

UC Valley Connection

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UC NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY



Alumni News

UC Connects with Valley Alumni, Students and Parents

Sponsored by the San Joaquin Valley UC Alumni Network, UC Merced's Office of Relations with Schools and UC Office of the President, "Connecting with Valley Communities" was held Feb. 20 at the UC Center, Fresno. The event featured an alumni social hour followed by a UC admissions and financial aid workshop.

The event represents the University of California's latest efforts to involve UC alumni in student outreach.

"Alumni are UC's informal outreach ambassadors. They are often able to communicate better than anyone the excitement and benefits of attending a UC campus," said Stephen J. Handel, associate director of UC outreach and student affairs. "We hope to engage more alumni in spreading the message to students about the opportunities available at the University of California."

Alumni Share Experiences with Newly Admitted UC Students

Local students admitted as freshmen to UC campuses gathered Wednesday, April 17, at the UC Center, Fresno for a reception in their honor.

The event, sponsored by the UC Merced Office of Relations with Schools, brought together former and prospective UC students as alumni pitched in to encourage the students to enroll this fall.

For details about other UC alumni activities in the Valley, please visit www.ucinthevalley.org.

University of California Encourages Valley Students to Enroll

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

In an indication of continued broadening access to the University of California for Valley students, UC campuses have admitted 3 percent more freshman students from the southern San Joaquin Valley and 2.8 percent more from the northern San Joaquin Valley this year than last year.

Students applying to UC received offers of freshman admission during the months of March and April and were asked to sign a statement of intent to register by May 1. Community college students transferring to a UC campus have until June 1 to sign a statement of intent to register.

In the San Joaquin Valley, the UC Merced Office of Relations with Schools



North Valley students Madonna Perez of Escalon and Dyane Burgos of Stockton stop at the UC Center, Fresno on their way to visit UC Santa Barbara.

staff held a series of events during April aimed at encouraging students accepted by UC to enroll this fall.

"Our outreach counselors work year-round with Valley students to communicate that a UC education is affordable, accessible and within their reach," said Encarnacion Ruiz, UC Merced's director of admissions. "Now is the time when we recognize the academic accomplish-

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UC Agri-tourism Project Offers New Opportunities to Valley, State Farmers

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

The UC Small Farm Center is helping Valley farmers capitalize on more than the crops they grow.

A statewide program with three advisors based in the San Joaquin Valley, the Small Farm Center, has been promoting agri-tourism as one way for small-scale farms to stay in business when large-scale, agricultural operations keep commodity prices low and competition fierce.

"We want to be sure small, family farms continue to be a part of the California rural landscape," said Desmond Jolly, director of the UC Small Farm Center. "We can help sustain them by creating structures, strategies and support networks for agri-tourism attractions."



Scale-model steam engine and railroad cars attract visitors to the Hillcrest Farm near Reedley.

Many agri-tourism ventures are thriving in the Valley.

At Melissa and Sean Bautista's secluded Hillcrest Farm, just outside of Reedley, a scale-model steam engine pulls hand-made railroad cars around the

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What's New in the Valley

UC Center, Fresno Opens Summer Community ArtReach Exhibit

An opening reception for the UC Center, Fresno's summer Community ArtReach exhibit will be held June 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in conjunction with the Fresno Arts Council's ArtHop Night. The public is invited. The show will feature mixed-media paintings and sculpture by well-known San Joaquin Valley artist Michael Garcia. The multimedia exhibit, which also displays the work of other notable Valley artists, is open to the public during the UC Center's normal operating hours. For more information, call (559) 241-7510.

UC Merced Offers Spanish-Language Program for Kids

UC Merced will offer a summer Spanish-language immersion program for kindergartners and first graders who speak little to no Spanish. The goal of the program is to introduce children to the Spanish language through drama, music, art, science, stories, and games. All instruction will be conducted in Spanish and led by a credentialed elementary Spanish-language immersion teacher. The program will be held at the UC Center, Fresno from 8 a.m. to noon, Mondays through Fridays, June 17 through August 9. The cost is \$500 per student. Space is limited. For more details, please call (559) 241-7414 or e-mail helen.sullivan@ucop.edu.

