

VP Allen-Diaz promises to **wear bees, eat insects** for scholarship donations

Celebrities, UC employees, students and people from all across California are tapping into their social media networks and making promises to raise money for UC student scholarships.



Barbara Allen-Diaz

VP Barbara Allen-Diaz has made her own daring promise. If she can raise \$2,500 by Halloween, Allen-Diaz promises to wear a colony of bees, highlighting the importance of pollinators to a supply of healthy food. If she raises \$5,000, she promises to eat protein-rich insects, a plentiful and low-cost source of protein critical to meeting the world's growing food demand.

Assistant VP Tu Tran is making a promise on the VP's promise. "If Barbara does the bee thing, I will donate \$500," Tu said. "If she eats the scrumptious larvae meal, I will donate another \$500, for a total of \$1,000."

To see VP Allen-Diaz's promise and to donate, visit <http://promises.promiseforeducation.org/vpanr>. Feel free to share this link on Facebook, Twitter and other social networks to raise money for UC students. Promise for Education is a UC systemwide fundraising effort for undergraduate scholarships. The campaign ends Oct. 31.



To bee or not to bee...

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Several program teams and workgroups to meet in November and December

Several program teams and workgroups plan to meet before the end of the year.

Nov. 12-14, the Ornamental & Environmental Horticulture, Nurseries & Master Gardener Program Team and the Water Resources Program Team and their workgroups will meet at Putah Creek Lodge in Davis. The agenda, registration and lodging information are at http://ucanr.edu/sites/programteams/Nov_13-14,_2013_Meeting/Nov_12-14_Agenda.

Nov. 14-15, the Meat Production and Food Safety Program Team will meet at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nev. The agenda, registration and lodging information are at http://ucanr.edu/sites/programteams/Meat_Production_Program_Team/Agenda.

Nov. 19-20, the Forest and Rangeland Systems Program Team will meet in Redding. The meeting space will be announced later. The agenda and registration are at http://ucanr.edu/sites/programteams/Nov_19-20_-_Forest_-_Rangeland/Agenda_975.

Dec. 3-4, the Vegetable Crops Program Team will meet in the Buehler Alumni Center at UC Davis. The agenda and registration are at http://ucanr.edu/sites/programteams/Dec_3-4,_2013_Meeting/Agenda_427.

Other workgroups interested in holding meetings in conjunction with these program teams, or at any other time this fall, should complete the meeting request form at <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=7922>. The Program Support Unit will be happy to coordinate other meetings.

For more information, please contact ANR Program Support Unit.

New ANR building in Davis opens in November

There will be a “Ribbon Cutting” and Open House at the new ANR building located at 2801 Second Street in Davis on Friday, Nov. 1. To register for the event, visit <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=11521>.

On Nov. 4 through 8, ANR employees will be moving into the building. On their assigned move day, employees have been asked to work from home or take the day off. Communication Services & Information Technology and Integrated Pest Management Program will be the first to move on Monday, Nov. 4. During the rest of the week, the Research and Extension Center Administrative Office, Program Support Unit, Facilities, Risk & Safety Services, 4-H Foundation, Academic Personnel Unit, Business Operations Center-Davis, Contracts and Grants, Master Gardener Program, Staff Personnel Unit and Youth, Families and Communities (4-H, EFNEP) will move in.

New phone numbers will be assigned to employees working in the new building. Their email addresses will remain the same. Their mailing address will be s UC ANR, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618-7774.

Karl Krist gives a tour of the new building’s break room at bit.ly/H0eJW2 and the second floor at bit.ly/1aZxamT.

If you have questions or concerns about the new building, contact the ANR New Building Culture and Communications Committee at http://ucanr.edu/sites/TheNewANRBuilding/Ask_a_Question.

Second Street News at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/175324.pdf> has the latest information on the new ANR building.

