Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It does not seem that long ago, but 7 months have passed since my family and I arrived in Tucson and now this issue marks the end of the academic year. For many of our students, the summer will be filled with jobs and internships, affording them a chance to apply some of the knowledge they acquired to real world situations. For our recent graduates, I hope you have wonderful and everlasting memories of your time at the UA. We enjoyed having you in our classes and getting to know you during your time here. You will continue to leave an enduring legacy of excellence and achievement for generations to come. On behalf of our faculty, staff and graduate students, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our wonderful faculty, staff, and graduate students for their continued hard work and dedication to our undergraduates, as well as their significant contributions to our school, CALS, the UA, and to our local and global communities. Moreover, congratulations to those who have been promoted and/or reappointed.

To my ACBS team, have a great summer, stay safe. I look forward to August when we will welcome a new group of students into ACBS, as well as welcoming our returning students. To all of our readers, thank you for your support and I wish you and your families all the best for a happy and fun-filled summer. Bear Down.

Kindest regards,
André Wright, PhD

Support ACBS
There are many ways you can support the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences. Gifts of any size help to propel ACBS closer to its goals and have an immediate and lasting impact on our programs. Your generosity provides outstanding educational opportunities for our students and helps to attract and retain the brightest faculty. With your support, ACBS research gives back to the state of Arizona community through our extension programs, as well as the nation and the world, through the discoveries we make and the products we develop.

Gifts may be made online at the University of Arizona Foundation website: www.uafoundation.org/give/cals/sacbs
Or contact our school business office to discuss specific ways your contribution can be made or dispersed. Whether you choose to give to a specific project or program or simply donate to the school overall, we thank you.
Bear Down for the Triple Crown

Race horse trainer and UA Race Track Industry Program alumnus, Bob Baffert made history on Saturday June 6, 2015, when his horse American Pharoah became the 12th Triple Crown winner. The bay Thoroughbred completed this feat by first winning the Kentucky Derby, then the Preakness and finally the Belmont Stakes. Winning all three legs of the Triple Crown is such a difficult undertaking it has been 36 years since any horse has been able to complete the task.

USA Today met up with Bob Baffert and fellow UA RTIP alumnus Todd Pletcher, prior to the Belmont Stakes, to talk about their successes in racing and to learn more about the program that gave them each a leg up in the industry. http://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/horseracing/2015/06/02/bob-baffert-todd-pletcher-university-of-arizona/28377007/
ACBS Outstanding Seniors

The best and brightest in Veterinary Science, Animal Science and Microbiology.

Each fall and spring semester ACBS names one graduating senior in each of the three majors (Animal Science, Veterinary Science, and Microbiology) as Outstanding Senior. Here are the honorees for the Spring 2015 Semester.

The Veterinary Science Outstanding Senior for Spring 2015 is Zachary Millman. Zach was born and raised in Arizona. He first remembers deciding he wanted to be a veterinarian in junior high. His beliefs were confirmed once he began taking courses at the UA including anatomy and physiology and immunology. The opportunity to participate in veterinary research through Dr. Michael Riggs’ lab, studying the intestinal parasite Cryptosporidium, has encouraged him to focus his career on infectious disease and veterinary pathology.

The next step in achieving his dream will begin this fall, when Zach begins the rigorous Veterinary Medicine Program at Colorado State University in pursuit of his DVM. To assist him, at least monetarily, Zach has been fortunate to receive WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) funding, which will reduce his tuition for vet school at CSU by half, as well as a scholarship from CSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

When reflecting on his time at the UA, Zach says “Without a doubt, the best part of studying at the UA is the close interaction with faculty and staff, and the numerous research opportunities available to undergraduates. Being involved with research was an incredibly influential experience, and working as closely with professors and staff as UA allows was very educational.”

Benjamin Saylor received the ACBS Outstanding Senior Award in Animal Science. He will graduate this spring with a BS degree in Animal Science. About his choice in major, he says “I’ve grown up around livestock, I love the animals and the outdoors, and I want to make an impact in production agriculture.”

Future plans for Benjamin include completing an internship with a dairy nutrition and management consulting firm in Phoenix. He will then attend Kansas State University, where he will work towards completing a MS degree in Animal Science with a focus in dairy cattle nutrition.

Benjamin would like people to know “how important it is to educate the public on the importance of and practices behind modern day production agriculture. There is a lot of opposition to ag in the world today and it should be our personal conviction to do what we can to be positive ambassadors for our industry.”

The ACBS Outstanding Senior Award in Microbiology was awarded to Rodney Tollerson. Rodney will start his PhD in microbiology at The Ohio State University this fall. He hopes to work as a professor in a university setting while also having ties to government and industry. About his time at the UA he says “The best part about studying at the UA has been the accessibility of the professors, I would not be where I am today without the help of the faculty and staff that have had open doors.”

Rodney received a National Achievement Scholarship which assisted in funding his four years at the UA. He also received an NSF grant through the Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO) which funded some of his research projects. Rodney would like to thank his parents and family, as well as Dr. Sadhana Ravishankar and her Lab group.

