ARE PhD 50th Anniversary Celebration: March 20 – 21, 2015, UC Davis.

It’s Home - The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics UC Davis

- It’s Antecedents, Ancestors, and Institutional Influences

- And How the Department’s Evolution both shaped, and was shaped, by the PhD Program

Presented by Alex McCalla
Opening Pop Quick Quiz (OPQQ)

- Our Newly Adopted Approach to teaching is to open every class with a pop quick quiz. You know I taught a policy Class which many of you had to take –like it or not.

- So it has to be a policy Question- right?

- Question -what were the three major pieces of Federal Legislation, which greatly influenced US Agriculture, signed into law by President Lincoln in the middle of the Civil War (1862)?
The Answers Please

- *The Act Authorizing the Creation of a Land Grant College in each State –The Morrill Act;*

- *The Homestead Act;*

- *The Act Creating The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).*

All of these acts influenced directly or indirectly who we are and what we do.

But the Morrill Act was most directly important.
Antecedents, Ancestors, and Institutional Influences

- Every story has a beginning, sometimes that beginning is stretched out over a long period and is complicated.

- Our early origins trace from the establishment of the University of California (UC) as a land grant Institution in the late 1860s.

- Agricultural science and agricultural economics in the University of California began at Berkeley, and Davis grew from that foundation.

- Having antecedents and ancestors at Berkeley shaped us in a number of ways.

- But in 1906 the University Farm at Davisville was established and it slowly morphed into a UC Campus, which by 1959 was a General Campus of UC.

- Over that time and since we became progressively more independent from Berkeley, to be shaped more and more by influences based on the Davis campus.
The Early History of the University of California (UC)

- The “Organic Act”, establishing UC as California’s Land Grant University was signed March 23, 1868.
- This entitled the State of California to receive Federal Lands, the proceeds from the sale of which, could be used to establish a “peoples university” devoted to Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (A&M)
- The Act brought together a functioning private College of California (C of C) and a previously authorized (but never established) College of Agriculture, Mining and Mechanic Arts (AM&M) on the C of C campus in Oakland.
- First classes in 1869 were on the Oakland Campus. UC moved to its Berkeley site in 1873.
- First academic unit created was a College of Agriculture in 1869.
Never Ending Debate-Scientific vs Practical

- From very beginning there was a debate about the purpose of the College—a research based, scientific approach vs a practical farmer oriented separate college.
- The protagonists were the first Professor of Agriculture, Ezra Carr and UC President Gilman.
- The issue was whether the College should be a separate practical school devoted to helping new California farmers, or be a science-based teaching and research institution embedded in the University.
- The battle got the attention of the State Legislature, which initiated an investigation as to which was the proper use of State funds. The upshot was that Gilman resigned and went elsewhere, and Carr was fired.
Hilgard and UC as First Class Outfit

- This led to the hiring of a new Dean and Professor of Agriculture, Eugene Hilgard, a distinguished scientist who strongly believed that the College should be an integral part of a quality scientific institution.

- Hilgard was in place for 30 years (1875–1905) and, along with President Benjamin Ide Wheeler (1899–1919), shaped the College of Agriculture into a premier scientific player in all fields of agricultural teaching and research.

- This is a defining legacy which shaped Berkeley and has indeed shaped us.
The battle over the mission—scientific or practical—never went away and was rekindled in debate over the establishment of the University Farm in the late 1890’s.

As the College grew, it needed space for field plots, experimentation and animal rearing.

Berkeley, even in the 1880s and 1890s, was space constrained and too urban to serve as the location of an experimental farm.

Further it was in a climatic zone that had little resemblance to any agricultural region in California except fog-prone coastal hills.

A search for a University Farm ensued, creating an intense competition as to where, in an already diversified agricultural state, it should be located.

At one point there were over 70 competing locations.
Enter Judge Peter J Shields

- In 1899, there emerged a persistent and persuasive protagonist for the Farm, Peter J. Shields.
- He was Secretary -California State Agricultural Society (appointed a Judge in 1901), who lobbied hard for a Northern California site, preferably *in Sacramento Valley and in particular in Yolo County*.
- In 1905 the State Legislature passed a “University Farm Bill” which provided funding for “a special Agricultural Campus” and established a State Farm Commission to pick the site.
- Two prominent Davisville farmers, Jacob La Rue and George Pierce, to persuaded the Davisville Chamber of Commerce to take out an option on the 730 acre Sparks ranch south west of Davisville (which was part of the original Jerome Davis stock farm).
- Their proposal to the Commission included adding two additional tracts to make a total area of nearly 780 acres south-west of Davisville. The site was offered for an average price of just over $125/acre with water rights thrown in.
University Farm - Davis is Born

- Edward Wickson, who eventually succeeded Hilgard as Dean, played a critical role in the final selection.

