

\$1.3 million donated to fund UCCE specialist

Barbara Allen-Diaz, University of California vice president for Agriculture and Natural Resources, announced that the California Rice Research Board has agreed to fund a UC Cooperative Extension specialist position for six years.

“This is a pioneering step in a new direction for funding public research,” said Allen-Diaz. “I want to thank the California Rice Research Board for being the first. This innovative partnership between the agricultural community and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources recognizes the immediate importance of rice research and the need for this new funding model.”

The \$800 million rice industry makes California the nation’s second largest rice producer. UC conducts research on weed control, pest management and variety testing for rice crops to keep California growers competitive in the world marketplace.

“The rice specialist was identified as a priority position for UC ANR in our position planning process, and the Rice Research Board has taken a bold step to enable us to launch this position sooner rather than later,” Allen-Diaz said. “This generous gift by the Rice Research Board will enable UC ANR to begin recruitment immediately and the six-year commitment gives the position stability. After six years, UC ANR will assume financial responsibility for the position.”

The board will donate \$212,000 each of the next six years for a total of \$1.272 million to support a UC Cooperative Extension specialist to conduct rice-related research. The Rice Research Board is funded by grower assessments that are based on the amount of rice each grower produces. This specialist position, which will be based in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis, will help UC ANR fulfill its mission as well as serve the rice industry’s needs.

“The Rice Research Board recognized the value of having a rice specialist serving the industry,” said Dana Dickey, executive director of the California Rice Research Board. “This service includes acting as a bridge for the efforts of the rice ‘team’ at UC Davis and ANR, performing research on issues vital to the industry, being a resource for linking new research directions with researchers, and overseeing the variety trials for the industry.”

Dickey added, “The Rice Research Board chose this avenue to ensure the position will continue without interruption and be filled in coordination with the retirement of the present specialist.”

“Hiring outstanding academics to do research and deliver new knowledge is critical to the sustainability of farmers and to the future of California,” said Allen-Diaz. “This new funding model will enable us to act now to work on needed research and deliver science-based solutions.”

To discuss potential partnership opportunities to fund academic positions, contact Cindy Barber at Cynthia.Barber@ucop.edu or (510) 987-9139.

Register for program team meetings

Registration is now open for the program team meetings being held Sept. 18-19 at the Activities and Recreation Center at UC Davis and Oct. 9-10 at [International House at UC Berkeley](#).

In Davis on Sept. 18-19, four program teams will be meeting thus far: Positive Youth Development, Youth Science Literacy, Healthy Behaviors for Preventing Childhood Obesity, and California Communities.

The program will feature the launch of a new Healthy Youth, Healthy Environment speaker series, with a keynote address by Louise Chawla from the Department of Planning and Urban Design at the University of Colorado. Participants will also hear research updates and plan ongoing program team activities.

In Berkeley on Oct. 9-10, the Forest & Rangeland Systems and Meat Production & Food Safety program teams plan to meet. There will be discussions about programs and positions in natural resources and animal sciences.

At the October gathering, ANR members who are associated with the Sustainable Natural Ecosystems Strategic Initiative will be invited to provide input for articles planned for the special issue of California Agriculture that will focus on sustainable natural ecosystems.

To register for these meetings or for more information, go to <http://ucanr.edu/sites/programteams>.

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Nominations sought for Peer Review Committee

Bill Frost, associate director of UC Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station, is seeking to fill three positions on the Peer Review Committee.

The Peer Review Committee is responsible for reviewing all academic accelerations, merit promotions, merits over Full Title VI, and 2nd and 3rd term reviews, as well as cases by request of the candidate, immediate supervisor, executive director or associate vice president. The committee provides statewide consistency from a peer perspective and complements the associated review processes as a statewide ANR perspective.

Seven academics were selected in 2010-2011 through an open application process. The appointments are for 2 to 3 years. Now that the 2011-2012 review cycle is completed, three positions will rotate off: Shirley Peterson, John Harper and Chuck Ingels. Remaining for another cycle are Chris Greer, Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty, Janet Hartin and Eta Takele.

To apply for this committee, academic advisors must have achieved indefinite status and academic coordinators or academic administrators must have at least six years of ANR service. The application form highlights other criteria desired to serve on the Peer Review Committee.

An Adobe Connect Training will be offered in January for all PRC members. The PRC reviews begin immediately online after the cases are submitted in February with all cases reviewed and discussed in early May to inform the July salary decisions.