In closing he says “I think it’s important for students to know that there are so many opportunities to apply your knowledge and help others, you just have to find them. And if you can’t find those opportunities, create them!”

U.S. Dairy Education & Training Consortium

Program welcomes largest class on record for Summer 2015.

The U.S. Dairy Education and Training Consortium (USDETS) formerly known as the Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium is ready to welcome the summer class of 2015. The multi-university program, established in 2008 to meet the educational and training needs of the rapidly expanding dairy industry, is planning for 60 student participants from 23 different universities, the highest class to date, over two sessions. 4 students from the University of Arizona have been accepted to attend the 2015 program bringing the total number of UA participants since the program’s inception to 41. UA students receive 3 credit hours for their attendance towards their degree program.

With the sharp decline in dairy science classes in recent decades, the consortium program located in Clovis, New Mexico, provides an invaluable opportunity for students to gain hands-on, practical dairy science knowledge that would be unavailable to them otherwise. Students attend a six-week schedule rotating between different topics relating to the dairy industry. Topics include dairy records and management, nutrition, genetics, reproduction, facility design and parlor management. Students’ days are usually split between classroom lectures, farm tours and demonstrations. This allows students to apply what was covered in the classroom directly to a real world setting. The course also includes tours of agricultural facilities and exposure to companies looking to hire interns or new graduates that have attended the course.

For more information on the U.S. Dairy Education & Training Consortium, visit sgp dct.tamu.edu
AHP Travel Award Winner
Where love of journalism and equine industry combine.

Bridget Grobosky, a junior from the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, received the American Horse Publications Travel Award along with two additional students on March 4, 2015. Grobosky majors in Animal Science under the Equine Industry path and minors in Journalism. She has been involved in the equine industry since she was seven years old through riding, showing and owning horses. Her career culminated in two 2013 Pinto World Championship top 10 finishes. She is currently President of the University of Arizona’s Intercollegiate Horse Show Association equestrian team.

“After completing an intensive summer journalism minor program, I rekindled my love for writing and communications,” says Grobosky. She is currently working for the Rillito Race Track in Tucson, writing local and national press releases. Her career goal is to work for a publishing company within the equine industry. As her experience broadens, she is also considering other communications fields such as public relations.

Grobosky and the two other college students were selected out of 20 applications to fly out to meet the leading equine publishing professionals and discuss career possibilities at the 2015 Tally-Ho at the Alamo Seminar in San Antonio, Texas, on June 18-20, 2015. The three finalists will be interviewed by the Student Award Committee at the AHP seminar where one student will be announced as the 2015 AHP Student Award Winner at the Student Party on Friday, June 19, 2015. The Student Award winner wins a cash award of $1,000 plus an all-expense paid trip hosted by Publishers Press to one of their Two-Day Customer Education Seminars in Louisville, Kentucky. Additional cash awards will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. All cash awards are sponsored by AIM Equine Network.

The Student Award program, which began in 1993, was initiated to promote student awareness of the career opportunities available in equine publishing. American Horse Publications offers students interested in a career in equine publishing several opportunities to participate in its association.

Reprinted from CALS News

UA Rodeo Club Heading to Finals

Member qualifies to compete in barrel racing at Collegiate National Finals Rodeo.

The University of Arizona Rodeo Club celebrated a big win this spring with member Geneva Kelly qualifying for the Collegiate National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in barrel racing.

Geneva is a UA sophomore majoring in Ag Business and was born and raised in Sonoita, Arizona. She has been involved with barrel racing since she was seven years old. Her current horse and partner is named Runn Oft, but she calls him Hershey. She has owned and competed with the 14 year old bay Quarter Horse since last year and says she enjoys “The trust I have in him. I always know that he is going to show up to make a run when I need him to."

Contestants compete all year in one of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association’s (NIRA) 11 regions for a chance to rope or ride at the CNFR. Events include saddle bronc riding, bare back riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, breakaway roping, and goat tying. The top three students in each event, and top two men’s and women’s teams from the NIRA’s 11 regions qualify to compete in the finals. Over 400 contestants from over 100 universities and colleges compete each year. The 2015 finals will be held June 14th - 20th in Casper, Wyoming.

When it came to qualifying for the finals, Geneva says she made it through “By the skin of my teeth! I had missed the first semester of rodeos, and hit a barrel at the Window Rock rodeo. I thought I was done when I didn’t do as I’d anticipated at the Region finals. Thankfully I ended up getting it done.”

Assistant UA Rodeo Club Coach, Zach McFarlane, credits Geneva’s hard work and perseverance as the biggest reasons her competition season will take her to the finals. "I am definitely very proud of Geneva for qualifying for the CNFR because she has worked so hard all year to accomplish this goal. She even had to miss the first three rodeos of the year and still managed to pull it off” says McFarlane.

