

September 30, 2009

PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES COMMUNITY

Re: Fall Welcome Message

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings to you as we embark on a new academic year! Before the fall quarter flurry is upon us, I want to reflect on last year and thank all of you for your contributions to our success. I also want to highlight key accomplishments, mark a number of milestones, recognize several individuals, and note some changes and challenges that we can anticipate in the upcoming academic year.

First, I hope you had an opportunity for relaxation and renewal this past summer. This year will bring many adjustments for the division and the campus as we all experience the effects of significant budget reductions. All campus units have been forced to alter or reduce service levels and make hard decisions about what to preserve given significantly less state funding. In the PBSci Division, we have made a number of difficult cuts to both instructional and support programs, and we expect to spend the next year continuing to restructure our administrative and research support infrastructure to make the most of available resources.

Academic departments will be working on curricular reform this year and next as we implement the recently adopted campus general education requirements and consider how best to serve our students with fewer instructors and less robust course support. When I wrote to you in the spring about impacts of budget reductions in the division, I noted that “we must think hard about what aspects of our programs are truly distinctive and are critical for us to preserve, and what we are willing to give up in order to protect the things we value.” We will all need to work together to meet this challenge.

Still, I am encouraged by the outcomes of our faculty recruitments this year. This remains an institution where talented individuals can work creatively across traditional boundaries with exciting colleagues. More than ever, I appreciate the unflagging commitment of our staff to providing excellent assistance to our students and faculty.

What follows are highlights of the year’s divisional accomplishments. I invite you all to take time to acknowledge and celebrate your own department’s individual achievements as well. Please accept my appreciation for all of your contributions to the division, and for your support, commitment and service.

Best,

Steve Thorsett
Dean

1. 2008–09 FACULTY RECRUITMENTS, PROMOTIONS, AND RETIREMENTS

I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to our newest faculty, congratulate those members of our faculty who were promoted this past year, and acknowledge those individuals who retired during 2008–09.

Recruitments:

Despite budget constraints, we were very successful in our recruitment efforts last year, attracting four outstanding new faculty members to our division. I believe our success in recruiting colleagues of the highest caliber is due to the strength of our academic departments, the innovative research underway, and the opportunity to interact with exceptional undergraduate and graduate students. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our newest colleagues:

- **Earth & Planetary Sciences** – Assistant Professor Dr. Ian Garrick-Bethell (starts fall 2010)
- **Ecology and Evolutionary Biology** – Assistant Professor Rita Mehta (starts fall 2010)
- **Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology** – Assistant Professor Amy Ralston and Lecturer with Potential Security of Employment Jeremy Lee

Promotions:

Please join me in congratulating the following faculty upon their promotion to full Professor:

- **Astronomy and Astrophysics and UCO Lick** – Dr. Xavier Prochaska
- **Chemistry and Biochemistry** – Dr. Rebecca Braslau
- **Ecology and Evolutionary Biology** – Dr. Don Croll, Dr. Bruce Lyon and Dr. Grant Pogson
- **Microbiology and Environmental Toxicology** – Dr. Karen Ottemann
- **Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology** – Dr. Grant Hartzog, Dr. Lindsay Hinck and Dr. Michael Rexach
- **Ocean Sciences** – Dr. Raphael Kudela

Retirements:

We extend our best wishes to the following faculty who retired this past year. All three have been wonderful colleagues for many years, and we look forward to continuing to have them as active emeritus members of the division for many more.

- **Astronomy and Astrophysics and UCO Lick** – Dr. Joseph Miller
- **Ecology and Evolutionary Biology** – Dr. Lynda Goff
- **Ocean Sciences** – Dr. Mary Silver

2. NOTABLE HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Significant Honors:

- Claire Max, **Astronomy and Astrophysics**, received the JAMES MADISON MEDAL from Princeton University, one of its top honors for alumni, and was elected a fellow SPIE, the international optics and photonics society, for her achievements in astronomical adaptive optics.
- Doug Lin, **Astronomy and Astrophysics**, was awarded the 2007–08 *Outstanding Faculty Award* from the PSci Division.
- Phil Crews and Pradipto Mascherek, **Chemistry and Biochemistry**, have been elected to the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.
- Sriram Shastry, **Physics**, received the 2009 Lars Onsager Prize from the American Physical Society in recognition of outstanding work in theoretical statistical physics.
- Peter Young, **Physics**, received the 2009 Anesur Rahman Prize from the American Physical Society in recognition of outstanding work in computational physics.

