

CA&ES OUTLOOK

A publication for alumni and friends of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences • UC Davis • Spring 2003



Building the Future

CA&ES OUTLOOK

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Message from the Dean

By Neal K. Van Alfen

The academic, research and outreach programs of our college are known world-wide for their quality, so it is usually surprising to first-time visitors to see that our reputation for excellence has been earned in spite of our facilities rather than because of them.

Our college -- being the first on campus -- is generally housed in the campus' oldest facilities, and most of these are in need of renovation to support modern research and instruction.

When I arrived on campus in 1999, the faculty advised me that facility improvement should be my most important priority and, with the generous support of the campus administration and our friends, we are making rapid progress in meeting the most critical facility needs of our college.

The feature article in this issue of *CA&ES Outlook* describes the progress that is being made in meeting our facility needs, but, even with the completion of the projects described, our college has significant facility challenges in the years ahead.

Our animal science and other field facilities, with the exception of the new swine facility, are antiquated and in need of replacement. Our dairy soon will be surrounded by newly constructed facilities in the core of the campus. It is important for the long-term success of our programs that we find solutions to these challenges. We must have facilities that match the quality of our students, staff and faculty.

The state's current budget crisis undoubtedly will have an adverse effect on our facility plans. The college purposely has been saving funds to use for facility improvements, and these will need to be used to mitigate our budget problems.

Our Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) budget was cut by 10 percent this fiscal year, and the governor's budget proposes another 10 percent cut for the AES and a 30 percent cut for Cooperative Extension through a mid-year cut and

cuts in the next fiscal year.

Budget reductions of this magnitude over a short time will require major changes in our programs to reduce the scope of our activities, but they are unlikely to lessen our need to renew our antiquated facilities. In many ways, facility improvement after such severe budget reductions is even more important as a signal to potential new faculty and students that we remain committed to maintaining our very high standards of program excellence.

Throughout this year, the college will be working to prioritize programs as we look ahead to consolidate and position our most important programs for continued success. Facility planning will need to be considered as we develop new roadmaps for our future.

During the budget crisis, our facility improvements will continue since much of the money for these projects comes from funds that are specific for facility improvement and independent of the recurring state budget.

The most important source of these funds is capital improvement bonds for higher education that have been approved by voters. Another important source is overhead from grants and patent income that is returned to campus and allocated by the chancellor for specific projects. We have been very fortunate recently to receive significant allocations from the chancellor and provost to meet our facility needs.

An increasingly important source of funding to improve our facilities is from donations by friends and alumni. Private universities always have built their buildings using donations, but many people feel that public institutions should be supported by taxpayers. We would not have such antiquated facilities if public support was available to meet our needs.

Our college has been fortunate to have many generous friends, and a number of our new facilities have been built largely using funds they have contributed.

The Joe A. Heidrick, Sr. Western Center for Agricultural Equipment, the

Bowley Plant Sciences Teaching Center and the Seed Biotechnology Center were made possible largely by donations from our friends and alumni.

The Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science was established by a generous \$25 million gift from Robert Mondavi. The Anheuser-Busch Brewing and Food Science Laboratory is being funded in part by a \$5 million gift from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation.

Such major gifts are making a big difference for our programs.

While such large donations are critical to the success of any fund raising campaign, small donations in aggregate also make a difference in our ability to support important programs. Both the Heidrick and seed biotechnology facilities were made possible by many smaller donations.

Our college probably is facing one of the most challenging periods of its history. If all of the budget cuts recommended by the governor are approved by the Legislature, we will need to collapse over 70 faculty positions. Our challenge will be to maintain our outstanding quality through this state budget crisis.

We clearly must reduce the scope of our programs and focus on programs of high quality. I have confidence in our faculty and their ability to create a leaner, more focused college. Our friends and alumni have never been more important to us than they are now if we are to remain one of the finest colleges of agricultural and environmental sciences in the world. We need your support and, when possible, your financial contributions to our programs.



Neal K. Van Alfen
(Ph.D., '72, Plant Pathology)
Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Building the Future

By Clifton B. Parker

Even if you graduated from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CA&ES) at UC Davis just a decade ago, you might have trouble finding your way around the campus today.

Both the college and UC Davis are in the midst of a building boom -- nothing new for a campus that experienced its first boom almost a century ago and also saw spurts of new infrastructure growth after World War II and again in the 1960s.

Through the decades, CA&ES has added buildings to meet pressing educational, research and service needs. Today's newest buildings reflect the needs of 21st century educators and students in the agricultural, environmental and human sciences. From youth and community studies to monitoring the West Nile virus and improving water quality, the college represents a foundation of knowledge in almost every aspect of California life.

Then and Now

The university's first building boom came between 1908 and 1914 when the "University Farm," as UC Davis was known then, built two student dormitories, a combined dining hall and infirmary, stock barns, and sim-

ple buildings for horticultural, viticultural and other work. Then, the university was all about agriculture.

Now almost 100 years later, UC Davis is a full-fledged, comprehensive higher education institution, and the college is a world leader in the agricultural and environmental sciences.

In 2001, the college completed several projects, including the Bowley Plant Science Teaching facility, the Joe A. Heidrick, Sr. Western Center for Agricultural Equipment, and the bee biology building renovation.

Currently, CA&ES is building or renovating 15 different projects at a cost of about \$150 million -- marking an era of physical expansion unlike any in the college's history.

Quality is the issue. CA&ES students and faculty too often learn and work in facilities that one might charitably call, "less than state-of-the-art." Space is cramped and technology is outdated. If the college is to succeed in its academic mission, it needs to improve its facilities.

Neal Van Alfen, CA&ES dean, acknowledges that the college's building plan rests upon an already strong cornerstone -- research and teaching in the sciences.

"Our academic programs and reputation in the agricultural and environmental sciences have set a standard for higher education.

Upgrading our facilities will make the college more frequently the school of choice for the most talented and committed students and researchers," Van Alfen says.

Thomas Kaiser, executive assistant dean for administration, explains that the college's drive to upgrade facilities is part of the overall UC Davis growth plan.

"The challenge for us," says Kaiser, "is to prioritize which programs receive what space in a college where so many departments have real needs. Our goal is to determine the most efficient use of space while also tracking and monitoring project costs and scope so we have realistic outcomes."

Major projects recently completed or on the horizon include:

