



CENTER of the CAPITAL

<http://luccs.ucdavis.edu>

June 2011

Megan Baier wins Katherine M. MacDonald Award for excellence in student journalism

UCCS scholar-intern Megan Baier has won the 2011 Katharine M. MacDonald Award for excellence in student journalism. The award, co-sponsored by the Center for California Studies and the Sacramento Press Club, is named in memory of a long-time Capitol reporter and public-relations executive who died of cancer in 1997.



Baier, whose home campus is Santa Cruz, was honored for a series of stories on the misuse of funds in a program meant to screen low-income women for breast cancer. A 2010 participant in The Center's public-affairs journalism program, Baier produced the series as a reporter-intern with *California Health Report*, a electronic newsletter funded in part by the California Endowment. You can see the *Report* [here](#) and Megan's stories [here](#).

Baier worked under the direction of *Report* editor Dan Weintraub, a well-respected journalist and Internet pioneer who covered the Capitol for more than 20 years for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Orange County Register*, *The Sacramento Bee* and *The New York Times*.

"Megan began her internship with no experience as a journalist, but she used smarts, savvy and determination to produce some excellent stories," said Weintraub. "Her series on the breast cancer program showed how the program had its priorities backward. The program was wasting precious dollars on less important things while suspending its primary mission: screening low-income women for breast cancer. I think her coverage helped prod the Legislature and the governor into fixing those problems and freeing up money for the cancer screenings."

Baier graduated from UCSC in this past spring with a degree in Politics and Feminist Studies. She currently is an alternate in the Center for California Studies Senate Fellowship Program.

The Center's public-affairs journalism program was founded in 2005 as a cooperative effort between UC Office of the President and the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley. Its founding co-directors are A.G. Block, UCCS associate director, and Rob Gunnison, director of school affairs at the Berkeley graduate school. It now is a partnership between the Graduate School and UC Davis, with credits issued through UC Berkeley.

"Megan is an outstanding example of the value of this program," Gunnison said. "We offer UC students a chance that they otherwise don't get on their home campuses — to explore journalism as a career choice. And to do excellent work at the same time."

ACADEMICS

Spread the word: Fall applications accepted until September 6

UCCS, in collaboration with the UC Davis University Registrar's Office, has initiated a new application and acceptance process, with extended deadlines designed to capture a wider range of scholar-interns for the Center's policy program.

The normal admission deadline will remain as is, but UCCS also will include a later deadline for a rolling admission process. This process will continue until seats are filled for the program, or at the latest until TWO WEEKS prior to the first day of class in any given quarter. For summer, this means UC Davis will still accept students until June 6 (the program begins June 20). For fall, the extended, rolling deadline is September 6. (The first day of fall instruction is September 20.) This will apply to all future application dates.

The extended summer deadline also applies to the Center's Public-Affairs Journalism Program, which runs through UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism.

Each campus will need to decide for itself the last day for submitting applications because those accepted applications must be forwarded to the UC Davis Registrar by June 6 for summer and September 6 for fall. Each campus understands best how long it takes to evaluate and process applications on its end, and so it is up to each campus to decide when to cut off applications.

The UC Davis registrar stressed that UCCS will continue to maintain an early deadline for priority admission (that would have been April 22 for fall), but that the program will continue to take applications until all spaces are filled by the later deadline. The longer the students wait, the less chance they have to participate since space will continue to be filled on a rolling basis. Once seats are filled, enrollment will be closed for that quarter.

EVENTS

Coastal Commission Conference explores all sides of a controversial state agency

Few regulatory agencies in California are more powerful — and more poorly understood — than the California Coastal Commission. A 12-member panel that serves as guardian to 1,100 miles of majestic coastline, the Commission was brought into existence when voters passed Proposition 20 in 1972. It later was made a permanent agency through adoption of the California Coastal Act in 1976.



To unravel the mysteries of the Coastal Commission, UC Center and *Capitol Weekly* newspaper will collaborate on their third conference. The all-day conference is planned for Thursday, June 23, at the Crest Theater in downtown Sacramento. It is scheduled to kick off at 9:00 a.m. and continue through 4:00 p.m.

The goal is to provide a balanced and rigorous discussion of the commission policies and operations. To that end, sponsors have assembled a varied cast of characters, representing commission staff, local government officials, property-rights advocates, elected officials and political strategists. Panel discussions will focus on environmental protection, property rights, and the commissions relationship with the state, cities and counties, and the political swirl that often surrounds the CCC.

Among those scheduled to participate are Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas, Resources Secretary John Laird, former assemblyman and CCC chair Rusty Areias, Paul Beard of the Pacific Legal Foundation, Ann Notthoff from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Chris Scheuring of the California Farm Bureau Federation, Assemblyman Rich Gordon (D-Redwood City), former Assemblyman Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara), and Bill Allayaud of the Environmental Working Group,

Conference format will be similar to previous UCCS-*Capitol Weekly* conferences on the 2010 election (November 2010) and political battles over redevelopment (April 2011). There will be a series of panels and a keynote speaker, as well as ample time for questions and comments from the audience.

Cost for the event is \$199, and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

For more information, or to register, contact Kathy Brown at *Capitol Weekly*, (916) 444-7665, or click [here](#).

Register for public seminars online

Those interested in attending public seminars at UC Center may now register for events online at <http://luccs.ucdavis.edu/events>. Online registration will be available seven days prior to each seminar. April events are listed in the calendar below.



APPLY NOW FOR FALL 2011 or WINTER 2012

FALL 2011
Program Dates: September 19—December 9
FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 6

WINTER 2012
Program Dates: January 6—March 24
FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 23

For more information contact Associate Director A.G. Block [here](#).

June 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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5	6 Public Seminar Victor Rios UCB Noon	7	8	9 SPRING QUARTER ENDS	10	11
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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19 	20 SUMMER SESSION BEGINS	21	22	23 POL 195 Coastal Commission Conference 	24	25
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26	27 POL 192	28 Committee of Concerned Journalists Workshop Media Only 1:00 to 6:00	29 Committee of Concerned Journalists Workshop Media Only 9:00 to 4:00	30 POL 195		
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