

## A Message from the Associate Dean for Environmental Sciences...



**Professor Tjeerdema  
Lake Davis, California**

Welcome to the Department of Environmental Toxicology, the first of its kind anywhere in the world! We actually pre-date Rachel Carson and the birth of the environmental movement. Our roots extend back to the late 1950s, and the seeds of our undergraduate major were first sewn in the late 1960s. Today, UC Davis is known as the world's leader in the field of environmental toxicology. While we are a relatively small department of some 12 faculty, our class sizes are also small and personalized attention from both the faculty and staff is a tradition.

Environmental toxicology encompasses the study of the toxic properties of virtually all chemicals (both natural and man made), including their effects on humans and other species as well as their movement and fate in the environment. As a graduate from our program you would be an expert on the properties of pesticides, solvents, natural toxins, PCBs, dioxins and other chemicals and on processes of environmental scope such as global warming, acid rain and ozone depletion as well as those at the molecular level such as the chemical mechanisms of cancer and other toxic actions.

Our graduates are well versed in chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology and toxicology — and are very unique! Thus, they have a tremendous selection of career opportunities — and multiple job offers — upon graduation. Typically, our alumni pursue graduate degrees in pharmacology, toxicology, nutrition, food science and environmental chemistry as well as professional degrees in medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and dentistry. They also entertain a wide range of opportunities in the chemical industry (Chevron, Exxon, Dow, DuPont, etc.), pharmaceutical industry (Eli Lilly, Merck, etc.), biotechnology (Genentech, etc.) and environmental consulting firms, and are highly sought by governmental agencies such as the US Environmental Protection Agency, Cal-EPA, the California Department of Food & Agriculture and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

I hope you will consider a major in environmental toxicology. With the growing environmental problems we face today, you will obtain the cutting-edge education to make a significant impact on the future of the world!

With Best Wishes,

Ronald S. Tjeerdema  
Professor, Department of Environmental Toxicology  
Associate Dean for Environmental Sciences  
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences