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## Gardner named initiative leader

Ian Gardner, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine professor of epidemiology, has been named initiative leader for Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases. Gardner studies disease-causing microbes – including mycobacteria, and salmonella, where they occur in the environment, how they are sustained and methods of detecting them in herds – in relation to livestock health and food safety.



Ian Gardner

Gardner joins Joe DiTomaso, lead for Sustainable Food Systems; Jim Bartolome, lead for Sustainable Natural Ecosystems; and Sharon Junge, lead for Healthy Families and Communities. The initiative leaders are assembling committees to develop mission statements for each initiative.

The lead for Water Quality, Quantity and Security is still pending.

## Oakland-based ANR to move to 10<sup>th</sup> floor of Franklin Building

Oakland-based ANR staff will move to the 10th floor of the Franklin Building. Their phone numbers and e-mail addresses will remain the same.

Eight people moved last week. Barbara Allen-Diaz, Kay Harrison Taber, Cheryl Hyland, Cindy Barber, Stephanie Kellogg, Jake McGuire, Federico Gomez, GERALYN Unterberg, Chris Hanson, David Underwood and Katherine Webb-Martinez had their phone service cut off Friday, Jan. 22, and reinstated on Monday, Jan. 25.

On Jan. 29, the rest of the Oakland-based ANR staff will move. Their phones and e-mail are expected to be functioning on Feb. 1.

David White, principal Affirmative Action analyst, will move to the ANR Building in Davis on Feb. 1. White will join the Academic Personnel unit but continue to work on Affirmative Action issues for academic and staff personnel.

## Program Council composition changes

With the restructuring of ANR, the composition of Program Council is changing. The five strategic initiative leaders and the assistant director of UC Cooperative Extension will join the council.

Program Council is now chaired by the AVP – academic programs & strategic initiatives. The AVP – business operations and the Communication Services director will serve as ex officio members. The executive associate deans for the College of Natural Resources and College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, the associate dean for the School of Veterinary Medicine, and the divisional dean for the College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences will remain members.

The regional directors, which are being phased out, will leave the council when their terms end on June 30.

An organizational chart of ANR leadership is posted on the Web at <http://ucanr.org/orgchart-jan2010.cfm>.

## CS Update

### Delivering online courses

Communication Services has been working to develop the capacity to support online learning in ANR. It began with custom Web sites dating back to 2002 that are still in service. We have another advancement: a new mechanism that enables a student to easily register, take the lessons, successfully pass quizzes, and receive notification of completion. ANR's learning management system (LMS) does all that and more. You can explore it at <http://class.ucanr.org>. As a demonstration, there are two courses offered, one about citrus IPM and another for 4-H.

For more information, go to [http://groups.ucanr.org/CS/Services/Online\\_Course\\_Delivery.htm](http://groups.ucanr.org/CS/Services/Online_Course_Delivery.htm). Leigh Dragoon [ladragoon@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ladragoon@ucdavis.edu), CS instructional designer, and Mike Poe [mlpoe@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mlpoe@ucdavis.edu), Media Services manager, can answer your questions about developing your own online course.

### No more Breeze

The Macromedia Breeze software hasn't existed for a few years now, but the term Breeze has persisted because the server at <http://breeze.ucdavis.edu> has still been serving the updated version of the videoconferencing software now called Adobe Connect Pro.

That has ended. The Breeze server closed on Jan. 18.

There is a process in place for some of the content that users may have on the old server to be moved to the new server. Some content is, for the time being, served by a virtual server using the same old URLs. Finally, some content will not be moved and users will need to reload it themselves in a new room in the new server. For the latest information about Adobe Connect use in ANR, please go to your ANR Portal (<http://my.ucanr.org>), look under the column My Links, and select Adobe Connect. Because the information and status changes rapidly, this is the best location for updated information. The ANR administrator for Adobe Connect is Mike Poe, [mlpoe@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mlpoe@ucdavis.edu).

## Sierra Foothill REC seeks proposals

The Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research for the upcoming program year, May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011.

Proposals are due at SFREC by **March 5**. The center expects to award approximately 2,300 hours of labor to assist continuing and new research projects.

SFREC comprises 5,721 acres of northern Sierra foothill oak woodland-annual grass rangeland. Several watersheds fall within its boundaries, with Yuba River frontage along the southern edge, offering opportunities for wildlife, water-quality and riparian-habitat studies. There are 160 acres of irrigated pasture, with a herd of 350 beef cows and 100 yearling calves.

Other resources include a weather station, GIS database, and other long-term databases related to hardwoods and annual rangeland pasture use by cattle; beef cattle fertility, disease and production levels; stream hydrology in managed watersheds; climate and range forage yields. Facilities include a laboratory for chemical and biological analyses, meeting rooms, a 13-bed dormitory and six cattle-working areas.

Proposal forms can be obtained and submitted through UC ANR's Simple Grant System, which is accessible via the ANR Portal (<http://my.ucanr.org>). For information on electronic submission of forms contact Chris Feddersen at (530) 639-8800 or [cafeddersen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cafeddersen@ucdavis.edu). For more information regarding research opportunities, contact Art Craigmill, center director, (530) 639-8800 or [alcraigmill@ucdavis.edu](mailto:alcraigmill@ucdavis.edu).