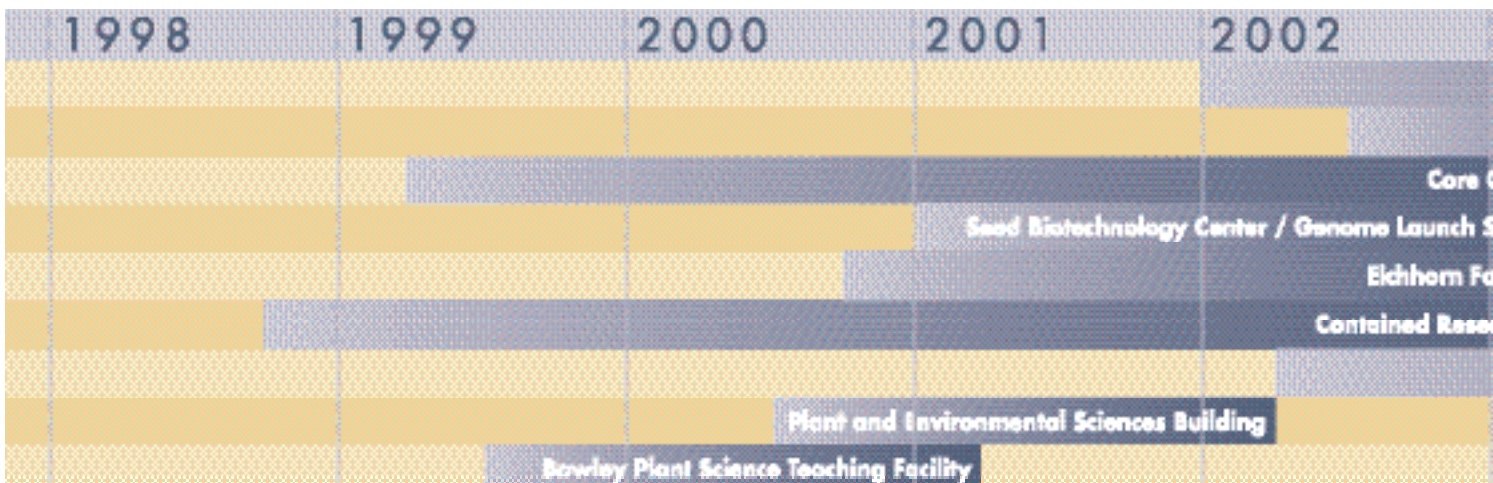
Plant and Environmental Sciences

The scaffolding is long down, the new trees are growing and all of the new occupants of the \$43 million Plant and Environmental Sciences (PES) building have moved in.

Cement planter boxes in the courtyard south of the building display various California crops and soil samples representative of areas ranging from the Sierra to the sea.

The PES building is the first academic building completed for the college within the last decade. The

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Core Greenhouse Facility (under construction in this photo)

concept behind it emerged from extensive discussions in early 1997.

The idea was to “cluster together” researchers in the plant and environmental sciences. With this emphasis on interdisciplinary studies, the PES building houses some of the faculty, students and staff from the departments of agronomy and range science; land, air and water resources; environmental science and policy; and environmental horticulture. The 125,060-square-foot building includes offices and 54 laboratories for teaching and research.

The building was funded half by state bonds and half by campus and college funds. It replaces outmoded facilities in Hoagland and Hunt halls, which cannot be used for experiments that depend on heat and humidity controls due to a lack

of central air conditioning.

In September 2002, the university officially dedicated the PES building with a ceremony involving the media and dignitaries. The building’s architecture is striking, and its laboratories and classrooms are technologically dazzling. The PES building reconnects the university to its roots while charting a course for future research explorations.

Core Greenhouse Project

One spin-off of the PES building is the Core Greenhouse Facility, which will replace the greenhouses removed to make way for the new PES building.

The Core Greenhouse Facility will provide approximately 25,000-square-feet of greenhouse space near the Bowley Plant Science Teaching

Center on the western portion of campus. Plant science represents one of the college’s primary areas of scientific inquiry, making greenhouse space vital to many faculty, graduate and undergraduate students.

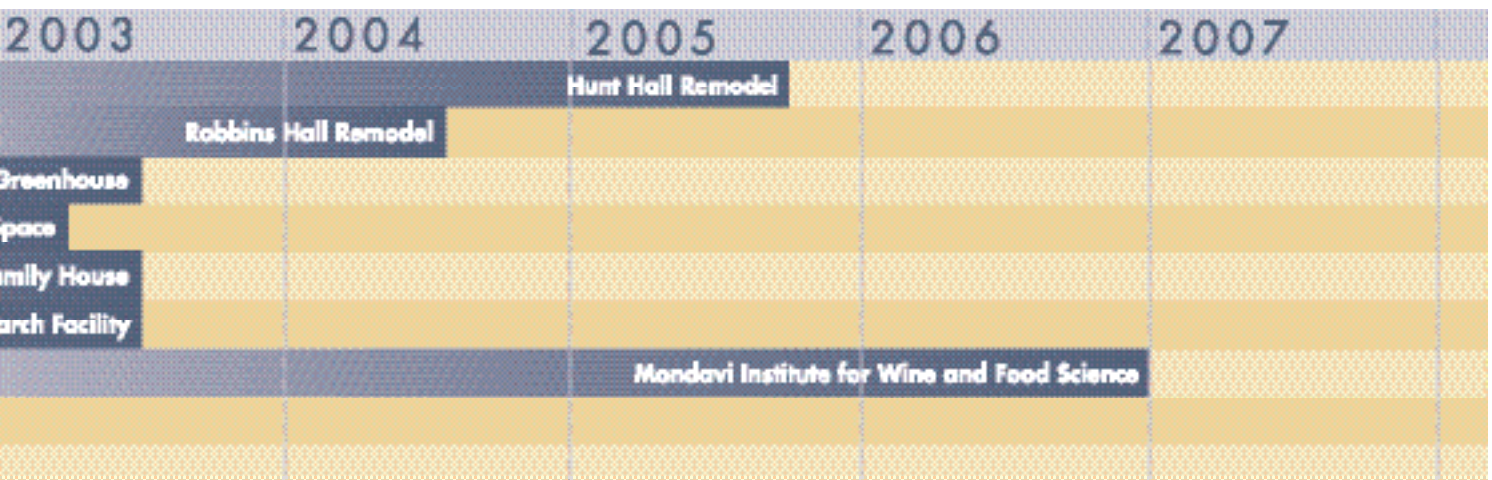
Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science

From the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans, buildings have fostered and promoted new ideas.

That’s the idea behind the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science. Once it opens in 2006, it will be the largest institution of its kind in the world.

Situated next to the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts near UC Davis’ new

(Continued on page 6)





Genome Launch Facility

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front entrance, the institute will display a “synthesis of science and culture” in its location and design.

The Robert Mondavi Institute will include an academic building with 130,000-square feet of teaching and research laboratories, offices and meeting rooms, and a 46,000-square-foot teaching and research winery. It will house the departments of viticulture and enology, and food science and technology.

A fund-raising campaign to build the \$75 million Robert Mondavi Institute already has resulted in naming opportunities. At 16,000-square feet, the Anheuser-Busch Brewing and Food Science Laboratory will include a 1.5-barrel brewery, a food-processing facility, and teaching and research laboratories -- thanks to a \$5 million gift from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation. The institute was established in September 2001 with a \$25 million gift from winemaker Robert Mondavi.

CA&ES has retained the firm Zimmer, Gunsul and Frasca of Portland, Ore., as architects for the

new institute.

Architect Bob Frasca says, “Researchers ask for interactive spaces when they define a perfect building for their use. At the Robert Mondavi Institute, we intend to have laboratory space where viticulture, enology and food sciences can meet for both informal and formal meetings. We will create outdoor spaces that encourage interaction among researchers, staff and students.”

Robbins, Briggs, Hutchison and Hunt Halls

Ongoing renovations in Robbins Hall, Hutchison Hall and Briggs Hall will allow faculty from the departments of entomology; agronomy and range science; nematology; and plant pathology to operate in state-of-the-art surroundings. The core research facilities in Robbins Hall will support efforts in genomics, including DNA sequencing and plant transformation.

Another major renovation is planned for Hunt Hall, which will accommodate programs in landscape architecture, atmospheric sci-

ences, informatics, the Center for Biophotonics Science and Technology, CA&ES International Programs and the Global Livestock Collaborative Research Program. Hunt Hall also will house selected faculty from the agronomy and range science and the hydrologic sciences. “The renovations are considered critical for research and teaching efforts in these departments,” says Kaiser.

