

TIMES

http://technews.ucdavis.edu

Interactive Web Site Moves Undergraduate Admissions Online

Anthropology Junior Olivia recalls her days as a high school senior. She remembers waiting anxiously to view her application status, and the million worried thoughts that crowded her mind. *What if UC Davis never received my test scores? I've changed my email address, how will they*

contact me? What if they have an incorrect address for me; will I ever find out if I've been admitted? Such fears are common for applicants, especially since there has never been a way to verify their personal information before admission. Until now.

Early this year, the campus launched MyAdmissions (myadmissions.ucdavis.edu), a Web site that allows student applicants to accept their admission to UC Davis online by digitizing their personal info and every legal form that they will have to submit upon accepting admission. In past years, these forms were sent to new students in a folder with an acceptance letter.

The MyAdmissions site follows a general University of California online trend. The Office of the President announced last September that beginning with the entering class of 2005, paper applications will be mostly discontinued in favor of digital applications. MyAdmissions is one of the first UC Web sites to gather all undergraduate pre-enrollment transactions together online. It marks what project manager Tom Hinds declared a “true collaborative effort” of over half a dozen UC Davis departments.

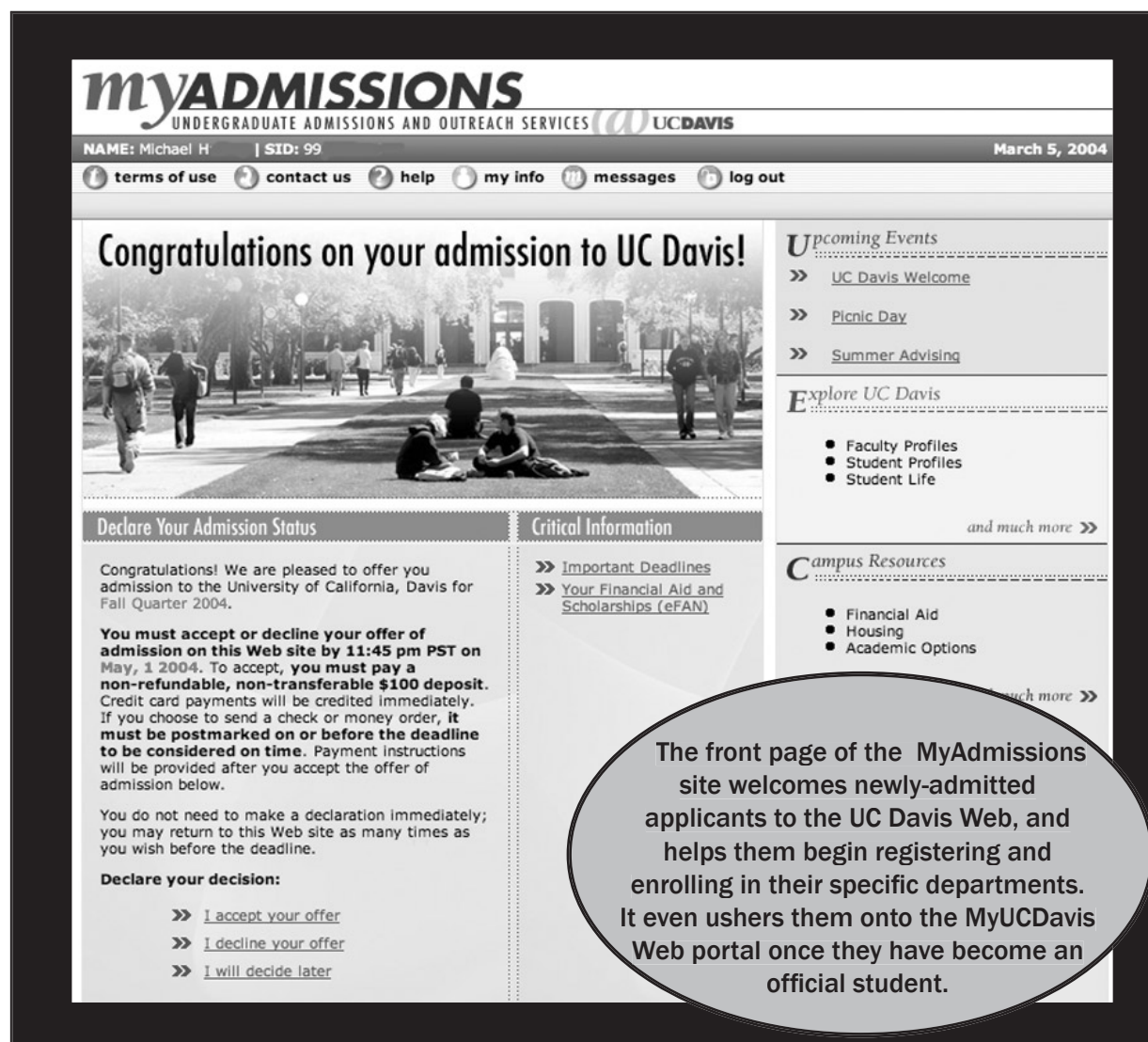
Walking the Applicant Through the Process

