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Natural Resources conference to focus on initiative

The UC ANR Natural Resources Coordinating Conference is set for June 28-30. ANR academics and members of selected workgroups should plan to attend and discuss how the Sustainable Natural Ecosystem Initiative can best implement its part of the ANR Strategic Vision.

The conference will be held at the Lion's Gate Hotel at 3410 Westover in McClellan (just northwest of Sacramento).

Here is the tentative agenda:

- Monday, June 28: Overview of current understanding and key priorities of major environmental issues affecting California (e.g. demography, water supply, energy availability, transportation infrastructure, climate change, habitat fragmentation, diversity loss, land use change). Panels will comment on a draft of the Sustainable Natural Ecosystem initiative policy statement. In the evening, there will be a poster session and social.
- Tuesday, June 29: Breakout sessions will focus on workgroup suggestions and contributions to the SNE initiative statement. Facilitated breakout sessions will focus on developing strategies for achieving new Sustainable Natural Ecosystem initiative goals (e.g. internal funding programs, outreach and communications, academic positions, outside funding). On Tuesday morning and evening, meeting space will be available for workgroups to conduct their business meetings.
- Wednesday, June 30: Morning plenary session will review key outcomes of the meeting and future actions needed. ANR initiative leaders will discuss integration across initiatives.

Registration and more information will be posted at http://ucanr.org/sites/NRCC_2010.

Town-hall meeting set for May 24

VP Dooley will host a 60-minute town-hall meeting on Adobe Connect on Monday, May 24, at 9:30 a.m. PDT. Please mark your calendar to join the discussion. He will discuss the governor's "May Revise" and implications for UC and ANR's budget, and thoughts on progress towards our Strategic Vision.

The town hall link will be

<https://admin.na4.acrobat.com/anrtownhall>.

Initiative panel members listed on Web

A page has been created on the ANR Employee site (<http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/>) that links to the strategic initiatives.

Currently only the advisory panels for each initiative are listed, but more information will be added. Contact information is listed for each initiative leader and brief bios identify each panel member.

The strategic initiative page is at http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/Strategic_Initiatives/.

CS UPDATE

New tools added to Strategic Vision Toolkit

The Toolkit team has been listening to user comments and refining the Toolkit elements. In response to feedback, letterhead options and other items have been added to <http://ucanr.org/sites/toolkit/>.

Here's a recap of what's new or changed in the Toolkit:

- To quickly show users how to use the brand elements, a 5-minute video gives a tour of the toolkit.
- Color ANR letterhead for use with desktop color printers is now available for download from the Strategic Vision Toolkit.
- Black-and-white letterhead with choice of UCCE, IPM, 4-H, and Master Gardener sub-brands are now available. The glitch preventing customizing the tag line in the UCCE letterhead has been fixed. The black-and-white letterhead has been tweaked so the seal is darker and won't fade as easily when printed.
- The fax template has been redesigned so that the field containing the program name will accommodate more characters.

- For scientific and professional meetings, we added a basic PowerPoint template and poster templates suitable for poster sessions.
- Hexidecimal color codes for the Strategic Vision color palette can be found on the Fonts and Colors page.

We would like to see how you are using the new brand elements. Please e-mail examples of how you have used the toolkit to Cynthia Kintigh at cckintigh@ucdavis.edu. We'll show some examples in our upcoming example gallery in the toolkit.



Easy portal access to Adobe Connect

Some of us are in our fourth year of using Adobe Connect for desktop videoconferencing in ANR. There have been many changes in that time from software company acquisitions to server relocations, but one thing that did not change was the need for a username and password to access the server for every meeting — until now.

Since the UCD campus opted to use a hosted service at Adobe, Inc., the login page has been at <http://uc-d-na4.acrobat.com>. It still is, but ANR Portal users don't have to use it. In the top right column of your ANR Portal is a section for Adobe Connect. There you can create, join or view your scheduled meetings without having to login anywhere but your portal. To set it up, you will need to provide your Adobe Connect login password one time. Your ANR Portal already knows your e-mail address is your login name.

Last fall, everyone in the ANR Directory was included on the host list on the Adobe-hosted server. If you haven't used it before, you can learn about Adobe Connect including instructions for first-time users on the [ANR Portal's Adobe Connect help page](#). There are also over 40 tutorials produced by Adobe to help you master your Adobe Connect meetings.

