

Commitment and continuity

Dear Colleagues,

As I assume the responsibilities of vice president, my strongest goal is to ensure that the entire UC Agriculture and Natural Resources community thrives. With the Strategic Vision as our guide for resource allocation and decision-making, I will work to provide continuity in our programs and operations.

To maintain the momentum already established, I will chair the Executive Council, which is comprised of the deans from the three colleges and the School of Veterinary Medicine. We will continue our critical discussions on strategically allocating our existing resources, seeking new resources, and building the research and extension continuum strengthened by the unrivaled breadth of our subject-matter expertise and our professional excellence.

The Executive Working Group will continue with its existing members, with a number of responsibilities redistributed in the new leadership structure.

Bill Frost will continue to report to me, but will assume many of the duties and relationships of my previous position. Bill will chair ANR's Program Council. He will also provide leadership to ANR statewide and county programs, county administrative operations, academic personnel, and the Research and Extension Center System. County directors and our first multi-county partnership director report to Bill as of Oct. 1, 2011.

Kay Harrison Taber will report to me and continue her critical leadership in seeking efficiencies in business operations. Thus far we have captured significant administrative savings while

improving business and operational efficiencies and releasing additional resources for programmatic support.

Bob Sams will report to me and will take on additional responsibilities of expanding our strategic communications capabilities, advancing advocacy efforts, and improving coordination with campus and UCOP external and government relations units. He will continue to oversee Communication Services and Information Technology.

Don Klingborg will report to me and continue to establish new partnership models with county governments and enhance our local program delivery through stabilized county support.

As we progress, I want to emphasize our ability to meet our commitments and advance our vision for California. To ensure this, my top priority is to fill critical academic positions identified over the past year. We will move as quickly as possible to recruit outstanding academic specialists and advisors.

We have announced the awards in our competitive grants process and can get to work on an exciting range of projects identified by the Strategic Initiatives.

Over the 25 years that I've been part of ANR, I've been proud to belong to this amazing community with its long list of important accomplishments. Under my leadership, ANR will continue to evolve and develop strong programs and far-reaching plans that improve the lives of Californians and, indeed, the world.

Barbara Allen-Diaz
Vice President,
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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ANR competitive grants fund 21 projects

V P Allen-Diaz announced on Oct. 11 that 21 projects will be funded by ANR's competitive grants program, for a total of \$4.46 million over five years.

The purpose of this grants program, as outlined in the [request for proposals](#) (RFP), is to support projects under initiatives that focus on high-priority issues that encourage collaboration, continue to strengthen the research-extension continuum, yield policy-relevant outcomes, and achieve significant statewide impacts in California. The four initiatives are: Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases, Healthy Families and Communities, Sustainable Food Systems, and Sustainable Natural Ecosystems.

The four strategic initiative panels reviewed 109 letters of intent to identify strong substantive connections to the initiative priorities, and invited 67 applicants to submit full proposals. Of those, 58 applicants submitted proposals, and 21 projects have been approved for funding. A full list of the funded projects, collaborators, funding amounts

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ANR competitive grants *continued from page 1*

and funding source is posted at http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide_Programs/Competitive_Grants.

Grant review process

Proposals were reviewed for scientific merit, feasibility and policy relevance, in addition to assessing how the projects meet the objectives of the RFP. These attributes are critical for

ANR to demonstrate its focus on relevant key issues that can potentially attract new funding support.

After each proposal received at least two peer reviews, the four strategic initiatives leaders recommended a slate of highly ranked proposals to Program Council. Program Council discussed each of the

recommended proposals in detail and provided a full set of recommended proposals to the Executive Working Group for consideration.

New call for proposals

Allen-Diaz said that a new call for competitive grants will be released early in 2012. Consistent with the intent of individual endowments, those

funds will be directed to priority program areas of the strategic initiatives that present the best opportunities for the division. All proposals submitted this year have received feedback to encourage re-submissions. In addition, we are inviting new proposals to address other priorities that will be identified in the next RFP.

