

From: [Stelly_David](#)
To: [Bill Rooney](#)
Cc: [Stelly_David](#)
Subject: Re: Call for 2009 Departmental Awards
Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 8:12:37 AM
Attachments: [Raska_AwardNomn-Stelly_09j28.doc](#)
[ATT00041.htm](#)

Thanks. Here is my draft on Wayne.

DS

On Oct 27, 2009, at 11:04 PM, Bill Rooney wrote:

I'll write for Wayne.
Bill

From: Stelly_David [mailto:stelly@tamu.edu]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2009 11:02 AM
To: Smith C. Wayne; Kohel Russell; Rooney Bill; Harris Jared; Hodnett George; Saha Sukumar; Gwyn Jeff; Hanson Robert Jr.
Cc: Stelly_David David M.
Subject: Fwd: Call for 2009 Departmental Awards
Importance: High

Would you be willing (if not in conflict with other plans) to join me in nominating Mr. Wayne Raska for this award? He has been my right arm for over 25 years, longevity of which in itself an immensely important factor, as it provided great continuity. Wayne's work and work ethics are highly respected by all who know him and are familiar with his many, many contributions to our overall operations. I opted to ask for a short note from a few of you that have long-since departed my group and TAMU, but who are thus all the more aware of both his long-term dedication to our lab's work for cotton improvement and science, as well as his penchant for organization and "to get it done".

David

5. Technical Staff Support: Technicians, technical assistants, research assistants or equivalents that do not require a M.S. degree may be nominated, with emphasis on their sustained contributions.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Judy Young" <j-young@tamu.edu>
Date: October 23, 2009 10:45:24 AM CDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: Call for 2009 Departmental Awards

**** High Priority ****

FROM: Mike Chandler, Chair
Departmental Awards Committee

TO: All Faculty 09; Center/Station Directors; Support Staff;
Graduate Students and Undergraduate Students

DATE: 10/22/2009

SUBJECT: Call for 2009 Departmental Awards

We need to identify and prepare nomination packets for outstanding individuals in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences. Please help assure that individuals in your group or location are aware and can help recognize others for their contributions to teaching, extension and research.

Nominating procedures and former recipients are provided in the pages that follow. The nomination is basically a two-page summary, a couple of letters of support and up to six pages on the nominees background. The 2009 nomination packet should arrive by 4 p.m. on December 3, 2009.

Please deliver packets to:

Anna Fox
Department of Soil & Crop Sciences
2474 TAMU
217 Heep
College Station, TX 77843-2474
afox@ag.tamu.edu

Please take time from your busy schedule to participate in this worth while endeavor.

AWARDS IN EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University System

Purpose: The Department established this Awards in Excellence program to recognize employees and others for their contributions and special efforts that enhance teaching, research, and extension activities. A committee appointed by the Department Head manages the program, reviews nominations, and selects final candidates for recognition. Award categories, nomination procedures, and other details are described below.

Categories of Awards

1. **Administrative Support:** Persons may be nominated who hold a position of clerical staff, account clerks, secretaries, administrative assistants, or similar duties that enhance the work and programs of teaching, extension, and/or research.
2. **Research Award:** This award is for faculty in research for excellence in scientific achievements and career accomplishments, with emphasis on the past three years. Considerations include innovations, collaborations, and applications.
3. **Research Collaboration:** This award is intended for an individual holding a Ph.D., usually post-doctoral research associate and similar position, who has provided outstanding research contributions under the direction of a permanent Faculty member.
4. **Research Support:** This award is for persons holding positions as research technicians, research associates, or equivalent positions that required at least a M.S. degree. Post-doctoral research associates and similar positions do not fall under this category for their contributions to the program.
5. **Technical Staff Support:** Technicians, technical assistants, research assistants or equivalents that do not require a M.S. degree may be nominated, with emphasis on their sustained contributions.
6. **Graduate Research Award:** Nominations should focus on students enrolled in a masters or doctoral program during the past calendar year, working on or off campus, and focus on research conducted at Texas A&M. The nomination may include a list of twelve (12) publications (authored or co-authored during the past five years) and may list significant presentations and awards.
7. **Extension Awards:** This award is for faculty excellence and accomplishments in extension education, including specialists and others, with emphasis on the past three years. Considerations include innovations, cooperation and outreach, and impacts.
8. **Collaborating County Extension Agent:** This award is to recognize county agents and others who have provided direct support for

Specialists in program planning, implementation activities, and/or delivery of Extension programs and may include county-based demonstration/applied research projects, enhanced communication with target audiences to deliver Extension information and resources, or other activities that enhance Extension missions and outreach - on a county, regional, or state basis.

