



UC Valley Connection

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UC'S CONNECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

UC Merced applications exceed expectations

By Sheryl Wyan, UC Merced, Office of Communications

Nearly 9,000 students applied to UC Merced for admission to undergraduate and graduate programs in fall 2005, according to preliminary reports. Included in that total are approximately 8,000 applications for freshman admission, 900 applications for transfer admission and 170 applications for graduate study. Projections have called for the campus to enroll 1,000 students in its opening year.

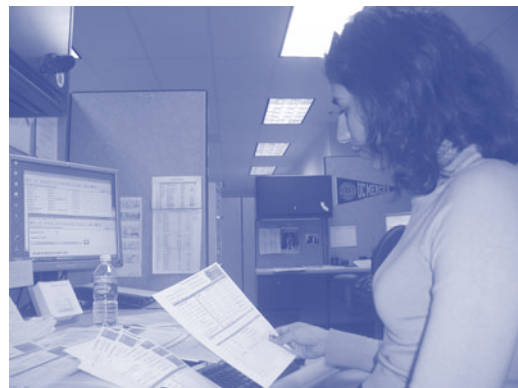
"We are thrilled with this response from students and pleased to say the number of applicants has even exceeded our expectations," said Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey. "These results are a clear validation of the UC regents' decision in 1988 to plan for a new UC campus in the San Joaquin Valley. The student response also is a tribute to the efforts of so many people in this community and throughout

the state who have supported the development of UC Merced over the years."

UC Merced's opening-year applicant pool includes more than 1,100 students from the San Joaquin Valley. Initial numbers also indicate that UC Merced has strong appeal among students statewide. For example, nearly 2,500 applications come from the San Francisco Bay Area and about 2,600 applications come from students in Los Angeles.

Overall, freshman applications to the UC system grew 15.1 percent in the southern San Joaquin Valley and 16 percent in the north San Joaquin Valley when compared with last year. The presence of UC Merced in the heart of the region and the effectiveness of campus academic preparation programs are among the factors contributing to that increase.

After completing the application review process, the UC Merced Office of Ad-



A UC Merced admissions staff member reviews student applications. More than 1,100 Valley students applied for Merced's inaugural year.

missions will begin to notify students of its admission decisions. Freshman applicants will receive notification of their admission decision by March 31, while transfer applicants can expect to learn their admission decision no later than April 30. Classes start at the new UC campus on Sept. 6.

For more information, please visit www.ucmerced.edu

UCSF Fresno job shadow day encourages future Valley pharmacists

According to custom, if Punxsutawney Phil, the famous weather forecasting groundhog, sees his shadow Feb. 2, six more weeks of winter will follow. Early last month, local pharmacists saw their shadows – a group of students – and the hope is that a new generation of Valley pharmacists will follow.

On Feb. 3 and 4, the UCSF Fresno Pharmacy Education Program and students from the Doctors Academy at Sunnyside High School in Fresno teamed up in honor of National Groundhog Job Shadow Day. As part of a local program, students were paired with practicing pharmacists in an effort to attract more area students to the profession. Students observed first-hand how pharmacists apply their clinical knowledge and skills to promote safe and rational medication use for patients.

"Job shadowing is a major component of UCSF School of Pharmacy's local outreach efforts," said Fresno native Mitra Assemi, PharmD, director, UCSF Fresno Pharmacy Education Program. "The intent is to create a pipeline of Valley students who pursue careers in pharmacy and are able to meet our future health-care needs."

About 22 Doctors Academy students shadowed pharmacists at the California Poison Control Center, Children's Hospital Central California, Kaiser Medical Center, Longs Pharmacies and University Medical Center. The diversity of settings, which included intensive care units,



UCSF Fresno job shadowing program offers prescription for students interested in pharmacy. (Left) Student Michael Atwal and Ogo Molokwu, PharmD, at Community Medical Center. (Below) Dan Nolt, PharmD, with student Julie Inthaska at Children's Hospital.



hospital wards, patient clinics, community pharmacies and a poison control center, exposed the students to a variety of career options for pharmacists.



What's New in the Valley

UC serves up dinner with a scientist

The seventh annual Dinner with a Scientist, presented by Stockton Unified School District and UC Davis, was held Feb. 16 at the Radisson Hotel in Stockton. Nearly 300 students from San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties participated. The event connects middle- and high-school students with professional scientists with the aim of interesting students in pursuing careers in science. About 60 scientists shared their expertise with the students. Teachers also had an opportunity to work with the scientists whose areas of expertise enriches the learning that occurs in the classroom. For more information, please call Christina Fugazi at (209) 468-4880.

