

CA&ES OUTLOOK

A publication for alumni and friends of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences • UC Davis • Spring 2006



Building
Better
COMMUNITIES



MESSAGE

FROM THE DEAN

Serving Californians

California is a land of superlatives. There are few places on earth that have such an incredible combination of climate, soils, and landforms that are so conducive to habitation by people and productive for agriculture.

These natural riches have resulted in California being the most populous state in the Union and the one that leads all others in the value of agricultural production. California's natural beauty makes it one of the nation's top tourist destinations.

The riches of this state challenge us in ways that few other parts of the world experience. At one time, Los Angeles County was the richest agricultural county in the country; but, much has changed since that time. In hindsight, would we have wanted that area to develop as it has, or are there better ways to use our natural resources to meet the pressing and growing needs of California's citizens?

How can we maintain green spaces, productive agricultural lands, and still meet the housing needs of our growing population? As our communities develop, how can we provide for the social and nutritional needs of the stressed or disadvantaged segments of our population?

Questions such as these are as much the subjects of our college's teaching, research, and engagement activities as are more traditional agricultural production and environmental protection questions that our college's name implies.

If I were to characterize our college by what we do, I would describe how we put knowledge into action, solve problems, and help our state's economy remain globally competitive.

In this issue of *CA&ES Outlook*, we highlight ways that we are helping California build better communities through our nutrition, youth, and other community programs. I hope you will be impressed with the scope of our college's activities in serving the needs of our state's citizens.

Neal K. Van Alfen
Dean
College of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences

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UC DAVIS

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C BUILDING BE COMMUNIT

By Ann King Filmer

Building linkages with our California communities and establishing people-to-people contacts is an important part of the mission of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. When we discuss “communities,” we mean more than just the structures of our urban and rural towns and cities – we also mean the people and the environments of our communities.

Long ago our college surpassed a sole focus on traditional rural agriculture. While we remain deeply committed to agriculture and to its stakeholders and heritage, we now also address the many needs of our suburban and urban communities. The research and outreach programs of our faculty and staff address most aspects of communities – health and fitness, youth development, education and employment, economic stability, and healthy environments.

Every department, center, institute, and program in our college addresses some aspect of “community.” Balancing research with serving the needs of the people, places, and environments in our communities is at the heart of our college and its mission.

As the California population continues to grow in the next decades, the needs of all of our communities – rural and urban – will increase. Our programs address not only the present needs of California communities, but anticipate future challenges.

We are proud of the depth and breadth of teaching, research, and outreach related to our California communities, and we want to share some of the many programs with you. This article highlights five of our community-focused programs in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Other stories highlighting some of our community-based programs and projects can be found on pages 10, 12, 14 and 19 of this issue. ■





BETTER LIFESTYLES

EatFit Program

With obesity rates continually rising among our youth, a group of researchers in the Department of Nutrition developed an award-winning educational program, EatFit, to help middle-school youth improve their eating and fitness choices. EatFit uses a youth-focused magazine and Web site (www.eatfit.net) for adolescents, and provides teachers and caregivers with challenging and creative lesson plans to strengthen the program in classrooms, community forums, and home settings.

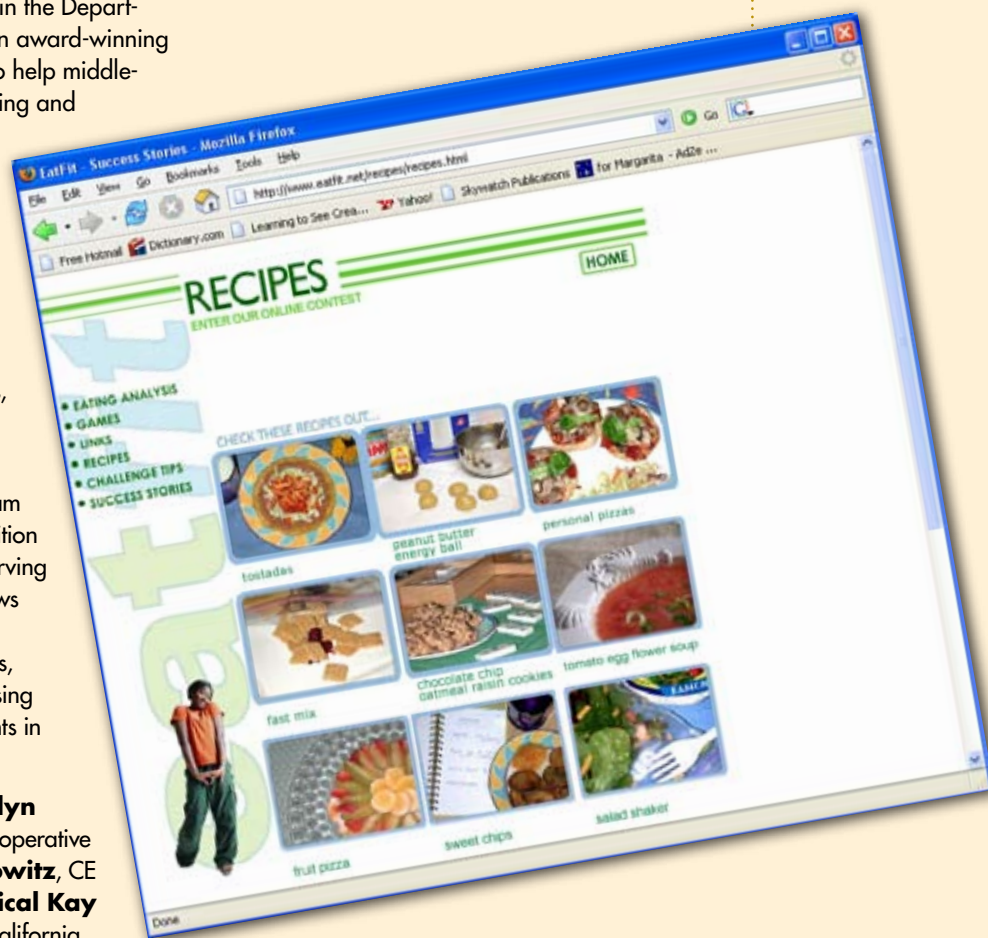
As part of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP) serving low-income families, EatFit shows youth how to set nutrition and exercise goals, read food labels, and understand media advertising -- important skills for adolescents in developing healthy lifestyles.

