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STAYING IN TOUCH WITH STUDENTS FROM OUR PAST

In Agricultural Education at the University of Arizona, our students are important to us. We focus our time and energy on the individuals in our programs—past, present, and future. Well, to those of you who have moved on, we'd like to hear from you. Contact us at mkelly3@email.arizona.edu. Any notes you send will be passed on to the appropriate individual(s) and may be shared in the newsletter.

If you were a student in the Department of Agricultural Education recently, a long time ago, or somewhere in between, we'd like to know where you are and what you are doing. In this newsletter, dedicated to you, we will share what is happening in the department now. We will also include a sharing history section where you will be able to share what has happened to you since we saw you last, and maybe, we will offer some opportunities that interest you—something that will make you return to campus or join us through distance learning. There are a lot of opportunities here. We want to keep you in the loop and make it interesting.

CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE

We have introduced a new website for the Department of Agricultural Education. It can be found at <http://aed.cals.arizona.edu>. We are also on Facebook. Dr. Floor, keeps the information up-to-date. You can join us as a friend and find out what's happening.

DR. FRANKLIN'S AGTM350 CLASS WORKS WITH SOLAR ENERGY



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DR. FRANKLIN

Students in Dr. Ed Franklin's AGTM 350 class had the opportunity to complete projects using solar panels this semester. Dr. Franklin, as part of a Solar Energy International Grant, received funding that allowed students to create solar projects that will have a real world application and a real world impact.

DR. FOOR

Dr. Ryan Foor took a group of students to Washington, DC, to work with the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, as part of the Washington Collegiate Agriculture Leadership Experience. He also worked with Agriculture Future of America in order to engage more UA students in that organization's Leaders Conference; three UA students attended the Leaders Conference in November under Dr. Foor's leadership.

MR. MOLINA

Mr. Quintin Molina had a great year preparing high quality students to become high school agriculture teachers and FFA advisors.

DR. TORRES

Dr. Torres had a successful fall semester teaching a full load of courses and leading the department as two new staff members came on board and Dr. Knight announced his retirement. Working to add more online course offerings and adding a certificate program for graduate students with one possibly in the works for undergraduate students through the Outreach College has kept him busy.

DR. COX

Dr. Dave Cox, Emeritus, returned last fall to teach AED 697C. He was invited to be part of the pilot program for the new video content management software, Panopto, used as an asynchronous, one-way, video recording tool. He taught class and he also had class with students at a distance using this relatively new teaching tool.

MS. KERRY SCHWARTZ AND ARIZONA PROJECT WET

Arizona Project Wet unveiled their amazing new website in December of 2013. The site is located at the following URL: <http://projectwet.org/>. Project Wet is the place to go for water education in southern Arizona.



CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The Department of Agricultural Education, in association with the Outreach College, is 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 Agriculture Education – Professional Agriculture Emphasis Master’s program is also offered fully online. The 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 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 7, 2014. The events begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Campus Ag Center, and 8:30 a.m. on the main campus. Approximately 13 different Career Development Events are planned. We expect around 1,000 high school students, teachers, and adult chaperones on campus for this event.

The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. that day in the Student Union Ballroom. If you are interested in assisting with this event, you can contact MaryAnne Kelly at mkelly3@email.arizona.edu.



*Dr. James Knight and
Dr. Jack Elliott in
Honolulu in 2001.*

*“The more I know
about the students,
the more we connect.
It makes this job so
much easier.”
Dr. James Knight,
2013.*

DR. KNIGHT IS RETIRING!!

On June 30th, 2014, Dr. James Knight will complete his career in Agricultural Education. He is a great man. So many of you know him and, we are sure, remember him fondly. He grew up on a farm/ranch in northeast Colorado, near the small town of Last Chance. He went to a small country high school by the name of Woodlin. There were 60 students in the entire school and every boy there was in the Ag program. James was the State FFA President in high school.

After high school he went to Colorado State University and received a Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Education. He married his high school sweetheart as a 19-yr old college freshman. He and his wife celebrated their 48th anniversary on December 18th, 2013. His first job out of college was as a high school agricultural education teacher in Holyoke, Colorado. He spent three years there and then moved to a high school in Golden, Colorado so he could teach and complete a Master’s Degree in Agricultural Education.

Dr. Knight would have been happy teaching high school forever if it hadn’t been for one of his master’s program professors, Dr. Irv Cross, who said, “James, get a doctorate.” He wasn’t going to do it until the universities began calling him and asking him to come and be a part of their program. Apparently, Dr. Cross was convinced that they needed him at the doctoral level, so the University of Missouri, Oklahoma State, Texas A & M, Cornell, Iowa State, and Ohio State all called him personally and asked him to apply to their doctoral programs. He chose to go to Ohio State.

In the fall of 1975, on his first day as the instructor of the Intro to Ag Ed course which everyone in the department had to take, he had 80-100 students and by the end of the first class, he knew everyone by name. He also completed his signature, one-on-one interviews with the students. As all great teachers know, the personal connection matters. He made those connections right from the start. He says, “The more I know about the students, the more we connect. It makes this job so much easier.” Ohio State loved him for it. And when he completed his doctorate in 1977, he was already a member of the faculty. He stayed until 1988.