MyAdmissions was designed to complement WhyUCDavis (www.whyucdavis.edu), a pre-application site that provides prospective students with faculty and student profiles as well as other features designed to exhibit the campus' selling-points.

Shortly after an applicant has applied for admission to UC Davis using the UCOP Pathways site (http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/), she can log on to MyAdmissions to verify that her personal info record is up to date and all her application materials (e.g., test scores, essays, forms) have been received on time. She also may receive general messages from the campus through the messaging system, which is built on the messaging system technology in my.ucdavis.edu. The message posting is an important feature since it provides a more reliable form of communications than sending email to a prospective student's non-UCD email account, a process in which messages can get lost due to faulty spam-filters, overflowing accounts, or address changes.

If the applicant is accepted to UC Davis, a print notification is mailed to her home, along with a posting of her status on her MyAdmissions account. Once she hears the good news, she can accept or decline admission by electronically submitting her Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) via MyAdmissions. In the SIR form, the student agrees to a customized set of admissions conditions before using the secure Kerberos-supported system to pay her deposit online or by mail. Next, the system walks her through a step-by-step process in creating a Kerberos login and campus email account. When she finishes, she will discover the list of “Required Tasks,” a Web page featuring links to all of the forms that enrolling students must submit. This list, which is organized by deadline, is completely customized to the students' major and status (i.e., freshman, transfer, or international student).

“I enjoy being able to log into my own special student site,” admits Leoncio-John



“Leejay” Abucayan, an incoming freshman and the third student to submit his SIR online this past March.

The “Required Tasks,” which include Summer Advising registration, the student housing application, financial aid notices and many more forms, required many UC Davis department to unite their efforts.

Behind the Scenes

Since the application and matriculation process involves so many units on campus, a number of UC Davis groups had to unite efforts to pull off MyAdmissions. Tom Hinds of the Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach Services (UAOS) and Michael Buck of Information and Education Technology (IET) served as Project Manager and Technical Project Manager, respectively, with Vijay Mudumbe of UAOS doing the majority of the coding. Many other departments were involved including Financial Aid, Advising Services, Student Housing, the Office of the Registrar, and the Health Center.

The project began in September with a tight December deadline. “It was analogous to building a house for a very large family,” states Ray Reveles, Director of the Application Development and Data Administration unit of IET, commenting on the number of

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Digital Imaging System Brings Media-Rich Lectures to Students' Computers
Mediaworks Gives Instructors a Tour of Almagest

While serving as director of Princeton University's Educational Technologies Center, art historian Kirk Alexander noticed that certain academic departments were running out of space for slide display.

If an Art History professor wanted to leave a hundred slides for students to review after the lecture, she would have to reserve an entire study hall room so the slides could be displayed for student viewing. Not only was this system a huge space consumer, it still offered students only limited time for studying the slides.

Meanwhile, Internet browsers were being introduced into the mainstream (it was the early nineties). Recognizing the potential uses of the emerging technology for managing images, Alexander and his colleagues at Princeton created

Almagest, an online media management and presentation tool that integrates images, text, video, sound and other file types onto one centralized platform.

