

Our Biggest Challenge

Keating BIO 5

Marley

MARICOPA

Forbes

Herring

YUMA

Faculty Statistics

- 20 Full Professors (15) or Specialists (5)
- 8 Associate Professors (5) or Associate Specialist (3)
- 4 Assistant Professors (3) or Assistant Specialist (1)
- 4 Lecturers
- 8 Asst/Assoc Research Professors
- 12 Joint/Adjunct appointments
- 7 Emeritus Professors

- 2 National Academy members
- 2 Regents Professors
- 1 Distinguished Professor
- 4 Endowed Chairs

A very balanced faculty

Personnel (Milestones)

Retirements

Rachel Pfister will retire next month

Marcia White, retired

Rob Leonard, retired

Gary Dixon retires next month

Ali Idris retires next month

**We know what Rob is doing;
Question is, what will Rachel be doing**

09/10 Sabbaticals

Martha Hawes

Rich Jorgensen

Bill McCloskey

Hans VanEtten

Rod Wing

Ursula Schuch

Personnel (Promotions and Comings and Goings)

Marc Orbach promoted to Full Professor

Jorge Fonseca promoted to Associate Specialist

David Rhoads joins us as a Research Associate Professor

Vicki Chandler is on leave-of-absence

Brian Larkins has returned from leave-of-absence

New Department Head

Congratulations to Marc and Jorge

Personnel (Awards)

Rod Wing received Humboldt Research Award

Rich Jorgensen was awarded the Antle Endowed Chair

Sandy Pierson won the CALS Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award

Rich Jorgensen's and Carolyn Napoli's Plant Cell paper was

chosen as one of the best 5 papers in Plant Cell's 20 yrs

David Gang elected as President-elect of the Phytochemical Society of

North America

Judy Brown receives Wellman Award for Caribbean division of APS

Rod Wing receives Technology Innovation Award from UA

**These are among just some of the
awards received by the faculty**

Research Dollars

\$10.6M in federal grants fiscal 08

\$6.9M 1 Jul 08/31 Apr 09

same time frame last year - \$9.8M

Plan is to return funding for technical support to 45% starting 1 Jul; if we continued your support it will be reduced to 45% (these folks will be furloughed for 1.5-2.5 days, depending on salary level)

- Continuing support will depend on:

- 1) budget
- 2) grant support
- 3) publications

Faculty Publications

101 publications in peer-reviewed journals

23 Research/Teaching faculty – 80 pubs (3.48)

9 Extension faculty – 21 pubs (2.33)

Student Statistics

25 PhD students; (3 graduated in 08/09)

12 PLS

13 PLP (3)

10 MS students; (3 graduated in 08/09)

6 PLS (2)

4 PLP (1)

~35 Undergraduates; 8 graduated in 08/09

We all need to do more about recruiting

Incoming Graduate Students

Ruth Asiimwe, PhD, PLS (agronomy)

Cassie Heinle, MS, PLS (computational biology)

Daniel Johnson, PhD, PLS (molecular genetics)

Carlos Maldonado, PhD, PLS (genomics/genetics)

Muha Wang, PhD, PLS (rice genomics)

**We need to be attracting 6-8 good students each year;
most at the PhD level**

Core Curricula for Graduate Students

Plant Sciences (PhD; MS students will take 2 of the following)

Growth and Development (Fall 09)

Plant Biochemistry (Spring 10)

Plant Genetics (Fall 10)

Plant Physiology (Spring 11)

Plant Pathology (PhD; MS students will take 550 and 551)

550

551

Genetics – any graduate level course

Plant Biochemistry, Growth and Development or Plant Physiology

If faculty feel strongly that these are not quite the right core courses, there is certainly time to make recommendations for changes

09/10 Committees

Curriculum/Teaching Committee

D. Ray (Chair)
E. Davison (Undergraduate Coordinator)
S. Kroken
M. Pessaraki
E. Pierson
P. Rorabaugh
G. Wright

Academic Personnel Policies (P&T/C)

