

# MRU eNews

Newsletter for UC Multicampus Research Units and Programs



University of California Office of the President

## Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Launches Silk Road Project

### MRU eNews: A Vehicle for Multicampus Research News

This is the second edition of *MRU eNews*, the Office of Research's electronic newsletter of UC multicampus research news and events. With widespread interest shown in February's inaugural edition, the Office of Research has decided to publish *MRU eNews* on a quarterly basis. 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. Distribution, via email, will be to MRU staff and faculty, UCOP administrators, selected faculty and graduate students, and to key figures in Sacramento and Washington. Back issues are posted on the Office of Research website at [www.ucop.edu/research/MRUeNews.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/research/MRUeNews.pdf).

**New Funding Opportunities!**  
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An accord among the United States, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan, pledging to construct a main export pipeline to deliver Caspian oil to western markets, has been lauded a success in "pipeline diplomacy." Opting for a route driven by economic efficiencies, strategic concerns, political ambitions and environmental concerns, the signatories have agreed to pump oil over a 1,100 mile route from Baku, Azerbaijan, through the Republic of Georgia, to Mediterranean tanker ports in Turkey. The "Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan" pipeline aims to spur economic development and anchor new nations along the western leg of the ancient trade route known as the Great Silk Road.

The resources mobilized for pipeline construction make possible the collection and sharing of imagery, soils and archaeological data of inestimable value to local and international development planners. The UC San Diego-based Institute on Global Conflict

and Cooperation (IGCC), led by principal investigator Jennifer Pournelle, has launched an effort to assemble experts from the oil industry, international lending institutions, as well as from the archaeological, remote sensing, telecommunications, informatics and geological communities,

transect of rich historical lands.

"I realized that we at IGCC had an unprecedented opportunity," says Pournelle, "to build on deep experience in environmental policy and region-building—and that UC faculty had a combination of



*A Seljuk (early Islamic) bridge spans a tributary of the Tigris River in eastern Turkey. Historic structures often mark trade routes of great length and antiquity. New bridges between Eastern and Western scholarship will help us understand just how long, and how old, these may have been. Photo: 1988, Professor Guillermo Algaze.*

to seize the chance for a coordinated, multinational effort. They will not only salvage archeological treasures along the way, but engage in an integrated data collection effort along a thousand-mile

science strengths and deep regional presence to make this possible. I saw an opportunity to truly bridge the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities in

*Continued on rear page, bottom right*

## UC Energy Institute Awarded PIER Grant:

*Funds from CA Energy Commission to support study of California electricity markets*

The University of California Energy Institute (UCEI) has reached agreement with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to create a new Center for the Study of Electricity Markets (CSEM) at Berkeley. The CSEM proposal, advanced by CEC Commissioner Michael Moore, has received funding of \$2.05 million dollars over three years. Funding will begin on July 1, 2001, when CSEM is officially launched. The proposal includes plans for funding beyond three years if CSEM

performs well. The funds originate from the Public Interest Research and Development (PIER) program, which was created as part of California's electricity restructuring law in 1996.

The creation of CSEM is a response both to the current electricity crisis in California and recognition of the need for a center of expertise on electricity markets over the long-term.

With the creation of CSEM, The focus of UCEI's collaboration with

the CEC will shift away from specific research topics and toward creating a program that will foster excellence in research on electricity markets. Although this is generally acknowledged as an effective approach for funding research in the basic sciences, the programmatic approach to supporting research on energy economics and policy represents a completely new type of research venture for the CEC.

Visit UCEI at <http://www-path.eecs.berkeley.edu/upei/>

## Office of Research Multicampus Research Units



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## Pacific Rim Research Program Names New Program Officer, Florence P. Mou



The Pacific Rim Research Program, a multicampus research program housed at the Office of the President, supports UC faculty and graduate student research on innovative trans-regional topics. It recently named Florence P. Mou full-time Program Officer, responsible for grants administration and research dissemination. Florence comes to the PRRP from the UCOP Office of Academic Initiatives where she assisted Vice Provosts Julius Zelmanowitz, and prior to that, Carol Tomlinson-Keasey (now inaugural Chancellor of UC Merced).

