Bart Cardon Academy to Induct Two CALS Faculty

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences announces the induction of two outstanding faculty members as Fellows of the Bart Cardon Academy. Dr. Joan Curry, Associate Professor in the Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science, and Dr. Rashwan Ravia, Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology, have been selected for their contributions to pedagogical innovation and excellence.

"The Cardon Academy was endowed by a CALS graduate and named for an outstanding teacher and advisor, Dr. Bart Cardon, who was particularly inspirational during the benefactor's academic journey," said Dr. David Ricketts, Dean of CALS. "Not only did Dr. Cardon shape the educational trajectory of the benefactor, but his influence also extended to the entire faculty of the college."

Although each were unique in their approach, both offered ideas that will resonate throughout the entire faculty of the college. "With their induction, we are poised to further amplify our support for pedagogical innovation. Curry and Ravia have offered creative solutions to improve teaching and learning in our College, and we are excited to recognize their contributions with this honor," Ricketts noted.

Membership in the Cardon Academy is more than honorific – it carries the expectation of active participation in the college's ongoing efforts to advance teaching and learning. Curry and Ravia join nine current Fellows and four Emeritus Fellows in the Cardon Academy family. They will be inducted into the academy at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' 2018 Graduation Convocation on May 5, 2018.

2018 CALS Graduation Convocation: Joan Curry, Associate Professor, Department of Soil Water and Environmental Science. Curry and Ravia join nine current Fellows and four Emeritus Fellows in the

Continued Research Growth

We are at a national and international tipping point in which research is being recognized and funded more than ever before. Although 2017 was a highly unusual year due to the new federal administration and resulting federal agency reluctance to issue new awards, data through three quarters of 2018 show that we are on a record pace for new awards received.

Over the past four years, the total value of new proposals submitted has increased 35%. From 2014 to 2017, the total value of new awards received increased 59%.

Several "leading indicator" metrics reflect our increasing research capacity. Example in Ecosystems Genomics through the University funded cluster hiring initiative. Our new faculty have increased research capacity across all units in existing research areas of inquiry, and have also brought new initiatives to the College, for example in Soil Science and Bioenergy.

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2014 has expanded total tenure track and continuing eligible faculty research FTE by 8%. The CALS research enterprise continues to grow. Unprecedented faculty hiring since 2014 has expanded total tenure track and continuing eligible faculty research FTE by 8%.

Thank you for all that you do.