

PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES COMMUNITY

Re: Fall Welcome Message

Dear Colleagues:

I hope that the summer months brought each of you opportunities for adventure, relaxation, and renewal. I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new year, to share with you some of our recent divisional accomplishments, and to thank you for your part in helping to achieve them.

George Blumenthal, our esteemed divisional colleague who was recently named UCSC's permanent Chancellor, and Dave Kliger, Campus Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor, have provided steadfast campus leadership this past year. They are committed to and invested in the success of the campus, and I am especially grateful for their support of the sciences.

This support enabled our departments to hire a record number of faculty this past year (see below). As enrollments in the sciences continue to increase, my efforts over the next year will continue to focus on recruiting outstanding faculty and staff and addressing the space and budgetary challenges we face in serving our students while also building our research capacity.

The following highlights illustrate some of our recent divisional accomplishments. I trust that departments and units are taking the time to acknowledge and celebrate their individual achievements as well. As you review this list, please accept my appreciation for your contributions to the division and for your support, commitment, and service to UC Santa Cruz. I want to wish you a successful and productive year.

Best,

Steve Thorsett
Dean

DIVISIONAL FACULTY AND STAFF CONTRIBUTED TO A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS PAST YEAR, INCLUDING, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LIMITED TO:

- **Faculty recruitments:** New faculty will be joining the departments of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Environmental Toxicology, Mathematics, Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology, and Physics. All told, including advances against some 2007-08 positions, we made 15 successful hires in 2006-07. This included several TOE appointments made possible with the support and flexibility we received from Campus Provost/EVC Kliger and from the Academic Senate. In the great majority of cases, departments recruited their top candidates and only one search did not conclude successfully. I am also pleased that we expanded the diversity of our faculty population and want to thank the search committees for their work in achieving this goal.
- **Faculty Awards:** We are extremely proud of the fact that many of our faculty received national and international recognition this past year by winning a number of academic prizes and awards, most of which you've read about in *Currents*. Among those receiving campus recognition were **Gary Griggs** (Earth and Planetary Sciences) who received the

Alumni Association's Distinguished Teaching Award and **Peggy Delaney** (Ocean Sciences) who was honored by the department chairs with the Physical and Biological Sciences' Outstanding Faculty Award. This past spring, **Stan Woosley** (Astronomy and Astrophysics) was selected by the Academic Senate as the Faculty Research Lecturer for 2007-08 and will present his work this coming year. I congratulate Gary, Peggy, and Stan and our many colleagues who were honored in various ways during 2006-07.

- **Cal Teach:** The Cal Teach Program is flourishing. Director Gretchen Andreasen continues to work cooperatively and creatively with the departments of Math and Education to reach out to students, ensure an appropriate curriculum, and pursue additional external funding opportunities. The program began with 50 students in spring 2006 and by the end of spring term 2007 it had already made 126 internship placements. This is more than the programs at any other campus except UCB and UCLA. In addition, PB Sci is working with the Education Department to develop a minor to serve Cal Teach students.
- **Jean H. Langenheim Endowed Chair in Plant Ecology and Evolution:** Our emerita colleague, **Jean Langenheim** (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) has generously provided funds to establish the Jean H. Langenheim Endowed Chair in Plant Ecology and Evolution to support and encourage research and teaching in terrestrial plant ecology. We look forward to announcing a named Chair very soon.
- **Physical Sciences Building:** In December, the Physical Sciences Building occupants gathered with our colleagues in the areas of design, construction, and facilities management to celebrate the long-awaited completion of moves into PSB. We are still working to resolve a few problems in the building, but by and large everyone is settled into this beautiful, state-of-the-art facility.
- **Enrollments:** According to preliminary data, 2006-07 PB Sci enrollments increased 7.4% from 2005-06. Undergraduate enrollments in the division increased 9.2%. Lower division enrollments were up 6.1%, and upper division enrollments were up 16.2%. Graduate enrollments decreased by 10.2%. I want to thank faculty and staff in each of our departments for continuing to be creative and thoughtful in responding to the significantly larger number of students. Increasing the number of graduates with scientific and technical backgrounds remains an important goal of this division, our campus, and the state of California.

UPCOMING FACULTY RECRUITMENTS FOR 2007-08

I am pleased to announce that the division received authorization to recruit for seven new and three replacement faculty in 2007-08. Our departments will be recruiting for the following positions:

- **Chemistry and Biochemistry:** Organometallic chemistry and Structural biochemistry/biophysics/bioanalytical chemistry
- **Earth and Planetary Sciences:** Lithospheric processes/surface processes
- **Environmental Toxicology:** Microbe-host/environment interactions
- **Mathematics:** Low dimensional topology/algebraic geometry
- **Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology:** Vertebrate cell biology and Structural biology
- **Ocean Sciences:** Ocean climate dynamics/physical oceanography
- **Physics:** Experimental condensed matter

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS AND ORU/MRU DIRECTORS

All of our department chairs and ORU/MRU directors are returning for the 2007-08 academic year. I want to thank them for their service in 2006-07 and for their willingness to continue on in such a critical capacity. During winter and spring, Russ Flegal has agreed to serve as the ETOX Chair during Don Smith's sabbatical. Our departments face both opportunities and challenges, and the key roles these faculty leaders play are tremendously valuable to the division and the campus.