9. Teaching Award: This award is recognize outstanding contributions of a faculty member in classroom teaching, advising, mentoring, and/or other activities toward enhancing student experiences in undergraduate or graduate teaching. The nomination may include efforts toward enriched course content, delivery, career development, and impact on students.

10. Graduate Teaching Award: This award may be granted to a graduate teaching assistant for outstanding contributions in laboratory, lecture, or non-teaching activities that enhanced student experiences in one or more courses in the Department. The nominee should have been enrolled and functioning as a graduate student during the current calendar year.

11. Undergraduate Student Support: This award is intended to recognize an undergraduate student who significantly contributed to teaching, research or extension programs above and beyond usual employment expectations.

12. Special Service/Recognition Award: This award recognizes outstanding support by an individual and/or organization for teaching, research, and/or extension programs of the Department. The nomination should summarize contributions and impacts, with emphasis on the past five years. The award may be presented at a time or place to more fully recognize the contributions.

Eligibility

1. Any Soil and Crop Sciences faculty or staff may submit nominations for any category. Student groups may nominate one faculty member for an award.

2. Any Soil and Crop Sciences faculty, staff, or student is eligible to receive awards, subject to these constraints:

a. Members of the Departmental Awards Committee are not eligible to receive an award.

b. Previous recipients of a Departmental, Association of Former Students, or Agriculture Program award are not eligible for an award in the same category in this program but may be nominated in a different category.

c. Previous nominees are eligible but must be re-nominated if not

successful. If a candidate is nominated for more than one category, an award may be in only one category.

d. All nominees must have been associated with the Department for at least three years, except for nominees for Graduate, Undergraduate, and Research Collaboration Awards, who must be affiliated with the Department at least in the calendar year of nomination.

Nomination and submission procedures:

Nominations should first clearly identify the award category.

Nomination packets must include:

1. A two-page double-spaced statement summarizing significant accomplishments, achievements, and/or evidence of impacts, with emphasis on recent years and conclude with the nominator's name and date.
2. Up to two letters (one page each) supporting the nomination.
3. A copy of significant portions (up to six pages) from the nominee's annual achievement report, resume, or comparable information.

Submission and selection

1. Seven (7) complete collated packets should be prepared with each copy placed in a folder labeled with the award category and the nominee's name.

Packets should be received by 4 PM on December 3, 2009 in the Departmental office.

2. The Departmental Awards Committee will evaluate and select award recipients.

All decisions by the Committee will be final and subject to acceptance by the Head.

Awards will be presented at a Departmental meeting or other event for recognition.

A list of former Departmental Award recipients is presented below.

Questions may be directed to the Awards Chairman or the Departmental Office.

Past Recipients - SOIL AND CROP SCIENCES DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS
(if no location is indicated, the recipient was at College Station)

1. Administrative Support: Debbie Sutherland, Janet Case, Missy Vajdak, Cindy King, Betty Yezak, Jolene K. Hampton, Sherry Higgenbotham, Glenda Kurten, Mary Cooper, Lubbock, Janis Williamson, Overton, Lynette Huval, Tami Hons, Gloria Conrad, Thelma M. Barrett, Lubbock, Tina Nuche, Ginger Franks, Janell McCullough, Martha Hyde, Lubbock, Gladys Beasley, Helen Butler, Carol Rhodes, Joan Cowart, Judy Young, Li Zhang, Kevin Moore