Contained Research Facility

The Contained Research Facility opens in 2003 on the west side of campus. The first of its kind in the United States, the facility is a complex of greenhouses and laboratories where research on agricultural pests and plant diseases can be conducted in a highly secure environment. It also can be used for studies on the role that fresh fruits and vegetables may play in transmitting food-borne illnesses.

Through the Contained Research Facility, the college will be able to play a significant role in public health initiatives taken up by

UC Davis. With this new facility, CA&ES researchers will apply basic principles of epidemiology to plants as they work to monitor new and existing diseases and pests that threaten the nation's food supply.

Genome Launch Facility

The single-story Genome Launch Facility opened in February and provides approximately 21,091-square-feet of space for offices and laboratories. It houses the genomics, bioinformatics and Seed Biotechnology Center/California Crop Improvement Association research groups during the early phase of the UC Davis Genome Program. Scientists working in the nearby Genome Center will use the Launch Facility for their offices and other necessary space.

"The Genome Launch Facility will provide the infrastructure and equipment to attract high-quality researchers and help them compete for grants and contracts," says Van

Alfen. "It will bring together research programs in biology and agriculture, and enhance collaborations in genomics research between UC Davis and other organizations."

Ultimately, the genomics and bioinformatics groups will move to the larger Genome and Biomedical Sciences Facility building in the health sciences district of main campus. When these groups move, CA&ES programs will occupy the vacated space.

Eichhorn Family House

On the human and community development front, the new Eichhorn Family House will give researchers an opportunity to study family influences on early childhood development, especially in the area of infant mental health and well-being. The site is located on the central campus within the Center for Child and Family Studies Complex, south of First Street and west of Aggie Village.

"The Eichhorn Family House will become an important setting for interdisciplinary research and graduate instruction about human development, human relationships and family well-being," said Beth Ober, chair of the Human Development and Family Studies Program in the Department of Human and Community Development.

Why Build?

"We invest a lot of resources into building the type of core facilities that can be shared among researchers and used by students," says Van Alfen. "Quality infrastructure and facility development is vital to our mission of educating students and conducting meaningful research. In the end, the students and faculty benefit from better learning and research conditions."

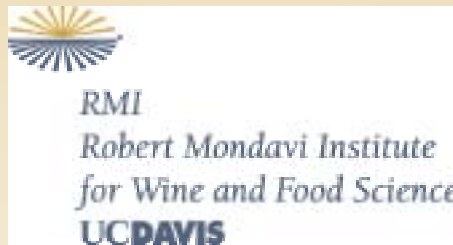
Clifton B. Parker is associate editor of Dateline UC Davis.

RMI Architect Selected

UC Davis selected the Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership (ZGF) of Portland as architect for the new Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science. ZGF was chosen from among six finalists to design the \$78 million complex.

ZGF has designed academic and research facilities for seven UC campuses, as well as for Cornell University, the Johns Hopkins University, Duke University and Northwestern University. The firm will collaborate with the Olin Partnership on the landscape design for the project. The Olin Partnership has worked with Beringer Winery and Chateau St. Jean in the Napa Valley, as well as with the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles, Stanford University and the American Academy in Rome.

"The selection of ZGF is a significant step forward in our effort to



enhance our research, teaching and outreach in areas that are so important to the economy and health of California," said Neal Van Alfen, CA&ES dean. "We all look forward to seeing the early drawings so that we can share them with our friends and supporters."

The project includes three separately funded elements for the Department of Viticulture and Enology and the Department of Food Science and Technology: a 129,600-square-foot academic building with research and teaching labs, a 41,000-square-foot teaching winery, and a food processing facility, teaching labs and brewery consisting of 27,000 square feet. The

project is funded in part by gifts, including \$25 million from Robert Mondavi and \$5 million from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation.

The institute will be designed to be the global innovator in university-based wine and food programs and will house the largest and most prestigious wine and food science academic program in the world.

Educational and research components associated with the winery, brewery and food processing plant are expected to draw many national and international visitors annually.

The Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science will be located on Old Davis Road just north of Interstate 80. Groundbreaking is expected in 2004. Get more information on the Web at caes.ucdavis.edu/publications/ or robertmondaviinstitute.ucdavis.edu.

Picnic Day 2003 Saturday, April 12

Picnic Day is the largest student-run event in the United States and is the annual open house for the University of California, Davis. This hallmark event has been designed to showcase and celebrate the richness of campus life and the diverse achievements of UC Davis students, staff and faculty. Picnic Day provides a day of education, information and entertainment -- more than 150 events across campus. Come join us on this very special day.

Enjoy an imaginative, colorful parade with dazzling bands and floats; food, food and more food; and a



reception booth staffed by Dean Neal Van Alfen and members of the CA&ES Dean's Office.

Stop by the college's hospitality canopy at the corner of North Quad and West Quad, just west of Freeborn Hall where you can pick up information about Picnic Day departmental displays and open house activities. We'll answer any questions you have about the college, its programs or

majors. It's the perfect opportunity to reconnect with faculty, friends and alumni of the college.

For a chance to win a free UC Davis Aggie sports jacket, visit the Web site (caes.ucdavis.edu/events/picday.htm), print out the form and bring it along with you. Drop the completed form into the "Jacket Basket." You need not be present at the time of the drawing to win.

ABC Brochure and Web Site www.agribiotech.info



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Representatives of land grant institutions across the country gathered on the UC Davis campus in January 2001 to compare strategies and philosophies regarding agricultural biotechnology communications. The group -- calling itself the Agricultural Biotechnology Communications (ABC) committee -- met again in Chicago in September 2001 and in Minneapolis in May 2002.

The ABC's goal is to disseminate information to the general public regarding agricultural biotechnology. A subcommittee worked for nine

months to develop a brochure that allows institutions to participate in the dialogue about the benefits and risks of this new technology. Participants attending the 2002 meeting reviewed the content of the brochure, and their feedback was considered in the final version.

The intent of the group is to present a common message across the U.S. about agricultural biotechnology and, at the same time, maintain local identification with targeted audiences. This eliminates duplicated efforts and expenses and unifies primary messages.

Member institutions are adding their own logo's and contact information and printing the brochure for local distribution.

The UC Davis version has been distributed to faculty, departments, the Dean's Advisory Council, Cooperative Extension advisors and specialists, county CE offices, high school science teachers, Master Gardener and 4-H programs, and hundreds of individuals through packets and individual distribution channels. Access the brochure online at www.agribiotech.info.

The brochure was designed by senior artist Margarita Camarena; the Web site was designed by Julia Munsch and student assistant Millie Taldewalt.

At ABC's next meeting in May, members plan to discuss the success of this first communications effort and follow-up on ideas to produce topical "white papers" that will be made available online. The group also is considering producing a companion brochure addressing environmental issues surrounding agricultural biotechnology.

For copies of the brochure, contact Rhoda McKnight, (530) 752-9328 or rjmcknight@ucdavis.edu.

Three New Chairs



Professor **Dirk Van Vuren** was named chair of the Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology (WFCB) in June 2002.

The department has 10 professors, five Cooperative Extension specialists and one adjunct professor. WFCB researchers maintain active research programs in areas such as seabird and raptor ecology, dynamics and management of vertebrate and invertebrate populations, behavior and conservation of African and California wildlife.

