

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Research Awards 2003-2004

Outstanding Research Faculty of the Year

Ron Allen, Professor, Department of Animal Sciences



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Since arriving at the University of Arizona, Allen has been awarded more than \$3.3 million dollars in competitive grants and more than \$50,000 in gifts and donations. He has an international reputation as a leader in muscle biology, has been awarded several NIH grants and has had continuous support from the USDA NRI since its inception. Allen has many intra-university, national and international collaborative relationships. He is a member of both the University of Arizona Interdisciplinary Nutrition Program and the Interdisciplinary Physiology Program.

Allen's collaborative effort with professors Darrel Goll and David Hartshone creates a core group that allows the University of Arizona to house one of the most prestigious and leading muscle biology programs in the world. He also has a long-standing relationship with Japanese muscle biologists from Kyushu University. Allen has been a member of or chaired more than 20 national and international committees.

Allen has taught numerous undergraduate classes, has served as a member of many graduate student committees and is recognized as an excellent academic mentor. Three of his graduate students currently hold academic positions in colleges of agriculture at Penn State University, Washington State University and University of Vermont.

Allen's dedication to the department, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the University of Arizona is evidenced by his willingness to serve or chair numerous committees. His leadership skills were recognized by his recent appointment as associate head for the Department of Animal Sciences.

Allen has published 47 peer-reviewed papers, five conference proceedings, and has given more than 40 invited presentations. Most recently he received the American Society of Animal Science's prestigious Animal Growth and Development Research Award. His accomplishments are recognized around the world.

Outstanding Research Staff

Charles De Fer, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering



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De Fer is an instrument maker, a highly skilled machinist and welder in the department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering. He is skilled in operating all types of machinery and able to construct complicated agricultural machinery from scratch, sometimes with only a rudimentary plan and minimal guidance from the researcher. His skills and dedication ensure the success of instrument and machine related research projects.

De Fer is respected among undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff because of the way he interacts with people. He is one who will go the extra mile. A natural teacher, he has dedicated his time and energy to interacting with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. He listens, teaches students how to use equipment safely, and provides advice when asked. He helps students construct devices with an eye for quality, all the while encouraging them to learn. As a result, De Fer's advice on materials and construction methods is sought after and listened to by faculty, staff and students alike.

He has been observed working late into the night and over long weekends to make sure research projects are successfully completed. When researchers panic, De Fer simply, bears down and does all he can to solve their problems. According to one of his letters of recommendation, "Mr. De Fer's success [can be observed in] the line of graduate students, faculty, and Campus Agriculture Center employees lined up every morning for advice and help with their projects." "Charles can make things happen."

One faculty member wrote that he often speaks with De Fer to gather technical information and to estimate the budget when writing proposals. A graduate student wrote: "it is hard to find professors or mentors that have the willingness to take time out of their day, sit down and help you with a problem and not stop until you have accomplished a goal—Charlie is one of these few rarities!"

Outstanding Research Team

Mount Graham Biology Program—John Koprowski, Vicki Greer, Sadie Bertelsen, and Sarah King; School of Natural Resources



(from left): Sarah King, Vicki Greer, John Koprowski. Not pictured: Sadie Bertelsen

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The purpose of this program is to conduct interdisciplinary research to increase understanding of high elevation ecosystems in the sky islands (mountaintop areas) of the desert Southwest. The program originated from a congressional mandate to monitor the endangered Mount Graham red squirrel as part of the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988. The program monitors the impact of the Mount Graham International Observatory on the montane ecosystem of the Pinaleno Mountains.

Under John Koprowski's leadership the team has promoted stewardship of the forest environment, and sound management of the Mount Graham red squirrel and other animal populations in the Pinaleno Mountains. Koprowski has promoted cooperation among the diverse groups interested in natural resources on Mount Graham. Because of this sound management, the public image of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the University of Arizona has been greatly increased.

Over the last four years this team has garnered over \$1.3 million in extra- and intra-mural funding, produced two books and 27 research articles, given 31 presentations at professional meetings, and conducted seven tours of Mount Graham for visiting scientists.

This program has also fostered involvement of students in research. Over the last four years, two students were involved in Ph.D. programs, six in master's programs, five undergraduate students conducted independent studies. The program also supported 11 undergraduate students as part-time employees and 11 full-time field technicians during this period.

Koprowski and his team have fostered collaboration with other research units on campus such as the Stewart Observatory, Tree Ring lab, and Office of Arid Lands, and with research units in state and federal governments, including Arizona Game and Fish Department, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service. They have also developed collaborations with international scientists including those from The Centre for Life Sciences Modelling at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the United Kingdom, Sierra San Pedro Martir National Park, Mexico, and the National Observatory in Baja California Norte, Mexico.