
Welcoming Daniel Picard as the new Deputy Regional Director



The Upper Colorado Region recently welcomed Daniel C. Picard as the new Deputy Regional Director.

Picard returned to Utah where he previously served as Superintendent for the Uintah and Ouray Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs earlier in his federal career. Daniel left Utah to become the Bureau of Land Management's Spokane District Manager in Washington, where he held the position for three consecutive years.

As the Bureau of Land Management's Spokane District Manager, Picard was actively involved in several years of discussions and processes that involved state and local governments, congressional delegations and staff, private citizens and groups, Office of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, and the Bureau of Land Management, that led to President Obama's declaration of the San Juan Islands National Monument in western Washington majestic Puget Sound.

"I am excited for the opportunity to return to matters and issues with which I started my federal career, water resources, water rights, and the management of those resources for the benefit of the American public," said Deputy Regional Director Picard. "You might say that things have really come full-circle for me. I am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead."



As a member of the Nez Perce Tribe, Picard was born and raised in Northern Idaho. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Idaho and comes to Reclamation with an extensive background in natural resources, policy development, and management arenas, within the Department of the Interior.



Picard's first position with the Federal Government was with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a Water Rights Specialist in Washington, D.C., working on various water rights cases and resource development across the west. He was actively involved in the negotiation and settlement processes for the Snake River Basin Water Rights Adjudication in Idaho. He has served as Superintendent at various agencies in the west working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, including two of the largest land based Reservations in the country, the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Utah.

Picard and his wife of 30 years, Angie, have five children and welcomed their first grandchild in December 2014.

They all love sports and the outdoors that include camping, boating, hunting, and fishing.

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Olmsted Hydroelectric Power Plant Replacement Project



By Reed Murray
Acting Regional Director

On February 6, 2015, agreements for the Olmsted Hydroelectric Power Plant Replacement Project were signed among the Bureau of Reclamation, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (CUPCA), Central



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Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD), and the Western Area Power Administration (Western). These agreements mark a major milestone in the long history of the Olmsted Power Plant.

In 1830, Michael Faraday of England discovered that when a coil of wire was moved near a magnet, the magnet induced a current of electricity in the wire. His discovery ushered in the electrical energy era. Anxious to capitalize on this new power source, people began to develop power generation facilities. Among these developers was Lucien L. Nunn who in the early 1900's, constructed the Olmsted hydroelectric power plant at the mouth of Provo Canyon in Utah. In addition to generating electricity, the run-of-the-river power plant served as a training facility. Some of the most knowledgeable engineers in the country came to Olmsted which was one of only two competent training programs in electrical engineering in the entire United States, with the other one offered at Ohio State University.



In 1912, the Utah Power and Light Company purchased the Olmsted Power Plant. With less than 1,000 residents living in the area, poles were erected to carry electric wires which were supplied with power generated at Olmsted. The facility continues to generate electricity sold by PacifiCorp (formerly Utah Power and Light).

As the Bureau of Reclamation developed the Central Utah Project (CUP), it became apparent that the Olmsted diversion facilities on the Provo River and the associated water rights would be needed for delivery of CUP water into Salt Lake County. In 1987, Reclamation acquired the Olmsted power plant, diversion facilities, and pipeline, making it a part of the Bonneville Unit of the CUP. This acquisition was key to the development of the water supply for Jordanelle Reservoir. The acquisition included a settlement agreement that allows PacifiCorp to continue to operate Olmsted and benefit from the electricity produced until September 2015.

Through a cooperative effort, the 100 year old Olmsted Power Plant and facilities will be replaced with a new state-of-the-art hydroelectric power plant. The National Environmental Policy Act compliance was completed in January when the CUPCA Office signed a Finding of No Significant Impact. The CUWCD is now preparing designs and will start construction the fall of 2015. Reclamation will provide construction oversight and Western will market the electricity generated at Olmsted.