DEPARTMENT MANAGERS

We were fortunate to have excellent and stable leadership of our academic departments this past year with no staffing turnover at the manager level. We were, however, aided immeasurably by the talents and contributions of former PB Sci and campus staff members who returned part-time to help out with faculty recruitments and personnel actions and to fill in for staff on leave. **Susan Curtis, Mary Kiegelis, and Kim Tyler** (formerly of the School of Engineering) all provided invaluable assistance to various departments and the division.

DEAN'S OFFICE/BUSINESS OFFICE STAFFING CHANGES

Meg Lehr was hired as the new Academic Program Analyst for the dean's office. She replaced Marlene Robinson who you may recall moved on to be the campus Honors and Awards Coordinator in the Division of Undergraduate Affairs. In a redefined role, Meg is providing support for academic program planning, external reviews, and large-course scheduling plus providing analysis and reports for our divisional resource and space portfolio.

We were pleased to welcome back **Kristin Mott** to our Academic and Staff Personnel unit. In addition to working as a divisional Academic Personnel Coordinator, Kristin will also be serving as our liaison with central Staff Human Resources. Kristin worked in the PB Sci division for many years before moving to the central Staff HR office during the transformations. She is pleased to be back in the division working directly with our faculty and staff once again.

In addition, we are pleased that **Margaret Olson** joined the Divisional Resources unit from the central Purchasing office and **Nutan Kopel** joined the Research Administration unit from the Equipment Management office. They bring with them extremely valuable campus experience, which will serve the division well in their new roles.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE STAFF CHANGES

In the Development Office, our primary focus this past year has been to rebuild the unit after experiencing 100% turnover last summer and fall. We are grateful to **Lynne Stoops** who was willing to split her time for an extended period between her new position as Executive Director of Development and her former PB Sci role. Though **Paula Schneider** moved to the dean's office, she also provided ad hoc support to the Development Office for many months. **Sarah Schuster** and **Ann Gibb** are enjoying their new positions as Department Manager for Physics and Development Director for Shakespeare Santa Cruz, respectively.

I am pleased to say that our new Director of Development, **Jeffrey Kongsli**, started in the spring and is bringing good energy and direction to our fundraising efforts. Jeffrey hired **Katie O'Kelly** as the Associate Director of Development and **Erica Papa** who joined the team in the role of Development Administrative Assistant. On September 26th the Development office will welcome Assistant Director of Development **Anne Hayes**. **Nancy Loshkajian** will continue to work a half-time schedule, focusing on the feasibility study for a private fundraising campaign for the Biomedical Sciences Building.

While the PB Sci Development team will continue to nurture successful foundation and corporate relationships, they will seek to enhance our divisional focus on major individual philanthropy, particularly among our outstanding alumni. The new team will benefit from the support and active engagement of all divisional faculty and staff in the development process.

NOTABLE GRANTS AND AWARDS

The total award income from extramural sources was **\$50,182,634** in 2006-07. I thank the faculty and staff for their hard work in bringing these grants and awards to the division, providing the great majority of the support for both our research and graduate education missions. While the award income total represents a decrease of almost \$8 million from last year's total, awarded indirect costs (\$10,112,419) were nearly the same as last year and the previous years, probably indicating a flat federal funding profile and fluctuations dominated by large foundation grants. Over the past five years, the division's total extramural income (including indirects) has increased 1.5%, while the indirects increased 24.3%.

An important goal for the division is to increase our contract and grant activity. It is the expectation of the campus that we will increase our activity as our faculty size increases, but I believe that the excellent research being done within our division can support an even faster growth rate. The chairs, research unit directors, and I will be discussing ways to better support divisional research.

In June, the campus announced that the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) had approved a \$2.7 million grant to fund a stem cell research facility at UC Santa Cruz. The facility will be shared by UCSC researchers in efforts that may ultimately lead to new therapies for conditions ranging from Parkinson's disease to birth defects.

CAPITAL PLANNING AND SPACE RENOVATION

The LRDP continues to be the subject of much discussion both on campus and off. Despite uncertainties about future campus growth, we remain optimistic about the opportunities to build the facilities we need if we are to hire the faculty we need to support the campus at its current size. Although it is clear we will not go out for bids on schedule this month for our Biomedical Sciences Facility, construction drawings are now finished and I am optimistic that we will reach a resolution that will allow us to proceed soon with construction. I am confident that both Chancellor Blumenthal and EVC Klinger view the timely completion of Biomed as one of the campus's very highest priorities.

In better news, the Thimann Alterations project was recommended for accelerated funding within the current state-funded 5-year capital planning timeframe, with funding for detailed drawings scheduled to begin next year, followed by a construction start of 2009-10. If all goes well, we will complete a major renovation of all three of the main floors in Thimann a year ahead of our previous schedule.

We continue to work on plans to support an Environmental Sciences building at the current Long Maine Lab in order to address the space constraints affecting the departments of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Ocean Sciences. Both the campus and the UC Office of the President have now endorsed this plan, and the campus will soon establish a building committee to guide the detailed program development.