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Sustainable Food Systems conference rescheduled

The Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) conference, originally planned for Jan. 25-27, is being postponed until fall 2011. The new date will allow the appointment of a new SFS initiative leader to succeed Joe DiTomaso, who has stepped down, and for broader participation by interested groups in development of the conference activities.

Program Council has been working with various ANR colleagues to develop a more inclusive structure to support the Strategic Initiatives, Workgroups and Coordinating Conferences to increase collaborations, develop efficiencies, streamline logistical processes and maximize the use of ANR resources.

Considering these circumstances, ANR and collaborating partners agreed to postpone the SFS conference until next fall to ensure a more successful and productive event. Program Council is expected to make recommendations following its next meeting in January.

UCD e-mail goes offline Dec. 26

E-mail and other computing services that are hosted by the UC Davis Campus Data Center will be interrupted the day after Christmas.

The shutdown, to accommodate an upgrade to the Data Center's power system, is scheduled to begin at 7 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 26, and could last up to 48 hours.

Incoming and outgoing e-mail will be stored during the interruption and delivered afterward. This applies to all campus e-mail, even if your particular e-mail server is housed outside the Data Center, which routes all e-mail, regardless of server location on campus.

For more information, see http://www.dateline.ucdavis.edu/dl_detail.lasso?id=13117&fu=120310.

Contracts & Grants sets Dec. 20 deadline for holiday closure

The ANR Office of Contracts and Grants will be closed beginning Friday, Dec. 24, and will reopen for business on Monday, Jan. 3.

In order to meet upcoming proposal deadlines, all proposals whose sponsor deadline falls between Dec. 21 and Jan. 4 should be submitted to Contracts and Grants no later than Monday, Dec. 20.



Employment Opportunities

4-H YD Associate Director – Program and Policy

ANR is recruiting a 4-H Youth Development Program associate director for program and policy (academic coordinator III).

The associate director provides leadership to the implementation of the California 4-H Youth Development Program and is responsible for creating and implementing strategies and programs to support the growth and development of volunteers and staff and the development, interpretation, and implementation of UC policies related to the 4-H YDP.

The associate director connects his/her work to the latest research on positive youth development and collaborates with UC ANR workgroups, campus specialists and county Cooperative Extension offices. The associate director provides leadership and oversight to the 13 4-H advisory committees, the three 4-H mission mandates (4-H Science, Engineering & Technology, 4-H Healthy Living, and 4-H Citizenship)

and the 4-H Thrive and 4-H Military Partnership Programs.

The associate director is supervised by the director of the Statewide Youth, Families and Communities (YFC) Program, and works closely with other members of the YFC senior leadership team.

For details about the 4-H YD associate director position, go to http://ucanr.org/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=80.

The position is open until filled, but to assure full consideration, application packets must be received by Jan. 15.

To submit an applicant packet or to request a UC ANR Academic Application form, contact Pam Tise, Academic Personnel, at (530) 754-8509 or pdttise@ucdavis.edu. Please refer to position number AP #10-04 in correspondence.

Director of California Water Resources Research Institute

ANR is seeking an inaugural director who can provide leadership and operational management

for the California Water Resources Research Institute (CWRRI). CWRRI is a special program within UCANR, enabled by the federal Water Resources Research Act, with the mission of supporting research and extension activities that contribute to the efficient management of California's water resources in water quality, quantity and reliability.

The director will lead the California Water Resources Research Institute (CWRRI), which includes responsibility for activities supported with funding from the Federal Water Resources Act of 1984 and other funding and programs that may be administered by or coordinated through the Institute. The director will report to the Associate Vice President of Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives and hold a full-time academic appointment with ANR. The successful candidate will be based in Oakland.

Read the full position description and download the application form at http://ucanr.org/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=86. To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by Jan. 26.

NIFA director to speak at UC Davis



Roger N. Beachy

Roger N. Beachy, director of USDA National Institute of

Food and Agriculture, is scheduled to speak at the UC Davis Chancellor's Colloquium Distinguished Speakers Series on Jan. 12.

Beachy's presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with faculty and policy experts.

The program will be held at 4 p.m. on Jan. 12 in the Vanderhoef Studio Theatre at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts. The event is free and open to the public.



CS Update

NOS calendars

For years, News & Information Outreach in Spanish (NOS) has prepared and distributed its traditional year-at-a-glance calendar to the Spanish-language media and ANR personnel. But this year, due to budget considerations, we won't be printing it. However, we designed one that you can view, download and print. It is online at http://ucanr.org/2011_calendar.

Names in the News

Reid named environmental hort advisor

Karrie Reid joined ANR as the environmental horticulture advisor for San Joaquin County on Nov. 1.