CIWR requests water research proposals



Doug Parker, director of the California Institute for Water Resources, has announced CIWR’s 2014 Request for Proposals. This year, three separate programs of different emphases are offered: topical, junior investigator, and irrigation management. Funded projects will begin March 1, 2014.

The deadline for submitting proposals is Nov. 15, 2013.

Visit the CIWR website to download the full RFP, including budget templates, at http://ciwr.ucanr.edu/2014_Request_for_Proposals.

Hansen calls for proposals

Hansen is soliciting proposals for new and continuing projects for project year 2014-2015 for two programs: its competitive grants program and the Hansen Research and Extension Center (on-site) Projects Program.

The UC Thelma Hansen Endowment Research Fund typically makes available over \$100,000 annually to support activities resulting from this solicitation. Projects may encompass education, outreach, research or any combination of the three, provided they have an extension component. For full details, see http://ucanr.edu/sites/hansenagcenter/Hansen_Agricultural_Center_Programs/Grants.

The Hansen Research and Extension Center provides land, labor, equipment and facilities to researchers for small- to medium-sized plot projects. On-site projects are currently limited to three years. Additional information including a full facility description can be found at http://ucanr.edu/sites/hansenagcenter/Hansen_Agricultural_Center_Programs/Grants/Facility_Description.

Submission of a letter of intent is a required first step in the application process. The deadline for submitting letters of intent is Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013. Successful applicants will be notified by Dec. 18 and will need to submit a full proposal by Feb. 17, 2014.

For RFP details and instructions on submitting letters of intent, please go to the Hansen website at http://ucanr.edu/sites/hansenagcenter/Hansen_Agricultural_Center_Programs/Grants.

If you have any questions, contact Christopher M. Smith, Ph.D. at (805) 662-6943 or cmwsmith@ucanr.edu or Patti Verdugo Johnson at (805) 525-9293 x202.

Soil science conference to be held in Sacramento in March

The Soil Science Society of America meeting will be held March 6–9 in Sacramento and focus on “Soil’s Role in Restoring Ecosystem Services.” Professional and research scientists, consultants, natural resource managers, postdoctoral researchers and graduate students are invited to the spring meeting. The abstract submission deadline is Dec. 1, 2013.

More information is available at <https://www.soils.org/meetings/specialized-conferences/ecosystem-services>. The deadline for a discount on registration is Feb. 4.

If you have questions, contact Jan Hopmans, professor in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources at UC Davis, at (530) 752-8473 or jwhopmans@ucdavis.edu.

Open enrollment begins Oct. 28, ends Nov. 26

Open enrollment begins Oct. 28 and UC Office of the President has posted information — including medical plan premiums — to help you start considering your options for 2014.

It is a year of major change. UC is dropping four medical plans and adding two. Anthem Blue Cross PPO and PLUS, Anthem Lumenos with HRA and Health Net Full HMO are being discontinued. Kaiser Permanente, Health Net Blue and Gold, Western Health Advantage and Core (administered by Blue Shield) will still be available.

UC is offering two new plans: Blue Shield Health Savings Plan, which features a UC-funded health savings account; and UC Care, UC's own PPO plan that offers members access to UC doctors and hospitals.

Read about all medical plans for 2014 at <http://www.atyourservice.ucop.edu/oe/medical>.

Town Hall meetings are being scheduled at all the campuses. Find the closest one to you at <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/oe/resources/events/index.html>.

ANR has scheduled a webinar about the medical plans on Nov. 12 at 1:30 p.m. with Gil Sebastian, Employee Benefits supervisor at UC Davis. The link to the webinar will be emailed via ANR Update.

Open enrollment is scheduled from Oct. 28 to Nov. 26 (two days before Thanksgiving).

IGIS brings GIS software to every UC ANR user

The UC system and Esri, the world leader in GIS software, have an agreement that allows each UC campus to distribute software to students and faculty. IGIS worked collaboratively with UCOP and the UC system to expand the master site agreement to enable academics and staff within UC ANR access to software and tools provided by ESRI. Because UC ANR is covering the cost for the whole division, UC ANR users will have access to these software and tools at no additional cost.