EatFit was developed by **Marilyn Townsend**, a specialist in Cooperative Extension (CE), **Marcel Horowitz**, CE advisor in Yolo County, and **Mical Kay Shilts**, assistant professor at California State University, Sacramento. They work

with teachers, youth leaders, and CE EFNEP and FSNEP staff to deliver nutrition education through the EatFit program.

Research is being conducted in Tulare, San Joaquin, and Calaveras counties to see if the level of program intensity impacts new fitness and eating behaviors. Also under study is whether this program impacts student results for California's education standards in math and language arts.

With so much awareness now about obesity and nutrition, EatFit has received broad support. Funding was provided by the USDA EFNEP and FSNEP programs, the American Distance Education Consortium, the UC School/University Partnerships Program, and the UC Davis Center for Advanced Studies in Nutrition and Social Marketing. EatFit received a Dannon Institute Award for Excellence in Community Nutrition.



Community Resources for High School Students

High school students in four California cities are participating in a research project to identify resources that they need for support and to feel safe in nonformal educational settings. Providing the youths with journals and cameras as part of the project allows them to identify the types of youth programs, community settings, and after-school programs that provide value and support. Additionally, it allows the students to participate directly in gathering research data, a valuable academic skill and contributor to self-esteem.

Katherine Heck, a researcher in the UC Davis Department of Human and Community Development and with the state-wide 4-H Center for Youth Development, works with academics throughout the UC system to evaluate youth development collaborations in four model cities – Sacramento, Santa Clara, San Luis Obispo, and Pasadena.

By understanding and evaluating what youth find important in community support programs, UC researchers can then work with communities to develop safe and successful programs and centers that are attractive to youth outside of school hours.

The 4-H Center for Youth Development (<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>), directed by CE specialist **Jim Grieshop**, is housed in the human and community development department at UC Davis, and is funded by the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The center's goal is to provide effective research-based programs for California youth and their families.

California Communities Program

Employment and training opportunities for hard-to-employ people -- the homeless, previously incarcerated individuals, recovering substance abusers, mental health clients, and other challenged groups -- is just one focus of the California Communities Program (www.ccp.ucdavis.edu).



Based in the Department of Human and Community Development and directed by specialist in Cooperative Extension **David Campbell**, the California Communities Program receives funding to evaluate community projects from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Researchers in the California Communities Program, including **Cathy Lemp** and **Jeanette Treiber**, work with colleagues at the California Employment Development Department and at several California state universities to evaluate the California Community and Faith-Based Initiative (CFBI). Through CFBI, the Employment Development Department was allocated \$20 million to fund more than 40 faith-related and community-based organizations that help hard-to-employ individuals find and retain employment.

The evaluation seeks to learn how and how well these programs work to employ those not typically served by existing government programs. A final report will be issued later this year.

The California Communities Program partners with county Cooperative Extension programs and many other agencies and nonprofit organizations to work on policy and community development issues throughout California.

Helping Communities Adapt to Immigration

Helping rural communities in California adapt to immigration and the changes that accompany large numbers of people settling into new areas is important to professors **Philip Martin** and **Edward Taylor** and their colleagues in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Some of the changes that accompany population flux due to immigration include local economic changes, shifting employment needs, urban/rural interface issues, environmental concerns, and impacts on schools, housing, and social services.