2. Research Faculty: Frank, Hons, C. Wayne Smith, Ralph Waniska, Gerald Evers - Overton, Kevin McInnes, Richard Loeppert, F. Monty Rouquette, Jr. - Overton, Olin Smith, Seeichi Miyamoto - El Paso, Charles Simpson- Stephenville, W.R. Ocumpaugh - Beeville, Arthur Onken,-Lubbock, Vincent A. Haby- Overton, Larry Wilding, Lloyd Hossner, Charles Wendt -Lubbock, Kirk Brown, Darrell Rosenow - Lubbock, Keith McCree, Floyd Fenn - El Paso, Allen Wiese- Amarillo, Cleve Gerard - Vernon, Kenneth Porter- Amarillo, Ethan Holt, Gerald Smith-Overton, Bill Rooney

3. Research Collaboration: Hyeon-Se Lee, Hamid Shahandeh, Sung Hun Park, Nurul Islam-Faridi, Scott Finlayson, Sam Yang

4. Research Support: Margaret J. (Peggy) Parsons, William H. (Pete) Higgins - Stephenville, Mark H. Hall, Brent A. Bessler, Yoakum, G. Norman White, Stephen Ward, Overton, Charles Woodfin -Lubbock, Doug Nesmith- Lubbock, Cassandra McDonough, Allen Leonard - Overton, Indre J. Pemberton - Overton, Sam Sifers, James V. Davis - Overton, M.J. Florence - Overton, L. Richard Drees, Wallace Menn, Jim Thomas, Mary Ketchersid, Chantel Scheuring, John Everitt - Lubbock, Randy Bow-Stephenville

5. Technical Staff Support: Todd Carpenter, Vince Saladino, Annette Fincher, Joel Kerby -Overton, Frank Fojt, Michael R. Baring, Leon Synatschk, Vicki Gergeni, Kathy Schmitt, Henry Cobb- Lubbock, Jim Crowder, Overton, Lyndon Schoenhals - Lubbock, Curtis Gilbert - Overton, Gene Bolton, Bobby Bredthauer, Dennis Pietsch, K.C. Donnelly, Robert McGee- Weslaco, Gary Peterson- Amarillo, Wayne Chenault- Amarillo, Gary Nimr - Overton, Dawn Deno, Delroy Collins

6. Graduate Student Research: Jason Krutz, Lu Tian, Ronnie Schnell, Abdul Mohammed

7. Extension Faculty: Brent Bean- Amarillo, Todd Baughman -Vernon, Randy Boman - Lubbock, Mark McFarland, C.S., Robert Lemon -C.S., Paul Baumann - CS, Travis Miller- C.S. Billy Warrick -San Angelo, Charles Stichler - Uvalde, George Alston -Stephenville, Willis Gaas -C.S., Steve Livingston- C.S., .Ed. Colburn - C.S., William Knoop- Dallas, Billy L.

Harris- C.S, John Bremer- C.C., Neal Pratt- C.S., Dave Weaver- C.S., James Supak -Lubbock, Kenneth Lindsey- Ft. Stockton, Robert Metzger- C.S., Frank Petr- Amarillo, A.C. Novasad- C.S., Jim McAfee-Dallas, Tony Provin - C.S., Gaylon Morgan - C.S.

8. Collaborating County Agent: Ron Leps, Gary Bomar-Abilene

9. Teaching Faculty: Richard White, Scott Senseman, Tom Cothren, Ralph Waniska, Mike Chandler, Kirk Brown, Wallace Menn, Harry Cralle, Mark Hussey, Tom Hallmark, Frank Hons, Don Vietor, David Zuberer, Murray Milford, Morris Merkle, J. F. Mills, Sam Feagley, Christine Morgan, Terry Gentry

10. Graduate Teaching: Robyn McGilloway, Cecilia Gerngross, Faith Ann Heinsch, Trent Hale, Thomas Brooks, Curtis Wiltze, Michelle Finlayson, Linn White, Travis Waiser, Brad Westmoreland, Sara Lancaster

11. Undergraduate Student Support: Travis Waiser, Ashley Fowler, (Gigi) Alicia Mauer, Kristen Kurten, Courtney Swyden, Morgan Arnett, Katrina Hutchinson, Scott Stanislav

