More than 300 guests attended the invitation-only event, “Local Roots, Global Reach: An Elegant Evening on the Farm,” at the South Coast Research and Extension Center on Sept. 27. Guests had an opportunity to sample local wines and custom brews, as well as enjoy delicious food featuring South Coast fruits and vegetables as they strolled through the grounds of SCREC and learned about ANR and our Research and Extension Center System.

Co-sponsored by the Orange County Farm Bureau, the event proved a popular draw for local luminaries and agriculture supporters from across California including honorary chairs Sheila and Jim Peterson; Ed McFadden, chairman of the California Avocado Commission; county supervisors Mary Anne Skorpanich and Janet Nguyen; Bob Curtis, associate director of the Almond Board of California; Kirti Mutatkar, CEO of UnitedAg; and Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, among many others.

“What a great night and terrific turnout in support of agriculture in Orange County,” said Vice President Barbara Allen-Diaz. “Working together, we will be able to tackle the tough challenges facing our local farmers to provide safe and healthy food for our communities.”

The night served as a celebration of UC Cooperative Extension’s centennial. Guests were provided with a preview of the recently completed Phase I of South Coast Research and Extension Center’s strategic plan. Already, more than $300,000 has been raised in the SCREC Capital Campaign to support a revitalization effort that includes the construction of a new office and program facility that will bring UCCE Orange County, SCREC and the Orange County Farm Bureau under one roof.

Visit http://screc.ucanr.edu to learn more about the plan and http://ucanr.edu/files/192126.pdf to contribute.
Employment Opportunities

Modoc County: Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor

ANR is seeking a UCCE advisor to conduct an extension, education and applied research program that will focus on livestock production including nutrition, herd health and management, forage production, invasive species, and grazing management. This advisor will also have a natural resource component to their program and address water quality, soil quality, wildlife habitat and management as well as forage production and grazing strategies that support ecosystem services. The position is located in Alturas.

A master’s degree is required, though advanced degrees are encouraged, in disciplines of animal science, rangeland management or other closely related fields.

To see the full description for position number AP #13-27, visit http://ucanr.edu/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=545. The closing date has been extended to Oct. 24 (open until filled).

Kern and Kings counties: Area Orchard Systems Advisor

ANR is seeking a UC Cooperative Extension area orchard systems advisor to serve Kern and Kings counties. The CE advisor will conduct applied research to address issues identified through a thorough needs assessment. The main focus of this position is almonds in Kern and Kings counties, and additional responsibilities will be focused on deciduous fruits (particularly cherries) and walnut production in Kern County. The position is located in Bakersfield.

A minimum of a master’s degree is required in disciplines such as horticulture or pomology, although other related advanced degrees such as viticulture, soil science, plant physiology, or a closely related field will be considered.

To see the full description for position number AP #14-13, visit http://ucanr.edu/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=679. The deadline for applications is Oct. 31.

Desert REC Director and Vegetable Specialist

ANR is seeking a director and Cooperative Extension vegetable crop specialist to lead an integrated research and extension program at the Desert Research and Extension Center (Desert REC).

Desert REC serves as a national and international center for research, extension and education related to vegetable and fruit crops, desert agriculture, field crops, alfalfa breeding, livestock environmental and feedlot management, irrigation and drainage management, pest management, invasive species and food safety in pre- and post-harvest food production in desert ecosystems. The director provides leadership in research and extension program development and fosters cooperative delivery across the ANR academic network. The director is also responsible for developing and implementing an applied research and educational outreach program.

A Ph.D. in plant sciences, plant pathology or a closely related field is required.

To see the full description for position number AP #14-22, visit http://ucanr.edu/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=680. To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by Nov. 14.

Is your directory information up to date?

In ANR, our contact information is located in two places. One is the ANR directory, which is directly tied to your ANR portal and is probably the most familiar location for directory information used by ANR people. Many of us are also in the UC Davis directory. Please check your contact information (phone number, etc.) in the UCD directory to make sure it is current.

