Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Let me express a warm welcome to our incoming freshmen and our returning students, I hope that you all have a very successful semester and academic year ahead.

This year, our school has continued its amazing journey of discovery, opportunity and rebuilding. We’ve hired four new faculty: Dr. Frank Duca (Assistant Professor, Gastrointestinal Microbiology), Dr. Koenraad Van Doorslaer (Assistant Professor, Virology), Dr. Alexandra Armstrong (Assistant Professor of Practice, Microbiology), and Dr. Luise King (Assistant Professor of Practice, Veterinary Science), and we hired a new Livestock Judging Coach, Ms. Carmen McConnel, who also serves as our new Animal Science Academic Advisor. Welcome to the ACBS family Frank and Koenraad, and welcome again Alex, Luise, and Carmen. We are very fortunate to have all of you here.

Congratulations to our award winning faculty, staff, and graduate students, including ACBS Professor Emeritus Dr. Donald Lightner for receiving the Medal of Distinction for his outstanding service to veterinary science and to the OIE, Dr. Bibiana Law for receiving the I-Squared Inventors Award for Agriculture & Life Sciences, Dr. Sam Garcia for receiving the Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association Post-Secondary Educator Award, Christina Garcia for receiving the UA Program for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising Award for 2016, Doctoral student Caroline Geisler (née Foy) for receiving an University Fellows Award, Amy Kelly for receiving the Pfizer-SRI President’s Presenter’s Award at the Society for Reproductive Investigation (SRI) annual scientific meeting in Montreal, Canada, and to graduate Samantha Withers for receiving the Kathryn Anne Governal Perseverance Award.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter, it is packed full of exciting news and information about our outstanding faculty, staff, and students, and our academic program. To all of our readers, thank you for your continued support and please follow us on Facebook and Twitter. 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 Be sure to designate the funds by selecting other and typing in ACBS.

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.
Dr. Koenradd “Vanni” Van Doorslaer is the new Assistant Professor of Virology. He will be teaching Medical Virology as well as designing a new class focused on programming for Biology. About coming to the University of Arizona he says, “The scientific environment at the UA is excellent, and I look forward to interacting with students, staff, and faculty.”

Dr. Van Doorslaer was born in Mechelen, Belgium, which is located between Antwerp and Brussels. He received his BS and MS degrees from the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium. He then went on to receive his PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York. For his postdoctoral work, he joined the NIH laboratory of Dr. Alison McBride. His current research focus is the observation that only a limited subset of human papillomaviruses causes cancer. About his research he says, “Throughout my studies I have used a combination of biochemical assays and computational analyses to understand why evolutionarily related viruses differ in their ability to cause cancer in humans.” He will continue his work on viruses and cancer at the UA and says, “I know it is cliché, but I have always wanted to run my own lab and do my part in training the next generation of scientists.”

Dr. Frank Duca joins the University of Arizona faculty as Assistant Professor of Gastrointestinal Microbiology. His previous postdoctoral research work, done in Dr. Tony Lam’s laboratory at the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, focused on the role of the gut-brain axis in the control of glucose homeostasis, with an emphasis on the role of intestinal sensing of antidiabetic agents, namely metformin and resveratrol. During that time, he published two first-author Nature Medicine articles, as well as several other co-authored papers and first- and senior-author reviews. He also received the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship, one of the most prestigious fellowship in Canada.

Prior to his doctoral work, Dr. Duca received his BS in Bioengineering, and his MS in Nutritional Sciences, both from The Pennsylvania State University. He completed his PhD in Physiology and Pathophysiology at Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris, France.

The primary research in his laboratory at the UA will explore the effect of specific changes in the gut microbiota and paracrine and endocrine signals originating in the intestinal tract on the development of diabetes and obesity. Dr. Duca is currently working on NIH, ADA, and USDA grants for next year. Along with his research, Dr. Duca will also be teaching classes.

“I am very excited about setting up a productive and successful lab in the coming year” says Duca. He goes on to say, “I am also excited about being a part of such an esteemed and successful university, where I foresee many positive collaborations that will potentially yield high-impact research.”