Karrie Reid

A native of the Stockton area, Reid will be working with public agencies, private

companies, the nursery industry, and the general public on horticultural issues most critical to our urban environments. She will focus on water conservation, reduction of pollutants in urban runoff, best management practices for landscape maintenance and nursery production, reduction of green waste production and landfill disposal, and mitigation of urban landscapes' negative impacts on neighboring non-urban environments (specifically the San Joaquin Delta watershed).

Prior to taking the Cooperative Extension position, Reid worked with Loren Oki, landscape horticulture specialist, in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences on two projects related to landscape water conservation and quality. On one of those projects, she ran irrigation and climate zone trials on landscape ornamental plants. In the other, she was looking at characterizing the constituents of urban runoff water from single-family homes and attempting to influence homeowner practices

to mitigate the negative impacts to local waterways.

Reid earned her bachelor's degree in general biology from UC Santa Cruz and her master's degree in plant science and ornamental horticulture from UC Davis.

Reid can be reached at (209) 953-6109 and skreid@ucdavis.edu.

Campbell to lead HFC initiative

Dave Campbell, director of the California Communities Program and panel member of the HFC Strategic Initiative, has been appointed as the new HFC initiative leader beginning Jan. 1. Campbell succeeds Sharon Junge, who will end her recall from ANR retirement in March.



Dave Campbell

As HFC initiative leader, Campbell will serve on Program Council. He will also serve as the associate director of Research in Families and Communities and a member of the leadership team in the recently announced Youth, Families and Communities (YFC) statewide program. Recruitment for the director of the YFC program is currently under way.

Schneider joins YFC leadership team

Constance Schneider, nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisor for Fresno County, has been appointed as chair of the leadership

council of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), effective Dec. 1.



Constance Schneider

Schneider will provide leadership and oversight to three EFNEP advisory committees including program development and curriculum, program delivery and communications, and program evaluation and compliance. In this role, Schneider will be responsible for program implementation, outcomes, and compliance and will represent EFNEP on the new YFC leadership team.

White joins Communication Services

Hazel M. White has joined Communication Services and Information Technology as a part-time senior editor.

White will split her time between *California Agriculture* journal and the publications unit, with responsibility for proofreading, copyediting, indexing and writing.

White has more than 30 years of experience in publications and editorial work with a focus on gardening and horticulture, including freelance writing and editing for *California Agriculture*. She served as managing



Hazel White

editor for a new edition of the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, and continues to write *Sunset* magazine's monthly "What to do in your garden" feature. She is the author of 11 books, and has written numerous newspaper and journal articles on gardening, landscaping, sustainability and urban farming.

White can be reached at hmwhite@ucdavis.edu.

DiTomaso and Al-Khatib named fellows

Joe DiTomaso and Kassim Al-Khatib have been named fellows of the Weed Science Society of America, the highest honor bestowed by the society.



Joe DiTomaso

DiTomaso is a UC Davis Cooperative Extension weed specialist, editor-in-chief for *Invasive Plant Science and Management* and director of the UC Weed Research and Information Center. He studies weeds in rangeland, forests and other non-crop areas.

Al-Khatib has been director of the UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management



Kassim Al-Khatib

Program since January 2010. Prior to joining UC, he was a professor of weed science at Kansas State University. He

Names in the News

Continued from page 3

specializes in integrated weed management, vegetation management and pesticide drift.

DiTomaso and Al-Khatib will be honored as fellows at the society's annual meeting in February in Portland, Ore.

Hanson honored for outstanding early career

Brad Hanson, UC Davis Cooperative Extension specialist, has been named Outstanding Early Career Weed Scientist



Brad Hanson

by the Western Society of Weed Science. Hanson, who joined ANR in 2009, specializes in weed management for perennial crops and methyl bromide alternatives. From 2005 to 2009, he was a USDA-ARS weed scientist based in Parlier. His research focused on methyl bromide alternatives in fruit and nut tree and grapevine nurseries, ornamentals, floriculture and strawberries.

Hanson will be honored by the society during its annual meeting in March in Spokane, Wash.

Changes in the Office of AVP for Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives

In the Office of the Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Joni Rippee has taken on additional duties. In her new role, Rippee will oversee ANR's Office of Program Planning and Evaluation in Oakland and the Program Support Unit in Davis. Rippee is also responsible for coordinating workgroups/ coordinating conferences, professional society travel, Academic Assembly Council, reporting to Associate Vice President Barbara Allen-Diaz, and the research and extension centers (RECs), reporting to Associate Director Bill Frost.



Joni Rippee

The Program Support Unit (PSU) and the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation (OPPE) will be organized within the Program Development Unit, which supports the functions and responsibilities of the Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives. Allen-Diaz receives additional support in the Oakland office from Lorrie Mandoriano, executive assistant.

OPPE supports statewide program planning, ANR reporting systems, advocacy and outreach. PSU provides logistical and administrative support to the strategic initiatives, advocacy efforts, statewide programs, advisor/specialist faculty programs, ANR leadership, and other regional, statewide and national meetings.