There are no easy answers for rural communities that sometimes lack the knowledge or resources needed to cope with agricultural workers and other immigrants who settle in California and elsewhere in the U.S. One of the goals of the researchers is to help local governments and agencies – school boards, police

departments, economic development organizations, and city councils – understand the short- and long-term impacts of immigration.

Martin's and Taylor's research activities include:

- Preparing benchmarks using standard data on immigration numbers
- Showing the importance of immigrants to local economies
- Showing what other communities are doing help with newcomers
- Developing best practices for communities to adjust to population influx

"Migration Dialogue" (www.migration.ucdavis.edu) offers information on programs and issues related to immigration.

Clean Transportation Fuels

The rising cost of fuels and new legislation calling for lower vehicle emissions are driving an interest in developing alternative and clean transportation fuels. **Daniel Sperling**, a professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy and director of the UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies (www.its.ucdavis.edu), is committed to research on developing alternative fuels, cleaner fuels, hydrogen fuel cells, and vehicles that produce fewer emissions.

Sperling works with environmental groups, major oil and automobile companies, and the federal government. He knows that it takes collaboration with all of these organizations to increase the funding for new and better energy sources. Sperling educates the state legislature and Congress on alternative fuels and the need for research and development support on energy issues.

President Bush, in his most recent State of the Union address, noted the importance of this research area. He said that America is addicted to oil and that technology and research are needed to improve how we power our automobiles. Bush's goal "to replace more than 75 percent of our oil imports from the Middle East by 2025" is being addressed by of Sperling and his UC Davis colleagues. Regardless of whether we live in urban, suburban, or rural communities, we all benefit from cleaner air and lower energy costs.

Summary

These examples of projects addressing youth health and development, employment, immigration, and transportation are just some of the many community-focused programs in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. While we continue to teach our students about the importance of California communities, our faculty and staff continue to engage in research and outreach programs that address present and future community-based issues.

Striving to make our communities better and serving the needs of society are at the heart of our college. ■



PHOTO: Joseph Krovova

Left: Professor Daniel Sperling test-driving a Nissan hydrogen fuel cell vehicle in Japan.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Above: Peter Moyle and students in Putah Creek.

By Aldrich Tan

Peter Moyle Guides Students

Twenty years ago, graduate student Robert Meese asked Professor **Peter Moyle** during one of his wildlife, fish and conservation biology classes: “How can you teach this course without getting the students into the field?”

Moyle took Meese’s question to heart. Remembering hikes he took in Minnesota with his mother, Evelyn, one of the first female aquatic biologists in the state, he started developing field trips that take his students beyond their textbooks.

Moyle works with Professor **Jeff Mount**, Department of Geology, to teach a river ecology course that includes an intense two-week trip studying fish and watershed processes while rafting down a wild river.

Students have traveled the Skeena River in British Columbia, the Copper River in Alaska, and the Scott River in California. This year, Moyle’s students will raft down Green River in Utah and Colorado. They will observe fish, plants, birds, and invertebrates, as well as examine the geology of various areas to see how dams affect rivers.

“The best part of these trips is that I get to go with the students!” Moyle said. “It’s fun to be out in the field with these students because they are excited about what they are learning. And, they’re having a good time while doing it.”

Moyle also provides self-guided field trip assignments for his lower-division wildlife, fish and conservation biology courses on his department’s Web site.

Moyle’s favorite self-guided trip is to the American River. “Students can see the salmon spawning,” he said. “It’s like traveling back 150 years to see what California rivers were once like, when they were full of salmon.”

Moyle’s work on restoring fish communities involves expert testimony. He was lead expert witness in a 1996 lawsuit to restore flows and native fishes to Putah Creek. UC Davis was a plaintiff in the suit. He currently is involved as an expert witness on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council to help restore salmon and native fish communities and warm-water fisheries in the San Joaquin River.

“I am grateful that the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences provides a home for people like me who have developed a particular expertise,” Moyle said, “and that it encourages us to use that expertise to benefit society at large.” ■

Below: Professor Peter Moyle at the Okvango Delta in Botswana.



FACULTY NOTES

Alyson Mitchell ('92, Environmental Toxicology; Ph.D., '96, Pharmacology and Toxicology) has lived and traveled throughout the United States. After receiving her Ph.D., she accepted an adjunct appointment in the college's Department of Environmental Toxicology. In 2000, Mitchell joined the faculty of the college's Department of Food Science and Technology.

An associate professor and food chemist, Mitchell runs an analytical laboratory, teaches, and mentors students. She has developed a multifaceted program characterizing the phytochemical composition of foods and understanding how preharvest and postharvest factors influence their biosynthesis and degradation in foods. Her research program also focuses on determining the bioavailability and disposition of phytochemicals in biological systems.