Florence holds a Masters of Library Science from the University of Rhode Island and a Bachelor's in English Literature from National Taiwan University.

## Upcoming Events *meetings and conferences*

**"Dickens Universe," July 29–August 4, UC Santa Cruz.** This summer conference brings together scholars, school teachers and members of the general public for a week of study and Dickensian conviviality. The focus this year will be on *Bleak House*. An adjunct weekend conference is called "Victorian Exhibitions." See [humwww.ucsc.edu/dickens/Universe2001info.html](http://humwww.ucsc.edu/dickens/Universe2001info.html)

**California Marine Research and Cooperative Extension Conference, May 31–June 1, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento** This conference aims to enhance communication and cooperation between marine science researchers and extension professionals within the UC system. For more information contact Ted Grosholz at [tedgrosholz@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tedgrosholz@ucdavis.edu).

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

### UC ACCORD sited at UCLA

Following a recent site selection competition, the UC All Campus Consortium on Research for Diversity (UC ACCORD) will move to its new UCLA home effective July 1, 2001. Professor Jeannie Oakes of the School of Education has been appointed as director. UC ACCORD is a multi-campus research program created to support UC education outreach. The mandate is to increase the knowledge base about educational access, eligibility, and retention for students from traditionally underrepresented and underserved groups. UC ACCORD will be housed with UCLA's new Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access (IDEA), a campus-based research unit focused on educational equity and access in the greater Los Angeles area.

More information is available online at [www.ucaccord.org](http://www.ucaccord.org).

### MRIF, PRRP and Coastal awards announced

Three UCOP-based grants programs recently announced annual research grant awards. The Multicampus Research Incentive Fund (MRIF) awarded 9 grants totaling \$151K; the Pacific Rim Research Program awarded 39 grants to UC faculty and graduate students, totaling nearly \$780K; the new Coastal Environmental Quality Initiative—which also provides support to individual faculty and graduate students—funded 28 projects in the marine sciences and related fields, for a total of \$1.3 million. See details for all three programs at the UCOP Office of Research website: [www.ucop.edu/research](http://www.ucop.edu/research).

### UC/UK fellowships

The University of California Trust (UK) was established in 1999 to promote UC's mission in the

United Kingdom and other parts of Europe. In line with this goal, a Research Planning Travel Grants Program has been put in place to encourage joint research activities between UC and UK institutions. Travel grants of up to \$5,000 have been made available to UC investigators; the first awards will be announced soon. For more information, contact Dr. Niall J. Mateer, Executive Director of the UC Trust (UK), at [niall.mateer@ucop.edu](mailto:niall.mateer@ucop.edu)

### MRU Special Projects Competition postponed

Due to lack of available funds, the 2001-02 MRUSPC has been postponed until 2002. Held every three years, this program supports one-time MRU research projects that advance the unit's mission, but which would ordinarily not be supported by the unit's budget. See past funded projects at [www.ucop.edu/research/mruspc.html](http://www.ucop.edu/research/mruspc.html).

### *Silk Road, continued*

a way probably not possible for any single-campus university to manage."

Partly supported by a \$50,000 Science and Technology grant from the UCOP Office of Research, Pournelle and the IGCC have begun significant planning efforts. In January 2001, they met with Turkish counterparts, and they have created a "digital backbone" for integrated imagery and data storage which will be accessible to the international community. In early June of this year, they will meet in Ankara, Turkey with key representatives from Azerbaijan and Georgian academies of science, during which time they hope to sign MOUs and announce support from key oil industry players.

For more information on the project contact Jennifer Pournelle at [jpournelle@ucsd.edu](mailto:jpournelle@ucsd.edu), or visit the IGCC website at [www.igcc.ucsd.edu](http://www.igcc.ucsd.edu).