



UC DAVIS

TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

Photo by J. T. Ravizé

THE TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER (TERC) CONDUCTS AND SUPPORTS MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH ON LAKE SYSTEMS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTING WATERSHEDS AND AIRSHEDS. LAKE SYSTEMS ENCOMPASS THE PHYSICAL, BIOGEOCHEMICAL AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS, AND THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THEM. THE CENTER IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OBJECTIVE SCIENTIFIC INPUT TO SUPPORT THE RESTORATION AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN.

Tahoe Laboratory
Post Office Box 633
2400 Lake Forest Road
Tahoe City, CA 96145
Phone: (530) 583-3279
Fax: (530) 583-2417

TERC Main Office
The Barn Room 114
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616
Phone: (530) 754-TERC
Fax: (530) 754-8372
johnmuir.ucdavis.edu/terc/

UC Davis and Sierra Nevada College Building New Lake Tahoe Research and Education Facility

Late-season snows and heavy rain at Lake Tahoe could not stop UC Davis and Sierra Nevada College from starting construction on the new state-of-the-art Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences (TCES)

construction, and chipping branches for mulch and pathways. No forest products will be wasted in the construction of the “green” building. Executives from UC Davis, Sierra Nevada College and Desert

The new Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences building will house offices and laboratories of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, or “TERC” (formerly called the Tahoe Research Group) and offices of the Desert Research Institute; exhibits and educational programs in the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center; offices, laboratories and classrooms for Sierra Nevada College students; and conference space for 150 people.

The project is an unusual partnership between public and private institutions in two states and is supported by federal, state, private and foundation funding. Under development for a decade, the center will be an international leader in science and teaching on the preservation of alpine lakes and their watersheds.

Construction may be complete as early as September 2006.



Groundbreaking. Roger Jacobson of the Desert Research Institute, outgoing Sierra Nevada College President Ben Solomon, incoming SNC President Paul Ranslow, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center Director Geoff Schladow, and SNC chief financial officer Richard Rubsamen.

building. The permits have all been issued and earth moving has begun for the new center. The first order of business was clearing the site, relocating small trees, stacking timbers from felled trees for use in

Research Institute, and architects from Lundahl and Associates, donned their hard hats and turned the earth with a shiny silver shovel at a small symbolic ground-breaking held May 13 under sunny skies.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Monitoring at Lake Tahoe Includes Algae Sampling

Researchers Brant Allen and Scott Hackley regularly don their coldwater wetsuits to collect samples of the attached algae that grows along Tahoe's shoreline. Attached algae, or periphyton, are good indicators of localized nutrients entering the lake.

UC Davis researchers have been studying the attached algae in the shore

zone of Lake Tahoe for the past 20 years. While the steady loss in lake clarity is sometimes difficult to visualize, the proliferation of periphyton is a readily apparent indicator to the public that the lake is changing in a detrimental way. The monitoring has indicated that there is a greater amount of growth in lakeshore areas where the upland is more developed. Current

efforts are focusing on how periphyton growth has changed since the monitoring started. This includes determining how much is present at different locations around the lake and how long it persists. Generally, the heaviest growth occurs in the spring (March – May) and is associated with water flow into the lake from streams, ground-water, or surface runoff.

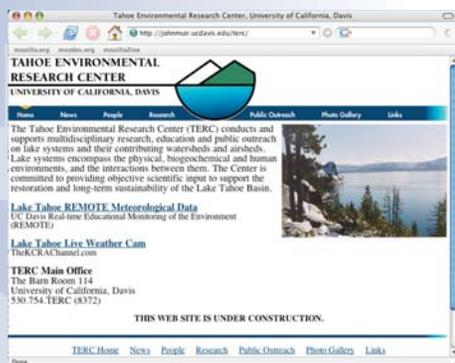


Brant Allen snorkels Tahoe's frigid waters to collect periphyton (attached algae) samples.

NEWS

TERC Web Site Now Online

The UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) launched its web site in January 2005, just four months after Professor Geoffrey Schladow of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering was appointed director of the new center. TERC will



<http://johnmuir.ucdavis.edu/terc>

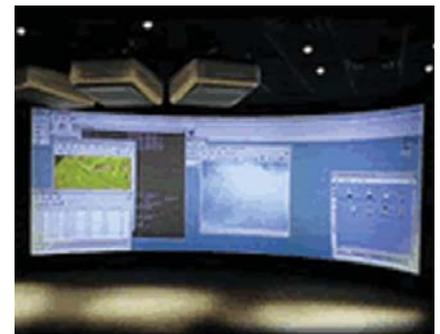
foster greater public awareness of conservation efforts through educational outreach and serve as the focal point for university research and teaching at Lake Tahoe, the alpine lake renowned for its beauty. The web site, located at <http://johnmuir.ucdavis.edu/terc/>, will serve as a comprehensive repository for information about research and public outreach at Lake Tahoe, including projects, data, publications, contact information, educational fact sheets, photographs and more. The TERC site will also provide progress updates on construction of the new Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

UC Davis Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center

A steering committee comprised of scientists, educators, Tahoe locals and interpretive display specialists is currently being gathered together to provide input and ideas for the new UC Davis Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center. Interpretive exhibits may include an aquarium of native fish species, interactive watershed exhibits and even state-of-the-art three-dimensional visualization tools for presenting data and information about Lake Tahoe.