Please help ACBS in welcoming these two talented additions to our faculty. Dr. Van Doorslaer and Dr. Duca began their positions at the University of Arizona on September 12th.
About 30 4-Hers from Nogales, Arizona, visited the University of Arizona campus, and the Campus Agricultural Center for the very first 4-H STEM Discovery on Monday, August 1st.

“We like to come to Tucson to introduce kids to the U of A, it gets them excited about becoming a future Wildcat, and to show them the different sciences that are part of every day life,” says Amanda Zamudio, Assistant Agent in 4-H Youth Development in Santa Cruz County.

Zamudio collaborated with Dr. Jerry Lopez, Arizona 4-H’s new STEM Extension Specialist, to bring students from Santa Cruz County, for the all-day camp.

“It gave the kids the opportunity to see themselves here,” says Lopez. “There’s a barrier that a lot of kids from underserved areas see; they may see college as insurmountable, too overwhelming to achieve, but now they see themselves here. They’re here on campus, and it’s more realistic and attainable,” Lopez says.

Middle-schoolers, high-schoolers, and even a few community college students, were able to visit campus labs to learn about plant sciences, food safety, and even viewed Gram Stains of hand bacteria under microscopes with Lopez’s own research group.

Students were also able to observe farm animals at the Campus Agricultural Center – including horses, pigs and sheep, learn about the importance of the dairy industry, and even see cattle being vaccinated.

Students, including 14-year-old high school Freshman Jenny Peraza, “loved it”.

“I think it’s very interesting. I saw pigs and sheep... It’s really fascinating because they tell you lots of interesting things... you don’t know everything about the animals you see around... It’s nice to know a little bit more,” Peraza says.

“I like 4-H because I learn things that I didn’t know and it helps in your usual daily life. For example, if I want to be a farmer, I need to know things... this will help me learn all about this. I’m fascinated with animals... I think I want a career with animals,” Peraza says.

Peraza hopes to attend other camps...something Lopez is working toward by building partnerships with other Colleges across Campus.

“We’re hoping from this exposure students will choose an area they’re interested in, or more interested in, and then this coming summer attend a 3-4 day camp at the U of A,” Lopez says.

“We expose them to different areas of STEM and different majors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences... we were able to visit two main departments, the Plant Sciences Department, and the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences. We’re able to open up the perspectives of different areas of STEM. With the high school students, especially, we’re getting them to start understanding college and make that first connection,” Lopez says.

He says he’s also hoping to plan another STEM day camp possibly in September, and acknowledges this camp took a big effort, with many moving parts.

“There’s a lot of great people out there who helped. It’s a collective effort,” Lopez says.

“I want to thank Dr. Duarte Diaz, Ashley Wright, Kyle Nicol and his team, and Kacee Richardson who provided the sessions in Dairy, Livestock, and Equine respectively; Dr. Sadhana Ravishankar’s research group who demonstrated their research projects on food safety, Dr. Ravi Palanivelu’s team who illustrated the importance of pollen in plants, and my group for demonstrating Gram staining of hand bac,” Lopez says.

“This STEM experience could not have been possible without Amanda Zamudio and her team making the effort to bring their 4-Hers to the UA,” Lopez says.

Zamudio says support came from others, as well.

“Funding for the trip was made possible through the 4-H National Mentoring Program, sponsored by O.J.J.D.P. or the Office of Juvenile Justice and Detention Prevention and the National 4-H Council,” Zamudio says.

- UA Cooperative Extension

Link to original article: https://extension.arizona.edu/first-4-h-stem-discovery-camp-ua
‘Beef Quality Assurance’ Classes Benefit Consumers and Producers

Classes teach best business practices and humane animal treatment.

For the first time in Arizona, a class offered by Cooperative Extension for people who work with cattle, is being offered in Spanish.

The “Beef Quality Assurance” class teaches best practices, and humane animal treatment to workers who handle cows that will eventually be beef.

“We’re really trying to do a lot of training for producers to reduce the incidence of lesions, injection site problems, those type of things, for meat quality. We also have an animal care component, so we’re trying to be sure people are humanely treating their animals,” says Dr. Dan Faulkner, Beef Extension Specialist and head of the program.

“If you go back 20 years ago, about 30 percent of top sirloin had injection site lesions. It’s not a health problem, but it’s scar tissue, from vaccines. There’s a conscious effort to move injection sites from intermuscular, to subcutaneous, under the skin,” says Faulkner.