12. Special Services/ Recognition Award: Doug Jost - Monsanto, Jim Faubion -Club Corp, Norman Rozeff -Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc., Billy Turner, Texas Turfgrass Association, Mike Wright and Andy Pontz - KBTX, Ernest Rivers -C.S. ,Texas Wheat Producers Board, Lamesa Cotton Growers Association, Carl Cox - TFFC, Texas Producers Peanut Board, USGA Green Section, Turfgrass Producers of Texas, Craig Potts - Assistant Athletic Field Manger at Texas A&M University

October 26, 2009

TO: Awards Committee – Department of Soil & Crop Sciences

FR: David Stelly, Professor

RE: Nomination of Dwaine A. Raska for Technical Staff Support

I have led the Cotton Cytogenetics / Wide-cross Introgression Project for 25 years, during most of which Dwaine (“Wayne”) A. Raska has been the project's “right arm”. Wayne was an hourly student worker when I assumed a faculty position in 1983. A few years later, he completed his B.Sc. and I was able to hire him as a replacement for my pre-existing technician, who departed for Cornell University with her husband. He has proven himself to be an indispensable part of this project and served with distinction for many years as our project's technical guru and research assistant.

The project and the Department have benefited immensely from Wayne's numerous contributions, many far beyond the call of duty, including exceptionally hard work – sometimes over 100 hours per week at crunch times (no bull!). Moreover, Wayne has time and time again found ways to get things done economically. His work ethics have multiplied the benefits of his education, intelligence, organization and diverse handyman skills. His proficiency allows the project to grow large populations in greenhouses (15,000 – 20,000 sq ft / year-round), space-transplanted nursery (2.5 acres) and direct-seeded cotton fields (5-10 acres), work-crew management (5-10 student workers year round), and to make very large numbers of cytogenetic preparations and cytological analyses for cotton cytogenetic stock development (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.) and chromosome substitution (3 alien species), and many additional ad hoc projects. Our project is well recognized for its forte, cotton cytogenetics, throughout the world cotton research community – and Wayne's contributions there have been intrinsic to our success.

His “one-man-army” work ethics, abilities, meticulous attention to planning and detail and ability to operate many facets of the project independently have been a huge benefit to the project, and contributed greatly to our lab's reputation world-wide in the cotton genetics, genomics and breeding research communities. He has routinely interfaced excellently with Farms Services, the the local USDA cotton Germplasm and Plant Pathology groups, and also with the USDA groups at Mississippi State and Stoneville; as well as many others on an ad hoc basis. So, he has impacted not only internal operations, but also external ones.

Dr. David Stelly
Dept. Soil & Crop Sciences, TAMU
Heep Center, 370 Olsen Blvd.
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Dept. URL:

The longevity of his role in this project (>25 years) has been an immensely important factor, as it has provided great continuity and ever-increasing proficiency and efficiency. Wayne's work and work ethics are highly respected by all who know him and are familiar with his many, many contributions at our workplace. I know that there have been several instances where Wayne could have taken positions offered to him by colleagues here and elsewhere, and probably there were others that I do not know about, but he remained very faithful to our project, too. SCSC has benefited from his deep commitment.

Wayne has long taken a personal pride in our lab and department. There have been many, many instances where Wayne took the initiative to build or modify or fix items in our buildings (#955, 961, 963, 965) and equipment, and devise operation-smoothing and -economizing gadgets or procedures. A few simple examples include repairing equipment and rebuilding our roller gins, lightweight construction of lab items, building a bridge across the constantly flooded ditch between buildings 965 and 955 (we use both), building soil bins, building sidewalks, renovating/fixing greenhouses #961 and #963, and just last week, welding a bike rack. His contributions extend to aesthetics and social matters, too – for example, he has for years planted, replaced and kept up ornamentals in front of New Beasley Lab, which arguably has the best looking greenery of all buildings along Agronomy Rd., the grounds around most of which are poorly landscaped. On a number of occasions, he has provided decorations and time for SCSC Departmental functions. In our lab, he works directly with numerous hourly workers, and has on numerous occasions taken the lead in organizing lab socials that help keep up morale and work efforts.

Wayne Raska's long-term dedication and contributions to our lab, the cotton program and SCSC warrant recognition. I request your support in having the Department recognize Wayne at this time for his contributions --- their longevity, their multi-dimensionality, consistency, and high quality. They reflect exceptional high degrees of competence and commitment.