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A Message From Dr. Robert Torres

The FFA Career Development Event (CDE) Day is scheduled for Friday, March 2 on the UA campus. The College has been host to the annual FFA event for decades, yet faculty and staff continue to be committed and excited to coordinate and host in this wonderful event for Arizona high school students.

This year, we are very fortunate to have Dean Shane Burgess, the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), observe several of the CDEs. He

and UA President Gene Sander (former CALs' dean) plan to bring greetings at the Awards Ceremony, Bear Down Gym, 4:00 p.m.

Below is a commentary from Taylor Kirby, State FFA Officer, and the agenda is listed on the next page of this newsletter.

As always, we look forward to seeing all of you and WELCOME you to CDE Day.



A Note from Taylor Kirby

Hello everyone! My name is Taylor Kirby and I am serving this year as a State FFA Officer as well as being a freshman here at the University of Arizona. I am involved with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to pursue a degree in Animal Science with a business emphasis. Being involved in the FFA program helped me get to where I am today. Through my involvement, I discovered where I wanted to go after high school, and how I wanted to stay involved.

Soon the University of Arizona will host hundreds of FFA high school members from around Arizona on March 2nd for the Spring Conference. These students have been practicing and studying these competitions for months. When they come, they will be competing in what are called Career Development Events. These events range from Ag Mechanics to Forestry and from Livestock Evaluation to Job Interview. There are 15 competition areas that students can compete in. If a team wins here, they will go on to compete at the national level and represent Arizona at the National FFA

Convention in October.

Through these competitions, we want students to develop their technical skills along with their people skills. That way, they will be more successful in their future. Talking about their future, CDE Day is a great way for them to learn about the University of Arizona. When students aren't competing, they will have time to walk around the campus and tour the off campus lab facilities. Some of these students plan on pursuing careers in the Agricultural Industry, and this conference gives them the chance to learn about programs that the University of Arizona offers.

I am excited to watch all of these students come and put their studying and practice to test. As a State FFA Officer, I see firsthand how hard they work. I encourage everyone to make them feel welcome when they come down. This is a great leadership experience for students, and it allows them to branch out and meet new people. I am looking forward to being a part of this event and watching our students succeed.

Career Development Event Day, March 2, 2012

2012 Arizona Association FFA, Spring Conference



Friday, March 2

Time	Events	Location
7:00 AM	Registration Pictures of Agricultural Education Teachers	Campus Agricultural Center 4101 N. Campbell, Tucson, AZ 85719-1114

Please note: All teachers must check in at the registration desk prior to the start of the competitions. Failure to do so will result in teams being disqualified.

8:00 AM	CDE Events begin at the Campus Ag Center (aka "The Farm")
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Agricultural Mechanics (Franklin)	Campus Agricultural Center (Ag Mechanics Lab, Building 2008)	
Agronomy (Ottman)	Campus Agricultural Center (Modular Classroom and Meat Science & Livestock Complex [11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.]; east side of CAC) Students are to assemble in front of Modular Classroom.	
Entomology (Olson)	Campus Agricultural Center (Meat Science & Livestock Complex: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)	
Soils (Wilson)	Campus Agricultural Center (Controlled Environment Ag Center, Room 117A, east of CAC)	
Dairy (Kiesling) (buses will depart after registration)	Taylor's Holsteins Farm	
Horse Evaluation (Arns)	Campus Agricultural Center (West end of grandstand by Arena)	
Livestock Judging (Kiesling) (West end of the CAC).....	Campus Agricultural Center	
Meats Evaluation (Marchello)	Campus Agricultural Center (Meat Science & Livestock Complex)	
Nursery/Landscape (Schuch)	Campus Agricultural Center (Head House east of CEAC)	
Range Management (Howery) (East side near greenhouses)	Campus Agricultural Center	
Wildlife (Kelliher and Veo) (Ag & Biosystems Eng. Picnic Area)	Campus Agricultural Center	

8:30 AM	CDE Events Begin on Main Campus and at the Environmental Research Lab.
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Note: If unsure where to meet for CDEs on the Main Campus, please go to Saguaro Hall Room #205.

Agricultural Business and Management (Teegerstrom)	UofA Main Campus (Harshbarger/Mines Bldg., Room 206)	
Forestry (Matthias) (UofA Fountain west of Old Main; Marley 218).....	UofA Main Campus (Please meet in front of the Forbes Building.)	
Job Interview (Foor) (Student Union Career Services)	UofA Main Campus (Please meet at the Student Union Career Services, Room 411.)	
Aquaculture (Fitzsimmons and Plumb)	Environmental Research Lab 2601 East Airport Drive, Tucson	

12:00 PM	Lunch (on your own)
3:00 PM	Approx. CDE End Time (varies depending on CDE Event)
4:00 PM	CDE Award Ceremony..... Bear Down Gym, U of A Main Campus
	Please note, it is required that all schools remain until the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony
5:30 PM	Schools Depart Tucson

Things to Know For CDE Day

Dear Teachers,

In order to avoid tickets and possible towing, and because the U of A has a great deal more traffic now than in the past, please carefully read the following information regarding directions and parking for CDE Day, March 2, 2012.

