



UC ValleyConnection

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, 2001 VOL. I, NO. 1

UC NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of UC Valley Connection, a quarterly newsletter dedicated to informing the public about the University of California's activities and efforts in the San Joaquin Valley and throughout the state.

For online information about the University of California, visit the recently redesigned www.ucinthevalley.org Web site, a centralized resource for details about UC programs in the region including recent news, upcoming events, and links to other UC sites in the Valley and throughout the state.



UC Conducts Unprecedented Campaign Encouraging Valley Students to Attend

By Brandy Ramos Nikaido
UC Office of the President
University & External Relations

The University of California is taking unprecedented strides this spring to encourage San Joaquin Valley students to continue their education at a UC campus.

Students applying to UC received offers of freshman admission during the months of March and April, and they must sign a statement of intent to register by May 1. Community college students transferring to a UC campus must sign a statement of intent to register by June 1. Applications to UC and offers of admission from UC both increased substantially this year, and the university is working to ensure that admitted students seriously consider enrolling this fall.

In the San Joaquin Valley, the UC Merced Office of Relations with Schools (ORS) staff held a series of events during April designed to recognize student

achievement, stress the affordability of a UC education, and encourage new admits to enroll at the university.

"April is the culmination of much time and energy on behalf of the students and our outreach staff," said Encarnacion Ruiz, director, UC Merced Office of Relations with Schools. "We care deeply about Valley students' access to the University of California, and we're making every effort to encourage those who have been admitted to take advantage of the opportunity."

Each year, ORS staff work closely with Valley students and educators to help increase eligibility and access to UC. The staff works year-round with middle schools, high schools, and community colleges throughout the San Joaquin Valley and mountain communities, providing more than 25,000 area students with information on UC admission, financial aid, campus majors, campus visits, and all undergraduate

[to back page](#)



Calling All UC Alumni

Connect with fellow University of California alumni from Stockton to Bakersfield by becoming a member of the San Joaquin Valley UC Alumni Network.

The organization provides a networking opportunity for former and current UC students, promotes support for the University of California and UC Merced, and informs alumni about UC's latest activities and achievements. Membership is free and open to all individuals who have completed 12 units at the University of California.

To kick off the San Joaquin Valley UC Alumni Network in the Fresno area, an all-alumni dinner will be held Saturday, May 12, 2001, at the Downtown Club in Fresno. For more information, email sheryl.lichtig@ucop.edu or call (209) 724-4408.



What's New in the Valley

UCSF-FRESNO Celebrates Successful Recruitment Season

The UCSF-Fresno Medical Education Program formally announced its most successful recruitment season to date on March 29 at University Medical Center in Fresno. UCSF-Fresno Associate Dean Deborah Stewart, M.D., along with eight medical education program directors, revealed the names of the 50 outstanding medical school graduates who will be coming to the Central Valley in June to begin their residency programs.

Every fall, some 600 medical students travel to Fresno to tour UCSF-Fresno's Medical Education Program and the Fresno community in pursuit of their ideal residency program. Of the 600, only 50 residents can potentially match with UCSF-Fresno. As a national standard, when both the resident and the prospective program mutually agree on the selection, a "match" has occurred. This year, UCSF-Fresno matched with 93 percent of its targeted students.

For 25 years, UCSF-Fresno, a major branch of the UCSF School of Medicine, has filled a crucial San Joaquin Valley health care need, affording local people with high quality care and providing hands-on training for doctors in diverse settings such as rural clinics, a regional trauma center, and most recently, at the nation's newest pediatric hospital. UCSF-Fresno is directly responsible for educating more than 50 percent of the physicians practicing in the Valley today.

UC DAY

The largest-ever delegation of University of California alumni - more than 400-gathered March 5 and 6, 2001, for the annual UC Day in Sacramento to demonstrate their support for the university and honor faculty, students and legislators who have made outstanding contributions. More than 40 UC alumni and friends from the San Joaquin Valley participated on behalf of UC Merced.

Speaking for the UC system as well as for their own campuses, the delegates spent Tuesday (March 6) taking their messages to the state's 115 legislators and their staffs.

The delegates also attended a breakfast meeting during which they honored one of UC's three new Nobel Prize winners, UC Santa Barbara engineering professor Herbert Kroemer; two Legislators of the Year, state Sen. Joseph Dunn and Assembly Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg; and 19 undergraduate researchers from the UC campuses.

The annual event, which this year featured the theme, "On the Threshold of Opportunity," is sponsored by the Alumni Associations of the University of California (AAUC).

CONTACT INFORMATION

UC Valley Connection is published quarterly by the University of California, Office of the President, University & External Relations, San Joaquin Valley office, located at the UC Center, Fresno, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Ste. 212, Fresno, CA 93710, (559) 241-7510, FAX (559) 241-7516. To send a copy of UC Valley Connection to a friend, update our mailing list, or for more information, please email the editor at brandy.nikaido@ucop.edu or call the number listed above.

