A Letter From the Dean: Veterinary Medical Education

We have a plan to cut the cost for Arizonans becoming Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs) to about 1/3 of what it is today, and halve the time it takes to do so from leaving high school to qualifying for their DVM. It will stimulate the state’s economy and provide badly needed services to several industries. It will do no less than completely revolutionize the way the way veterinarians are trained in the USA.

This plan will benefit our state by:

1. Keeping Arizona funds & talent in Arizona: With no program in Arizona today, students must move states, taking Arizona money as tuition including state WICHE funds, as well as living expenses with them. Most never return to Arizona after earning their degree.

2. Reduce student debt: Arizonans pay approximately $250,000 to become a DVM. This leads to a substantial debt. Today, the national average debt for newly qualified veterinarians is $150,000 and they can expect to earn an average salary of $60,000 a year. We don’t have the debt numbers for Arizonans but that national average includes all veterinarians educated in their home states and so we know that it is higher (probably much higher) for Arizonans. Decreasing time in school not only decreases student debt, it balances the mismatch between the cost of education and salaries. It also means veterinarians trained in our program will have a five year longer working life contributing to the tax base as well as their own home mortgages, retirements, business investments etc. They will also be exposed to less stress in college.

3. Save money with existing resources: We will use our existing infrastructure, so expensive new facilities are not required. We’ll leverage UA resources not only in CALS but also in the colleges of medicine, public health, nursing and pharmacy, along with CALS farms and ranches statewide. We will not build a costly teaching hospital that would not only be uneconomical to run but would also compete with local practitioners. Instead, we will have partnerships with private practices and other veterinarians outside of the UA to provide real-world clinical training. This will have the added benefit of getting our students networked into the commercial world before any others.

4. Grow Arizona’s industry and economy: We’ve known for decades that nationally we need to broaden veterinary students’ focus beyond companion animal medicine—and so now we will take the lead and do something about it. Of course our DVMs will be able to work in companion animal medicine but the program will focus on many areas beyond this to better serve our production animal industries, and ensure that the states and the nation’s public health border security and bio-security needs can be met as well as support other areas of commerce as diverse as the retail and biomedical industries.

CALS is building support to bring this valuable asset to the state. To make this dream a reality, we need support from business, the general public, and especially you as alumni.

Masters Students ‘Pay It Forward’

The call started simply enough.

“Hello, Dean Burgess? I’d like to talk to you about your graduate program at the College of Agriculture. My spouse and I are thinking about helping a master’s student with financial support.”

It was not your everyday call, but these were not everyday contributors. Dean Shane Burgess learned that Kerry Rogers and her husband, Jim, both faced significant challenges to earn their own master’s degrees. While at college, Kerry worked hard to hold down a full time job and fulfill all her academic commitments. Jim was in a similar situation, and actually slept in his car for several months to make ends meet. The couple emerged from the experience grateful for the education and determined to give a ‘hand up’ to other resolute young scholars.

(continued on page 2)
CoBank Helps Fund Leadership Program

Denver-based CoBank is part of the Farm Credit System, providing financial services to agribusinesses and rural infrastructure providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations, including Farm Credit Services Southwest in Tempe, who then serve farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

The Dean’s Leadership 50 program will provide the top two percent of CALS undergraduates opportunities to enhance their leadership and professional skills.

Thanks to generous support from CoBank, the CALS Dean’s Leadership 50 (DL50) pilot program will begin this fall with 50 students. The program will provide the top two percent of CALS undergraduates opportunities to enhance their leadership and professional skills.

“CoBank makes it a priority to give back to the agricultural community,” said Jake AcMoody, Agribusiness Relationship Manager. “We are particularly enthusiastic about helping UA develop the next generation of agricultural and scientific leaders.”

Employers in both urban and rural communities report difficulty finding applicants who possess both the technical training and interpersonal skills needed to become successful employees. The DL50 events and curriculum will focus on abilities and characteristics that business people in agriculturally-related fields have identified as critical in new employees. The program will develop students’ skills through workshops, experiential and service learning projects, team-building activities and field trips.