All applications should be sent to Kimberly Rodrigues, the Peer Review Committee chair and executive director of Academic Personnel, at karodrigues@ucdavis.edu. The applications will be reviewed with input from an appointed advisory committee. This committee will include the AAC Personnel Committee Chair and a subcommittee of the Program Council. Frost will make appointments to support the upcoming merit/promotion cycle.

To obtain an application or for more information, please contact Pam Tise at pdTise@ucanr.edu. Applications are due by Sept. 9.

Employment opportunities

Western IPM Center director

ANR is recruiting for an Academic Coordinator III to lead and manage the Western Integrated Pest Management Center. The center supports efforts to ensure that food is produced in the safest way possible; promotes informed, science-based regulatory decision making; and shares up-to-date IPM information among land-grant universities. The Western IPM Center, headquartered on the UC Davis campus, addresses needs of pest management stakeholders in 13 western states and three Pacific territories.

Reporting to the Director of the Statewide IPM Program, the Academic Coordinator III will collaborate with state, regional and national groups with similar interests; participate in national Center and USDA planning; and prepare data and reports for USDA and US EPA.

A minimum of a master's degree is required, although other advanced degrees are encouraged, in a field closely related to pest management; knowledge of integrated pest management principles and practices and knowledge of diverse pest issues is required. Experience leading or managing a program, obtaining and managing competitive grants; the ability to build new collaborative efforts among diverse stakeholders; staff supervision, and excellent interpersonal, organizational and communication skills are required.

Read the full position description at http://ucanr.edu/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=299. To assure full consideration, applications must be received by Sept. 5.

4-H military partnership coordinator

The 4-H Youth Development Program seeks a 4-H Military Partnership Academic Coordinator, who will be responsible for implementation of U.S. military multi-faceted cooperative programs with USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

This program is designed to work with all branches and components of the military in California to address child and youth development issues, health and well-being, personal and social competence, cognitive and education competence, preparation for work, leadership and citizenship. The 4-H Military Partnership Academic Coordinator serves as a link between UCCE, military service branches in the state and national 4-H headquarters. The focus of the position is to coordinate, network and facilitate programs and resources working with a variety of partners at the university level, military partners and other partners across the state in support of military families, children and youth programming.

Reporting to the Associate Director of 4-H Program and Policy, the successful candidate will work collaboratively with 4-H advisors, program representatives, specialists, volunteers and youth.

A minimum of a master's degree is required, although other advanced degrees are encouraged, with a background in a discipline related to youth development, education, public administration or a closely related field.

Read the full position description at http://ucanr.edu/Jobs/Jobs_990/?jobnum=295. To assure full consideration, applications must be received by Sept. 7.

Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee appointed

ANR has re-formed its Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee to guide ANR's pursuit of diversity and affirmative action as we carry out our mission. Bill Frost, associate director of Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station, has appointed the committee members and given them their charge.

The committee will guide and advise ANR administration regarding affirmative action and nondiscrimination issues, suggest ways of eliminating underutilizations, suggest strategies for improving retention of both staff and academic employees and recommend how affirmative action and diversity efforts can be integrated into ANR's long-range strategic plan.

The members will also provide interpretation and clarification to assist on Americans with Disabilities Act compliance issues; recommend additional compliance guidelines regarding disabled and veteran outreach; assist in determining whether proposed accommodation solutions constitute a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program, service, or activity, or an undue financial and administrative burden on the University; advise on specific accessibility issues; advise administration regarding sexual harassment prevention training and related issues; and assist ANR in fulfilling its federal obligation regarding Affirmative Action Onsite reviews.

The Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee is composed of the following:

Mary Lu Arpaia, CE specialist in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences at UC Riverside

Mary Blackburn, CE advisor in Alameda County

Jane Chin Young, CE advisor in Marin County

Jose De Soto, Hanson REC director

Deborah Girard, CE advisor in Humboldt County

Shermain Hardesty, academic coordinator for small farms

Donald Hodel, CE advisor in Los Angeles County

Nikki Humphreys, associate director of the Business Operations Center

LaToya Jackson, analyst for Staff Personnel Unit

Ramiro Lobo, CE advisor in San Diego County

Anne Schellman, UC CalFresh program representative III in Stanislaus County

Laura Tourte, county director and CE advisor in Santa Cruz County

Toolkit for Change offers help for engaging community members through stories

"Toolkit for Change: Using Personal Stories to Sustain Working Landscapes and Rural Communities" is now on the Web for ANR members to share with clientele and to use themselves. Holly George, UC Cooperative Extension advisor and UCCE director in Plumas and Sierra counties, co-produced the materials and is eager to share them.