"The best part of my job is teaching and interacting with students," Mitchell explains. "In my leisure time, I enjoy my family, playing guitar, hiking, traveling, and cooking."

Robert Washino, (M.S., '56; Ph.D., '67, Entomology), a global authority on the ecology of mosquitoes and mosquito control agents, received the international Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology. The prestigious medal was presented by the American Committee of Medical Entomology at the 54th annual meeting of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in Washington, D.C.

"I'm dumbfounded," Washino said. "This is overwhelming."

Washino retired from UC Davis 13 years ago but returned to campus in November to chair the Department of Entomology.

Thomas Scott, professor and director of the UC Davis Mosquito Research Laboratory, who nominated Washino for the award, praised Washino's "outstanding contributions that range from classic studies on basic and applied science to training the next generation of medical entomologists..."



Professor **Gyongy Laky**, was thrilled to hear that two of her textiles and clothing students won first and second place in a University of Delaware design contest titled "Exploring Visual Problems and Creating Change." Students were required to identify a problem/situation/issue within a particular visual environment and then explore it through a creative problem-solving approach, documenting the process. Solutions needed to incorporate textiles in some way.

Ingrid Nuss won first place with her project titled "Suck It Up," her motorized solution to chalk dust in the classroom. She designed a hand-held eraser that sucks in chalk dust using a motor, as well as special fibers. The dust, which is stored in an attached canister, can be used for other purposes, such as boundary lines on baseball fields.

The second-place award went to Krystle Moody for her project titled "Tresor Vert: A REfashion Magazine." The project offered a solution to reduce the 7 percent textile waste in our landfills by encouraging readers to DIY (do it yourself), with step-by-step instructions to re-fashion old clothes. It provided environmentally friendly companies an opportunity to advertise to a larger audience.

Left: Professor Gyongy Laky, center, with students Krystle Moody, left, and Ingrid Nuss, right.



Editor's Note: The background photo of a tractor laying mulch used on our Fall 2005 cover montage was taken by Jim Stapleton, IPM plant pathologist at the UC Statewide IPM Program, Kearney Agricultural Center. The photo was taken at an organic farm near Madera, Calif. Our apologies to Jim for inadvertently omitting credit for the photo.

AROUND *The College*

Gordon Leads Plant Pathology

Professor **Thomas Gordon** (Ph.D., '81, Plant Pathology) serves as chair of the Department of Plant Pathology. He explains that his primary motivation as chair is to repay his debt to the many chairs who served before him and who made it possible for him to do his job as a University of California faculty member.

"I also hope to facilitate the recruitment of new faculty to sustain the department into the future," he said. "And I want to maintain and enhance the learning environment for our graduate students."

Gordon came to UC Davis from UC Berkeley where he was a faculty member for 10 years. His area of research is the ecology and evolution of plant pathogenic fungi, fungal-insect interactions, and disease control.

"We study diseases of native and cultivated plants to understand them better," he said. "Through better understanding, we can help growers and land managers to deal with disease problems more effectively and efficiently."

Summer Institute for Science Teachers

A five-day course that introduces secondary teachers to genomics and provides hands-on biotechnology and genomics activities for the classroom is being held on the UC Davis campus in July, according to **David Gilchrist**,



Partnership for Plant Genomics Education (PPGE) director.

"PPGE supports educational programs for secondary and community college-level instructors and their students on a local and national scale," Gilchrist explained. "Our programs include teacher professional development workshops and institutes, student internships, biotechnology equipment loan programs, and interactive software creation and distribution."

Participants will discover the role of genomics in agriculture, medicine, ecology, and other areas. They will explore current topics in biotechnology and genomics, tour university and industry research facilities, and receive exciting genetics and genomics laboratory protocols and resource materials for the classroom.

The summer institute, funded by a National Science Foundation grant and UC Davis, is open to secondary teachers and community college instructors from across the country. For more information, contact PPGE education coordinator **Barbara Soots**, (530) 752-6552 or besoots@ucdavis.edu.

David Gilchrist, PPGE Director
(530) 752-6514; dggilchrist@ucdavis.edu

Doug Cook, PPGE Associate Director
(530) 754-6561; drcook@ucdavis.edu ■

Right: Partnership for Plant Genomics Education 2005 workshop participants represented nine states.



PHOTO: Barbara Soots

HAPPENINGS

By Richard Engel and John Maas

In 1942, **John** and **Mary Crowe** purchased a small ranch in Millville, Calif., and started their own cattle business. With little experience in ranching or livestock production, the Crowes contacted UC Davis and started a partnership between the Crowe Hereford Ranch and the University of California that has lasted more than 60 years.

Crowe Hereford Ranch worked closely with the Department of Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine Extension, and the Shasta County Cooperative Extension livestock advisors over the years. The Crowes highly valued advances in knowledge related to ranching, so the work with UC became an integral part of their operation.

