Chancellor: Despite budget woes, campus 'is on a steep upward curve'

By Jonathan Edwards
Enterprise Staff Writer

UC Davis received almost $622 million in research funds in the fiscal year that ended June 30. The total is a record for the campus and the fifth consecutive year that research funds have topped a half-billion dollars.

"With these funds, UC Davis researchers are creating new knowledge and translating it into products, processes and services to improve quality of life," said UC Davis Chancellor Linda Katehi. "Despite the difficult budget situation, labs and departments have managed to keep the research upward curve — doubling our research income in less than a decade. But Katehi expects more from the campus.

"By reforming our processes, we can transform our research enterprises and bring that total to 900 million or even a billion dollars a year," she said. "Department with our cities of Davis and Sacramento, we will become the engine of innovation and economic development in the region, the state, the nation and the world.

Barry Klein, vice chancellor for research, said, "Our research funding trend is a tribute to our exceptional research community, and this record-breaking year is certainly a reflection of UC Davis' continuing strength as a leader in multidisciplinary research. The work of our community of scholars has far-reaching impact on improving our society's quality in many ways."

According to a survey by the National Science Foundation, UC Davis ranked 17th in the nation in 2007-08 (the most recent year for which data was available).

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Residents object to tall tower

Issue postponed till March

By Jonathan Edwards
Enterprise Staff Writer

WOODLAND — A push to build a 335-foot radio tower just south of Davis crashed into a wall of opposition Thursday.

Rothman Radio representatives told the Yolo County Planning Commission the tower would support local community groups, give UC Davis' KDVS station a stronger signal and make Yolo County safer.

Davis residents said a tower three-quarters of a mile south of Montgomery Avenue would destroy the alluvial flat view, lower property values and kill birds headed to and from the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

"If you know how tall the Statue of Liberty is, imagine that in your front yard," said Teresa Boveno Tan. Residents from Willowbank and El Macero, which fall outside city limits and on county land, created online forums showing the impact of the tower.

Tan and Ron Castro, chief technical officer for the company, approached her about a year ago with an offer to build a tower just south of Davis.

On Thursday, the tower would support local community groups, give UC Davis' KDVS station a stronger signal and make Yolo County safer.

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By Bev Sykes
Enterprise Correspondent

When Greg Wershing watched his 12-year-old son Brycen, playing Herr Drosselmeyer and his 10-year-old son Logan, it was on tech crew.

Wershing's daughter Kathryn, 6, is a snowflake; Wershing's son Brycen, 12, plays Herr Drosselmeyer and son Logan, 10, is on the tech crew.

Derrick Wydick, left, and Greg Wershing are proud that their kids are following in their "Nutcracker" footsteps. Wydick's daughter Kathryn, 6, is a snowflake; Wershing's son Brycen, 12, plays Herr Drosselmeyer and son Logan, 10, is on the tech crew.

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offer to put the tower on her property in Boca Raton. She rejected it, even though it meant receiving an estimated $800 to $1,000 per month from the company.

“I didn’t feel it belonged here,” she said, “and it didn’t fit.”

More than 30 feet tall, winds sounds like a lot, Castro said, but if the tower is not kept on the horizon for some time, he recently had to call with Dave Richardson, he said.

Day Snow put on day Sayner to discuss the 58-story tower near County Roads 62 and 40 about a mile north of Sayner. Sayner’s response: What a question that way “tower.”

That tower “is 30 times more dangerous to the community” than a couple of years when a “dinosaur of the show,” he played Fritz.

There was a leader for the snowflake, a leader for the little Treat (California raisin and was a leader for the door, Pennywhistle, but some still remained real. Some of the adults who were once young people are still involved with the show, now watching their own children performing.

“Was one of the best-dressed in the show,” Laugh Castle said. (Heather now has two children, but does not live in Davis. However, she is moving back to the area and who know?) Perhaps her daughter will start a third generation of “Nutcrackers.”

Abby Versavak (now Alter) danced in her one performance with the show, but she, too, graduated to the tech crew. Crowning her performing career for several years, Laurie has returned to Davis after an absence of 23 years and is looking forward to watching her daughter perform in the “Nutcracker.”

“She’s going to be a clone,” Laurie says. “In my boy, we called them the ‘rubber chicken brigade.’”

Kelly Carlson’s sister and brothers danced in “The Nutcracker” 20 years ago, her year her three children was — Kassy, Carter and Grace — will be on the stage.

Marianne Moore coordi- nated the show for many years as a city of Davis staff member, her younger sister performed, and now her own daughters, Samanthia and Ellis, are in it.

Wycklief began taking daughter Kaito to rehearsals when she was 13-months old. “She was a squirmy little baby, but when the dancing started she would stop moving and focus on the stage and not move for 15 minutes,” he says. Wears Cunningman takes every year and the little girl desperately wanted to get on the stage when she’s finally old enough and will be more like a flower in this year’s production. Her plan is to be a dancer when she becomes old enough.

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