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WINTER IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

It is winter in Tucson, Arizona. Hard to believe when it is as warm as 80 degrees on a sultry 'winter' day. This cooler weather brings out the Arizona wildlife in full force as is evidenced by the mountain lion shown. This cat is similar to one observed recently lying on the fence behind the movie theater at Speedway and Kolb.



This has been a busy year for the Department of Agricultural Education. In addition to Dr. James Knight's retirement and Dr. Ryan Foor moving to the Office of Instruction and Assessment, we are in the process of completing the Academic Program Review which occurs once every seven years for all UA departments. And, we have a new faculty member, Dr. Matt Mars, who will be introduced in this newsletter.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE – THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW

The Department of Agricultural Education website is updated weekly and includes dates for FFA events around the state as well as events for students in our University of Arizona campus programs. The website can be found at <http://aed.cals.arizona.edu>.

DR. FRANKLIN TAKES STUDENTS TO KAYENTA, ARIZONA FOR A MICROTEACHING EXPERIENCE WITH MONUMENT VALLEY HS STUDENTS





Wildcat Country!

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DR. FRANKLIN

Ed Franklin invited departmental students to participate in a 3-day micro-teaching and cultural event in Kayenta, Arizona, November 5 – 7, 2014. 9 students traveled with him to participate in the event held at Monument Valley High School. As part of a *CALS Agricultural Education Student Micro-teaching Navajo Cultural Experience grant*, Dr. Franklin received funding that allowed students to visit the Kayenta area and work with high school students using a solar water pumping system that is used to pump water for farm irrigation systems. This experience allowed agricultural education students to share something that has a real world application and a real world impact with community members.

DR. MARS

Matt Mars joined the Department of Agricultural Education in fall 2014. In the spring, he will be busy with three courses and a huge research agenda with two grants in progress: 1) *Nanotechnology 2020: Preparing students to use nanotechnologies to solve contemporary problems in agriculture and human sciences* and 2) *Ecological analysis of an education ecosystem: The Arizona charter school sector*. Look for an introduction to Dr. Mars in this newsletter.

MR. MOLINA

Quint Molina is looking forward to having three student teachers in the field for the spring semester. He will also be teaching a heavy course load with four classes on his roster.

DR. TORRES

Bobby Torres had another wonderful year in the Department of Agricultural Education at the University of Arizona, teaching the Heritage and Traditions course with Dr. Mars and grad student Hugo Rodriguez. On his spring schedule he has two classes on the roster. Fall 2014 included an Academic Program Review with the self-study document at http://aed.cals.arizona.edu/pdf/APR_Dec2014.pdf. A review like this happens once every seven years for every department at the University of Arizona. We are currently in the process of reviewing results and preparing a response to items addressed. No major negative concerns, however, they did note that we are running over-capacity, stretching faculty members to the max.

MS. KERRY SCHWARTZ AND ARIZONA PROJECT WET

Arizona Project Wet, APW, has been incredibly busy this year running as many as three workshops a day, all in different locations around Arizona. Visit the website for more information at the following URL: <http://arizonawet.arizona.edu/>. Project Wet is the place to go for water education in southern Arizona.



CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The Department of Agricultural Education is the first department on the University of Arizona campus to offer an undergraduate certificate. We'd like to introduce you to the **Undergraduate Certificate in Agricultural Leadership and Innovation** - the program is set at 12 units (choose four courses from the list below) and can be taken by any student admitted to the university. Interested students need to meet with an advisor in the Department of Agricultural Education in order to officially begin/complete the certificate. The certificate of completion is added to the student's degree transcript. The undergraduate certificate includes the following courses from which to choose:



*Team activities in
AED 409 with Dr. Torres.*

*Participate in our
undergraduate or
graduate certificate
programs.*

- **AED 309: Leadership Principles and Practices** (3 units). Course focus is on personal leadership development in an agriculture and life science context.
- **AED 409: Team and Organizational Leadership** (3 units). Course focus is on interpersonal leadership development in an agriculture and life science context.
- **AGTM 422: Communicating Knowledge in Agriculture and the Life Sciences** (3 units). Course focus is on the communication of knowledge and innovation in an agriculture and life science context.
- **AED 411: Principles and Applications of Organizational Innovation** (3 units). Course focus is on organizational change and innovation within an agriculture and life science context.
- **AED 410: Entrepreneurial Leadership in Agriculture and the Life Sciences** (3 units). Course focus is on principles and practices of entrepreneurial leadership and its application in an agriculture and life science context.

