff employees. He/she is responsible for administration, manages facility operations, and works closely with individual researchers who use the center for their research and education programs. Leadership is provided through a team approach with the Superintendents of Agriculture and Physical Plant, Office Manager (KREC), and Administrative Manager (KAC).

The director will also provide the leadership to maximize opportunities to bring together campus and county academics in research and extension teams. These teams will effectively compete for large, multidisciplinary, integrated grants that fully take advantage of the unique Kearney facility.

A Ph.D. in an agricultural, biological, or natural resources science from an accredited college or university is required. Demonstrated excellence in research and educational programs, including acquisition of external grant funds is required. Experience in working on and/or managing a research and extension center or agricultural industry experience is highly desired. Candidates must have demonstrated competence in personnel management and management of budgets. Experience in and appreciation for research and extension programs is required. Candidates must be able to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, in order to plan, organize and coordinate programs effectively. Demonstrated ability to work closely with Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension personnel, public agencies, industry representatives, grower cooperators, and the public in general is essential.

To see the full description for position #10-02 or to download an application form, go to http://ucanr.org/jobs/. To assure full consideration, application packet must be received by July 2 (open until filled). To submit an application or for more information, contact Pam Tise in Academic Personnel at (530) 754-8509 or pdtise@ucdavis.edu.
Hill named 4-H military programs director

Russell Hill has been named state 4-H Military Partnership Programs director.

Hill, who was the 4-H Youth Development program representative in Merced County since 2005, assumed his new position overseeing UC’s 4-H Military Partnerships, including Operation Military Kids activities, on May 1.

“Russ, not only has a long history with the 4-H program as a youth, volunteer, and staff person, but he comes from a military family and understands intimately the issues surrounding military youth and their families” said Sharon Junge, interim 4-H director. Hill’s father and brothers served in the U.S. Army; his brother Captain Raymond D. Hill II was killed in action in 2005 by an IED while serving a humanitarian mission in Baghdad.

Junge added, “Russ has extensive positive youth-development experience, especially in the area of camping and SET (Science, Education & Technology) He has collaborated on many OMK and 4-H military club programs in the past and is excited about taking on these new challenges. We know he will do an outstanding job in his new role!”

He received his B.A. in anthropology from CSU Fresno in 1998 and a master’s in public administration from CSU Stanislaus in 2003.

Hill is based in the ANR Building in Davis. He can be reached at (530) 754-8518 and rdhill@ucdavis.edu.

Suckow rejoins Communication Services

Will Suckow has accepted the part-time position of senior artist with Communication Services, effective April 12. Suckow was the principal producer-director for Communication Services from 1997 until 2003, when he left to run his design and illustration business.

Suckow will be designing and laying out California Agriculture journal and other ANR publications.

He earned a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts and a Master’s of Fine Arts in graphic design from California State University, Fullerton. Prior to joining ANR in 1997, he worked as a graphic artist for UC Davis University Extension, Claremont University and Cal State Fullerton.

Suckow can be reached at (510) 665-2198 and wsuckow@ucdavis.edu.

Jones named principal budget analyst

Andrew Jones joined ANR as the new principal budget analyst on April 26.

Jones earned his B.A. from UC Berkeley and his MPA from CSU East Bay. For the past 15 years, he has worked for UCSF. Most recently he has been working as the Budget and Finance Manager for Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences.

Jones is responsible for oversight and reconciliation of ANR budget schedules, the County Budget and Fund Source report, the ANR Budget Report, overseeing ANR commitments, carryforward, and reconciling all non-salary ANR funds, including state general funds, endowment income, endowment cost recovery, opportunity, education, off the top, and overhead funds.

Jones brings to ANR experience working with state general funds, endowments, indirect cost recovery, STIP and professional fees. ANR will also benefit from his experience in database creation and management, fiscal reporting, consolidated budgets, contracts and grants, human resources, payor audits, and revenue analysis.

On a side note, his family still farms hundreds of acres of farmland in the northern Sacramento valley, which was part of his interest in ANR.

Jones is located at UCOP in Room 10134-J and can be reached at andrew.jones@ucop.edu or (510) 987-0047.

ESA branch honors Grafton-Cardwell, IPM team

Elizabeth Grafton-Cardwell, director of Lindcove Research & Extension Center and UC Riverside entomology specialist, is the 2010 recipient of the Recognition Award in Entomology from the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America (PBSA).

