TONES FROM THE TOOTH
The Soil, Water and Environmental Science (SWES) Department just completed the Academic Program/CSREES Review (APR) site-visit that is mandated on a six to seven year cycle for all University of Arizona academic departments by the Arizona Board of Regents. The first step was the development of the departmental self-study document which took place during the summer and fall of 2008. The self-study was an excellent opportunity for a summary and evaluation of SWES and what has (or has not) taken place over the past 7 years since our last APR in 2002.

An outstanding Review Team was assembled to administer the APR. This Review Team consisted primarily of external members but also included two members from the UA and one industry representative (also an alumnus of our department). The Review Team was well-prepared, combining their review of our self-study document with their own experience and expertise. They had many very good questions and comments that resulted in a very open and rigorous review.

Before they left, the Review Team presented their preliminary findings to SWES, the CALS Deans, and the Provost. These included a very strong and positive assessment of SWES and a clear endorsement of the vision and directions that were presented to them in the self-study and reinforced during the site-visit. They concluded that our efforts to orient SWES programs in the areas of Critical Zone Science and Water Quality are well-directed and productive. They also keyed in on the balance and coordination of our major program areas in instruction, research, and extension programs.

In the midst of the many challenges and difficulties we face these days at all levels (nationally, regionally, at the UA, and in the SWES Department) it is good to receive this strong and positive review for the people and programs in our department. This serves to reinforce the work and objectives we strive to achieve. This review also serves to amplify (with force and strength) our message to CALS and the UA that the SWES Department is a strong and significant entity in the area of Earth and Environmental Science.

Jeffrey C. Silvertooth, Department Head
GRANTS:

E. Glenn. Phytoremediation of a nitrate-contaminated former uranium mill site in Monument Valley AZ, DOE, $252,000.

M. McEvoy (P.I.) and C. Rensing. Supplement to: The Role of Protein Interactions in Microbial Copper/Silver Resistance, NIH, $168,409, 7/08 – 6/10.

C. Rock. 4-H2O Replenish Project Grant, Coca Cola, $30,000.

C. Rock. Characterizing the Sources of Microbial Contamination: DNA Source Tracking of Excessive E. coli in the Santa Cruz River Tumacacori NHP, AZ, National Park Service. $10,000.


PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:

The following were presented at the SSSA International Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, October 5-9, 2008.


Maier, R.M. Analysis of unique microbial communities from low nutrient environments. UA Microbiology Lunch Seminar Series, Tucson, AZ, Sept. 11, 2008.


Rock, C. Status of Generation, Reuse and Recharge of Treated Wastewater in Arizona; Evaluation of Programs, Data Sources and Utilization Opportunities. USDA-CSREES National Water Conference, St. Louis, MO, Feb. 11, 2009

Schaap, M. Author or co-author on three presentations, AGU meeting, San Francisco, CA, December 16-19, 2008.

Schaap, M. accepted an invitation to talk in two different sessions of the SIAM Geoscience conference in Leipzig, Germany, June 15-18, 2009.


VIDEOS:

PLANE TALK FROM ERL
Ian Pepper

New NSF Center
The UA NSF Water Quality Center (WQC) was originally funded in 1999, with a 5 year renewal in 2004. During this 10 year period the Center received total funds in excess of $10m and became a founding member of the UA Water Sustainability Program. The WQC focuses on research that provides good quality drinking water, i.e., “water with acceptable purity, taste and odor characteristics, which is safe with respect to human health and welfare.” This year the WQC has become a member of a new NSF funded Center—the Water and Environmental Technology (WET) Center. The initial administrative NSF award is $1.24m for the three universities involved: Temple University; University of Arizona; and Arizona State University. The addition of Temple University will provide enhanced expertise in the emerging contaminant arena including pharmaceuticals and personal care products. The NSF award is for 5 years with additional funding from the private and public sectors. The new WET Center will allow the WQC to continue funding a state-of-the-art intermediate field-scale testing facility at ERL called the Water Village. The Water Village focuses on future treatment and distribution of water and wastewater, with enormous potential benefits for the community. In addition, the Center will remain a key member of the Water Sustainability Program, a UA leader in water research, education and policy. With a woeful economy and hard times everywhere, we are very grateful for the new funding.
# March 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Jutta Elguindi and Cesar Hernandez</td>
<td>3:00 Marley 230</td>
<td></td>
<td>ETRs Due at Noon TODAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Alys Thomas and Rafael Martinez</td>
<td>3:00 Marley 230</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S P R I N G   B R E A K</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ETRs Due at Noon TODAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Faculty Meeting</td>
<td>1:00 FCS 219</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Dr. Susan Brantley Penn State University</td>
<td>3:00 Marley 230</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEWSLETTER TEAM:  Raina Maier, Ph.D.  
                      Editor  
                      Kristie Gallardo  
                      Coordinator and Distributor  
                      Karen Josephson  
                      Webmaster  

* For questions, comments, suggestions, or feedback contact Kristie Gallardo at 621-7228 or gallardo@cals.arizona.edu