



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
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February 22, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

I have a photograph of my mother riding in my grandfather's first automobile that was taken about the time that the Smith-Lever Act creating Cooperative Extension became law. This photograph reminds me of how much has changed since the vision of Cooperative Extension connecting Land Grant Universities with the end-users of knowledge created by the universities became a reality. Telephones were rare, personal travel was difficult, and the pace of life at that time was very different from that of today.

Yet, as much as things have changed, the vision of the continuum between the University, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the end-user facilitated by Cooperative Extension has not changed. We live in a time when professors at UC Davis podcast their lectures, when students access course materials on the Web, and where there is much discussion about the virtual university of the future. Libraries are rethinking their roles now that information is so easily available in a digital format by anyone with an internet connection. We too must constantly change and reevaluate how our vision of communication through this Land Grant continuum can change to take advantage of the new tools for communication that are continually being made available.

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of UC Davis is pleased to co-sponsor this workshop on new communication tools and we appreciate your interest in finding new and innovative ways to maintain the continuum of communication that was envisioned by the Smith-Lever Act. We are partners in this vision.

I want to compliment the UC Davis CE Specialists Advisory Committee for recognizing the need for this workshop, and Beth Mitcham and the program planning committee for having put together an exciting program. While learning about new technology for communication is the primary objective of this workshop, I hope that the most important outcome will be a strengthening of the personal partnerships that are fundamental to maintaining the Land Grant University continuum.

Welcome to UC Davis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal K. Van Alfen".

Neal K. Van Alfen  
Dean