

UC Valley Connection

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UC NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY



Alumni News

UC Alumni Gather to Honor Peers and Legislator of the Year

The San Joaquin Valley UC Alumni Network's Fourth Annual Fall Banquet, held Nov. 30 in Atwater, was a night of pride, recognition and enthusiasm.

State Senator Jim Costa received the Legislator of the Year award, and brother-sister duo Herbert "Hub" Walsh and Susan Walsh of Merced were honored as Alumni of the Year. All were recognized by the alumni network for their contributions to the University of California's progress in the Valley.

"You at UC have every reason to be proud of what you do, and I'm proud to be a part of it," said Costa. A strong supporter of a UC campus in the Valley, Costa also spearheaded efforts to secure funding for a state-of-the-art UCSF Fresno Medical Education and Research Center in downtown Fresno.

The evening also included a presentation by UC Merced engineering dean Jeff Wright. According to Wright, the engineering program at UC's 10th campus will rival top programs across the country with a special emphasis on retention of students and recruitment of minorities and women.

In her keynote address, UC Merced Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey gave an update on her campus, including plans to hire new faculty members and the record number of endowments received from Valley donors.

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

UCSF Fresno Accepting Applications for Paid High School Summer Internships

By Cara Peracchi Douglas, UCSF Fresno

UCSF Fresno is accepting applications for its Summer Biomedical Research Internship Program, which provides Central San Joaquin Valley high school students an opportunity to gain first-hand experience with careers in medicine and valuable research skills that will give them a competitive edge.

Students who are selected will work with UCSF Fresno faculty from June through August 2002 on a variety of projects ranging from surgery reconstruction to alteration of gene expression to public health. Every participant will be awarded a stipend, thanks in part to the generosity of the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation.

Valley high school juniors interested



Carolyn Piatek of Visalia engaged in biomedical research last year as part of a UCSF Fresno internship.

in hands-on, medical- and science-based research are encouraged to apply.

More than 120 students from Fresno, Madera, Merced, Kings, Tulare and Mariposa counties have graduated from the program, which began in 1986.

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UC Expands Educational Access

Comprehensive Review of Undergraduate Admissions Approved

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

University of California regents have approved a proposal by the Academic Senate for "comprehensive review" of undergraduate applications.

Comprehensive review is one of several admissions initiatives proposed by UC President Richard C. Atkinson to expand educational access for students who have demonstrated high levels of achievement and the potential to succeed at UC.

Under comprehensive review, UC campuses will consider applicants' qualifications in a broader way. A wide range of criteria established by the UC faculty will be used, as opposed to the previous process in which 50 to 75

percent of the entering class was admitted on certain "academic" criteria alone.

A student's record will be evaluated in a more thorough manner, considering achievement in the context of the opportunities available to the student.

This initiative could be of significant benefit to Valley students who perform at high levels academically despite, in some cases, attending schools where few college preparatory courses or other enrichment opportunities are available.

The proposal for comprehensive review does not change the basic UC eligibility criteria and, therefore, does not alter which students would be admitted to the UC system overall. Rather, it deals with the processes campuses use to select an entering class from the pool of UC-eligible applicants.



What's New in the Valley

UC Breaks Ground on Professional Development Center for Teachers

A groundbreaking ceremony took place last November for the Edward Teller Education Center, adjacent to the UC Davis Department of Applied Science facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The center will provide professional development for K-12 teachers in school districts within the greater Livermore Tri-Valley area and the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. UC Davis, UC Office of the President, UC Merced and LLNL established the Edward Teller Education Center, named for the renowned UC physicist, to foster excellence in teacher training in science and math. It's scheduled to open this spring.

UC Offers Professional Development Conference for Journalists

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists, UC Office of the President and UC Merced presented a free professional development conference for print and broadcast journalists on Dec. 1 at the UC Center, Fresno. About 30 Spanish- and English-language journalists from Modesto to Los Angeles attended workshops aimed at improving writing, reporting and videotaping skills. The purpose of the event was to provide a public service for journalists and foster closer working relations between UC and the news media.