The **Undergraduate Certificate in Agricultural Leadership and Innovation** offers students interested in pursuing any profession within agriculture and the life sciences, as well as those generally interested in serving as agents of change, an opportunity to develop and enhance leadership skills that include, but are not limited to, the ability to develop and lead innovative programs and initiatives within agriculture and the life science industry, community organizations, and government agencies, facilitate team development, and engage in a range of entrepreneurial strategies aimed at the diffusion of innovation and the creation of meaningful change.

Each of our **graduate certificates** is offered in association with the Outreach College. We are currently offering courses and certificate programs designed to meet the important educational needs of working professionals seeking to improve their career standing as well as recent graduates seeking employment. **Incorporating Agricultural Education Into Your Classroom** is a professional development self-paced course a teacher or working professional can take to complete professional development hours. It is fully online and includes interaction with other agricultural educators. Registration is available through the Outreach College at <https://outreachcollege.arizona.edu/non-credit/incorporating-agriculture-education-your-classroom>.

The Agricultural Education – Professional Agriculture Emphasis Master's program is offered on campus or can be completed fully online. The online program is designed for off campus students who are working professionals in the agriculture industry who are seeking a Master's degree option. Program information and application can be accessed at <http://grad.arizona.edu>.

Also offered through the Outreach College in conjunction with the Department of

Agricultural Education, is the **Career and Technical Education Administrator (CTE), graduate certificate program**. Through this program an individual who is/or would like to become a CTE Administrator in Arizona can enhance their knowledge of CTE principles and philosophies, educational leadership, as well as Arizona school finance. It can be found at <https://outreachcollege.arizona.edu/program/career-and-technical-education-administrator-cte>.

The graduate and outreach college in conjunction with the department of Ag Ed has approved an **Ag Leadership graduate certificate** as an online program. It will be available for registration in the near future.

There is also an **Adult Teaching graduate certificate** for those who would like to teach at the community college or university level. Possession of a Master's degree or above is not necessary for this program as some vocational programs do not require a degree at all, however, this certificate would be useful to anyone who is involved in the teaching of adults. It can be found at <http://grad.arizona.edu/live/programs/description/335>.

CDE DAY IS COMING



The Arizona FFA Association is participating in the State FFA Career Development Event Day sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on Friday, March 6, 2015. The events begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Campus Ag Center, and 8:30 a.m. on the main campus. 14 different Career Development Events are planned. We expect about 1,600 high school students, teachers, and adult chaperones on campus for this event.

The Vet Tech CDE event will be held at the University of Arizona this spring. The event will be chaired by Dr. Noble Jackson and Mr. Jose' Bernal. Additionally, they will be assisted by Christina Garcia and Diane Davis both of whom are from the Department of Veterinary Sciences and Microbiology. We have never held the Vet Tech CDE on this campus. It is an event which is relatively new to the national FFA competition and new for the state of Arizona's FFA competitions. The Vet Tech CDE includes a team event which contains a series of mathematical problems which require solution.

The CDE Day Awards Ceremony will take place on March 6, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the UA Student Union Ballroom. If you are interested in assisting with this event, contact MaryAnne Kelly at mkelly3@email.arizona.edu. All those interested are welcome to be in attendance.

FFA is a local, state, and national organization. Agricultural education teachers serve as high school chapter advisors for the organization. Arizona FFA members who pursue degrees at 4-year universities often cite their FFA experiences, including their university competitions, as the impetus for their desire to continue their education in agriculture and in other areas of study. CDE Day is a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences supported activity which is facilitated by the Department of Agricultural Education at the University of Arizona.



Dr. Franklin at CDE Day, judging Ag Mechanics.

Early 4-H program experiences often lead to participation in the HS agriculture programs. Individuals from age 9 – 19 can participate in community 4-H. The UA offers a collegiate 4-H program. For info, go to <http://extension.arizona.edu/4h/programs/university-arizona-collegiate-4-h>.

DR. MARS HAS JOINED THE AG ED DEPARTMENT!!

A new faculty member joined the Department of Agricultural Education in August of 2014. His Name is Matthew “Matt” Mars. Dr. Mars joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor, Agricultural Leadership and Communication and is the Director of Graduate Studies. His email address is mmars@email.arizona.edu. He can also be reached by phone at 520 621-2239.



Dr. Matt Mars

“We don’t have to measure rigor by the level of failure. We need to measure rigor by the impact our students have on their communities and on society as a whole.”



A farm in Pawlet, Vermont

Having been raised on a dairy farm in Pawlet, Vermont, Dr. Mars comes to us with deep roots in agriculture. From an early age, Dr. Mars was busy with agriculture. He learned the work ethic of the dairy farmer—starting early, ending late and then doing it all over again. Today Dr. Mars and his wife live in Tucson, Arizona.

