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Ianr Awards Luncheon: Dinsdale Family Faculty Awards

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DRAFT

IANR AWARDS LUNCHEON
DINSDALE FAMILY FACULTY AWARDS
APRIL 16, 2007
JOHN C. OWENS
NU VICE PRESIDENT AND IANR HARLAN VICE CHANCELLOR

What a pleasure it is to come together here to recognize and
"celebrate" outstanding work of members of our IANR community.

Today we celebrate excellence through two Dinsdale Family Faculty Awards. The Dinsdale Family Faculty Award is specially focused on ~~pre-tenure~~ ^{pre-tenure} ~~untenured~~ faculty who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to academic excellence. It recognizes outstanding teaching, research, and outreach in the Institute. Roy Dinsdale, who provided the funds for this award, graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Business Administration in 1948 and immediately went to work in the family business. At that time Dinsdale Brothers, Inc., was a farming and cattle operation at Palmer. The family also owned the State Bank at Palmer.

Over the years the farming operation has grown in Nebraska and expanded into Colorado. The cattle operation and the banking business, the latter having grown to assets of \$3 billion, both now are found in Nebraska, Colorado, Kentucky, Oklahoma and California.

In 1997, Roy Dinsdale made a gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation to create the "Dinsdale Family Faculty Award" in support of his alma mater and his family's interest in agriculture.

Dr. Tala Awada and Dr. Harshavardhan Thippareddi are our 2006 Dinsdale Family Faculty Award recipients. Would you please come forward?

Tala joined us in 2001 as assistant professor in the School of Natural Resources. She teaches in the areas of forestry and grasslands — ecosystems and bio-atmospheric interactions. As a plant ecophysiologicalist, she studies plant responses and ecosystems to environmental stresses, such as drought, salt, heat, frost and climate change.

Using various cutting-edge techniques, including eddy covariance, sap flow, gas exchange, and isotopes, Tala determines the various components of ecosystem water balance. Several of these techniques are being used for the first-time in forested areas of Nebraska. Results from this study will fill a significant gap in the literature on the contribution of woody vegetation to ecosystem evapotranspiration in the Great Plains.

Together with scientists from Greece, Tala is investigating the ecophysiology and water balance of Mediterranean pine forests and their response to climate change. She also is completing a study on chemical

and mechanical (wind machine) frost protection methods and ice nucleation in citrus trees.

While at UNL, much of Tala's grant-funded research findings have been published in several top forestry and plant sciences journals ^{has resulted in} and 14 peer-reviewed publications. Her credits include 26 published national and international conference abstracts.

Tala's impressive service record includes the Board of Governors for the Center for Great Plains Studies. She is the School of Natural Resources' representative to the Agricultural Research Division Advisory Council. Tala is senior adviser for the CASNR Student Advisory Board and serves as the SNR undergraduate scholarship coordinator. Additional committee work comes with all of these responsibilities.

Please help me give a warm congratulations to Tala.

We fondly refer to our next Dinsdale Family Faculty Award recipient by his abbreviated name, Reddi.

Reddi joined IANR in 2002 as extension food safety specialist and assistant professor of food science and technology. His research focuses on validation of critical limits for critical control points within the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) guidelines. By developing computer models, Reddi is making predictions about what might

“microbiologically occur in food when exposed to typical food processing conditions. He also is evaluating the effectiveness of various intervention steps for reducing microbial hazards, such as *E coli* 0157:H7, *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. These projects are among the high priority areas established by the USDA and the Institute. Reddi is one of only a few researchers in the United States who has ^{the} expertise ^{NECESSARY} to address these problems.

In the past four years, Reddi has published 17 referred journal articles and two book chapters. His lab is full of graduate and undergraduate students, as well as lab workers and visiting scientists.

Reddi is an outstanding team member and has been very effective in establishing collaborative research relationships with scientists worldwide. His opinion is held in high regard by the food industry in Nebraska and the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service. Our meat and food safety programs have been highly recognized thanks to Reddi, and he has become one of the most productive scientists in our Department of Food Science and Technology.

Let us warmly congratulate Reddi.

What a pleasure it is to make these presentations today! Please join me in once again congratulating both ¹Dr. Awada and Dr. Thippareddi on receiving the Dinsdale Family Awards.

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