To check your UCD directory info, go to www.ucdavis.edu and type in your name in the search box, then click the “people” button below. In the results page that follows, click on your name to bring up your directory information. If anything needs to be updated, click the “Update this listing” link next to your name. Make any necessary changes, then click the “Submit Request” button below. The request will be sent to your department for approval before being published.

If you have trouble with this process, contact Damon DiPietro at (530) 750-1212 or damon@ucanr.edu. If you have questions about the UC Davis directory itself, please contact IET at ithelp@ucdavis.edu.
UCCE hosts InsectBlitz in Half Moon Bay

UCCE San Mateo-San Francisco held its Centennial Event and InsectBlitz at UC Elkus Ranch in Half Moon Bay on Sept. 13.

More than 200 community members collected and counted insects for a study on the biodiversity of insects in the area.

“Knowing what is on the landscape at Elkus Ranch will help us to properly manage the land and livestock, identify invasive and beneficial insects and create an online, open access database that will be available to the public through UC Berkeley’s Essig Museum of Entomology Collections,” said Virginia Bolshakova, county director and 4-H youth development advisor who specializes in insect ecology.

Peter Oboyski, Essig Museum’s collections manager and senior museum scientist, explained the purpose of the insectblitz to a crowd that included several children toting butterfly nets. UC Cooperative Extension advisors Igor Lacan and Andrew Sutherland showed how to collect and curate insects. Eli Gong, EFNEP program manager, and Mary Vollinger, UC CalFresh program manager, discussed entomophagy (eating insects) and gave out samples of edible insects.

Other talks dealt with insect evolution, biodiversity, biocontrol and insect architecture that inspires human designs.

In honor of the UCCE Centennial, county supervisor Don Horsley presented resolutions from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and from the State Assembly on behalf of Assemblyman Richard Gordon.

Longtime 4-H'er Fiona Benjamin spoke of how Elkus Ranch and the 4-H program inspired her to pursue a career in sustainable agriculture. She will start classes at UC Davis this fall.

UC Cooperative Extension county director and advisor emeritus Hank Sciaroni, who turned 91 on Sept. 18, was honored during the centennial ceremony. Bill Gass, executive director of San Mateo County Farm Bureau, spoke about Sciaroni’s contributions over his 39-year UCCE career. Although Sciaroni wasn’t able to attend in person, Bolshakova showed a 15-minute video she made on a recent visit with Sciaroni. The video is posted at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAYmY66CGM8.

UCCE LA fights for good health

Keith Nathaniel, UCCE Los Angeles County director, greets Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer at the Fight for Good Health event on Sept. 19. UCCE teamed up with the assemblymember to provide community members with information on how to reduce obesity and diabetes.
UC Cooperative Extension in Alameda County celebrated its 100-year anniversary at its First Annual Fall Harvest Festival in Oakland on Sept. 20.

The Alameda County office was among the UCCE offices that opened in 1914. In honor of the centennial, Nate Miley, Alameda County supervisor, presented a commendation on behalf of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to Rob Bennaton, UCCE director for Alameda County, and the UCCE Alameda County staff. Jose Hernandez, congressional aide to Rep. Barbara Lee, delivered a certificate of special congressional recognition for the centennial.

Scott Paulsen, Alameda County agriculture commissioner, greeted Chris Greer, ANR vice provost, Bennaton and other members of UCCE Alameda.

UCCE advisors, Master Gardeners, nutrition educators and 4-H engaged community members in educational activities. Doug Parker, director of the California Institute for Water Resources, invited people to taste the difference between tap water, filtered water and bottled water.

Open enrollment for 2015 begins Oct. 30

UC's annual open enrollment period will begin on Oct. 30. Open enrollment is your opportunity to take advantage of UC's benefits package or make changes to your existing coverage. Full details about the medical plans and other benefits changes will become available soon.

Please note that the website ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/oe will not be live until Oct. 27. You will be able to make changes beginning 8:00 a.m., Oct. 30, through 5:00 p.m., Nov. 25.