- In early 1906, Governor Pardee accepted the Davisville offer, whereupon the owner, M.V. Sparks, auctioned off his cattle and machinery and turned over the keys to the farm gate to Wickson.

- On September 1, 1906 Dean Wickson ordered the gate opened and “thus was born the University Farm” (Scheuring, p. 19).

- The debate again was won by those who wanted a science based approach to agriculture as The Farm was tightly bound to Berkeley.

- A symbolic reconstruction of the gate was dedicated in 1983, on the 75th Anniversary of the Campus. It stands between Voorhies and Young Halls and is pictured on the next slides.
Recreation of Original Campus Gate
ON THIS SITE STOOD THE ENTRANCE GATE TO THE LAND SELECTED FOR THE "UNIVERSITY FARM SCHOOL." AT MIDNIGHT ON AUGUST 31, 1906, THE GATE WAS UNLOCKED BY FARM FOREMAN JOHN T. ROGERS, THEREBY OPENING TO THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA WHAT HAS GROWN TO BE A MAJOR, TEACHING AND RESEARCH CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1983, THIS PLAQUE WAS PRESENTED BY THE UCD QUARTER CENTURY CLUB IN COMMEMORATION OF THE CAMPUS’ 75TH ANNIVERSARY.
Davis Early Years

- Wooden buildings started going up in 1907, the first three were the Wyatt Livestock Judging Pavilion, University House and the Creamery.
- Also in 1907 Davisville became the town of Davis.
- In 1908 the first students arrived, to be housed in the newly finished North Hall.
- In 1909 a two-year, non-degree Farm School Program was established.
- Also some senior production agricultural students from Berkeley started spending their final year(s) at Davis.
- It was under this program that Edwin C. Voorhies first came to Davis in 1914 as a member of the Animal Husbandry Division.
Two Original Buildings - Wyatt Livestock Judging Pavilion & The Creamery 1907
Wyatt Pavilion is Still Here—was moved in 1960’s to site next to Faculty Club

THEN & NOW

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS FROM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

From the University Archives Photographs Collection, Department of Special Collections, General Library, University of California, Davis. Images are the property of the Regents of the University of California; no part may be reproduced or used without permission of the Department of Special Collections.
UC decided to geographically distribute agriculture not only to Davis (1907) but to Riverside (1909) and Los Angeles in the 1920’s.

Over the next 55 years much of the agricultural research establishment at Berkeley transferred to Davis, busiest period was post WW II (the Campus was turned over to the US Army Signal Corps, 1943–1945 and therefore was closed).

The first transfers involved people doing applied field and animal research. By the 1930s most Berkeley Departments had Davis Branches, and by end of the 1950s many Berkeley Departments had closed and completely moved to Davis.
Davis began offering its own **four-year** BS degree in 1938 and the first graduates were granted their (Berkeley) degrees in 1948.

In 1952 a formal Davis College of Agriculture was founded and the first Dean, Fred Briggs, was appointed. His College consisted of 17 departments, 10 joint with Berkeley, 645 undergraduates, 147 graduate students, 252 non-degree students and 233 academic staff. Davis was heading out on its own.
UC & Davis Campus Defining Events-1, 1946-1959

- After reopening in 1945, the campus entered a period of broadening and accelerating growth.
- **1946** – School of Veterinary Medicine approved, opened 1948
- **1952** – College of Letters and Science established; Founding members were College of Agriculture faculty in the basic disciplines hired in previous years to teach Aggies
- **1956** – Economics Department separated from a social science department, SAGE (Sociology, Anthropology, Government and Economics)
- **October 1959** – As part of a massive decentralization of UC under President Clark Kerr, Davis becomes a General Campus of UC, Emil Mrak appointed Chancellor.
UC Decentralization-to a Multiversity

- UC goes from 2 General campuses (UCB & UCLA) and a medical Campus (UCSF) to a nine campus multiversity in two stages-

- In 1958–59 three specialized units were to become general campuses:
  - Santa Barbara in Sept 1958; Riverside in April 1959;
  - Davis in October 1959 (Colleges of Agriculture and Letters & Science and the School of Veterinary Medicine).
  - In 1960 Three additional new campuses were approved for Santa Cruz, Irvine and San Diego, making a total of nine.
  - 10th UC Merced was approved in 1995, and took its first students in 2006.

