



UC DAVIS

TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

THE TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER (TERC) IS DEDICATED TO RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH ON LAKES AND THEIR SURROUNDING WATERSHEDS AND AIRSHEDS. LAKE ECOSYSTEMS INCLUDE THE PHYSICAL, BIOGEOCHEMICAL AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS, AND THE INTERACTIONS AMONG THEM. THE CENTER IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OBJECTIVE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION FOR RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN.

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DISCOVER AND EXPLORE

The Education Center is Officially Open for Business

Discover and explore Lake Tahoe and the research conducted to protect it at the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center inside the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences building. The education center is a public “discovery center”

over Lake Tahoe and dive deep into the water without getting wet in the 3-D visualization lab...

- Step aboard the deck of the UC Davis research boat and learn from a virtual captain....
- Visit a virtual science

with 65-inch plasma displays to give the illusion that visitors are being greeted by live researchers on the boat and in the lab.

Hal Sloan, founder and principal of e-Motion Video (www.e-motion-video.com), produced all of the videos for these exhibits together with TERC staff. The entire production cycle took five months and more than 100 hours of field production time, including microscopic and underwater videography, followed by over 100 hours of post production for the cutting-edge audio/visual system that makes these exhibits come alive.

The end result is a high-tech engaging video presentation that effectively communicates the Center’s messages while entertaining and dazzling visitors young and old. Please stop in to see our exhibits. We think you will agree that the results are both engaging and informative.

A preview demo of the R/V LeConte exhibit (Act



Video exhibits are operational at the Education Center

which has something for everyone – self-guided and docent-led tours; group and student tours; a monthly lecture series, workshops and conferences. And, our exhibits are up and running.

- Take a thrilling flight

lab. Peek in a microscope. See scientists at work and learn....

Exhibits use cutting-edge technology to engage visitors, including video technology that utilizes a unique dual-screen system

GIVING TO FRIENDS OF TAHOE

The Friends of Tahoe group provides funding to supplement research, education and engagement activities of the Tahoe Environmental Research

- YES, I wish to support the Tahoe Environmental Research Center with the gift amount shown below.
- Please contact me about how I can make a deferred or estate gift to UC Davis.
- I wish this gift to remain anonymous.

Mail to: *UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center
Watershed Sciences Building
One Shields Avenue
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You have the right to review your own data file. Inquiries should be forwarded to the Director of Advancement Services, University Relations, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

The University is grateful for the support it receives from alumni and friends. One of the ways our thanks is expressed is through listing the names of donors in various

Center and promote understanding and conservation of the natural resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin and other lake systems.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution.

Please make checks payable to *UC Regents*.

Name: _____

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publications. Should you wish that your name not appear as a donor, please notify us if you have not already done so.

It is the policy of the University of California, Davis and the UC Davis Foundation to utilize a portion of the gift principal and/or the short-term investment income on current gifts and grants to support the cost of raising and administering funds.

The University of California does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures, or practices. The University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

TERCGFT/06501

Watershed Sciences Building
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616-8527



FEATURED STAFF

Welcome New AmeriCorps Members

Please welcome TERC's newest additions, Kendall Bell, Marc Chaney and Sarah Pitzer. As part of the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) funded by the California Service Corps through Sierra Nevada Alliance, TERC has received funding for three AmeriCorps members. Kendall, Marc and Sarah will serve as our 2007 AmeriCorps members to provide assistance with environmental education projects including the wetland habitat restoration, ecological monitoring and outreach project at

the Tahoe City Field Lab (historic Fish Hatchery); Trout in the Classroom program; and hosting students and visiting groups to the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center.

Kendall studied environmental management, biology, and anthropology at Texas State University and worked at the San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and the Texas State University Aquarena Environmental Education Center.

Marc studied recreation with an emphasis in environmental interpreta-



Meet TERC's AmeriCorps members Kendall Bell, Marc Chaney & Sarah Pitzer

tion/education at California State University, Chico, and worked for the Forest Service last summer in the Tahoe Basin.

