

## Conference conversations continue

Dear Colleagues,

I want to thank everyone who worked so tirelessly to pull the Global Food System Forum and our statewide conference together. And I especially want to



Barbara Allen-Diaz

thank those of you who attended, in person and virtually, and added your voices to so many conversations.

I hope you all enjoyed yourselves, made some new contacts, put some faces to familiar names, renewed

networks and found challenging ideas to take home with you.

We chose some of the world's most confounding and contentious issues to focus on — from climate change to global hunger to water use.

We heard a diversity of viewpoints, all of them expressed with insight, passion and mutual respect. We've shaken up old ideas and hopefully forged some pathways to new ones. We can't be afraid to hold these kinds of conversations, listen carefully to diverse points of view, and then forge strategies to move forward with what we do best — apply the strength of research and education programs to help eliminate hunger, ensure accessible, affordable, safe and nutritious food, and ensure the conservation of our natural resources.

The conversations we started at the conference won't end there. It is clear to many people, both new friends and established, proven partners, that we have critical contributions to make and a global role to play through the work of UC ANR.

We also talked candidly and constructively about how Cooperative Extension and all of the UC ANR community fit

together. I heard many speak of a powerful network of people with knowledge and tools committed to

- science-based information
- research and education
- local issues and solutions
- local communities
- global reach

Since our last UC ANR all-staff conference in 2009, many new academics and staff have joined the UC ANR community and we continue to recruit diverse, outstanding people for priority positions. These folks are the future of the Division and UC. I am excited by that future and by those who will join us to explore, create, discover, share, collaborate and work to ensure a California and a world that thrives.

Barbara Allen-Diaz  
Vice President



VP Allen-Diaz, standing, speaks with rice grower Don Bransford, center, and Brian Swimme, a cosmology professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco.

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## ANR considers local to global issues at statewide conference

More than 600 ANR members gathered in Ontario during the second week of April to contemplate how to sustainably feed 8 billion people in the world by 2025. It was first time since 2009 that ANR had held an all-staff conference.

Some people arrived on Monday to tour ANR activities in San Diego, Coachella Valley or Orange and San Bernardino counties.

On Tuesday, with more than 1,500 individuals watching live from 34 different countries and six continents last week, panelists discussed different aspects of the food supply system at the

UC Global Food Systems Forum. Nearly 300 people joined the associated online conversation on Twitter, spurring the forum hashtag #Food2025 to trend as the third most popular Twitter topic during the event.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the discussion turned to ANR's role in addressing issues that surfaced during the forum. PowerPoints and handouts from the Wednesday and Thursday sessions will be posted at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/statewideconference2013>.

Conference attendees are encouraged to complete the conference evaluation

survey at <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=10529> as a way to help us plan future ANR events.

If you missed the Global Food Systems Forum webcast, videos from the event are available online at [food2025.ucanr.edu/webcast](http://food2025.ucanr.edu/webcast) and on Storify at <http://storify.com/ucanr/food2025>.

The online conversation will continue on Twitter using #Food2025 and on the [conference blog](#).

Photos taken during the tour and conference will be posted at [food2025.ucanr.edu](http://food2025.ucanr.edu).

## PAC bids Yudof farewell

The UC President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources met with President Mark Yudof on April 8 in Ontario. At the meeting, Yudof, who plans to retire in August, thanked the group for supporting the university and himself personally. Provost Aimée Dorr and Dan Dooley, UC senior vice president for External Relations, joined Yudof for his last PAC meeting.

VP Barbara Allen-Diaz and the PAC members thanked Yudof for his leadership and commitment to ANR.

"Even though you come from the city, you have been a true advocate for California agriculture," said Allen-Diaz. "Whether you were hiking through strawberry fields, learning how to harvest lettuce or choosing olive oil blends at Davis, you connected with our community and showed appreciation for its contributions to the state."

"ANR sits right at the heart of UC's public mission," Yudof said. "It is inextricably bound to the success of this university, and to the success of this state. And it is ANR — a California-based enterprise



From left, Allen-Diaz, Bransford and Yudof. The PAC presented the outgoing president, who collects maps, with a print of a vintage map of California.

