



Issue 6, November 2018

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Vice President & Dean Burgess COLLEGE UPDATES

Even if you're new to CALS, you've probably heard Bart Cardon's name. He was CALS' dean (1980-1987), is an alumnus and his name is attached to donor endowments for a chair, two teaching awards and the Cardon Academy of Teaching Excellence. He also served in WWII and was stationed in post-war Germany where he helped rebuild the University of Munich's Agricultural School, today the Technical University of Munich.

The day before Homecoming, I read his prescient October 1986 remarks: "Our students will need a broad education. They'll need training in economics and business. Computers. They will really need to know about computers so they can handle and manage the tremendous amount of information that will come their way." I didn't know about Bart's statement when I arrived in 2011, but I hope you remember when I interviewed that I said we should aspire be *the most cyber-savvy college of our ilk*.

Finding "our ilk" is a challenge in itself. We are very hard to categorize and so compare with others. We are *not* a "legacy Ag College." You and our students provide exceptional discipline range and exemplary thought-diversity. During the Great Recession our diversity gave us resilience no matter what UA budget model we were working with. You made us a place that the State Legislature invested in even during massive recessionary budget cuts.

Last Friday, President Robbins launched a UA strategic plan focused on the World Economic Forum's construct of the "fourth economic revolution" and the challenges this presents to the world. But this isn't news to us; we have been thinking this way for decades. The **CALS Cyberinfrastructure Advisory Group**, chaired by Fiona McCarthy, reported on [meeting our cyber-savvy challenge today](#). Mike's update below describes the three "data-thinking" courses to be launched: *colonizing Antarctica, dealing with a zombie apocalypse, and finding love in a modern world*. (I have spoken with my wife Jenny and she says I can audit the first two of these courses.)

Please take a look at [President Robbins' summary presentation](#) and review the [full strategic plan](#). You will see how we can fulfill our share of the UA's task. I have asked Provost Goldberg for specific objectives that we will identify how we'll meet. Once we know our destination, we can review our own strategic plans. We may realign our focuses, we may start some new things and stop others, and in some areas we'll just double down so we keep leading as we are now.

Now to my most important message. It is of course based on our foundational goal. I wish everyone Happy Thanksgiving. Please take some down-time. Break away from your work and enjoy your families and friends (or even just being left alone). I will be doing the same for my 17th Thanksgiving here in the U.S. Travel safely! We need you back here, refreshed and energized.



Shane C Burgess
@shaneburgess

The hour flew by! Thank you @alli_g98 and @KAMP_Radio for hosting me live on the air this afternoon. I loved the wide-ranging conversation about everything from science to pop culture and hope to chat again sometime! 🙌



6:05 PM - 5 Nov 2018

2 Retweets 10 Likes

Did you miss Dr. Burgess' November 5 interview with student programming director, Alli Gilbreath, on KAMP campus radio?

They talked job choices, managing stress, Lady Gaga and more.

Intrigued? We've captured his playlist on Spotify. Enjoy!

[@UAAGLifeVetExt KAMP Playlist](#)



Associate Dean Staten CAREER & ACADEMIC SERVICES UPDATES

Introduction to Data Science in CALS

Back in 2015 UC Berkeley developed an introductory (100-level) data science course that has far exceeded their expectations in terms of enrollment growth, much to the delight of tech-industry employers. In an article published November 2, 2018, Maggie Johnson, VP of Education and University Programs at Google (which helped to fund the course development) told the *Wall Street Journal*: "I think this is a great start but we needed this a couple of years ago. The pipeline (of new talent) is still really small."

CALS began a similar development effort a year ago. We believe that an introductory data science/data-thinking experience for UA students will necessarily need to appeal to them through a subject matter of interest, and not as a technical stand-alone course.

Over the past 6 months we've supported the development of course concepts and syllabi for introductory "data-thinking" courses in three distinct CALS subject domains, but with common learning objectives. The course titles should generate student interest: *Settlers of Antarctica: Using Data Science to Colonize a Continent* ([School of Natural Resources and the Environment](#)), *Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse: How Data Can Save the World from Infectious Disease* ([Microbiology](#)), and *Data and the Online Data Game* ([Retailing and Consumer Sciences](#)).

Many thanks to CALS faculty **Katy Prudic**, **Fiona McCarthy** and **Kathleen Kennedy** for their inspired development work and to **Eric Lyons**, **Susan Miller** ([Data Science Institute](#)) and **Jeff Oliver** ([UA Libraries](#)) for the initial encouragement to get the process started.

Students will choose from this menu to pick the topical domain for their introductory data thinking/analytics experience. Armed with this foundational background, they'll be prepared for advanced data analytics courses available in their chosen major. Each of these courses is beginning its journey through the curriculum approval process, starting with committees in the host departments. All three are being designed for Gen Ed Tier I or Tier II eligibility.