“We’ve documented adding value to beef for the consumer,” says Faulkner.

Recently, ranchers who supply beef to consumers in Arizona requested the classes be offered in Spanish.

Dr. Sam Garcia, an Assistant Professor of Practice and Manager of the University of Arizona Food Products and Safety Lab, located at the Campus Agriculture Center, teaches the ‘BQA’ class in Spanish and works frequently with Cooperative Extension.

“There’s a lot of people, especially in this part of the world, that speak Spanish and who are working at these ranches,” says Garcia. “Some information is not translated. It’s important that the people doing the work understand.”

“We also teach something as simple as don’t leave your vaccines on top of your trucks, make sure it’s refrigerated,” says Garcia.

“Let’s say you’re giving an injection, and it’s given in the wrong place, you can lose money on that piece of meat,” says Garcia. That loss of money can be passed on to the consumer.

One local cattle broker and rancher says he thinks the ‘BQA’ classes benefit consumers and producers.

Alvaro Carranza lives in Tucson, is a graduate of the University of Arizona, has a ranch in Sonora, and is also a cattle broker, and he’s been ranching most of his life.

Carranza has taken the class in English, took the Spanish class, as well, and says the classes taught by Faulkner and Garcia are helpful.

“Whatever we can learn in these classes that helps us improve the quality and food safety of our product, will benefit the consumer, as well as our industry,” says Carranza.

“A lot of our employees’ first language is Spanish. There’s always something lost in translation, so if it’s in their native tongue, by a native speaker, the meaning gets out,” Carranza says.

Classes are held in numerous locations around Arizona including Willcox, Tucson, Marana, Prescott, Seligman and the Navajo and Apache reservations.

The majority of classes are scheduled during the fall and spring to coordinate with county beef association meetings and auctions.

Producers may also contact Beef Extension about hosting a class in their area.

Cooperative Extension is able to offer the classes for free, except for a $5 fee that covers materials, thanks to various partnerships.

“It’s a joint effort, with the Cattlemen’s Association, Beef Council, the Department of Agriculture, and University of Arizona Cooperative Extension,” says Faulkner.

To learn more about Beef Quality Assurance classes, head to the Beef Extension web page.  http://acbs.cals.arizona.edu/bqa

Link to original article: http://uacals.org/4ie
Students nominate ACBS academic advisor.

Please join us in congratulating Christina Garcia for receiving the UA Program for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising Award for 2016. This university-wide advising award recognizes academic advisors for their outstanding work.

In her position, Christina serves as the Graduate Program Coordinator for both the Animal Sciences and the Animal & Biomedical Industries programs, as well as Undergraduate Student Advisor for Veterinary Science and Animal Science majors. She also serves as the staff sponsor for the VIDA Club and assists with the Collegiate Livestock Growers.

Christina received both her Bachelor and Master’s degrees in Animal Science from the University of Arizona.

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 Christina says, “I feel very honored that my colleagues chose me for this award, but what really means the most is that in order to be selected for this award you must be nominated by students. When the students nominate an advisor, they must explain how the advisor goes above and beyond. The reasons that my students listed really made the extra things I try to do for them worth it, because they were appreciative for the advising I give them.”

As a recipient of this award Christina received an award plaque and $500 presented at the UA Program for Excellence in Academic Advising year end celebration. 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, Christina would like to thank “Kate Johansen, who when I first started, really helped me learn the ropes around UA and ACBS. Then there are the CALS/CAS Academic Advisors (Kristen Geary and Nancy Rodriguez-Lorta) who still help with me with policy issues and other advising related issues. Lastly, I think the strong network of CALS advisors and their willingness to share best practices, has really shaped me as an advisor.”
Outreach Activities:
Dr. Sadhana Ravishankar and her graduate student, Aishwarya Rao, conducted food safety demonstrations for the local high school students (125 students) of Yuma at the Southwest Agricultural Summit, Yuma, AZ in February 2016. The demonstrations included information on foodborne illnesses, sources of contamination in the production environments, prevention of cross-contamination and natural ways to control foodborne pathogenic bacteria.