All faculty are members of graduate groups that offer M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in areas including ecology, physiology, population biology, animal behavior, comparative pathology and applied mathematics.

“We have an excellent faculty,” Van Vuren says. “In addition to being known for research, the department is highly regarded for excellence in teaching, advising and service.”

Van Vuren knows that his biggest challenge during this time of financial difficulty for the state and the university will be to maintain quality despite scarcer resources. He is busy this first year “learning the job” and realizes that achieving department goals may mean temporarily setting aside some of his personal goals.

Van Vuren, who was raised in Napa, received his Ph.D. in systematics and ecology from the University of Kansas. He came to UC Davis in 1990. His research interests range from the ecological effects of wild pigs in California’s oak woodlands to the population dynamics and social structure of golden-mantled ground squirrels.



Associate professor **Heath Schenker** serves as chair of the Landscape Architecture Program, Department of Environmental Design.

Schenker says that her biggest challenge is increasing the visibility of landscape architecture as a profession dedicated to improving the interaction between people and their environment. As the only professionally accredited undergraduate landscape architecture program in Northern California, the program welcomes applications from returning and transfer students, as well as from undergraduates throughout the UC system.

“Opportunities for graduate work in landscape architecture at UC Davis and for international study and exchanges will be expanding,” she said. “Our program’s greatest strength is the expertise of our faculty.”

Schenker came to UC Davis in 1990. She researches 19th century parks and gardens and currently is working on a book titled “Melodramatic Landscapes.”

Schenker recently researched the history of public parks in Mexico City and edited the book, “Picturing California’s Other Landscape: The Great Central Valley,” which examines the portrayal of the Central Valley over the last 150 years. She developed an exhibit that included paintings, photographs, maps and promotional images.

Schenker received her B.A. in political science from UC Berkeley, her B.L.A. from Rhode Island School of Design, and her M.A. in art history from UC Davis.



Professor **Vito Polito** became chair of the Department of Pomology in June 2002. He was born in New York City, came to UC Davis as a graduate student in 1973 and joined the pomology faculty in 1979.

Today, the department has 24 faculty: 14 professors, seven Cooperative Extension specialists and three Agricultural Experiment Station scientists. Polito’s primary focus now is to weather the fiscal crisis facing the department and college. He also will concentrate on fostering and expanding the department’s strong partnerships with stakeholder groups in California’s agricultural community.

“We have the strongest tree-crop research, education and outreach program in the world,” Polito says. “Our strengths run from applied technology through state-of-the-art molecular genetics. In most areas, we are the institution the world looks to for academic and scientific leadership for pomological species. We have close relationships among professor-level faculty, campus-based Cooperative Extension specialists and county-based extension advisors.”

The department is initiating a campaign to generate sustainable support for research and outreach in California pomological crop species. Support will be directed toward facilities, student endowments and faculty-level research on tree-crop improvement. The department would like to secure at least one additional endowed chair.

Polito’s research focuses on the reproductive biology of Mediterranean-climate tree crops such as almonds, pistachios, olives and walnuts.

1. Perpetuating one's own values
2. Enlightened self interest
3. Leaving a legacy

...are the most common and convincing reasons why donors choose to "name" facilities, endowed chairs and the like. It can be a little bit of all three and a lot of just one, but naming a facility or program requires a substantial commitment from the donor in terms of philosophical and financial investment.

These kinds of gifts also require a great deal of deliberation on the part of the institution receiving them. Every so often, you'll read that a charitable organization refused to accept a gift from a donor. It usually is a situation where the donor's intentions and goals do not philosophically match the insti-

tution's mission or values.

When you add the programmatic needs of the institution into this mix, you further complicate the issue. The potential gift may match the mission or values of the institution, but the gift may be intended for a program that is well funded while another worthy program or project struggles along. Or, the gift may be intended for a program that is in decline, when there's another need in a groundbreaking area of research.

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is the oldest unit on campus. As a result, many of its facilities are just about worn out. There are many good examples in our Department of Animal Science. Our feed mill, dairy and other animal holding facilities are outdated. Our new swine facility exists because the campus needed to expand engineering facilities in the area previously occupied by the pigs.

It's not always that we need new facilities because the old ones are worn. The laboratory requirements for today's research differ greatly from decades ago. Modern facilities are required to

move ahead with our research, teaching and outreach mission.

The college has a need for new or refurbished facilities, and the economic reality is that federal, state and local sources for construction funding are withering as I sit here typing. Charitable donations can bridge this gap.

Corporations, foundations and individuals who support the mission, vision and values of the college can ensure that future generations of their employees, clientele and fellow citizens receive proper training and experience. This can be accomplished with gifts that support your convictions.

Call me to discuss how you can perpetuate your own values, serve your own interests and/or leave a legacy. We want you to be part of our future, and it's as easy as 1-2-3.



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(Left to right) Neal Van Alfen, dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; Chris Hartley, Ph.D. candidate in ecology with a specialization in agroecology; Dianne Louis, staff research associate in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources; Alison Berry, professor in the Department of Environmental Horticulture; and Virginia Hinshaw, provost and executive vice chancellor, planted a tree as part of PES building dedication ceremonies.

Leadership: Now More Than Ever

With existing budget shortfalls and extensive cuts to nearly every state-funded program on the horizon, there is a lot of discussion about the need for leadership.

Leadership in policymaking.

Leadership in education.

Leadership in guiding non-profit organizations.

Leadership in helping public and private companies survive the fiscal downturn.

Leadership in nearly every aspect of California life.

Leadership often is difficult to define, even harder to evaluate and often impossible to replicate.

Educators attempt to integrate some of the important aspects of leadership development into the classroom structure. Public speaking and interpersonal communication skills, team building, problem solving and critical thinking skills often are woven into formal and informal education curricula, although few programs focus exclusively on leadership development.

Realizing the importance of leadership development in today's environment and the reality that no single entity can undertake such a global concept by itself, a few multi-partner organizations have developed leadership programs to serve as models for program enrichment.

California Agricultural Leadership Program

In 1970, a group of agricultural leaders including Dean Brown and J.G. Boswell started the California Agricultural Leadership Program. The program prepares and motivates men and women in agriculture for more effective leadership.

Each year, up to 30 participants are selected for a two-year fellowship



Teachers selected for 2002 California Agricultural Fellowship include (left to right) Katy Hoag, Oristamba High School; Howard Lewis, Cosumnes River College; Kristi Mattes, Central West High School; Matt Patton, Florin High School; Mollie Aschenbrenner, Paso Robles High School; Mike Albiani, Elk Grove High School; and Lynn Martindale, Lemoore High School.

consisting of a series of seminars held at four participating universities: UC Davis; California State University, Fresno; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Now in its 33rd year, the program has produced graduates who have risen quickly to the top in farming organizations, civic groups and government. Graduates are prepared to deal effectively with the complicated issues that influence the environment, agriculture as a whole and society.

California Agricultural Fellowship

Utilizing the successful model of the California Agricultural Leadership Program, the California Agriculture Teachers Association -- in conjunction with the California Foundation for Commerce and Education -- established the California Agricultural Fellowship in 2002 to provide leadership opportunities for high school and community college agriculture instructors.

The two-week program exposed the seven initial participants to a variety of agricultural, environmental and social issues through speakers, tours, seminars and activities, including an intensive overview of California's legislative process. Participants worked

directly with legislators, staff, consultants and industry representatives on a variety of policy issues.