Associate Vice President Antin RESEARCH UPDATES

Innovation Venture Investment Program

The Innovation Venture Investment Program (iVIP), one mechanism for competitive project support provided through the [CALs Research Development Program](#), supports novel and potentially transformative research projects of six months to two years duration. The Research Development Program has been made possible by the college's strong performance under RCM.

Ten iVIP proposals were received this year across the college's research mission areas. Three projects were funded for a total venture investment of \$262,000.

Congratulations to the following investigators whose projects were funded:

Joey Blankinship; Soil, Water and Environmental Science
Project: *Launching the Arizona Carbon Project: Soil Organic Carbon Accounting and Sequestration in the Sonoran Desert*

Duke Pauli, Mark Beilstein; School of Plant Sciences
Project: *Programmable Plant Morphology*

David Baltrus, Judith Brown, Barry Pryor, Mark Beilstein, Alex Hu; School of Plant Sciences
Project: *Leveraging Multiple Sequencing Projects across Plant Sciences to Foster a Nanopore Sequencing Community at UA*



Associate Vice President Ratje FINANCE, ADMIN. & OPERATIONS UPDATES



Seeking the Right Balance

I spend a lot of time thinking about bureaucracy – how to reduce it, but also how much is enough. Our division grinds to a halt without balance. Too much and we are burdened by self-inflicted wastes. Too little and we create wasted effort through clean up, miscommunication, fixing work already processed, and potentially serious lapses in judgment.

When it comes to streamlining, actions speak louder than words. Business officers tackle the challenge of streamlining in partnership with their academic colleagues. Over the last year, business officers from across ALVSCSE have standardized the [faculty hiring process](#), improved the quarterly [all funds budget](#), brought greater clarity to the Experiment Station [zero base budget process](#), have thoughtfully recommended and modeled improvements to the mandated merit process, and on.

We work in a complex environment. Nonetheless, business officers are committed to creating and maintaining an organization that gets the balance right. We are in service to you and our mission.

Upcoming Events

November 30

Fall Ag100 Council meeting

December 3-5

[45th Annual Global Symposium on Racing](#)

December 6

Outstanding Senior Luncheon

December 7

Fall Budget Retreat

December 15

[CALs Graduation Convocation](#)



Special Update from Mitch McClaran: CALs Space on Campus

Return to Building 90, the Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences Building (ACBS), should commence in January 2019 and plans for remediation of Shantz, Biological Sciences East, and Forbes will not occur before 2020. Meanwhile, Units occupying those three buildings should continue planning for innovations to improve space effectiveness.

According to Chris Kopach, UA Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, lab equipment can be moved into the ACBS Building in December, but personnel occupation must wait until the Fire Marshal inspects/approves in early January 2019. Details about the timing of the complete return to ACBS Building are developing, but they are not final.

Chris Kopach also reported that there will be no active remediation of Forbes, BSE or Shantz between January and December 2019. The work in 2019 will instead focus on Steward Observatory. It is not known when remediation of Forbes, BSE or Shantz will begin.

This update removes the urgency to complete the planning process for occupant-led proposals for wall removal and other improvements that will increase space effectiveness during the eventual remediation process. However, Units should continue to develop those plans because the sooner you bring your plans to a phase that identifies your ideas, the sooner we can engage staff at Facilities Management to help evaluate their feasibility. This early evaluation will also help decide if the proposals can be covered by the remediation funding, or if other sources will need to be pursued. Finding funding could be the biggest challenge, so please bring your plans to that stage soon.

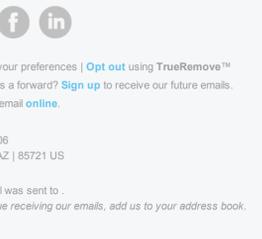
Interactive Campus Map

Finally, please be aware of some new tools that can facilitate space management and support scenarios for re-designing space. The UA Planning Design and Construction group developed new tools in the Interactive Campus Map <https://interactivemap.arizona.edu/>.

The Map and Tools are very intuitive to use. I suggest you explore the features to see what they do. Just explore the possible as if you were shopping for plane tickets to visit family over the Holidays. For example, you can zoom and navigate just like any other map tool.

To envision room exchanges, use the Room Collections tool that is found in the Menu (top left, horizontal bars). It allows you to select rooms, place them in name-able collections, sum the area of the collection, create many collections, and then download the full set of collections in a spreadsheet. This tool will support your exploration of different exchanges of rooms among faculty within an Academic Unit as well as between Units. In other words, it is a tool to support different scenarios of room assignments and exchanges.

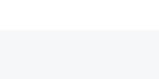
To envision changes in room size when removing non-load bearing walls, you can use the Measure Tool that is found in the Menu (top left, horizontal bars). It supports distance measures and area measures in polygons that you create. This should help image the size of rooms if you remove or move walls.



UA Annual Capital Development Plan

The University of Arizona's Annual Capital Development Plan was presented to the Arizona Board of Regents Finance, Capital and Resources Committee on November 1. The plan addresses progress on previously approved projects and includes a plan for future projects. You can watch a recording of this presentation on [YouTube](#) (minutes 31:38-1:20:54).

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