Dr. Ravishankar’s research team conducted food safety demonstrations for the local community at the Lettuce Days, Yuma, AZ in February 2016. The demonstrations included information on foodborne illnesses, sources of contamination in the domestic kitchen, simple ways to prevent cross-contamination in the kitchen and natural ways to control foodborne pathogenic bacteria.

Dr. Ravishankar and her graduate students attended the Supplier’s Night hosted by the Cactus-Institute of Food Technologists in Phoenix, AZ in April 2016, and conducted food safety demonstrations. The graduate students, Joshua Albertson, Monique Torres, Kamini Joshi and Aishwarya Rao, presented posters on their research which were judged by Food Industry Professionals. Aishwarya Rao won first place in the poster competition and Kamini Joshi won second place.

Dr. Ravishankar and her research group participated in 2 programs for local school students: a) the USDA Ag Discovery Tour for Arizona high school students in June 2016 organized by Tanya Hodges; and b) the 4-H STEM Discovery Camp for middle and high school students in August 2016 organized by Dr. Gerardo Lopez. The students were given a demonstration of various food safety projects including, bioluminescent imaging, probiotics in aquaculture, natural interventions for organic leafy greens and coring tools, sensory analysis of organic leafy greens, isolation of antibiotic resistant bacteria from meat animals, and antimicrobial/anticarcinogenic activities of plant compounds in grilled meats.

Awards:
Stacy Suarez, an undergraduate student in the Ravishankar Lab, participated in Prozkoumat! A Parasitology Research Experience in the Czech Republic for undergraduate students in Summer 2016, via the UBRP. Kamini Joshi, a graduate student in the Ravishankar Lab, won the Meritorious Graduate Teaching Assistant Award for Microbiology.

New Faces:
Ashish Prasad, a high school student of Catalina Foothills High School, began working in the Ravishankar lab in Summer 2016. Haley Evans, an undergraduate student majoring in Microbiology, joined the lab in Spring 2016.

Recent Activities in the Ravishankar Laboratory
Outreach events educate the public on food safety issues and encourage students to consider microbiology career paths.

Clockwise from upper left: 4-H STEM Discovery Camp; Dr. Ravishankar at the Supplier’s Night hosted by the Cactus-Institute of Food Technologists; Dr. Ravishankar gives a demonstration to students at the USDA Ag Discovery Tour for Arizona; Poster session during the Supplier’s Night hosted by the Cactus-Institute of Food Technologists. Photos provided by Dr. Ravishankar.

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Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory Update

The UA Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory is an OIE Reference Laboratory for 5 Shrimp Diseases.

The Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory (APL) is an OIE (Office International des Epizooties or World Animal Health) Reference Laboratory and a USDA APHIS Approved Laboratory for testing of live shrimp and other products intended for export. The services provided by the APL include disease diagnostics, surveillance and reference lab services from the main diagnostic lab, quarantine and disease challenge services at the West Campus Aquaculture facility, and technical services and training to governments, companies and aquaculture cooperatives located in the United States, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Oceania and in east and southeast Asia.

The APL also carries out a variety of applied research projects for USA-based and foreign companies. This includes quarantine and disease challenge studies to evaluate genetic gains in disease resistance to several OIE-listed shrimp virus diseases provided primarily to commercial shrimp breeding companies located in Hawaii and Florida. Research activities are aimed at developing new tests for shrimp disease diagnosis and for evaluating specific antibacterial and antiviral compounds.

OIE Award

During the opening of the 84th annual World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Convention in Paris, ACBS Professor Emeritus, Dr. Donald Lightner, was awarded the Medal of Distinction for his outstanding service to veterinary science and to the OIE (http://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/opening-of-the-84th-oie-general-session/).

OIE Twinning Project

The UA Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory (APL), an OIE Reference Laboratory for 5 shrimp diseases, and the Brackishwater Aquaculture Development Center (BADC)-Situbondo, one of the Indonesia Government Reference Diagnostic Laboratories for Aquaculture, have been paired together on an OIE Twinning Project. Laboratory twinning has been adopted by the OIE as a method for improving laboratory capacity and expertise in developing and in-transition countries. Indonesia is currently the second largest shrimp producer in the world. The main objective of the Twinning project with the APL is to assist the BADC in building its capacity and scientific expertise in diagnosis of shrimp diseases.