Napolitano visits Merced

From left, UCCE advisor David Doll, UC Merced Chancellor Dorothy Leland and UCCE specialist Karina Diaz Rios met President Napolitano during her visit to Merced on Sept. 4. Napolitano discussed the UC Global Food Initiative.
Names in the News

Diaz Rios first CE specialist based at UC Merced

Karina Diaz Rios joined ANR on Sept. 2 as a UCCE specialist in nutrition, family and consumer sciences based at the UC Merced campus.

“I look forward to getting involved in efforts to provide culturally sensitive nutrition programs to improve the well-being of Latinos in the Central Valley, with particular attention to those living in disadvantaged circumstances,” said Diaz Rios.

Diaz Rios completed a Ph.D. in nutritional sciences at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her dissertation topic was “Improving Eating Behavior through Nutrition Education for Early Prevention of Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes in Hispanic Communities.” As a postdoctoral research associate at Texas Tech University, she coordinated a nutrition and cooking program, part of the East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood program. Diaz Rios is a native speaker of Spanish and had a private practice as a dietitian in Mexico.

She can be reached at kdiazrios@ucanr.edu.

Schoenfelder joins 4-H

Emily Schoenfelder joined UCCE on Aug. 18 as an area 4-H youth development advisor in Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties.

Prior to joining UCCE, Schoenfelder served YMCA residential camps in Ohio and Missouri. From 2010 to 2011, Schoenfelder was a Peace Corps fellow at the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development in Illinois, where she was involved in community development projects.

From 2009 to 2010, she was an environmental education coordinator for Western Illinois University’s Horn Field Campus in Macomb, where she developed, coordinated and facilitated developmentally appropriate environmental education programs for children and adults. She also assisted with sustainability efforts, through committee work, volunteer coordination and education, and developed and implemented food production, distribution, research and education programs for underserved communities.

Schoenfelder earned an M.S. in recreation, park and tourism administration from Western Illinois University and a B.A. in religious studies from University of South Florida.

Schoenfelder is based in Colusa and can be reached at (530) 458-0577 and easchoenfelder@ucanr.edu.

Hogan joins IGIS

Sean Hogan joined ANR on Sept. 2 as an academic coordinator to provide analysis, coordination and support to the Informatics and Geographic Information Systems (IGIS) team.

Prior to joining ANR, Hogan had been a teacher assistant and a graduate student researcher at UC Davis, in the departments of Land, Air and Water Resources and Plant Sciences since 2007.

For the UCD Rangeland Watershed Laboratory, he provided GIS support for rangeland management and water quality research. Most recently, he was a member of the UCD Center for Spatial Technology and Remote Sensing, where he provided GIS and remote sensing support for interests in precision agriculture, monitoring natural resources and calibration of NASA’s airborne imagers.

Hogan earned a double major B.A. in Spanish and geography from CSU Sacramento and an M.A. in geography from UC Davis. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in geography at UC Davis.

Hogan is based at the ANR building in Davis and can be reached at (530) 750-1322 and sdhogan@ucanr.edu.

In Memoriam

Doug Hamilton

William Douglas Hamilton, UCCE environmental horticulture advisor emeritus in Alameda County, died on July 26. He was 91.

He joined UCCE in 1953 as a farm advisor in Nevada County. In 1962, he transferred to Alameda County, where he worked with fruits and nuts and, in Alameda and Santa Clara counties, grapes. He also worked with landscape and tree care professionals until he retired in 1984.

“He wrote a good number of articles and papers on tree management, particularly in regard to minimizing the potential for root damage to sidewalks, curbs, and gutters,” recalled Larry Costello, UCCE environmental horticulture advisor emeritus. “Doug was the founder of the Bay Area Landscape Supervisor’s Forum—a monthly educational meeting focused on landscape management challenges for private and municipal horticulturists. BALSF continues to hold monthly meetings to this day—a testament to Doug’s acuity in identifying and addressing educational needs for his clientele.”

Hamilton earned a B.S. in vegetable crops and an M.Ed. in agricultural education, both at UC Davis.