UC Helps Fight Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease

A New UC Publication Helps Farmers Identify the Invasive Pest



By Jeannette Warnert
UC Office of the President, Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC scientists and county and state officials are working together to gain a better understanding of the glassy-winged sharpshooters' potential impact in the San Joaquin Valley and the threat of diseases they spread in grapes, almonds, oleanders, and other crops and ornamental plants. Equally important, researchers at UC campuses are exploring ways to combat the harmful pest including alternatives to chemical spraying.

Last year, San Joaquin Valley residents became well acquainted with the glassy-winged sharpshooter. The pest, which spreads bacteria that cause the incurable and fatal Pierce's disease in grapevines, is blamed for severe economic losses in Southern California's Temecula wine growing region. Widespread infection in the San Joaquin Valley would put the region's raisin, table and wine grape industries in jeopardy.

The glassy-winged sharpshooter is well established in Kern County, where the entire city of Bakersfield and an area known as the "citrus belt" are heavily infested. Although the county was thought to be free of the bacteria that cause Pierce's disease - until recently, there had never been a recorded case of Pierce's disease in Kern County - near the end of last summer 16 infected vines were found, according to Jennifer Hashim, the viticulture farm advisor for UC Cooperative Extension in Kern County. All have been pulled.

In Fresno and Tulare Counties, small glassy-winged sharpshooter infestations in urban areas were sprayed with insecticides. Those areas are being closely monitored for recurrences according to the Fresno County agriculture commissioner, Jerry Prieto.

Throughout the Valley, officials depend on farmers and homeowners to help them track the glassy-winged sharpshooter and Pierce's disease. A new publication by University of California titled *Pierce's Disease* helps people identify the pest and spot infected crops.

The new Pierce's disease field guide includes color photos of grapevines showing symptoms of Pierce's disease. The disease is first apparent when the outside edges of grape leaves turn yellow and then brown. When the leaves drop off, the leaf stem stays attached to the cane. The new 20-page publication also provides detailed information on glassy-winged sharpshooter and other sharpshooters that spread Pierce's disease.

Pierce's Disease (ANR Publication 21600) is \$6, plus tax and shipping. *Pierce's Disease* is available at local UC Cooperative Extension offices, directly from ANR Communication Services, 6701 San Pablo Avenue, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94608-1239, or by phone (800) 994-8849, fax (510) 643-5470, and online at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>.

Packard Grant Allows UC Merced to Acquire Proposed Campus Site

By Sheryl Lichtig Wyan, UC Merced

A historic grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to the University of California will help transform the educational and environmental landscape of the San Joaquin Valley.

With the gift of more than \$11 million, the University of California will acquire the entire 7,030-acre Virginia Smith Trust property, which includes the Merced Hills Golf Course and is located northeast of the city of Merced. The agreement will secure the proposed UC Merced site, protect 5,780 acres of vernal pool habitat and directly contribute to the Smith Trust's educational endowment benefiting college-going students from Merced County.

"We are deeply appreciative of this gift from the Packard Foundation, which has a special commitment to the environment and to preserving California's natural heritage. The funds from this

grant will allow for us to create a world-class research university in Merced at the same time that we protect unique natural habitats of eastern Merced County," said UC Merced Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey.

Tomlinson-Keasey and Packard Foundation President Richard T. Schlosberg, III said the Packard grant helps achieve several important goals:

- Securing the proposed site for the 2,000-acre UC Merced campus
- Improving access to the UC system for San Joaquin Valley students
- Creating a 5,030-acre permanent preserve of sensitive vernal pool habitat and facilitating creation of a 750-acre UC natural reserve for scientific study on campus
- Contributing to the Smith Trust's educational endowment
- Supplying the means for the Smith Trust to invest in the planned Univer-

sity Community

- Triggering the release of \$15 million in state-approved habitat acquisition funds to ensure conservation of key natural resources in the region
- Supporting the regional planning approach including the University, Merced County, the City of Merced and the public
- Setting a new standard for large-project and growth management in the Valley

Over the 12 years between 1998 and 2010, UC expects to enroll more than 60,000 additional students. The new UC Merced campus, scheduled to open in fall 2004, will have an important role in assisting this effort. UC Merced already contributes to educational access through the entire San Joaquin region via special educational and outreach centers in Fresno and Bakersfield. A new UC Merced center will open in Modesto later this year.

UC Center Displays Fine Works of Art in On-going Exhibition

By Jeanie Smith, UC Office of the President, University & External Relations

As part of its commitment to public service in the San Joaquin Valley, the University of California offers a wide variety of services, resources, and information to Valley residents through the UC Center, Fresno. One example is Community ArtReach, an on-going exhibit of fine art by distinguished San Joaquin Valley artists.