On Campus Parking

The Lots 8111 and 8112 will be reserved for the buses, small buses, and state vans. (Personal vans would need to park in the garages.) The following is suggested:

Lot 8111 – please park small buses and government vans

Lot 8112 – please use this lot for the full sized buses

Both lots should have enough room for the vehicles; however, Lot 8110, which is on the corner of Warren and 6th, can also be used for government vans.

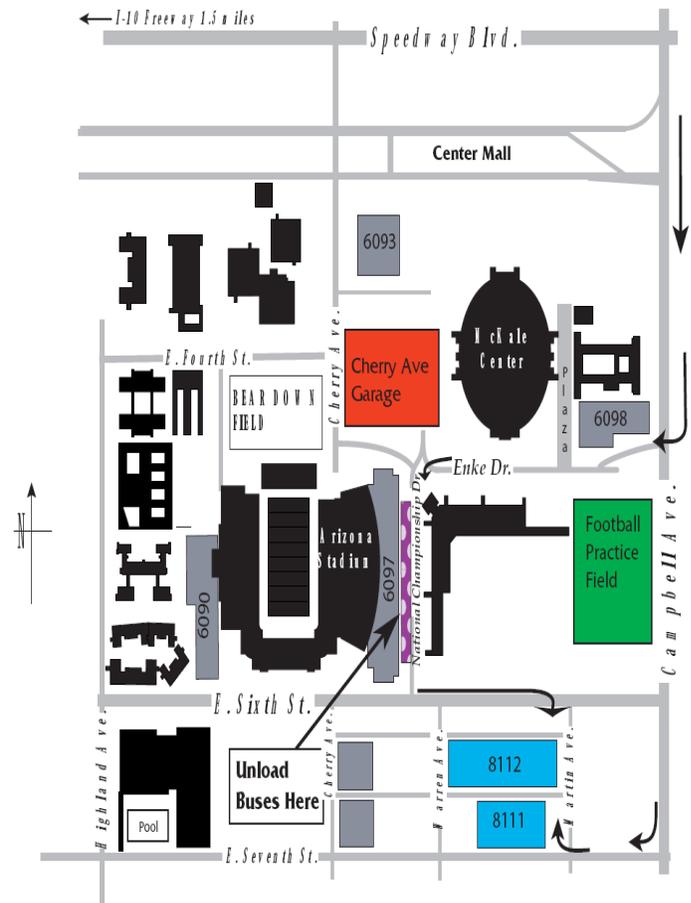
Parking and Transportation expects you to come to campus to drop off at two separate times.

**The first time is: 8:00 a.m. (approximately) –
On campus events**

**The second time is: 2:00 p.m. (approximately) –
Awards**

PLEASE UNLOAD THE STUDENTS ON THE WEST SIDE CURB ON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DRIVE BETWEEN THE FOOTBALL AND BASEBALL STADIUMS. Please ask the driver to unload and relocate in a timely manner to allow all buses onto campus without causing traffic congestion. Please do NOT unload students near Old Main. The U of A has too much traffic now to accommodate buses and vans unloading in that area.

State vehicles may park in service permit spots on campus. However, please pay attention to the time limit. Most have **two-hour** limits.



Campus Ag Center Parking

Directions from Freeway

Travel south on I-10 for nearly 2 hours from Phoenix. Exit East [left] on Prince Road. After several miles turn North [left] on Campbell Ave.

After about 1 mile turn left [West] on Roger Road.

Turn right at the first driveway.

Access to the Campus Agricultural Center for all cars and buses is from Campbell Ave **onto** Roger Road. **Please instruct your bus drivers that both entrance and exit will be off Roger Road.**

Buses will park as they enter on the left; vans will park on the right; and the cars should park on the north side of Meat Lab.

Campus Ag Center personnel will direct parking, so please follow their directions. Office phone number: (520) 621-3246



Spotlight on Dr. James Knight

Dr. James Knight is a beloved faculty

member and has been with the Department for the past 15 years. He teaches the *Heritage and Traditions of the University of Arizona* course, a favorite among many students, *Youth Leadership Development*, another popular class, and *Teaching College Level Agriculture and Life Sciences*.

Last spring, Dr. Knight spent sabbatical time in the Western States and Namibia, Africa that included learning about the faculty development efforts of other Land Grant Colleges and working with faculty development at the University of Namibia. He states, "The work in Namibia was especially important in order to understand and be more sensitive about diversity and making classroom environments more hospitable."

Dr. Knight returned to Tucson over the summer and couldn't wait to start teaching in the fall semester. In fact, when asked one day why he was in such a good mood he

declared, "I met with students today." He relishes not only teaching, but also enjoys the five-minute interviews he has with each student from each of his courses. These interviews are with approximately 300 students.

The following are some things that you may not know about Dr. Knight. His favorite person is his wife. He states, "She is my best friend. We've been married for 46 years." In addition, they own a Yorkshire Terrier named Sugie.