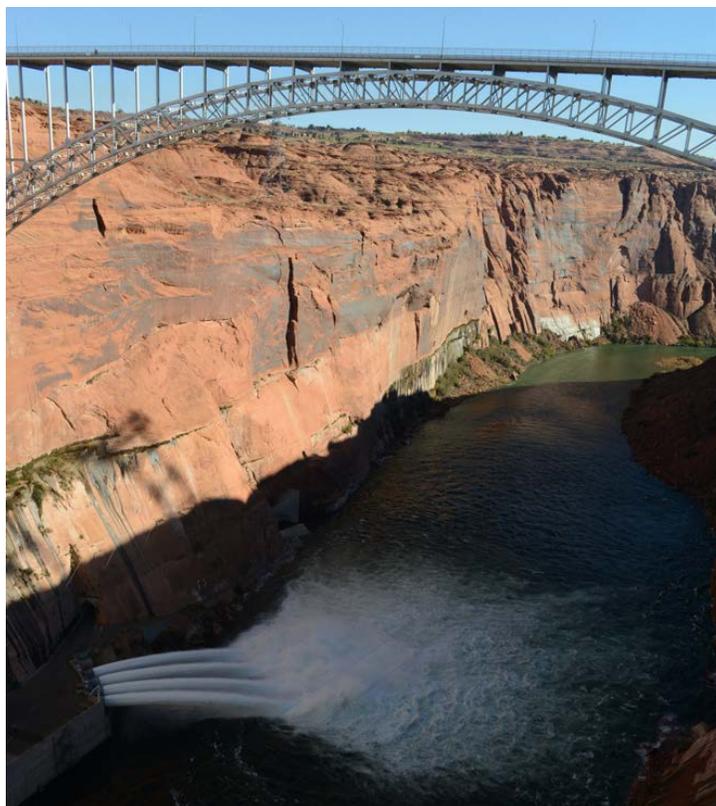


Through an agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office, the existing power plant and generators will be preserved and maintained as a museum. The project cost estimate is \$31 million to be funded from a variety of sources including Federal and local funds. The Olmsted Power plant will be operational in 2018.

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Will we see a High Flow Experimental Release in Spring 2015?



The short answer is: not likely. But, read on if you want to know the “why” of it.

By Katrina Grants
Hydraulic Engineer

High Flow Experimental (HFE) releases from Glen Canyon Dam have become a more regular occurrence since the approval of the High Flow Protocol in early 2012. The Department of the Interior, acting through Bureau of Reclamation, has conducted three high flow experimental releases from Glen Canyon Dam, one each fall for the past three years: 2012, 2013, and 2014. These experimental releases are timed to occur following sediment inputs to the Colorado River from downstream tributaries. The goal of the releases is to help restore the environment by creating flood-like conditions below Glen Canyon Dam, which rebuild sandbars that are important habitat and recreational resources.

For example, this past summer and fall, significant sediment resources were deposited in the canyon beginning in July 2014, the result of local rainstorms and monsoonal activity. These rainstorms carried over 1,200 kilo tons of sand into the Grand Canyon via the Paria River below Glen Canyon Dam. This sediment load triggered the longest duration HFE under the Protocol, and on November 10-15 the releases from Glen Canyon Dam were increased to approximately 38,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) for 96 hours (4 days). It is important to note that the total annual release volume from Glen Canyon Dam does not change as a result of an HFE.

Beginning in spring 2015, the HFE Protocol allows for the implementation of HFEs in the springtime, specifically March or April, if sediment inputs are adequate. Based on sand inputs from the Paria River



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December 1 through March 4, the current sand load is approximately 50 kilo tons. Sediment modeling performed by Keri Stout of the Water Quality Group indicates that approximately 235 kilo tons of sand



are needed to trigger the smallest magnitude HFE this spring. These experiments require extensive planning and coordination among various agencies, including Reclamation, Western Area Power Administration, U.S. Geological Survey's Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as the Colorado River Basin States. Because implementing an HFE requires such extensive planning, sufficient sediment inputs would need to occur by about mid-March in order to complete the notification, consultation, and analysis necessary to

conduct an HFE in April. The likelihood of the Paria River carrying nearly 200 kilotons of sediment into the canyon over the next couple weeks is not exactly zero; but it is very, very small.

Under the Protocol, HFEs will continue to be conducted through 2020 when sediment conditions are appropriate. The experiments include continued scientific research, monitoring, and data collecting along the Colorado River between Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Mead, while continuing to meet water delivery and hydropower needs. The HFE protocol is part of the Department of Interior's efforts to improve conservation of limited sediment resources in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. It is intended to improve understanding of how to better distribute sediment to conserve downstream environmental resources by allowing for multiple high-flow tests through 2020, while still meeting needs for water delivery and hydropower generation.

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Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Construction Update



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By Dave Gates, photographer and
Pat Page, Supervisory Civil Engineer

Construction is ramping up on the \$1 Billion (plus) Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project on both of the project's main laterals – San Juan and Cutter. Tohlakai (Toh-lah-kye) Pumping Plant is the first pumping plant under construction on the project. The pumping plant is located on the San Juan Lateral in west central New Mexico, approximately 10 miles north of Gallup. The contract was awarded to Moltz Constructors, Inc. on April 1, 2014, for \$19.6 million. Actual construction started on July 9, 2014. Moltz Constructors, Inc. has three subcontractors, RMCI, McDade and Woodcock, and Cartesian Surveys, to assist in the construction of the plant.