John and Mary were instrumental in creating of the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association, the beginning of science-based performance testing for cattle. Their ranch received the first International Order of Merit Award from the Beef Improvement Association in 1972.

In 1998, the Crowe Hereford Ranch cattle herd was purchased by John and Mary's daughter (Cathy Maas) and husband (John) through a partnership with longtime family friends Bruce and Roma Orvis of Farmington.

John Maas, a UC Cooperative Extension veterinarian, in the School of Veterinary Medicine, works regularly with the UC cattle herd at the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center. He recognized an opportunity to give back to the university in a way that continues the long history of collaboration between the Crowe family and the campus.

In August 2005, **John** and **Cathy Maas** donated 42 registered Herefords to UC Davis' animal science department. The cattle are the

latest generation of 60 years of breeding and health program research conducted by the Crowes in conjunction with UC researchers.

"We hope the department can successfully utilize this group of cattle in their teaching and research programs," John and Cathy stated. "We look forward to watching the herd's performance continue to improve as a part of the UC Davis animal science department."

This unique gift symbolizes the long-term dedication of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and UC Davis in assisting the needs of Californians. As the campus nears the centennial of its commitment to service, we look forward to more stories reflecting the impact that individuals and families have on society through their partnerships with the college and campus. ■

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RESEARCH

SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO: Loren Zki

By Ann King Filmer

Reducing Water Use in Landscapes

To reduce water runoff from home landscapes, especially during summer months when irrigation is common, **Loren Oki** and **Darren Haver** are establishing best practices for people to use when watering their lawns and landscapes. There are few studies that show how much water is lost down street gutters from overirrigation.

The amount of water wasted is important, but equally important is the need to know what is in that water – particularly contaminants such as fertilizers and pesticides that can work their way into streams, bays, aquifers, and other water systems.

Oki, a landscape irrigation specialist in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences, and Haver, a watershed management advisor with Cooperative Extension in Orange County, are working with 14 colleagues, master gardeners, and the State Water Resources Control Board

to examine landscape water use in Sacramento and Orange County neighborhoods.

They are measuring how much water is running off from those neighborhoods and what is in the water. The researchers are also working with neighborhood residents on practices that impact irrigation. Some residents are given management information to reduce runoff, and pollutants, while others receive consultations or financial incentives on irrigation equipment.

The goal of the project is to establish home landscape management practices that are practical, reduce water usage, and reduce contaminant runoff. The information will be useful to the public, communities, water-management agencies, and conservation groups.

With legislation calling for reduced water and contaminant runoff, and with new housing developments mandating mitigation measures, these results will benefit California residents and communities through cost savings and environmental protection. ■

50 Plants for Central Valley Gardens

The UC Davis Arboretum horticulture staff have identified 50 reliable plants that don't require a lot of water, are easy to grow, have few problems with pests or diseases, and have outstanding garden qualities. Many of the plants are native to California and support native birds and insects.

These "Arboretum All-Stars" can be seen when you visit the arboretum's demonstration gardens or you can learn about the All-Star program online at <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/>. You'll find a searchable database of All-Star plants, along with downloadable brochures on the All-Star plants, water-saving gardens for the Central Valley, growing native plants, and attracting wildlife to gardens.

Although written for Central Valley gardeners, the information is applicable to many other plant-growing areas in California.

UC Davis Arboretum <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>

RESEARCH

NOTES

RESEARCH

By Aldrich Tan

What's A Specimen Museum?

Through a three-year National Science Foundation grant, the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology on the UC Davis campus will be able to expand its databases for the 30,000 specimens in its collection.

The museum is currently open only by appointment and for classroom research. "It is the third largest university vertebrate specimen collection in California," museum curator **Andrew Engilis Jr.** said. It includes 12,000 birds, 8,000 mammals, and 10,000 fish from the western U.S., Central America, and the Pacific Islands.

"Our collection is now receiving major national recognition for its scope and for our unique collection techniques," Engilis said.

"Whole specimens offer more research opportunities than other, more traditionally preserved, specimens. Protection of these historic collections is important because it allows for studying biodiversity in given geographic areas over time," according to Engilis.

Traditionally, scientists collect animal specimens, called "study skins," by removing the internal organs of the deceased animal and stuffing it with cotton, explained collections manager **Irene Torres**. The animal skin dries out like leather.

Torres explained that the museum introduced a freeze-drying technique for animal specimen preservation: "Specimens are placed in freeze-drying units with temperatures as low as minus 10 degrees Celsius. This technique enables researchers to preserve the animals' genetic material for future studies. Each freeze-dried specimen is labeled."

During a tour of the museum, Torres opened a tan-colored shelf and pulled out a drawer filled with deceased black birds called "Fairy Bluebirds" because of their waxy blue tint. Each

specimen is labeled, identifying who collected the specimen, where the specimen was collected, and when it was collected.

