

CALS STAFF CONNECTIONS



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES STAFF COUNCIL

Focus on Staff

Second Quarter Staff Award Winner

Congratulations to Malkanthi “Mali” Gunatilaka for winning the second quarter staff award! Mali is a Research Specialist, Sr. in the Department of Plant Sciences. She has worked at the university for more than 10 years. Multiple staff and faculty wrote letters on Mali’s behalf supporting her nomination for staff award.

“I have never worked with anyone so kind as Mali Gunatilaka, nor with anyone who has, thereby, contributed not only to my research program, but to the larger effort of science in so profound and subtle a way.”

“In addition to her amazing abilities and organization, I must comment on what a pleasure it is to have Mali in the department. She has always been extremely pleasant, supportive of everyone and willing to do whatever it takes to make the department more hospitable for everyone.”

“She is a sound chemist and savvy molecular biologist, able to implement clear, practical techniques for making the most ‘impossible’ experiments work as if they had been executed a million times.”

These are just a few of the many kind words that were sent to the CALS Staff Council about Mali Gunatilaka. This award was well deserved! Mali will also receive a check for \$350 and a plaque. Congratulations Mali! RM

Third Quarter Staff Award Winner

Congratulations to Estella Trevers on receiving the Third Quarter College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outstanding Staff Award.

It was clear from the number of nomination letters we received that her years of service in the Department of Animal Sciences and CALS have been recognized and highly valued. She has been described as knowledgeable, fair, committed, dependable, enthusiastic and proactive. With such praise it is not difficult to understand why she has made such a strong impression on everyone.

As the recipient of this award Estella will receive a check for \$350 and a plaque that will be presented at an awards ceremony next spring. Again, congratulations. JC



Inside this issue:

Focus on Staff	1
Fall Tour	2
Costume Winner	3
Christmas Party Pix	4
Helpful Link	4
Upcoming Events	4

CALS Staff Council Fall Tour A Big Hit

This year's Fall Tour was scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2008. Eleven CALS Staff joined us for the tour, which started out in the Forbes building with a tour of the CALS administrative offices. One of the highlights of this portion of the tour was the magic show given by Sandy Pottinger in the CALS Administration Services office. Thank you, Sandy, Steve Crofts, Randy Ryan, Elaine Marchello, and Debby Janes for guiding tours of the CALS Administrative offices.

The tour then headed outdoors with the director of the Campus Arboretum, Libby Davison. Libby gave an hour long tour of several beautiful and interesting trees on campus. Each tree offered a fun story of how it arrived on campus. In addition, Libby talked about how the campus landscape has changed over the years. Libby's tour was both highly enjoyable and very informative.

Our tour attendees ended the morning portion of their tour having lunch with the CALS Staff Council and Dean Sander.

The afternoon of the tour took a different route from past tours, but kept as our first stop one of the most popular visits to the CEAC Greenhouse Facilities. Dr. Pat Rorabough explained to us how the carbon dioxide is monitored in the greenhouses and how the vine type plants are hoisted up on a rail to maintain their height without spreading out all over the greenhouse area. Since it was a nice fall day we then walked over to the Pima County Extension office for a colorful tour of the garden area led by Master Gardener, Nancy McCue. The roses were in full bloom making a delightful stroll through the archway towards a satellite dish containing a multitude of plants. After a refreshing sit down in the cool Ramada and enjoying the refreshments provided by Chris Hiemstra, we loaded the van to the A.R.C. – Agricultural Research Complex for a tour with Dr. Bob Collier. Exciting things in research are occurring here in the field of heat stress on livestock. This amazing facility can set up a controlled environment selecting the humidity, heat and light needed to run their experiments with live animals. An exciting end to the tour was the "Moon base Greenhouse Lab" where Dr. Gene Giacomelli and Lane Patterson showed us the portable greenhouse which could be condensed to travel to the moon, then expanded once there and placed at the poles of the moon underground. They are also using this Moon base environment as a project to determine the sustainability of plants in limited spaces here on earth. It was a full day and a delight to meet and get to know some of the CALS staff, the variety of facilities as well as the research personnel. RM & TC





CALS Admin

Tree tour with Libby Davison

Lunch with the Dean

CEAC Greenhouse

Pima County Extension Office Garden Area

Ag Research Complex



“Jack in the Box” a winner at Staff Council Halloween Potluck

“Jack” of *Jack in the Box Restaurant* fame, aka Sylvia Ramirez, CALS Administrative Services, was the costume contest winner at this year’s Staff Council Halloween Potluck. The very realistic paper-mâché head (crafted by Sylvia’s sister), white dress shirt and striped tie was a clear favorite. Sylvia received a \$15 Starbucks gift card for her efforts.

The potluck, held Halloween day in the Forbes lobby, was well attended. CALS staff and also faculty enjoyed the food and decorations. Besides the winning costume, others included a witch, a pumpkin, a bumble bee, a mad scientist, and two “transformation white papers”. RA



Holiday Party & Community Service

What a spread!



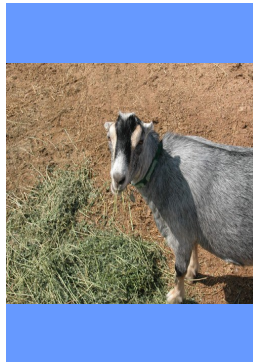
Helping to feed the hungry.



Helpful Link

UA Image Bank

Working on a brochure and need a picture of a UA student? Need an image to spruce up your website? The UA offers two great sources of images that anyone with a NetID can access and use for UA projects. The UA Image Bank (<http://photos.arizona.edu/>) and the Red Bar Café (<http://redbar.web.arizona.edu/stock/?level=collection&id=2>, click on the "RB Stock" link) offers hundreds of images for your use! Here's a fun example from the UA farm →



Contact Us!

If you love the newsletter or hate it, we want to know! Send comments, suggestions, rants or raves to:

staffcouncil@cals.arizona.edu

You can also visit cals.arizona.edu/staff/members.htm for a list of all the members and their email and mailing addresses.

Our website: cals.arizona.edu/staff, also has other useful information and links.



Upcoming Events:

- **Brown Bag with the Dean—TBA**
- **St. Patrick's Day Potluck—TBA**
- **Next issue of CALS Staff Connections—April 1, 2009**