About a year ago, when Alexander headed west and accepted a position with UC Davis' IET—Mediaworks as the Manager of Educational Technologies, he brought Almagest with him. He proposed to Mediaworks that it be employed as a content management tool at UC Davis, and the staff had faith in the potential educational value of this tool.

Almagest rolled out last December with the graphics-heavy American Studies course, “Objects and Everyday Life.” Since then, the departments of Textiles and Clothing, Theater and Dance, and Landscape Architecture have begun incorporating the tool into their curriculum.

Almagest has a presentation component similar to PowerPoint that allows instructors to display slides and other lecture materials. It has a unique two-panel setup, allowing for the mixing and matching of media. For example, video or flash animation may be displayed alongside still images. Below the two images on the screen is an optional thumbnail display of the next set of slides, giving the instructor some extra prep time.

Almagest is not only a presentation tool, but also a repository that allows the user to store and access content about the images. Thus, a higher level of cataloging can be performed and in that respect the tool acts like a Web site, according to Alexander.

Because it is Web-based, Almagest also allows the

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Lights! Camera! Dachshunds!



Nearing the finish line, a speeding dachshund is flanked by video cameras and photographers. To watch a video recording of the wildly popular Doxie Derby, visit the News & Events section of the Vet Medicine Web site at www.ucdvetmed06.com.



Debuting at the infamous Doxie Derby on Picnic Day 2004, “Big Boards” (above) are a new feature of the Pavilion at ARC (formerly known as the Rec Hall). The IET-Mediaworks video group switches between three cameras in order to feed video onto the giant screens on display for thousands of audience members. Adding to the energy of sporting events, the Big Boards allow for instant replays at various speeds and high-end graphics to accompany the images. The big screens gathered applause from the doxie derby crowd who loved the slo-motion replays of the little dogs at the finish line.

Mediaworks will record many other Intercollegiate Athletics events (e.g., wrestling, gymnastics, basketball) in the future and will maintain a video library of these events, each of which can be reproduced for a small fee. Next up on the Big Boards agenda: UC Davis commencement ceremonies.

Photos by Sam Woo, IET-Mediaworks

Campus Sees Progress in DMCA Enforcement Efforts Illegal File Sharing and Copyright Infringement Activities

According to the campus Business Contracts and Analysis Office, which has been receiving, coordinating and tracking the numbers of Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) infringement notifications since the law’s enactment in 1998, the number of notifications for UC Davis have been declining.

In May 2003, following lawsuits filed by the Recording Industry of America Association (RIAA) against four students from three universities for copyright infringement, UC Davis initiated a new awareness campaign to alert students, faculty and staff of the risks of illegal file sharing. The number of DMCA notifications immediately went down, with the peak number of notifications occurring during April 2003, the month just prior to RIAA lawsuits and campus awareness efforts. That peak number in April 2003 was 96 notifications, which were primarily regarding music file-sharing violations. While the number of notifications received by the campus dropped significantly after that and stayed at a low level throughout summer, the numbers increased again when Fall 2003 classes began. The good news is that the monthly numbers for October 2003-February 2004 are lower than they were during the same months of the 2002-2003 academic year, with an average of 27 notifications each month versus 32 notifications. Interestingly, most of the current illegal downloading activities are movie and software related.

In general, students in the residence halls have been the primary offenders, with staff offenses being extremely rare. Jan Carmikle Dwyer of the Business Contracts and Analysis Office notes that her office always sees a spike in illegal file sharing among students during bad weather and finals weeks. However, once students are served notice from Student Judicial Affairs that their activities are not ignored, they seem to cease illegal file sharing. “We see very few re-

peat offenders,” says Dwyer.

According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, many colleges fail to establish policies that will discourage or prevent students from illegal file sharing. In response to the wildly varying scenarios of DMCA-enforcement on campuses nationwide, EDUCAUSE has formed the Joint Committee of the Higher Education and Entertainment Communities to examine DMCA enforcement and awareness efforts taken by colleges across the country. To learn more about the Committee’s findings visit <http://www.educause.edu/issues/rfi/>.