It also had profound impacts on the most centralized UC enterprise—the university-wide College of Agriculture and therefore on UC Davis, and on Agricultural Economics.
Also in 1959 Voorhies Hall Completed – in 1960 Ag. Econ. Moves in
Davis Campus Defining Events-2, 1960–1966

- **1960** – the pace of development accelerates; enrollment 2,157 undergraduates plus 719 graduate students, to total 2,876
- **1961** – The Graduate Division is created signally independent administration of uniquely UC Davis graduate programs
- **1962** – College of Engineering founded drawing core faculty from the Department of Agricultural Engineering
- **1964** – School of Law opened
- **February 3, 1964** – PhD in Agricultural Economics approved
- **1964/65** – Economics PhD approved
- **1965/66** – Home Economics Department is abolished and its teaching program is broken into its disciplinary components, Consumer Economics is transferred to Agricultural Economics
- **Feb. 1966** – Department of Agricultural Economics approved
February 4, 1964

E. M. Krak, Chancellor
Office of the Chancellor
Campus

Chancellor Krak:

At the February 3, 1964 meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs, the following new programs for the Davis Campus were approved:

Ph.D. Degree in Agricultural Economics
Ph.D. Degree in Anthropology
M.A. Degree in Psychology
M.A. Degree in Sociology

The proposal for an M.A. Degree in Physical Education was, on motion, not approved.

I am enclosing herein two copies each of Addenda to the Proposals in Anthropology and Psychology which should be added to the Proposals in these fields, which I have sent you earlier.

David Volman, Chairman
Graduate Council, Davis Division

cc: B. R. Houston, Dean, The Graduate Division
    H. A. Young, Dean, College of Letters and Science
    J. H. Meyer, Dean, College of Agriculture
Now we switch our focus to the Department and its PhD program. I will focus on the Department’s evolution over the past 50 years and Richard will talk about the program.

The history of agricultural economics at Davis begins with the history of agricultural economics at Berkeley—from which the campus, department, and PhD program at Davis were all spawned. See next slide.

Prior to the mid-1960s agricultural economics was conducted at Davis as a branch of the Department at Berkeley, to some extent with out-posted Berkeley faculty and students, but progressively over time with faculty appointed to be stationed at Davis.

The early emphasis was clearly on production economics and farm management, and this was the subject of the first agricultural economics course offered at Davis, in 1929. Courses were offered regularly through the 1930s.

Among the teachers was, famously, John Kenneth Galbraith in 1933 who taught several courses at Davis while a graduate student at Berkeley.
1875/76 – First courses in Political Economy offered at Berkeley

1904/05 – First course in the College of Letters explicitly addressing agriculture: *American Agriculture: Leading Factors in the Development of Agriculture in the United States*

1908/09 – First course in the College of Agriculture: *Farm Management and Farm Policies* (118)

1911/12 – Two more new courses: *Farm Management* (121), individual study and *Farm Management Research* (200)

1915 – Division of Rural Institutions is established

1920 – Division of Farm Management is created

1925 – These two are merged to create Division of Agricultural Economics, which became the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1948

1928 – A.P. Giannini’s gift of $1.5 million leads to the establishment of *The Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics.*
1947 - Trimble (Ted) R. Hedges first faculty member hired in Ag Econ at Berkeley and assigned to be at Davis full-time.

In 1949 and 1950 two more added: one, Jerry Foytik, was a new Berkeley Ag. Econ. PhD; the other, James Tinley, was a Berkeley full Professor who was transferred to Davis.

Rest of 1950s, 11 new faculty members hired (Chet McCorkle, Herb Snyder, Ed Faris, Russell Shaw, Fritz Mueller, Jerry Dean, Gordy King, Steve Sosnick, Hal Carter, Allen Richards, and Ben French), and Ed Voorhies transferred from Berkeley. Mueller left, net additions 11 faculty + 2 ext specialists assigned to Davis (Doyle Reed and Philip Parsons).

1960–1965 4 new hires (Curtis Harris, Oscar Burt, Warren Johnston, and Sam Logan), and 1, D. Barton DeLoach transferred from UCLA when the Ag. at UCLA was closed. But four left (Shaw, Richards, Harris, and Burt) and 1 retired (Tinley), leaving the total numbers unchanged.
When the PhD program started in 1964/65 and the new department in 1966, it included 13 faculty members and two extension specialists. Emphasis on farm management, production, and marketing as dictated by decisions from Berkeley: of the 13 faculty, 5 were specialized in farm management/production economics, 6 in marketing/demand analysis, 2 in land/resource economics. The 2 extension specialists were farm management economists.