In addition to his teaching and research load as a faculty member, James was busy running a thriving consulting business. So when his wife’s parents retired to Arizona in 1988, and there were health issues involved, he packed up the family and followed. He continued consulting until 1996 when his wife’s dad passed away.



Dr. James Knight receiving one of many awards.

Retiring June 30th, 2014. Take the time to visit or call and let him know that you remember him.

Knightj@email.arizona.edu or call at (520) 940-3710.

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In 1996, Dr. Knight was asked to be the Keynote Speaker for a conference in the College of Agriculture at the University of Arizona. After he finished speaking, The Dean asked him to apply to become part of the faculty. So in 1996, he became an adjunct faculty member and when Dr. Cox moved from the role of professor to the Associate Dean position, Dr. Knight was being considered for a faculty position. At the time Knight, who was thinking of moving to Penn State or Ohio State, both institutions wanted him, asked Dr. Cox for a letter of recommendation. Dr. Cox asked him to apply here.

Within a two-week period, he got the UA position, sold his house, and his son and family moved west to Utah. It was meant to be. In 1997 he was an Associate Professor, by 2000, a Full Professor, and in 2001 he became the Department Head when Roger Huber retired (Dr. Knight said he would do it for 5 years).

In 2005, Jack Elliott became the Department Head but he was recruited heavily by Texas A & M, Penn State, and more, so in 2008 he left, heading to Texas A & M, leaving Dr. Cox to act as Interim Department Head. He held that position from 2008 to 2010 when Dr. Knight returned as the Acting Department Head while they looked for a replacement. Dr. Robert Torres was hired as his replacement in 2010 and is currently in the position of Department Head for the Department of Agricultural Education.

Dr. Knight has taught "all" of the courses. The Youth Leadership course and the UA Heritage and Traditions, are both huge classes which he absolutely loved to teach. He has always been committed to students. To that end he has received many awards from the Bobcat Student organization because they love him and his teaching methods. In addition, Dr. Knight has received more than a hundred teaching awards throughout his career. In November 2013, he received the Bart Cardon Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award.



Dr. Knight is an incredible man! Retiring on June 30th, 2014. He was in Afghanistan until the end of January. He is back. Contact him and let him know that you remember when he was there for you. Stop in, email or call and just say hello. Take the time to share some memories.

NEW STAFF IN THE OFFICE

MaryAnne F. Kelly has joined us, replacing Kristen Vann who has moved to Pima County Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. MaryAnne is the new 'face' of the department as she will be the first point of contact by way of office visits and/or telephone calls. MaryAnne manages the day-to-day office routines and will be support staff to the faculty, and have a supporting role to Robby Pearson, our Business Manager.

MaryAnne is no stranger to academia. A former math and science teacher, MaryAnne retired from TUSD in 2012 where she taught at Santa Rita High School since 1989. Prior to that she taught in the Amphitheater and the Mammoth-San Manuel School districts. In addition to her role as teacher, she held positions of Math Department Chair, Summer School Coordinator and served on a variety of committee assignments. She holds a secondary certification and middle level endorsements in Mathematics, Biology, General Science, Anthropology, and Vocational and Cooperative Education. Additionally, she has served as adjunct faculty at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College. In 2011, she received honorable mention to the Arizona Teacher of the Year for her many earned accolades.

Roberta (Robby) Pearson has also joined our office as Business Manager, replacing Michelle Hintz who is now in the Arizona Health Sciences Center, Medical Administration office. Robby comes to us as an 8-year UA veteran with experience as an Accounting Specialist, Accountant Associate, Accountant, Accountant Senior, and then in CALS Administrative Services she was a Business Manager. She is in the office as a Business Manager for Agricultural Education. Robby is a UA Financials Super-User, ask her what that means.

Administrative Vice President for the Staff Advisory Council for the University as well, Robby is a very busy individual.

We are thrilled to welcome **MaryAnne and Robby** to the Team! Please help us make MaryAnne and Robby feel welcome by introducing yourself to them when you come into the office.

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

To contact us and share your news and pictures, send information to MaryAnne at mkelly3@email.arizona.edu. Maybe you will be included in the next Alumni Newsletter.

Robby Pearson is available at rpearson@email.arizona.edu.

Home of the
Wildcats



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.



**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND LIFE SCIENCES**
DEPARTMENT OF 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 & Dept Head at rtores1@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-7173.

Dr. Jim Knight, *Professor & Bart Cardon Academic for Teaching Excellence Fellow* at Knightj@email.arizona.edu or 520-940-3710.

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

Dr. Ryan Foor, *Assistant Professor* at rfoor@email.arizona.edu or 520-343-2692.

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

Ms. Kerry Schwartz, *Arizona Project WET Coordinator, WRRRC* at kls4@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-1092.

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT INFORMATION, CONT'D

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