UC Davis Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Program Accepting Applications

The UC Davis FNP/PA Program is accepting applications until Sept. 1, 2002, for its entering class of 2003. The program educates health practitioners who will provide primary care in underserved regions and to underrepresented populations in California. The Fresno teaching center at the UC Center, Fresno enrolls students from Central California. Graduates receive certificates as family nurse practitioners, physician assistants or both after 24 months.

A series of free two-hour informational seminars will be held in the Valley to acquaint prospective students with the program:

- Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m. at the Stanislaus Women's Health Center (2501 McHenry Ave.) in Modesto.
- Monday, June 17, 6:30 p.m. at the UC Center, Fresno (550 E. Shaw Ave.).
- Tuesday, June 18, 6:30 p.m. at Kaiser Stockdale Hospital (3501 Stockdale Hwy.) in Bakersfield.
- Tuesday, June 25, 7 p.m. at Stanislaus Women's Health Center in Modesto.
- Monday, July 15, 6:30 p.m. at the UC Center, Fresno.

For more information, visit <http://fnppa.ucdavis.edu>. To register, please call (559) 241-7530 (no more than three weeks in advance).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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UCSF Fresno Announces Arrival of New Doctors in the Valley

By Cara Peracchi Douglas, UCSF Fresno

Fifty-six new doctors will be coming to the Valley in June to complete their residencies, UCSF Fresno announced at University Medical Center. It marks the largest number of first-year residents entering UCSF Fresno's residency programs to date.

"We are thrilled with the quality of doctors coming to UCSF Fresno this year," said Deborah Stewart, M.D., associate dean of UCSF Fresno. "The new doctors are arriving from all over the nation and world, with three San Joaquin Valley natives returning to Fresno to complete their residencies."

Medical residents returning to the Valley are Lori Nidersson, M.D., and Eric Leveque, D.O., who both grew up in Fresno, and Randy Shahbazian, M.D., of Clovis.

Notable medical schools attended by the incoming class of residents include University of California campuses at Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, as well as Columbia, George Washington and Howard universities.

Since 1974, UCSF Fresno has trained more than 2,000 residents to become medical specialists in one of seven areas: family practice, internal medicine, surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry, obstetrics/gynecology, and pediatrics.

More than half of the doctors trained at UCSF Fresno remain in the Valley to practice.



Associate Dean of UCSF Fresno Deborah Stewart, M.D., stands before photos of the Valley's newest doctors scheduled to arrive later this summer.

UCSF Fresno Conference Focuses on Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias

Community physicians, health care professionals and caregivers are invited to learn the latest information regarding the diagnosis and treatment of the dementias at a conference presented by UCSF Fresno's Alzheimer's Research Center.

"Dementia: Translating Research into Practice" will be held Saturday, June 15 from 7:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Rowell Auditorium at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (2615 E. Clinton Ave.) in Fresno.

Top experts in the field of neuroscience will address issues such as genetics of dementia, pharmacological treatment options, managing difficult behaviors, and the role of culture in dementia care.

For registration information and more details, please call (559) 227-4810.

UC Merced Announces Concurrent Admissions Program

Pilot Program Partners New Campus with Community Colleges in Fresno, Merced and Modesto

By Sheryl Lichtig Wyan, UC Merced, Office of Communications

A \$192,500 planning grant from the Ford Foundation will permit the University of California, Merced to develop a concurrent admissions program with three San Joaquin Valley community colleges.

The funding will support an 18-month pilot program guaranteeing UC Merced admission to selected students attending community college in the fall of 2002 upon completion of their academic plan requirements. Partnering UC Merced with Modesto Junior College, Merced College, Fresno City College and their feeder high schools, the initial phase of the concurrent admissions pilot will involve a combined total of about 120 students.

"The Ford Foundation is excited about supporting this partnership between UC Merced and Valley community colleges," said foundation representative Cyrus Driver. "We see this program as a smart and innovative attempt to address important issues of access to higher education and the UC system, particu-

larly for educationally disadvantaged students."

University faculty and professional staff will work closely with their counterparts at each community college to establish a concurrent admissions pathway and develop support services to ensure student success.