Since the summer of 2014, construction of the plant has proceeded continuously. Initial work consisted of clearing and grubbing and removal of top soil, always under the watchful eye of Reclamation's cultural resource compliance contractor Paleo West, Inc. Next was the excavation of the foundation – to a depth of approximately 19 feet. This was followed by the placing and compacting of processed backfill material to create a suitable foundation for the plant. Since the fall of 2014, the work at the plant has primarily involved concrete placement. This has included forming and placing support slabs for the manifolds, installing the manifolds, and encasing the manifolds. The next phase of the work will involve erecting the pumping plant structure and installing the electrical and mechanical equipment and begin installing pipe laterals for 12.b, 12.1, and the twin lakes turn out. Construction is scheduled to be completed on the plant in the summer of 2016.

Construction on the project is active on several other fronts as well. The City of Gallup is in the process of closing out their first contract (Reach 27.5) and is currently constructing Reach 13, consisting of installation of 3.1 miles of 30-inch pipe and upgrades to an existing pump station. The Navajo Nation, under their financial assistance agreement with Reclamation, is currently constructing Reaches 24.1 and 25 on the Cutter Lateral. This work consists of the installation of 10.7 miles of 14-inch pipe, and construction of three storage tanks and a pump station. The Indian Health Service, under an interagency agreement with Reclamation, is anticipated to start construction on Reaches 14.1 and 14.2 later this year. Finally, Reclamation is expected to award two additional pipeline contracts this fiscal year – Reach 22a on the Cutter Lateral and Reach 12b on the San Juan Lateral.

The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project is the cornerstone of the Navajo Nation San Juan River Basin in New Mexico Water Rights Settlement. It was one of 14 high priority infrastructure projects nation-wide that was identified by the Obama Administration to be expedited through the federal permitting and review process (it was the only project within the Department of the Interior to be identified). The Four Corners Construction Office has the lead for the construction and overall management of the project but receives support from several offices including the Western Colorado Area Office, the Upper Colorado Regional Office, and the Technical Services Center in Denver. Through the work of literally hundreds of Reclamation employees and hundreds more contractor employees, the project is on track to be completed by the legislated deadline of 2024.

Photos below



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Upper Colorado Regional Office Conference Room Upgrade Project



By Sarah Casale
IT Specialist
Upper Colorado Region

This month the members of the Upper Colorado Regional Office (UCRO) IT staff are kicking off a project to bring technology to the conference rooms created by the UCRO Space Consolidation Project. Stacey Smith, Lisa Iams, and Sarah Casale started the Conference Room Upgrade Project to provide technological resources that meet the business needs of the office. The project aims to:

1. Upgrade UCRO conference rooms with technology that supports customer needs.
2. Take a collaborative approach that includes requirements gathering and continuous input from customers.
3. Emphasize ease-of-use and provide support models including customer trainings for new technologies.

As part of our requirements gathering phase, we are holding customer meetings the weeks of March 9th and 16th. These meetings will help us obtain meaningful feedback from customers to identify project requirements. The information gathered during these meetings will be used to evaluate all proposals and to validate acceptance of the finished product. Therefore, these meetings are crucial to the success of the project and we encourage full participation.

Future phases of the project will involve working with the Acquisitions Management Division, Property, and General Services Administration (GSA) to identify constraints, leverage existing resources, and execute the project plan. The project team will continue to communicate with customers as we progress through the project.



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If you have any questions related to the UCRO Conference Room Upgrade Project please contact the Project Manager, Sarah Casale at scasale@usbr.gov.

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Combined Federal Campaign Awards



Brittany Overdiek, Janet Belcher, and Michelle Stewart received awards presented on Thursday, March 5, 2015, at the Davis Conference Center in Layton, Utah, and accepted by Michelle Stewart.

Janet Belcher received an award for service as a 2014 Loaned Executive for the Salt Lake City Federal Building. Janet worked as a liaison with other federal agencies including Reclamation in the Salt Lake City Federal Building coordinating training and other activities for fundraising events for the 2014 year.

Michelle Stewart received an award for service as a 2014 Loaned Executive for the Salt Lake City Federal Building. Michelle is also part of the Intermountain Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC) who is the governing body or Board of Directors for the Combined Federal Campaign and encompasses 5 states. The LFCC is comprised of volunteer federal employees from many agencies who approves the local CFC budget, oversees campaign planning and decision making, and makes decisions regarding the inclusion of non-profit agencies in the local CFC.