USC, UC Merced team up to improve reporting of health care in Central California

The USC Annenberg School for Communication and UC Merced proudly announced the Central California fellows who were selected to participate in the California Endowment Health Journalism Fellowships. Twenty-one journalists from Modesto to Ventura participated in the first of a two-part multicultural program focusing on the craft and content of health-care journalism. This pioneering journalism initiative, funded with a \$1.8 million grant from the California Endowment, aims to set a national standard for multicultural health-care media coverage. The program's inaugural sessions in Central California were co-sponsored and hosted by UC Merced at the university's educational and outreach center in Fresno.

UCSF Fresno opens new medical education building

UCSF Fresno will celebrate its 30th anniversary with the opening of its new Center for Medical Education and Research. Located in downtown Fresno, adjacent to the Community Regional Medical Center campus, the three-story, state-of-the-art UCSF Fresno center will house the medical education and administrative components of the program together for the first time. Grand opening activities include a dinner and tour of the building on April 22 and medical education symposium on April 23. For more details, please visit: www.ucsfresno.edu/gala/

Community ArtReach exhibit at UC Center, Fresno features work by Lylia Carr

The UC Center, Fresno opened its spring 2005 Community ArtReach exhibit with a public reception on March 3, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., at the center at 550 E. Shaw Ave., across from Fashion Fair Mall. The exhibit will feature "Scripts," a series of mixed-media work by Lylia Forero Carr. Also on exhibit will be mixed-media artwork by several other noted Valley artists. The spring exhibit is free and open to the public during UC Center business hours through May 5. For more information, call (559) 241-7510 or e-mail jeanie.smith@ucop.edu

UC's CalAgrAbility advocates for disabled farmers and farm workers

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

Fresno raisin grower Ray Austin wanted to keep farming. However, the 53-year-old Fresno native, born with just one leg and other disabilities, was in constant pain from his ill-fitting worn-out leg prosthesis. Though he had some medical insurance, he couldn't afford the \$11,000 replacement cost.

Searching online, Austin found CalAgrAbility, a University of California program that works with disabled farmers and farm workers to keep them in agriculture.

Project manager Martha Stiles personally helped Austin navigate state agencies. In short order, he received a new prosthesis and an all-terrain vehicle to get around on the farm.

"For all my life, I've tried to get help. I tried Farm Aid, disability organizations, anything I could think of and I never got any assistance until I met Martha Stiles," Austin said.

Austin is just one of 65 Californians who has received assistance from the federally funded CalAgrAbility program in the three years since it was launched at UC Davis.



UC program helps keep Fresno raisin grower Ray Austin working despite his physical disabilities.

CalAgrAbility is part of a nationwide effort established by the 1990 Farm Bill and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In California, the program is conducted in partnership with Easter Seals Superior, a Sacramento-based nonprofit organization with a history of assisting disabled Californians.

CalAgrAbility staff members visit farm shows, make presentations, distribute public service announcements, attend community health fairs and maintain a Web site to inform disabled workers of their services. Some conditions are very common, such as arthritis, deteriorating vision, hearing loss or mobility problems. Other people face more serious challenges, such as amputations or spinal injuries.

"We believe that solutions exist, and we are willing to do all we can to connect people with solutions that will give more control over their lives," Stiles said. "We don't give out money, but we help them find ways to meet their needs."

For more information, please click on: <http://calagrability.ucdavis.edu> or call (530) 752-2606.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Summer UC math and science program seeks talented teens from the Valley

Students who love math and science and excel in these subjects have a chance to spend four weeks in residence at a University of California campus this summer learning about astronomy, marine mammal biology, robotics, computer graphics, environmental science and ecology, earthquake engineering, bioinformatics, tissue and tumor biology, physics and technology, and more.

California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science, popularly known as COSMOS, is a residential program for talented and motivated students who are completing grades 8-12. The mission of the program is to motivate a new generation of prospective scientists, engineers and math-

ematicians in California and the nation.

COSMOS programs are offered at UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Santa Cruz and, for the first time, at UC San Diego through its Jacobs School of Engineering.

More than 1,900 students have attended COSMOS since its inception in 2000, coming from 46 of California's 58 counties. They constitute a culturally and ethnically diverse group, with girls accounting for about half of the participants.

The application deadline is March 15 for the coming June through August sessions at one of the four sites. Selection is competitive. For more details, please visit: www.ucop.edu/cosmos

Governor's 2005-06 budget proposes increase for UC

Strategic Communications, UC Office of the President

The 2005-06 state budget proposal issued in January by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger offers an increase in state funding for the University of California after four years of substantial cuts. The proposed increase includes funding for student enrollment growth, faculty and staff compensation, and the opening of UC Merced, among other things.