"Our goals are to create an awareness among students and educators that a UC education is a viable, attainable option in the Valley and to increase the academic preparation of community college students for transfer to UC. Also exciting is the opportunity to build greater collaboration and understanding between the community colleges and UC Merced," said UC Merced Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jane Lawrence.

If the initial phase of the concurrent admissions program is successful, UC Merced plans to submit a full grant proposal to the Ford Foundation for expansion of the program to other community colleges serving the San Joaquin Valley region.

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five-acre Christmas tree plantation. The Bautistas built a tree house, a nature trail, swing, hanging bridge and two miniature homes on a hillside to attract visitors and enhance their experience.

Jack and Marcia Shafer are fifth-generation growers of tree fruit and grapes in Parlier. The couple has planted several rows of premium winegrapes – Zinfandel, Merlot, Sirah, Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon – especially for the home wine making market. Winemaking hobbyists from Los Angeles, the Bay Area and other parts of the state can be found here on late-summer days handpicking wine grapes and using the Shafer crusher to make grape juice for their own signature premium wines.

"Many people don't realize they can go out and visit farms," said Gillian Brady, the Small Farm Center program representative assigned to the agri-tourism project. "And yet, there is nostalgia about farm life in America. Family farms give people a sense of connection to something real and reassuring that some things aren't changing."

For an online database of the nearly 400 farms participating in the Small Farm Center's agri-tourism project, please visit www.calagtour.org.

continued from front page **UC Encourages Students to Attend**

ments of the students who have been admitted to UC and encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity they've earned."

Thirteen UC campus visits were scheduled during April for prospective freshmen and their parents. The visits took place at the Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz campuses. In addition, three overnight trips to Irvine, Riverside, San Diego and Santa Barbara were scheduled as part of UC Merced's UC Scholars Early Academic Outreach Program.

The trips provided 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.



Sunnyside High School students Michelle Mendoza and Susana Guevara both of Fresno take advantage of campus visits through UC Merced's Office of Relations with Schools.

Other spring activities aimed at increasing the number of Valley students who enroll at UC included direct mailings and a reception for newly admitted students.

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

New UC Merced Offices


On April 30, UC Merced celebrated the grand opening of its new offices at Castle Airport Aviation and Development Center in Atwater. Guests toured the newly renovated building and viewed the latest architectural renderings of the campus scheduled to open in 2004. Employees moved to the Castle building from their previous offices in February.

New contact information for UC Merced:

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www.ucnewswire.org/spanish.html

UC Merced Presents Third Year of Summer Courses at Bakersfield, Fresno and Merced Centers

By Sheryl Lichtig Wyan, UC Merced,
Office of Communications

Registration is underway for the third annual University of California, Merced summer sessions.

Working in partnership with UC Davis, UC Merced is offering two sessions and 12 upper- and lower-division courses for UC credit including biology, economics, United States history, calculus, macroeconomics, nutrition, psychology, sociology, statistics, and Spanish.

Faculty from UC campuses and other institutions of higher education will teach the courses at UC Centers in Bakersfield, Fresno and at the Tri-College Center in Merced.

Summer session one runs from June 24 through August 2. Registration deadline is June 21. Summer session two runs from August 5 through September 13. Registration deadline is August 2.

“These summer courses are part of ongoing efforts to increase Valley students’ access to the University of California as we progress toward the opening of UC Merced,” said Helen Sullivan, co-director of summer sessions and director of professional studies for UC Merced. “We are especially excited to offer an opportunity for newly admitted UC students to get their first experience with UC courses and for current UC students to fulfill general education

requirements at locations close to home.”

Three to five units of UC credit are available for each course, and fees range from \$228 to \$380 per course for UC students. Students can apply for financial assistance through the UC Merced Chancellor’s summer scholarship program.

For more information, please call (559) 241-7407 or visit www.ucmerced.edu.

Alumni Advocate for UC



UC alums Bruce McElhoe and Stuart Hayden at UC Day in Sacramento.

About 500 UC alumni and friends gathered at the state Capitol in March to demonstrate their support for the University of California. Several alumni from the Valley represented UC Merced. This year’s event, with the theme “UC: Connecting with California’s Communities,” emphasized the university’s impact on the pressing concerns of the state and its residents. For more details about UC Day, visit www.ucday.org.