



Campus Update September 2005

Staff Assembly Retreat

Staff Assembly held its annual retreat in August. We reviewed the events that we held during the year, including the Professional Development Workshop Series, a weekly staff walk, and the Ice Cream Social, Arts and Crafts Show, drawing of donated goods, and Cookie Taste-Off – all held during Staff Celebration Week.

We concluded that we will continue to sponsor and organize the weekly walk, Ice Cream Social, Arts and Crafts Show, drawing, and Cookie Taste-Off. Instead of a Professional Development Series, we will coordinate a Wellness Workshop Series, focusing on stress, nutrition, exercise, and ergonomics. We will also sponsor a Halloween Decoration and Costume Competition. Staff Assembly will judge offices that get decked out for the holiday, and offer prizes to the winning department and individual costume.

Staff Assembly is going to continue to do an active recruitment of new members. While we are a small, but very productive group, we recognized the need to significantly increase our membership to avoid burn-out.

Staff Assembly Executive Board:

Greta Halle, Co-Chair
Kim Summerfield, Co-Chair
Donna Coyne
Laura Crownover

Valerie De Veyra
Sally Foxen
George Hopwood
Martha Olsen

Check out our website at www.staffassembly.ucsb.edu.

Campus News

Biodefense and Infectious Disease Study Wins NIH Grant

Research on countering threats from bioterrorism agents and infectious diseases will be conducted at UCSB under a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health. UCSB microbiologist Peggy Cotter is a project director in the newly established Pacific-Southwest Regional Center of Excellence (RCE) for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease Research — one of only 10 NIH-funded centers in the nation dedicated to such research.

'Smart' Bio-Nanotubes May Be Used to Deliver Drugs

An interdisciplinary team of materials scientists working with biologists at UCSB have developed "smart" bio-nanotubes — with open or closed ends — that could be developed for drug or gene delivery applications. The chemotherapy drug Taxol is one type of drug that could be delivered via such nanotubes.

Discovery May Lead to New Alzheimer's Drugs

A research team led by a UC Santa Barbara scientist has identified three molecules that appear to inhibit a key perpetrator of Alzheimer's disease. Each of the three molecules protects the protein called "tau," which becomes hopelessly tangled in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's. The finding is promising news for the development of drugs for the disease.

Busy UCSB Playwright Honored With Alpert Award in the Arts

Naomi Iizuka, a professor of dramatic arts and director of the Playwriting Program at UCSB, has been named one of five winners of the prestigious 2005 Alpert Award in the Arts. The award, which includes \$50,000 and a residency at the California Institute for the Arts, recognizes artists who have demonstrated exceptional talent and who are particularly responsive to the complex, challenging, and fertile role of the artist in society.

Scholar Says Atomic Bombs Not Main Cause of Japan's Surrender

In his new book, "Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan," UCSB history professor Tsuyoshi Hasegawa argues that the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945 had little effect on a Japanese leadership squabbling over how to end the war with their monarchy, honor, and privileged positions intact. It was only when the Soviets, jockeying with the United States for post-war influence in Asia, declared war and invaded Japanese-held Manchuria that Japan's leaders capitulated to prevent falling under Soviet dominance.

For UCSB news see our campus newsletter at <http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/93106/>.