If you are interested in providing input or participating on the steering committee or one of the several sub-committees that will be needed, contact Heather Segale, (530) 583-3279 or email hmsegale@ucdavis.edu.



Educational exhibits will highlight scientific research, provide interactive experiences and be used as a tool for education and outreach.

FEATURED STAFF

Retiring After 35 Years of Service

Recently retired researcher and lab manager Bob Richards has been gathering water quality, nutrient and biological samples for the past 35 years. This means that he has tirelessly gone on more than 1,000 boat trips to conduct monitoring of various lake stations at a minimum of every 10 days!

Year in and year out, throughout the seasons, sun, rain or snow, Richards has been conducting research on Lake Tahoe. He was the boat captain and field lab research director since the beginning, when the Tahoe Environmental Research Center was called the Tahoe Research Group. In fact, he started with the Tahoe Research Group back in 1969, before the field station even had a name. Looking back at his life studying Lake Tahoe, Bob remembers all of the graduate students that have

come through the various UC Davis programs, the myriad of researchers and fascinating research

dedication to this task, and his community spirit, is perhaps his greatest legacy," says Goldman.



Recently retired researcher Bob Richards out on Lake Tahoe.

projects, and all of the great views of Lake Tahoe.

Due in part to Richards' diligence on the water, Tahoe has the best long-term data set in existence for any western U.S. lake. Charles Goldman, a distinguished professor of limnology at UC Davis for the past 46 years, hired Richards in 1969, and they are still friends today. "Bob's day-in and day-out

In addition to taking regular water samples, Richards hosted President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore on his research boat. He's taken thousands of schoolchildren and college students for tours out on the lake over the years, and has worked with researchers from around the world. He assisted the implementation of research on

bacteria, plankton, fisheries, subterranean geology, chemistry, toxicology, remote sensing, and water quality, just to name a few.

Bob Richards is a legend to those at Lake Tahoe who have had the opportunity to meet him. He has provided his time and knowledge of Lake Tahoe cheerfully and thoughtfully. Every year, Richards participates in the Tahoe Earth Day Festival and Children's Environmental Science Day by bringing out an extensive display of Tahoe's aquatic organisms along with microscopes for children and adults to learn more about Tahoe's food web and the creatures that make up the microscopic world under the water.

Richards continues to live at Lake Tahoe with his wife Kit and occasionally puts in a few additional hours at the Tahoe lab.

Recently Hired

Heather Segale, long-time Lake Tahoe environmental education coordinator, is joining the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC). In February 2005, Heather became TERC's first public information representative. In this role, Segale will continue to take a lead in education at all levels in the Tahoe Basin, including the creation of the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center at TERC's new facility in Incline Village. Until construction of the new center is completed in 2006, Segale will be located at the Tahoe City lab.



THANK YOU TERC SUPPORTERS

After many delays, we are finally underway! The Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences (TCES) building is currently under construction. Renovation of the Tahoe City Fish

Hatchery building will begin soon. These long-awaited projects are becoming a reality due to the generous contributions from more than 350 private donors. Funding came from nationwide donations of

\$13 million, including \$2.6 million from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and \$2 million from the Thomas J. Long Foundation. Join us for a summer celebration of our progress on Saturday, August 20.

TAHOE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE CELEBRATION RECEPTION

Saturday, August 20, 2005

4 – 7 p.m.

TCES Construction Site and Prim Library, Lake Campus of Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village

Join UC Davis and Sierra Nevada College to celebrate progress on the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences. Dignitaries and elected officials will inaugurate construction of the building's foundation and host a celebration reception. Learn about the research, academic initiatives, scientific

exhibits and educational programs that will take place within the facility. Receive a virtual tour of the center, learn about the innovative green technology used within this state-of-the-art building, and receive updates from UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center and Sierra Nevada College.

The center is a national model for multi-institutional collaboration and green technology. For more information, contact Heather Segale, public information representative, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, (530) 583-3279 or hmsegale@ucdavis.edu.

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

P.O. Box 633
Tahoe City, CA 96145-0633