## Names in the News

### Ogletree joins REC system



Darrin Ogletree

Darrin Ogletree is the new FEPP (federal excess personal property) coordinator for the Research & Extension Centers. He is based in the REC Administrative Office in Davis and reports to Bill Frost.

Using various databases and by making on site equipment inspections, the FEPP coordinator acquires property that the federal government no longer needs and distributes supplies to the RECs.

Before joining ANR, Ogletree worked at Schilling Robotics where he was in charge of automating and streamlining the production line. He brings over 30 years of experience as a mechanic, welder and machinist, and ran his own business for five years as a heavy equipment field service mechanic.

Ogletree can be reached at (530) 752-8026 and [djogletree@ucdavis.edu](mailto:djogletree@ucdavis.edu).

### Seven from ANR elected AAAS fellows

Seven ANR academics are among 531 new fellows elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science for their efforts to advance science or its applications. The new fellows will be presented with a certificate and rosette pin on Feb. 20, during the society's annual meeting in San Diego.



Timothy Close

Timothy Close, UC Riverside genetics professor, studies the properties of plant stress proteins to understand mechanisms that promote the development of environmental tolerance in crops.

Richard J. Debus, UC Riverside biochemistry professor, studies how plants, algae and cyanobacteria use sunlight to convert water to oxygen.



Darleen DeMason

Darleen A. DeMason, UC Riverside botany professor and plant morphologist, seeks to understand the mechanisms of plant development. She uses morphological mutants to study processes at the level of the cell, tissue, organ, and whole plant.

Richard Karban, UC Davis entomology professor, studies population regulation of animal species and the interactions between plant-eating insects and the plants on which they depend.



Richard Debus



Richard Karban

Jay Rosenheim, UC Davis entomology professor, seeks to better understand interactions between insects and plants, predators and their prey, as well as parasites and the plants on which they feed.



Jay Rosenheim



Daniel Schlenk

Daniel Schlenk, UC Riverside professor of aquatic ecotoxicology, studies defense mechanisms in aquatic animals that allow them to co-exist with natural and human-made chemicals.

Valerie Williamson, UC Davis nematology professor, studies root-knot nematodes. In 2008, Williamson and a team of researchers completed the genome sequence and genetic map for the tiny northern root-knot nematode.



Valerie Williamson

### NRC appoints Kaffka and Klasing to biofuels committee

Steve Kaffka and Kirk Klasing are among 13 scientists appointed to the National Research Council's Committee on Economic and Environmental Impacts of Increasing Biofuels Production.



Steve Kaffka

Kaffka, a UC Davis Cooperative Extension agronomist, is also director of the California Biomass Collaborative, a statewide organization supporting the sustainable use of biomass for energy. He also works on sugar beets and oilseed crops and water quality in the San Joaquin Valley.

Klasing, a UC Davis animal science professor, studies comparative animal nutrition. Kirk is also a member of the National Research Council's Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources.



Kirk Klasing

The committee will conduct a study of current and projected biofuel production, use and impacts. The study will include an economic analysis of increased biofuel production to identify current and projected impacts of biofuels on supply and demand for key commodities affected by the biofuels market. Impacts considered will include changes in the prices and availability of animal feed, food, renewable and petroleum-based fuels, and forest products. The environmental effects of expanding biofuel use will also be considered.

## ANR lands nearly \$1.5 million to study obesity

A \$1,495,000 grant to study obesity in low-income families over a four-year period, 2010 – 2013, has been received by Marilyn Townsend, Cooperative Extension nutrition specialist, and Lenna Ontai, Cooperative Extension family & early childhood specialist, both of UC Davis; UCCE nutrition advisors Cathi Lamp, Margaret Johns and Connie Schneider; Kathi Sylva, UC Davis professor of design; Dennis Styne, professor of pediatrics at UC Davis Medical School; and Lindsey Allen, director, and Sean Adams, research leader, of the USDA-ARS Western Human Nutrition Research Center.

The grant for “Efficacy of obesity risk assessment tools integrated with parental guided goal setting to maintain healthy weight among preschool children” is from USDA’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Mical Shilts, CSU Sacramento professor, also works with the team.

This new grant builds on the Townsend team’s USDA National Research Initiative grant, 2008-2010, which in turn built on work done by two ANR workgroups – Body Weight and Health; and Families with Children. The new grant will also fund an extension of an obesity prevention ANR workgroup project called the California Plate, a strategy for promoting behavior change in low-income families.

Four major objectives of the research, education and extension proposal are

- 1) to produce final versions of two validated risk assessment tools for low-literacy clients that predict overweight and identify and track child and parenting behaviors known to confer increased risk of pediatric overweight. Establish predictive validity of these tools via a longitudinal study design using biomarkers and anthropometric measures. Determine sensitivity of tools to evaluate a primary prevention education intervention such as EFNEP or FSNEP. Create a Web-based format for entering

responses by the consumer and develop a valid scoring system.