Below are lists of the OPPE and PSU staff and their corresponding responsibilities.

OPPE (Oakland) http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide_Planning/Program_Planning_and_Evaluation/

Julie Drouyor - ANR commodity coordinator, National Institutes for Water Research, and professional travel

Vanessa Gomez - program council, program evaluation, and programmatic/analytical support for AVP

Christopher Hanson - administrator for computer-based reporting systems (DANRIS-X, CRIS, EFNEP, FSNEP)

Pat Harrigan - administrative support to OPPE

Katherine Webb-Martinez - program planning and reporting (CRIS, DANRIS-X) and program evaluation

PSU (Davis) <http://ucanr.org/sites/PSU/>

Melanie Caruso - grant programs and grants administration

Sherry Cooper - office administrator and day-to-day operations manager

Janelle Kohl - event planning and logistical coordination

Heidi O'Guinn - strategic initiative support and event planning



Vanessa Gomez



Katherine Webb-Martinez



Janelle Kohl



Heidi O'Guinn



Julie Drouyor



Pat Harrigan



Sherry Cooper

Retirements

John Edstrom

John Edstrom, Colusa County farm advisor, will retire on Jan. 1.



John Edstrom

For the past 26 years, Edstrom has studied almonds, walnuts and prunes, working with

growers in Sutter and Yuba counties as well as Colusa. Growers credit his research and extension efforts for transforming almond and walnut farming systems.

Colusa County farmers knew walnuts thrived on deep, fertile soils, and land near Arbuckle was suitable only for almonds.

Seeking opportunities for growers to diversify their crops, Edstrom planted a test plot of walnut trees at the Nickels Soil Laboratory in Arbuckle in 1986. Production of the dense plantings of drip-irrigated hedgerows compensated for the marginal soils.

"Harvesting two tons per acre is considered a good yield," Edstrom said. "In our first planting, we peaked at three and a half tons per acre."

Edstrom, who manages the Nickels Soil Lab, has conducted projects on almond variety selection, micro-irrigation, irrigation scheduling, fertilization, planting density, tree training and pruning and published 260 articles.

The economic impact of all this research has been significant, said Bob Curtis, research director for the Almond Board of California.

"For instance, average almond yields in Colusa County, where Nickels is located, have quadrupled over the past 20 years from about 600 kernel pounds per acre to 2,300 – 2,400 pounds," Curtis said. "Industrywide, over this same period, average yield has doubled from about 1,100 kernel pounds per acre to about 2,200 pounds per acre. To a large extent, yield increases are a result of these improved practices."

Edstrom earned a master's degree in plant science, with an emphasis in pomology, from CSU Chico. Prior to joining UC Cooperative Extension, Edstrom worked as a private orchard consultant for 10 years.

Read full story at <http://ucanr.org/news/?uid=1347&ds=191>.

Michael Murray

Director of UC Cooperative Extension for Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties, Mike Murray, retires on Jan. 1, ending a 32-year career of service to the Northern California agricultural community.



Mike Murray

Murray said his interest in agriculture was sparked by a botany professor at San Diego

Community College.

"He was so passionate about what he was doing, it was infectious," Murray said.

Murray transferred to UC Davis and earned a bachelor's degree in plant science in 1977 and a master's degree in plant physiology in 1979. He became part of a UC Cooperative Extension internship program in the late 1970s designed to expose promising graduates to a potential career in agricultural extension. Before the one-year internship was over, Murray was offered a farm advisor position in Colusa County.

As the farm advisor for field and row crops, Murray focused on processing tomatoes and vegetable seed crops. From 1990 to 1995, Murray served as the associate regional director of what was then the UC Cooperative Extension North Region. In 1992, he was named director of CE in Colusa County and in 2003 he assumed directorship for Sutter and Yuba counties as well.

UC Cooperative Extension has received consistent support in the communities under Murray's leadership, which he attributes to building strong relationships with county leaders and delivering quality programs.

In 2005, Murray coordinated a pilot leadership development program for Colusa County department heads. The group met once per month for a year with UC and community leaders to learn ways for creating an improved workplace environment. The program was recognized with the National Association of Counties Award of Excellence.

During his career, Murray conducted research on plant growth regulators on tomato and vegetable seed crops. Murray authored 18 peer-reviewed research papers and 155 technical articles. He served terms as president of the California Plant Growth Regulator Society, president of the UC Academic Assembly Council, chair of the Academic Assembly Council Personnel Committee and president of the California Association of Farm Advisors and Specialists.

Although he has not made formal retirement plans, Murray said he hopes to travel in the United States and overseas and will pursue agricultural consulting opportunities that arise.

Chris Greer, rice advisor, will succeed Murray as county director for Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties.

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