

Our University

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESIDENT FOR THE UC COMMUNITY



October 2006 – Text Version

This text-only version of “Our University” from the UC Office of the President is intended to be posted in order to be accessible to members of the UC community without easy access to a computer at work. The web version is available at http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/ouruniversity/10_06/.

FOCUS

UC tackling global warming – key issue for California’s future

California gained international attention recently when Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature adopted landmark legislation calling for a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in California by the year 2020.

The University of California will play a large role in helping the state reach that goal. UC has long been involved in studying climate change and exploring ways to curb global warming, and today the university is home to many of the world’s top experts on greenhouse gases and environmental sustainability.

UC Irvine and UC San Diego are home to Nobel Prize-winning scientists responsible for discovering that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) damage the ozone layer. UCLA researchers are working with private industry to develop hydrogen-based transportation alternatives. The San Diego Supercomputer Center and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory are bringing their high-powered number-crunching expertise to climate modeling. UC Berkeley research has concluded that reducing California greenhouse gas emissions can boost the state’s economy and create new jobs. And that’s just the beginning.

Learn more about UC research contributing to the understanding and control of global warming at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/everyday/globalwarming/>.

SYSTEMWIDE NEWS

California shines in Nobel Prizes

California further cemented its reputation as a center of intellectual achievement and scientific contribution with the recent announcement of the 2006 Nobel Prizes.

George F. Smoot of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and UC Berkeley won the Nobel Prize in physics. Smoot was recognized for his landmark research on the Big Bang theory and the origins of galaxies and stars.

Smoot shared the prize with John C. Mather of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center – who earned his Ph.D. at Berkeley. Andrew Z. Fire of Stanford – who attended Cal as an undergraduate – won the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. And Stanford’s Roger Kornberg won the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

University of California researchers have won 50 Nobel Prizes, including 18 since 1995.

Student mental health in spotlight

The Board of Regents in September received the report of an advisory group convened to review and make recommendations for improving mental health services to UC students. The advisory group's plan would restore critical services lost to budget cuts, implement targeted intervention programs for the most vulnerable students, and put into place a comprehensive institutional approach to creating healthier learning environments. Read more at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2006/sep20a.html>.

Proposition 1D has impact for UC

Proposition 1D, the education bond measure on the November ballot, would provide UC with \$345 million per year for the next two years for construction and renovation of facilities to address enrollment growth, seismic and life safety needs, and renewal of outdated infrastructure. The measure also would provide \$200 million over the two-year period to expand UC's medical schools and enhance its telemedicine programs throughout the state.

For more information, including projects proposed to receive bond funding, lists of supporters and opponents, and ballot arguments for and against the bond, please visit <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/prop1d/>.

Update on employee compensation and benefits

UC received welcome news over the summer with a final state budget that provided an overall 4% increase in salary funding for the next year – 1% more than the 3% expected under the budget compact with Gov. Schwarzenegger – which helps move UC toward the goal of achieving market-competitive salaries and benefits. At the same time, health care costs continue to rise steadily. Fortunately, through a lot of hard work and tough negotiating with medical plans, UC has been able to maintain access to a range of affordable health plans for employees – without reducing benefits. Additionally, UC's salary-based rate structure means that lower-paid employees will continue to pay lower monthly premiums. Read more at http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/news/general/employee_communications.pdf.

New honors in the UC community

Here are just a few of the many honors that have been bestowed upon folks in the University of California community in recent weeks:

Top honor for UCSF professor: UCSF molecular biologist Elizabeth H. Blackburn has received the prestigious Lasker Award for the prediction and discovery of telomerase, a remarkable enzyme that synthesizes telomeres, the tiny units of DNA that seal off the ends of chromosomes, protecting them and maintaining the integrity of the genome. The Lasker Award has been given to 71 scientists who subsequently received the Nobel Prize. Blackburn and co-award winner Carol W. Greider – Blackburn's former graduate student, now at Johns Hopkins University – were honored for groundbreaking investigations while they were at UC Berkeley in the 1980s. In addition to providing insight into how chromosome ends are maintained, their work laid the foundation for studies that have linked telomerase and telomeres to human cancer and age-related conditions, such as cardiovascular disease.

Number one in biotech transfer: Among universities worldwide, the University of California system averaged the highest level of licensing income annually – almost \$100 million – from its research discoveries in biotechnology, according to a new study of biotech-knowledge transfer. The Milken Institute study, "Mind to Market: A Global Analysis of University Biotechnology Transfer and Commercialization," found that from 1997 to 2003, the University of California system was the most successful university in licensing income from its discoveries and inventions, a total average of about \$100 million per year, followed by Stanford University (\$50 million) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (\$33 million).

Excellence in scholarly communications: In recognition of its groundbreaking work in scholarly communications, UC recently was named a SPARC Innovator by the Washington, D.C.-based Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. The distinction is a new one that recognizes those who challenge the status quo in scholarly communication for the benefit of researchers, libraries, universities, and the public. SPARC representatives said UC has been a leader in helping scholars and researchers

regain control of their published work, while exploring innovative means of scholarly communication. "It is no exaggeration to say that UC has made a significant and beneficial contribution to the scholarly communication process while altering the marketplace as well," said SPARC Director Heather Joseph.