"The California Agricultural Fellowship Program exceeded our goals and expectations for a first-year leadership program," stated Jim Aschwanden, California Agriculture Teachers Association executive director. "We look forward to helping teachers broaden their perspectives of California and interact more in the policymaking process in the future."

For 2003 California Agricultural Fellowship applications or information, contact Doug Gordon, California Foundation for Commerce and Education, (916) 448-2323; CFCE@calchamber.com or Jim Aschwanden (916) 443-2282 or cata@softcom.net.

For more information on the California Agricultural Leadership Program, contact the Agricultural Education Foundation office at (805) 461-7070 or info@agleaders.org.



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Three students received Best Student Paper Awards at the 53rd annual American Society of Enology and Viticulture meeting in Portland.

Cameron Parry, Graduate Group in Food Science, enology emphasis, was recognized for his enology poster titled "Oenococcus oeni Strain Differentiation by Rep-PCR."

Luis Sanchez, Graduate Group in Plant Biology, was recognized for his viticulture presentation titled "Bud Microclimate, Carbohydrate Availability, and Fruitfulness of *Vitis vinifera* L."

Seth Turbow, Graduate Group in Viticulture and Enology, was recognized for his enology presentation titled "Effects of Viticultural Practices on the Aroma of 2000 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Wines."

Animal science majors **Garrett Pedretti** and **Christina Deam** are recipients of 2002 California State Fair scholarships. The program seeks to

motivate well-rounded, high academic achievers in pursuit of their career and life goals. Preference was given to applicants with broad personal, civic and academic experience. Twenty-three scholarships were awarded.

Sara Shields, an Animal Behavior Graduate Group Ph.D. student working in the laboratory of Professor Joy Mench, received the Best Graduate Student Paper Award from the International Society for Applied Ethology. The award was presented at the group's 36th international congress in Edmond-Am-Zee, the Netherlands.

Bonnie Wells, second-year MFA textile arts and costume design student, was selected for "Wearable Expressions 2002/2003," the fourth international biennial juried exhibition for wearable art in the Berkland Gallery, Palos Verdes Art Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Her creation, "Money Coat," is one of a series she is producing on narrative clothing, or clothing with content. Its theme concerns women and their relationship to money -- or lack of it.

Six students in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences received the 2002 Milton D. and Mary M. Miller Plant Science Award:

Richard Heerema, Ph.D. student, plant biology

Holly Johnson, M.S. student, horticulture and agronomy

Cayle Little, M.S. student, horticulture and agronomy

Elisa Noble, B.S. student, agricultural systems and environment

Julia Reimers, B.S. student, crop science and management

Leslie Roche, B.S. student, agricultural systems and environment

Marty Smith received the Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award from the American Agricultural Economics Association at its meeting in Long Beach, Calif. His thesis adviser is Professor James Wilen.

Kara D'Angelo, MFA graduate student in the Textile Arts and Costume Design Program, was awarded first prize in the Fiber/Wearable Art: Graduate Student category of the mounted exhibition at the International Textile and Apparel Association meeting in New York City. Her entry -- titled "The Unfortunate Act of Growing Up" -- presented hand-dyed silk constructed into an elongated dress with reed and plastic tubing.

D'Angelo explained that the piece was inspired by her life experiences and symbolized the challenges of growing up and the loss of innocence.

Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef presented the 2001-02 Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award to animal science graduate student **Jeffrey Mason**. The award is given annually to graduate student teaching assistants who demonstrate outstanding teaching skills and dedication to students. Mason is working on his doctorate in reproductive physiology with Professor Gary Anderson.



Advisers **Kim Mahoney** (left), Department of Environmental Science and Policy, and **Tracy Grissom**, Department of Environmental Toxicology, attended American River College Transfer Day to help community college students choose a university and a major/program in which to transfer after completing two years at ARC. Departments encourage students to explore the many options the college has to offer in the environmental sciences.

West Nile Virus

Professor **Thomas Scott**, Department of Entomology and director of the Davis Arbovirus Research Unit, was quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about the West Nile virus' impact on horses. He noted that the species of mosquito that is the most important vector of viruses already in California is also the most efficient at spreading West Nile virus. With more than 100 human deaths attributed to the West Nile virus in 2002, the mosquito-borne scourge is taking an unprecedented toll on horses.

Scott and his unit confirmed the first human case of West Nile virus in California.

Star Site

According to Professor **Carl Keen**, chair of the Department of Nutrition, the department's Web site, nutrition.ucdavis.edu, received a four-star rating from the Tufts University Child and Family WebGuide.

The site provides resources to parents and those working in the child development field by offering research-based discussions on breastfeeding, maternal nutrition, formula feeding and transition to solid foods.

Of the small percentage of sites that pass Tufts' screening process, less than 20 percent receive a four-star rating.

Making Sense of an Insect's Sense of Smell

Walter Leal, professor in the Department of Entomology, has a long-term collaboration with Kurt Wüethrich, 2002 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, who received the honor for developing methods of identifying and analyzing large biological molecules, such as proteins. Wüethrich is a scientist with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Leal's and Wüethrich's research uses nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and is aimed at understanding how insects perceive pheromones and

other chemical signals. They, along with other colleagues, published research findings that uncovered a key step in insects' sense of smell. The discovery could lead to insecticides that stop insects from communicating through chemical signals.

Leal and Wüethrich are interested in understanding the molecular basis of insect olfaction to pave the way for the development of environmentally safe alternative methods of insect control. As part of their ongoing collaboration, the Department of Entomology



hosted **Donghan Lee**, one of Wüethrich's graduate students, for six months on the UC Davis campus.

Lee was here to learn how to prepare functional recombinant proteins for NMR studies. He is back in Zurich now, analyzing the samples he prepared with Leal in Davis.

Waste Not. Want Not.

Scientists have developed a system for dairy operators to quickly measure nitrogen in dairy wastewater, giving them an important tool in the complex and environmentally sensitive task of managing wastewater lagoons.

Typically, dairy wastewater is pumped from plastic-lined storage areas called lagoons or ponds onto adjacent farmland, where farmers grow corn or winter forage for cow feed. To ensure a good crop, commercial fertilizer is commonly added. But the practice can result in more nitrogen being applied than the crop can use. The leftover can seep down into the aquifer and pollute groundwater.

"A lot of dairy operators don't have the capacity in a wet winter to hold all the water in their ponds," says **Thomas Harter**, a groundwater hydrologist in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources. "It is standard practice to empty the pond in the fall. But if the soil is sandy, you can't put fertilizer on during one part of the year and hope it is there six months later to help plants grow."

Postharvest Resources

The Postharvest Technology Research and Information Center has posted a revised and updated Postharvest Resources Directory online at <http://postharvest.ucdavis.edu/phd/directory-main.cfm?type=maincats>.

The directory includes 466 individual resources listed in categories and sub-categories such as "Controlled and Modified Atmospheres," "Cooling and Refrigeration," and "Gas Sampling, Mixing and Analysis."

Long Live Happiness!

Carolyn Aldwin, professor in the Department of Human and Community Development, has described various research findings on happiness and longevity. Psychologists dispute whether happy people really live longer; Aldwin says emotional stability is what counts. She has reviewed many studies and examined a group of people who took psychological tests in the 1960s.

"You're better off if you are less likely to go to extremes emotionally," Aldwin said, "...if you keep on an even keel and don't let yourself get too upset."

