FEBRUARY 2008 VOLUME 4 NO. 5

STRATEGIC ACADEMIC PLANNING

Faculty Input Requested on UC Merced's Academic Structure, Future Direction

The three subcommittees of the Strategic Academic Planning Committee are planning a series of faculty forums in February and early March to tap ideas and stimulate discussion on UC Merced's academic structure and long-term direction. All faculty members are strongly encouraged to attend and actively participate.

The five-person subcommittees were established and their topics defined following a full-day meeting of the SAP Committee on Nov. 30. A detailed summary of the meeting... [more]

CAMPUS VIEWS

NEWS

Library Wins LEED Gold Certification

The Leo and Dottie Kolligian Library at UC Merced has earned "Gold" certification in the "LEED for New Construction" (LEED-NC) category from the U.S. Green Building Council for meeting or exceeding a wide range of design, construction and operating standards associated with environmentally responsible development.

"The Kolligian Library is the signature building on campus and the focal point of daily campus activity," said Mark Maxwell, LEED coordinator for the campus. "It is noteworthy that such an attractive, highly functional building can be designed to meet or exceed very high environmental standards."

The USGBC is an independent, nonprofit organization that rates buildings under its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. It uses a five-tier performance scale and awards points for meeting or exceeding standards on a variety of sustainability measures. "Gold" is the second-highest tier of achievement... [more]

Faculty Developing Screening Tool to Answer Public Health Threat of Drug-resistant Bacteria

A bobcat sighting near the bridge on Scholars Lane during the holiday break... [View photos]

IN BRIEF

Applications Numbers

More than 10,000 students have applied to UC Merced for fall 2008 admission, which 15.4 percent higher than last year. With a 13.2 percent increase over last year, the campus has the fourth-largest gain in the UC system in freshman applications. Transfer applications increased by almost 37.7 percent... [more]

Budget Update

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Keith Alley and Vice Chancellor for Administration Mary Miller sent an e-mail message to the campus community on Jan. 23, providing an update on how the predicted $14 billion California budget shortfall may affect UC Merced... [more]

Research Grants, Donation Dollars Flowing to Support UC Merced

Faculty researchers at UC Merced have been awarded nearly $8.4 million in research grants and awards

Barlow

Meyer

Newsam

Amid international concern about the public health threat of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aurea bacteria (MRSA), three professors at UC Merced are developing a powerful new screening tool that could answer widespread calls for universal staph screenings before patients are admitted to hospitals.

"Universal screening is not possible right now," said Professor Miriam Barlow of the School of Natural Sciences. "The standard means for identifying drug-resistant staph is a two-step process that requires several days. Our screening method is being developed with the aim of accomplishing a screening in six hours or less."

Barlow is working with professors Matt Meyer of the School of Natural Sciences and Shawn Newsam of the School of Engineering to develop what they call the Microcalorimetry Microorgamism Infectious Disease Analyzer (M2IDF), a machine that measures how bacterial cells respond to heat as a way of identifying the bacteria and determining whether they are resistant to antibiotics... [more]

PROFILE

Professor Creates Machine Learning Algorithms to Address Diverse Problems

Engineering professor Miguel Carreira-Perpiñán concedes his work is a little tricky to explain to someone who isn't all about mathematics and computers. He works to build models that can automatically extract useful information from extremely complex data.

"Machine learning is at the intersection of computer science, statistics, physics, electrical engineering, control engineering and mathematics," said the new professor,

during the first half of the 2007-08 fiscal year, the largest six-month total since the university began research operations in 2003. Last year's full-year total was $12.2 million... [more]

Tips from IT

Visit the IT Web site! Thanks to feedback we received during our IT 2.0 meetings with campus departments, we have made some updates to the UC Merced IT Web site (http://it.ucmerced.edu). If you haven't been there recently, stop by... [more]

Food Drive Nets 2,500 Cans

The UC Merced Staff Assembly, in conjunction with the Chancellor's Office, collected 2,500 cans of food during its Drive-Up-and-Donate Day in December. During the event, volunteers from the Staff Assembly accepting donations of non-perishable food from the campus community – without donors ever having to leave the warm comfort of their vehicles.

Assembly officials took the donations to the Merced Emergency Food Bank in late December for inclusion in holiday food baskets.

United Way Campaign Under Way

UC

Professor Miguel Carreira-Perpiñán creates computer analysis tools to address problems in speech recognition, motion capture and more.

who arrived at UC Merced in July 2007 after several years as a professor at Oregon Health and Science University. "You can come to it from any of those fields with strong foundations in mathematics."

It's when he starts talking about the problems that can be solved using his tools that people start to see why his work is so fascinating... [more]

ACCOLADES

Online Press Offers Voice to Latino/a Authors

Martín-Rodríguez

Manuel M. Martín-Rodríguez, a professor in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts, has created an online publication to fill what he considers a growing need.

"My goal as publisher is to provide an outlet for innovative literature that may not be considered marketable by established presses," Martín-Rodríguez said.

Dedicated to providing an online home for previously unpublished creative works written primarily by Latino and Latina authors, AlternaCtive PublicaCtions allows and archives reader responses for possible use by researchers... [more]

New Positions in the UC Merced Administration for Ojcius, Viney, Mendenhall

Three individuals from the UC Merced community have accepted new positions serving the campus in the administration.

