Friday, January 10, 2020, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences held the Dean’s Outstanding Achievement Award Ceremony. Established in 2012, these awards recognize, reward and encourage excellence in the work of faculty, staff and students within the college. Four members of our department were recognized for this prestigious award.

Dr. Vishal Gohil- Teaching
Dr. Ryland Young- Research
Alison Vicary- Undergraduate Research
Betty Cotton- Staff

In addition, The Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Awards for Teaching at the College Level were also presented. This award honors superior classroom teachers who maintain high expectations of their students, ensure academic rigor in their courses, and recognize their responsibility in motivating and contributing to student development. Dr. Margaret Glasner was one of three recipients to receive this award.

Congratulations to you all for receiving these prestigious awards! The Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics is very proud of you!
The BGA hosted their annual Poster Competition on Friday, January 10, 2020! With 15 participants, it was certainly a busy night! With only five minutes to explain their research and five minutes for questions, judges Dr. Brian McKinley and Dr. Adam Salazar had their hands full in making sure they spent enough time with each contestant. After much deliberation and tallying up the scores, Vice President, Austin Lamb, finally announced who the winners were along with their cash prize amount. The winners for the 2020 Poster Competition were:

**Graduate Students/Postdocs**
- Ronnie Bourland
- Dr. Nathanial Dziuba
- Elliott Martinez
- Ben Morse
- John Mosior
- Dr. Shivatheja Soma
- Dr. Dat Truong

**Faculty**
- Dr. Vyta Bankaitis
- Dr. Margy Glasner
- Dr. Vishal Gohil
- Dr. Ping He
- Dr. Paul Lindahl
- Dr. Greg Reinhart
- Dr. Stephen Safe
- Dr. James Sacchettini
- Dr. Dorothy Shippen
- Dr. David Threadgill
- Dr. Xiuren Zhang

**Research Publications**

Congratulations to those who have published their research in the month of December! If you would like to read more on their research, please click on the link below:


**BGA Poster Competition**

The BGA hosted their annual Poster Competition on Friday, January 10, 2020! With 15 participants, it was certainly a busy night! With only five minutes to explain their research and five minutes for questions, judges Dr. Brian McKinley and Dr. Adam Salazar had their hands full in making sure they spent enough time with each contestant. After much deliberation and tallying up the scores, Vice President, Austin Lamb, finally announced who the winners were along with their cash prize amount. The winners for the 2020 Poster Competition were:

1st Place and $50 winner- Ka Man Jasmine Yu, Mullet Lab
2nd Place and $30 winner- Jason Allen, Pellois Lab
3rd Place and $20 winner- Tingfeng Guo, Herman Lab

Both Jasmine and Jason will give an oral presentation of their research during the Research Competition, which will be held on Friday, January 24, 2020 in BioBio room 108, starting at 3:50pm! Congratulations to you three and thank you to the judges and competitors for participating in this exciting event!
The AgriLife Research Awards were presented last week on Thursday, January 9, 2020. We had two faculty and one staff member representing the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics!

The first of the awards were presented to the Faculty Fellows, whom AgriLife Research established in 1998 to acknowledge and reward exceptional research faculty within the agency. Upon second recognition, a Faculty Fellow is designated a Senior Faculty Fellow. Faculty Fellow and Senior Faculty Fellow designations are permanent and become a part of the individual's title. The winner of this new title was Dr. Xiuren Zhang!

Secondly, Texas A&M AgriLife Research established the Early Career Award for Research Excellence in 2018 as a recognition to Dr. William A. Dugas upon his retirement. This $5,000 annual award honors an early career AgriLife Research Faculty member who has made an exceptional contribution to the agency and research in the prior year. This year's winner was Dr. Junjie Zhang!

Finally, the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Director’s Awards seeks to recognize and reward the achievements of individuals and teams with outstanding work to support their research mission. Meritorious accomplishments are recognized through 5 award categories: Research Scientist of the Year, Administrative Staff Support Award, Technical Staff Support Award, Infrastructure/IT Staff Award, and Collaboration Award. The winner of the Infrastructure/IT Staff award was presented to Terry Lovingshimer!