The Agricultural Tourist

Desmond Jolly, director of the UC Small Farm Center, noted that California is one of 20 states promoting agricultural tourism. He reports that direct marketing -- including hay rides, farm stands, income from farmers' markets, and bed-and-breakfasts on farms -- accounts for \$75 million a year, a small but increasingly significant part of the state's \$20 billion agricultural industry.

Wheat Varieties Go Global

Jorge Dubcovsky, molecular geneticist and associate professor in the Department of Agronomy and Range Science, was featured in the Feb. 6 issue of *Nature*. He is leading a consortium of 12 public wheat breeding programs using Marker Assisted Selection (MAS) to accelerate the incorporation of useful traits into wheat varieties. MAS relies on identified DNA sequences located close to the traits of interest, and then uses those chromosome

landmarks to transfer the useful traits into adapted varieties.

The consortium, funded by the USDA, created a Web site at mas-wheat.ucdavis.edu that places this research in the public domain and makes the information freely available across the globe.

The *Nature* article called the effort of this public consortium a “beacon of hope” for the survival of public breeding programs and for the transfer of this technology to poor countries that hope to improve their seed stocks easily and inexpensively while avoiding the legal entanglements of patented GMOs.

Professor **Paul Gepts** also is quoted in the article, as is Kent McKenzie of the California Rice Experiment Station. Read the complete story at www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v421/n6923/full/421568a_fs.html.

Afghan Renewal Plan

Patrick Brown, professor in the Department of Pomology and director of CA&ES' International Programs,

coordinated the Afghanistan Agricultural Initiative focused on the rehabilitation of that country's horticultural crops. Nearly 25 years of war and violence have left Afghanistan with a devastated agricultural system in need of restoration. SUC Davis is leading one of four work groups aimed at renewing this vital enterprise.

In July 2002, representatives from the Afghan community living in the U.S., including Afghan scientists, met with UC Davis researchers and representatives from California's horticultural industry to develop a renewal plan for Afghanistan. Brown also has met with Afghanistan's deputy minister of agriculture and the director of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In Afghanistan, 70 percent of the labor force works in agriculture. Most workers have no training in horticultural techniques, pest management or product packaging and distribution.

“As part of more long-term efforts, both UC Davis and UC Davis Extension hope to be involved in agricultural training programs in Afghanistan,”

Brown said. “We also hope to take part in rebuilding Kabul University's curriculum on agriculture.”

How Much is Too Much?

Extension food toxicologist **Carl Winter**, Department of Food Science and Technology, was interviewed on CBS' *The Early Show* where he discussed recent findings of the chemical acrylamide in a number of foods.

Winter, director of the FoodSafe Program, says the FDA's data do not demonstrate any significant cancer risk from consumption of acrylamide in french fries and potatoes and that it is a leap to project cancer in humans from low doses of chemicals that cause cancer in animals exposed to high doses.

“We have a saying in toxicology: ‘The dose makes the poison,’” says Winter. “It's the amount of a chemical -- not its presence or absence -- that determines the potential for harm. What's much less clear is the health significance, if any, of our much lower levels of exposure to acrylamide in foods.”



Photo courtesy Jim Grieshop

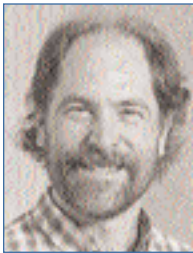
During the past five years, the Department of Human and Community Development, Cooperative Extension, and the Landscape Architecture Program of the Department of Environmental Design have teamed up

with other campus departments to improve the Grafton Elementary School in Knights Landing and the community it serves. Professor **Patsy Eubanks Owens** of the landscape architecture program and her under-

graduate class worked with the community to create multiple visions of a planned new park -- Knights Landing Community Park.

Professor **James Millam**, Department of Animal Science, was lead author of studies published in the journal *Hormones and Behavior* indicating that environmental exposure to the female hormone estrogen may “masculinize” female zebra finches and cause infertility in males -- hindering the ability of the songbirds to reproduce. The report was listed by *Discover* magazine among 2002's 100 top science discoveries (www.discover.com/recent_issue/index.html, select “Environment,” scroll down to “Estrogens Muddle Bird Sex”).

According to *Discover*, the zebra finch, native to Australia, is a popular test subject for American research biologists because there are clear structural differences in the brains of males and females of the species.



CE specialist **Richard Snyder** and Professor **Mark Grismer** (left), Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, received the 2002

ANR Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Teamwork from the Office of the President, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The award recognizes their contributions through leadership, vision and high-level academic excellence.

The award recommendation noted collaborative efforts to implement a research-based outreach program that addresses irrigation management methods for use in low-desert agricultural areas. The work resulted in significant progress in developing and demonstrating methods that minimize surface runoff, improve water-use efficiency and reduce salinity impact on crop yields.

Extension specialist **Stephen Kafka**, Department of Agronomy and Range Science, is the recipient of the 2002

Milton D. and Mary M. Miller Plant Science Award. Kafka investigates ways to improve crop production efficiency and environmental quality relative to crop production. He works at commodity and farming-systems levels. He is the new director of the college's Long Term Research on Agricultural Systems project (LTRAS).

The Millers established the endowment to support UC Cooperative Extension members seeking an advanced degree and to support undergraduates in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, particularly in Cooperative Extension crop science intern programs.

Professor **Miguel Marino**, Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, is the new president-elect of the American Institute of Hydrology, the only nationwide organization to offer certification to professionals in all fields of hydrology. He will serve as president-elect for two years and as president for two additional years.

The Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) recognized **Julian Alston**, professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, for outstanding published research. Alston's work was co-authored with John Freebairn and Jennifer James, both UC Davis Ph.D.s.

The American Agricultural Economics Association Foundation announced the chartering of the Alex F. McCalla Appreciation Club in recognition of **Alex McCalla's** many contributions and sustained leadership in the areas of international trade and development. McCalla, who also gave the WAEA Fellows address, is professor emeritus in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

The next time you play Trivial Pursuit, you may run across the name of **Eduardo Blumwald**, professor in the Department of Pomology. In the latest version of Trivial Pursuit -- the 20th Anniversary Edition -- he shares a card with Harry Potter and Stevie Nicks, certainly interesting company for a plant physiologist.

Here are the questions:

GV • What nation boasts the world's richest royal family -- Britain, Japan or Saudi Arabia?

SS • What Fleetwood Mac member offered the words of wisdom: “One should not live without dimmers. Life is all about lighting?”

NWS • What populous nation was finally admitted as the 143rd member of the World Trade Organization, in 2001?

WW • Who is Petunia Dursley's famous nephew?

INV • What did biologist Eduardo Blumwald develop a salt-tolerant strain of, in 2001 -- tomatoes, peppers or slugs?

GT • What team sport sent the most 5-to-24-year-olds to the emergency room in 1998?

Here are the answers:



Professor **Ruihong Zhang**, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, served on a key National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council committee to recommend approaches to deal with emissions from animal feeding operations. The NAS Committee on Air Emissions report was published in February. The study was commissioned by the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A *Wall Street Journal* story stated that the scientific report found that air pollution stemming from the nation's increasing number of industrial animal farms needs to be reduced but that federal agencies so far have taken inadequate steps to address the problem.

The 16-member committee of scientists who prepared the report provided an outline of steps they believe are needed to reduce air pollution, including a more coordinated response to the problem at the federal level.

Lecturer **Dana Van Liew**, Department of Animal Science, received the Academic Federation's 2002 Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is manager of the campus sheep facility and teaches several undergraduate animal evaluation and management courses. Van Liew has also coached the livestock judging team for 25 years and has used this as a vehicle to reach future agricultural leaders throughout the state and recruit them to UC Davis.