Awards and Grants:

- Sandra Faber, **Astronomy and Astrophysics**, received the 2009 BOWER AWARD AND PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE from the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.
- Joel Primack, **Astronomy and Astrophysics**, received one of four UCSC awards in the 2009 UC Multi-Campus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) competition. The five-year award for the *HIGH PERFORMANCE ASTROCOMPUTING CENTER (HIPACC)* focuses on computational astrophysics.
- Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz, **Astronomy and Astrophysics**, was awarded a prestigious *NSF Faculty Early Career Development* as well as a *Packard Fellowship for Science and Engineering*.
- Yat Li, **Chemistry and Biochemistry**, was also awarded an *NSF Faculty Early Career Development Award*.
- John Thompson, **Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**, received the 2009 PER BRINCK OIKOS AWARD for his groundbreaking work and outstanding contributions to a variety of central ecological issues and problems.
- John Pearse and Vicki Pearse, emeriti from **Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**, received the 2008 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD from the Western Society of Naturalists.
- Alexander Gamburd, **Mathematics**, received a PRESIDENTIAL EARLY CAREER AWARD FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS (PECASE).
- Samit Dasgupta, **Mathematics**, and Mark Krumholz, **Astronomy and Astrophysics**, received research fellowships from the *Alfred P. Sloan Foundation*.
- Graduate students and faculty in **Physical and Biological Sciences** will benefit from the *CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE (CIRM)* grant of \$2.2M to UCSC to fund a training program in stem cell research. With this grant, the CIRM funding awarded to UCSC now totals \$19.4M from nine grants, all managed by the Center for Biomolecular Science and Engineering (CBSE).

Extramural Income:

The division had a flat year in terms of extramural income, as a very difficult funding environment early in the year turned more positive when significant federal stimulus funding arrived in late spring. Not including grants run through the separate UCO/Lick business office, extramural income was \$46,506,128, down 3% from last year. However, indirect costs were up 2% from last year, likely indicating a larger percentage of federal awards. We have not yet received final numbers from the Vice Chancellor for Research on the unit-by-unit breakdown of fund sources.

Gift Income:

Private donors and foundations continued to generously support the division, despite the tough economy. Once again, more than 2,000 individuals made gifts to our departments and programs, and a major discovery call initiative identified a number of new prospective friends and donors. Major gifts included \$250K for the marine mammal research of Terrie Williams, the donation by the Big Sur Land Trust of property adjacent to the Landels-Hill Big Creek Natural Reserve that gave access to another \$1.5M in state matching funds for infrastructure at the Reserve, and a \$50K gift to Lick Observatory from a previous donor.

The development office also supported a number of successful faculty award calls, including the Packard Fellowship to Enrico Ramirez Ruiz. Jeffrey Kongsli and his staff are particularly grateful for the increasing faculty involvement in all of their activities, including a series of “astronomy salons” held in the Bay Area, and support of the Dean’s Council, a volunteer leadership group that is assisting me in bringing new resources to the division.

3. DIVISIONAL CHANGES

New Unit – PSci Undergraduate Affairs:

The new Undergraduate Affairs unit was officially up and running on September 1. This unit brings together undergraduate advising, instructional support, and student services functions for the division to create a more sustainable undergraduate advising structure than the former one-advisor/one-department model and to take advantage of recent job vacancies to help reduce potential future staff layoffs. **Christina Navarro** manages the new unit, and Undergraduate Affairs reports to Kathie Kenyon in the Dean’s Office.

Teri Pennington has been the undergraduate advisor for Physics and is now advising for Chemistry as well. **Andrea Gilovich** has been the advisor for Math and now adds the Earth Sciences programs. They join **Betty O’Donnell** and **Rebecca Heuer** who continue to advise for Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology and for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. **Paula Schneider** has moved from the Dean’s Office (see below) to join **Nicole Lautenschlager** in providing student and instructional services.

Undergraduate Affairs staff are located on the third floor of Thimann. You can check out their web site at: <http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/index.html>.

Department Chairs and ORU/MRU Directors:

We welcome two new department chairs: Barry Bowman, **Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology**, and Andy Moore, **Ocean Sciences**. We appreciate the service of Doug Kellogg and Peggy Delaney who served with distinction in these respective roles through June 30.

Ólöf Einaradóttir, chair of Chemistry and Biochemistry, also served as **Associate Dean of Physical and Biological Sciences** for 2008–09. Paul Koch, chair of Earth and Planetary Sciences, will serve as **Associate Dean** for 2009–10.

Department Managers:

Patti Schell joined **Astronomy and Astrophysics** last fall, replacing Sissy Madden who was hired as Department Manager for Physics.