McFarlane is also really pleased with how the UA Club competed as a whole. He says “The rest of the team did really well this whole year. Ali Hall and Courtney Thomas round off the Women’s Team, along with Geneva Kelly and the team did very well against some tough competition from the other schools. Ali Hall placed in the top ten in Barrel Racing and Courtney Thomas ended up in the top ten for the Breakaway Roping in the region.”

The UA Rodeo Club celebrated its 76th year this March and is the oldest rodeo club in the country. McFarlane will step down as Assistant Coach when he graduates with his MS in Animal Sciences this Spring. About his experiences with the UA Rodeo Club, he says “I have had an amazing time here at the UA and I learned a lot being the Assistant Coach this year. Rodeo will always be a part of my life. I competed in Junior High, High School, and College and I really want this team to continue to succeed.” He wishes the entire club the best of luck in the coming years and knows that through the support of alumni and CALS, they will continue to grow and thrive.
Students Gain Experience in Horse Racing Industry

Rillito Park Race Track in Tucson has been home to the Race Track Industry Program, which began at the University in 1974, and has launched nearly 600 alumni careers in the business.

Patrons at Rillito Park Race Track in northwest Tucson may have noticed a new presence during the recently completed spring race meet: young adults, dressed in navy shirts, on the TV screens, in the admissions booths and in the racing office.

Students from the University of Arizona’s Race Track Industry Program in the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, part of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, had the opportunity to learn about the industry firsthand through a collaboration with the local track. They worked in different capacities at the track and in the classroom on projects related to the track’s operations.

One such project: a marketing and promotion plan to promote a Kentucky Derby party at Rillito on May 2. A strategic analysis of the track is coming in the fall, and the program’s director, Doug Reed, said his vision is for Rillito to be a “working lab” for the students.

“I’d like to see students be able to use Rillito as a conduit for experiments,” Reed said. “As ideas come up in the classroom, we could go to Rillito and use it as a lab to conduct experiments, and the students can report their research findings to the industry.”

That goal seems well within reach. The Race Track Industry Program is well-connected in the racing industry, recognized for its ability to train potential new members of the industry. It was started in 1974 and offers both bachelor’s and master’s degree programs. Many of its students are older and have returned to school for this specific program.

Each December the RTIP holds the Global Symposium on Racing & Gaming, a conference that attracts members of the thoroughbred, quarter horse, standardbred and greyhound racing industries from around the world.

RTIP students have the opportunity to learn and connect through guest speakers, internships, the symposium and mentor lunch, alumni, and a diverse faculty.

“We have a faculty that all have experience in the industry, but not the same experience,” Reed said. “We’re not all out of the same mold, which I think is a great benefit.”

Nearly 600 former students now are working in the industry around the world. Some are accomplished trainers, such as RTIP graduate Bob Baffert, while others are managing large race tracks or have found success in business areas such as marketing or human resources.

“If you work hard and take advantage of opportunities, you will succeed,” Reed said. “Our alumni always say to take advantage of everything.”

Rillito Park’s new general manager, Michael Weiss, was a student in the program and went on to revive other tracks around the country, such as Beulah Park in Grove City, Ohio, with innovative marketing and promotions. He played a major role in connecting the RTIP to Rillito.

Weiss said he believes students have had invaluable real-world experiences at the track.

“I don’t care if you say it’s just Rillito Park, not Belmont Park,” Weiss said. “It’s the same game, just different numbers. And sometimes at a small track you have to dig in and get dirtier, and that’s what these students have the opportunity to do.”

Weiss interviewed interested students before the spring semester, helping them to find work at Rillito and offering them paid jobs. Positions ranged from selling tickets, to putting together the race card, to managing the track’s social media accounts.

Rillito’s handicapping team, the Desert Duo, is a product of the collaboration between the track and the RTIP. Students Aaron Brukman and Randy Olson presented their picks for the live races at Rillito and for simulcast races from tracks around the country.

Many of the students worked weekends, but others worked all week long. Honore Bremer worked in the racing office taking entries during the week and then operated the photo-finish camera and timing equipment on weekends.

“It’s given me real-world experience because now I’ve seen the operations of a race track,” Bremer said.

Anna Hibbard, a senior in the program, also worked in the office, which was a new experience even though she had completed multiple internships in the industry.

“All of my experience up until now has been on the back stretch with the horses and horsemens,” she said. “This has given me a much broader spectrum of what the industry can offer me.”

For more information, visit the RTIP’s website at https://ua-rtip.org.

- Bridget Grobosky, Student Associate College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Reprinted from UANews, April 16, 2015
Undergraduate Students Receive Research Awards

Students co-mentored by Drs. Vedantam and Viswanathan receive prestigious national awards.

Aaron Brussels is the recipient of the American Gastroenterological Association’s (AGA) Eli and Edyth Broad Student Research Fellowship. This award includes a cash stipend in the amount of $2,500 as well as an invitation to submit an abstract for Digestive Disease Week 2016, a national conference that will be hosted in San Diego, CA. The award will allow Brussels to focus his efforts on a period of intensive research during Summer 2015. Brussels is currently a junior anticipating graduating with a BS in Physiology. His plans then include going on to medical school to pursue an MD/MPH dual degree.

