



# 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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## Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences Grand Opening Ceremony Scheduled

**M**ark your calendars! The grand opening of the new Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences (TCES) building in Incline Village, including the new UC Davis Tahoe Environ-

2006. UC Davis and Sierra Nevada College invite you to a festive opening ceremony and champagne reception. Be among the first to tour and experience the new Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences

to recognize more than 40 years of distinguished scientific leadership by Dr. Charles R. Goldman at Lake Tahoe and the efforts of our donors in making his dream of a new laboratory a reality. This special recognition event will include a delicious assortment of wine and beverages, heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts and live music.

Please save this date and plan on joining us on October 14. Further details will be forthcoming.

### Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences Construction Update

The roof and windows of the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences are in place and the building is "weathered in" so that workers can comfortably work through this unusually cold spring. More than 100 laborers and subcontractors are working overtime to keep the construction schedule on track. The 45,000 square-foot facility is still

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The Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences building is on schedule for completion. Peter Ross, Jim Steinmann, Geoff Schladow and Jim Thomas pose on the pathway leading to the new facility (shown in background). For pictures and updates visit <http://terc.ucdavis.edu>.

mental Research Center laboratory facilities on the third floor and the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center on the first floor, is officially scheduled for Saturday, October 14,

and Tahoe Environmental Research Center laboratory during this special event.

Following the grand opening ceremony, join us for an evening reception

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Despite what has seemed like an interminable winter, the weather has done little to slow activity at TERC. In February TERC's External Science Advisory Committee was convened for the first time. A distinguished international committee, comprised of professors Peter Goodwin (University of Idaho, USA), Warwick Vincent (Université Laval, Canada) and Alfred Wuest (EAWAG, Switzerland), traveled to Tahoe and met with our entire staff and graduate student body over a two-day period. The Committee was impressed with the level and caliber

of research and outreach activities, and provided excellent suggestions and support for our future endeavors. "Lake Tahoe and TERC can be an excellent destination research venue. It has the research opportunities and physical facilities to draw students and visiting faculty from throughout the United States and internationally."

On the outreach front over 60 volunteers, representing a wide range of education, community and science interests, are working with us on areas including exhibit design, 3-D visualization, curriculum development

and decent training. It is particularly gratifying to have this level of community participation during the formative stages of the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center. In the meantime, our staff is researching science centers throughout the state, to ensure that what we produce will be a truly remarkable and unique center. With the hatchery in Tahoe City preparing for its historic renovation in 2006, we are already planning to include a large interpretive element there as well. This will focus on Sierra wetlands, and will be a key element of our efforts to restore and



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

preserve this vital habitat.

I look forward to seeing you at our grand opening on October 14.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoff". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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## Grand Opening, Construction Update (continued)

expected to achieve a platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating, making it one of only 13 other buildings in the world to achieve this level of efficiency and environmental design.

### Tahoe City Fish Hatchery Ready for Renovation

In addition to the new laboratory at Incline Village, TERC's existing historical Tahoe City "Fish Hatchery" field station will

continue to be used for preparation and staging for field experiments, equipment construction, and boat activities. A \$3 million major historical renovation of this 1921 building will begin in July. The renovated 3,000 square-foot building will contain offices, conference area, wet lab, scuba locker, workshop, storage and a lobby for public education. The Tahoe City facility enjoys close proximity to the west shore streams, studied since the

mid-1970s, and to our two research vessels moored at the Tahoe City Marina. In between July and October, TERC staff will operate out of a temporary facility to keep operations running smoothly during this major transition.



TERC staff ready for major renovation of historic hatchery site beginning July 2006.

## FEATURED STAFF

### *Solomon Dobrowski, Ph.D., Landscape Ecologist*

**A**s the first landscape ecologist hired by TERC in September 2005, Solomon Dobrowski, Ph.D., is developing a collaborative, interdisciplinary research program aimed at linking research in spatial ecology with work currently underway on biogeochemical, hydrologic, lake, and climate processes within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Dobrowski's particular focus is on climate change impacts. Current research includes development of high resolution direct, resource, and functional gradients for

use in species distribution modeling. He is exploring the use of structural equation modeling for discerning the relative influence of abiotic and disturbance factors in determining forest structure. Dobrowski provides expertise in remote sensing and geospatial applications for researchers and managers affiliated with TERC conducting studies related to water quality, air quality, and urban-wildland interface issues within the region.

Dobrowski's disserta-

tion work at UC Davis focused on integrating species distribution modeling to improve vegetation mapping accuracies. He helped to develop novel image analysis and classification procedures for utilizing high spatial resolution satellite imagery (IKONOS), supervised a landscape-scale stratified sampling campaign, and managed and supervised the project through completion. The products and maps produced from



Solomon Dobrowski maps Tahoe vegetation.

this study are currently the standard used by resource agencies within the region.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### *Planning for the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center*

**P**lanning is underway for the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center which will be located on the first floor of the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences. The Sibbett Group ([www.sibbettgroup.com](http://www.sibbettgroup.com)) is helping UC Davis staff to develop exciting, innovative exhibits that create a unique learning environment for people of all ages. The Education Center will become a visually engaging space in which visitors are encouraged to explore and experiment through a

variety of hands-on activities. Exhibit themes will include:

- **A Sense of Place** (information about Lake Tahoe's special features, how Lake Tahoe was formed)
- **Understanding Lake Tahoe** (the main causes for concern, how Lake Tahoe is changing)
- **Science & Research** (the study of lakes or "limnology", past research highlights, recent research, how research is helping to protect Lake Tahoe)

- **What Needs to be Done?** (What can you do to help protect Lake Tahoe and other lakes, streams and watershed systems?)

TERC has formed an Education Steering Committee (ESC) which acts as an advisory board to the TERC Director and administrative staff. More than 60 people have volunteered to participate on the Education Steering Committee for the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center. The first full-group meeting

was held on February 10, 2006. TERC staff and exhibit design consultants presented on the overall strategy for education programs, exhibit design and development process, and subcommittee structure. The group discussed possible exhibit themes and topics, and provided input regarding exhibit content. Several subcommittees were formed to provide active input into the planning process. For more information, visit <http://terc.ucdavis.edu/esc.html>.

## GIVING TO FRIENDS OF TAHOE

**A** Friends of Tahoe group will provide 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.

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

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

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