Eleven positions released for recruitment

VP Allen-Diaz has approved a second group of academic positions for recruitment and hiring. Eleven positions, including five specialists and six advisors, are being released for recruitment in October 2011. As discussed in previous communications, these positions will be funded by salary reversions resulting from retirements and separations that have occurred over the last year. Below are the specialist and advisor positions Allen-Diaz approved for recruitment and hiring:

For recruitment in October 2011**CE Specialists**

- Land change science specialist, in discussion with UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources, Environmental Science, Policy & Management
- Science literacy specialist, in discussion with UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Extension and College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Human & Community Development
- Weed science specialist, in discussion with UC Riverside College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences, Botany
- Poultry specialist, in discussion with UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Extension
- Irrigation specialist, in discussion with UC Davis College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Land, Air & Water Resources

CE Advisors

- IPM/Entomology advisor (Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz)
- Range/livestock advisor and director (Mariposa, Merced, Madera)
- Nut crops advisor (southern San Joaquin Valley, in discussion with local CE offices and Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center)
- Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center director
- Director with advisor expertise in at least one of the following: water, land use, pests, science literacy or economics (Ventura, Hansen Research & Extension Center, southern Santa Barbara)
- 4-H Youth Development advisor (Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Stanislaus)

A new process will be used for the next phase of searches. Searches will be conducted collaboratively with advisors on specialist search

committees and vice versa. The searches for specialists will be conducted jointly by Cooperative Extension and the unit housing the position. Split appointments, specifically CE/Instruction & Research splits, will not be supported. Prior to initiating future searches, we will conduct a thorough discussion and analysis of the best affiliation and location for the advisor or specialist. Recruitment costs will be held and paid centrally.

Expectations for each position will be clearly articulated regarding interactions with strategic initiatives, program teams, statewide programs, workgroups, multi-county program clusters, etc. There will be joint evaluations of advisors and specialists for merit and promotions.

Limited personnel for search committees and logistics prevent ANR from releasing more positions for recruitment and hiring at this time, but Allen-Diaz plans on releasing additional positions in spring of 2012 to bring more new academic talent to ANR.

Below are the specialist and advisor positions approved for recruitment and hiring in Spring 2012:

For recruitment in Spring 2012**CE Specialists**

- Wildlife-human conflicts specialist, in discussion with UC Davis College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Wildlife and Fisheries
- Restoration ecology specialist, in discussion with UC Davis College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Plant Sciences

CE Advisors

- Multi-county partnership director /advisor (San Diego, Imperial, Riverside)
- County Director/advisor (Inyo, Mono)
- Veg Crops advisor (Imperial, Desert REC, Riverside, San Diego)
- Forestry advisor (Central Sierra multi-county partnership, Blodgett Forest)
- Forestry advisor (Shasta, Trinity, Siskiyou)
- Nutrition, family & consumer sciences advisor (San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles)
- Environmental horticulture advisor (Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo)

West Side REC calls for proposals

West Side Research & Extension Center is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research and demonstration projects for the period Jan. 1, 2012, through Dec. 31, 2012.

Located on 320 acres in the San Joaquin Valley, West Side REC has land suitable for growing row, orchard and field crops, and turfgrass, landscape and nursery plants.

The center also provides labor, equipment, facilities and technical and management support to UC academics and to personnel from cooperating non-UC organizations, such as USDA. Approximately 7,000 hours of labor will be awarded to support-approved projects.

Project proposal forms can be obtained and submitted through ANR's Simple Grant System, which is accessible via the ANR Portal (<http://my.ucanr.org>). For information on electronic submission of forms, contact Karen Motley at (559) 884-2411 or kmmotley@ucdavis.edu.

Proposals are due by Nov. 15, 2011.

For questions about research proposal process or research opportunities, please contact Bob Hutmacher, center director at (559) 260-8957 or rbhutmacher@ucdavis.edu, or Rafael "Merf" Solorio, center superintendent at (559) 618-2818 or rmsolorio@ucdavis.edu.

Jones appointed UCOP budget director

Donna Jones has been named director of the Office of the President Budget Office, effective Nov. 1.