About receiving this award Brussels says “I am honored to accept the AGA-Eli and Edyth Broad Undergraduate Research Fellowship. I am also excited to extend my research under Drs. V.K. Viswanathan and Gayatri Vedantam through the summer as I enter my senior year at the University of Arizona.”

In addition to the AGA award, Brussels has also been awarded the University of Arizona Honors College Undergraduate Research Grant and the merit-based Jodie Wynn-Oden Scholarship from the University of Arizona’s Sigma Alpha Pi chapter of Mortar Board senior honor society. The UA Honors College grant will assist in funding the cost of attending and presenting research at Digestive Disease Week 2016.

Chelsea Adamson has received the 2015 AGA Student Abstract Prize from the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) for her abstract “Role of SigL (σ54) in the regulation of Clostridium difficile gene expression and growth” authored by Chelsea C. Adamson, Andrew E. Clark, Bryan P. Roxas, V.K. Viswanathan, and Gayatri Vedantam. As a recipient of this award Adamson will receive a $500 travel award to be used towards travel expenses to attend Digestive Disease Week 2016 in Washington, DC. She will be presented with a certificate at a Research Recognition Ceremony during Digestive Disease Week.

About receiving this award, Adamson says “I feel truly honored to receive this award – to be recognized for my work by an organization which supports such extraordinary research is one of the most encouraging motivations I’ve received to keep following my passion for microbiological research.”

In April 2014, Adamson was awarded an Eli and Edythe Broad Student Research Fellowship from the American Gastroenterological Association. Winning this award made her eligible to submit her abstract to Digestive Disease Week 2015 for review.

Adamson is currently a senior, pursuing her BS in Microbiology. After graduation, she will continue her studies of C. difficile, while pursuing a Master of Science in Microbiology under the mentorship of Drs. Gayatri Vedantam and V.K. Viswanathan.

Adamson goes on to encourage others to follow their passions by stating “I was terrified to take a chance and pursue a position in a research lab, but it was the best decision I’ve ever made. Ignore the nerves, and take the leap.”

UA undergraduate student, Ross Monasky, has received a Microscopy Society of America Undergraduate Research Scholarship. Based on the recommendations of the review panel, Monasky has been approved $2500 to assist in his research project with the Viswanathan and Vedantam laboratories. At the conclusion of the project, an abstract will be published in the Journal Microscopy and Microanalysis.

About the success of these co-mentored students, Dr. Viswanathan states “I am absolutely thrilled that ACBS undergraduate and graduate students are successfully competing for nationwide awards, and that they are being invited to present at prestigious international meetings attended by experts in the field. These students are the next generation of leaders, and I am proud that they found their footing within our lab, and within ACBS.”

Late-breaking Abstract

A late-breaking abstract from the Vedantam and Viswanathan laboratories has been selected for a lecture presentation at a Plenary Session of the American Gastroenterology Association annual meeting, Digestive Disease Week® (DDW) 2015, being held May 16 – May 19, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. Michele Chu, a research associate in the Vedantam and Viswanathan labs, who spearheaded the project, will be presenting “Genes within a Clostridium difficile capsule biosynthetic locus influence bacterial shape, polysaccharide production, and virulence.” The abstract, reviewed by members of the four sponsoring societies, was determined to be one of the most novel and cutting-edge abstracts submitted.
Banner Spring Season for UA Livestock Judging Team

Members of the 2015 Livestock Judging Team had a banner spring season competing in five contests and setting several new school records. Members of the 2015 Livestock Judging Team include Samantha Balland (Junior, Public Health and Animal Sciences), Zane Gouker (Junior, Animal Sciences), Mallory Mejia (Sophomore, Animal Sciences), Mitchell Neilson (Junior, Animal Sciences), and Brianna Peraza (Junior, Animal Sciences) along with their coach Dan Kiesling (Lecturer, ACBS).

The season started in Phoenix at the Arizona National, where the team finished fifth. Brianna Peraza placed sixteenth overall individually. The team set a school record for reasons (1407pts) and scored the second highest point total for cattle (1635pts) and sheep/goats (1496pts) in school history.

In January, at the National Western in Denver, Colorado, the team placed twenty-second overall. Brianna Peraza earned the fourth highest reasons score in school history, taking a 349 that day. Besides the livestock contest, the National Western also hosts an all cattle carload contest. The contest involves six classes of four groups of cattle. The team placed twenty-first overall and set the tenth highest school team record with 1392pts.

In February, the team traveled to a chilly San Antonio contest and finished ninth overall. Zane Gouker placed twentieth in sheep. The students had a very successful day setting many school records in all divisions. All five members earned their place in school history for top ten scores in cattle, goats and overall divisions. Brianna Peraza set a school record with an overall score of 914pts and talked a 353 that day, also setting a school record for reasons. The team set school records for the cattle (1532pts), goats (1136pts), reasons (1664pts) and overall (4396pts) divisions.

