

MRU eNews

Newsletter for UC Multicampus Research Units and Programs



MRU eNews: A Vehicle for Multicampus Research News

With this first volume of MRU eNews, the Office of Research intends to create a means for enhancing communication among MRU faculty and staff, campus faculty and state leaders. In addition to announcements concerning UC-wide research issues and initiatives, MRU eNews will carry news of developments in Sacramento, at UCOP and at individual MRUs. MRUs are invited to submit materials on conferences, upcoming events and major new research endeavors. We plan to publish at least twice yearly, in electronic format, and to distribute via email to MRU staff and faculty, UCOP administrators, selected faculty and graduate students, and to key figures in Sacramento and Washington. Back issues will be posted on the Office of Research website.

New Funding Opportunities!
Visit our website at:
www.ucop.edu/Research/

University of California Office of the President

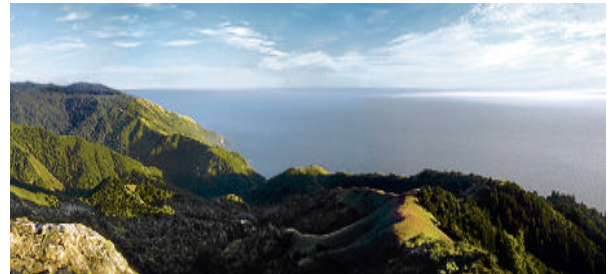
New UC Multicampus Research Initiatives Get Underway: CA-Mexico, UC ACCORD, Coastal Environmental Quality

Funding from the State Budget of 2000-01 resulted in permanent funds to support research in areas of high priority to the state and university. A total of \$12.5 million was awarded to UC in support of multicampus efforts to promote California-Mexico research collaborations, to launch a research program on coastal environmental quality, to improve understanding about outreach to underrepresented minorities and to support graduate student researchers in computer science, engineering, and related disciplines.

The \$5 million initiative on "California-Mexico Collaborative Research on Issues of Mutual Interest" is administered by UC MEXUS, headquartered at River-

side. It will support the establishment of a UC-Mexico Science and Technology Commission that will determine the critical areas in which joint investments should be made in research and education; a Faculty and Research Exchange and a Graduate Research Training Program. It will also support the establishment of a UC-Mexico Hub in Mexico City. UC MEXUS is directed by Professor Juan-Vicente Palerm. His successor, Professor Scott Whiteford of Michigan State University, assumes the post this summer.

The Coastal Environmental Quality Initiative provides \$2 million per year for research to assist the state in its efforts to protect and manage California's ocean and coastal resources. Most of the funding will go toward a competi-



itive grants program administered at the UC Office of the President through the UC Marine Council. An RFP is available at: <http://www.ucop.edu/research/coastal/index.html>.

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Four Research Priorities Included in 2001-02 Governor's Budget; 2002-03 Initiative Selection Process for Regents' Budget Begins

Four of the six major research initiatives included in the 2001-02 Regents' Budget submitted to Governor Davis in September have been accepted for one-time funding into his proposed budget, which is now under review in the California legislature. The initiatives would fund monitoring of terrestrial environmental resources (phase II of last year's environmental initiative), energy research, invasive species research, and would increase state support by \$5 million (to \$10 million total) for

graduate students in computer science, engineering and related disciplines. Eliminated from the Governor's budget were UC proposals for a multifaceted public health research initiative and a plan to study the demographic changes now underway in California.

Half of the funding for the environmental, energy and invasive species research initiatives is targeted for graduate student support. Should the initiatives ultimately be funded in the State

Budget Act this June, they will be administered through the division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and through the Office of Research, and will go to enhance existing multicampus programs as well as to create new ones.

Meanwhile, the process is now underway to identify major research priorities for the 2002-03 Regents' Budget. Academic Senate subcommittees will assess candidate proposals and will develop a final list of research priorities by May, 2001.

Office of Research Multicampus Research Units



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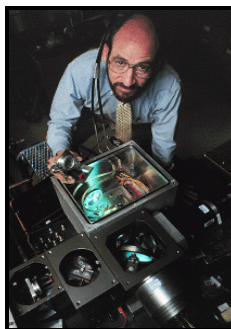
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Meet Lawrence B. Coleman, Interim Vice Provost for Research



Larry Coleman, professor of physics at the Davis campus and immediate past Chair of the Academic Council, has been serving as Interim Vice Provost for Research since January, 2001. Professor Coleman's research focuses on the use of infrared and far infrared spectroscopy to investigate the effects of disorder on the properties of solids. As a researcher, teacher and administrator, he has, since 1976, distinguished himself in service to the University, both at Davis and OP. Welcome Larry! —CMC

Upcoming Events *meetings and conferences*

Humanities Research Institute, "Administering Interdisciplinarity"
March 5-6 at UC Irvine

Linguistic Minority Research Institute, "Developing Bi-literacy"
May 4-5 at UCLA

Transnational and Transcolonial Studies, "Minor Transnationalisms"
May 4-5 at UCLA

Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program, 14th Annual
Research Symposium. April 20-21 at the Granlibakken Resort
and Conference Center, North Lake Tahoe.

SEE THE ONLINE EDITION OF THE *GUIDE TO
UC MULTICAMPUS RESEARCH UNITS* AT:
[HTTP://WWW.UCOP.EDU/RESEARCH/MRU.PDF](http://www.ucop.edu/research/mru.pdf)

Multicampus Research Unit News and Announcements

Biotechnology Program

Dr. Susanne Huttner, Director of the Systemwide Biotechnology Research and Education Program, will be stepping down in order to assume the position of Associate Vice Provost for Research and Industry Relations in the Office of the President, where she will concentrate her efforts on strengthening university-industry collaborations. The Program's Executive Committee is now seeking a new director and campus host for the program. Under Huttner's leadership BREP has become recognized at the national and international levels for its leadership in advancing research and fostering scientifically-grounded discussion of issues related to biotechnology.

Undergraduate Research

The theme for UC Day in Sacramento, sponsored by the UC Alumni Association and scheduled for March 5-6, is "On the Threshold of Opportunity." Coordinators Noto and Magowan, along with colleagues from OP and the campuses, have organized a poster session to showcase undergraduate research at the campuses and MRUs to state legislators.

UC Marine Council

The UC Marine Council (UMC) was formed in 1999 to provide direction to UC in its role as a leader for marine research and education, and to promote the exercise of responsible stewardship of marine resources. Chaired by Gary Griggs of UC

Santa Cruz, the Council includes the directors of UC's several marine institutes. UCMC recently published the *UC Marine Sciences Directory* to provide a comprehensive reference to UC-wide marine resources and facilities. It lists, by discipline, all faculty and researchers with marine-related expertise. It is available online at www.ucop.edu/research/ucmarine/. Printed copies are available by contacting Cathie Magowan at 510/987-0377.

MRU Directors Meeting

The annual meeting of MRU Directors will take place this year on May 15, from 10 am to 3 pm, in the Heyns Room of the Berkeley campus Faculty Club. Agenda items are welcome.

2000-01 Research Initiatives Get Underway

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UC ACCORD (University of California All Campus Collaborative on Outreach, Research and Dissemination) is a cross-campus unit created to support the UC Outreach Initiative. Its mandate is to increase the knowledge base about educational access, eligibility, and retention for students from traditionally under-represented groups. UC ACCORD is currently headed by Interim Director Trish Stoddart of UCSC. The Office of Research is conducting a competition to permanently site UC ACCORD, effective July 1, 2001.

In addition to the three MRU-associated research initiatives, a fourth initiative, funded at \$5 million per year, provides support to graduate student researchers in science and engineering.