Jones, who is currently ANR budget director, has also been serving as interim director of UCOP budget for the past 10 months. Jones brings to the job more than 30 years of UC budget and financial experience from her start at UC Santa Barbara in 1981 and past 16 years with ANR.

"Donna has demonstrated uncommon understanding of the University's complicated funding structure, which she has helped to demystify both in implementing the new funding streams model and in participating in the planning and design

of a new budget management tool that will be unveiled in the weeks ahead," said Michael Reese, UC AVP-Business Operations.

"During some of ANR's most difficult financial times, Donna has overseen ANR's budget and worked diligently with unit managers to get the numbers to come out right," said Kay Harrison Taber, AVP-Business Operations. "She has a gift for teaching, guiding her colleagues through the university's intricate budgeting system with language they can easily understand."

Taber has appointed Jennifer Bunge, ANR associate budget director, to serve as interim budget director.

The search for a permanent ANR budget director is under way. The position is posted at http://ucanr.org/jobs/jobs_990 and closes Nov. 10.

Strategic conference presentations posted on Web

PowerPoints presented at two strategic initiative conferences held recently have been posted on the Web. The Sustainable Natural Ecosystems Strategic Initiative Conference was held Sept. 20–22 in Sacramento. The Sustainable Food Systems Strategic Initiative Conference was held October 11–13 in Davis.

The files are linked to the presenters' names in the agendas. The SNE conference agenda is at http://ucanr.org/sites/SNE/2011_SNE_SI_Strategic_Initiative_Conference. The SFS conference materials are at <http://ucanr.org/sites/SFS/Agenda>.

More than 200 ANR academics and staff participated in the SFS conference, where keynote speaker Karen Ross told the group, "It is absolutely critical that each one of you become a communicator."

Referring to "resistance to innovation," the CDFA secretary said communication about technology and innovation is critical so people will understand how they benefit.

SFS conference attendees participated in a brainstorming session to provide ideas for the initiative's strategic planning. They were asked "What are researchable and actionable topics that could produce results in next 3–4 years?" and "What do we need to make this happen?" Everyone in ANR will be invited to weigh in on the ideas when a survey is sent out in November.



VP Allen-Diaz, left, introduces CDFA secretary Karen Ross at the Sustainable Food Systems Strategic Initiative Conference.

UC receives more than \$6 million for specialty crop research

ANR researchers will receive more than \$6 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2011 Specialty Crop Block Grant program.

USDA awarded \$55 million nationwide for the program, which provides grants to states to enhance the competitiveness of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture identified 72 projects in the state for funding, including 30 projects led by UC scientists.

Highlights include:

- The UC Davis Center for Produce Safety received a combined \$1.4 million for food safety projects, many of which will develop strategies to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.
- Assessing temperature conditions to determine the potential for using wind machines as an alternative to sprinklers for frost protection in coastal vineyards—with the ultimate goal of reduced water use—is the goal of a \$59,961 project led by UC Cooperative Extension viticulture advisor Mark Battany in San Luis Obispo County.
- The UC Agricultural Issues Center will be conducting an analysis of the effects of quality control standards and European Union trade policies on the California olive industry, to identify market opportunities as standards and policies change, funded for \$135,883.
- The largest single award made to UC in this round was \$495,750 to a statewide project that will assess the effects of reduced irrigation on strawberries, blueberries and blackberries—including berry yield, nutritional content, flavor and consumer preference—led by researchers with the UC small farm program.
- A project that will train small-scale, Latino, Hmong and Mien growers in Fresno, the Sacramento Valley, the Central Coast and Southern California regions to compete in new markets, led by the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, received \$86,851.
- Developing improved integrated pest management strategies that could help ornamental nurseries protect against the light brown apple moth is the goal of a \$255,598 project led by Steve Tjosvold, UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor for Santa Cruz County.

"Many of these projects are collaborative efforts between farmers and scientists from UC campuses, UC Cooperative Extension advisors in counties, and other agencies and educational institutions," VP Allen-Diaz said. "This array of expertise focused along the spectrum of specialty crops production will help keep California competitive in the global economy."