UC Davis continues efforts to raise awareness about copyright infringement. A number of Web sites and communications are available, including a special section on the Student Computing Guide (scg.ucdavis.edu/downloading.cfm). For additional information about file sharing, see the UC copyright education Web site at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/copyright/. UC Davis campus community members can find questions and answers by subscribing to the DMCA-info listserv. Simply visit listproc.ucdavis.edu, select “Subscribe to mailing list,” and enter DMCA-info in the search field. ✉

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Piracy Points

Most DMCA notifications received in one month:

96 (in April 2003)

Average DMCA notifications per month in the 02-03 Academic Year:

32

Average DMCA notifications per month in the 03-04 Academic Year:

27

Most downloaded media in the 02-03 Academic Year:

Music

Most downloaded media in the 03-04 Academic Year:

Movies & Software

This data provided by UC Davis Business Contracts and Analysis Office

Online AP Course Preps High School Students for University-Level Learning

For underprivileged high school students without access to college-prep measures such as Advanced Placement (AP) courses, it is difficult to gain a competitive edge when applying to and entering college. But with the help of improved technology and appropriated funding, UC Davis' Mediaworks has played a leading role in creating a viable solution: offering AP courses online.

As part of the University of California's College Prep (UCCP) initiative, Mediaworks was assigned the task of developing two multimedia-based AP Spanish courses—one language, the other literature. The first of the two courses is currently being tested by a group of high school students in Santa Cruz, where UCCP is headquartered. Both courses are scheduled for completion by late this calendar year.

The courses are of "extremely high quality," says Kirk Alexander, Manager of Educational Technologies at Mediaworks. He adds that when presented at educational conferences, the online courses received "rave reviews."

"It's one of the best pedagogically-inspired courses that UCCP has ever offered," Alexander says.

Designed to be the equivalent of a third-year college course, the language course prepares high school students for the study of advanced Spanish language composition and conversation at the college level as well as introductory courses on Latin American and Peninsular literature and culture.

As students develop their language skills, they learn subject matter that relates to different disciplines in their high school curricula. These range from art and literature to politics and environmental studies in the target cultures. In addition to providing thorough preparation for the College Board AP Spanish Language Examination, this media-rich course will assist students in developing language skills to communicate and interact within a community of Spanish speakers. It incorporates many collaboration features (made possible by online technology) that will help foster a sense of community among the geographically-dispersed students.

In the spring of 2002, UCCP had already been offering eleven AP and honors courses online, in addition to college-prep resources such as tutoring and AP Exam review. Nearly 2,500 students from high schools with underdeveloped AP programs—specifically, with poor academic performance and insufficient resources—were able to benefit from the courses, according to the UC Office of the President.

"We offer courses to high schools that can't offer the courses themselves," says Valentine Garcia, UCCP Regional

The level of complexity in the interactive exercises is phenomenal.

Coordinator for Yolo and other northeast counties. This allows for brighter students to move ahead at their own speed, rather than have to wait for their classmates to catch up.

The UCCP initiative requires that participating high schools take the appropriate measures to provide the computing resources for connecting to the online course, as well as on-site supervisors and mentors for enrolled students and administrative duties so students receive the appropriate credit for their work.

The foundation of the UCCP project was laid in the spring of 2002, when UCCP determined that Mediaworks had the capacity to produce the course and offered them a grant. Professors from the Spanish departments at UC Davis UC Santa Cruz developed the course content, constructing

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students to access course materials when they are away from the classroom. From any computer, students have the capability to access summaries of slides with thumbnails and annotations, a quiz tool and a print option. The instructor may configure the settings according to different needs on a class-by-class basis.

While it does take some effort, the payoff level is well worth it, according to Alexander. "The more you do, the more you can get out of it," he says. "It encourages faculty to organize better. If you take the time to organize slides they can be retrieved in different ways." He adds that once the instructor lays the groundwork, it takes much less work to prepare lecture material the second time around.

To gauge Almagest's use and appeal to UC Davis faculty, Alexander reviewed the projects of Educational Technology (ET) Partners, a Mediaworks-sponsored program that pairs faculty with tech-savvy students. He then met with

interested faculty members and arranged for ET Partners students to be trained in using Almagest so the faculty could start using it.

