

Issue 1, August 2017

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Vice President & Dean Burgess (College) Updates

Teams and Creativity

Finding employees who can lead teams and work well as part of a team is a top priority for companies today. In higher education as well, teams outperform individuals in the creative pursuits of scientific knowledge generation[1], education[2] and extending knowledge to our communities.

Like the best companies, we must value creativity to be successful, and thought-diverse teams are especially creative. But thought diversity is also challenging. With thought diversity comes personality diversity, and thought-diverse teams have longer start-up times and require greater leadership.

I believe these outcomes are well worth the effort and so I encourage everyone to reach out and across our very thought-diverse college (as well as the UA as a whole) to partner and to think bigger. UA truly does have "low walls between our administrative silos," this is an "unfair advantage" and we should build on it. Here are two really great examples. Please send your examples to Heather Roberts-Wrenn (hrobertswrenn@email.arizona.edu) and we'll share them in future.

Lisa Shubitz (School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences) and Marc Orbach (School of Plant Sciences) are an exemplary "One Health" team, already a thought-diverse concept in itself. Lisa and Marc were just [awarded \\$4.8M from the National Institutes of Health](#) to work on a Valley Fever vaccine model for human health, and at the same time taking the vaccine to market to prevent Valley Fever in dogs. Our dog, Manny, contracted Valley Fever and almost died. He is now on a very long therapeutic regimen. He is getting well because our family can afford his expensive medication. But many families simply couldn't afford to treat their pet. A Valley Fever vaccine will save beloved animal and human family members from suffering, grief and expense.

Over the summer, I was honored to see another thought-diverse team of CALS faculty in action across the globe in Myanmar. The team included Kevin Fitzsimmons (Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science) and Jeannie McLain (Water Resources Research Center), UA faculty Linda Chu and Julianne Hammink (Center for English as a Second Language) and Josephine Korchmaros (Southwest Institute for Research on Women), U Soe Tun, chief of party (Sustainable Seafood Industry Development Project), and Kay Lwin Tun, professor of zoology at Yangon University. Under contract to USAID, this very thought-diverse team has implemented [Myanmar's first Sustainable Seafood Industry Development Project, including diagnostic laboratories](#). This team, who didn't even share a common language throughout the project, have created new job opportunities for thousands of Burmese. It has also opened the possibility for us to grow our education opportunities and so global awareness in our students.

[1] Benjamin F. Jones, et al, "Multi-University Research Teams: Shifting Impact, Geography, and Stratification in Science," Science 322 (2008): 1259-1262. Stefan Wuchty, et al, "The Increasing Dominance of Teams in Production of Knowledge," Science 316 (2007), 1036-1039. Stefan Wuchty, et al, "Response," Science 317 (2007), 1497-1498.

[2] John R. Curry, et al, Responsibility Center Management: A Guide to Balancing Academic Entrepreneurship with Fiscal Responsibility (NACUBO, 2013).



Opening ceremony for Shared Experiences workshop



Associate Dean Staten (Career & Academic Services) Updates



Sample pic posted to Instagram by UA VIDA students in Costa Rica

Instagram Takeover

As we launch into the 2018 recruitment cycle, the CALS marketing and student recruiting team is working to build a more robust and engaging Instagram feed as part of our multi-channel communications strategy. A [recent study](#) showed that 76 percent of American teens age 13-17 use Instagram, making it the most popular social media channel for teens.

Instagram is a visual storytelling platform; it's not an area for overt sales messaging. Our strategy this year is to focus on the student experience, highlighting engagement experiences from the student perspective. To do this, we are inviting CALS students to take part in the content creation. For example, we hosted an [Instagram takeover](#) by the [UA VIDA](#) club in July.

If you know of opportunities for visually engaging student content, please email Amy Soper, asoper@email.arizona.edu, and follow along on [Instagram](#).



Associate Dean Antin (Research) Updates

Robust Research Growth

Consistent with the CALS research mission of advancing knowledge across the continuum of basic to applied research and conveying the products of our efforts to the citizens of Arizona, the US and the world, CALS scientists are making important contributions in all mission areas of the College.

Over the past few years, CALS research has experienced robust growth, with total research positions and new awards each up more than 20% since 2013.

One important way that CALS researchers convey the products of their research is through patents, licenses and startup companies.

- Since 2015, invention disclosures and patent applications have increased more than 25%.
- CALS faculty and staff have also launched six companies over the past three years in areas ranging from animal and human vaccine development to multimedia production and distribution.



Associate Dean Ratje (Finance & Administration) Updates



Fence repairs



Surveying the range

Supporting Student Research

On April 7, Mary Kate Barrett, Jenessa Hermosillo, Mary Carroll, Heather Roberts-Wrenn, Belinda Oden, and I were graciously hosted by Steve Husman of the [Tucson Area Ag Centers](#) and Mark Heitlinger of the [Santa Rita Experimental Range](#). We performed a service project in support of the dissertation project for doctoral student William "Austin" Rutherford of the [School of Natural Resources and the Environment](#). The team installed a perimeter of fence stays around Mr. Rutherford's research site to prevent cattle from trampling his project work. His study will help land users in the southwest better manage rangeland.

My thanks to all who participated, and to our hosts who gave us a memorable experience, and put up with us!

This is just a single demonstration of the commitment all employees have to deliver upon our land grant mission of instruction, research, and Extension. Every day, 1,500 CALS employees support one another to make this mission come alive for Arizona.



Food Evolution movie poster

FOOD EVOLUTION Film Screening & Discussion Panel

Join the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for this one-night-only film screening on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:30pm in the main theater at The Loft Cinema. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with Dr. Donato Romagnolo and Dr. Melanie Hingle from our [Department of Nutritional Sciences](#) and Dr. Ken Feldmann from our [School of Plant Sciences](#)

The Loft Cinema - <https://loftcinema.org/film/food-evolution/>

Let us know that you're going to be there!
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