The spring season ended at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, where the team placed twenty-second. The team posted the fourth highest cattle score (1940pts), fourth highest sheep/goats score (1234pts) and fifth highest reasons score (1626pts) in school history.

The 2015 Livestock Judging Team will be back to finish out the year in the fall with five competitions. The Western Classic in Medford, Oregon, the Tulsa State Fair, the Texas State Fair in Dallas, the Fresno Fair and the North American International in Louisville, Kentucky.

- Dan Kiesling
UA Livestock Judging Team Coach

Students Represent University of Arizona at National Beef Convention.

School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences students, Zach MacFarlane, Katrina Batroff, Cierra Geyer and Colt Knight attended the 117th Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association’s Trade Show February 4th – 7th in San Antonio, Texas. Record cattle prices generated high spirits among convention goers, as well as record attendance, with over 7,000 people registered to attend. The Cattle Industry Convention is the oldest and largest convention for the cattle business. This annual event caters to both cattle ranchers and ranching businesses alike and creates a place for cattle industry members to come together to network and create policy for the industry.

As convention attendees, students had the opportunity to attend a variety of events focused on all aspects of the cattle industry starting with the Cattlemen’s College, which serves to educate the ranching community on upcoming trends in the industry from health, economic and political perspectives. Throughout the convention attendees enjoyed catered breakfasts, lunches and dinners, in addition to painting demonstrations from nationally recognized artist Eric Wahl, speeches from TV personalities such as Shepard Smith, and live performances from comedian Jeff Foxworthy and western swing band, Asleep at the Wheel. Students even had the opportunity to meet fellow Arizona resident and premier cowboy poet, Baxter Black. After all the symposia, meetings and exhibitions were done for the day, attendees gathered to socialize on San Antonio’s scenic Riverwalk located directly beside the Alamo.

While the students did enjoy their time at the convention, they were there first and foremost, to promote the University of Arizona and the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences. Students assisted with the ACBS trade show booth where they visited with attendees and provided information on the educational opportunities available through the UA ACBS program. They also had valuable time to network with cattle related businesses from across the nation for prospective internships and possible future employment.

- Colt W. Knight
ACBS PhD Student

The University of Arizona
Recent ACBS Faculty Publications


Recent or Upcoming ACBS Abstract Presentations


Annual ACBS Poster Session

Students present faculty mentored research.

The 4th Annual ACBS Research Poster Session, hosted by the University of Arizona Microbiology Club, was held from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm on April 29th, 2015 on the second floor of the Veterinary Science and Microbiology building. Staff, graduate students, and undergraduate participants in the presentation of the research they have been conducting under the supervision of their faculty at the University of Arizona. Any topic appropriate to the veterinary science, animal science, or microbiology disciplines broadly conceived – was welcomed.

Faculty, staff, and students were invited to join us for light refreshments and to view all of the hard work completed throughout the academic year on display. The Microbiology Club began holding their annual scientific poster session at the end of the 2012 spring semester, to give University of Arizona students the opportunity to present their faculty mentored research related to sciences promoting a one health initiative. Each year has resulted in a strong turnout with no fewer than 20 participants from across multiple disciplines on campus. More information about past poster sessions and the Microbiology Club can be found at microua.weebly.com.

- Kate Johansen
Microbiology Club Advisor

ACBS Graduate Students

The School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences offers two majors for graduate students, Animal Science and Microbiology. Both programs lead to MS or PhD degrees. Numerous opportunities exist for course work and research in either area of study. With this flexibility students are able to work with faculty to incorporate their individual research interests and career goals into their plans of study.

ACBS Director, Dr. André-Denis Wright meets with ACBS Graduate Students. Back row: Dr. André-Denis Wright, Kamini Joshi, Zach McFarlane, Katrina Battroff, Rebecca Mcquaide, Farhan Anwar, Jennifer Rutkas, Xavier Ortiz, Mohammed Pilevar, Colt Knight. Front row: Gustavo Pinoargoite, Arlette Schneider, Shylaja Ramamurthy, Matt McBride Not pictured: Courtney Burger, Andrew Clark, Melissa Davis, Melanie Dornonville de la Court, Caroline Foy, Dan Kiesling, Amy Kelly, Ellen Kuenmp, John McMullen, Rousel Orozco, Aishwarya Rao, Lindsay Rasmussen, Monique Torres and Shelby Wendel.

ACBS Graduate Students
Anivax Licenses UA - Developed Poultry Vaccine

Collaborative effort should reduce colonization by Campylobacter and lower incidence of human disease.

Anivax and the University of Arizona have announced an agreement to license several technologies developed in a broad-based collaborative effort between the UA and Arizona State University. The license is for a revolutionary Campylobacter food safety vaccine designed to be administered to poultry to reduce colonization by the bacteria and ultimately lower the incidence of human disease and associated conditions.

The team of inventors includes individuals from both institutions, including: Bibiana Law, associate research professor in the UA School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Anivax’s chief science officer; Alexandra Armstrong, assistant research scientist in the UA School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Food Safety Consortium chair and Anivax’s VP of research; Michael Anderson, Anivax’s VP of products with 25 years of vaccine commercialization experience; and Roy Curtiss III, of the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University.