PBSA also honored UC’s Urban Ant Pest Management Alliance with its Integrated Pest Management Team Award. The alliance is composed of Michael Rust, Les Greenberg, John Klotz, and Don Reierson of UC Riverside; John Kabashima of UC Cooperative Extension in Orange County; Cheryl Wilen of UC Cooperative Extension for San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles counties; Patrick Copps of Orkin; Herb Field of Lloyd Pest Control; Mark Robertson of California Department of Pesticide Regulation; Keith Willingham of Western Exterminator Co.; Clark Pest Control; Corky’s Pest Control; and A-PRO Pest Control Inc.

The awards were presented at the 94th annual meeting of the PBSA on April 13 in Boise, Idaho.

Continued on next page
**Hodel wins international award**

Donald R. Hodel, UC Cooperative Extension’s environmental horticulture advisor in Los Angeles County, is the recipient of the 2010 R.W. Harris Author’s Citation award from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The award, one of the top three given out by ISA every year, recognizes authors of outstanding and sustained excellence in the publication of timely information in the field of arboriculture. It is considered a prominent recognition of distinguished achievement. Hodel will receive the award at ISA’s 2010 Annual Conference Opening Ceremony on July 25 in Chicago.

“Don is a resource for landscape professionals in Los Angeles County and Southern California. He helps them use the most recent University of California research and technology,” said UC Cooperative Extension County Director Rachel Surls. “He helps landscape managers conserve water, improve the appearance of trees, shrubs and groundcovers, and manage pests and diseases. We are especially proud of Don’s expertise on palms and other trees.”

Hodel has authored and co-authored more than 75 peer-reviewed journal articles, more than 300 trade or popular articles and six books, including “Exceptional Trees of Los Angeles.”

**Luck recognized for research in citrus entomology**

Robert Luck, a UC Riverside entomology professor, has received the California Citrus Quality Council’s prestigious Albert G. Salter Memorial Award for “his enthusiastic and innovative applied research in citrus entomology.”

Luck is a leading expert in the research of armored and unarmored scale insect control using biological methods.

Over the last several decades, Luck has collaborated with colleagues and members of the California citrus industry to reduce its pest management costs using natural enemies to suppress a number of important citrus insect pests biologically. This effort also led to a substantial reduction in the amount of pesticide applications required to maintain the quality and marketability of California’s citrus fruits.

**Miller selected as State Department fellow**

Thomas Miller, UC Riverside entomologist and expert on insect physiology, toxicology and genetics, has been chosen by the U.S. Department of State to receive a 2010-2011 Jefferson Science Fellowship. Miller is one of 10 persons selected for the fellowships this year.

As a fellow, Miller will spend a year in Washington, D.C., during which he will advise State Department officials on issues of science and technology. Specifically, he will assist the Department of State as it formulates and implements foreign policy on matters related to biotechnology and entomology.

“I am delighted and honored to be awarded a Jefferson Science Fellowship,” Miller said. “Tenure as a Jefferson Science Fellow will allow me to pursue the application of biotechnology to pest and disease problems around the world. Several of the projects I am working on are already of interest to the State Department.”

Miller’s laboratory genetically altered endosymbiotic bacteria of the walnut husk fly for use in perfecting bait treatments for fly management. His lab also performed the genetic transformation of pink bollworm. Involved in regulatory policy at the highest levels, Miller stressed the use of biotechnology in agriculture to increase food production and improve food quality.

**Thompson, Mutters, Kader honored by ASABE**

Jim Thompson, Cass Mutters and Adel Kader have received 2010 Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Awards from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

Thompson, UC Davis specialist, and Mutters, Butte County farm advisor for rice, received an award for the “Rice Quality Handbook” in the Publications – Comprehensive category.

Thompson and Adel Kader, UC Davis professor emeritus of postharvest physiology, received an award for “From the Farm to Your Table: A Consumer’s Guide to Fresh Fruits & Vegetables,” in the Publications — Medium category.

ASABE defines “educational aids” as aids which contribute to the understanding of biological and agricultural engineering subjects. Major emphasis is placed upon how well the needs of the intended audience are met.

They will receive their awards on June 21 during the ASABE Annual International Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.
Retirement

Claudia Myers, information technology manager for Communication Services, will retire on July 1 after 25 years of service to UC.

For 15 years, she's been in charge of e-mail and Internet connectivity for ANR offices, with the objective of providing seamless, state-of-the-art technology to keep distant worksites in close communication.

Myers grew up in Michigan, earning a B.S. in ag engineering at Michigan State University before getting her master's in ag engineering at UC Davis. During college, she worked with US AID and private consultants in Tunisia, studying farm energy use and publishing articles and book chapters on the topic. Back in California, she worked as a hand for a year in Campbell's tomato fields, where she says she learned a lot—including that there had to be an easier way to make a living.