Berkeley influence was still strong, even after the break was made: 7 of 13 faculty members and 1 of 2 extension specialists had their PhDs from Berkeley!

Responsibility for Consumer Economics was transferred to the Department in 1965/66 with the abolition of the Department of Home Economics. Hiring Consumer Economics faculty did not occur until 1969.
Road map-Faculty and Extension Specialists

1965–2015

Number of Faculty by Year

- Academic Faculty
- Extension Faculty
- Share of Faculty working on Agriculture
- Share of Faculty with Ag Econ PhD
- Share of Faculty with Berkeley PhD

Percent

Number of Faculty

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40

0.00 0.10 0.20 0.30 0.40 0.50 0.60 0.70 0.80 0.90 1.00

Everything Comes together-Ag. Econ. & its PhD are ready for business

- In our history two periods, a quarter century apart, of “big bang” magnitude changes stand out: 1964–66 and 1991–94.
- The first one is summarized here as a back drop more detailed analysis that follows.
- **1964-1966** saw a confluence of 4 significant changes, each of which alone would have been significant.
  - **First there was the need to implement the new PhD Program:** redesigning existing courses and adding ones formerly taught by Berkeley faculty; recruiting students; setting up admission standards; and program management procedures to be ready to admit students for the academic year 1964/65.
Getting Ready for Business

- Second, process complicated by UC switching from a semester to a quarter system, effective Fall 1966. All semester courses had to be restructured / revised to fit 10 weeks instead of 15.

- Splitting the budget- College of Ag had been run by the Dean out of the President’s Office and administered as a single comingled budget. Decentralization meant teaching budgets now came through Campus Chancellors. Each department (indeed, each faculty member) would be budgeted partly from campus funds and partly from Experiment Station funds. Big job for each Davis department because how the budget was split made a big difference as teaching budgets grew and Experiment Station budgets face many future cuts;

- fourth, came the non-trivial task of getting an independent Department of Agricultural Economics up and running.
Davis Campus Defining Events- 3, 1966-1980

- **1966** – School of Medicine opened; campus enrollment 8,916
- **1967** – College of Agriculture is renamed College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CA&ES) at the culmination of a revolutionary revision of College teaching programs
- **1970s** – **Explosive growth**: enrollment increases from 12,941 in 1970 to 16,861 in 1975 and 18,370 in 1980.
- **1970** – Divisions of Biological Sciences (DBS) and Environmental Studies (DES) are established. DBS becomes College of Biological Sciences 2005 and DES is absorbed into CA&ES in 1986
- **1979** – Graduate School of Administration (now Graduate School of Management) is established
Faculty and Extension Specialists 1965–2015

Number of Faculty by Year

- Academic Faculty
- Extension Faculty
Ag. Econ –First 25 Years

- Campus students-1965 =7,723; major enrollment= 100; ARE faculty: 13 professorial and 2 extension specialists. Total 15; Davis pop. 15,000

- Our Growth over next 25 years went in spurts:
  - 1966/70-faculty +10, -1 -net +9 = 22; Ext +1 = 3; Total 25;
  - 1971/75- faculty +7, -7 -net 0 (22); Ext +3, -1 = 5; Total 27;
  - 1976/80- faculty +8, -3 -net +5 (27); Ext +1, -1 = 5; Total 32 doubled+
  - 1981/85- faculty +6, -6 -net 0 (27); Ext +2, -3 = 4; Total Static 31
  - 1986/90- faculty +10, -6 -net +4 (31); Ext +2, -1 = 5; Total up to 36.

- Campus enrollment in 1990: 23,318; major enrollment: 500; ARE faculty: 31 professorial and 5 extension specialists; City of Davis population, 46,209.

Everything has at least tripled- we seemed on a roll
With growth came a set often contentious issues:

- Consumer Economics did we really want to do it?
  - Procrastination- Deans threat of losing position-
  - Leads to hiring Sylvia Lane and a broadened & changed program.

- Hiring Our own- was hiring Gordon Rausser a good idea or would he better advertise our program by going elsewhere and doing well? Debate has re-occurred over time.

- Duplication with Economics PhD – leads to cross listed courses in theory. Econometrics and development;

- Did we gain or lose by having so many faculty doing administration-McCorkle, Learn, McCalla, Shepard- Vice Presidents, Vice Chancellors or Deans for many years

- And battles over language, macro and policy requirements but these are for Richard

But all was not well in Californiaville- a budget crisis was upon us
The early 1990s included several momentous changes in Agricultural Economics, culminating in the watershed year of 1994.