Contact Mike Poe at mlpoe@ucdavis.edu if you have trouble accessing Adobe Connect.

Desert REC calls for proposals

The Desert Research & Extension Center (DREC) is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research and demonstration projects for the period July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011.

Located on 255 acres in the Imperial Valley, DREC's primary research areas are desert agriculture, bio-energy crops, vegetable crops, field crops, alfalfa breeding, livestock environmental and feedlot management, irrigation and drainage management, plant nutrition and pest management.

The center provides labor, equipment, research facilities, and technical and management support to UC academics and to personnel from cooperating non-UC organizations, such as USDA. Approximately 10,000 hours of labor will be awarded to support approved projects.

Project proposal forms are available at http://groups.ucanr.org/desertrec/Research/Call_for_2009-2010_Research_Proposal_Forms.htm.

The deadline for applications is April 16. All project proposals will be evaluated and support hours allocated at the Research Advisory Committee Meeting scheduled for June 17, 2010. Please e-mail forms as attachments to Debra Driskill at aldriskill@ucdavis.edu.

For questions about the research proposal process or about research opportunities, please contact Richard Zinn, center director, at (760) 356-3068 or razinn@ucdavis.edu, or Fernando Miramontes, center superintendent, at (760) 356-3064 or fmiramontes@ucdavis.edu.

Names in the News

Gomez joins AVP-APSI office



Vanessa Gomez

Vanessa Gomez has accepted the position of principal program analyst in the office of the Associate Vice President – Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives, beginning March 29.

Gomez earned her B.S. in political science from UC Berkeley. She has also studied international human rights and war through UC Berkeley

Extension and has training in viola and piano from UC Irvine. For the past seven years, she has worked for UCOP. Most recently, she has been working as a grants analyst for the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Before that, she worked as the executive manager and grants coordinator for UCOP and UCB's California Policy Research Center.

She also has over five years of program management experience with other UC community-based research, education and outreach programs. She worked as a programs analyst for UCOP's Health Initiative of the Americas, and as a binational coordinator for UCOP's California-Mexico Health Initiative at the Latino Policy Research Center.

Gomez will be located at UCOP in Room 10134C and can be reached at vanessa.gomez@ucop.edu and (510) 987-0377.

ESA Pacific Branch honors Leal

Walter Leal, UC Davis entomology professor and chemical ecologist, is the 2010 recipient of the prestigious C. W. Woodworth Award from the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America (PBSA).



Walter Leal

Leal, a noted authority on insect communication and olfaction, received the award on April 12 during the branch's 94th annual meeting in Boise, Idaho. Brian Holden of Monte Sereno, Calif., great-grandson of Woodworth and a 1981 graduate of UC Davis in electrical engineering, presented the award.

The award memorializes Woodworth (1865-1940), a trailblazing entomologist who is considered the founder of the UC Berkeley and UC Davis departments of entomology.

"Because of his deep and meaningful body of work over the last 10 years, Dr. Walter S. Leal of UC Davis is a wonderful selection as the 42nd recipient of the C.W. Woodworth Award," said Holden. "His research into the detailed neuronal responses in mosquitoes to DEET and nonanal has been particularly impressive. His research has improved our knowledge of mosquito behavior in the presence of these two compounds, both of which are central in the efforts to understand and control mosquito-borne illness."

Parrella, Zalom, Godfrey receive kudos

Three ANR entomologists received distinguished awards in their fields at the 94th annual meeting of the Pacific Branch, Entomological Society of America (PBSA) on April 13 in Boise, Idaho.



Michael Parrella

Michael Parrella, professor and chair of the UC Davis Department of Entomology, won the Distinguished Achievement Award in Horticultural Entomology. Frank

Zalom, professor of

entomology, won the Excellence in Integrated Pest Management Award. Larry Godfrey, Cooperative Extension specialist in entomology, received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension.



Frank Zalom



Larry Godfrey

The nomination papers of Parrella, Zalom and Godfrey will now be submitted for the national ESA awards. The national meeting will be held Dec. 12-15 in San Diego.