The proposal fulfills last year's "compact" between the governor and UC, an agreement that provides the university with new budget stability by establishing funding and performance expectations over a multi-year period. Previously, over a four-year period ending this year, UC had taken a 15 percent cut in state funding while also seeing a 19 percent increase in enrollments.

"The governor's overall budget proposal for UC is very welcome after years of cuts," said UC President Robert C. Dynes. "The governor has fulfilled his commitments under the compact, providing many of the basic resources we need to begin rebuilding our programs and to sustain our contributions to California's economic

competitiveness and quality of life. We appreciate the governor's support for higher education and its transformative impact on the state."

The governor's budget for 2005-06 also withdraws \$17 million in one-time state funding that was provided to UC at the end of the 2004-05 budget process, as part of an agreement in Sacramento to preserve funding for UC's academic preparation programs for students in the K-12 schools.

While recognizing the state's serious fiscal condition, Dynes said this withdrawal of funding is a serious concern to the university. Dynes said he will be working with the governor and Legislature this year to demonstrate the value and performance of these academic preparation programs and to seek the restoration of their funding.

The governor's budget will now be reviewed by the Legislature. Both the governor and Legislature traditionally approve a final state budget in the summer.

For more information, please visit: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/budget/



UC helps connect students with cash for college

At a press conference recently, Fresno Mayor Alan Autry joined educational leaders in publicizing the "Cash for College" campaign and workshops in Fresno. Representatives from UC Merced; California State University, Fresno; Fresno City College; Fresno Pacific University; State Center Community College District and Sunnyside High School participated in the event.

"I've been able to live 14 dreams," said Autry. "All due to a high school and college diploma.

"An absence of awareness must not preclude students from achieving their dreams," he added. "We must do all we can to connect students who qualify for financial aid with the money they need to further their education."

"California Cash for College" is a statewide effort sponsored by the California Student Aid Commission and promoted by the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium in conjunction with colleges and universities in the San Joaquin Valley. As part of the campaign, the commission and regional organizations sponsor workshops aimed at helping students and parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and Grade Point Average Verification Form, which are necessary to apply for Cal Grants and other types of financial aid. The deadline to submit the FAFSA and GPA Verification forms was March 2.

Several workshops, including sessions held at UC Merced centers in Fresno and Bakersfield, were offered throughout the Valley to help and encourage local students to apply for financial aid.

"It is a mistake for students to think the cost of a college education is out of their reach," said David B. Ashley, executive vice chancellor and provost at UC Merced. "UC Merced, along with our Central Valley partners, is committed to giving students every opportunity to pursue a college education."

Valley roots help harvest a UC education

By Nikiko Masumoto, UC Berkeley,
Class of 2007

It started with concrete. My first introduction to UC Berkeley as an official student was paved with a road of concrete. I recall taking an anxious step onto campus and realizing the vast sea of hard rock that lay ahead of me. This may seem like a trivial memory but for someone who grew up on a farm, it was discomforting. (San Joaquin Valley-ites: you may chuckle, but you too might grow to miss lush farms, even the dirt).

My first year was difficult. Academics challenged me to think in ways I never imagined, missing home stalled my productivity, and adjusting to city and college life simultaneously provided new obstacles – navigating sidewalks, stepping into classes with hundreds of students and sorting through words like hegemony, patriarchy, and discursive frameworks. But amidst these difficulties, I found passion and love for the process of learning.

I found the perfect major, gender and women's studies, and through this have



Del Rey native Nikiko Masumoto, daughter of noted author David Mas Masumoto, reflects on her first year at UC Berkeley.

discovered more things about myself and the workings of the world in one year than in my prior education. UC Berkeley provided the forum for these intellectual discoveries and the opportunity to meet other talented and inspiring people: professors, students and friends. After a year and a half of persistent study and adjustment, I have also found a few niches in the cracks of the concrete. I have started to plant ideas, fertilize my imagination, and weed inhibitions.

But, at times I trip and fall, lost in a sea of gray and thousands of people I don't know. In these moments of doubt, I find familiarity in groves of trees on campus (reminders of the farm). Lessons from the Valley re-sprout: good things grow slowly, but never without difficulty.

I still miss the seasons of the Valley, the comfort of soft earth tickling my toes, but I, with my feet, have learned to cope. And I've realized that my accomplishments, as small or large as they may be, are only my first. I have my sights set on many more urban harvests.

I cannot offer a singular formula for success at Berkeley. But, I have a vision of other Valley-ites bringing their roots to universities all over California, sowing seeds and aiming for bountiful harvests. I will leave you with a challenge that comes from my faith in the fertility of the Valley: how many harvests will you make?

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