It was a year of trauma, which portended changes in the power structure of the Department; a changing of the guard had already begun with a spate of new hires in the late 1980s to be reinforced by the shock of VERIP, and this was compounded by other stresses, including a series of significant changes in the PhD program.

This was the year of the third and final offering of the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program (VERIP-III).

When dust settled, the three VERIPs had reduced the senior faculty by 10 Professors; 1/3 of the Department gone! In total, 13 faculty members left in 1991–95, while 4 were newly hired -total number of academic senate faculty members in Dept. was reduced from 31 to 22.
Voorhies to Hullar’s Horror

- 1994 was also the year of moving out of Voorhies Hall, our comfortable home for 34 years, into Hullar’s horror, the Social Sciences and Humanities Building (SSH).

- Had been promised larger individual offices, a larger library and better common areas generally, closer proximity to the Economics Department, and consolidation of the ARE Dept. including the graduate students (who had been housed in AOB-4) and ancillary elements (such as the Agricultural Issues Center and the Center for Cooperatives).

- We watched with increasing apprehension while the new building grew up as a prison grey, erratically shaped, cement monster complete with guard towers and catwalks; the only things missing were guards and machine guns.

- But it was worse inside: a dysfunctional layout with smaller offices, and small windows you couldn’t open, and faculty scattered across even more wings and floors than in Voorhies Hall.

- Theoretically we were going to be reunited in the same building with Economics but you couldn’t get to them without leaving the building even though they were only one floor down!
Our Current Home-Between E. Quad and A. St

From 3rd st.
enter through L&S office,
take stairs to 2nd fl.

From the MU
Or is it-Our Current Prison
SSH  See the Guard Tower
SSH-Another Ugly View
Faculty and Extension Specialists 1965–2015

Number of Faculty by Year

- Academic Faculty
- Extension Faculty
The Consequences

- The transition from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s represented a massive transformation of the faculty.
- A total of 14 new hires over this 10-year period were more than offset by a total of twenty resignations or retirements.
- At the end of this process, none of the founding faculty members from 1965 remained, and some elements of the old departmental culture and identity were lost.

VERIP resulted in a tremendous loss of wisdom and experience and institutional knowledge (283 years of experience in the department), with most in traditional Agricultural economics fields relative to the areas of more recent growth

- In the midst of all this a new Chair took office on July 1, 1994
The Next 25 Years

- Over the most recent 25 years faculty growth never recovered from VERIP
- About one recruitment per year 1996 to 2001 which just off set retirements, resignation and deaths.
- Then no hires until 2006 and then an average of one per year since;
- There was one extension hire in the period but 2 retired or left leaving Extension as it was in the 1970's
- Faculty numbers are 24 only slightly above what the were in 1975.

But Campus enrollment in 2014: 35,415; major enrollment: 1,319 (1,377 in 2015); ARE faculty: 24 professorial and 4 extension specialists; City of Davis population: 66,205 (2013).
Not Just Growth but Also Change

- As the next four slides -courtesy of Aleks show how we have changed;
- Our growth pattern, changing characteristics
  - share of faculty with Ag. Econ. and Berkeley PhD’s
  - smaller share on working on Agriculture;
  - Gender mix;
  - Country of origin;
  - Average age;
  - Changing mix of what we do.
Faculty and Extension Specialists 1965–2015-

Share with Ag.Econ.PhD’s

Number of Faculty by Year

Percent

Share of Faculty with Ag Econ PhD
Faculty and Extension Specialists 1965–2015-

Working in Ag

Number of Faculty by Year

- Share of Faculty working on Agriculture
- Share of Faculty with Ag Econ PhD
And we became an Increasingly Integrated Faculty, 1965–2015.
An Increasingly Diverse and Aging Faculty, 1965-2015

Domestic vs. Foreign Academic Faculty

Number of Faculty Members

Years

Domestic  Foreign  Average Age
Shifting Research Emphasis of Faculty, 1965–2015

Share of Academic Faculty in Four Main Research Fields

- Agriculture
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Development
- Other
The Department in 2015 is very different from its fledgling form in 1965.

Having begun with 13, it grew to a peak of 32(professorial ranks) faculty members in 1990 but has numbered in the low twenties since 1994, as it was in the early 1970s,

The extension cohort is also down by a third from its peak of six specialists.

The total count of faculty is about the same as it was in 1975 but enrollment in our undergraduate major has roughly tripled (while total enrollment on the campus has doubled)

and the graduate program has also grown, including a large masters program in conjunction with the PhD program that is the main focus of this monograph.