Each Twinning project is a partnership between an OIE Reference Laboratory, in this case the APL, and a Candidate Laboratory, the BADC. The Reference Laboratory provides the Candidate Laboratory with technical support, guidance and training. A strong relationship between the Reference Laboratory and the Candidate Laboratory is expected and ensures a flow of expertise that will benefit the Candidate Laboratory. Links should be formed between staff at all levels and the benefits from the Twinning project should be sustainable, remain long after the project has closed, and lead to the maintenance and further development of expertise in the region.

As part of the OIE Twinning project, the APL hosted a national workshop on shrimp disease diagnostics in Situbondo, Indonesia, May 22 - 27, 2016. The main objective of the workshop was to provide technical training in shrimp disease detection through PCR and histopathology to improve shrimp disease diagnostics in the Indonesian laboratories. Veterinarians and scientific staff from the various Indonesian Government Laboratories participated in this well-received workshop. APL participants included Dr. Kathy Tang-Nelson and Dr. Luis Fernando Aranguren.

2016 Shrimp Pathology Short-Course

For the last 25 years, shrimp pathology enthusiasts have trooped to the Sonoran desert with one mission, to participate in the Shrimp Pathology Short-Course. The 26th session was held on June 13-19, 2016, at the APL facilities. 18 participants from the United States, South Korea, Spain, Mexico, Thailand, Norway, Singapore, and Ecuador completed the course.

Faculty and staff from the APL who participated in this short course included Dr. Luis Fernando Aranguren, Dr. Jee Eun Han, Ms. Deborah Huie, Ms. Irina Maskaykina, Ms. Margeaux Schmidt, and Dr, Kathy Tang-Nelson. An opening address was provided by the ACBS School Director, Dr. André-Denis Wright.
Congratulations to ACBS Award Winners

Amy Kelly, a graduate student in Dr. Sean Limesand’s laboratory, presented “Identifying the Adrenergic Component of Intrauterine Growth Restriction in Fetal Pancreatic β Cells” in an oral presentation at the Society for Reproductive Investigation (SRI) annual scientific meeting. For her presentation, Amy was awarded the Pfizer-SRI President’s Presenter’s Award. The award both encourages young investigators to present their research at the meeting and to consider a research career. Fellows and those in both the pre and post-doctoral training are eligible to receive the award, which is generously funded by Pfizer. The meeting was held March 16 – 19, 2016 in Montreal, Canada.

Recipients of the Kathryn Anne Governal Perseverance Award are graduating seniors in the UA School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences who have demonstrated the most ability to persevere to graduate, while overcoming personal, economic or physical obstacles to earn their degree. The award is a gift from Dr. George J. Governal, Roberta T. Governal and Robert A. Governal. This year’s recipient is graduating senior Samantha Withers, seen here with Dr. George Governal. Samantha completed her BS in Microbiology.

Project CENTRL
Two ACBS members selected for CENTRL Class XXIV

The Center for Rural Leadership (Project CENTRL) is an intensive one-year educational program that gives selected individuals an exceptional personal and professional leadership development experience and inspires a life-long journey of rural Arizona leadership. With over 600 graduates since beginning in 1983, Project CENTRL’s impact on rural Arizona is significant and substantial as participants hold many leadership positions around the State. Project CENTRL is all about cultivating passionate educated leaders who provide a voice for and serve rural communities in Arizona.

Sixteen participants were selected for Class XXIV which held its first seminar June 17-18, at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield, Arizona. Over the next year, the new class will have six seminars held throughout Arizona, a public policy trip to Washington D.C. and an international study tour in Mexico.

Dr. Samuel Garcia is originally from Southern Arizona and comes from a cattle ranching family. Dr. Garcia attended the University of Arizona and graduated in 2013, with a PhD in Animal Science specializing in Meat Science. He currently serves as a faculty member in the UA School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences.

As an Assistant Professor of Practice, at the University of Arizona, Dr. Garcia teaches various courses in the area of Animal Science. The courses taught by Dr. Garcia range from intro level courses to advanced senior level courses. In addition to his teaching duties at the University of Arizona, he is an adjunct faculty member at Pima Community College.

Dr. Garcia is also the Manager of the UA Food Product and Safety Lab. Dr. Garcia directly assists in harvesting, fabrication and processing, and the sale of meat animals. This position allows him the opportunity to interact with and educate rural producers and community members on meat science and harvesting/processing procedures. Dr. Garcia is pleased to serve our rural Arizona community.