Dean’s Office/Business Office:

Paula Schneider’s position and the student services functions she handles have been transferred from the **Dean’s Office** to the new Undergraduate Affairs unit (see above). Her administrative support functions in the Dean’s Office will not be replaced.

4. CAL TEACH

The Cal Teach program continues to grow and succeed in its mission, helping increase the population of UCSC undergraduate STEM majors who successfully pursue science and math teaching careers upon graduation: 23 Cal Teach students are pursuing a math or science teaching credential in 2009. All 11 of those students here in UCSC’s M.A./credential program are supported

by Cal Teach-based scholarships made possible by NSF and a generous alumnus, Stephen Bruce. In 2009–10, we anticipate continued growth of the Cal Teach internship program (from 115 middle and high school internships in 2008–09) as it is incorporated into several new undergraduate programs: the B.A. in Biology with a science education concentration, the B.S. in Earth Sciences with a science education concentration, the B.S. in Physics Education, and the STEM Education minor.

5. BUDGET UPDATE

The division made significant permanent budget reductions on state funds totaling approximately \$1.6M effective 7/1/09. These reductions included 4 open faculty FTE, nearly 41 TAs, over \$500K in staffing funds (primarily provisions held open in anticipation of budget cuts), an 8% reduction to research units, a 5% funding decrease for operating budgets in all divisional units, and a \$300K reduction in instructional equipment replacement funds.

These cuts have touched every area of budget and we have moved well beyond trimming around the edges—now making substantive permanent changes. I appreciate the thoughtful and strategic efforts of our faculty and staff as we reevaluate the elements and delivery of our educational and research programs.

Implementing furloughs will further impact our ability to provide support at previous service levels, and furloughs and temporary lay-offs will clearly be very painful for all of us. I strongly hope that by the time I write next year, the furlough program will be ended.

I continue to lobby strongly for protecting instruction and research, as do the academic deans from other divisions. Private fundraising is more important than ever!

6. CAPITAL PLANNING AND SPACE RENOVATION

We are exceptionally pleased that UC Santa Cruz was among seven UC campuses to receive funding to pay for voter-approved construction projects under a new \$199.9M bond deal between UC and state Treasurer Bill Lockyer. UCSC received the largest sum – \$65.4M – for a new five-story biomedical sciences facility and a new digital arts facility. You can see that the construction has begun, and we hope that the promise of this much-needed space will outweigh any inconvenience due to the construction.

Development of the Coastal Biology Area Plan at the Long Marine Laboratory site continues as well. This summer we submitted two federal stimulus proposals to construct facilities essential to furthering development of lab and field science at UCSC. There is heavy competition for these proposals, but we remain hopeful that we will find external funds for these projects. Funding for the Coastal Biology Building was deferred when the state decided not to issue lease revenue bonds; it is currently expected to be included in a bond measure on the Fall 2010 general election ballot.

The second phase of the McHenry Library project is scheduled for completion next summer. This will provide newly remodeled space for Mathematics, as well as a considerable amount of release space for the division in the Baskin Engineering Building, possibly as early as September 2010.

Although all of this capital development work is still only intended to meet our current needs and not provide truly adequate space for all of the growth we still expect later in the decade, we are optimistic that we'll be much better placed to take advantage of the economic recovery when it comes than we were during the last economic cycle.

7. RESOURCES FOR STRESSFUL TIMES

These are uncommonly stressful times for a number of reasons, not the least of which is a pay reduction for most of our faculty and staff. The campus has a variety of resources to help during these difficult times, and I encourage you to avail yourself of these options or to kindly remind your colleagues of these options when appropriate.

- Employee Assistance Program, offering confidential, no-cost assistance with a variety of personal or workplace concerns, ranging from stress and depression, to coping with grief and loss: <http://shr.ucsc.edu/topics/benefits/eap/index.htm>
- Training and Development in Staff Human Resources for access to financial, professional and personal development workshops: http://shr.ucsc.edu/topics/training-development/prof-dev/_sign-up-form_prof-dev.htm
- Employee emergency loan program for academic and staff employees appointed at 50% time or more and for student employees not eligible to participate in another loan program: <http://www.ucsc.edu/ppmanual/pdf/acg0024.pdf>
- Violence in the workplace warning signs, policies, and procedures: <http://shr.ucsc.edu/topics/violence-in-workplace/warning-signs.htm>
- Principles of community for members of the UCSC campus community: http://www.ucsc.edu/about/principles_community.asp
- Resources for employees and for their supervisors dealing with layoffs: http://shr.ucsc.edu/shr-procedures/layoff-res_ee/index.htm
- Ethical conduct and values statement for UCSC: http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/Stmt_Std_Ethics.pdf