For a complete list of California's Specialty Crop Block Grants projects, please visit <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/grants>.

Program Team list posted on Web

An updated list of Program Teams, their leaders and affiliated workgroups is now posted at <http://ucanr.org/programteams>.

A few Program Teams are still forming and have yet to identify leaders. Some workgroups that have yet to affiliate with Program Teams can be found in the NeueCOW system in the ANR portal.

Program Teams are umbrella structures under which workgroups now operate. The objectives of this structure are to provide a more efficient and effective means for workgroups to meet and carry out their essential functions, and to enhance inter-workgroup communication and collaboration.

Funds are being made available for Program Teams to meet at strategic initiatives conferences and once a year outside of those conferences.

SAREP funds 14 projects

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program has funded 14 of the projects submitted for consideration in its 2011 competitive grants program.

The projects range from exploring taco trucks as vehicles to provide healthy food in Central Valley communities with limited food access to a study of a collaboration between the City of Oakland's Parks and Recreation Department and a local nonprofit that develops urban agriculture parks.

The 14 projects are being funded for a total of approximately \$150,000 by SAREP, which is celebrating its 25th year.

"Seed funding for innovative food systems projects contributes to long-term impacts that are changing the face of food and agriculture in the state," said Gail Feenstra, SAREP/Agricultural Sustainability Institute food systems coordinator.

For details about the projects, please visit <http://asi.ucdavis.edu/newsroom/news>.

CSIT update

CAB welcomes new chair and members

VP Allen-Diaz has appointed a new chair and three new members to the Communications Advisory Board, effective Nov. 1.



Joe Connell

Joe Connell, Butte County director and farm advisor, will serve as the new chair. He succeeds Dennis Pittenger, area horticultural advisor for Southern California, who has served since May 2008.

New members include Matthew Fidelibus, Cooperative Extension viticulture specialist based at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center; Leigh Taylor Johnson, coastal resources advisor based in San Diego

County; and Shannon Mueller, farm advisor for Fresno County. In addition, Larry Schwankl, CE irrigation specialist based at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and Pittenger were reappointed for three-year terms.

The CAB provides advice and support to Bob Sams, director of Communication Services and Information Technology, on the communications needs of ANR programs, resource allocation prioritization, major policy issues, budget and long-range planning, strategic communications, and emerging communication technologies. In addition, the board provides oversight of the peer-review process for ANR educational materials.

ANR Staff Merit Program Guidelines

Below are the ANR Merit Program Guidelines for non-represented staff, effective July 1, 2011.

Parameters for the merit for non-represented career staff:

- The 3.0% pool of money is irrespective of fund source based on MSP and PSS base salaries.
- Eligible employees must receive a completed performance evaluation for their performance during the period of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011.
- Eligible employees must receive a minimum rating of meets expectations on their performance evaluation.

The following employees are *ineligible* for this salary program:

- Any individual who does not receive a completed performance evaluation.
- Senior Management Group employees
- Staff individuals earning \$200,000 or more
- Staff having received any base-building increase on or after Jan. 1, 2011, and prior to the **payroll calculation for the November** payment of the merit.
- Non-represented staff who are new hires on or after Jan. 1, 2011.
- Non-represented staff still in their probationary period on July 1, 2011.
- Staff who moved out of a non-represented title prior to the payroll calculation for the Nov. 1 payment of the merit.

Exceptions

No exceptions to the Merit Program Guidelines will be accepted for individuals at this time. There may be salary inequities that

will have to be addressed as a result of merit increases. Those may be considered after Nov. 1, 2011.

Merit Distribution

Consistent with the Office of the President's goal of moving to a performance-based culture, this salary program is based on documented performance, achievement of goals and overall contribution.

