

UC VALLEY CONNECTION

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

QUOTEWORTHY

“In five years, I would like UC Merced to achieve the stature of a world-class, comprehensive university with excellence in targeted areas, and to take the necessary steps toward beginning medical education.”

Steve Kang
Chancellor
UC Merced

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Steve Kang named UC Merced chancellor.

Chancellor, role model, takes office at UC Merced

By Brandy Ramos Nikaido | UC Office of the President | Strategic Communications

Born and raised in a low-income family in South Korea, Sung-Mo “Steve” Kang, 61, came to the United States in 1969 with \$200 in his pocket to attend a New Jersey university on a full scholarship. He was the first in his family to go to college. English was his second language. Today, Kang is heading up UC Merced, an especially fitting role considering his background.

UC Merced, which opened in 2005, is expanding educational access to students throughout California, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. The campus boasts an extremely diverse student population, almost half of which is made up of first-generation college students.

Kang, who served most recently as dean of engineering at UC’s Santa Cruz campus, was named UC Merced’s second chancellor by the UC Board of Regents in February. He was recommended by President Robert

C. Dynes following a nationwide search that produced 65 candidates. During the search, Dynes was advised by a committee comprised of regents, faculty, students and alumni.

“Steve did a wonderful job of building engineering at UCSC and fostering relationships with the community and local industry, and he has the skills and the energy to successfully lead the continued development of UC Merced,” said Dynes.

Prior to his appointment at UCSC, Kang was a professor and department head of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Until 1985, Kang was with AT&T Bell Laboratories where he earned an exceptional contribution award for leading the development of the world’s first 32-bit CMOS microprocessor chips and peripheral chips. Recognized nationally and internationally as



Photo by Jeannette Warnert



UC researchers unveil tools to detect freeze-damaged fruit

UC and U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists discovered recently that oranges damaged by a freeze fluoresce with tiny yellow dots under a blacklight. The realization prompted them to study how blacklight in the packing shed or a UV flashlight in the field can help growers make rapid and accurate decisions about the condition of their oranges after a freeze.

Until now, growers' only immediate option was to slice into fruit to look for ice crystals or damaged flesh. Experiments, funded by the Citrus Research Board, revealed that freezing causes tiny amounts of orange oil to come to the rind's surface. The specks of oil glow when exposed to the blacklight.

"This method is much faster and doesn't destroy fruit," said James Thompson, a UC Cooperative Extension agricultural engineering specialist at UC Davis. "We can go out into the grove, shine a UV flashlight on a piece of fruit still attached to the tree and make a determination about damage."

Growers also may use blacklight in the packing shed to weed out freeze-damaged oranges. The oil in the rind of lemons and limes does not fluoresce. Other citrus, like tangerines and grapefruits, have not yet been tested.

Thompson and his colleagues also are studying the use of a Breathalyzer, commonly used by law enforcement to determine whether drivers are under the influence of alcohol. For freeze damage detection, the Breathalyzer is modified to sense ethanol, rather than alcohol.

While these new techniques are still being studied, scientists recommend that farmers experiment with them because they are quick and inexpensive.

Higher ed group starts new year with new director, new location

The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium recently moved its office to the UC Merced Center in Fresno and named Cheri Cruz executive director of the non-profit organization aimed at promoting a college-going culture in the Valley.

Born and raised in Fresno, Cruz is a first-generation college student who has dedicated her professional career to helping young people achieve their educational goals. She is well-acquainted with the consortium's work after having served as its associate director from 2001 to 2005.

"Our job is to show young people that college is an option," said Cruz. "College graduates earn more, learn more and generally have more choices in life."

One of her goals is to make college-going information more readily available to students and parents who traditionally do not have access to it.

Established in March 2000, the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium is aimed at increasing higher-education attainment in the 10-county area that includes Fresno, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Kings, Tulare and Kern Counties. The consortium comprises 24 public and private institutions of higher education from Stockton to Bakersfield.

One of the consortium's most important initiatives is establishing a guaranteed transfer program. About 15 colleges and universities are involved in the program, which puts participating students at partnering community colleges on the right path to completing their associate's degree and guarantees them admission to any of the six four-year universities in the Valley that also are taking part in the program.

UC Merced initiatives compete for California Partnership grants

Three proposed UC Merced projects are in the running to receive grants from the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The initiatives involve expanding access to health care services through telemedicine programs; enhancing entrepreneurship mentoring, counseling and education; and increasing the college-going rate among English-language learners.

More than 100 preliminary applications were submitted, each competing for up to \$250,000. At its February meeting in Tulare, the Partnership board voted to invite 36 of those applicants to submit full proposals.

UC Merced also submitted proposals to pilot an innovative solar-powered and energy-efficient air conditioning system at the campus, and expand the UC Merced Police Department's mentoring program, which pairs UC Merced students with at-risk elementary school youngsters.

