



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that **Professor Travis Huxman** will serve as the new chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, effective January 1, 2021.



Professor Huxman joined UCI in 2012 as a full professor and was soon appointed the director of the school's Center for Environmental Biology and the faculty director of the UCI Sustainability Initiative. He is a physiological ecologist that studies both the evolution of plant traits and the impacts of climate change on ecosystems. His work has had a substantial impact, contributing to an increased awareness of global change impacts on plant biodiversity, species invasion, and conservation efforts, especially in the southwestern U.S. Much of his effort is community-engaging and has helped local stakeholders make informed decisions on the environment. His research efforts have resulted in over 170 peer-reviewed publications and an appointment as a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America.

In addition to his research contributions, Professor Huxman has graciously given his time to several internal and external committees and leadership boards. He has served on the Crystal Cove Alliance Conservation and Education Committee and the Back-Bay Science Center Steering Committee.

He has also dedicated time at the university level, including as a faculty advisor for UCI-Nature and a member of the UCI Academic Planning Group for the vice-chancellor's Advisory Council.

Please join me in congratulating Professor Huxman on his appointment to this vital leadership position.

In closing, I want to add my heartfelt gratitude to Professor James Hicks for his leadership as chair the past couple of years. We wish him our very best!

Sincerely,



Frank LaFerla, PhD

Dean and Chancellor's Professor



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