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DPTC NEWS

June 17, 2010



(Photo by Aaron Lambert)

San Luis Obispo, CA-Dr. Rafael J Jiménez -Flores was presented with the Distinguished Scholarship Award for the University at the Spring Commencement held on June, 12, 2010 by University President, Warren Baker. This is a highly prestigious award that is presented to only two faculty members annually. It was established to recognize achievements in research, creative work and other professional development activities. It is intended to support research and other creative endeavors and to encourage faculty member's professional growth. This year the committee received nominations for seventy faculty members eligible for the award.

In a letter to President Baker, Don Choi, the chair of the Distinguished Scholarship Awards Committee stated, "Adept at engaging colleagues and students alike, Dr. Jiménez-Flores has established an enviable record as a scholar who applies sophisticated, interdisciplinary scientific methods to pragmatic issues in the field of food science." He went on to say, "The research conducted by Rafael Jiménez-Flores demonstrates how the Cal Poly environment can foster interdisciplinary collaboration in the service of applied research. This kind of scholarship draws on both the practical knowledge created by applied science and on the creativity of newer fields such as molecular biology."

According to Susan C. Opava, Ph.D., Dean of Research and Graduate Programs, "Dr. Jiménez has an excellent record of research and publication and is very deserving of this award. Two things about his work have particularly impressed me. One is that he is helping to expand the scope of research in Dairy Science through his studies on the therapeutic and immune-enhancing effects of specific components of milk. The other is how he involves so many different faculty across campus in his research. He has really been a leader in getting faculty to work together and leverage their collective expertise to bring in project funding and funding for the acquisition of major resources."

Dr. Jiménez joined the faculty of the Dairy Science Department and Dairy Products Technology Center at Cal Poly in 1995. He keeps active on the areas of dairy technology, mostly on the characterization and function of milk components, (MFGM and buttermilk), and on diverse applications of molecular biology and physical-chemistry of MFGM components and

interactions. He is the author of over 70 peer-reviewed papers, 3 patents and 10 book chapters. He is currently an advisor for 7 graduate students, 2 postdoctoral fellows. Rafael has been the Chair of the ADSA milk protein and enzyme Committee, and was the Chair of the Journal of Dairy Science Management Committee. He is the senior editor of the JDS foods section. In 2003 Dr. Jiménez won the ADSA Kraft-Milk Industry Foundation Teaching award and in 2009, the IDFA Research Award in Dairy Foods Processing. Earlier this quarter, he received an award from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences for outstanding research.

Dr. Jiménez is highly thought of by all who work with him. "It is a very rewarding experience to work with such a motivated and distinguished person. I find that his enthusiasm and dedication rubs off on me and compels me into the sciences." Jacob Heick, graduate student. Another one of his graduates students, Scott Gualco had this to say, "Dr. Jimenez constantly urges his students to look at problems from new, previously unexplored perspectives. His guidance has honed my ability to think critically and creatively." In an essay written by graduate students Megan Cleveland and Xiomara Elias they described him like this, "To teach is to touch a life forever, and this is exactly what Dr. Jimenez has done in his teaching career. His mind is full of ideas to implement and explore, which he always shares with us. He passes on his knowledge onto his students, who will become better professionals for tomorrow."

Dr. Phil Tong, Director of Dairy Products Technology Center, said "Rafael is a large part of the success of our Center and I am glad to see the acknowledgement of his university-wide impact with this award."

" I feel extremely happy to have received this distinction, I hope it brings to light all the good things at DPTC and at the College" said Jiménez.

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The Dairy Products Technology Center (DPTC), established in 1986, is a program within the College of Agriculture at Cal Poly State University that conducts education, research, and outreach activities to provide solutions to help manage risk, facilitate innovation, and defend equity in the dairy foods industry and related business sectors. For further information visit our website at www.dptc.calpoly.edu.