— that will drive much of the research for, and the solutions to, maximizing global food systems and protecting the natural resources needed to maintain them."

Don Bransford, PAC chair, said that Yudof has become "an ardent ambassador for ag products."

During Yudof's five-year tenure, higher education endured several cuts in state funding.

"You were always unwavering and steadfast in your commitment to maintaining the academic excellence of the University when its financial well-being was being challenged," said Bransford. "You also

worked tirelessly to ensure that the University was accessible and affordable for all California students."

"With the passage of Proposition 30, the university is more secure today," Yudof said, adding that UC needs a long-term funding commitment because the university has long-term obligations to students and employees.

Maggi Kelly, UCCE specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley, gave a presentation about ANR's new Informatics and Geographic Information Systems program (IGIS).

"There's an urgency to rescue smaller data sets," Kelly said, noting that as academics retire, their data may get thrown away or forgotten in file cabinets. Collecting ANR's historical data in a web-based network will be very useful to academics.

PAC members commented that the data could be valuable to non-academic research as well.

The next PAC meeting will be held in the fall.

## AHB research proposals sought

The University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources is soliciting proposals for research projects that address Africanized Honey Bees in California. Principal investigators may request up to \$100,000 for a term not to exceed three years. Projects funded by the Edwin C. Pohle Fund are to be “solely used in support of research being conducted by the Departments of Entomology at one or more of the University of California campuses,” according to the donor’s request.

Research areas of priority include

- determining the current natural distribution of AHB in California

- identifying the proportion of feral colonies currently in Southern California that are of AHB origin
- examining the characteristics of colonies in the few areas in Northern California that seem to have pockets of very defensive honey bee colonies

Read the full request at [http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide\\_Programs](http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide_Programs).

Please submit all project proposals in an electronic format no later than June 15, 2013, to Vanessa Murua, Program Planning and Evaluation, at [vanessa.murua@ucop.edu](mailto:vanessa.murua@ucop.edu).

For more information, contact Murua at (510) 987-0377.

## Comments sought on ANR tobacco-free policy

On Jan. 1, 2014, the use of cigarettes and all tobacco products will no longer be permitted on UC campuses and at properties owned or occupied by ANR. Employees are invited to comment on this policy until June 17.

UC President Mark Yudof charged all UC campuses to go smoke and tobacco-free by January 2014 to save lives and improve the health of our community. As a leader in environmental research, policy, practice and education, ANR has a responsibility to demonstrate leadership in reducing tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure for our students, faculty, staff, visitors and volunteers. This policy is about creating healthy environments for the thousands who learn, work, live and spend time in California. Cigarette butts are responsible for over a third of California’s litter.

This affects everyone on ANR property, including students, faculty, staff and visitors.

The policy covers the use of all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco, as well as electronic cigarettes.

Tobacco use will be prohibited everywhere on UC campuses and at properties owned or occupied by ANR. There will be no designated smoking areas. Tobacco users are asked to be respectful of our neighbors and not congregate or litter on their property.

Enforcement will initially be educational. All students, faculty, staff and visitors are expected to abide by current policies.

All tobacco users who want to quit are encouraged to call the free California Smokers Helpline at 1-800-NO-BUTTS.

For details about the tobacco policy, visit <http://ucanr.edu/sites/tobaccofree>. Please send comments by June 17 to Robin Sanchez at [rgsanchez@ucanr.edu](mailto:rgsanchez@ucanr.edu).

## Forest management plan course offered online

The Cooperative Extension Forestry Program has launched a free online curriculum for landowners about the basics of developing a forest management plan. The website “[Starting Your Forest Management Plan](#)” walks landowners step by step through the process of getting to know their forest and prepares them to work with a registered professional forester. The goal is to increase the number of forested acres in California covered by land management plans, in support of the strategies identified in the Statewide Assessment for conservation of forest lands through sustainable working forests and rangelands.

“This effort really supports the outreach efforts our forestry group has done in the past with our publications, webinars and in-person workshops,” said Rick Standiford, UCCE specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley, who along with Greg Giusti, UCCE advisor in Lake and Mendocino counties, led the project. “We can now also add video and e-learning modules to our tools used to help educate and engage our audience. Perhaps we can reach some people we may not have through traditional channels.”