UC Takes Part in Valley Campaign to Promote College-Bound Culture

The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, a collaboration of 21 institutions of higher education from Stockton to Bakersfield including UC Merced and UCSF Fresno, received a \$850,000 grant from the James Irvine Foundation in December. The grant will enable the consortium to develop and implement a college-going awareness campaign aimed initially at middle-school students and their parents to increase the number of Valley students who earn associate and bachelor degrees.

UC Center, Fresno Opens Spring Community ArtReach Exhibit

An opening reception for the UC Center, Fresno's Spring Community ArtReach Exhibit will be held on March 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in conjunction with the Fresno Arts Council's ArtHop night. The public is invited. The multi-media group show will feature vibrant landscape paintings of noted artist John Barnard and whimsical paper sculptures of Fresno artist Donna Locati. The exhibit, which also features the work of other Valley artists in a variety of media, is open to the public during the UC Center's normal operating hours.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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UCCE Campaign Results in Dramatic Rise in One Percent Milk Sales

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

Sales of one percent milk at four Fresno grocery stores soared following an 18-week "One Percent Milk—Healthy and Delicious!" campaign aimed at raising public awareness about the health benefits of lower-fat milk, according to a summary report released in January.

"Many people are buying whole milk out of habit," said Melissa Martinez, a program representative for California Nutrition Network, based at the UC Cooperative Extension office in Fresno. "If we give them accurate information about the health benefits of low-fat milk, many will try it."

Martinez collected milk sales information from four grocery stores in Fresno ZIP codes 93701 and 93702 before initiating a multi-faceted campaign, which targeted Spanish-speaking and English-speaking Latino mothers of young children. After the campaign, which ran from April to August 2001, sales of one percent milk jumped 44 percent.

The Central Valley LEAN coalition, composed of community agencies from all health fields, defined the problem: Latinos consume more whole milk than non-Latinos. One percent milk is less fattening and has more calcium and protein per cup than whole milk, while its vitamin D content is the same. Whole milk can contribute to obesity, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and type 2 diabetes, conditions disproportionately high among Latinos.

"We still have work to do, but we've found ways to get consumers to consider one percent milk and, in many cases, try serving the healthier, lower-fat product to their families," Martinez said.

The campaign will expand into three new ZIP codes in Fresno beginning this spring. In addition, a protocol will be developed and provided to groups that wish to present a one percent milk campaign in their own communities.

For more information, contact Melissa Martinez at (559) 456-7192 or e-mail mkguerra@ucdavis.edu.

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Many of them have gone on to pursue studies at University of California campuses including Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Cruz and at other prestigious universities. At least two of the past participants are working toward their doctorate degrees at UC San Francisco.

In addition to conducting research, students in the program visit UCSF in San Francisco, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the level-one trauma and emergency departments at University Medical Center in Fresno.

Selection begins in March and is based on academic merit, questionnaire responses and teachers' letters of recommendation.

The application deadline is Feb. 28. To obtain an application, please visit www.ucsfresno.edu/ospr/sbi.html or contact Sharon Hutchinson at (559) 243-3607.

UC Merced Prepares to Hire Founding Faculty

By Sheryl Lichtig Wyan, UC Merced,
Office of Communications

The search has begun for outstanding scholars to serve as founding faculty at University of California, Merced.

More than 600 applications for the initial positions have been received during the past months in response to job announcements posted in education and research publications nationally and internationally.

Applications have come from Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, England, Kuwait and Singapore, as well as from all around the United States.

In keeping with the mission of the University of California to provide teaching, research and public service of the highest quality, UC Merced is recruiting senior and mid-career scholars in a variety of disciplines. These initial faculty members will help create UC Merced's academic programs and shape the cross-disciplinary curriculum that will be a hallmark of the new campus.

"Building a strong faculty will help make UC Merced a pre-eminent institution," said David B. Ashley, provost and executive vice chancellor of UC Merced.



Executive Vice Chancellor David B. Ashley receives hundreds of applications for UC Merced's founding faculty positions.