The merit increase distribution was approved by the Vice President. Based on the overall performance evaluation rating, merit-eligible employees will receive merits based on the following table:

UCOP Rating	ANR Rating	MSP & PSS
Unsatisfactory (1)	Does not Meet Exp	0.0%
Improvement Needed (2)	Partially Meets Exp	0.0%
Meets Expectations (3)	Meets Expectations	3.0%
Above Expectations (4)	--	3.5%
Exceptional (5)	Exceeds Expectations	4.0%

Timing

Merit increases are effective retroactive to July 1, 2011, and are expected to appear for all eligible employees in Nov. 1, 2011, paychecks for October earnings. Retroactive pay for July, August and September will be issued in November for UCLA- and UCR-paid employees, and will likely be issued separately in December for Davis-paid employees.

Names in the News

Distinguished Service Award winners named

VP Allen-Diaz announced the 2011 recipients of the ANR Distinguished Service Awards, which are given biennially for outstanding contributions to the teaching, research and public service mission of the Division.

Awards were given in six areas: Extension, Research, New Academic, Team, Leader and Staff.

Outstanding Extension –



Walt Bentley

Walt Bentley, area IPM advisor based at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center. In its recommendation to Allen-Diaz, the committee wrote, "His work to reduce use of broad spectrum pesticides by increasing adoption of reduced risk pesticides, better insect pest monitoring methods and biological control among farmers and pest control advisers has had diverse, lasting and substantive impacts on cotton, almond, grape, tree fruit, dried plum, walnut and other industries in California and worldwide."

Outstanding Research –



Steve Koike

Steve Koike, plant pathology farm advisor for Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. "Koike has conducted a sustained, innovative, nationally and internationally recognized

applied research program that is notable for its responsiveness to clientele needs, wide range of subject matter, impact on commercial agriculture in California, and implications for consumers," wrote one committee member. "His diagnostic laboratory for identification of plant diseases in Monterey County, and for fellow advisors throughout the state is a key outreach tool that has identified more than 30 new diseases on plants in California, in just the past five years."

Outstanding New Academic



Jim Bethke

– Jim Bethke, floriculture and nursery advisor for San Diego and Riverside counties. "In just

three years, he has built an outstanding program as floriculture and nursery advisor in San Diego and Riverside counties," wrote the committee. "He has produced 118 publications since he became an advisor, and given 71 presentations." They noted his efforts to reach underserved growers and Spanish-speaking workers.

Outstanding Team – Money Talks. The Money Talks team is composed of Charles Go, workgroup chair and 4-H youth development advisor for Alameda



County; Margaret Johns, nutrition, family & consumer sciences advisor for Kern County; Keith Nathaniel, 4-H youth development advisor for Los Angeles County; Shirley Peterson, nutrition, family & consumer sciences advisor emeritus; Brenda Roche, nutrition, family & consumer sciences advisor for Los Angeles County; Karen Varcoe, consumer economics specialist based at UC Riverside; Patti Wooten Swanson, nutrition, family & consumer sciences advisor for San Diego County. "For over 13 years, the Money Talks team has pulled together a continuum of experts from county advisors, to specialists, to campus academics, across several disciplines, to help improve the financial capacity of today's teens," the committee wrote. It added that program evaluation has documented benefit to teens.

Outstanding Leader –



Richard Enfield

Richard Enfield, county director for San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

"His achievements as a county director are even more impressive in light of his excellence as a 4-H youth development advisor," the committee wrote. "In addition to the outstanding 4-H club program in San Luis Obispo, he has taken on the leadership of a Multi-State Social Capital research project." Enfield has also mentored and coached new

4-H Advisors, and county directors.

Outstanding Staff –



Connie Costello

Connie Costello, program representative for the Consumer Economics Program at UC Riverside.

"The information she has helped to develop and present has been extended locally, statewide, nationally and internationally through a variety of media including conferences, papers, websites, video and games," the committee wrote. "She has assisted in developing and editing curricula, handouts, activities and other materials for Gateway to a Better Life, Operation Ready for the US Army, Financial Fitness for the US Marines, Making Every Dollar Count, and Money Talks." She manages these programs as well.

Each of the recipients will receive \$2,000 and a certificate, except for the team award recipients, who will receive individual certificates and share \$5,000.