Professor **David Gilchrist**, Department of Plant Pathology; Professor **Richard Michelmore**, Department of Vegetable Crops; and Professor **Barbara Schneeman** (B.S., '70, Food Science), Department of Nutrition, are among five UC Davis faculty members elected fellows in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The five were among 291 scientists elevated to the rank of fellow for contributions to science.

Professors Judy Callis and Chuck Gasser, Section of Molecular and Cellular Biology, also were recognized.

AAAS publishes the journal *Science*.

Professor emeritus **Vernon Singleton**, Department of Viticulture and Enology, received the Outstanding Food Science Award from his alma mater, Purdue University. The award pays tribute to alumni who have brought honor to Purdue through a unique and outstanding career in food science. Recipients were nominated by faculty and staff.

In 33 years of professorship at UC Davis, Singleton instructed approximately 14,000 students. His research focused largely on the reactions of phenolic compounds with oxygen.



Professor **Joy Mench**, Department of Animal Science, received the 2002 Humane Society of the United States

Society Award, which recognizes high quality curricula and instruction in animal welfare. Mench's research inter-

ests include animal welfare and stress; environmental enrichment for intensively managed animals; and social behavior in domestic birds.



Professor **Michael Singer**, chair of the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, was installed as president of the Soil Science

Society of America (SSSA) in November. He will serve for one year, and then serve as past-president for one year. Singer will represent SSSA at various meetings and will serve on the executive committees of SSSA and the American Society of Agronomy.

As president-elect, Singer made over 100 committee appointments and served as program chair for the group's annual meeting.

SSSA is an international organization comprised of 5,500 members.

Professor **Juan Medrano**, Department of Animal Science, received the 2001 Medal of Science and Technology of Guatemala in recognition of research achievements. The award was co-presented by the vice president of Guatemala and the head of the Guatemalan Congress at an award ceremony in Guatemala City.

Medrano presented an overview of the significance of genomics in modern biology, including descriptions of his research on the genetics of animal growth with the high-growth mouse and the modification of milk composition.

Professor emeritus **Richard Harris** of the Department of Environmental Horticulture recently was honored by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The organization voted to rename an award the Richard W. Harris Authors Citation based on the researcher's significant contributions to the growth of the arborist's profession, especially in the area of publications. ISA distributes the award to authors of outstanding arboriculture publications.

The society has served the tree care

industry for over 70 years as a scientific and educational organization.

Governor Gray Davis appointed Professor **Marion Miller**, chair of the Department of Environmental Toxicology, to chair the state's Developmental and Reproductive Toxicant Identification Committee. The committee acts as the state's qualified scientific expert on chemicals causing reproductive toxicity.

Courses taught by Miller cover the biological effects of toxicants, environmental toxicology career options, reproductive toxicology, and principles of pharmacology and toxicology.

Professor of atmospheric science **Terry Nathan**, Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, is a field contributor for *Nature Photographer* (NP) and recently had an article and photos published in the magazine. The magazine's new Web site includes a section called "Helping the Environment," www.naturephotographer-mag.com.

As a field contributor for *Nature Photographer*, Nathan is available to photograph CA&ES research that is having a positive impact on the environment and can submit the photos and showcase the environmental research being conducted at UC Davis.

Nathan's research involves combining observations with advanced mathematical models of the atmosphere to study short-term climate variability, stability of geophysical fluid flows, stratospheric ozone, and the impacts of meteorological events on exploration, including the Lewis and Clark expedition.



Calvin O. Qualset, professor emeritus, Department of Agronomy and Range Science, and founding director of the Genetic Resources Conservation

Program, is the second recipient of the William L. Brown Award for Excellence in Genetic Resources

Conservation. He was recognized for his accomplishments in conserving and utilizing genetic resources for future generations.

Through four decades of research, Qualset has examined the genetic resources of a wide array of crops, including wheat, barley, oat and triticale. His work has uncovered important genetic traits useful in crop development and has promoted growth and development of programs, projects and activities around the world.

Qualset was president of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. He has served as a consultant or board member to a wide array of national and international organizations and has been instrumental in the review of many international agricultural research centers.



Professor **Scott Rozelle**, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, is chair of the International Advisory Board of

the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy. He is widely recognized as one of the leading U.S. economists with expertise on China's large agricultural sector. Rozelle currently is studying the impact that China's entry into the World Trade Organization will have on California's fruit and vegetable economy.

Rozelle was named the UC Davis 2000 Chancellor's Fellow, an award presented annually to one outstanding university faculty member. He joined the department in 1997.

Professor **Richard Bostock**, chair of the Department of Plant Pathology, was appointed director of the newly formed Western Regional Center for Plant Disease and Pest Diagnostics, headquartered at UC Davis and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture with federal appropriations for homeland security.

The western center is one of five national centers that form a network

designed to enhance and coordinate the detection of and diagnostics for plant pathogens and pests that are intentionally or accidentally introduced in the U.S. and that pose a particular threat to agriculture. Network members include plant and pest experts from land-grant universities, state departments of agriculture, Cooperative Extension and the USDA.

Vegetable crops professor **Kent Bradford** recently received the Seed Science Award, presented at the 2002 annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA).

Founder and director of the Seed Biotechnology Center, Bradford's research spans diverse areas of seed science from seed enhancement and stand establishment to mathematical modeling and molecular biology.

Professor **Clarence Kado**, Department of Plant Pathology, received a national award for service as a presidential adviser on national security. As part of the award, he was given a presentation case containing a U.S. flag flown at the White House.

In addition, Kado was selected to present the Noel Keen Memorial Lectureship at the 3rd Annual American Society of Microbiology and the Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR) Microbial Genomes Conference in New Orleans. His talk was titled "Mining Plant Bacterial Genomes for Regulators and Effectors of Virulence and Pathogenesis."

Professor **Chris van Kessel**, chair of the Department of Agronomy and Range Science, was elected a fellow in the Agronomy Society of America and in the Soil Science Society of America. He specializes in soil fertility, nutrient cycling, cropping systems and landscape scale agronomy. Much of his research is understanding the basic concepts and unifying principles behind agroecosystems.

Van Kessel is an associate editor of the *Agronomy Journal* and of the *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.

John M. King
(52, Animal Science)
August 15, 2000

Steven L. Miller
(84, Agricultural and
Managerial Economics)
March 27, 2002

Herrad B. Ortmyer
(B.S., '61; M.S., '70, Avian Science)
May 11, 2002

Gordon L. Huntington
(Ph.D., '80, Soil Science)
Professor Emeritus
Department of Land, Air and
Water Resources
September 14, 2002

James Meyer
Chancellor Emeritus
Dean Emeritus
Professor Emeritus
Department of Animal Science
October 12, 2002

Joe Stasulat
Program Manager
Internship and Career Center
October 16, 2002

Walter B. "Jim" McHenry
Extension Specialist
Weed Science Emeritus
Department of Vegetable Crops
November 8, 2002

T. Jeffrey Boese
President and CEO
California League of
Food Processors
Member, Dean's Advisory Council
December 11, 2002

Suzanne Vaupel
(M.S., '84, Agricultural Economics)
January 22, 2003

Leonard Morris
Professor Emeritus
Department of Vegetable Crops
January 23, 2003

Richard Peters ('59, Soil and Water) of San Jose is retired and keeps active managing the 240-acre family farm, doing international short-term consulting and being involved in the local Master Compost Program. He worked more than 40 years in international agricultural development with long-term service in Vietnam, Algeria, Nigeria, Bolivia, Zaire, Honduras, Ecuador and Jordan.