The first DL50 cadre will be comprised of a cross-disciplinary group of undergraduate students in CALS. Students will be selected by application or via nomination from their department.

Masters Students ‘Pay It Forward’ (cont’d)

Kerry and Jim told Dean Burgess they were ready to launch their dream of funding a worthy student not otherwise able to afford an advanced degree. The Rogers had been talking to several universities, and although neither of them attended UA, they were impressed with the Dean’s vision for graduate education. They asked Shane to identify candidates for a graduate assistant to study or work in the area of developing food sources on marginal lands - either food for human consumption or fodder for livestock.

The first Rogers scholar faced financial and other challenges, but persevered to reach his goal of working in Meat Science to assist Arizona cattle growers to improve production methods.

“Graduate students are possibly our most overlooked group,” said Dean Shane Burgess. “The Rogers are very forward-thinking with their philanthropy.”

“Graduate education is critically important to advance research,” said Kerry. “The cost for a grad assistantship is modest compared to the return on our investment. We hope to inspire others to fund masters students.”
CALS Celebrates New School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences

On March 29, 2013 more than 200 faculty, staff, students, alumni and guests from across the state gathered at the Campus Agricultural Center to celebrate the new School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences. Shane Burgess, CALS Vice Provost and Dean, hosted the school dedication.

He emphasized that the school will bring together teaching, research and extension resources from across the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The school will focus on animal health, growth, nutrition and disease, and human health challenges facing Arizona and the global community.

Among the guests were PetSmart past Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Robert F. Moran, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ventana Medical Systems, Mara Aspinall, Executive Director of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, Andrew Maccabe, and former UA President Eugene G. Sander.

For more information on the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences please visit:
http://acbs.cals.arizona.edu

PHOTOS CREDITED TO: JUDY A. DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY
First Lady Michelle Obama Says Tucson Village Farm is “Leading the Way”

On a two hour visit to Tucson in April last year, the First Lady invited 13 young farmers and three UA students from Tucson Village Farm to greet her at the airport. She spent 15 minutes with the group and spoke personally with each individual, asking the kids questions about their role at the farm, their favorite veggies, and answering questions. She offered support of the program, stating the program was “leading the way” and “doing such great work.”

What was a barren lot on Campbell Avenue between Roger Road and Limberlost has “grown” a lot in the last three years; it is now the home of Tucson Village Farm (TVF). TVF is a working urban farm built by Tucson youth for the community. It features a seed-to-table program designed to reconnect young people to a healthy food system, teach them how to grow and prepare fresh produce, and empower them to make healthy life choices. The farm, a program of Pima County Cooperative Extension at the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, uses a hands-on, active approach to teaching.

The farm offers educational programs, summer camps, field trips, movie nights, even ‘green’ birthday parties. Program Coordinator Leza Carter comments, “Time and time again we see that when kids have a hand in the cultivation, harvesting and cooking of fresh fruits and vegetables they will eat them. When a child pulls a carrot out of the ground, he might as well be pulling a rabbit out of a hat. It is magical to see and even more magical when they leave the farm and make healthy food choices as a result.” The farm served almost 13,000 youths last year alone.

If you are interested in learning more or getting involved with the farm, contact Elizabeth Sparks, esparks@cals.arizona.edu, (520) 626-5161. If you are interested in making a donation to the farm, please visit their website: www.tucsonvillagefarm.org.

CALS Welcomes Our Newest Alumni

At what point do students become alumni? Here at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, students are alumni the moment they walk through our doors!

On Friday, August 23, 2013, a welcome event was held for the CALS incoming freshman class and transfer students. Students gathered on the lawn of the Arizona State Museum at noon where they were officially welcomed.

The event offered the opportunity for students to make new friends, get to know their professors, and join CALS clubs. Students commemorated their first day at CALS with pictures taken in a classic photo booth. Music, tailgate games, and a barbeque lunch made for a fun-filled event. Five lucky students were given $100 each for school expenses courtesy of the CALS Ag 100 Council.

CALS recognizes the importance of students realizing their alumni status the moment they step foot on campus. We hope to encourage students to become involved at the very beginning of their college career. This event serves as an opportunity for students to experience the unique and close-knit atmosphere that is offered here at the best college on campus!