Brittany Overdiek received the award for “Campaign Hero”. Brittany took over as a new Reclamation CFC Campaign Manager for 2014. She attended training sessions and at the start of the CFC Campaign sent out an “all employee e-mail” noting the history of the CFC and encouraging her fellow co-workers to get involved. Brittany sent follow up e-mails and fundraising status reports. She personally handed out “thank you” notes to all those who participated. Brittany’s positive attitude and professional approach is appreciated and helped raise \$12,506 in proceeds from Reclamation employees for the CFC Campaign for 2014.

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UC Today Changes

UC Today will now be published monthly instead of biweekly to ensure the maximum amount of coverage for each story. We will continue to update the UC Region Big Picture Issues from the Front Office, Who's New in the Upper Colorado Region, and the In Transitions as they come in so the information maintains relevant throughout the month.

The new UC Today will be published the second week of every month.

All of the efforts and contributions to UC Today by providing interesting stories and photos have been greatly appreciated and we look forward to the continued success.

If you have any ideas for UC Today, please contact your UC Today Editorial Committee member.



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A Live Well Tip: The Comparison Trap



As I recently boarded a plane, I had a prideful thought that went like this, “Aren’t I special that I get to fly today and go on vacation.” Just as quickly, my next thought was, “But look how big and roomy those seats are in first class – it sure would be better if I was flying up there!” This incident of sneaky comparison can happen often if I’m not very vigilant. One moment I’m happy with what I have, but the next, I can be miserable looking at what more others have!

The line in the poem, *Desiderata* by Max Ehrmann, helps me when I’m stuck in this comparison trap:

“If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.” This reminder helps me be both grateful and charitable. So I buckled up in my cozy, coach seat, appreciated my short legs, the free peanuts (and Diet Coke) and realized whether I was sitting in coach or first class, I was still experiencing the amazing miracle of flying like a bird across America.

Published by [Intermountain Healthcare](#)



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Thoughts from Brent Rhees – Vacancies and Gratitude



On September 3, 2014, Larry Walkoviak retired after seven years of service as the Upper Colorado (UC) Regional Director and a long fulfilling federal career. Finding a replacement with Larry's capabilities will be difficult but a competitive selection is underway with an advertisement for the Regional Director position that closed on November 10, 2014. Also on September 3, 2014, Deputy Regional Director Ann Gold retired after a distinguished federal career. With both of their retirements, it has left two vacancies in the Front Office, were we had to fill in with acting's. During that time, we have had an amazing amount of expertise step up in these positions to help out the UC Region.

During the first part of the vacancies, Jennifer Faler, Albuquerque Area Office's Deputy Area Manager, came in and acted solo as the Deputy Regional Director as I served as the Acting Regional Director. In November, I was able to go back to my position as the Deputy Regional Director and Jennifer McCloskey, Lower Colorado (LC) Regional Deputy Director, came in to act as the Regional Director and Barry Longwell, Four Corners Construction Office Manager, served as the Acting Deputy Regional Director.

Currently we have Dave Palumbo, LC Deputy Regional Director, serving as the Acting Regional Director, and Mary Halverson, UC's Finance Manager, serving as the Acting Deputy Regional Director. In February we'll have Reed Murray from the Central Utah Project Completion Act to serve as the Acting Regional Director and we'll be able to welcome our new Deputy Regional Director, Daniel Picard, on February 22nd.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to work with each of these individuals and experience each of their unique and countless leadership abilities. We have been able to learn from each of them as they bring different perspectives, questions, and insights to our regional issues. On behalf of the UC Region, I'd like to extend our gratitude for the support and willingness to step in; the support has been a tremendous relief.

Along with each of these individuals that I have mentioned, there are many others in the region that have stepped up and filled the void that was created by the retirements or reassignments. Thanks to each of you for demonstrating great leadership in your respective areas of responsibility.

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Who's New

Lesley McWhirter

Lesley McWhirter was recently hired as the Chief of the Environmental and Planning Group in the Western Colorado Area Office. Lesley is a biologist who has worked in the environmental and regulatory arenas for 20 years in Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado, and most recently worked at the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Office in Grand Junction. She is married with two cats, and enjoys travel, road and mountain biking, hiking, and dance.

Beth Reinhart

The desire to work for a land management agency and the career advancement potential with the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation is the reason I accepted this position in the Provo Area Office.