Carmen Marie McConnel is currently an Academic Advisor and Livestock Judging Coach for The University of Arizona. After graduating from The University of Arizona with a Bachelor’s of Science in Animal Science, she has been actively involved in the livestock industry for the past 4 years. Carmen is eager and honored to be a part of the XXIV class and serve as a leader in rural Arizona for years to come.

Project CENTRL is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to equipping and empowering leaders to meet the needs of rural Arizona. The program was developed by The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension under a seed grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and continues to operate in close partnership with the University of Arizona. Visit www.centrl.org for more information.

This year’s UA Department Award for Excellence was given to University Animal Care, which has the responsibility of caring for more than 20,000 animals a day. The department works to ensure the welfare of animals and researchers.
ACBS doctoral student Caroline Geisler (née Foy) has been awarded a University Fellows Award. The fellowship is part of the University Fellows Program and is offered to the University’s highest-ranked incoming doctoral and masters students. It is the flagship initiative of the UA Graduate Center.

Recipients of the fellowship receive a competitive financial package, professional development programming, mentoring and community engagement opportunities, and a richly interdisciplinary cohort. The goals of the University Fellows Program are to recruit the best students to the University of Arizona; develop interdisciplinary scholars, artists, and practitioners who are the next generation of leaders; and promote collaborative innovation on campus and throughout our broader communities.

Caroline grew up outside Dayton, OH and attended Miami University in Oxford, OH, where she earned a BS in zoology. She then attended the University of Arizona for her Master’s Degree in Animal Sciences. Her primary research interest is how metabolism and endocrinology impact systemic health, with a focus on liver physiology. Her masters’ work investigated how signaling by ketone bodies affect the hepatic adaptation to fasting, while her PhD project is working to understand how lipid accumulation in the liver drives pathophysiology common to obesity and diabetes, such as insulin resistance and hypertension.

Caroline is “grateful for receiving this award and excited about the opportunities that come with the fellowship program that I will get to experience.” She is most excited about meeting and working with graduate students outside her discipline. Caroline would like to thank her P.I. and mentor, Dr. Benjamin Renquist, for informing her of this fellowship program and opportunity as well as encouraging her to apply.

For more information on the University Fellows Program visit: http://gradcenter.arizona.edu/university-fellows-program

**I-Squared Awards Honor Impact, Innovation**

The third annual awards event hosted by Tech Launch Arizona, spotlighted those whose work affects the quality of life through research, collaboration and innovation.

Tech Launch Arizona’s third annual awards event honored those whose work directly affects the quality of life through research, collaboration and innovation — key elements in the University of Arizona’s land-grant mission and Never Settle strategic plan. The I-Squared Awards for Innovation and Impact were held at the UA Museum of Art on April 25, 2016.

Tech Launch Arizona, a presidential cabinet-level office of the UA, creates social and economic impact through bringing the inventions stemming from University research from the lab to the world.

David Allen, vice president of Tech Launch Arizona, emceed the event, and UA President Ann Weaver Hart offered her congratulations and helped present the awards.

In her comments, Hart reminded the audience of the UA’s commitment to applying new knowledge to today’s major challenges and questions and the importance of moving that knowledge out into the world.

“I was so very pleased to take part in TLA’s third annual awards event,” Hart said. “The UA and its partners are doing amazing work to advance research and its application to new products, businesses and industry. We are proud to recognize the dedication and talent of the innovators who are helping to create new knowledge and apply it to meet the challenges that we all face. I am incredibly proud of the impact that the UA has, and the honorees are among the University’s best in creating that impact.”

As in previous years, honors were given to individuals and teams in eight categories. Six awards were given to UA faculty, researchers and staff who have demonstrated excellence as inventors and effective Tech Launch Arizona partners. The Award for Agriculture & Life Sciences went to Dr. Bibiana Law, Associate Research Professor in the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Law’s research focuses on the vaccination of animals to reduce transmission of food-borne pathogens; vaccination of animals against diseases; and *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in the environment and foods. With others, she has developed a vaccine to reduce *Campylobacter* in chickens, and is also working on a vaccine to prevent dysentery in swine. She co-founded Anivax, a UA startup formulated to commercialize the *Campylobacter* vaccine.