This change in the master site license will benefit UC ANR in several ways. First, academics and staff who want to use ESRI GIS software (ArcMap) will not need to buy the software from an affiliated UC campus. We can now distribute ESRI GIS software and licenses to academics and staff in UC ANR at no additional cost. Second, UC ANR will have a cloud-based geo-portal hosted by ESRI on ArcGIS Online for Organization (<http://ucanr.maps.arcgis.com/home/>) where academics and staff will be able to browse maps and data created by others within UC ANR. At the geo-portal we will be able to create and share data and maps containing mash-ups of our data, as well as data from others available from the web. These online maps can then be used to create web mapping applications, mobile apps and dynamic maps for use in presentations. Third, with the access to the new software and tools, problems will arise that we may not be able to resolve on our own. In the past we would

have had to work through one of the campuses to receive technical support; now we have direct access to technical support within ESRI.



How do you get access to the new tools?

ArcGIS Software and Data— Desktop application and data that academics and staff can use to create maps and analyze spatial data. To get access to the software you need to go to http://ucanr.edu/sites/IGIS/ESRI_Software and login with your ANR Portal credentials and submit the ESRI Download form. After you submit the form you will receive the links to download the image files for the ESRI Software. Staff at IGIS will create an authorization file and email it to you to complete your installation.

ArcGIS Online for Organization— A cloud-based geo-portal where academics and staff can browse maps and data created by others within UC ANR. To get access to the geo-portal at <http://ucanr.maps.arcgis.com/home> with the ability to add data and create maps and apps, you will need to request a login from igis@ucanr.edu and complete the user registration.

For more information, contact Shane Feirer at (707) 744-1424 x114 or stfeirer@ucanr.edu.

Names in the News

Bennaton joins UCCE in Bay Area

Rob Bennaton joined ANR on Sept. 4 as UCCE director in Alameda and Contra Costa counties and UCCE advisor for urban agriculture in the Bay Area.



Rob Bennaton

Bennaton brings over 18 years of experience in horticulture/community development, habitat resto-

ration and youth programming. Prior to joining UCCE, he was a community coordinator at the New York City Housing Authority's Garden and Greening Program, where he increased program participation to more than 3,000 members supporting 743 gardens citywide, leveraged over \$4.5 million in in-kind resources, and spearheaded the installation of NYCHA's first rainwater harvesting system.

Previously, Bennaton worked as a forester for New York's Department of Parks and Recreation on frontline ecological restoration of the Bronx River and local deciduous forests. Working with various nonprofits, he has taught youth/adult staff/volunteers stream bank/forest restoration, led AmeriCorps teams in organic vegetable production for donation to the homeless and AIDS patients and managed a farmers market. Bennaton, who is fluent in Spanish, also spent 16 years supervising programming and staff on weekends at a children's interactive organic farm called the

Howell Family Garden at the New York Botanical Garden.

He earned a B.S. in biological sciences and economics from Fordham University and an M.S. in city and regional planning with a focus on community development and environmental planning from Pratt Institute. He holds two certificates in commercial horticulture in landscape management and plant production and is a horticultural therapy certificate candidate.

Bennaton is based in Alameda and can be reached at (510) 639-1270 and rbennaton@ucanr.edu.

Bolshakova named CD and 4-H advisor



Virginia Bolshakova

Virginia Bolshakova joined UCCE on Sept. 9 as area 4-H youth development advisor and direc-

tor for San Mateo and San Francisco counties and Elkus Ranch.

Bolshakova earned a Ph.D. in ecology from Utah State University, a M.Ed. in science curriculum and instruction from University of Toledo, and a B.S. in biology with a teaching composite from State University of New York at Buffalo and Utah State University.