Over the past week, Anivax has signed licenses with both the UA and ASU, with each license covering multiple pieces of intellectual property, or IP, and each being an essential ingredient of the novel vaccine process. ASU provided the IP for the delivery mechanism — known as the “vector” — for the Campylobacter antigens. The antigens were discovered at the UA, and thus required a separate license.

The license for the UA IP was facilitated by Tech Launch Arizona, the cabinet-level office of the university dedicated to commercializing the inventions emanating from research. Tod McCauley, licensing manager for Tech Launch Arizona and the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, helped negotiate the UA license. According to McCauley, “This team is comprised of the leading Campylobacter researchers in the world. It has been exciting to watch the group take important steps towards commercialization.”

“Commercialization.”

The University of Arizona 9
**UA Academic Advising Award**

*Students nominate ACBS academic advisor.*

Excellent academic advising contributes to the overall improvement of the educational environment at the University of Arizona. To highlight the importance of the service academic advisors provide, the University Academic Advising Council (UAAC) annually recognizes three UA academic advisors for excellence in their work. One of the award recipients for the 2014-2015 academic year is ACBS Senior Academic Advisor, Kathryn (Kate) Johansen.

In her position, Kate serves as the Microbiology Graduate Program Coordinator and as an undergraduate major advisor for both Microbiology and Veterinary Science majors. She also teaches MIC 195F: Plagues, Peoples, and Society and MIC 195G: Careers in Microbiology, and serves as the staff sponsor for the Microbiology Club.

Kate brings a unique perspective to her advising having received both her Bachelor and Master’s degrees in Microbiology at the University of Arizona. Having academic and professional experience in the areas in which she is advising, gives her a better understanding of what a student is experiencing and an improved ability to assist them in finding their best academic and career path. With nearly five years serving as an academic advisor, Kate finds “The most gratifying part of being an advisor is when a student leaves your office declaring how much better they feel and how less worried they are after planning their academic or professional careers with you.”

The annual academic advising awards program is administered by the Recognition Committee of the University Academic Advising Council (UAAC). The Recognition Committee is comprised of faculty, staff and student representatives. While colleagues and supervisors can nominate an advisor for recognition, the majority of nominations are from students.

About her nomination Kate says “It is incredibly rewarding to be recognized through student nominations for all of the hard work we put in as advisors. Having been chosen for the award by a committee of advising professionals is icing on the cake.”

As a recipient of this award Kate received an award plaque and $500 presented at the UA Program for Excellence in Academic Advising year end celebration on May 7th. In addition, all three university award winners will be submitted by the UA for the National Academic Advising Association’s advising awards program.

In receipt of this award, Kate would like to thank Kristen Geary and Nancy Rodriguez-Lorta from CALS, all of the CALS Agvisors for sharing their best practices and support, the ACBS faculty, staff and students, and her co-advisor Christina Garcia.

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**Promotions & Tenure**

ACBS is pleased to announce Dr. Michael Riggs has been promoted to Professor beginning July 1, 2015. This advancement recognizes the value of his research, teaching and advising, as well as his service to the University and to ACBS.

**ACBS Awards**

*At the end of each academic year, ACBS recognizes members for their hard work and dedication. Award winners are nominated and voted on by ACBS faculty, staff and students. Congratulations to all of the 2014-2015 honorees.*

**Outstanding Graduate Student in Research**

Gustavo Pinoargote and Arlette Schneider

**Outstanding Graduate Student in Teaching**

Lindsay Rasmussen

**Outstanding Faculty in Research**

Sadhana Ravishankar

**Outstanding Faculty in Teaching**

Michael W. Riggs

**Outstanding Faculty in Extension**

Dan Faulkner

**Outstanding Staff in Research**

Debbie Schaefer

**Outstanding Staff**

Kate Johansen

**Above and Beyond Award**

Aurora Plascencia

Dan Faulkner

Wanda McCormack

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**CALS Outstanding Staff Award**

*Hard work of ACBS staff member recognized.*

The second quarter College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) Outstanding Staff Award has been awarded to ACBS staff member Adriana Prado. Adriana began her career with the University of Arizona in 2010 as an Accounting Specialist and through her conscientious work ethic and attention to detail over the last nearly five years has worked her way up to Accountant, Senior.

Adriana was born and raised in Oruro, Bolivia. She moved to Virginia Beach, VA in 2003, where she lived until moving to Tucson. Adriana graduated from Strayer University with a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration. About working at the UA Adriana says, “I am very happy to be part of the University of Arizona and the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences. Working here has been a great learning experience and I’m very happy to work with people who are passionate about their jobs.”

The Outstanding Staff Award was created to recognize and honor unusual dedication and outstanding contributions by a classified staff member in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). As the recipient of this award, Adriana received a check for $350 and a plaque, which was presented at the CALS Fall Staff Meeting on December 2, 2014.
Ten Years of ALIRT

The Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team Continues to Provide a Valuable Resource to Arizona Livestock Producers.