“As much as it is a pleasure working with UA inventors and business and technology leaders in the broader community,” TLA’s Allen said, “it is particularly rewarding working with the recipients of the I-Squared Awards. These folks represent both excellence and exceptional partnership qualities.”

Reprinted from UA News, April 26, 2016

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**University of Arizona Fellows Program**

The University Fellows Program prepares the UA’s most distinguished graduate students to be the innovative leaders the world needs.

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For more information on the University Fellows Program visit: http://gradcenter.arizona.edu/university-fellows-program
Odyssey of the Mind Victory

Odyssey of the Mind is the largest international creative problem-solving competition in which elementary school students are challenged to solve problems ranging from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. Montana Wright, daughter of André and Milena Wright, was among seven 4th – 5th grade students at Manzanita Elementary School selected to form one of 55 teams worldwide to compete in Division 1. All teams around the world were given the same problem and were assessed on their creativity and ingenuity in solving the problem, without any parental or adult help. The 37th-annual Odyssey of the Mind World Finals (May 25-28, 2016) in Ames, Iowa, hosted more than 18,000 students, volunteers and officials, representing over 800 teams from across the globe. Montana's team finished 3rd in the world. At the local level, Montana's team finished second to Painted Sky Elementary School from Oro Valley. At the State level, Montana's team finished second in Arizona. Only the top two teams from the state level advanced to the World Finals so Painted Sky and Manzanita advanced to represent Arizona. At the World Finals, Montana's team finished third and Painted Sky finished eighth!

- Submitted by the ACBS Faculty

UA Mourns Loss of Dan Kiesling

At age 34, Daniel Kiesling passed away after a battle with lymphoma and hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis. Dan was active in 4-H, FFA, and student government throughout his high school years in Michigan. He served as President of the Michigan Association of FFA from 2000-2001. Dan received his Bachelor’s degree in Animal Science from Michigan State University and his Master’s degree from Iowa State University in Animal Science.

Daniel was an ACBS faculty member at the University of Arizona from 2010-2015. At the UA, his titles included Livestock Judging Coach, academic advisor, lecturer, and club advisor to the Collegiate Cattle/Livestock Growers Association. In 2015, Dan returned to Michigan, joining the faculty at Michigan State University in the Animal Science Department.

Daniel is survived by wife, Jessica; his parents, Dean and Linda Kiesling; his father and mother-in-law, Brian and Kathy Rohrig; his sister, brothers, nieces, nephews and several beloved aunts and uncles, cousins and many special friends.

Memorial contributions are suggested for an endowment in Dan’s name for the students and livestock judging team at Michigan State. Contributions can be directed to Michigan State University, Department of Animal Science, in memory of Dan Kiesling.
Congratulations to ACBS Graduates!

Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences Graduates.

Fall 2015 ACBS Graduates

Animal Sciences
Xavier Alejandro Ortiz de Janon, PhD
Jamie L Adams, BS
Jacqueline Cortney Ballam, BS
Honore Ann Bremer, BS
Shae Taylor Couch, BS
Samantha Franscine Cushman, BS
Spring A Evans, BS
Caline Grace Gottwald, BS
Annaliene Noel Hibbard, BS
Francesca Lucia Le Donne, BS
Samuel Alexander Lewis-Wright, BS
Robert Anthony Marsteller, BS
Randy Allen Olson II, BS
Justin L Rihard, BS
Raven Nicole Schellenberg, BS
Erica Lynne Zaborac, BS

Microbiology
John George McMullen II, MS
Chelsea C Adamson, BS
Aida Mani Garcia, BS
Deidra L Goldtooth, BS
Terrence Michael Peel-Charles, BS
David Luu Phu, BS
James E Thornton Jr, BS
Madison A Young, BS

Veterinary Science
Anna S Geissler, BS
Amber Nicole Johnston, BS
Aileen G Jordan, BS
Alexandria Belen Martinez, BS
Kiersten Ann Rheinschmidt, BS
Aryiel Roberts, BS
Darah L Sueme, BS