- 2) to identify behaviors in mother-child pairs that correlate to metabolic disease risk in children and other external validation measures to determine that tools and intervention programs result in biomarker and anthropometric patterns consistent with a healthy phenotype
- 3) to extend a guided-goal-setting protocol developed for adolescents to parents of preschool children to achieve enduring dietary improvement through visual California Plate methodology as a relevant behavior-change reinforcement tool; and
- 4) to develop an educational package in support of these tools for use by staff associated with food assistance and education programs through the United States.

Results of this research will be disseminated nationally to Cooperative Extension personnel and others working with low-income families using telecommunications conferencing strategies available to ANR personnel.

“This grant is exactly the type of funding we hope to garner in support of all of our UC ANR Strategic Initiatives,” said Sharon K. Junge, strategic initiative leader for Healthy Families & Communities. “It brings together a multidisciplinary team of nutrition, health, and child development experts; links faculty, specialists, advisors, and other collaborators in an integrated research and extension effort; and focuses on a critical issue facing California and the nation, in this case childhood obesity.

“Over the coming months we will bring together a panel to further define the Healthy Families & Communities Initiative and identify strategies and funding opportunities for addressing the identified priority issues. This grant provides a great example for informing our initiative work,” she said.

## Retirements



Edwin Scott

### Edwin Scott

Edwin Scott, the superintendent of the UC West Side Research and Extension Center, retired Dec. 31 after serving for 32 years at the Five Points facility in Fresno County.

Scott was hired in 1977 as a senior agricultural technician. That first year, he realized the value of work conducted at the center.

UC was doing for the community and ag as a whole.”

One of the significant changes he witnessed during his career was a shift from furrow irrigation to drip irrigation on many crops, including melons and processing tomatoes.

Scott was promoted to center superintendent 10 years ago. From 2004 to 2007 he served as interim center director.

In retirement, Scott said he plans to spend a lot of time on golf courses and hiking in Yosemite. He has a family vacation to Hawaii planned for June.

“I could see what was going on, met the project leaders and see what was planted,” Scott said. “I was impressed by what

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## Retirements *continued from page 4*



### Patricia Day

Pat Day, director of Program Planning and Evaluation, will retire Jan. 30 from a 40-year career with ANR.

Day joined ANR in 1969 after earning a B.A. in American History in 1968 from UC Berkeley. Her first position was with the Cooperative Extension agricultural economists at Berkeley as a statistical

clerk. In 1973 she joined the Cooperative Extension Office of Planning, Evaluation and Budget, providing support to the reporting system and to Doris Smith, who was executive assistant to the CE Director. In 1987, she became executive assistant to then Vice President Ken Farrell. In 1996, Day joined the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation as a principal analyst working under Milton Fujii and eventually being appointed director of the unit in 1998.

"I've been extremely lucky to have supervisors and colleagues who were supportive," Day said. "I was given lots of opportunities so I was able to move up. They encouraged us to do as much as we could do. Many of them became like family."

She has been an integral part of ANR's planning processes over the years. Day worked on the development of "The Challenge of Change" produced in 1997 and the Strategic Vision announced last year. She also coordinated the Program Planning Advisory Committees. To develop strategic outcomes, she helped planning teams set up the processes to gather internal and external input, setting up focus groups, conducting Divisionwide surveys and organizing the data. Day also helped coordinate several statewide ANR conferences, including the one held last April.

"I have always respected Pat's clear thinking, practical solutions, and commitment to our mission," said Rick Standiford, UC Berkeley forestry specialist and former ANR associate vice president.

"Under Pat's leadership, we empowered the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation to take the lead on a wide variety of topics key to the future of the Division," he said.

Using the 'Core Issues of ANR' to guide priorities for resources in the Division, Standiford said Day developed a framework to capture the effort of ANR academics around these core issues, laying the groundwork for much more effective planning and reporting.

"The ability to work with people who deliver our programs and make real differences in people's lives has made my work more meaningful," Day said. In retirement, she looks forward to more international traveling, working with nonprofits and learning Spanish.

## In Memoriam

### John P. (Jack) Underhill



Jack Underhill, UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor and county director emeritus for San Joaquin County, passed away on Dec. 11, 2009. He was 91.

Raised in Davis, Underhill graduated from UC Davis in 1941 with a B.S. in vegetable crops. He was a veteran of World War II, serving as a communications officer

in the Pacific on the USS Stephen Porter.

During a 1955 sabbatical, he received an M.S. in agricultural science from Cornell University.

He met his wife, Helen, at the Extension office. She was the 4-H advisor in 1946 and 1947, but had to quit when they married, in accordance with office policy at the time. They married at the old downtown Central Methodist Church and shared 61 wonderful years together in Stockton.

After retirement, Underhill began a second career as an agricultural consultant locally and in Taiwan, Oman, Argentina, Somalia, Guyana, Yugoslavia, Guatemala, Egypt and Kenya.

Active in a number of community organizations, he was a member of the first group inducted into the San Joaquin County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

He is survived by Helen, his wife of 61 years; children Julie Underhill-Elam of Brentwood, Ken Underhill of Livermore, Liz Underhill-Jue of Elk Grove; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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

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