I love the outdoors, especially stream and rivers. I have been married for 16 years and we have one dog. My hobbies include being an avid angler and hunter. I also enjoy quilting, cooking and geocaching. My favorite books are any criminal mysteries, psychological thrillers and my favorite genre of movies/TV is comedies. In addition, Murphy Brown is someone I absolutely adore. I enjoy listening to adult alternative rock.

The one word to best describe me would be friendly and with that, I am looking forward to my career with Reclamation.

My favorite quote is, "It is better to seek forgiveness than ask permission" (Rear Admiral Grace Hopper)

Lisa Vance

Lisa Vance, Contract Specialist, will probably be called Vance since there are three Lisa's in the Acquisition Management Division in the Upper Colorado Regional Office. I started working for the Defense Contract Management Agency 4 years ago as a keystone, graduated from the program and decided to leave to join Reclamation because DCMA is moving to Hill AFB and I didn't want to add the extra hours to my daily commute. I enjoy quilting, knitting, and fishing in my spare time (about every weekend) and crafts of any kind and recently decided to take up guitar lessons. My husband and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary this year, in Kauai, HI, which is one of my most favorite places in the world. I have three children, two girls at the ages of 24 and 22, both graduating from college this year and a 17 year old son that loves Jiu jitsu and anything related to computers and video games. We have two dogs, Harley and Nugget.

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In Transition

Diana Herrera Retired



Di has had a long federal career beginning in 1968. She started while still in high school at the Veteran's Administration where she worked for 2 years before spending the next five years with the Department of Energy. Her Bureau of Reclamation service began in 1984 with the Albuquerque Area Office Engineering Division (currently the Technical Services Division). She served as a Program Assistant for the Technical Services Division for roughly 19 years before moving on to work as a Program Specialist to the Collaborative Program in 2003, where she was invaluable in serving Reclamation and the Collaborative Program Stakeholders. In 2006, after office reorganization, she began supporting the Environment Division as an indispensable part of that team. Finally, in 2013, Di moved over to the Middle Rio Grande Program, where she supported program needs and was instrumental in working with newer staff to understand budget



and program needs. This final journey in her federal career became vital, as Di was able to help the program transition to new finance and budget systems. With Di's retirement, the Albuquerque Area Office will be losing an irreplaceable public servant who has dedicated herself to the Bureau of Reclamation and the Albuquerque Area Office.

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What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[Natural History Association receives \\$1.5 million grant](#)

[Weber County Commission - Documents updated](#)

[The Aspinall Unit operations meeting minutes are hot off the presses #ColoradoRiver](#)

[House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Hearing](#)

[Desalination Plants Subject to Stainless Steel Corrosion](#)

[Winter weather blankets New Mexico](#)

[Latest snowmelt forecast predicts low odds for spring runoff flooding in most areas of Wyoming](#)

[Reclamation Continues Animas-La Plata Project Contract Negotiations with Southern Ute Indian Tribe](#)

[San Juans get 3 feet of snow](#)

[Legislators seek more oversight of Interstate Stream Commission](#)

[Water Alarm](#)

[Unfunded water bill 'like homeless guy buying a wallet,' but still passes Utah Senate committee](#)

[Lake Powell funding bill passes hurdle](#)

[Low water in lakes spells trouble for Utah boaters](#)

[Deer Creek boat ramp closed due to quagga mussels](#)

[Archaeologists gather in Cortez for annual meeting](#)

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Alamosa Sand Dunes Nation Park by Jennifer Martinez

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Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. In 1830, _____ discovered that when a coil of wire was moved near a magnet, the magnet induced a current of electricity in the wire.
2. The pumping plant is located on the _____ in west central New Mexico, approximately 10 miles north of Gallup. The contract was awarded to Moltz Constructors, Inc. on April 1, 2014, for _____.
3. These rainstorms carried over _____ into the Grand Canyon via the Paria River below Glen Canyon Dam.

Last week, We asked,

1. Safety of Dams, Scott prepared excavation plans and drawings for the borrow areas of Echo Dam Modification that was an \$18 million project.
2. Since 1989, Donnelly, a 1982 Albuquerque Academy grad and former pro cyclist, was the U.S. elite women's one-hour record holder. She set the bar at 44.028 kilometers at an



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outdoor oval in Colorado Springs.

3. The Safety Fair was attended by approximately 1,200 [homeschoolers](#), [second graders](#), and [fourth graders](#) from local elementary schools.

Last winner was – [N/A](#)

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

[Return to UC Today](#)

