

# Texas A&M University

The Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics Newsletter



Dr. Margaret Glasner, Dr. Vishal Gohil, Dr. Ryland Young, Alison Vicary, Betty Cotton, Dr. Josh Wand

## *Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award Winners*

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!

# Research Publications

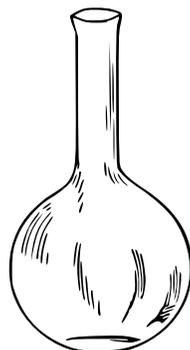
Congratulations to those who have published their research in the month of December! If you would like to read more on their research, please click on the link below:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>

## Graduate Students/

### Postdocs

Ronnie Bourland  
Dr. Nathaniel Dziuba  
Elliott Martinez  
Ben Morse  
John Mosior  
Dr. Shivatheja Soma  
Dr. Dat Truong



## Faculty

Dr. Vytas 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

# BGA Poster Competition

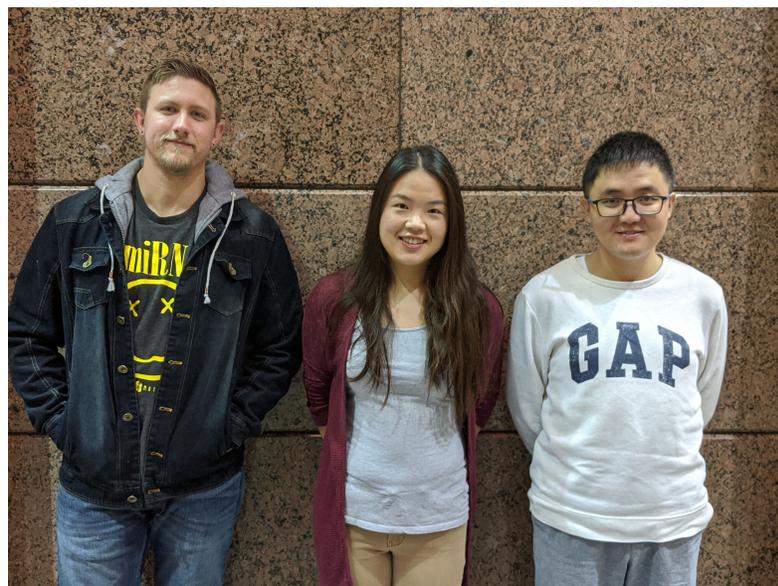
The BGA hosted their annual Poster Competition on Friday, January 10, 2020! With 15 participants, it was certainly a busy night! With only five minutes to explain their research and five minutes for questions, judges Dr. Brian McKinley and Dr. Adam Salazar had their hands full in making sure they spent 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!

Melissa Koff  
Charlie Farber  
Nairita Maitra  
Tingfeng Guo  
Jason Allen  
Veronica Egging  
Neha Deshpande

Laura Huning  
Ka Man Jasmine Yu  
Zane Taylor  
Huajun Han  
Alex Riegert  
Laith Harb  
Matt Theodore  
John Mosior



Jason Allen (2nd Place), Ka Man Jasmine Yu (1st Place), Tingfeng Guo (3rd Place)

## *Vice Chancellor's Award Winners*

On Wednesday, January 8, 2020, two of our very own from the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics received the Vice Chancellor's Award of Excellence! Established in 1980, this awards program recognizes the commitment and outstanding contributions of faculty and staff across Texas A&M AgriLife. These awards provide us with a unique opportunity to celebrate the contributions and achievements of Texas A&M's faculty, students, and staff members. Dr. Jennifer Herman won the Vice Chancellor's Award in Teaching, while Jenny Ponzio won the Vice Chancellor's Award for Staff. Congratulations to you both!



## *AgriLife Research Award Winners*

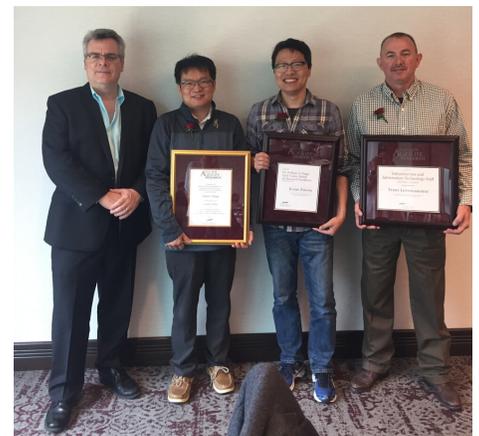
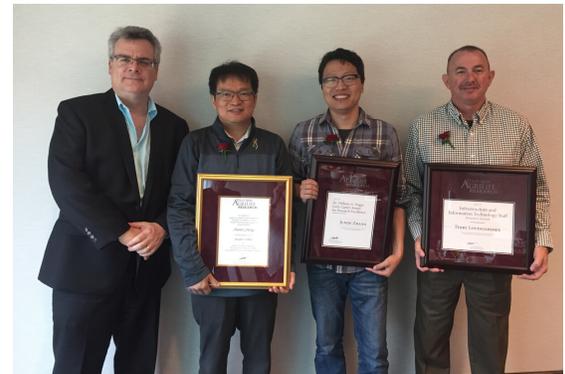
The AgriLife Research Awards were presented last week on Thursday, January 9, 2020. We had two faculty and one staff member representing the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics!

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

**David Peterson:** Emeritus

**Frank Raushel:** President's Excellence Fund- T3 Winner

**James Sacchetti:** President's Excellence Fund- T3 Winner

**Dorothy Shippen:** BGA Faculty Recognition Award; University Distinguished Professor; Regents Professor

**Ryland Young:** Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award- Research

**Junjie Zhang:** President's Excellence Fund- T3 Winner; William A. Dugas Early Career Award- Research Excellence

**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

**February 14**

Valentine's Day



### 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...

**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

## Sports

**January 25; 3:00pm @ Reed Arena**

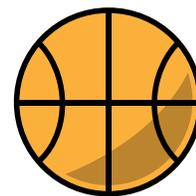
MBB vs Oklahoma State (Big 12/SEC Challenge)

**January 26; 3:00pm @ Reed Arena**

WBB vs Missouri (SEC+)

**January 30; 7:00pm @ Reed Arena**

WBB vs Georgia (SEC+)



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Biochemistry & Biophysics

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