Presidential early career awards: Four young researchers affiliated with UC have received the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers from President Bush. Established in 1996, the awards recognize scientists for extraordinary achievement at the outset of their careers, and whose research shows potential for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge. The UC-affiliated winners this year are Shelly Lyne Gable Nayak of UCLA, Tracy Lanise Johnson of UCSD, Michael Anthony Zingale of UC Santa Cruz, and Kevin Yosh Sanbonmatsu of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

National magazine says "UC schools rule": The Washington Monthly magazine, in its second annual rankings this summer of national universities and liberal arts colleges, found that – in its words – "UC schools continue to rule." Four of UC's nine general campuses make the top 10, while the rest make the top 80. What makes the magazine's rankings unique is that they rate universities and colleges on how well they benefit the country. Among the Washington Monthly's measures: How well does a college or university perform as an engine of social mobility? How well does it foster scientific and humanistic research? And how well does it promote an ethic of service to country? "We hope that citizens and elected officials will look at this guide when making decisions on how to subsidize and regulate higher education," the editors write. "After all, almost all the great challenges America now faces ... are ultimately tied to actions taken or not taken by America's colleges and universities."

DYNES' DESK

Dynes' Desk is a way for anyone to email a comment, idea, or suggestion to President Dynes. While he is not able to respond personally in most instances, President Dynes does read each email submitted. In each edition of "Our University," he will respond to a couple of Dynes' Desk submissions. Write to President Dynes at <http://universityofcalifornia.edu/president/desk.html> or at 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland, California 94607-5200.

Comment: President Dynes, I am highly worried about being accepted into a college of my choice. I am a senior in high school. I am very determined, and I will do whatever it takes to reach my goal of college. Will you please respond to my message detailing what I should do to reach my goal?

Bob Dynes: Thanks for your message. Our best advice to students is to work hard, take challenging courses in high school, and do one's best in them. Making the most of the opportunities available to you and challenging yourself academically are the best preparation for a rigorous college education of the kind offered by UC. I also encourage you to seek assistance from your school's college counselor, research your college options thoroughly, visit the campuses you're interested in, and apply broadly to maximize your chance of being accepted at a campus that will make a good fit for you. When you apply to colleges, make sure to complete a thoughtful application that gives a good idea of your achievements, what you would contribute to the campus, and some insight into you as a person. To learn more about the University of California, I encourage you to read our publication, "Introducing the University," available at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/ITU.pdf. Best wishes for a successful college search.

Comment: I am among the millions who just heard about the cooperative agreements between various hi-tech companies such as Google and Yahoo and the U of C regarding scanning of books for making them available digitally. Please do not allow any pressure group to reverse or slow down this initiative. You will not only be serving America in the finest academic traditions you will be serving humanity on a historic scale and level. Many years from now the world will look at this as the beginning of an era. I know from personal experience most of the world's citizens do not even have access to a basic public library never mind anything more substantial. Acquisition of hard copy books are luxuries to be considered carefully along with things like food. I am the guy who used to take a bus travel, 20 miles to a library that would lend me books. The year was 1966, place Rawalpindi, Pakistan, the only library that would lend us books for no charge, paper work or long explanations was the United States Information Center Library.

Bob Dynes: Thank you for your note, and for sharing with me your very moving personal story which demonstrates just how important and meaningful it is to have access to information. This is a very exciting initiative that significantly broadens our ability to give scholars and the public access to all the wonderful information in our libraries that drive scholarly innovation and public knowledge and discourse. It is part of, and substantially enriches, the efforts of many UC faculty who have, since 2002, made their own published works available freely online via the UC libraries' eScholarship repository. I think some people are anxious about the book-scanning efforts because they think we're not going to respect copyrighted material, which is inaccurate – we intend to fully honor copyright protections.

PROFILE

Arturo Ochoa

Senior stores supervisor
Distribution services, UCI Medical Center

Art recently received a citation from the Council of UC Staff Assemblies (CUCSA) for his outstanding leadership. A 20-year veteran of UC Irvine, Art was cited for his listening skills, ethics, and genuine concern for his staff. "Art's approach to staff and his sense of humor are seen as calming and reassuring when things get hectic," said Stephanie-Jean Hinojosa of UCI facilities management, who presented the CUCSA award. "He is not bunkered in his office. He's out interacting with staff, and they notice."

Q. What do you do for the University?

A. My primary job duties involve working with all Medical Center departments, primarily Nursing, to provide required materials and services which enable them to support our patient care mission.

Q. What is the key to being a good manager?

A. Developing and maintaining open communications with staff and customers so they feel they can come to you with any issue they might have.

Q. Who has been most important in helping you develop your skills as a manager?

A. My first manager at UCI Medical Center, Mamdouh Awad, and my second and current management team, Fred Feezell and Kerby Mellott.

Q. What's the most enjoyable part of your work day?

A. Any time we have solved a problem or done something for the customer or staff that makes their job easier.

DID YOU KNOW?

- UC campuses top comparable universities around the country in the percentage of low-income students they enroll. Nearly one-third of UC undergraduates are eligible for federal Pell Grants.
 - Roughly two-thirds of the medical students in California get their training at UC.
 - Patents? We got patents. For 12 consecutive years, UC has been the leader among the nation's universities in developing new patents – 390 last year.
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What would you like to read about the UC system in future editions of "Our University"? Send your feedback and story suggestions to communications@ua.ucop.edu. Produced by Strategic Communications, University Affairs, UC Office of the President.