For her dissertation, the Michigan native examined how climate and weather can impact an irruptive insect (the sagebrush defoliator, *Aroga websteri* Clarke) capable of widespread

destruction on rangelands as well as how biodiversity (parasitoids and nectar resources) in an ecosystem can make communities more resilient to major disturbances, such as insect outbreaks.

Her master's research focused on teacher and student interactions in the urban science classroom, particularly, examining how teacher practices impact students' self-efficacy or measurement of one's ability (self-awareness) to complete tasks and reach goals in science-related activities. This research afforded her opportunities to work with urban middle school kids as a science teacher and educational specialist.

Bolshakova is based in Half Moon Bay and can be reached at (650) 726-9059 and vbolshakova@ucanr.edu.

Lacan named environmental horticulture advisor

Igor Lacan joined UCCE on June 18 as environmental horticulture advisor for the San Francisco Bay Area. He serves San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties.



Igor Lacan

Prior to joining UCCE, Lacan held a tenure-track position as assistant professor of urban ecology at Portland State University in Oregon. Earlier in his career, he worked on several diverse aspects of applied research and

environmental management in California, including water management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, urban forest inventory and management and grasslands inventory and management in the San Francisco Bay Area, the ecology and management of imperiled amphibians in the Sierra Nevada, and urban environmental health assessment in northern and central California.

Lacan's current research focuses on sustainable management of urban trees and urban water. He continues to have an active interest in California environmental policy, which he acquired after spending a year at the state Capitol as a California Science and Technology Policy Fellow.

He earned a Ph.D. in urban forestry, an M.S. in aquatic ecology and a B.S. in biore-source sciences and a B.A. in Latin, all at UC Berkeley. He is fluent in Croatian.

Lacan is based in Half Moon Bay and can be reached at (650) 726-9059 x105, (510) 684-4323 and ilacan@ucanr.edu.

Smith named UCCE Ventura and REC director

Christopher Smith joined UCCE on Aug. 26 as director for Ventura County and director of Hansen Research and Extension Center.



Christopher Smith

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Prior to joining UCCE, Smith served as the associate vice provost for research at Rice University in Houston. From 1998 to 2012, he worked at UC San Diego, where he was executive director for the Center for Theoretical Biological Physics and the National Biomedical Computation Resource. At UCSD, he was also involved in the sequence-structure computational analyses of protein kinases (“molecular switches”), and development of data analytical tools and database resources.

Smith earned his B.S. in genetics at UC Davis while performing biochemical research on herbicide tolerance in glyphosate-resistant tomato cells, and subsequently received an M.S. in biology for his work on citrus tristeza virus at Long Beach State University. At the University of Nebraska, his research encompassed biochemical characterization of regulatory proteins (“kinases/phosphatases”) involved in CO₂-fixation, and wound-induced systemic signaling and gene expression in peas, culminating in a Ph.D. in biological sciences. After completing his doctorate, he did postdoctoral research in computational biology at the San Diego Supercomputer Center, UCSD.

Smith is based in Ventura and can be reached at (805) 662-6943 and cmwsmith@ucanr.edu.

Tollerup named area IPM advisor

Kris Tollerup joined UCCE on Oct. 15 as an area integrated pest management entomology advisor in the San Joaquin Valley.



Kris Tollerup

From 2010 until joining UCCE, Tollerup worked as a postdoctoral fellow at UC Davis. He collaborated with Larry Godfrey, UCCE specialist in the Department of Entomology, Rob Wilson, UCCE advisor and director of Intermountain Research and Extension Center, and Dan Marcum, UCCE advisor in Shasta County, on a project to develop arthropod IPM programs for peppermint in California. They also worked on integrating the use of biopesticides into arthropod IPM programs for peppermint. Prior to UC Davis, he worked on developing effective mating disruption strategies to manage oriental fruit moth on peaches and apples in New Jersey. Tollerup has served on an interagency committee that worked with chemical companies, researchers, growers and the Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) to promote the development and registration of ant baits for use in California agriculture.