"Our new website, <http://ucanr.edu/sites/tfc>, is part facilitation guide for community engagement and education, and part training guide with resources to create digital stories," George says.

In 2009, George and Jesikah Maria Ross, of the UC Davis Center for Regional Change, worked with 12 Plumas-Sierra residents to produce "Passion for the Land," a collection of personal digital stories about agricultural viability and resource stewardship. The project has led to numerous queries on how to create digital stories for a variety of educational and outreach purposes.

Digital stories can be easily and inexpensively distributed via websites, email, social networks and DVDs.

In the toolkit's preface, Ken Tate, Russell L. Rustici Endowed Chair in Rangeland Watershed Science in the Department of Plant Science at UC Davis, writes: "We scientists working on land use issues, and the uncomfortable topic of change, are commonly seeking opportunities to address relevant questions with the best available science.... Digital stories are a tool we can use to reach diverse audiences and spark conversations about these important issues."

Ryan Galt, professor in the Department of Human and Community Development at UC Davis, said, "I assigned 'Passion for the Land' videos for my students to view because they help to personalize and ground the often abstract concepts in academic writing. The videos present perspectives that are not commonly represented in the classroom."

"The toolkit uses a lot of free or inexpensive software so it's an economical way of getting the message out," George said.

"Passion for the Land" videos can be viewed at http://artofregionalchange.ucdavis.edu/?page_id=50. For more information about the toolkit, contact George at (530) 283-6262 or hageorge@ucanr.edu.

KARE calls for project proposals

Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center is soliciting proposals for new research and demonstration projects for the period Nov. 1, 2012, through Oct. 31, 2013.

Located near Fresno in the San Joaquin Valley, KARE has 330 acres suitable for many types of tree, vine and row crops. KARE also has some of the most extensive specialized research facilities of any off-campus location within UC. These are suitable for greenhouse, postharvest, sample handling (including cold storage and drying), sensory evaluation, lysimeters and assorted laboratory research activities. Substantial plantings of grapes, stonefruit, almonds, kiwi, apples and alfalfa are becoming available.

Proposal forms can be obtained at http://kare.ucanr.edu/programs/Research_administration/Research_forms. All forms must be submitted electronically to Janie Duran at njduran@ucanr.edu by Sept. 28.

For more information about field research management, contact Chuck Boldwyn at (559) 646-6020 or cboldwyn@ucanr.edu. For information about the facilities, contact Laura Van der Staay at (559) 646-6030 or lrvanderstaay@ucanr.edu. Other questions can be directed to center director Jeff Dahlberg at (559) 646-6060 or [jadahlberg@ucanr.edu](mailto:jadahberg@ucanr.edu).

Names in the News

Fischer named REC associate director



Lisa Fischer

Lisa Fischer is the new associate director of the Research and Extension Center

System, effective Aug. 1.

As associate director, Fischer will provide coordination, leadership and advocacy for the REC System. Working closely with Bill Frost, the REC System director, she will implement the REC System strategic planning directions for 2025. She will work to improve connections between research and extension/outreach functions and support programs across department, disciplinary and Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension boundaries. Fischer will also oversee the REC budget process.

For the past 21 years before joining UC, Fischer was a program manager at the USDA Forest Service, responsible for implementing national programs and leading regional programs in aerial detection surveys,

insect and disease pest risk mapping and modeling, grants program management, natural resource management and providing geospatial solutions to the State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection staff. Prior to joining the Forest Service, she worked at NASA Ames Research Center providing technical assistance, support and expertise in facilitating, developing and managing collaborative research agreements for applied commercial remote sensing, geospatial and related projects.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in geography from UC Santa Barbara.

Fischer can be reached at (530) 752-2815 and lmfischer@ucanr.edu.

Leal receives international medal



Walter Leal

Walter Leal, a professor in the Department of Entomology at UC Davis,

is the recipient of the coveted Silver Medal, the highest award given by the

International Society of Chemical Ecology.

Leal, who researches how insects detect smells and communicate within their species, is "one of the foremost authorities on the integration of chemical ecology with the molecular, biochemical and physiological interactions among insects and between insects and plants," said Coby Schal, professor and chemical ecologist at North Carolina State University, who nominated him for the award.