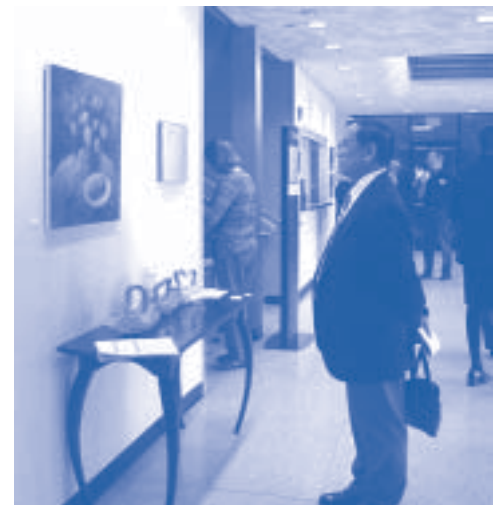
Community ArtReach is a collaborative effort by University of California staff members at the UC Center, Fresno, and Buffy Morris of Morris & Co. Fine Art in Fresno. The program was developed to support and encourage the creativity of Valley artists and expose works of art to the community.

The exhibit is open to the public during the UC Center's normal operating hours and during quarterly ArtReach receptions at the Center which will

coincide with the Fresno Arts Council's ArtHop nights.

The inaugural Community ArtReach reception was held Thursday evening, April 5. ArtReach committee members Tom Atkins, Veronica Carlos, Buffy Morris, Jeanie Smith and Denise Whisenhunt provided information about the ArtReach program, including future plans for children's art exhibits, as well as the various services and programs in residence at the UC Center. Artists were available to answer questions about their work and light refreshments were served.

Artists whose work is currently on exhibit at the UC Center, Fresno, are: Gretchen Allen, Juana Almaguer, Shannon Bickford, Jim Curnyn, Sally Delap-John, Mark Eaton, George Flint, Elizabeth Govreau, Richard Haas, Patti Handley, John Lucas, Buffy Morris, Jeffrey Morris, Randall Plaughter, H. J. Smith, Georgine Sullivan, and Joyce



Tuck. The work includes oil, watercolor and mixed-media paintings, color and black and white photography, ceramics and handcrafted furniture.

For additional information please contact Jeanie Smith at the UC Center, Fresno, (559) 241-7510 or Morris & Co. Fine Art at (559) 333-1857.

continued from front page **UC encourages students to attend**

educational opportunities. In the spring, ORS efforts focus on encouraging Valley admits to enroll.

During mid to late April, 11 one-day UC campus visits were planned for Valley freshman admits and their parents to Riverside, Santa Cruz, Davis, San Diego, Irvine, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and Berkeley. In addition, seven overnight trips to San Diego, Irvine, and Riverside were organized in conjunction with UC Merced's UC Scholars/Early Academic Outreach Program.

The trips provide Valley students and their parents an opportunity to learn about UC academic programs and student services, along with a chance to experience the UC campus environment together. Some visits included a campus and dorm tour, admission presentation, student panel presentation, and lunch at a residence-dining hall.

Other spring activities aimed at increasing the number of Valley students who enroll at UC included direct mailings, phone-a-thons in Merced and Fresno during which alumni called to congratulate area admits, and a Valley wide reception in Fresno for new admits

and their parents at the UC Center, Fresno. In addition, ORS will sponsor campus visits for Valley community college transfer admits in May.

"By working closely with these kids and their parents, equipping them with information, and taking them on campus visits, we hope to demonstrate that an affordable, high quality UC education can be a reality. In 2004, UC Merced will create another viable option for Valley students," said Lori Jones, coordinator of general outreach, UC Merced.

This year's activities in the Valley and throughout the state represent the University of California's commitment to expanding access for all students to a UC education.

The UC Merced Office of Relations with Schools is located at the UC Center, Fresno (550 E. Shaw Ave., across from Fashion Fair Mall). ORS was created in 1986 to create greater access for Valley students to the University of California. Since then, the number of freshman students from the Valley who enrolled at UC campuses has more than doubled. For more information about UC's 2001 activities in the San Joaquin Valley, please call (559) 241-7474.

UC Santa Barbara Outreach Program Joins UC Center, Bakersfield

As part of the University of California's commitment to provide Kern County residents access to an affordable, high-quality UC education, the regional staff of UC Santa Barbara's Early Academic Outreach Department (EAOD) moved into the Kern County Superintendent of Schools building – the temporary home of the UC Center, Bakersfield. The move, which took place in February, consolidates UC Santa Barbara's early outreach efforts with UC Merced's K-12 outreach and professional development programs.

UC Merced first established the UC Center, Bakersfield at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools building (1300 17th St.) in October 2000. The new UC Center, now under construction at 2000 K St., is scheduled to open in summer 2001.

UC Merced Summer Sessions

Classes start June 25 and August 6.
Locations in Fresno, Bakersfield and Merced
For more information, please call
(559) 241-7407
or visit www.ucmerced.edu.



**University of California
Office of the President
UC Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Ste. 212
Fresno, CA 93710
www.ucinthevalley.org**