Tollerup earned a B.A. in Pomology, Tree and Vine Culture from California Polytechnic State University, and an M.S. in Entomology, Integrated Pest Management and a Ph.D. in Entomology, IPM and Insect

Behavior from UC Riverside.

Tollerup is based at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center and can be reached at (559) 646-6527 and ketollerup@ucanr.edu.

Van Soelen Kim joins UCCE in North Bay Area

Julia Van Soelen Kim joined UCCE on Oct. 9 as an area food systems advisor serving Marin, Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino counties.



Julia Van Soelen Kim

Van Soelen Kim’s research, academic, and professional work focuses on sustainable and local/regional food systems. She brings to UCCE experience in community education and outreach and expertise in farm to school.

Before joining UCCE, she was a program coordinator for Davis Farm to School and Yolo Farm to Fork, where she was responsible for researching, implementing and evaluating Farm to School programs in collaboration with the local school district’s school meal, garden and waste reduction programs. From 2008 to 2012, Van Soelen Kim served as a researcher for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and the Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis, where she conducted longitudinal program and outcome-based evaluation for a national farm-to-school collaborative and worked with many of the nation’s

leaders in local and sustainable school food procurement. Through her experiences, Van Soelen Kim has fostered productive dialogue with food systems stakeholders including community residents, youth, school districts, government entities, nonprofit organizations, agricultural producers, and industry.

She earned an M.S. in community development, a Master of Public Health and a B.S. in sociology from UC Davis.

Van Soelen Kim is based in Novato and can be reached at (415) 473-4204 and jvan-soelen@ucanr.edu.

O’Hara honored by Society of American Foresters

The Council of the Society of American Foresters has selected Kevin L. O’Hara, professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley, to receive its Carl Alwin Schenck Award for 2013.



Kevin O’Hara

The Carl Alwin Schenck award, which includes an honorarium of \$500, is presented in recognition of devotion and demonstrated outstanding performance in the field of forestry education.

O’Hara has been teaching silviculture for more than 22 years, the last 14 years at UC Berkeley. He serves as

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the lead adviser for the SAF-accredited forestry and natural resources degree, and serves as advisor for nearly all of UC Berkeley's forestry undergraduates.

His research involves integrating stand dynamics into stand- and landscape-level decision-making. Stand dynamics generally refers to changes in tree stand structure and accompanying processes over time. With a good understanding of stand structure and stand development, silviculturists and other forest managers can anticipate changes in structure and make appropriate interventions to meet management objectives. These interventions can be in the form of treatments to enhance timber production, create wildlife habitat or restore forest ecosystems.

O'Hara, who is currently on sabbatical in Slovenia, received the award Oct. 24 during a ceremony at the 2013 SAF National Convention in Charleston, S.C.

ANR team wins NEAFCS award for diversity

Mary Blackburn, UCCE advisor in Alameda County, and her nutrition, family and consumer sciences team in Alameda County have been recognized for their diversity efforts by the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences. They were selected as the National and Western Region Certificate Winner of the Mary Wells Memorial Diversity Award.

Blackburn's team of UCCE educators included Nicole Price, Kelly Chew, Evelyn Tilson, Michele Brown, Alicia Fraticelli, Lan Nguyen, Nellie Camacho, Yusef Herbert and Pik Sha Chew.

Their "Seniors Get Fresh Stay Healthy Get Moving" (Staying Healthy) summer program motivated 267 food-insecure elders, who were at-risk for chronic nutrition and life style diseases, to eat healthy and stay active. The diverse team provided educational interventions in 2012 at five multi-ethnic, low-income senior housing sites, then evaluated in 2013. See UC Delivers story at <http://ucanr.edu/delivers/?impact=909&a=0>.

Blackburn attributed the project's success with the seniors to the team's addressing issues related to language, cultural sensitivity, access, literacy, client friendliness, vision, hearing, disabilities and financial need.

The award was presented during the NEAFCS Annual Awards Program at the Galaxy Conference in Pittsburgh, Penn., on Sept. 17.