Alexander recently previewed Almagest for other interested faculty and staff at a "Meet the Experts" presentation held at the Arbor, a faculty technology consulting and training center on campus. Gene Steffey of Surgical and Radiological Sciences in the School of Veterinary Medicine attended the presentation and noted that "Almagest holds real potential for assisting professors who work in particular fields of the sciences." He adds that while Art History is a very different field of study from Radiology and Ultrasound, the two have a lot in common in terms of the need to use image-rich instruction, making Almagest a useful tool across disciplines.

Heath Schenker of Landscape Architecture has thousands of slides to digitize. By using Almagest, she expects to devise

the classes "from the ground up," says Alexander. After writing course content, instructors sent Word documents to Mediaworks to be rewritten into Flash animation and interactive layouts.

One challenge of developing the courses is their technological intricacy, says Alexander.

"The level of complexity in the interactive exercises is phenomenal," he says.

For example, he notes that the self quizzes allow students several tries at each question, requiring the program to give

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Colorful, interactive, and educational, the online AP Spanish course module merges content about language, literature and culture into one interactive platform so students at high schools with inadequate resources can get the best in Web-based educational technology.

an efficient way of categorizing them and grouping them by lecture. Alexander and the Mediaworks team are still working on tailoring Almagest to the UC Davis campus, as well as evolving interfaces such as building a tool that works with maps and other visual materials. "Almagest is not just about developing a small project," says Alexander. "It has the larger potential to address wider pedagogical needs."

Interested faculty are encouraged to apply for ET Grants, which will help fund important steps in the Almagest process, such as getting images digitized or for developing new interfaces to the media and metadata.

For more information, contact Kirk Alexander at kdalex@ucdavis.edu or visit an online brochure about UC Davis Almagest resources at: http://mediaworks.ucdavis.edu/almagest/New_AlmagestSCREENfinal.pdf

● ● ● Summer Events and Announcements ● ● ●

How to Use Your UC Davis Email Account During the Summer

- If you won't be checking email over summer vacation, you can set up an automated notification of your absence. (Messages will still be sent to your inbox.)

See <http://email.ucdavis.edu/vacation.php> for setup instructions.

Be aware that this notification will be sent to everyone who emails you, including those to whom you would not normally reply, like spammers and listservs. As a result, this could increase the volume of spam in your inbox.

- If you will be checking your campus email over summer, your two main options are to use Web-based email at MyUCDavis (my.ucdavis.edu) or a POP email program like Eudora, which is available for free through the UC Davis Software site.

See <http://email.ucdavis.edu/vacation.html> for more information.

- To forward email to another email account (like Yahoo!, Hotmail, etc.), go to <http://computingaccounts.ucdavis.edu/> and follow the instructions under the "Redirect your mail" option.

Recommended Computer Configurations Help Guide Purchases

Recognizing that computer needs vary from person-to-person or department-to-department, the campus has recently updated a set of recommended minimum computer specifications for computers that will have a two-to-four year life span. These can help guide faculty, staff, and students who are planning to purchase a computer. The Computer Ownership Web site (computerownership.ucdavis.edu/) includes the updated recommended specifications, a Frequently Asked Questions page about choosing a computer and a glossary of computer-related terms.

2004-2005 UC Davis Internet Tools Available Soon

The latest release of the UC Davis Internet Tools should be in the Bookstore Computer Shop by the end of June. It offers a range of useful software, including Symantec AntiVirus, Mozilla Web browser, a utility to configure dial-up and wireless connections, and more. The CD will be available for under \$10. Visit online.ucdavis.edu.

Computer Labs Make Summer Changes

- 163 Shields will be open Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm during both Summer Sessions.
- Labs in Hart, Olson, and Meyer will be open during the summer. 177 MU (The Station) will be open during Summer Session I but closed for renovation during Summer Session II. As a result, 75 Hutchison will be open during Summer Session II. For summer hours and downtime of all computer rooms, see <http://clm.ucdavis.edu/rooms>.
- During the summer, Apple Mac computers will get an operating system update to OSX and Windows computers will be upgraded to Windows XP.