Bruce Hammock, distinguished professor in the Department of Entomology at UC Davis, who wrote a letter of support, praised Leal for "his outstanding career achievements and excellence in moving chemical ecology forward" and described him as "a world-renowned chemical ecologist, a pioneer in the field of insect olfaction, and on the cutting edge of research."

Leal and his lab discovered DEET's mode of action: mosquitoes can smell the chemical repellent and dislike the odor so intensely that they avoid it.

The award will be presented at the ISCE's 29th annual meeting, set for Aug. 19-22, 2013, in Melbourne, Australia.

Two other UC scientists have received the ISCE Silver Medal since its inception in 1986: Dave Wood of UC Berkeley in 2001 and Ring Carde of UC Riverside in 2009.

APS honors Bostock, Almeida

Richard M. Bostock, professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis,



Richard Bostock

and Rodrigo P. P. Almeida, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley, were recently honored by the American Phytopathological Society, which presented its 2012 awards Aug. 5 during the APS Annual Meeting in Providence, RI.

Bostock was one of nine members recognized as Fellows in 2012 for

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distinguished contributions to plant pathology or the society. He has made seminal contributions to understanding the interaction between plant pathogens and environmental stress through fundamental studies of signaling in plant-oomycete interactions and through translational research on the etiology and management of fungal diseases of orchard crops. In his basic research efforts, Bostock has studied eicosapolyenoic acid signaling in plant immunity, cross-talk in defense signaling networks and programmed cell death. Throughout his career, he has focused on disease predisposition, emphasizing *Phytophthora* root rots as classic examples of diseases aggravated by soil saturation, drought and salinity.

Bostock and his colleagues discovered that root stress predisposition to infection by *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen that causes sudden oak death, can accelerate the onset and enhance the severity of disease. He has also studied *Monilinia fructicola* which causes diseases affecting stone fruits.

Of particular relevance to the mission of APS has been Bostock's role in the development of the National Plant Diagnostic Network. He founded and continues to serve as director of the Western Plant Diagnostic Network, a partnership of UC Davis and the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Almeida received the Syngenta Award, which is given to an APS member for an outstanding recent

contribution to teaching, research or extension in plant pathology. Priority for this award is given to members of APS who are in the first decade of a career in plant pathology. The recipient receives an engraved award and a \$1,500 honorarium from Syngenta Crop Protection.

Almeida's research interests lie in three broad research areas:

ecology of emerging diseases, pathogen transmission biology and insect-microbe interactions. His lab is currently studying two research systems to address questions of interest, the xylem-limited leafhopper-transmitted bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, and the mealybug-borne grapevine leafroll virus complex.

Morse, Page elected ESA fellows

Joseph Morse and Robert E. Page Jr. are among the 10 newly announced fellows of the 6,000-member Entomological Society of America, the world's largest organization serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and people in related disciplines. They will be recognized Nov. 11 at the ESA's annual meeting in Knoxville, Tenn.

Morse is a professor in the Department of Entomology at UC Riverside and Page is an emeritus professor in the Department of Entomology at UC Davis. Morse served for six years as ANR's statewide program leader

for pest management and agricultural policy.



Joseph Morse

Over the past 20 years, Morse's laboratory has focused on applied and fundamental research dealing with the management of arthropod pests of citrus and avocados in California. Morse has specialized in the areas of integrated pest management, invasive species research, applied biological control, parasitoid behavior and ecology, insectary rearing of natural enemies, the acute and sub-lethal impact of pesticides on both target pests and non-target organisms, modeling and computer simulation, and pesticide resistance.

Page, who retired from UC Davis in 2004, studies the evolution of complex social behavior in honey bees, from genes to societies. After retiring from UC Davis, Page founded the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University, where he built a Social Insect Research Group that is now recognized



Robert Page

worldwide. In 2011, he became vice provost and dean of the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Blackburn receives national honor

Mary Blackburn, UC Cooperative Extension advisor in Alameda

County for nutrition, family and consumer sciences, received the 2012 Excellence in Extension Award from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. She was honored for her program "Quality of Life Education for At-risk Seniors in Californians." The award was presented on June 25 at the association's annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Blackburn was also honored this spring by the Western Region of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. The community service organization selected her to receive its Community Leadership Award in the area of Health and Wellness. Blackburn conducts research and outreach on the nutrition and wellness needs of limited-income senior citizens.



Mary Blackburn

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

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