THREE NEW DEANS APPOINTED

Laurie A. Roades became dean of the College of Health and Human Development on Jan. 4. She brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education and a distinguished reputation as a scholar and administrator.

A faculty administrator from the United States Military Academy at West Point has been named dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Geologist Marie Johnson has taught at the military academy for 21 years, where she is a professor of geology, and since 2008, has been director of the Environmental Program.

Scott Paynton has been appointed dean of the College of Communications, effective Feb. 22, 2016. In his most recent role as associate dean of the College of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Humboldt State University, Paynton helped adopt affordable learning solutions and open educational resources to ensure student access to free and inexpensive learning materials.

CSUF STUDENTS TO STUDY IN BRAZIL

Cal State Fullerton is one of this year’s nine recipients of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund grants, announced Dec. 14 by the White House, U.S. Department of State, Partners of the Americas, and NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

Cal State Fullerton received an innovation fund grant in partnership with Universidade Estadual Paulista, Campus de Sorocaba, Sorocaba, Brazil.

LEO FREEDMAN FOUNDATION PLEDGES $500,000 TO COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

The Leo Freedman Foundation is continuing its longstanding support of Cal State Fullerton with a new $500,000 gift to the College of the Arts. In recognition of this gift and annual scholarship support that dates back to 1993, the name of the current studio and West Gallery within the Visual Arts Center will be renamed the Leo Freedman Foundation Studio and M.F.A. Art Gallery.

“The Leo Freedman Foundation’s donation will provide significant scholarship support for years to come, ensuring that graduate students in all arts disciplines have the opportunity to pursue advanced studies and are ultimately prepared for vibrant careers and creative lives,” said Dale Merrill, dean of the College of the Arts. "Helping our graduate students pursue excellence and creativity is the greatest testament to how Leo lived his own life."

CHINA’S POLLUTION CRISIS

What it Means, its Cost and Is There a Way Out?

In December, Chinese authorities issued the country’s first red alert since 2013 over the severe pollution levels in Beijing. Beyond the obvious signs that the country has a pollution problem, what is the cost of pollution to a nation?

“It’s enormous, both in economic costs and human misery,” says Jane Hall, professor emeritus of economics and a nationally recognized environmental economist. Hall has done a number of studies on what are the health and economic consequences of pollution. “People lose years of life, children miss school, productivity falls, hospitals become crowded. All of this adds up to billions of dollars a year.

“In China – and other rapidly emerging economies, such as India – the root cause is a witches’ brew of dirty fossil fuels and atmospheric conditions.”

Robert Mead, associate professor of economics and co-author of a number of articles on China's environment (“Valuing Air Pollution Mortality in China's Cities,” “Rise of the Automobiles: the Costs of Increased NO2 Pollution in China's Changing Urban Environment”), says that while there is a growing concern about pollution by the people of China, "the desire for a cleaner environment is tempered by the desire of others to have a higher income."

“The central authorities are trying to balance the two. Areas that are more developed are going to show more concern towards the environment, but they will likely be cautious in their approach. Environmental clean up which results in widespread shutdowns is not likely to be well received.”
COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE
CSUF Scientists, Students Tackle Ways to Help Earth

As world leaders agreed to a landmark pact to curb greenhouse gas emissions, Cal State Fullerton scientists and student researchers are doing their part to help our warming planet.

“It’s nice to see a unified consensus regarding the human impact on Earth’s climate. However, actions speak louder than words,” said Matthew E. Kirby, professor of geological sciences.

Global warming is the long-term increase of Earth’s average temperature caused by human activities, such as the consumption of fossil fuels and the subsequent release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, Kirby explained.

Darren R. Sandquist, professor of biological science, also said the climate accord means “taking responsibility for the future of the planet, not just our generation or the next, not just our country, and not just our species — the whole planet and for many generations.”

The professors and their students are among those engaged in different areas of research related to climate change — the long-term and widespread change in Earth’s climate, including warming, cooling and changes besides temperature, said Sandquist.

Did You Know?

Among the luminaries who appeared on the Cal State Fullerton campus last year were:

- Rigoberta Menchú  
  1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner
- Earvin “Magic” Johnson
- Michael Hiltzik and Sonia Nazario  
  Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists and authors
- Laverne Cox  
  Emmy-nominated star and transgender activist
- Deborah Voigt  
  alumna and renowned opera singer
- Lindsay Sin  
  deputy secretary for women veterans affairs
- Julián Castro  
  U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary
- Richard Lui  
  MSNBC anchor