In 1985, Myers signed on as associate director of the UC Small Farm Center, working under Clair Christensen and later Ron Voss. Sneakernet was the primary method for file transfer. Tech support was who you called when the phone modem went down. In 1994, she happened to hear that a vendor was set to cancel e-mail service for all ANR county offices. When she told her boss, Terry Salmon, he asked her to do something about it—and she's been doing it ever since. Under CS Director Bob Sams, her staff expanded to Web support, remote software updates, server administration, and more.

"I ran out of superlatives to describe Claudia's contribution a long time ago," said Sams. "She has been instrumental in so many really important things that I can't begin to list them. As just one example among many, she has had a crucial, formative leadership role in the success of our unit from the very beginning. I'm honored to have worked with her."

An ANR client told Myers: "You've always worked through our problems with great efficiency, knowledge, and a sense of humor."

Myers' daughter Ann now lives in Florida and son Eric graduates high school in June. In retirement, Myers and her partner Mary will move to a wooded acreage in New York's Finger Lakes area where they spent most of last fall and winter. There they plan to build a house, consult on energy-efficient building techniques, and do local food processing.—Jim Coats

ANR launches food blog

A blog providing a steady stream of current information about the creation and consumption of food has been launched by ANR at http://ucanr.org/food. The blog is also available in Spanish at http://ucanr.org/alimentos.

The Food Blog is produced by a team of more than three dozen writers affiliated with UC Cooperative Extension, UC Davis, UC Riverside and UC Office of the President. The blog reports food-related information generated by UC programs spanning the state, where advisors and specialists conduct research and deliver results directly to people who produce food. Information also comes from UC academics who study nutrition and educate the public about eating for better health.

Topics addressed in the blog include nutrition, gardening for food, food safety, obesity, pesticide-residue issues, local food, farmers markets, slow food, home food handling, organic food, food production, food policy and more. It is all geared to the general public.

The Food Blog is updated three times weekly. All information is archived and fully searchable. Readers may use the comment feature in the blog to post inquiries and provide input on food-related topics. In addition, "share" icons on each post make it easy for readers to share the information with friends in their social networks.

The English and Spanish versions of the blog can be used as a “content feed” on any Site Builder 3.0 website. For step-by-step instructions in adding the blog to a website, see “stories” on the Strategic Vision Toolkit website, http://ucanr.org/sites/Toolkit.

If you would like to contribute to the ANR Food Blog or would like more information, contact Jeannette Warnert at (559) 241-7514 or jewarnert@ucdavis.edu.
4-H teams up to build playground in Daly City

Volunteers from UC Cooperative Extension, 4-H in San Mateo/San Francisco counties, 4-H National Headquarters, the Daly City Partnership, the City of Daly City, organizers from KaBOOM! and residents of the local community got together on May 4 to replace outdated play equipment with a new, safe playground at Westlake Park in Daly City. The new playground’s design is based on drawings created by children who participated in a Design Day event in March.

Cooperative Extension members from across the country who were in San Francisco for the Children, Youth and Families at Risk conference participated in the project.

Saying it reminded him of an old-fashion barn raising, VP Dan Dooley congratulated the volunteers for their accomplishment of building the new playground in a day and joined Marilyn Johns, San Mateo/San Francisco county director, for the ribbon cutting.

Dooley met the UCCE San Mateo/San Francisco counties’ EFNEP/FSNEP team, who were on site to teach children about the value of eating fresh fruits and vegetables. From left, Laura McCaffrey (watermelon), Elaine Silver (banana), Jennifer Gabet (carrot), Junge, Dooley and Lauxman.

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Dooley, Jared Giarruso, a staff member of Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, Mayor Guingona and Marilyn Johns joined Daly City children to cut the “ribbon,” a paper chain, opening the playground.

CS Update

Warehouse, Cal Ag move to Richmond

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fter 26 years in Oakland’s Marchant Building, the ANR publications warehouse has moved back to Richmond. The California Agriculture journal staff has also moved to Richmond. After UC sold the Marchant Building, ANR leased space from the new owners until new accommodations were found.

The California Agriculture and publications staff are now located in the former Forest Products Lab. The main phone numbers are (800) 994-8849 and (510) 665-2195. The fax number is (510) 665-3427.

Mail can be addressed to:
1301 S. 46th Street
Building 478 - MC 3580
Richmond, CA 94804

Individual telephone numbers are:
Mary Allen-Crowley (510) 665-2162
Janet Byron (510) 665-2194
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Tosh Sears (510) 665-2169
Will Suckow (510) 665-2198
Janet White (510) 665-2201