

SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877  
A LEE ENTERPRISES NEWSPAPER

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## UA-honored teachers deserve congratulations

**OUR VIEW:** And this is the perfect time to thank the special ones in your life

This is a weekend for celebrating new UA graduates — more than 5,000 of them are receiving undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees, or are becoming pharmacists, doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

We congratulate them, and ask that they join us in saying thank you to teachers who helped them reach their goal.

If you haven't already done so, new graduate, visit, call or write to those special teachers and tell them what they mean to you. For that matter, if you graduated 30 years ago and still haven't said "thanks," do it today.

As a group, University of Arizona students have already honored one outstanding teacher — Guzin Bayraksan, an assistant professor in the department of systems and industrial engineering in the College of Engineering.

She is the winner of the 2012 Five Star Teaching Award, a student-selected prize sponsored by the Honors College.

Bayraksan, who became a teacher when she joined the UA faculty in 2005, said in an e-mail interview that teaching is satisfying because it gives her "the ability to change someone's life, however small or large it might be, without sometimes even recognizing it. I view teaching more than merely teaching a technical topic to UA engineering students. To me, mentoring the students is a big part of teaching. To be able to assist the students in their job/internship searches, their course selections and helping them with their projects is truly rewarding."

She said she tries to emulate the best teachers she's had — educators who are caring, fair and respectful, and who know their topics extremely well.

The letter explaining why Bayraksan was selected used words such as "stern and skillful" and "warm, outgoing and approachable" to describe her. It mentioned that she postponed her interview with the selection committee to help students who stopped by her office.

The Five Star Faculty Award was created in 1983 and comes with a \$1,000 prize.

The UA also recently recognized four other teachers.

- Thomas Wilson, a lecturer in the department of soil, water and environmental science, received a Provost's General Education Teaching Award.

One of his nominators wrote: "His enthusiasm and passion for biology are infectious. He demonstrates critical thinking and scientific perspectives in ways that are evident and accessible. When you see Tom interact with students, it is evident that teaching and learning work two ways."

- Laura Gutiérrez, an associate professor and director of graduate studies in the department of Spanish and Portuguese, also received a provost award.

"Her creative and investigative mind, in addition to her love for teaching and strong theoretical background, makes her a wonderful teacher, who not only attracts students to the field of literary and cultural studies but also helps them become truly competent thinkers," a nominator wrote.

- Vicente Talanquer, associate professor in the department of chemistry and biochemistry, was awarded the Koffler Prize for Teaching.

The UA's announcement of his award said, "His dedication to the field includes undergraduate level teaching, the development of new classroom and online teaching curriculum, the training of secondary school science teachers, the advising of chemistry education doctoral students, and contributing to the literature in the area of chemical education, as well as the development of online instructional materials that are freely accessible."

- Lester I. McCann, a senior lecturer in the department of computer science, was awarded the Leicester and Kathryn Sherrill Creative Teaching Award.

The UA said McCann uses podcasts and video lectures and developed a tablet-based slide format for notetaking.

"What makes Dr. McCann a great one," a nominator wrote, "are the ways in which he rises above the limitations that other instructors accept as insurmountable, adjusting his practices to address the pitfalls specific to the course material."

Congratulations to these five special educators.

### MY VIEW: David Fitzsimmons

Contact editorial cartoonist David Fitzsimmons at 573-4234 or tooner@azstarnet.com



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### One question for gay marriage opponents

Re: the May 10 article "Reactions to Obama support for gay marriage."

John Chambers  
Retired, Tucson

I have one question for the civil rights-denying politicians: If, as Sen. Jim Inhofe says, "Traditional marriage is a long-standing, common-sense American value that is the backbone of our society...," then why don't they outlaw divorce?

Dot Jones  
Tucson

#### Pima County should be selling, not buying, land

The state of Arizona is a large state — 113,998 square miles. Eighty-eight percent of the land in Arizona is owned by the federal government, state and local governments and Indian tribes. A portion of the 12 percent of the land that is privately owned is not taxable (i.e., it's owned by churches, etc).

The May 8 Star reported that Pima County is buying 172 acres of the Rincon Valley for \$1 million. I have read other articles in the past that report that Pima County is buying property to "preserve it."

Pima County monies are needed for many important purposes — including to fix a million potholes. I think the Pima County Board of Supervisors should be selling land rather than buying land — which would generate taxes if sold to private parties.

Richard J. Hansen  
Green Valley AZ

#### Romney in 'no' column yet again

Re: the May 10 article "Obama says he supports gay marriage completely."

President Obama has now stated his backing for gay marriage. About time.

Of course, that puts Romney in the unfortunate position of having to oppose gay marriage. Another example of the GOP's invariable position of "no."

John Chambers  
Retired, Tucson

#### Romney, Bush too much alike

Both Bush and Romney are former governors; both have MBAs from Ivy League colleges; both came from powerful, wealthy political families. One became, and one wants to become, a U.S. president.

I'm curious: Can anyone tell me how they might be different from each other? There must be some differences. If possible, could someone forward this on to Romney's campaign, as I really would like to hear this question asked and answered.

Felicia S. May  
Retired, Tucson

#### Gay people should have equal rights

Re: the May 10 article "Obama says he supports gay marriage completely."

I would like to commend President Obama's coming out for gay marriages. Half of our friends have gay members in their family, as well as myself.

It is about time it is realized there are gay people and they too should have equal rights.