"Each specimen is like a book, and the labels are the pages of the book," according to Torres.

But not all specimens are labeled the same. In another drawer displaying preserved bats, some specimens have labels that do not meet university standards. The NSF grant will help the museum organize and develop a complete digital database of its entire collection, along with a digital catalogue of its specimen collections.

"A researcher in Canada working on Rosa's gulls asked us about our specimens," Torres said. "Putting the catalogue online will give international researchers and even local high school students access to our entire collection."

"The museum started in 1973 as a teaching collection with zero specimens in seven empty cabinets," curator emeritus **Ronald Cole** said. It then incorporated specimens from the former UC Davis zoology department's collection, as well as orphan collections from other California universities, including UC Irvine, Mills College, and American River College.

"Our Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology is among the fastest-growing collections in the state," noted Engilis.



PHOTO: Andrew Engilis Jr.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Christine Schmidt

CA&ES Serves Our Youngest Community Members

The youngest members of our communities are unable to speak for themselves. As small as they are, infants and young children are our future politicians, doctors, scientists, teachers, and parents. They are lucky to have philanthropists **Donis** and **Erwin "Ike" Eichhorn** and **Amy Harris** looking out for them.

The Eichhorns and Harris have enhanced the university's ability to serve California's families through their philanthropy and gifts of time. The Eichhorns helped fund construction of the Eichhorn Family House, which provides a place for child- and family-oriented research, teaching, and outreach programs. Amy Harris contributed critical funds to make the house functional through the purchase of attractive and comfortable furnishings.

What does the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences have to do with children and families?

While UC Davis is best known for its agricultural work, the college also houses the Human Development Program in its Department of Human and Community Development (HCD). HCD faculty are nationally recognized and awarded for their work on topics such as mother-child communication, family relationships, genetic versus environmental contributions to development, and the long-term effects of early emotional development.

One program offered at the Eichhorn Family House -- Becoming a Family -- works with families before the birth of their child. This "advance" work ensures that the parents are ready for the transition to parenthood. At the same time, researchers and students gain knowledge and experience through interaction with the families.

Another program -- the Family Connection Program -- provides parents support in three specific ways: it offers a place for parents to connect with their infants and toddlers through play, a place to connect with other parents through common experience, and a place to connect with child development experts. During this process, parents learn and practice recommended communication techniques for infants and toddlers while students gain valuable research and applied experience.

This work with infants, young children, and parents is critically important. In order to have a solid foundation to build on during their lives, manage stress in healthful ways, and develop sound relationships, children need the support of parents who nurture them and respond to their needs. This may sound simple, but while parents want the best for their children, at times they are unprepared for the subtle demands of best-parenting practices.

When babies learn a significant new task like walking, for example, they may vary their sleeping and eating routines while focusing on the new development.

"Families can become anxious during this time," explains Donis Eichhorn. "The baby comes to understand development and learning based on the reactions of its parents, so it's important that the parents are prepared to respond in a supportive way."

Parents' negative reactions to changes in routine, for example, may teach the child that learning and healthy risk-taking are not positive.

Amy Harris is another enthusiastic supporter of the Eichhorn Family House. Through her significant personal gift, "home-like" furniture was purchased so that the house was suitable for research and teaching, as well as comfortable for children and families. Her gift enabled the house to open its doors and serve California's families.

"I'm pleased that the Eichhorn Family House is so cozy, just for kids and the grown-ups who love them," Harris said. "It turned out to be such an affectionate house."

Harris is best known for her collaborative work with her late husband, **Thomas A. Harris**, who authored the 1969 classic *I'm OK – You're OK*. The Harris' work in transactional analysis played an important role in the current under-

standing of how the relationships children have in their early years can affect their development into emotionally and socially healthy adults.

The Eichhorn and Harris families have a long-term friendship and association with UC Davis based on tireless work. According to Harris, the foursome collaborated constantly and worked together for years to "get out the message of how important the first few years of life are."

UC Davis leverages its talented faculty and students with the powerful outreach network of Cooperative Extension. As a land-grant institution, UC Davis provides the academic base for the research and extension services offered by Cooperative Extension specialists (who are based on the campus) and county advisors (who work in California counties).

In this case, specialists and advisors work to provide resources and training materials for parents to share best-parenting practices. These research-based materials are distributed to more than 10,000 families annually through a variety of California programs and organizations, such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Head Start, and numerous community-based organizations.

Contact us for more information on how we intend to build on this great progress and bolster our work in infancy and early childhood studies.

Christine Schmidt
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Below: Eichhorn Family House



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

By Aldrich Tan

As president of the nationally prestigious Food Products Association in Washington, D.C.,

Calvin Dooley ('77, Agricultural Economics) interacts with many national and international leaders regarding food and food safety policy. "I will be dining tonight with an ambassador of the European Union," he said.