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley was established by Governor Schwarzenegger to make recommendations that improve the overall quality of life in the Valley. The Partnership board presented its strategic action plan to the governor last fall. Recommendations include: growing and diversifying the economy; creating a model K-12 public education system; implementing an integrated framework for sustainable growth; building a 21st-century transportation network; attaining clean-air standards; and developing high-quality health and human services. The governor and Legislature approved \$5 million in the 2006-07 state budget to implement this strategic action plan, with half of the funding earmarked for seed grants.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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UCSF Fresno addresses shortage of medical specialists with new training programs.

UCSF Fresno announces two new fellowships

Internal medicine program receives highest accreditation level

UCSF Fresno recently received approval for two new internal medicine fellowship training programs in cardiology and pulmonary medicine. The fellowships, which will begin in July, expand the local medical education program's ability to address the shortage of physicians, particularly specialists, in the San Joaquin Valley.

Fellowships offer specific training in an area of expertise beyond residency training and generally last two to three years in length. Cardiology and pulmonary medicine deal with the conditions and diseases of the heart and lungs respectively – two health indicators prevalent in the Valley.

Previously, physicians completing the UCSF Fresno residency program had to go elsewhere for training in these subspecialties.

Adding to the good news and important to the approval of the new fellowships, UCSF Fresno's internal medicine program recently received a five-year accreditation, the highest level of accreditation available to a residency program. Only 20 percent of residency programs receive the five-year accreditation cycle.

"UCSF Fresno is extremely pleased that our fellowships were accredited and we appreciate the confidence that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has placed in us to run a high-quality educational program," said Michael W. Peterson, M.D., chief of medicine at UCSF Fresno. "We also would like to thank Community Medical Centers and the Veterans Affairs Central California Health System for their contributions to making these fellowships possible."

The cardiology fellowship will be three years in length, with three fellows taking part each year. The pulmonary program consists of two years with three fellows participating. Training will include inpatient hospital care, ambulatory care, consultative care and research time. Training will take place at Community Regional Medical Center, the VA hospital in Fresno, along with outpatient locations affiliated with UCSF Fresno faculty members.

To gain and maintain accreditation, residency programs and sponsoring institutions must meet certain standards and requirements set by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The accreditation process takes place every two to five years, depending

on the strength of the residency program. A review committee determines the appropriate accreditation based on a site visit and supporting program documentation. While accreditation is voluntary, programs must be accredited to receive federal funds. Medical residents must also graduate from ACGME-accredited programs to take their board certification examinations. Furthermore, California and many other states require physicians to complete an ACGME-accredited residency program to receive their medical license.

UCSF Fresno currently trains about 190 medical residents, approximately 200 medical students and one fellow in surgical critical care. About 30 percent of UCSF Fresno graduates remain in the area to practice. ■

Chancellor Kang arrives on campus from front page

a leader in his field, Kang has won numerous awards and fellowships for his work and publications.

Kang says he is a professor first, yet is motivated by the broader impact he can have as an academic leader.

"In five years, I would like UC Merced to achieve the stature of a world-class, comprehensive university with excellence in targeted areas, and to take the necessary steps toward beginning medical education," Kang said. "I also want to establish strong education partnership programs with other institutions in the Valley and excellent collaborations with surrounding communities."

Kang received a B.S. from Fairleigh Dickinson University (1970), his M.S. from the State University of New York at Buffalo (1972), and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley (1975) – all in electrical engineering.

Kang and his wife, Mia, will live in the chancellor's residence in Merced. They have two grown children.

Over the next few months, Kang is planning a number of visits throughout the Valley to hear the priorities and concerns of area residents and to personally share his vision for how UC Merced will continue to serve the region.

More at: chancellor.ucmerced.edu ■

UCSF Fresno medical library worth checking out

Libraries traditionally are quiet places, but the hushed atmosphere at the UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education Library is particularly deceiving, says librarian Amy Andres. Even though the library is still in the process of obtaining books, she is responding to roughly 200 reference questions and processing hundreds of inter-library loans each month. More than 90 percent of the requests come in by email. These “virtual” requests mean the patrons never even step foot inside the library.



Amy Andres

With access to the entire University of California’s digital library, 200 databases and subscriptions to 11,000 electronic journals, the UCSF Fresno library represents the largest biomedical digital collection in the San Joaquin Valley. The library will also

encompass a collection of 2,000 hard-copy books, and Andres has started a collection on health issues specific to the Valley region, including Latino and Hmong health, migrant workers, and other rural health issues.

“Building a library from scratch is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Andres said. “Plus, this gives me the chance to specialize in the area of health sciences.”

Open since last spring, the library provides services to UCSF Fresno faculty, medical residents and students and staff, and also is open to the public. Physicians, medical residents and students use library resources for a variety of purposes, such as looking for information on clinical cases they may be facing in the hospital or gathering information for

research projects, presentations or articles they plan to publish. The overall goal is to improve patient health outcomes. ■

UC Day in Sacramento approaching

The Alumni Associations of the University of California will hold the annual UC Day event in Sacramento on Tuesday, March 27. All UC alumni and friends are invited to participate.

UC Day is the annual event that brings together University of California alumni, donors and friends to carry the UC message to California’s elected officials in Sacramento.

For more details or to participate, please visit www.ucday.org or contact Heather Hendrickson at (209) 228 4688 or hhendrickson@ucmerced.edu.

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