M. McClure (Chair)
J. Brown
D. Galbraith
D. Kopec
M. Matheron
M. Olsen
M. Orbach
K. Schumaker

Graduate Student Program Committee

D. Ray (Chair)
A. Arnold
B. Fane
J. Fonseca
D. Gang
C. Kubota
B. Pryor
R. Palanivelu
Z. Xiong

Seminar Committee

R. Yadegari (Chair)
D. Galbraith
S. Kroken
M. Ottman
(U. Schuch)

Peer Review Committee

B. Larkins (Chair)
B. Fane
M. Orbach
D. Kopec
M. Ottman
K. Schumaker
S. Wang
R. Yadegari

Department of Plant Sciences will become the School of Plant Sciences
1 July, 2009

Department Head will become School Director

The Department will switch over to new letterhead by the start of
the Fall semester

Business cards should be changed as your supply runs low

The website will be changed shortly after 1 Jul to reflect this change

No real changes in how the unit operates except that I would like to
change the two Division Chairs to Associate Directors. In this
capacity they would take on greater responsibility for certain
areas of the School – need your input and Dean's approval

Growth Chambers

Convion growth chambers are in need of better maintenance and utilization

Appointed a committee, chaired by Dennis Ray, consisting of owners, users, experts in controlled environments and non-users

The committee is charged with establishing procedures for assigning chambers to faculty, coming up with a maintenance plan and monthly costs for use of common chambers

Dennis Ray (Chair)

Chieri Kubota

Ursula Schuch

Karen Schumaker

Clean-Up Day

20 May, 2009

Discarded one large truck full of surplus equipment – mostly non-functional
There is still one load to go to surplus; we will arrange for another day in the coming weeks. Please advise the office if you have identified something in your lab that needs to go to surplus or reassigned

Identified a -80 and -20 that had stopped working and with biological materials in them that had thawed and rotted

-80 plant material in 226 Marley (surplus)

-20 animal organs in 223 Forbes (land fill)

**Lessons: Please do not collect equipment that is not needed
Please contact Dept office if you have a piece of equipment that needs to be removed/repared**

Genomics Initiative

Provost and Deans are interested in establishing a large cross college initiative and Genomics/Computational Biology has been chosen as the target area

I have been talking first with Rod Wing, Rich Jorgensen and Maggie So
And at the cross college level with Kate Dixon (MCB), Vicki Wysocki (Biochem), Paul Cohen (Computer Sciences), Fernando Martinez (BIO5) and Maggie So (Immunobiology)

We have proposed 3 job descriptions; likely that just the first two will be funded with dollars going into a 3rd position in Computer Sciences

Plant Genomics

- focused on areas that support ongoing research initiatives in the College, e.g., epi genomics in plants or crop genomics
- use this position to update and expand the AGI