Dooley always knew he wanted to pursue an agricultural-based career. He is a fourth generation farmer, growing up on Dooley Farms located in the Central Valley. After graduating from Hanford High School, he served as state president of the California Future Farmers of America.

Cal Dooley became interested in farm and trade policy while attending UC Davis. After graduation, he became a partner in his family's farm and helped grow alfalfa, walnuts, and forage crops. In 1986, Dooley was a Sloan Fellow at Stanford University, where he received a master's degree in management.

Below: Calvin Dooley addresses the Food Products Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C.



"UC Davis is a terrific academic institution," he noted. "I think that contributed to my ability to get into the Sloan program."

Dooley became district director for Senator Rose Ann Vuich in 1988 and ran for Congress in 1989, representing California's 20th district as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

He retired from Congress in 2004 and currently works for the Food Products Association with many national food and beverage companies in the U.S. and worldwide on scientific and public policy issues involving food safety, food security, nutrition, consumer affairs, and international trade.

"The role that UC Davis plays in advancing research that helps develop new agricultural technology will be even more important to U.S. agriculture's ability to compete in the international economy," he said.

President George W. Bush appointed Dooley to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations in 2005. Dooley is also a member of the International Policy Committee for Food and Agriculture and serves on the board of directors of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Dooley lives in McLean, Va., with his wife, Lisa. He has two daughters, Brooke and Emily. Dooley was presented the college's Award of Distinction in 2003.

In his spare time, Dooley enjoys exercising, gardening, and drinking wine, another passion that he developed from his favorite enology class at UC Davis. His favorite wine, Insignia, comes from the Joseph Phelps winery in California's Napa Valley.

"Life doesn't get any better than sharing a bottle of Insignia with my friends," according to Dooley. ■

By Aldrich Tan

Sarah Otterstrom (Ph. D., '04, Ecology) braves Nicaragua's hot and humid climate to protect wildlife, such as the endangered spider monkey, and to conserve valuable forest ecosystems.

"You're either stuck in the mud or breathing dust," she said, "but it's worth the effort." Even with its extreme climate, Nicaragua is experiencing heavy development pressure, so conserving its biodiversity is a time-sensitive task.

Otterstrom is founder and executive director of Paso Pacífico, a California nonprofit organization that aims to restore and conserve the natural ecosystems of Central America's Pacific slope.

Otterstrom currently is working with Nicaraguan biologists to monitor forests and wildlife. She also provides leadership to private landowners, farmers, government officials, and local nonprofit organizations to facilitate decision-making on how to protect wildlife habitats.

"I care deeply about Nicaragua, both its people and its biodiversity, and hope that by promoting private lands conservation, we'll ensure the perpetuity of these ecosystems and improve the quality of life for Nicaraguans."

Raised in Spokane, Wash., Otterstrom moved to Costa Rica in 1992. While studying biology at the Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, she took an agroecology course that used a textbook with a chapter written by **Kevin Rice**, professor in UC Davis' Department of Plant Sciences.

"It was an intellectually challenging book and I saw an incredible amount of expertise," she said. "My professor said that UC Davis is a worldwide leader in agriculture and ecology.

From that moment on, I ranked UC Davis at the top of the graduate schools I wanted to attend."

In 1997, Otterstrom joined UC Davis' ecology graduate group. She worked closely with faculty advisors **Ben Orlove** and **Mark Schwartz**, professors in the Department of Environmental and Science Policy, to develop a dissertation addressing the cultural uses and ecological effects of fire in Nicaragua's tropical dry forest.

Otterstrom was heavily influenced by a class she took on forest ecology with **Marcel Rejmanek** and **Michael Barbour**, professors in the departments of Evolution and Ecology and Plant Sciences, respectively.

"The class helped me develop a strong passion and value for the biodiversity that I am now working to protect," Otterstrom said.

Inspired to take risks by her mentor Mark Schwartz, Otterstrom decided to form her own organization after she graduated from UC Davis -- an opportunity to apply her knowledge and make a difference.

"Don't be afraid to do something different," she recalls him saying. And she has followed his advice. ■

Below: Sarah Otterstrom and researchers find evidence of hunting on private lands.



PHOTO: Kim Williams-Gullén

ALUMNI

NOTES

'50

Rinde James Holcomb ('50, Plant Science) of Stockton, Calif., retired in 1984 as district director of USDA's Farmers Home Administration. The district, headquartered in Stockton, covered 16 California counties. He and his wife Ardith have been married for 54 years.

'51

Carlton Corson (B.S., '51; M.Ed., '60, Agricultural Education) of Pine Grove, Calif., was a vocational agriculture high school teacher for 31 years before substitute teaching for the Amador County Schools for 20 years.

'78

Anne Warner ('78, Zoology) of Moraga, Calif., is a conservation manager at the Oregon Zoo in Portland. She oversees conservation, research, and education programs. The zoo, Oregon's leading paid attraction, celebrated its 100th birthday in 1987.

