

energy-efficient applications, and the first-ever meeting of the [Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability](#).

The committee includes representatives from all areas of campus and will help define goals and activities to continue UC Merced's trajectory toward environmental sustainability. The meeting was open to the campus, and several people came to observe. Many of the committee members and other interested parties also took part in a Campus Sustainable Planning Workshop in the afternoon.

Fire Fact Sheet Sets the Record Straight

Professor Anthony Westerling of the School of Engineering cooperated with colleagues at the University of Arizona to create and distribute a [fact sheet](#) about the relationship – or, as it turns out, the lack thereof – of the recent Southern California wildfires to global climate change.

"No clear associations between temperature and wildfire occurrence in Southern California's coastal chaparral ecosystems have been demonstrated," said Westerling and his fellow researchers in the fact sheet. "The recent and tragic Southern California fires in chaparral-dominated landscapes cannot yet be unambiguously related to climate change, given our current understanding of climate science."

McNair Grant Supports Undergraduate Research Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded University of California, Merced, with a [Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program grant](#), which should give the university at least \$220,000 each year for the next five years... [\[more\]](#)

History in the Making: 5 Years Since UC Merced's Founding

Where were you five years ago? A significant number of UC Merced employees were already here, celebrating the inauguration of Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey and the groundbreaking for the UC Merced campus on Oct. 25, 2002. For a trip back in time, visit the [press](#)

ACCOLADES

Forman to Deliver Keynote to Free Radical Researchers in Israel



Forman

[Professor Henry Jay Forman](#) of the School of Natural Sciences will travel to Jerusalem to deliver the keynote lecture at the 23rd annual meeting of the Israel Society for Oxygen and Free Radical Research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His lecture, "Chemical mechanisms underlying redox and electrophilic signaling," will be delivered Dec. 9.

Newsam Wins Presidential Early Career Award



Newsam

[Professor Shawn Newsam](#) of the School of Engineering traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering at the White House on Nov. 1. Newsam was nominated for the award by the United States Department of Energy in recognition of his research work and his efforts in helping to found UC Merced. The award carries a \$250,000 research stipend to be delivered over the next five years.

Computer Science and Engineering Researchers Receive Robotics Funding



Carpin



Kallman

Two members of the Computer Science and Engineering faculty, professors [Stefano Carpin](#) and [Marcelo Kallman](#) recently received \$75,000 in funding from the California Institute for Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) for their project,

Robotic and Virtual Assistive Agents for Establishing the Center on Autonomous and Interactive Systems, at UC Merced. They are working on how to make robots move more like real humans and how teams of robots can cooperate with each other in complex situations like urban search and rescue.

EVENTS

Wyan's Portraits of UC Merced Students on Display Through Dec. 22



An exhibition of photography by Roger J. Wyan is on display at the Merced Multicultural Arts Center through Dec. 22.

[release](#) and [photographs](#) from that day... [\[more\]](#)

CAMPUS VIEWS



UC Merced's efforts at sustainability are bringing increasing attention to the campus. [View photos](#)

RESEARCH GRANT and AWARD PROGRESS

Total amount of proposals this month: \$2,651,487
Total amount of awards this month: \$1,484,674
Total amount of awards from July 1, 2007 to Sept. 30, 2007: \$3,663,611

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

Benefits Open Enrollment Nov. 1-27

Open Enrollment for UC health and wellness benefits plans runs from Nov. 1 to 27. Visit [At Your Service](#) online and select the "Open Enrollment 2008" icon. Once there, you'll be able to review your enrollments; read about plan benefits, services and changes for 2008; see what the medical plan rates for 2008 will be; and use some helpful planning tools.

UC has restructured medical plan options for 2008. There will be

The photographs depict many members of UC Merced's inaugural class. The text accompanying each photo includes responses from the subjects about their dreams for the future.

Visit the exhibit at 646 W. Main St., in downtown Merced. It is free and open to the public.

UnityFest Celebrates Culture with Music, Food & Fun



More than 2,000 people of all shapes, colors and sizes will take over the UC Merced campus Nov. 3 for the first-ever [UnityFest](#). UnityFest is a joint university-community festival that aims to celebrate the diverse cultures of the Merced area with a full day of ethnic cuisine, performances, educational presentations and kid-friendly activities... [\[more\]](#)

Open Enrollment and Wellness Fair Nov. 5

Join [Human Resources](#) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5, in the first-floor Lantern for the annual Open Enrollment and Wellness Fair. Representatives from different insurance carriers will be available to answer questions about their plans, and representatives from the Insight Employee Assistance Program will also be present. All employees are encouraged to attend.

November Frontiers Lecture on Computer Simulations vs. Reality



Sprague

The next installment in the Frontiers of Science and Engineering Lecture Series will be delivered by [Professor Mike Sprague](#) of the School of Natural Sciences on Saturday, Nov. 17. His talk, "Computer Simulations vs. the Real World," will address the basic ideas behind the use of computers to solve mathematical models of real-world problems in engineering, physics, weather, and biology – including questions such as, "Why can't they predict the weather better?" Sprague said he will explain the need for

both computer simulations and physical observations to help us understand the world we live in.

The lecture will be at 10 a.m. in the [Challenger Learning Center](#), 3460 Challenger Way, in Atwater. It is free and open to the public.

MTS Lecture Series Continues Through the Semester

The Mind, Technology, and Society Talk lecture series will continue at 6 p.m. Thursdays in COB 116. Topics to be covered include motion perception, motor control, motion path planning, navigation, hand movement, motion sensing,