Antelope Valley field office relocates

UC Cooperative Extension Los Angeles County's field office in Antelope Valley has relocated. The new address is 335 East K-10 Suite 101, Lancaster CA, 93535.

Please note that staff phone numbers have also changed:

Main line/Jennifer Dana, administrative assistant:
(661) 974-8824

Andre Biscaro, farm advisor:
(661) 974-8825

Charlene Moore, 4-H program representative:
(661) 974-8826

The fax number will remain the same, (661) 723-3751.

Support developed for AFRI grant proposal process

Bob Sams of Communication Services and Information Technology and Joni Rippee of the Program Support Unit (PSU) recently led a discussion about grant application support with members of ANR Contracts and Grants, Communication Services and Information Technology, and the PSU. From that discussion, a process will be developed to guide and support the AFRI grant proposal process as it relates to the ANR Strategic Initiatives.

The process begins with the principal investigator contacting the Strategic Initiative leader in the appropriate subject area to assess the proposal's merit and fit within ANR guidelines.

PSU staff will be assigned to handle proposals for each specific request for application. Contracts and Grants staff will match up to each PSU staff member to ensure continuity through the entire process.

A communication plan, including a Collaborative Tools group and training for Contracts and Grants and the PSU staff, will be implemented to keep the PI, initiative leaders, and PSU and Contracts and Grants staff updated.

ANR transfers Analytical Lab to CAES

ANR will transfer the Analytical Laboratory to the UC Davis College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, effective July 1. The Analytical Lab was originally among several programs to be eliminated or consolidated as part of ANR's restructuring to meet budget constraints. The lab will become a self-supported unit within CAES.

"The Analytical Lab has been an exceptional resource for ANR research," said Barbara Allen-Diaz, Associate Vice President – Academic Programs & Strategic Initiatives, "and I am pleased that ANR academics will have continued access to the Lab."

CAES will assume responsibility for the lab, including associated personnel, assets and equipment as of July 1, with Dirk Holstege, director, continuing to lead the operation. ANR will continue to support some of the lab's payroll through Sept. 30.

"The Analytical Lab has long been an important research and diagnostic resource for campus and county academics and we are pleased that a plan has been developed to keep it operating in the face of severe cuts in state support," said Jim MacDonald, CAES executive associate dean. "We also are very appreciative of ANR's help in planning this transfer so that the lab can continue to serve the needs of ANR academics across the state."

The Analytical Lab has a 50-year history of service to hundreds of ANR researchers, providing critical data to support agricultural research and the improvement of agricultural and environmental practices within California. That support will still be available, and ANR researchers should notice no difference in service following the transition. The lab will continue to provide high-quality agricultural and environmental testing at low cost. Sample submission procedures will also remain unchanged.

Volunteers needed for AFRI peer-review panels

While the National Institute for Food and Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants program is getting a lot of attention these days, it is more than just another grant opportunity. It represents a significant and strategic shift in the funding philosophy and goals that reflect the formation and purpose behind the formation of NIFA. One of those goals is to better integrate research and extension in order to solve difficult problems.

ANR academics who are NOT planning to apply for the 2010 AFRI grants are encouraged to consider becoming peer reviewers for the federal funding program.

By participating on a review panel, not only do you get a chance to see and compare proposals, you also have the opportunity to influence the quality and effectiveness of the extension delivery elements of these and future grant programs.

To be considered as a potential reviewer, send an e-mail message with your contact information and area(s) of scientific or technical expertise (limit to 4 or 5 keywords) to newreviewer@nifa.usda.gov and to appropriate AFRI program area leaders. Candidates should also send a C.V. containing their qualifications and experience to the AFRI program area leaders, whose contact information is listed at http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_program_deadline_dates.html. For more information about the AFRI peer-review process, see http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/pdfs/afri_reviewer_guidelines_fy2009.pdf.

AFRI grants discussed on Webcast

Roger Beachy, director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), hosted a Webcast (March 23) to discuss opportunities for grants under the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Beachy discussed changes to the FY 2010 AFRI competitive funding opportunity.

The recorded Webcast can be viewed online at www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/webcast.html.

Information about NIFA's requests for AFRI applications is at http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri_rfa.html. Academics intending to apply for these funds should contact the appropriate initiative leader for assistance and see the process, criteria and other details at <http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/files/1235.pdf>.

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