Professor Christopher Viney is the new vice provost for undergraduate education.

Merced kicked off its United Way campaign for this year on Jan. 16. This is a great opportunity for staff and students to contribute... [more]

RESEARCH GRANT and AWARD PROGRESS

Total amount of proposals this month: **$3,551,877**
Total amount of awards this month: **$478,425**

Total amount of awards from July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007: **$8,396,789**

HUMAN RESOURCES

If you have questions about any of the below information, please contact the Office of Human Resources at (209) 228-8247.

Viney

He will perform the duties of this job while maintaining a 40 percent faculty appointment in the School of Engineering. Viney has served on the UC Merced faculty since 2003. He has played a major role in the development and implementation of our general education curriculum and advocated consistently for undergraduate education on campus.

Ojcius

Professor David Ojcius has assumed the role of vice provost for academic personnel in the Office of Academic Affairs while maintaining a 50 percent faculty appointment in the School of Natural Sciences. Ojcius joined the faculty of UC Merced in 2004 and has served as the chair of the Committee on Academic Personnel for the past year and a half.

Mendenhall

Jan Mendenhall has been appointed associate vice chancellor for development in the University Relations division. Mendenhall joined UC Merced in 1998 as one of the university's first employees. She served as director of community relations, director of university relations, director of foundation and corporate relations, director of development and relations, and most recently as executive director of development and relations.

New Faculty On Board for Spring Semester Showcase International Experience

UC Merced welcomes six new faculty members who began their duties Jan. 1 – an exceptionally international group of scholars... [more]

EVENTS

Campus Planning Workshop

On Feb. 6, Physical Planning, Design & Construction

Discounted Entertainment Tickets Now Available!
The Human Resources Department is happy to introduce discounted entertainment tickets to all UC Merced students, faculty and staff. All tickets are available at the Cashier's Office next to the Students First Center in the Kolligian Library. You can also buy tickets online at https://epay.ucmerced.edu/home/login.aspx by check or credit card. Below are the attractions to which tickets that are available currently; more are to come.

Knotts Berry Farm
Adult price: 24.43
Child price: 17.29
Expiration date Mar. 31, 2008

Winchester Mystery House
Adult price: 15.30
Child price: 11.22
No expiration date

Coming Soon: Legoland, Universal Studios, San Diego Zoo, Monterey Bay Aquarium and Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk!

Internal Job Posting: Campus Cashiering Manager
SBFS1391A
Campus Cashiering Manager (MSP I) - INTERNAL ONLY
Business and Financial Services

President's Day Holiday
UC Merced will be closed for the Presidents' Day holiday Monday, Feb. 18.

(PPC&D) will be hosting the second in a series of workshops regarding the amendment of the campus Long Range Development Plan. Students, faculty and staff are welcome... [more]

Lunar New Year Festival Feb. 23

The Chinese Student Association and the Vietnamese Student Association are planning UC Merced's second annual Lunar New Year festival for Saturday, Feb. 23.
This all-day event in the Dining Center quad will welcome students, faculty, staff, families and the community to campus for a celebration of Asian cultures in recognition of the actual Lunar New Year, which occurs Feb. 7.

UC Merced to Host Regional Chicano Conference Feb. 1-2

UC Merced will be home this weekend to the Northern California Regional Conference for the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies.

Pre-conference activities begin this afternoon (Friday, Feb. 1) with poetry workshops. This evening's poetry reading and slam in the Lantern will feature award-winning Valley poet and author Tim Z. Hernandez. An open-mic poetry night will follow.

The official conference begins Saturday morning, Feb. 2, and will include... [more]

About *Panorama UC Merced*

Panorama UC Merced is a faculty-staff publication for the University of California, Merced, that delivers news about the campus each month, during the academic year, with breaks for the holidays.

Written and edited by the UC Merced Office of Communications, the publication delivers news about campus issues and events, research highlights, UC-wide news, and people.

The deadline for submissions for each issue is 9 a. m. on the 15th of each month prior to the month of publication. For more information or to submit ideas, contact Editor Ana Nelson Shaw by e-mail at ashaw@ucmerced.edu or by phone at (209) 228-4406.

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Research Week Speaker, Poster Contest in Early March

UC Merced's second annual research celebration will be held in March this year, and instead of Research Day, it's Research Week! The Office of Research, the Graduate Student Association and University Relations look forward to growing into that moniker as the events multiply in coming years... [more]

Call for Entries: Staff Assembly T-Shirt Design Contest

Creativity wanted! The Staff Assembly needs your help designing the t-shirts for Staff Appreciation Week in June. This year the Staff Assembly has chosen a Hawaiian theme with the slogan "Surfin' UCM". The winner will receive a $25 gift certificate to the Dining Commons. Designs must be submitted to Holly Werner (hwerner@ucmerced.edu) by Feb. 20. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Peterson at 228-4125.

Save the Date: Staff Appreciation Week Set for June 2-6

Mark your calendars! Staff Appreciation week is June 2-6 and will include a staff breakfast, central plant tours, volleyball tournament, ice cream social and picnic (June 6, 12:30-2:30 pm)! A schedule of events will be coming soon!

UCMERCED