On Friday, March 27th and Saturday, March 28th in Tucson, Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT) First Responders, Committee Members and supporters came together to attend the ALIRT 10 Year Anniversary Celebration and First Responder Training Workshop.

The first day of the workshop included presentations on what the ALIRT program has accomplished, reviewed how the program has evolved and evaluated how ALIRT can continue to provide a valuable service to Arizona Livestock Producers. Following the presentations, a reception and awards dinner were held to recognize some of the founding members of ALIRT and acknowledge the commitment the ALIRT First Responders have made to the program. Founding members Dr. Bob Kattning (retired Associate Specialist), Dave Hartman (retired ALIRT chairman and cattle producer), Don Butler (retired Director, Arizona Department of Agriculture) and Charles “Doc” Lane (retired lobbyist for the Arizona Cattle Growers Association) were presented with ALIRT Pioneer Awards for their dedication and perseverance in the formation of the ALIRT program.

On Saturday, the ALIRT First Responders convened at the University of Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to receive updates to their response kits, practice proper sample collection and packaging, as well as the use of personal protective equipment. Responders worked in teams on a series of necropsy exercises led by UA Extension Veterinarian, Dr. Peder Cuneo and AzVDL Pathologist, Dr. Bob Glock.

The Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team was implemented in late 2004 through the efforts of the Arizona Cattlemen’s Association, the University of Arizona and the Arizona Department of Agriculture with support from other individuals and agencies. This innovative program was the first of its kind and became the model for programs in other states. It is based on private veterinary practitioners, extension specialists, Arizona Diagnostic Laboratory personnel, UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and other experts (e.g. plant, range, animal, wildlife) providing services to livestock producers working via the coordination of the ALIRT Committee. The purpose of the ALIRT program is to enhance surveillance for livestock disease, including foreign animal disease, in rural Arizona. The program also enhances the response to unusual disease events and death loss in commercial livestock, especially beef cattle and increases educational efforts on agro-bio-terrorism and bio-security across the state. ALIRT Committee members include representatives of Arizona Cattle Producers, the Arizona Cattlemen’s Association, the University of Arizona, the Arizona Department of Agriculture, USDA – Wildlife Services, USDA-APHIS and Arizona Game and Fish.

New ACBS Employees

Samantha Biffar
Assistant Farm Manager

Sam began her position with the UA in January 2015. As Assistant Farm Manager she teaches riding, horse care and horse training classes, attends to the daily health needs of the UA horses, as well as assists with foaling out. Prior to coming to the UA, Sam taught Animal Science at Sabino High School and worked as head trainer at Rancho Bosque in Tucson, Arizona. She received her BA degree in Liberal Studies from CalPoly University where she competed on the rodeo team in barrel racing.

About working for the UA, Sam says “This is the career I have worked so hard for my entire life. If you were to ask my mother when I started with horses, she would say “I was born on a horse” I have dedicated my life to these animals. To be at the University level with them and the students to learn, share and become a better horseman every day, is a dream come true.”

Sam’s office is located at the UA Equine Center and she can be reached at sbiffar@email.arizona.edu or 520-318-7159.

Andrea Grantham
Histotechnologist, Senior

As a histotechnologist in Dr. Zelieann Craig’s lab, Andrea prepares tissue for processing, then processes, embeds and sections tissue for research projects. She holds an AA in Medical Laboratory Technology, as well as a BS in Business (Marketing). Prior to working with ACBS Andrea worked in many clinical labs around the country performing histology, including over 15 years as a Research Specialist Senior with the UA College of Medicine Histology Core Lab. Although officially retired, Andrea finds her new position “gives me an opportunity to be on campus occasionally, to use my skills on a part time basis and still enjoy being retired.”

Andrea can be contacted at algranth@email.arizona.edu.

Lucas Guthrie
System’s Administrator

Lucas was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona. He received a BA degree in History as well as Media Arts from the University of Arizona. He has worked for the UA in various positions for the last 20 years including positions with the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, the Department of Entomology, the Cancer Center, the Department of History, the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the School of Nursing and the School of Architecture.

About working for ACBS Lucas says “I’m really excited about being part of a new School and what that entails. ACBS is a totally different culture from anywhere I have been before and it is always fun learning the specific needs and desires of a new group.”

As System’s Administrator, Lucas maintains and updates the technology infrastructure of ACBS, as well as assists faculty, staff and students with any technology problems. Lucas can be reached at lucasg@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-4430 or just stop by room 233 in the Veterinary Science Building.
Congratulations to ACBS Graduating Seniors

Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences Graduates.