The content for the online curriculum was based on the 24-part [Forest Stewardship Series](#), publications available on the ANR Catalog. Standiford worked with ANR’s Instructional Systems Development team to give the content a curriculum focus.

“The biggest challenge was condensing the excellent, detailed information and making it more accessible to busy learners who just needed an introduction,” said Steve Heindl, ANR instructional designer. “We then packaged that information around video interviews with real landowners who are discussing the benefits they received from generating these types of plans.”

This UCCE project was created in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and CAL FIRE.

## Names in the News

### Derby, Project Learning Tree join UC

Sandy Derby has joined ANR as the academic coordinator of the new UC Cooperative Extension Project Learning Tree program, effective April 15. Mike De Lasaux, UCCE advisor in Plumas and Sierra counties for natural resources, is the principal investigator for this grant-funded project with CAL FIRE.



Sandy Derby

It is anticipated that Project Learning Tree will reside with ANR for many years to come, helping to fulfill the ANR Strategic Vision of improving youth science and environmental literacy. For the past 28 years, California PLT has been a CAL FIRE program.

UCCE PLT will be housed in ANR's Youth, Families and Communities program, enabling Derby to connect and collaborate with Youth Development advisors and specialists. It is also expected that Derby will develop collaborations with the Research and Extension Centers, UC education departments and UC Natural Reserve System sites.

Derby earned a BA in environmental studies/biology from UC Santa Cruz and a MS in ecological teaching and learning from Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass. She has 10 years of experience as a grade school teacher and has worked for the past 15 years in non-formal inquiry-based science education as the environmental education manager and BioSITE (Students Investigating Their Environment) program director at the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. She has worked with PLT as a trainer and is also a STEP (Salmon and Trout Education Program) Institute trainer.

Project Learning Tree is an international, award-winning environmental education program created 35 years ago that is designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. To learn more, visit the national website at <http://www.plt.org> and the current state site at [http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_teacherstools\\_plt.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_teacherstools_plt.php).

Derby is based at the ANR Building in Davis and can be reached at [stderby@ucanr.edu](mailto:stderby@ucanr.edu).

### Yang wins NSF career award

Louie Yang, assistant professor in the Department of Entomology at UC Davis, has earned a prestigious Early Career Development award from the National Science Foundation to fund projects.

NSF's Faculty Early Career Development Program supports junior faculty who perform outstanding research, are excellent educators and who integrate education and research in their work. The awards, known as CAREER awards, typically support both a five-year research program and a program of outreach and education in local schools and colleges.



Louie Yang

Yang will study the importance of timing in interactions between plants, animals and their environment, specifically studying the monarch butterfly and milkweed. Species interactions change with the seasons and with different life stages, and climate change may disrupt these interactions, for example if caterpillars emerge before food sources are available. Yang's \$600,000 award will support work that will provide new knowledge about how natural communities respond to such changes.

Yang earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1999 and his Ph.D. from UC Davis in 2006. He conducted postdoctoral research at UC Santa Barbara before returning to UC Davis as a faculty member in 2009.

### Bee team wins PBESA award

Five faculty members from the UC Davis Department of Entomology received the coveted team award from the Pacific Branch, Entomological Society of America, for their collaborative research, education and outreach work specializing in honey bees, wild bees and pollination issues. Their collective service on behalf of bees totals 116 years.

The "Bee Team" is composed of Eric Mussen, UC Cooperative Extension



The Bee Team: From left, Eric Mussen, Neal Williams, Robbin Thorp, Lynn Kimsey and Brian Johnson.

specialist in apiculture; Lynn Kimsey, director of the Bohart Museum of Entomology, professor and systematist/hymenopterist; Robbin Thorp, emeritus professor and native pollinator specialist; Neal Williams, assistant professor, who specializes in pollination and bee biology; and Brian Johnson, assistant professor, who specializes in bee communication, bee behavior and bee health.