Jackie Manuel  
Retired, Marana

#### Kelly misinformation insults seniors

As a senior, I find Jesse Kelly's ad regarding Medicare offensive. Does he really believe seniors are so ignorant that they will believe the misinformation about Obamacare? Seriously?

Helena Lamb  
Retired, Tucson

#### Raising golf fees is not the answer

Re: the May 9 article "Council moves to raise golf fees."

Raising the price of golf is not the answer in trying to solve the deficit.

If there is a means to making more money, the council should consider lowering prices, rather than raising them.

The City Council should quit pretending they know how to run golf courses.

There are several qualified professional golf management organizations only too willing to assist courses in distress, so why not hire one?

Get out of the business and get help!

Robbie Robinson  
Retired, Tucson

#### Anti-Barber letters vs. anti-Kelly letters

Re: the May 11 letter to the editor "Star needs to ask Barber questions?"

I could not have been more amused this morning when I read the letter concerning what the writer felt was the unfairness of the Star in printing more anti-Kelly letters than anti-Barber letters.

Ever since he jumped in the race several months ago and plastered his signs all over town, I have been writing an anti-Kelly letter to the Star at least weekly. So far only one has been printed.

I was left wondering to whom I could report this one-sided coverage, especially since the TV stations seem to take Kelly's ads as factual and leave them unchallenged.

Thanks to the letter writer for opening my eyes about what's going on here.

Patrick J. Clinton  
Retired social worker, Tucson

## Mother's Oasis a big help to Tucson moms with postpartum depression

By Carole Sheehan  
SPECIAL TO THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Today is Mother's Day.

While many mothers may relish the joy and satisfaction of their crucial role in nurturing, educating and inspiring the next generation, too many mothers will be suffering in silence with mental and emotional strain related to pregnancy and childbirth. Mayor Jonathan Rothschild has proclaimed May 13-19, 2012, as Postpartum Depression Awareness Week, in response to the efforts of the Tucson Postpartum Depression Coalition (TPDC).

The Proclamation reads, in part: "Whereas, this community wide Coalition of healthcare professionals shares a vision of emotional wellness, and hopes to reduce suffering from mood disorders relating to childbirth, prevent harm to mother, baby, and family; and promote the health of generations to come through education, early identification and treatment to prevent negative outcomes."

Annually, around 4,000 women in Pima County experience anxiety and depression around childbirth. Many are not identified or treated, leading to chronic depression for the mother and challenges for her partner and the child(ren) as well.

Tucson has gained national attention for local efforts to identify and support women at risk for postpartum depression and anxiety. As we honor those who have achieved what is, in many nations, the coveted status of 'mother,' attention need also turn to those whose experience of maternal depression sheds doubt, guilt, shame and fear over what could be a woman's crowning achievement.

This 'dark side of motherhood' has probably existed since our ancestral mothers scanned the community for food for her elders, her mate and her children. Low infant survival rates and difficulty finding food and other resources likely triggered the same depression and anxiety we see when women doubt the fitness of their circumstances to meet today's demands of raising their babies into adulthood.

While untreated maternal depression can lead to a variety of poor outcomes that are indeed preventable, it is good to remember that noteworthy strides towards early identification and treatment of maternal depression

and anxiety are well underway in this Old Pueblo. In August 2011, CODAC Behavioral Health Services provided space to TPDC to develop education, support and outreach services in a new program called Mother's Oasis. Mother's Oasis has since assisted over 200 women in finding the help they needed for recovery and wellness.

Without other funding, an amazing core of volunteers including nurses, social workers, therapists and mom-survivors, has made it possible for mothers seeking a supportive ear or kind shoulder, to find that safe haven; a place where everyone who reaches out will get served. Any mom who thinks they might need to talk — or get connected to support groups or treatment — can call Mother's

Oasis at 520-202-1987 or visit [www.mothersoasis.org](http://www.mothersoasis.org) "Happy Mother's Day" to all mothers in Tucson. Few know the depths of suffering that many of you have endured. Let us continue to raise awareness of the true struggles of perinatal depression that 20 percent of mothers face as they embrace their roles. Let us reach out with comfort, support and acceptance when the myths that we all have of 'motherhood' fail expectations. And let us all write a new version that truly reflects the complexity and agony when a rite of passage goes wrong.

Carole Sheehan, MA, RN is the Founder/President of the Tucson Postpartum Depression Coalition and Co-Coordinator of Postpartum Support International (PSI) AZ.

### HOW TO COMMENT

The Arizona Daily Star welcomes original letters and guest opinions with ideas, viewpoints, criticism and news analysis that encourage discussion on issues that have an impact on the community.

E-mail letters to: [letters@azstarnet.com](mailto:letters@azstarnet.com) (no text attachments please)

Write to: 4850 S. Park Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85714.  
Please include: Author's full name, address, daytime phone, occupation and e-mail address.  
When writing about political issues, authors should fully disclose their relationship with an issue, campaign or candidate.  
Facts must be annotated. Letters containing in-

formation that cannot be easily verified, libelous statements or name calling will be rejected.

Frequency: Any author may have a letter or guest opinion every 30 days.

Submissions: Letters should be on a single topic, no more than 150 words. Guest opinions can be up to 500 words. Guest opinions should in-

clude a line describing the author and a head-and-shoulders photograph. Submissions may be edited for clarity or length. All submissions become property of the Arizona Daily Star. Only original material bearing the writer's name and sent exclusively to the Arizona Daily Star will be considered for publication.