Congratulations to you all!!
2019 Award Winners

FACULTY

Mary Bryk: TEXAAN Faculty Advisor Recognition Award
Margaret Glasner: The Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Awards for Teaching at the College Levels
Vishal Gohil: Dean’s Outstanding Achievement Award- Teaching
Ping He: Presidential Impact Fellow; University Professorships
Jennifer Herman: Vice Chancellor's Award- Teaching
Tatyana Igumenova: President’s Excellence Fund- T3 Winner
Dakota Brock: Toni-Ann Mistretta Award
Tingfeng Guo: Student Research Week- 3rd Place Poster
Adriana Hernandez-Morales: Thomas L. Patterson Fellowship
Donna Iadarola: Student Research Week- 2nd Place Talk; Texas Genetics Society- Best Graduate Student Platform Presentation Award
Yongjin Liu: BGA Graduate Teaching Award (lab)
Joel Oliver: BGA Graduate Teaching Award (lecture); Student Research Week- 1st Place Poster; Student Research Week- 1st Place Talk
Drew Roth: Guseman Award Winner
Shivatheja Soma: John Mack Prescott Award
Jiarui Song: Aggieland RNA- Research Award
Xiuren Zhang: AgriLife Research Faculty Fellows; Chancellor EDGES Fellow

STAFF

Sherry Coronado: President’s Meritorious Award- Staff
Betty Cotton: Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award- Staff
Mauricio Lasagna: 2019 Department Award of Excellence- Research Staff
Terry Lovingshimer: Director's Award- Infrastructure
Tamara Ospina-Vega: 2019 Department of Excellence- Administrative Staff
Ximena Paez-Colasante: TXGAP Travel Scholarship
Jenny Ponzio: Vice Chancellor's Award-Staff

GRADUATE STUDENTS/POSTDOCS

Sreyashree Bose: TAMU AB & Hazel H. Carter Scholarship- Academic Excellence; Aggieland RNA- Research Talk
Claudia Castillo-González: 2019 Department Award of Excellence- Postdoctoral Research Associate
Dakota Brock: Toni-Ann Mistretta Award
Tingfeng Guo: Student Research Week- 3rd Place Poster
Adriana Hernandez-Morales: Thomas L. Patterson Fellowship
Donna Iadarola: Student Research Week- 2nd Place Talk; Texas Genetics Society- Best Graduate Student Platform Presentation Award
Yongjin Liu: BGA Graduate Teaching Award (lab)
Joel Oliver: BGA Graduate Teaching Award (lecture); Student Research Week- 1st Place Poster; Student Research Week- 1st Place Talk
Drew Roth: Guseman Award Winner
Shivatheja Soma: John Mack Prescott Award
Jiarui Song: Aggieland RNA- Research Award
Zane Taylor: Student Research Week- 2nd Place Poster; Student Research Week- 3rd Place Talk

2019 YEARS OF SERVICE PINS

AgriLife Years of Service Pins
10 years- Ping He
10 years- Hays Rye
10 years- Megan Reynolds

TAMU Years of Service Pins
20 years- Michael Polymenis
25 years- Sherry Coronado
30 years- Gary Kunkel
30 years- Nicola Ayres
Upcoming Events

General

January 23, 30
Faculty Thursday Talks

January 24; 11:00am-3:00pm @ BCBP Lobby
BGA Annual Vendor Show

January 24; 3:50pm-6:00pm @ BCBP 108
BGA Research Competition

January 30- February 1
Prospective Graduate Student Weekend

January 31
Faculty Meeting

February 1; 3:00-8:00pm @ Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center
1st Life Science Recruiting Symposium
  3:00- Poster Session
  4:30- Graduate Student Talks
  5:30- Remarks by VPR Dr. Barteau
  6:00- Dinner (RSVPs to be made by 1/27/2020)

February 6, 13, 20, 27
Faculty Thursday Talks

January 27; 4:00pm @ BCBP 108
Dr. Seth Murray: “Impacting the Future of Food Production, from Quantitative Genomics to Phenomics”

February 3; 2:00pm @ BCBP 106A
Drew Roth’s Defense

February 5; 1:00pm @ ILSB 4147
Zane Taylor’s Defense

February 26; 1:30pm @ BCBP 106A
Karl Gorzelnik’s Defense

Thursday Talks

January 23- Open Discussion
January 30- Paul Lindahl
February 6- Dorothy Shippen
February 13- Stephanie Perez
February 20- Sing-Hoi Sze

Symposiums/Seminars/etc...

February 25; 3:00pm @ Reed Arena
MBB vs Oklahoma State (Big 12/SEC Challenge)

January 26; 3:00pm @ Reed Arena
WBB vs Missouri (SEC+)

February 14
Valentine’s Day ❤❤

Grad School New Year’s Resolutions:
- Eat better
- Sleep more
- Get more exercise
- See friends

or
Graduate.

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