State honors De Lasaux for forestry contributions

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has presented Michael De Lasaux with its highest honor, the Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry.

De Lasaux, UC Cooperative Extension advisor in Plumas and Sierra counties, has made contributions to forestry that are far reaching and have spanned academic, professional and social arenas.



Mike De Lasaux

"De Lasaux is a well-deserving recipient of the award given his breadth of involvement and influence on forestry in California over the last two decades," the board said in a news release announcing the award.

His accomplishments include the authoring and coauthoring of a number of peer-reviewed publications addressing forest

management in California. He co-founded the Forestry Institute for Teachers program, which has provided educational opportunities to teachers since 1993, and has worked as a volunteer to secure funding for FIT. De Lasaux also developed outreach programs for the Quincy Library Group, is an active member and advisor of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, plans and participates annually in Forest Conservation Days and worked extensively on educating homeowners and the public on the importance of hazardous fuel reduction programs. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of General Counsel and the USDA Forest Service, he was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Forestry for Lawyers Workshop, which is widely touted as a successful effort to educate federal attorneys on the forest science associated with national forest management and restoration.

De Lasaux, Registered Professional Forester 2321, received the award on Sept. 11 in Sacramento.



From left, Mary Blackburn, Nicole Price, Kelly Chew, Evelyn Tilson, Michele Brown, Alicia Fraticelli, Lan Nguyen, Nellie Camacho and Yusef Herbert.

Retirement



Julie Newman

Julie Newman, UCCE advisor in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, retired in July after 28 years of providing research and educational programs in environmental horticulture. Shortly after she joined UCCE in 1985, Newman began collaborating with other UC researchers on pest management of ornamental crops.

“We developed IPM demonstration sites in commercial nurseries and bilingual scouting training programs throughout the state,” Newman said. The demonstration sites were used to evaluate scouting methods and reduced-risk practices. “We documented reductions in pesticide use in nurseries where IPM programs were implemented.” Scouting and nonchemical control methods are now standard practices in the industry.

Later, Newman turned her attention to water quality issues and obtained over \$4 million dollars in grant funding. She worked with UCCE specialists and other advisors to establish water quality projects that assisted more than 200 growers, representing more than 21,000 farm acres draining into county watersheds. These activities resulted in substantial improvements in water use, irrigation efficiency, infiltration rates and reduced runoff from nurseries, farms and orchards.

“Water is a major issue for California growers,” said Fred Van Wingerden, president and CEO of Pyramid Flowers in Oxnard and advisory board member of the UC Hansen Research and Extension Center. “Julie helped nursery growers in Ventura and Los Angeles counties to be proactive by establishing a cost-share program for improvements and providing on-farm assistance in implementing BMPs (best management practices).”

Newman completed a sabbatical study that facilitated her work with researchers in other states on national water quality programs. She was the editor and an author of UC ANR’s “Greenhouse and Nursery Management Practices to Protect Water Quality.”

Over her career, Newman won numerous accolades. This included the Western Extension Directors’ Award of Excellence, California Association of Farm Advisors and Specialists Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding and Creative Academic Teamwork Award from ANR, and the Alex Laurie Award. On Oct. 9, she received the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers 2013 Research Award.

ANR has granted Newman emeritus status and she will continue to work on some projects. Newman is the editor of the “Container Nursery Production and Business Management” manual, which UC ANR plans to publish in the spring.

Read the full story at <http://ucanr.edu/?blogpost=11832&blogasset=60503>.

UCCE connects at Farm to Fork Festival



UC Cooperative Extension participated in the Farm to Fork Festival in Sacramento in September. The 4-H Youth Development Program, which is celebrating its centennial, hosted a booth with 4-H members displaying large and small animals, healthy living activities and a smoothie bike.

Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers also participated in the event. Shermain Hardesty, UCCE specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Davis, gives a video tour of UCCE’s role in the event at http://youtu.be/-QP_9hNwQmY.

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