Evolutionary Genomics/Computational Biologist

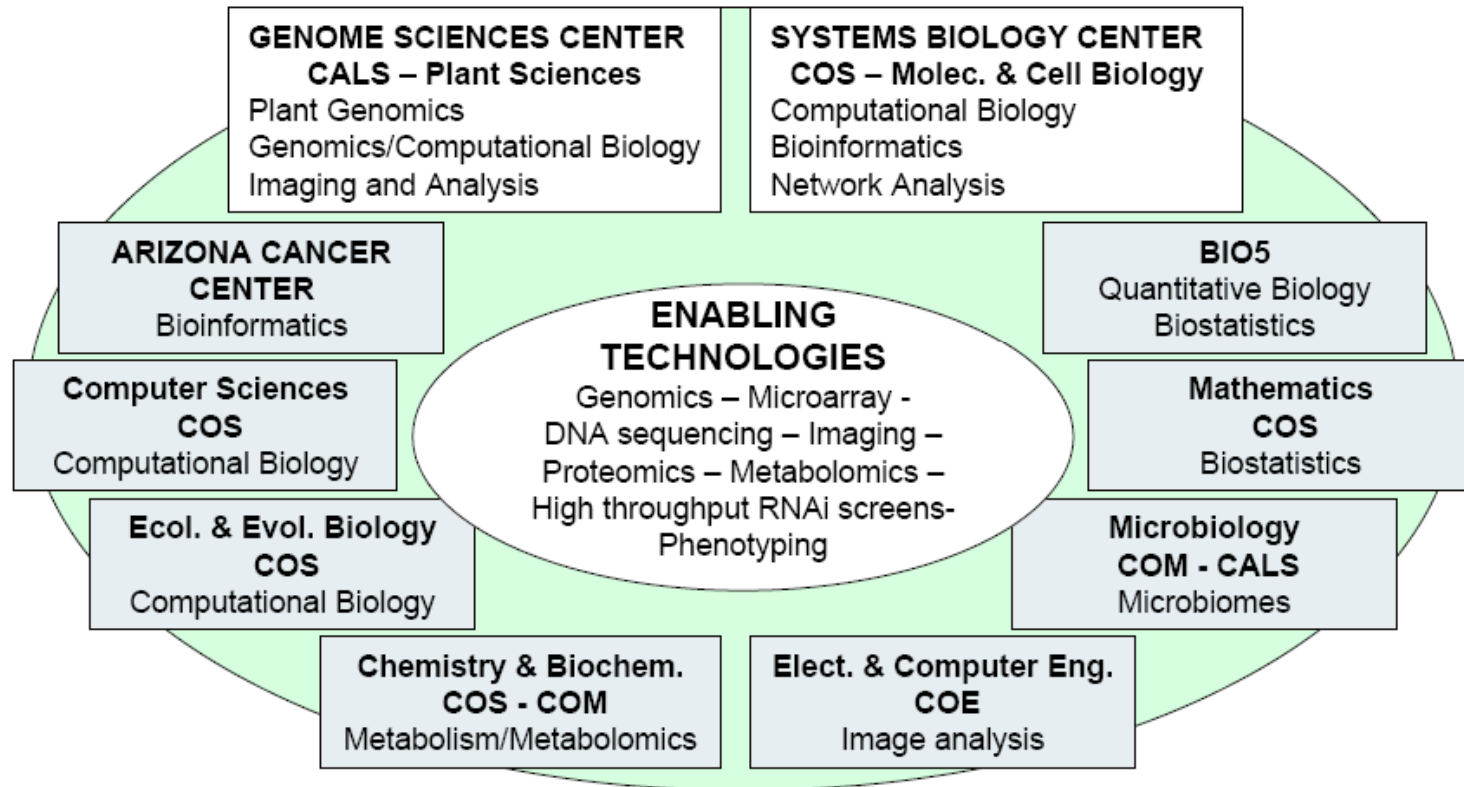
- this position would be stronger on the computational and evolutionary spectrum and be able to set up new initiatives that catalyze cross college collaborations, e.g., in plant-microbe evolution

Phenotype Imaging & Analysis (Phenotype to Gene)

- this position is necessary to assist in translating our genomics discoveries into applications; it is recognized that phenotyping will follow genomics
- this hire would also support iPlant projects for genotype to phenotype relationships

New Business: Genomics Initiative

Faculty recruitment in computational biology and bioinformatics:



New recruits must be hired into both bioscience departments and math/computer science departments to provide a bridge between basic/applied biological sciences and quantitative disciplines (math, statistics, computer science, etc.)

New Business: Upcoming Hires

Rachel Pfister's retirement

Plant Anatomy – plan is that Shelly McMahon will teach it in alternate years with Plant Systematics

Introductory Plant Physiology – plan is that David Rhoads and KAF will team teach the course

NATS 104 and senior capstone – plan is that Dennis Ray will take on this additional responsibility along with Libby

Graduate students – plan is that we will recruit a full-time person to help with recruiting, the web site, advertising, brochures, student records, etc. This hire is not likely to have teaching responsibilities

Tissue Culture Associate

Labs are already set up but some equipment will need to be updated

Looking for a MS level Associate but would consider a non-tenure track PhD or senior BS



New Business: Other?

In need of a new logo