IT Express Available for Campus Computing Help

Having trouble getting your Internet connection to work? Questions about your computing account? IT Express is your computing helpdesk, providing support for Internet software, dial-up Internet access, UCD computing accounts, and most operating systems. Drop in at 182 Shields Library, email ithelp@ucdavis.edu, or visit <http://itexpress.ucdavis.edu/>. CALL 754-HELP.

Summer hours: Mon.- Fri. 8am- 5pm.

Summer Institute on Classroom Presentation

June 28-July 1 (1pm-4pm) the TRC will give presentations, lead small group discussions, give daily assignments and provide hands-on labs for participants who want to explore tools and techniques to achieve high-quality classroom teaching. The focus will be on finding appropriate uses of chalkboard, whiteboard, PowerPoint and class discussion.

This event is open to all UC Davis instructors of record. Participants must attend all days, complete daily assignments and bring a laptop computer (arrangements can be made for a computer loan, if necessary). Snacks and air conditioning will be provided. Register at <http://trc.ucdavis.edu/trc/summer> For more TRC information, visit 17 Wellman Hall, call 752-6050 or email Victoria Cross at vlcros@ucdavis.edu.

The Arbor Open for Summer Faculty Technology Assistance

The Arbor, Faculty Center for Teaching and Technology, will be open during the summer. Come and learn to use the Smart Panel projection system in the classrooms, improve your PowerPoint skills, learn scanning and image manipulation, get assistance with current operating systems (Mac OS X and Windows XP) and learn to use the wireless network. Get your skills up to date with MyUCDavis course management tools including Website Builder, Communications, Administration, Quiz Builder and Gradebook. It is best to make an appointment if you need one-on-one consultation and training. Call 754-2115, visit 161 Everson Hall or email arbor@ucdavis.edu. Faculty Consultant Joseph Coulombe will be on vacation June 16 - 22.

Fall Institute on Effective Instructional Use of the Web

On September 13-15, the TRC will hold workshops to help instructors who want to learn how to easily post information to the Web using MyUCDavis Website Builder. The workshop will also cover customizing course web sites with Dreamweaver, and creating and manipulating images and pdf files. Instructors will also have the opportunity to exchange information about using technology in teaching.

The course is open to all UC Davis instructors of record, but preference will be given to instructors who are new to using the Web. Plan to attend all days. Lunhc and snacks will be provided.

Register at <http://trc.ucdavis.edu/trc/fall>.

For more TRC information, visit 17 Wellman Hall, call 752-6050 or email Victoria Cross at vlcros@ucdavis.edu.

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multiple pieces of feedback for each one. In addition, there are about 20 to 25 activities per lesson, each of which takes an immense amount of effort to delineate.

However, it helps that the courses are SCORM-compliant, which means that they work with multiple course management systems, including Blackboard and WebCT.

With all of the work and planning that goes into the courses' development, one might wonder what's in it for UC Davis. The answer, according to Alexander, is that the rigors of developing the AP Spanish courses will help Mediaworks develop a more sophisticated level of future course materials here on campus.

But besides that, Mediaworks will be helping students across California and everywhere achieve their academic goals. "Students anywhere at anytime can benefit," Alexander says. ✕

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factors and features that had to be accommodated by the development team.

One of the biggest challenges for IET was creating instant verification of applicants' information. In the past, it could take up to a day for Summer Advising to register applicant information and activate email accounts. IET made the process instantaneous by pre-programming the information of all 29,000 accepted applicants into the system. Once a student submits a positive SIR electronically, her information is moved to the computing accounts database. As for the students who send a negative SIR, their information remains

in the system until a few weeks after fall quarter begins. New students have access to MyAdmissions for two academic quarters, although most students will have completed their transactions by the time they begin attending UC Davis.

Other UC Davis professional schools and programs, such as the Law School and Graduate Studies, are requesting similar admissions systems. The highly economical and environmentally friendly system greatly simplifies the process for every department involved, while also representing UC Davis as an innovative institution. "Everyone came out a winner," says Michael Buck. "Especially the students." ✕

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