

UC VALLEY CONNECTION

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO • SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

FALL 2006/VOL. 6, NO. 4

HIGHLIGHTING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S CONNECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

QUOTEWORTHY

“New majors, sports programs and a recreation and wellness center all are giving prospective students increasing reasons to choose UC Merced.”

Jane Lawrence
vice chancellor for student affairs
UC Merced

INSIDE

- Grant continues UC Davis research in the Valley 2
- UCSB hires academic prep coordinator in Bakersfield 2
- UC Merced SBDC employee receives state award 2
- UC Merced continues to unveil new programs, facilities for students 3
- UC Merced hires expert to develop plan for medical education program 4



UCSF Fresno medicine resident Shahrad Behnam (center) treats patient Roberto Morales (left) as Dr. Dominic Dizon reviews the patient's medical history.

Healing hands reach out to the poor and homeless

Community service part of UCSF Fresno residents' training

By Mary Lisa Russell | Community Medical Centers

Homeless diabetic patients in the Fresno area have access to regular monthly check-ups, thanks in part to an innovative physician and medical residents at University of California, San Francisco, Fresno Medical Education Program. Two years ago, UCSF Fresno assistant clinical professor, Dr. Dominic Dizon, approached the department of medicine at UCSF Fresno with a service project idea. The concept involved engaging UCSF Fresno medical residents in the community by having them volunteer at the Holy Cross Clinic in the Poverello House, a non-profit center for Fresno's hungry and homeless.

Working at the clinic – and other places like it – gives medical residents the chance to contribute to the community where many of them are likely to stay and practice after completing their residency programs.

“There are a lot of people in our community who need medical attention, but lack access to health-care services,” said Dizon, who also is medical director of ambulatory care at University Medical Center. “In addition to providing a valuable community service, the residents are learning the essence of true professionalism and compassion.”

As a result of Dizon's efforts, all 52 internal medicine residents participate in a community service project once a year. In fact, an award is given at graduation for the resident who goes above and beyond the call of duty and embodies the true spirit of public service.

Results of the UCSF Fresno residents' contributions is reflected by diabetic patient Matias Bautista, who says she's more comfortable in the care of the residents at the clinic instead of a hospital.



Photo by Sandra L. Freeland



Grant continues UC Davis research in the Valley

The University of California, Davis', Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety received \$5.1 million from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The new federal grant enables the center to continue its wide-ranging research and education projects and to investigate new areas of concern.

Current research highlights include important projects in the Valley:

Kent Pinkerton, a UC Davis professor of veterinary medicine, is working with colleagues to study the health effects associated with airborne agricultural particles. He also is conducting a study in Parlier to examine the acute health effects of airborne particles.

In a second study, Marc Schenker and field coordinator Kathleen O'Connor are investigating how to best prevent occupational diseases and injuries among farmworkers and their families. Researchers will conduct interviews with approximately 400 Latino farmworker families in Mendota. Educational programs to serve these residents will be developed and implemented. Women and children in the study group will receive oral health exams, thanks to the UCSF School of Dentistry.

Another study, led by Frank Mitloehner, a Cooperative Extension air quality specialist from UC Davis' animal science department, will be the first California health investigation to look specifically at current dairy practices and determine the amounts of material dairy workers are exposed to over the course of a work shift. Approximately 20 large dairies in Tulare and Merced counties will be monitored.

USCB hires academic preparation coordinator in Bakersfield

The UC Santa Barbara Early Academic Outreach Program recently hired Maria Catalina Mendiola, as site coordinator in Bakersfield. The Early Academic Outreach Program assists high-achieving and high-potential first-generation and low-income students to attain high academic standards. It also provides the necessary academic support to get students on track to attend the University of California. Through collaborative efforts, the program provides students, their families and communities with the resources to increase eligibility, applications and enrollments in post-secondary education. Mendiola will work at the UC Merced Center in Bakersfield and assist eligible students at participating schools. She also will work closely with UC Merced's Early Academic Outreach Program. Most recently, Mendiola was a community organizer for a non-profit organization in Los Angeles. She attended Bakersfield High School and graduated from Occidental College. Mendiola can be reached at (661) 324-6292.

The UC Merced Bakersfield Center was established in 2000 to help address the educational resource needs of the southern San Joaquin Valley as well as forge a link between the area and UC Merced campus. Today, the center is an important link in UC Merced's educational network, which is anchored by the main campus in Merced and spans the entire San Joaquin valley with other offices in Fresno, the Tri-College Center in Merced, the Castle Aviation & Development Center in Atwater and the Great Valley Center in Modesto.

UC Merced SBDC employee selected as State Star

Katrina Roubedeaux was selected as the 2006 State Star of the University of California, Merced's Small Business Development Center Regional Network. Roubedeaux is an administrative assistant at the UC Merced SBDC lead office in Fresno. She was recognized with the State Star award for being an exemplary performer, making a significant contribution to the Regional SBDC program and showing a strong commitment to small business in Central California.

"It is an honor to accept this award and to have the opportunity to help so many people achieve the dream of starting and succeeding in their own business," said Roubedeaux.

In 2003, UC Merced was awarded a \$1.7 million grant from the Small Business Administration to support the growth of new and existing small businesses in Central California. The UC Merced Small Business Development Center lead office in Fresno currently provides administrative oversight and leadership to four service centers and two satellite centers that deliver information, consultation and training to small businesses in a 15-county region that includes the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast communities. Since 2003, the UC Merced SBDC Regional Network has helped establish 176 business start-ups, created more than 1,500 jobs and helped secure nearly 400 loans amounting to more than \$61 million.