Dr. Mars may have left the farm but he has not left the farmer behind. With a phenomenal work ethic and a plan in mind, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and one in Anthropology from the Utica College of Syracuse University, a master’s degree in counseling from Northern Arizona University, and a doctorate through the University of Arizona Center for the Study of Higher Education. Matt focused his doctoral research on how colleges and universities serve and engage students through entrepreneurial activities and strategies during periods of declining governmental funding and increasing resource scarcity.

Dr. Mars continues to pursue exploration of how entrepreneurial leadership strategies are leveraged in support of both community and economic development.

Dr. Mars has held academic positions at Pima Community College, California State University - Los Angeles, and in the McGuire Center for Entrepreneurship in the UA’s Eller College of Management. He also held two leadership positions at the U of A. First, he served as the Associate Dean of the UA Outreach College, which was a position focused on the development of online and statewide UA programs. Second, Dr. Mars held the position of Assistant Vice President for Program Development in the Office of Global Initiatives.

Dr. Mars’ heart has always remained in teaching and research. So, when he was offered the opportunity to teach AED 411/511 – Principles and Applications of Organizational Innovation through the Department of Agricultural Education, he accepted.



When Dr. Knight retired in 2014, a position opened in the Department of Agricultural Education. Enjoying his teaching experience with the department and longing to return to his agricultural roots, Dr. Mars decided to apply. He is thrilled to have been extended the opportunity to both join the Agricultural Education faculty and to work with students across the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Dr. Mars has been busy building his research with activities primarily focused on how entrepreneurial networks emerge and evolve to shape and influence local agricultural and food systems development. Dr. Mars, through his research, enjoys a number of interdisciplinary, cross-campus collaborations. For example, he has partnered with Dr. Hope Schau, Associate Professor of Marketing, Gary M. Munsinger, Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Associate Dean of the Eller MBA Programs, to study the underlying entrepreneurial logic which shapes the local agricultural market.

He is also working with Dr. Judie Bronstein, University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, to study the emergence and evolution of the Arizona charter school system through an organizational ecosystem lens. In addition, he is the Co-Principal Investigator on a USDA-funded project that is aimed at the development of nanotechnology curricula which is directly applicable to the agricultural and life science fields. This project is being led by Dr. Randy Burd, Associate Professor of Nutritional Sciences and Assistant Vice President of Global Initiatives.

Most of all, Dr. Mars is enjoying this time working with students both within and outside of the classroom. In the Fall of 2014, he taught Communicating Knowledge in Agriculture and the Life Sciences and Youth Leadership Development courses and is currently teaching both Principles and Applications of Organizational Innovation and Program Evaluation. He has also joined Dr. Torres in co-teaching the very popular University of Arizona Heritage and Traditions course. Dr. Mars has embraced his role as Director of Graduate Studies and taken the opportunity to supervise research being conducted by Agricultural Education graduate students. Additionally, he is enjoying a more active statewide role in agricultural education through his work as the chairperson for the 2015 Spring FFA Job Interview CDE.

With his phenomenal work ethic supplanted into Agricultural Education, he plans to take the opportunity to build and enhance the leadership and communication option offered in the department in order to assist in the training of students who will become leaders in organizations and leaders of change.

He says, "We don't have to measure rigor by the level of failure. We need to measure rigor by the impact our students have on their communities and on society as a whole."

mmars@email.arizona.edu
or call at
(520) 621-2239.



Outreach event - UA students working with high school students in Kayenta, Arizona.

OFFICE STAFF

The Business Manager position has been changed to reflect a Shared Business Manager Model. Paige Jacobson, Gina McCann, David Reeves, Kelly Keyser, and Amanda Amadin have replaced Robby Pearson, our former Business Manager. They are also associated with AREC and FCS.

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

To contact us and share your news and pictures, send information to MaryAnne at mkelly3@email.arizona.edu. You could be featured in the next Newsletter.

OUR VISION

To be a leader in Agricultural Education by providing a better quality of life through agricultural technology management and formal and non-formal education for our students, the people of Arizona, and society.



*Join the Wildcat Family
in Agricultural
Education.*

OUR MISSION

To serve a diverse population through teaching, application, integration and discovery in agriculture, education and applied science and technology leading to successful careers in Agricultural Education, and related businesses and industries.



DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Robert Torres, Neely Family Endowed Professor & Department Head at rtorres1@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-7173.

Dr. Ed Franklin, *Associate Professor* at uafrank0@email.arizona.edu or 520-940-3718.

Dr. Matt Mars, *Assistant Professor* at mmars@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-2239.

Mr. Quint Molina, *Associate Professor of Practice* at gmolina@email.arizona.edu or 520-626-2230.

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