Fall 2014 ACBS Graduates

Animal Sciences
Laun W Hall, PhD
Dana J Baker, BS - Animal Industry
George Campos, BS
Sophia Jung-Sook Gong, BS
Richard Mclane Hendriks, BS - RTIP
Gabriela Marie Hernandez, BS - Equine
Mariana J Hudson, BS - Sci & Pre-professional
Christian P Murillo, BS - Equine
Jamie Lynn Nevarez, BS
Rachel Lynn Williams, BS - Equine

Microbiology
Shivanna Johnson, MS
Noor Jasim Al Aboodi, BS
Brittany Michelle Brown, BS - Honors
Angela J Cornella, BS
Christopher Robert Fisette, BS
Ronald Humberdo Flores, BS
Brenna M Garrett, BS
Angelina Jeanette Green, BS
Porsha Grier, BS
Mariana Hernandez, BS
Chester Ho, BS
Akouvi Kouedjin, BS
Asad Mansoor, BS - Honors
Robert M Tickes, BS - Honors

Veterinary Science
Emily Alnutt, BS
Skyler A Bentley, BS
Schuyler Nathaniel Burns, BS - Honors
Brianne Lynn Hardy, BS
Christina Michelle Jeffries, BS
Randi Leigh Thomas, BS - Honors
Sophia Valdez, BS
Tao Zhang, BS

Spring 2015 ACBS Graduates

Animal Sciences
Katrina Batroff, BS
Zachary McFarlane, MS
Kylie Ancil, BS - Honors - Animal Industry
Kate Appleton, BS - Sci & Pre-professional
Andrea Castillo, BA - Animal Industry
Sandra Childress, BS - RTIP
Gina Dance, BS - Animal Industry
Caline Gottwald, BS - Animal Industry
Samantha Hall, BS - Animal Industry
Alexandra Hayes, BS - Animal Industry
Alexa Hollingsworth, BS - Sci & Pre-professional
Benjamin Johnson BS - Animal Industry
Lisa Kartchner, BS - Animal Industry
Taylor Kirby, BS - RTIP
Faye Leeressen, BS
Stephanie Norton, BS - Sci & Pre-professional
Randy Olson, BS - RTIP
Alejandro Ortega, BS - Animal Industry
Michael Poindexter, BS - Sci & Pre-professional
Benjamin Saylor, BS - Sci & Pre-professional
Nicholas Shen, BS - Sci & Pre-professional
Stephanie Williamson, BS - Equine

Microbiology
Joshua Albertson, BS
Laura Anderson, BS
Cody Blagg, BS - Honors
Gabriella Bracamonte, BS
Molly Brady, BS
Andrew Delgado, BS
Cassandra Doig, BS
Megan Doney, BS
Autumn Dopko, BS
Ariel Friel, BS
Jason Frink, BS
Sterling Frisina, BS
Thomas Gleason, BS - Honors
Lindsey Griesser, BS
Hannah Griffin, BS
Max Holland, BS
Shanan Iimmel, BS
Magdalena Kedzior, BS
Joshua Kochanowsky, BS
Keith Lammers, BS
Danielle LaPointe, BS
Quinea Lassiter, BS
Michael Lecompte, BS
Cindy Lee, BS
Beatriz Lona, BS
Keren Loya, BS
Briana Mawson, BS
Christopher Miller, BS
Anyangatat Ndobegang, BS
Hyeonu Oh, BS
Aaron Pearse, BS
Alexandra Petersen, BS - Honors
Lee Peyton, BS
Kimberly Pham, BS
Brian Piotrowski, BS
Nida Raja, BS - Honors
Jorge Ramos, BS
Eric Rebello, BS
Ryko Reece-Gomez, BS
Danielle Riba, BS

Peter Rice, BS
Alexandra Roder, BS - Honors
Alexa Rossi, BS
Stephanie Sandoval, BS
Emily St. Antoine, BS
Breanna Tai, BS
Rodney Tollerson, BS - Honors
Crystel Vaflor, BS
Elizabeth Valdivia, BS
Janine Vanlandingham, BS
Jonathan Verschave, BS

Veterinary Science
Abdulrahman Al-Saleh, BS
Sarah Ashburn, BS
Miriam Barnes, BS
Philip Bauer, BS - Honors
Gabrielle Bruggeman, BS - Honors
Camila Carvajal Kottmann, BS
Alexis Cervantes, BS
Chase Cromwell, BS
Cassidy Danbury, BS
Erica Donegan, BS - Honors
Joseph Douthit, BS
Kelly Driggs, BS
Jessica Felix, BS
Renee Fisher, BS
Luke Fitch, BS
Monique Garcia, BS
Caitlin Johnson, BS
Melissa Kight, BS
Kaitlin Knerr, BS
Gretchen Koch, BS
Audrey Langhorst, BS
Victoria Lowe, BS
Stacy McIntosh, BS
Hannah Michalski, BS - Honors
Zachary Millman, BS - Honors
Meisha Mychajlonka BS - Honors
Monique Nunez, BS
Yvette Sepulveda, BS
Allison Shultz, BS
Lauren Smith, BS - Honors
Michael Soto, BS
Sydney St. Clair, BS - Honors
Kylie Stinar, BS
Mitchel Stover, BS
Michael Sugimoto, BS
Courtney Sykos, BS
Heather Thomas, BS
Jahaira Vera, BS
Jasmine Wallace, BS
Christina Yamada, BS