CONTACT INFORMATION

UC ValleyConnection is published quarterly by the University of California, Office of the President, University Affairs, San Joaquin Valley office, UC Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 212, Fresno, CA 93710, (559) 241-7510, fax (559) 241-7516. For more information, please e-mail the editor at brandy.nikaido@ucop.edu or call the number listed above.



UC Merced has opened its new rec center, which has pumped up students.

UC Merced continues to unveil new programs, facilities for students

By Lorena Anderson | UC Merced | Office of Communications

A student recently pointed out that every week, there's something new at UC Merced. This fall, that seems especially true.

"New majors, sports programs, and a recreation and wellness center all are giving prospective students increasing reasons to choose UC Merced," said Jane Lawrence, vice chancellor for student affairs.

In addition to the 16 existing academic majors, including the newly approved major in economics, the university will likely approve several more in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, including political science, cognitive science, history and literature, as well as a minor in anthropology. The new majors are popular in universities around the nation, and UC Merced offers a fresh take with its interdisciplinary emphasis, preparing students to work with others in a wide variety of careers.

The Joseph E. Gallo Recreation & Wellness Center, which opened November 13, offers exercise facilities, an NCAA-sized basketball court, performance space and a student health center with health and wellness classes.

The opening of the center ties in with the beginnings of competitive sports at UC Merced. A competitive sports committee comprised of faculty, staff, students and community members has been discussing which sports should kick things off. Students say they want swimming, crew,

baseball, basketball and soccer. In fact, the baseball team is already formed and ready for league play in the spring. These teams will offer yet another option for leisure time in Merced.

UC Merced's Police Department has a new program, too, that reaches out to elementary school students in a low-income school in Merced. UC Merced student-mentors can volunteer to spend lunch hours with the elementary students, playing games and doing activities. They go back after school for homework clinics, and once a month, bring groups of elementary school students to the campus to learn about college life.

The elementary students get to become "Junior Bobcats," and though many of them didn't even know what a university was when the program started, they now call the program organizers often to see when they

can come back to UC Merced.

Organizers have plans to expand the program into Merced's 11 other elementary schools and eventually throughout Merced County. They also want to find ways to get the elementary students' parents involved with the campus, as well, to help encourage children to choose college for their futures.

Once students get to college, the Student Learning and Resource Center has plenty of help available to contribute to student success, from tutoring to study skills and time management workshops. The center now offers a flexible tutoring schedule that includes evenings and some weekends. UC Merced officials are constantly enhancing and increasing resources to make sure students get the most out of their world-class UC education. ■

from front page

Healing hands

"I came here once at Christmas and I was feeling really sad," she said. "I got a hug and it just made my day. I feel that God blessed me, and they treat me like family."

Patients like Bautista are what fuels Dizon's philanthropic spirit. He and his wife, Nhuha, have for years volunteered in a variety of programs. While he feels it's made him a better physician, he believes

it is another way he can encourage residents to a higher calling.

"These doctors learn there is a difference between going to the patient and seeing patients who come to you in the hospital," said Dizon. "They see the entire patient picture. It has opened their minds and their hearts, and I'm really proud of the difference they are making." ■

UC Merced hires expert to develop business plan for medical education program

The University of California, Merced recently hired Carlos Martini, a physician and nationally known expert, as a consultant to further develop the campus's plans for a medical education program.

"I am pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Carlos Martini as director of San Joaquin Valley Medical Education Planning," said Acting Chancellor of UC Merced Roderic B. Park. "Dr. Martini's expertise and experience will help guide UC Merced in this next and critically important stage of planning for medical education."

Martini's charge involves developing a written proposal for the UC Merced medical education program, which is expected to culminate in a UC Merced school of medicine. The proposal will include identifying prospective partners in the Valley, partnerships with UC medical schools, plans for instructional facilities, and a timetable for development. The economic impact of medical education and a medical school in the Valley also will be evaluated.

"Dr. Martini is an excellent addition to

our team," said UC Merced Dean of Natural Sciences Maria Pallavicini, who leads the effort to bring medical education to the Valley together with Joan Voris, associate dean at UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program.

"His broad experience in developing medical school plans, particularly in underserved regions of the nation, will help us make rapid progress on the trajectory toward an inaugural class of medical students."

Martini's background includes 38 years of academic and research experience in medical education. Since 2001, he has served as medical school project director for Florida International University where he led planning and secured approval earlier this year for a new public medical school for FIU in south Florida – just one of two new medical schools to be established in the United States in the past 28 years.



Carlos Martini

"I am delighted to be a part of this effort," said Martini. "The prospect of developing a medical school in a region where there is a clear need for more physicians is professionally exciting and personally rewarding."

UC Merced's plan is to establish a medical education program to address the

disproportionate physician shortage in the Valley, with a particular emphasis on training physicians who are competent in multicultural health care and who are committed to serving the needs of the San Joaquin Valley. The proposed program is based on academic partnerships and uses existing resources in the Valley and sister UC campuses.

When submitted, UC Merced's proposal would go through customary UC – and state – review and approval processes for consideration of all new programs and schools.

More at: <http://med.ucmerced.edu> ■

Printed on recycled paper



University of California
Office of the President
University Affairs
UC Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 212
Fresno, CA 93710
www.ucinthevalley.org
www.universityofcalifornia.edu
Para noticias e información de
la UC en español, favor de visitar al
www.ucnewswire.org/spanish.html