The 2011 Academic Assembly Council Distinguished Service Award committee was chaired by Rachel Surls and included Jim Bethke, Joe Grant, Scott Oneto and Becky Westerdaahl. Although Bethke was on the committee making these awards, he did not participate in any part of the decision-making on the Outstanding New Academic award.

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Names in the News Continued from previous page

Michailides named APS fellow

The American Phytopathological Society (APS) has honored Themis J. Michailides with its Fellow award.



Themis J. Michailides

Michailides, a plant pathologist based at the Kearney Research and Extension Center, studies fruit and nut crop diseases. He

is internationally recognized for his innovative ecological, epidemiological and disease management studies of devastating diseases of fruit and nut crops, such as brown rot in stone fruit (preharvest and postharvest), botrytis gray mold of kiwifruit and pistachio, fig endosepsis and smut of figs, Botryosphaeria blight of pistachio and almond, and aflatoxin contamination and reduction of contamination of nut crops and figs.

In addition to his highly effective applied research program, Michailides has made major contributions in fundamental plant pathology. Together with his team, he

was the first to use conventional and quantitative PCR techniques to quantify latent infections on stone fruit and spore loads of *Monilinia fructicola* in orchards and incorporated the findings in computer models to predict brown rot of prune.

Parrella, Leal win ESA awards

Michael Parrella and Walter Leal are winners of the 2011 Entomological Society of America awards.



Michael Parrella

Parrella, professor and chair of the UC Davis Department of Entomology with a joint appointment

in the Department of Plant Sciences, will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award in Horticultural Entomology. The award, sponsored by Gowan Company, singles out an entomologist who has contributed greatly to the American horticulture industry.

Chemical ecologist Leal, professor in the UC Davis

Department of Entomology, will receive Nan-Yao Su Award for Innovation and Creativity in Entomology. Each year this award is given to an ESA member who is able to demonstrate, through his/her projects or accomplishments, an ability to identify problems and develop creative, alternative solutions that significantly impact entomology.

Parrella and Leal will receive their awards, which include a cash prize and a plaque, at the 59th Annual ESA Meeting set for Nov. 13–16 in Reno.



Walter Leal

Entomological Foundation honors Morse



Joseph G. Morse

Joseph G. Morse, UC Riverside entomology professor, will receive the Entomological Foundation's

Award for Excellence in Integrated Pest Management. This award is based on

outstanding contributions that have a direct relation to integrated pest management.

His research focuses on arthropod pests of citrus and avocados in California, dealing in particular with the integration of chemical and biological methods of pest management, invasive species research, proactive pesticide resistance management and postharvest disinfestation of fruit.

He is author or co-author on 125 scientific refereed journal articles 58 book chapters, books, or proceedings articles and 125 technical publications. He was associate director of the University of California's Statewide IPM Program for six years, director of the UC Riverside Center for Invasive Species Research for three years and Statewide Program Leader for Agricultural Policy & Pest Management for UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources for six years.

The award will be presented Nov. 14 at Entomology 2011 in Reno.

In Memoriam

Hal Carter



Harold O. Carter, former chair and professor emeritus of UC Davis agricultural and resource economics, died

Sept. 22 in Davis. He was 78 years old.

Carter joined the UC Davis faculty in 1958 and served two terms as chair of the department. As an

economist, he was interested in the world's food supply and demand balance.

Carter was the founding director of the UC Agricultural Issues Center in 1985, an institution for analyzing policy issues affecting California's agriculture and natural resources. Carter served as director of the center until his retirement in 1996.

According to department colleague Colin Carter—director

of the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics and no relation—Hal Carter and co-author Gerald Dean helped establish the Giannini Foundation's strong research reputation with their award-winning empirical work on agricultural production economics. Hal Carter also served as a senior economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisors under President Nixon.

He graduated from Michigan State University, then earned his Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 1958.

He is survived by wife Janet; daughters Teresa (Walt), Lisa (Sam), Alison; sons Brian (Lori) and Michael; brother Robert; sister Patricia; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

– Robin DeRieux

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In Memoriam *Continued from previous page*

Paul Casamajor



Paul Casamajor, editor and principal author of "Forestry Education at

the University of California—The First 50 Years," died at his home in Walnut Creek on Sept. 25. He was 92 years old.