College to Careers Student Event a Success

This past spring, juniors, seniors, and graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences were invited to attend a wine and cheese networking event hosted by the CALS Alumni Council. “Building Bridges: College to Careers” provided an opportunity for students, alumni, and industry professionals to enjoy refreshments as they discussed career options, business relations, and the integral role an alumnus plays in supporting the college.

One of the goals of this event was to bridge the gap between students and alumni by providing a special occasion that brought together upperclassmen and career professionals to converse about the opportunities, challenges, and decisions that arise upon graduation.

Alumni at the event were associated with PetSmart Inc., Boehringer-Ingelheim, Rousseau Farming, Calcot Ltd., Arizona Cattlemen’s Association, Farm Credit Services Southwest, and more. Students also had the opportunity to interact with representatives from the animal health industry and agricultural education field.

Alumni members presented information including proactive steps in business planning, advantages of staying connected with the college after graduation, internship and job opportunities, and the occupational diversity that is made possible by a CALS degree.

The evening generated many successful student-alumnus connections. Plans are in the works for this year’s event. If you would like to participate please contact Laura White at: lwhite@email.arizona.edu or call (520) 621-7190.
Homecoming 2013: Welcome to Wildcat Planet!

Homecoming weekend is fast approaching and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is busy preparing for the 34th Annual Dean’s “Almost World Famous” Burrito Breakfast and Alumni Auction. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to support your college and its students, by bidding on unbelievable auction items while enjoying a delicious breakfast and reconnecting with fellow Wildcats!

Each year we continue to be overwhelmed by the support and participation we receive from alumni, friends, and the agricultural community. Last Homecoming, the auction had over 400 guests, including a special appearance by UA men’s basketball coach Sean Miller! We anticipate that the 2013 auction will not only reach, but exceed our expectations!

The silent auction will begin at 8:00 am in the Student Union Memorial Center North Ballroom Saturday, November 9, with the live auction to follow. All are welcome to attend at no charge. Join us for Homecoming weekend and be prepared to BID UP AND BEAR DOWN at our biggest event of the year!

Thank you to our major event sponsor, Touchstone Energy, our breakfast sponsor, Steve Goucher Farm Bureau Financial Services, and our apron sponsor, Boehringer-Ingelheim.

If you would like to donate an item or have any questions, please contact Meredith Turner at maturner@email.arizona.edu or call (520) 621-7190. Items to bid on include: artwork, jewelry, custom UA fire pit, family getaways and vacation packages, sports tickets, and more!

Tankersley Gifts Al-Marah to CALS

Internationally known Arabian horse breeder, Bazy Tankersley, bequeathed her legendary Arabian horse ranch, Al-Marah, to the University of Arizona. Bazy passed away peacefully at her home on her beloved Al-Marah on February 5, 2013.

Al-Marah (Arabic for ‘the oasis’) opened in 1942. Nestled at the base of the Rincon and Catalina mountains, the ranch has been home to 3,000 world-class Arabians. The beautiful 85-acre property will pass over to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) as part of the estate plan.

Over the next two years, Dean Burgess and his leadership team will work together with Al-Marah staff and the family to transition the operations.

“We are so grateful for Mrs. Tankersley’s generosity and vision,” said Dean Shane Burgess. “Al-Marah will contribute significantly to hands-on learning for students in our new School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences.” He added, “We look forward to working closely with the family and staff so that Al-Marah continues to honor Bazy’s legacy for decades to come.”
Eugene G. Sander Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

Gary Pasquinelli is the co-owner and Chief Executive Officer of Pasquinelli Produce Company where he harvests several types of winter vegetables. A true advocate for farming, Gary is frequently serving as the voice for Arizona and California produce growers, two of the largest acreage states in the fresh market. When lawmakers wanted to do away with the Arizona’s tax credit for improvements to irrigation systems, Gary lobbied for the tax credit stating that it is a great incentive to invest in new equipment. He continues to protect the interest of the crop industry by serving as a board member for Western Growers Association since 1973.