Spring 2016 ACBS Graduates

Animal Sciences
Colt Watson Knight, PhD
Lindsay Marie Rasmussen, MS
Mickey Kay Bagley, BS
Kinzer L Baker, BS
Stephani Lynn Bemiss, BS
Sierra Noelle Bracamonte, BS
Chelsea Durree Brown, BS
Nicolle Rose Chapman, BS
Hope Anna Christianson, BS
Sarah Auburn Crane, BS
Kaitlin Elaine Dickson, BS
Ashley Marie Ellis, BS
Alexis Marie Endicott, BS
Zane Steven Gouker, BS
Bridget Marie Grobosky, BS
Brook Renee Grobosky, BS
Anna Lena Hikler, BS
Toni Noel Martinez, BS
David P Matt, BS
Alyssa M Mazza, BS
Laurence Frank Myers, BS
Kaitlyn Christine Patterson, BS
Rachael Marie White, BS
Shelby Young, BS

Microbiology
Marlyn Alejandra Alvarado Lopez, BS
Aantika Namrita Balaji, BS
Cameron Jacob Birch, BS
Brody James Blackburn, BS
Jacob Matthew Blacutt, BS
Kylie Georgeanne Boardman, BS
Amaris Elizabeth Castellanos, BS
Courtney Nicole Coome, BS
Maya Laura Cross-Killingsworth, BS
James Timothy Dolan III, BS
Jasim Mohammad El-Ali, BS
Aidan Richard Foster, BS
Miranda Raye Gardner, BS
Celina Gomez, BS
Sidney Guthrie, BS
Kara Joy Jensen, BS
Ismail Ivan Jimenez, BS
Lacey Mae Jones, BS
John Michael Patinella, BS
Nicole Suzanne Paulat, BS
Victoria Rene Ramirez, BS
Gabriella V. Rivera, BS
Xavier Issac Rivera, BS
William Reid Robertson, BS
Dario Silva, BS
Samantha Rochelle Withers, BS

Veterinary Science
Nicole Paige Baker, BS
Hayli Shay Burdsal, BS
Marion Cambrelin, BS
Imani Miesha Carswell, BS
Katrina Marie Coronado, BS
Brittany Lauren Cotter, BS
Betty Anai Damian, BS
Cesar A Davila Jr, BS
Annise Margaret DeGonzague, BS
Lindsey A Dunn, BS
Emily Grace Franklin, BS
Lauren Taylor Garcia, BS
Ana Elizabeth Gonzalez, BS
Alison Marie Greaber, BS
Savannah Morgan Guca, BS
Kristen Abigail Hendrickson, BS
Madison Christine Horton, BS
Alexis Nicole Ivaneccky, BS
Erin Michelle Jones, BS
Tyler Edward Klee, BS
Kate Jo Ann Lamas, BS
Thomas Wyatt Langendorf, BS
Luke Eric Lehrling, BS
Sophia Josephine Leone, BS
Shannon Kelly Palmer, BS
Christina Ann Promer, BS
Gracie Paige Randolphi, BS
Megan Terese Rodriguez, BS
Stephanie Celeste Marietje Schiavone, BS
Whitney Marie Seng, BS
Chauncey Brooks Smith, BS
Isabella Grace Stepanovic, BS
Alyssa Shea Thomas, BS
Tara Diandre Tillotson, BS
Jessica Marie Wilson, BS
Aimee Marissa Mei Laun Wong, BS
Shawna Marie Wood, BS
UPCOMING EVENTS

September 27
Institute of Food Safety and Health
Annual Meeting
Burr Ridge, IL

October 14 - 16
Family Weekend
The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ
tfamilyweekend.arizona.edu

October 27 - 29
Homecoming Weekend
The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ
arizonaalumni.com/homecoming

December 5 - 7
43rd Annual Global Symposium on Racing & Gaming
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort
Tucson, AZ
ua-rtip.org/symposium/

December 17
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Convocation
Centennial Hall
The University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona
commencement.arizona.edu/ceremonies

December 27 - January 1
Arizona National Livestock Show
Phoenix, Arizona
www.anls.org/

February 1 - 3
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Annual Meeting
Nashville, TN
www.beefusa.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wilbur and Wilma Wildcat enjoy some saddle time at the UA Equine Center with ACBS Instructor, Kacee Richardson. Photo provided by the University of Arizona Alumni Association.

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