He is survived by sons Robert and Marc, daughter Nancy, their spouses and three grandchildren.
John Letey

John Letey, professor emeritus in the Department of Environmental Sciences at UC Riverside, died on Sept. 14. He was 81.

He earned a B.S. in agronomy from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana.

Letey joined UC in 1959 as an assistant professor of soil physics in the Department of Irrigation and Soil Science at UCLA, not long before the campus phased out its agriculture program. In 1961, he moved to UC Riverside’s Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Engineering and he served as department chair from 1975 to 1980. His research focused on all aspects of water quantity and quality related to irrigated agriculture, providing both applied and basic information critical to establishing sound water resource management.

Letey held several statewide roles in ANR. He was the director of the Kearney Foundation of Soil Science from 1980 to 1985, the associate director for the UC Center for Water and Wildland Resources from 1993 to 1998, and director of the UC Center for Water Resources from 1999 until 2005, when he retired.

Over his career, Letey received several awards. He was a fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He won the Soil Science Society of America Soil Science Research Award in 1970, Gamma Sigma Delta Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture in 1996, Soil Science Society of America Distinguished Service Award in 2005, Honored Alumni Award – Colorado State University in 2005 and California Chapter of American Society of Agronomy Honoree in 2006.

Letey is survived by wife Sonia, children Laura Petersen, Don Letey and Lisa Smith, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

To read Letey’s autobiographical summary of his career, visit http://envisci.ucr.edu/downloads/johnleteycareer.pdf

Art Scarlett

Art Scarlett, UCCE advisor and county director emeritus for Plumas-Sierra counties, died on Sept. 12. He was 86.

In 1956, Scarlett was hired as an advisor in Plumas County, working in forestry, range and general agriculture in the intermountain area. In 1971, he added the duties of county director, which he continued to do until retiring in 1990.

“He revolutionized natural stand management of Christmas trees, to find cash flow opportunities for landowners with cutover forest land,” said Rick Standiford, UCCE specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley. “He put together teams of biometeorologists, foresters, and agriculturists to develop recommendations on tree harvesting to maintain freshness for wholesale Christmas trees. He also did a lot of work with loggers, forest owners, range owners, and livestock producers to address a broad array of problems they faced.”

“He taught me the “Art of the Question,” said Glenn Nader, UCCE advisor in Sutter-Yuba counties. “Art never approached clientele and told them what to do. He would use a series of questions to direct them to a solution.”

He is survived by wife Eileen, daughters Susan and Cheryl, two grandsons and two great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Quincy.

Contributions in Scarlett’s memory may be made to Plumas-Sierra Bi-County 4-H Council, 208 Fairgrounds Rd., Quincy, CA 95971 or the Plumas County Museum.

Tom Shultz

Tom Shultz, UCCE advisor emeritus in Tulare County, died Aug. 22. He was 76.

Raised on a dairy in Corning, Shultz joined UCCE in 1979. He was known for increasing milk production by making cows more comfortable. His research showed that water misters in cow barns cool heat-stressed cows and increase both feed intake and cow performance. He also found that oversized ceiling-mounted fans kept cows as cool as the more commonly used smaller wall-mounted fans while using less electricity.

He studied seasonally available crop residues and agricultural by-products to determine whether materials that were previously considered waste could be nutritious cow feed.

Shultz also led research and education efforts addressing the environmental impact of dairy farming, most notably on air and water quality. He conducted environmental stewardship short courses, monitored nutrients in dairy lagoon water for use as crop fertilizer, studied the efficiency of various manure solid separators, and monitored gaseous dairy emissions. He retired in 2001.

Shultz earned a B.S. in animal science at California State University, Chico, an M.S. in animal science at UC Davis and a doctorate at Oregon State University.

He is survived by wife Elena and children Christina, Berni, Michael and David, and five grandchildren.

Send news items and comments to Pam Kan-Rice, editor, ANR Report, Communication Services and Information Technology, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618 Telephone (530) 750-1221 Fax: (530) 756-1079 e-mail: anrreport@ucanr.edu For nondiscrimination policy, click here.