One of Dr. Knight's favorite hobbies is to do family history research (genealogy). He found out that Tom Horn, the famous gunfighter who helped capture Geronimo, was hung in Cheyenne, Wyoming for killing a distant relative of his. In fact, there is even a movie about Tom Horn and how he was hung. The movie came out many years ago and starred Steve McQueen.

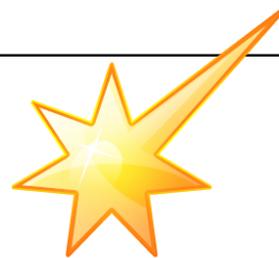
Something else you may not know about Dr. Knight is his favorite food. It is "a bean burrito

smothered with green chili (pork base)."

Dr. Knight will have more time to conduct family history research and eat bean burritos when he retires this summer from the University of Arizona. Before anyone becomes upset, however, the good news is he will be back. He states, "I will officially retire this summer, but will continue to work 50% time for the University for the next two years." Dr. Knight plans to use that 50% commitment to teach full time.

The Department feels very lucky to have Dr. Knight as a faculty member, and is extremely fortunate to have his leadership, skills, and knowledge for at least the next two years.

In closing, Dr. Knight's favorite quote is, "To thine own self be true" by William Shakespeare. He always encourages students to try their best, to be themselves, and to take pride in their accomplishments.



Current Events In Agriculture—

My Brush with Organic Farming

By Molly Van Dop (Student Writer)

A couple of weekends ago, I had the chance to visit the Schwennesen ranch near the Tucson area. They are an organic beef operation that does not produce much beef on a weekly basis. Their market is primarily at farmer's markets, although they also are the providers for a few restaurants, such as Wilco (on Park and University). As I drove to the location, my viewpoint was a little cynical. I wondered how they could possibly expect to feed the world with their low yield practices. I laughed at the idea that their beef was safer than the rest of the world's supply. Regardless, I tried to walk in to the facility with an open mind.

As I walked the half mile along the river to the pastures, I was introduced to the philosophy of this particular ranch. To my surprise, it wasn't much different than what I'm used to. Their business is also economically driven; if the consumer didn't want to buy their product, they would have to change their ways. As it is, however, people are willing to pay high prices for beef if it seems to line up with their ethics. Moreover, Paul Schwennesen said directly that he knew that the beef on the market is just as safe, even with antibiotics and additives. He isn't opposed to grazing. In fact, with the proper management it can increase the aeration of the land and improve the pasture. He isn't a stranger to bureaucracy or butchering either. They have their own, highly regulated packing plant on the property. However, the philosophy that stuck with me as I made the drive back home was one of tolerance and respect for those involved in agriculture, but not involved in organic farming.

Not to sound idealistic, but sometimes, I feel that people tend to be more rational than we give them credit for. I know that I will never be an organic farmer. I know that we have so many world hunger issues, and I realize that worldwide organic farming would not allow us to feed nearly as many people as we can today. Furthermore, I know that there are loads of irrational groups that don't understand the

world of agriculture and try to impose their viewpoints on us. However, I think that it is also important to realize that organic farmers are still agriculturalists. They are part of a niche market, but they are still part of our industry, and often share the same viewpoints as ourselves.

There are so many difficult issues that the future of agriculture has yet to face. Let's not make rivalries out of those already involved in the noble industry. They don't even have the same market as conventional agriculture. We don't need to worry about attacking organic markets or philosophies. Their prices are already prohibitive. Our focus should be on informing the population about what modern agriculture is really like, so that the populace can understand where food comes from, and how modern agriculture is making their food safer and economical.



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Home of the Wildcats



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.



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.



Telephone Numbers

In an effort to economize and redirect precious resources, the faculty voted to eliminate seldom used telephone lines in the Department. Where appropriate two lines were condensed to one cell phone. The following list of contact numbers should make contact with the faculty an easy matter:

Dr. Robert Torres, *Head and Neely Family Endowed Professorship for Excellence in Agriculture and Life Sciences*

520-621-7173

Dr. Jim Knight, *Professor*

520-940-3710

Dr. Ed Franklin,
Associate Professor

520-940-3718

Dr. Ryan Foor, *Assistant Professor*

520-343-2692

Mr. Quint Molina, *Associate Professor of Practice*

520-626-2230

Ms. Kerry Schwartz, *Project WET Coordinator, WRRC*

520-621-1092

Mrs. Jane Shovlin, *HOSA*

602-228-5281

Mr. Eric Case, *Technology Technician*

520-621-1523

Mrs. Michelle Hintz, *Business Manager*

520-621-2239

Ms. Kristen Vann,
Administrative Associate

520-621-1523

Ms. DeeDee Amber,
Graduate TA

Ms. Kristen Kallash,
Graduate TA

Ms. Marisa Lester,
Graduate TA

Mr. Brandon Watkins,
Graduate TA

Ms. Amanda Zamudio,
Graduate TA

Please note: Main office phone is not able to transfer calls to faculty phones.