Casamajor was well known to students, faculty, staff and alumni at UC Berkeley's School of Forestry, now part of the College of Natural Resources.

He completed bachelor's and master's degrees at the forestry school, and joined the staff in 1956 as a lecturer. He taught undergraduate and graduate course in forest-fire control and delivered in-service training to the U.S. Forest Service and other land-management agencies. He also worked closely with students and prospective students, doing career counseling and organizing an annual job-placement service.

In 1968, Casamajor began a 15-year tenure as the first and only assistant to the director of the statewide Agricultural Experiment Station, providing continuity through seven AES directors. He returned to UC Berkeley to serve for one more year before retiring in 1984.

"He was a very nice man, and truly dedicated to the forestry profession, to Cal and to the mission of the AES," said Rick Standiford, a Cooperative Extension forest-management specialist and fellow Cal forester who knew him well.

In 1937, Casamajor was studying to be a petroleum engineer at Pomona College.

"When his aunt took him on a pack trip into the Gila Wilderness in Arizona, he discovered his true calling as a forester and promptly transferred to the School of Forestry at Berkeley," said his son, Alan Casamajor, in an email to his father's former colleagues.

Casamajor was a Navy veteran. During World War II he served in China and Guam, where he met Martha, a Navy flight nurse, whom he married after the war.

Following his retirement, he was active in his veterans' group, the Sino American Cooperative Organization, a small group of Navy personnel who worked with the Chinese government during the war.

He is survived by his wife Martha and his son Alan.

— Ann Brody Guy

Peter Christensen

UC viticulture specialist emeritus L. Peter Christensen passed away on Sept. 25 at age 76.



Born in Selma and raised on the family's 75-acre raisin farm, Christensen was introduced to his life's work at an early age. After earning his B.S. in viticulture from California State University, Fresno, and M.S. in viticulture from UC Davis, he served as a viticulture farm advisor in Fresno County for 23 years. In 1984, he was named viticulture specialist in the UC Davis Department of Viticulture and Enology, stationed at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Christensen retired in 1999.

Working closely with colleagues and industry, Christensen conducted practical research on a broad range of viticulture topics. For example, the mineral nutrition and fertilizer recommendations for California vineyards are largely based on his research and extension activities. He authored or co-authored over 250 technical papers and research articles during his career, including several seminal publications on grapevine nutrition and the statewide UC production manuals on raisin production, wine grape varieties and grape pest and disease management.

He received the Best Research Paper Award from the American Journal of Enology and Viticulture in 1986 and 1990, and also served as the President of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture in 1991–1992. In 1997 he was presented the James H. Meyer Outstanding Career Achievement Award from UC Davis, and in 2004 he was given the Merit Award of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture, the highest honor given to a grape research scientist in the United States.

The crowning achievement of Christensen's career was perhaps his work on a new concept in raisin production: dried on the vine (DOV). In contrast to the traditional production system, where grapes are cut off the vine and laid on paper trays to dry in the sun, DOV systems have workers simply clipping the stem that connects the grapes to the plant. The grapes dry to raisins while hanging in the canopy. In recognition of Christensen's contributions to the California raisin industry, the DOV raisin grape variety "Selma Pete" was named in his honor in 2002.

Christensen presented hundreds of technical talks to Central Valley grape growers and mentored many farm advisors. His impact extended beyond California. On sabbatical leaves and technical trips, he visited many countries including Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Greece, Italy, Chile, Mexico, Japan, Canada and Uzbekistan.

Christensen maintained a hand in farming while earning a long list of research accomplishments, awards and the esteem of colleagues, California grape growers and viticulturists worldwide.

He is survived by his wife Eleanor, sister Jane Hildebrand, sons John (Fr. Damascene), Robert and Scott, daughters-in-law Bonnie and Lorraine, and three grandchildren.

— Jeannette Warnert

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

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