Sarah recently completed her Master's degree in Avian Sciences at UC Davis, and has experience as a graduate student researcher and teaching assistant. She has

volunteered as a docent for the Yolo Basin Foundation and worked as a naturalist for the World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, Missouri.

We are very excited to have them join our team. Kendall, Marc and Sarah can be reached at (775) 881-7560, ext. 7474.

NEW RESEARCH PROJECT: COMET

Coast to Mountain Environmental Transect (COMET)

UC Davis is working on a \$2.1 million project to better understand the environment between Tahoe and the coast. The Coast to Mountain Environmental Transect, or COMET, project received a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation. Covering coasts, forests, farmland, urban and suburban areas, COMET will represent a slice of California's environmental issues, including a forecast

of how climate change will affect the state.

COMET is an ambitious attempt to understand how ocean and land are linked together.

"The ocean influences the climate from tide line to Tahoe," said Susan Williams, director of the Bodega Marine Laboratory and one of the investigators on the project. With COMET, researchers will be able to look at that swath of land and ocean in great detail.

"How is climate change going to change precipitation patterns, summer droughts or snowfall? Will there be more wildfires, and how will that affect climate change?" said Susan Ustin, professor and director of the Center for Spatial Technologies and Remote Sensing at UC Davis.

At Lake Tahoe, researchers have installed instruments to record water clarity, particles in the air and the movement of water in the lake. They plan

to add moisture probes in the forest to measure fire risk around the lake, said Geoffrey Schladow, professor and director of the Tahoe Environmental Research Center. "What it enables us to do is connect sensors in the environment, for example of lake temperature and forest health, and bring the data into a central repository in real time," he said. "Instead of spending months and months collecting data, we would do it automatically."

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Research, both fundamental and applied, is central to TERC's mission. It is research that has enabled us to provide scientific input to management issues in the Tahoe basin, and it is the results of this research that provide the underpinning to our outreach and education activities.

Applying for research funding can often consume as much time as is available for the research itself. In the last 6 months alone, TERC researchers have prepared or collaborated on over 22 research proposals to federal, state and international funding organizations. Given

that the success rate for proposals to the National Science Foundation is well below 10%, this tremendous outpouring of creative energy is no guarantee of future funding. This is compounded by the fact that science questions that are pertinent to Lake Tahoe are not always of interest outside the basin.

Research funding that is dedicated to restoring and preserving the Lake Tahoe basin is an essential ingredient of achieving our community's goal. The Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) is currently one element of this funding. Approximately 10%, or

\$3.2M, of federal environmental improvement funds that are provided through SNPLMA annually are targeted to be used for science and research. These funds are available on a competitive basis to researchers across the nation, and address the most compelling research needs of the management agencies. However, given the magnitude of the challenges that remain and the new challenges presented by factors such as climate change, these funds are only a small part of what is needed. As we approach the 10th anniversary of the 1997 Tahoe Presidential Summit, it is imperative



Geoffrey Schladow, Ph.D., Director
Tahoe Environmental Research Center

that the commitment to restore Lake Tahoe is renewed, and that a broad-based approach for funding the necessary research be found.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

I only) can be viewed on the e-Motion website at http://www.e-motion-video.com/TCES_sample.html.

Call (775) 881-7560 for information and tour reservations. Find out about upcoming events at <http://terc.ucdavis.edu/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Docent Training Sessions: May 14 through June 11

Monthly Lecture Series: May 25 join Dr. Paul Guttman for "The Pale Blue Dot"

Summer of Science Exhibit Opening & Kick-Off Party: Scientists and volunteer docents will be on hand to answer questions, guide tours, provide demonstrations, and make your visit special on May 26 from 2 - 9 p.m.

"A View From Space" Special Exhibit in the Education Center May 26 through Sept. 8. This new, bilingual, highly interactive, hands-on science exhibit, allows visitors to see the world from a



This exhibit in the Education Center provides visitors an opportunity to climb aboard the research vessel and see research and equipment in action

satellite's perspective. This special summer exhibit is sponsored locally by TERC,

Space Science for Schools, and the KidZone Museum of Truckee.