THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, LIFE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES, AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

CHARLES-SANDER DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, congratulations to two of our colleagues **Steven R. Archer, Ph.D.** and **Ian L. Pepper, Ph.D.** who have just been designated as Regents Professors by the Arizona Board of Regents. Regents Professors Archer and Pepper will be inducted at a special ceremony during the next academic year.

The Regents Professor title is reserved for outstanding full professors who have achieved national or international recognition and exemplify the University of Arizona's objectives and standards for scholarship, research or creative activities, and teaching. Ian and Steve receive this title in company with four distinguished UA colleagues: Sonia Colina, Ph.D. (Spanish and Portuguese), Marwan Krunz, Ph.D. (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Dante Lauretta, Ph.D. (Planetary Sciences/Lunar and Planetary Laboratory), and Sallie Marston, Ph.D. (Geography and Development). They join our existing Regents Professors: Drs. Bruce Tabashnik (2015), David Breshears (2018), Rod Wing (2019), and Judith Brown (2020).

I'd like to share with you below the statements reviewed by the Regents when considering the nominations for this honor. Of course, these highlight just a few of their many exceptional achievements and the lasting impacts they've had on the lives of so many of our graduates. I look forward to seeing their continued success. Please join me in congratulating Steve and Ian on this distinguished honor.

Regards,

Shane C. Burgess

IAN PEPPER, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Dr. Ian Pepper is a locally, nationally, and internationally renowned environmental microbiologist who has worked at the interface of human health and soils, potable water, and municipal wastes. A faculty member in the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Arizona for over 40 years, he is heralded for his basic and applied research, his exemplary efforts to train the next generation of scientists, and his public- and private-sector collaborations that further science-based decision making.

Dr. Pepper has focused on the fate and transport of pathogens in air, water, soils, and municipal wastes. He helped establish and has been connected to the National Science Foundation's Industry/University Cooperative Research Center on Water Quality for over 30 years. The list of research centers he has led includes the Water Quality Center, the Environmental Research Laboratory, and, most recently, the Water and Energy Sustainable Technology (WEST) Center. Co-located on the campus of the Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility, the WEST Center is an innovative partnership with Pima County and a unique laboratory for the study of treated wastewater.

There is no better example of how Dr. Pepper has impacted addressing real-world problems than his successful efforts to identify and quantify the COVID-19 virus in waste flows from University dormitories. His team's "wastewater-based epidemiology," which enabled the University to avoid a major campus outbreak, has been implemented in many other locations. Their methodology was quickly shared through media interviews and popular press.

Dr. Pepper's collaborative research and educational contributions, including authorship of multiple textbooks, have been recognized by numerous societies. He has been inducted as a Fellow by the Soil Science Society of America, the American Society of Agronomy, the American Academy of Microbiology, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Very recent awards include the 2019 Extraordinary Faculty Award from the UA Alumni Association and the 2020 Graduate Teaching and Mentoring Award from the UA Graduate College.

STEVEN ARCHER, SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Professor Archer's research has concentrated on interactions between grasses and woody plants in relation to soils, climate, and land use through a broadly-based research program using remote sensing, geographic information system (GIS) mapping technology, dendrochronology, and stable-isotope chemistry. The results have enabled him to reconstruct vegetation history and to quantify and predict the consequences on sustainability of grazing systems, ecosystem biogeochemistry, and land surface atmosphere interactions.

Professor Archer's research has substantively advanced our ecological understanding of grass-woody plant dynamics and underpin the secondary succession paradigm of cover and land use in drylands. Professor Archer's accomplishments have been recognized by the Chapline Research Award of the International Society for Range Management (2019); Fellowship in the Ecological Society of America (2016); and Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2009).

An additional strength of Professor Archer is his unique ability to translate his research in rangeland management to university extension agents so that they can then transmit the information to ranchers, conservationists and the general public. This is an important contribution to the Land Grant Mission of the University of Arizona. Professor Archer served as the lead author of the Arid Lands Section of the U.S. National Climate Change Science Synthesis/Assessment Product 4.3.