"The Bee Team is really the 'A' team; no other university in the country has this one-of-a-kind expertise about managed bees, wild bees, pollination, bee health, bee identification, and bee preservation," wrote nominator Michael Parrella, professor and chair of the Department of Entomology at UC Davis. "Honey bee health is especially crucial. Since 2006 when the colony collapse disorder surfaced, we as a nation have been losing one-third of our bees annually. Some beekeepers are reporting 50 to 100 percent winter losses. The importance of bees cannot be underestimated: one-third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees."

Read the full story at [http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/News/The\\_Bee\\_Team\\_Wins\\_Pacific\\_Branch\\_ESA\\_Team\\_Award](http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/News/The_Bee_Team_Wins_Pacific_Branch_ESA_Team_Award).

### Molinar receives 2 small farm awards

Richard Molinar, UC Cooperative Extension advisor in Fresno County, received the Tom Haller Award at the California Small Farm Conference in March.



Richard Molinar

The conference board of directors presents the Tom Haller Award each year to recognize those who have demonstrated exceptional and exemplary commitment to help small farms thrive and excel within the context of California agriculture.

*Continued on next page*

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Molinar has been a dedicated advisor for 27 years. He started his UCCE career in Alameda County working with small-scale farmers, teaching weed identification and coordinating a successful Master Gardener Program. In 1995 he transferred to Fresno County and began working with the county's more than 1,300 Laotian refugee farmers and Hispanic, African American and Caucasian small-scale farmers. His program in Fresno has focused on researching new crops and organic production; in extension he has focused on marketing, regulatory compliance, food safety, irrigation, fertilization, pest management and weed control.

The award is named after the UC Small Farm Center's first director, who organized the first small farm conference in 1982 and served as executive director



Richard Molinar's "Carrots Galore"

of the Community Alliance with Family Farmers for 18 years.

Molinar also won an award in the California Small Farm Conference's annual photo contest. A photo he submitted titled "Carrots Galore" won in the Farmer's Markets & Sales category.

## Retiree health benefit changes coming in July

Retiree health is a benefit employers rarely offer, but UC has chosen to maintain it as part of its employment package. About half of current faculty and staff will be affected by new eligibility rules for retiree health benefits that go into effect on July 1, 2013. These rules were approved by the Regents in December 2010 as part of a series of reforms to address the \$14.5 billion unfunded liability in the retiree health program, and to help sustain the long-term viability of the program.

The Regents also approved a new pension tier for employees hired or re-hired July 1, 2013, and later. The new pension tier does not apply to current employees unless they leave employment and return at a later date.

The new rules will apply to all new hires and to current employees in a UCRP-eligible appointment as of June 30, 2013, who

- will have less than 5 years of UCRP service credit as of June 30, 2013

- have five or more years of UCRP service and whose age plus years of service credit is less than 50 on June 30, 2013. Age is measured in whole years. For example, someone who is 37 years old with 10.5 years of service would be under the new rules, as their age plus service is less than 50.

What's changing is the formula for determining how much of UC's contribution to the health premium a retiring employee will get. Beginning July 1, the formula is changing for all new employees and for about half of current employees. – Anne Wolf

For details about the changes to retiree benefits, read the full story at <http://ucrfuture.universityofcalifornia.edu/news-updates/retiree-health-benefit-changes-coming-in-july>.

## In memoriam

### Jack Foott

John "Jack" H. Foott, a UC Cooperative Extension advisor emeritus, passed away at his San Luis Obispo home on March 7. He was 89.



Jack Foott

Foott engaged in combat in Italy as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1943 to 1945. After earning a B.S. in pomology at UC Davis in 1950, Foott joined ANR as a UCCE advisor in Tulare County in 1951. He studied nut and tree fruit production.

In 1966, the Marin County native transferred from Tulare to San Luis Obispo County to serve as the UCCE advisor for horticulture and forestry. Foott set up trials with wine grapes, in the north and south county, helping to foster the wine industry on the Central Coast. Foott retired from his 40-year UCCE career in 1991, but his legacy to Central Coast agriculture can be seen in the wine grapes, fruit orchards, avocado trees and vegetable fields that grow there today.

Foott is survived by Betty, his wife of 63 years, and by children Cary and Scott and four grandchildren.

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

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