'84

Karen Berman ('84, Managerial Economics) of Woodland Hills, Calif., is a consultant with the Business Literacy Institute in Calabasas. She authored "Financial Intelligence: A Manager's Guide to Knowing What the Numbers Really Mean," and numerous children's books.

'86

Alan Titchenal (Ph.D., '86, Nutrition) of Honolulu is a professor at the University of Hawaii, focusing on sports nutrition, nutritional biochemistry, and energy balance. He co-authored over 300 newspaper articles on nutrition, science, and health with fellow alum **Joannie Dobbs** (Ph.D., '83, Nutrition).

'88

Chris Verrill ('88, Agricultural and Managerial Economics) of Pacifica, Calif., recently launched China Radio International, broadcast in Beijing, China, and 20 other cities. "Bilingual

'88 *continued...*

Chinese get a Western perspective on feature stories," he explains. His first radio stint was on the UC Davis campus at KDVS, which he helped establish in 1986.

'89

Mark Foust ('89, Resource Sciences) of Kalispell, Mont., is chief ranger at Glacier National Park. He was previously branch chief of ranger activities for the National Park Service's (NPS) Intermountain Region in Denver. Foust and his wife, Lori, have three children.

'90

Michael Hoffman (Ph.D., '90, Entomology) of Ithaca, N.Y., is director of the New York State IPM Program and associate director of Cornell Cooperative Extension for Agriculture and Food Systems. He focuses on integrated pest management strategies for vegetables.

'96

Mollie Sacks (Ph.D., '96, Soil Science) of D N Tzfon Yehuda, Israel, is an extension advisor with the Israel Ministry of Agriculture. The Extension Service collaborates with farmers' associations, commodity production and marketing boards, and research institutions.

'00

Lorrell (Kenney) Walter ('00, Animal Science) of Chittenango, N.Y., is an account manager for Latorra, Paul & McCann Advertising in Syracuse. The firm provides marketing, and creative and public relations services for agricultural clients.

'01

Annie Chow ('01, Food Science) of San Jose is an Enterprise Resource Planning supply chain consultant for Sony Electronics. She earned an M.B.A. at California State University, East Bay.

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100 Years of Service

By Aldrich Tan

Ann M. Veneman: Helping Develop Communities Worldwide

UNICEF executive director **Ann M. Veneman** visited over 20 countries between May 2005 and January 2006, including post-tsunami Sri Lanka. Through this international organization, she is helping develop better communities worldwide.

"Building community is about building the infrastructure in those communities that will help children," she said. "It is important for children and pregnant mothers to have access to strong community-based infrastructures, such as schools that give quality education, proper water, and sanitation."

She is one of the university's prestigious "Outstanding Alumna of the Year." Veneman is also distinguished as the first woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Veneman grew up in Modesto, Calif. She explains that UC Davis was "a great fit for her as someone from the Valley." She participated on the Speech and Debate Team during her sophomore year, but said that she learned more than just public speaking in college. "Discipline is a lesson I learned in college. It has served me well throughout my career" noted Veneman.

After graduating from UC Davis with a degree in political science, Veneman earned a master's degree from UC Berkeley, and a juris doctorate degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law.

Veneman started her legal career in 1976 as a staff attorney with the General Counsel's office of Bay Area Rapid Transit. She later practiced law in Washington, D.C. and then returned to California in 1995 to serve as Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

President George W. Bush nominated Veneman to serve as 27th Secretary of the U.S. Department of



PHOTO: Christie Johnson, UNICEF

Agriculture in 2001. Veneman said she vividly remembers her experiences serving during Sept. 11, 2001.

"We started to look at the threats in food and agriculture systems," she said. "It affected the way we do business."

Veneman retains close connections with UC Davis. She delivered the college's commencement speech in 1997, recalling that it was her father who delivered the speech during her own commencement.

Veneman said her two nieces will be graduating from UC Davis this year – Allison Hughes is majoring in child development and Mara Veneman is majoring in Spanish.

"UC Davis is a great school, providing a vast array of opportunities and programs," Veneman said. "It's a great honor to be a UC Davis alumna." ■

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles highlighting the accomplishments of our alumni as we reflect on our 100 years of service to Californians and communities worldwide.

Left: UNICEF executive director Ann Veneman visits children and women in Rajwas Village in India's Rajasthan district.

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Richard E. Lyng Award for Public Service, 2005

US State Department - US Afghan Women's Council Honorary Membership, 2004

American PVO Partners Award for Service to People in Need, 2004

Goldman School of Public Policy Alumnus of the Year, 2003

Junior Statesman Foundation Statesman of the Year, 2002

National 4-H Alumni Recognition Award, 2002

Outstanding Woman in International Trade, 2001

UC Davis Outstanding Alumna of the Year Award, 2001

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