Mike and Mary Hall are two dedicated professionals who combined their individual talent, knowledge, and vision to create one of the most successful and largest non-profit credit counseling organizations in America. The two met in Phoenix in 1980 and married a year later. They started their family while building their business, Take Charge America, Inc. The couple originally envisioned a company to assist people who were struggling financially and provide educational programs to help young people avoid financial problems. Today TCA, Inc. provides credit counseling and debt management assistance to approximately 200,000 American families every year.

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the future of family and consumer sciences education. With over 250 chapters across seven regions in the state of Arizona, FCCLA has left an impression on students in each corner of the state since its establishment in 1999. Through the involvement and contributions of Arizona FCCLA members, countless organizations, communities, schools, families, and individuals have been able to experience the impact that selflessness and working hands can make.

Additional 2013 Spring Award Honorees

Professional Achievement Award .................. Kelly G. Keithly
Extensionist of the Year Award .................. Dennis M. Moroney
Heritage Family Award .................. The Rayner Family
Friends of CALS .................. Touchstone Energy
                                Ed Curry
Early Achiever Award .................. John T. Chilton
Outstanding Achiever Award .................. George J. Cairo
Carol Knowles Award for Excellence in Development and Alumni Relations .................. Joanne Gonzalez-Eader
Earline Horrell Tidwell passed away on May 3, 2013. Earline was born September 13, 1936 into a Gila County ranching family. She graduated from Globe High School in 1954, then moved to Tucson and graduated from UA in 1958. She married James M. Tidwell, and together they owned and operated Half Diamond Cross Ranch and Cross P Ranch. Earline and her husband were active members of the Gila County Cattle Growers and the Arizona Cattle Grower’s Association. Earline was a true Wildcat and avid supporter of the UA.

Gary Petterson the longtime landscape and garden columnist for the South Mountain District News passed away on February 20, 2013. Gary was well known in the agriculture and gardening communities in Arizona. He worked with school vocational agricultural programs to build greenhouses and assist the teachers with horticulture. He was the Phoenix Home & Garden editor and appeared as “Gary the Gardener” on a weekly television program. He was a professor of horticulture at Rio Salado Community College and a board member and frequent speaker at numerous garden clubs, groups and organizations.

Dr. Harry Wayne Springfield passed away June 19, 2013 after a successful 30-year career in range research and a fulfilling retirement. Wayne studied at the University of New Mexico, University of Arizona, and Texas A&M. He published 79 scientific and popular articles. The Society for Range Management honored Wayne for his outstanding contributions in the fields of range science and management.

Prominent Arizonan and businessman Chuck Lakin passed away in June at the age of 92. After Chuck’s birth in 1921, the family moved to Arizona and established ranches in Kingman, Prescott and Phoenix. Chuck attended the UA College of Agriculture, then enlisted in the Army as a cavalry instructor and platoon leader. Chuck was wounded in action and earned the Purple Heart and Presidential Unit Citation for his service. Chuck worked for the Lakin Cattle Company managing cattle and raising and training Quarter Horses. He served on many horse association boards. In the 1960’s, Chuck pioneered a pelleted feed and today the horse feed is sold worldwide by the Lakin Milling Company. Chuck was a proud Wildcat and served as president of UA Ag 100 Council. Known for his integrity, Chuck was a much admired and respected man. He is survived by Maxine, his loving wife of 67 years, his four daughters, 10 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Bess Nathan Rice, BS Fashion Merchandising, ’86 lives is Sonoma, California where she owns a store called Studio Collections. Bess is specialized in promoting and selling the work of local jewelry designers. She has been married to Paul Rice for 16 years.

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Hillin Dawson, PhD Animal Science, ’05 married George Dawson in 2005 after they both finished their degrees at the UA. They welcomed a baby boy, Wyatt, in July of 2012.
ALUMNI UPDATE
Drop us a line! Your classmates want to hear from you!

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Name: __________________________________________ Email: __________________________________________

Major: __________________________________________ Degree: __________________________________________

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Please fill out this form and mail it to the address below. Or Email us your submission or comments at alumni@ag.arizona.edu. By submitting your alumni update, you will receive a University of Arizona CALS alumni pin!

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