Peters and his wife of 38 years have three grown children. Their oldest daughter is a scientist; their son and younger daughter are lawyers.



Stephen Weiss ('61, Animal Science) of Paso Robles, Calif., is vice president, corporate banking for Mid-State Bank and Trust. A banker for 41 years, Weiss deals with high-dollar loans in all areas of business. He and his wife, **Susan Crabb Weiss** ('61, Home Economics), have two children, Cori and Jeff, and three grandchildren. They were married in 1961.

JoAnne (Jody) Miller ('63, Home Economics) of Bakersfield retired from teaching in the Panama Buena Vista School District in June 2001 after 24 years.

Stephanie Allen ('70, Child Development) of Denver recently founded ThoughtWear.com, a company that sells imprinted t-shirts, sweatshirts and nightshirts. Company founders contribute a percentage

of profits to a selected children's charity. ThoughtWear, LLC is located in Grand Blanc, Mich.



Michael Savage ('73, Soil and Water Science) of Irvine joined Camp Dresser & McKee in May 2000 as vice president responsible for water resources in federal programs. He is the firm's water resources market leader addressing all national and international business lines.

Savage previously was global technology leader for water resources planning with CH2M Hill, where he worked for 21 years.

April Haprin Wayland ('76, Human Development) of Manhattan Beach, Calif., has a newly published book, *Girl Coming in for a Landing: A Novel in Poems*. The book traces the excitement and anguish of a young woman on the verge of adolescence.

"Many of the poems were from journals in my college years at (UC) Davis," Wayland writes. Wayland, a farmer turned folk musician turned author, also teaches poetry.



Sarah E. Lingle ('77, Genetics) of Kenner, La. is a plant physiologist with USDA-ARS in New Orleans where she is researching the molecular physiology of sugarcane. She was elected a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy in 2002.

Cheryl Vasek ('78, Individual) of Moscow, Idaho, is an assistant professor at the University of Idaho. She has been teaching for three years. Vasek is an avid gardener and new homeowner.

Robert Galgiani ('81, Agricultural Economics and Business Management) of Pleasant Hill, Calif., is

financial project manager for Kaiser Permanente in Oakland. He recently was promoted to Kaiser's business and capital planning department.

Scott Steinmaus (B.S., '84, Plant Science; Ph.D., '96, Plant Biology) of San Luis Obispo, is a professor in the Horticulture and Crop Science Department of California Polytechnic State University. He moved to Cal Poly with a USDA National Research Initiative Fellowship.

Steinmaus' teaching and research focus is on weed ecophysiology and genetic mechanisms of herbicide resistance.

He and his wife Nancy Riedel Steinmans, also a UC Davis graduate, have one daughter, Alexi.

Elizabeth Buzza ('86, Animal Science) of Carmel Valley, Calif., is a full-time mom for sons Zachary and Jacob. She enjoys swimming, cycling and running, as well as participating in triathlons. Buzza volunteers with Tri-California, a company that produces and markets triathlons.



Michael Jimenez ('86, Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning) of Los Angeles is head of government and community relations at DreamWorks SKG in Universal City. He plays a key role in coordinating the political and community involvement of DreamWorks principals -- Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen -- and represents the studio in its dealings with government officials and agencies. He previously was vice president of public affairs at the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Jimenez grew up in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. He is a member of the board of directors of TreePeople and, in 1987, received a Public Affairs Fellowship from the Coro Foundation. He served on the Los Angeles Redistricting Commission and currently serves with the Los

Angeles County Capital Asset Leasing Corporation.

Steve Sutter ('86, Animal Science) of Half Moon Bay, is a veterinarian in San Mateo where he owns Aragon Veterinary Clinic. He lives with his wife Pam, three-year-old son Ryan, and an assortment of cats and dogs.



Julie Woo Huey ('92, Agricultural and Managerial Economics) of Folsom is an IT analyst/programmer with her own business. She is building Web sites for small- and medium-sized companies. Huey is married and has one daughter.

Erik Beever ('93, Biological Sciences) of Corvallis, Ore., is a research ecologist at the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center. He is involved in a variety of research topics related to ecology of arid landscapes -- from population to landscape scales.

Projects include extirpation dynamics of pika populations in the Great Basin; response of soils and vegetation to removal of livestock grazing from Mojave National Preserve in California and Great Basin National Park in Nevada; and the ecology of feral-horse grazing in the Great Basin.

Melanie Cagonot Kong ('95, Design) of South San Francisco works as a designer for Cisco Systems, Inc. in San Francisco.

George Chen (B.S., '98, Biochemistry; M.F.A., '00, Textile Arts and Costume Design) of Hayward and **Susan Taber Avila** (M.F.A., '96, Textile Arts and Costume Design) of Oakland participated in "Bay Area Art V," at the Napa Valley College Fine Arts Gallery in Napa, Calif. The show ran for five weeks.

Catherine Burr Mathews ('99, Landscape Architecture) of Las Cruces, N.M., is a landscape designer with the City of Las Cruces, working on park, street, commercial development, highway and urban design projects with a team of urban designers and planners. She previously worked at a landscape architecture firm in Santa Cruz after graduating from UC Berkeley's M.L.A. program.

Gavin Ow ('00, Biological Sciences) of Cork, Ireland, and Yuba City, Calif., is attending medical school at University College, Cork. Ow describes Cork as the second largest city in Ireland -- behind Dublin -- and four times bigger than Davis. He enjoys the nightlife, describing the pub life as "phenomenal!"

Half of Ow's classmates are Irish and the other half international, he says, with about a quarter coming from the U.S. or Canada. Ow writes that the weather always is cool and

that it rains two or three days a week. "I've learned to take my umbrella everywhere."

Karin Tekel (M.S., '01, Hydrologic Sciences) of Basking Ridge, N.J., is an environmental scientist with EcolSciences, Inc. in Rockaway, N.J. She recently moved to Basking Ridge from Warren.

Tara Habig McHugh ('93, Ph.D., Food Science) of El Cerrito, Calif. recently was presented the Early Career Scientist of the Year award by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, according to an announcement by agriculture secretary Ann M. Veneman. She was named the Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Scientist for development of innovative approaches to enhance the marketability and healthfulness of fruit and vegetables, such as edible food wraps made from pureed fruits and vegetables.



Roger Jones ('92, Environmental and Resource Science) of Elverta, **Steve Scott** ('94, Wildlife and Fisheries Biology) of Elk Grove, and **Kevin Cassady** ('94, Environmental and Resource Science) of Sacramento (left to right) are senior natural resource specialists with the County of Sacramento. They manage the 3,000-acre Bufferlands in Elk Grove, which is owned by the Sacramento Regional

County Sanitation District (SRCUD).

The three are led by natural resource supervisor **Bryan Young** (right) ('92, Wildlife and Fisheries Biology) of Wilton. The team coordinates environmental mitigation efforts for SRCSD capital improvement projects and develops and implements public outreach, education and research programs.

Alumni Information Sheet

The alumni section is a favorite among our 50,000 readers. People like to know where you're living and what you're doing. Take a moment to drop us a note.

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Occupation _____ Employer _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone (____) _____ E-Mail _____

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