



Teaching & Research Updates

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Issue 2, December 2017

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Vice President & Dean Burgess

COLLEGE UPDATES

My Inspiration

I gain inspiration daily from all of our employees who come together to aid colleagues who are in a pinch and who lead through contributing innovative projects in their units. I'm lucky because where I sit centrally allows me to see and hear these stories. As the semester draws to a close, I want to share some examples of my luck with you.

- Midway through the semester when a resignation left three courses without an instructor, three faculty members in the [School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences](#) stepped up with no thought of recompense to teach the remaining lectures for each of the courses. Thank you, Margarethe Cooper, Ben Renquist and V.K. Viswanathan. You made a tremendous difference to our students.
- Thank you to the [Research Administration team](#) for putting together new agency-specific discussion panels to assist junior faculty, in particular, when writing grants. There is such great expertise already present among our senior faculty who have served on study sections and grant review panels for the major funding agencies. And thank you to those of you who are committing to participate in these discussions. Your insights will make a transformative difference for your colleagues. Gayatri Vedantam and V.K. Viswanathan were also of an especially great help in planning this discussion panel program.
- The [Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics](#) is launching an **Introduction to Statistics** course suited to all of CALS' majors – as well as to majors outside of CALS. My sincere thanks to Satheesh Aradhyula for preparing the syllabus, to AREC's undergrad committee (Na Zuo, Dan Scheitrum, Satheesh Aradhyula and Paul Wilson) and Jim Hunt (Career and Academic Services) who made certain the proposal and syllabus were compelling enough to be approved, and to Danielle Buhrow, AREC's student advisor, who provided counsel about existing statistics courses taken by CALS' majors and helped shepherd the proposal through the approval process. And special thanks to Gary Thompson for his leadership.
- Scott Going, head of the Department of Nutritional Sciences, wishes to join me in thanking Sangita Pawar, assistant dean of research, for developing the [Frontiers in Life Science seminar series](#) and Jeffrey Ratje, associate dean of finance and administration, for organizing CALS service days.
- Jon Chorover, head of the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science, would like to acknowledge the time that the leaders in Research Administration and Career and Academic Services have recently invested in attending SWES faculty/staff meetings this semester for open discussions about issues of interest to all parties.

Through all these efforts – and more I may never hear about (but I need to, so please let me know), you are all truly making the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences the most sought-after place to be a part of. You are my inspiration.

With best wishes for a fulfilling winter break focused on you and yours.



Associate Dean Staten

CAREER & ACADEMIC SERVICES UPDATES



Collaborative Learning Spaces

Since 2014 the University has been overhauling traditional learning spaces into classrooms designed for active student-centered learning - Collaborative Learning Spaces (CLSs). Faculty teaching in the 20 CLSs across campus employ evidence-based teaching strategies that challenge students to participate, reflect, and be accountable.

For the past two years, Matthew Mars, Assistant Professor for Agricultural Leadership and Innovation, has taught AGTM 422, Communicating Knowledge in Agriculture & Life Sciences, in the largest CLS on campus. According to Mars, teaching more than 170 students in the CLS "has pushed me to do new things, to be more creative, and to be more accessible." It's also compelled him to have a greater willingness to experiment. "The creativity is more on the delivery level," he notes, "I've not changed the course content, the assignments, or the grading." In CALS, more than 40 faculty across eight units have taught in the CLSs.

To learn more about CLSs, read this recent story published in Lo Que Pasa: uatwork.arizona.edu/lqp/learning-learn-collaborative-learning-spaces



Associate Dean Antin

RESEARCH UPDATES

CALS Innovation Venture Investment Program

Earlier this year the CALS Research Office launched the Innovation Venture Investment Program (iViP) to support novel and potentially transformative research projects of six months to two years duration. Twenty-four proposals were submitted for the first round of funding. Although many highly competitive proposals were received, available resources permitted the funding of four projects for a total venture investment of \$300,000. Congratulations to the following investigators who received iViP Awards:

Goggy Davidowitz; Associate Professor of Entomology

Project: *The Other Arizona Beef: Using Insects to Address the 10 billion People Problem.*

Monica Schmidt; Assistant Professor of Plant Sciences

Project: *Towards Making a C3 Crop C4 by Adding an Oxygen-Binding Protein in Rubisco's environment.*

Patricia Stock; Professor of Entomology

Istvan Molnar; Professor, School of Natural Resources and the Environment

Project: *Harnessing an Arizona-Native Insect Pathogenic Bacterium for Natural Products with Medical Applications.*

Markus Tuller; Professor of Soil, Water and Environmental Science

Project: *A Novel Approach to Remote Sensing of Soil Moisture.*



Associate Dean Ratje

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

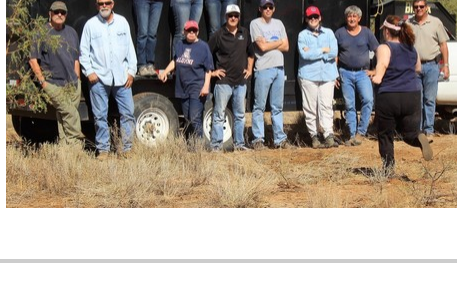
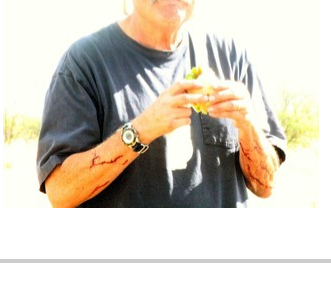
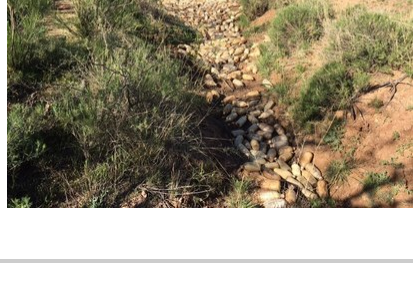


Supporting One Another

CALS is blessed with colleagues who support one another. Examples abound. One that means a great deal to me is the "sweat equity" that 11 colleagues and two family members put into cleaning up Page Ranch, a CALS' property near the Biosphere 2. On November 3, 13 people pulled together to remove 7.2 cubic yards of glass bottles left behind from a research project conducted on the property in the 1980s. The hard work of these individuals put us in the good graces of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and is a symbol of the stewardship obligation that exists in CALS. We have a duty to leave this organization better than we found it, for the success of future Arizonans.

My deepest and heartfelt thanks to: Mary Carroll, Adriana Prado, Heather Roberts-Wrenn, Christie Mills, Peder Cuneo (who bled in support), Steve Husman, Carol Starbuck, Scott Going, Jeffrey Ratje, Kylee Vanek, Gilbert Walker, Dan Nelson, and Marsha Murphy (running to the picture).

On the same theme of supporting one another, a group of business and HR liaisons from Cooperative Extension, Experiment Station, and academic units have also been developing a standard onboarding effort for new employees in CALS. **Reflect on the care and communication you received your first week in CALS.** First impressions mean a lot and we hope that this effort supports all new employees the way we would each want to be welcomed. My thanks to Allison Ketterling for her leadership and the MSS Team for independently recognizing the need and spearheading this initiative. Their efforts are one example why CALS is the most sought-after place to be a part of.



Dial-the-Dean on January 22

Mark your calendars for the next Dial-the-Dean! Special Guests: Marc Orbach, vice-chair of the CALS Faculty Council, and all Executive Council members will be joining Dean Burgess for the call on January 22. This call has been planned specifically to address questions they ran out of time for at the Faculty Council's October Town Hall.

Monday, January 22 | 11-11:30am

Unless you have registered for previous Dial-the-Deans, you will need to register in advance to take part in this audio webinar. Please do so by completing the [registration webform](#). Shortly before the event, you will be emailed a link to this audio webinar as well as additional information for first-time users.

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