"We're delighted to begin our search for the founding faculty, who will ensure our students receive the best possible education. The faculty's research will provide tremendous opportunities for students, begin to build a record of service for our campus and have important benefits for the region."

The campus is seeking faculty with distinguished records in teaching, research and publication. Candidates also must demonstrate a strong commitment to the success of students from all backgrounds and proven dedication to excellence in education at all levels – lower division, upper division and graduate.

According to Ashley, the goal is to hire 15 faculty members this year and a total of 80 tenure-track faculty members before UC Merced is scheduled to open in fall 2004.

Consideration of applications and nominations began Jan. 1, 2002, and will continue until all positions are filled. For information about the available positions and requirements, please visit www.ucmerced.edu

ATTENTION

College Students and Parents

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and GPA verification forms are due March 2.

For details, call (800) 4-FED-AID or visit www.fafsa.ed.gov/

UC Seeks Alumni, Advocates for UC Day in Sacramento

All UC alumni and friends of the University of California are invited to participate in UC Day 2002, set for March 18-19 in Sacramento.

Sponsored by the Alumni Associations of the University of California, UC Day is the one time of year when alumni, friends and donors unite in the state Capitol to meet with legislators and voice issues of importance to the university and its campuses. It is also a time when members of the UC family gather to acknowledge the university's academic excellence and accomplishments.

UC alumni and friends play an important role as advocates. No other group is as effective at reaching public officials and promoting the university's needs.

As part of UC Day, alumni and friends will participate in scheduled

appointments with legislators on March 19 as well as take part in other activities.

This year's event, with the theme "UC: Connecting with California's Communities," will emphasize the university's impact on the pressing concerns of the state and its residents.

Last year's UC Day boasted the largest-ever delegation of University of California alumni and friends, which totaled more than 400 people. About 40 UC alumni and friends from the San Joaquin Valley participated on behalf of UC Merced.

For more information about UC Day, please visit www.ucday.org or contact your campus alumni association. UC alumni in the Valley who wish to participate on behalf of UC Merced, please call (209) 724-4440 or e-mail larry.salinas@ucop.edu



UC ALUMNI

- 1.24 million
- 44,000 graduate each year



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UC Berkeley Asthma Study in Need of Volunteers

The Fresno Asthmatic Children's Environment Study, sponsored by the California Air Resources Board and headed by researchers from UC Berkeley's School of Public Health, is in need of additional volunteers.

The goal of the multi-year study, which began in 2000, is to examine the health effects of air pollution and other environmental conditions on children with asthma over the course of five years.

Children six to 11 years old, who live in the Fresno-Clovis area and have been diagnosed with asthma by a physician, may be eligible to participate. Each year of the study involves two clinic visits, three home visits and two telephone calls. Children are given gift certificates and prizes for their participation, and there is no risk or cost involved.

The results from this study will help the air board and other regulatory agencies develop appropriate air pollution regulations. The findings may also help health care providers identify

children who are at greatest risk for adverse effects of air pollution and guide decisions about environmental and medical interventions.

For more information, visit www.facesstudy.com, e-mail faces@socrates.berkeley.edu or call (559) 294-6700.

UC Regents Approve New Center for UCSF Fresno

The University of California Board of Regents unanimously approved the building of a \$26 million state-of-the-art medical education and research center for UCSF Fresno last November. The decision signifies the final approval of environmental documentation and design to construct the Medical Education and Research Center in downtown Fresno adjacent to the Community Regional Medical Center.

Deborah Stewart, associate dean for UCSF Fresno, said the education and research center will play a pivotal role in the successful recruitment and retention of quality physicians in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

With a medical library, virtual classrooms, the latest in instructional methods and technologies, and



Artist's rendering of UCSF Fresno Medical Education and Research Center from North Fresno Street.

advanced research facilities, the center will help Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley compete with cities such as New York and Boston for top researchers and faculty.

UCSF Fresno trains more than 175 medical residents in seven specialty areas each year, of which more than 50 percent of graduates remain in the Valley to practice.