AETI Fall 2022 Newsletter

Faculty Awards

Dr. Ed Franklin
Outstanding Post-Secondary Educator Award

We are thrilled to announce Dr. Ed Franklin received the Outstanding Post-Secondary Educator Award from the Arizona Agriculture Teacher Association for his commitment to shaping the next generation of agricultural students with projects and cutting edge activities for a more sustainable future. Read about Dr. Franklin's Teaching Award here...

Ethan Orr
National Finalist Agriculture Appreciation and Awareness Award

Ethan Orr was a national finalist for the Agriculture Appreciation Awareness Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. This award recognizes the importance of county agricultural
agents for their outstanding use of public relations which improve understanding of agriculture in their communities.

Read more about Ethan's award here....

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**Dr. Amber Rice**

**AAAE Distinguished Agricultural Teacher Educator Award**

This past spring, Dr. Amber Rice received the Distinguished Agricultural Teacher Educator award from the American Association for Agricultural Education. Competition for this national award is intense and Dr. Rice is truly deserving of this award based on her extraordinary efforts to support agricultural education.

Read about Dr. Rice's AAAE Award here...

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**David E. Cox Faculty Teaching Award**

AETI Associate Professor of Agriculture Education, Dr. Amber Rice, was awarded the David E. Cox Faculty Teaching Award. This award was created to recognize and honor dedication and outstanding performance by a member of the CALS teaching faculty. Congratulations, Dr. Rice!

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**AATA Outstanding Service Award**

Earlier this summer at the Arizona Agricultural Teacher Association Conference, Dr. Amber Rice was recognized and received the Outstanding Service Award for her service and leadership in agricultural education in Arizona. The conference was held in Tucson, AZ.

Read about Dr. Rice's teaching award here...

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**Breanna Watkins: Fellowship**

USDA Hispanic-Serving Institution E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program

Congratulations to AETI's Academic Advisor for her selection to participate in the USDA HSI E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program. Breanna will be part of a dynamic network of leaders from academia and government which work to advance the excellence of education at Hispanic Serving Institutions.

Read about Breanna's Fellowship here....

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**AETI Department News**

**Welcome Dr. Ethan Orr**

AETI's new Extension Specialist for Community and Economic Development

Ethan grew up in Tucson, attending Amphi High school, and is a fourth generation Arizonan. He has taught at the University of Arizona School of Government for almost 20 years. He has a Doctorate in Behavioral Health from...
Arizona State University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Arizona.

He served in the Arizona State Legislature, was the Director of Economic and Community Development for the City of South Tucson and the Empowerment Zone Director for the City of Tucson. He was instrumental in increasing educational funding, launching the commercial space flight industry in Arizona, and was a catalyst in revitalizing downtown Tucson. He also was the Executive Director of a statewide non-profit helping people with disabilities for over 10 years.

Currently, He is the Associate Director for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Economic Development for the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.

He will be working with communities in rural Arizona to collaboratively address critical issues and to create economic opportunity.

Dr. Bobby Torres

Food Systems Leadership Fellows Program

AETI’s Department Head, Dr. Torres, was a Fellow of Cohort 15 in the Food Systems Leadership Institute. The FSLI is a program of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and offers high quality, executive leadership development for current and emerging senior leaders in higher education, government and industry as related to global food systems. FSLI helps develop the next generation of leaders in higher education, industry, and government for the global food system. Additionally, completion of the program provides Fellows with strategies to handle the leadership challenges and opportunities for the future as well as develops and reinforces a series of core leadership competencies. Thank you Dr. Torres for your hard work in this important arena in the global food sector.

Read about FSLI here...

New AETI Community Innovation Minor!

The AETI Community Innovation Minor prepares students in any discipline to apply the principles from their majors to community innovation system development. Community innovation systems are broadly defined as the economic, educational, and socio-political bases, networks, and resources that influence the quality of life and capacity for growth, resiliency, and vibrancy in local and regional communities/economies. Through active and project-based learning, students completing the minor will have the opportunity to learn in partnership with students from other fields of study and with mentoring from community leaders, extension professionals, faculty, and innovators from a range of fields and sectors.
Students can expect to develop a rich understanding of how various organizations and cross-sector alliances converge to create and influence the economic, educational, and socio-political conditions and factors that foster (or hinder) community-wide innovation. Learning experiences are supported by core faculty who have academic expertise, professional experience, and extensive networks that span community innovation, entrepreneurial leadership, extension education/outreach, localism, and rural studies. Through modeling and multiple interactive learning methods, students practice analytical and critical thinking, collaboration and teamwork, data-informed decision making, and strategic communication to enhance their own ability to engage and lead in community innovation and system development, especially in rural and remote locales and regions.

*Read about the minor here...*

**SUMMER CASE**

**Principles of Agricultural Science - Plant**

During Summer 2022, the University of Arizona AETI department hosted a 10 day intensive, in person, Principles of Agricultural Science - Plant CASE institute. The Curriculum for Agriscience Education (CASE) offered its foundation-level course teaching students the form and function of plant systems. Student experiences include the study of plant anatomy and physiology, classification, and the fundamentals of production and harvesting. The institute was hosted by Dr. Amber Rice and Ms. Weslee Potts and was facilitated by the wonderful team of Lead Teachers; Ms. Lacie Darnell and Mr. Alan Spencer. This is the third summer institute in which the University of Arizona has served as a host. The AETI department looks forward to hosting additional institutes in the coming years, along with the continuation of their preservice institutes occurring each fall with all teaching emphasis students in the major.

**Teach Ag Academy**

On July 6th, 19 high school students joined the AETI Department to kick off the inaugural Teach Ag Academy. The purpose of the academy was to invite prospective college students who are enrolled in a high school Ag Ed program to a three day event showcasing Agricultural Education at University of Arizona. Academy students heard from current agriculture educators from around the state about their experiences in the profession. Additionally, Ag Ed faculty presented several workshops which included Ag Ed at UA, Ag Ed Scholarships, Being a FFA Advisor, and Connecting the Classroom to the World - SAE. Staff facilitated team-building activities, including a campus-wide scavenger hunt where students were able to familiarize themselves with the campus. Faculty and staff at the South Recreation Center and
the Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium allowed students to get an inside look at activities available on campus. Students also experienced Tucson-specific activities, such as trying Eegee’s, touring Flowing Wells High School’s Ag facilities, and tackling the 4-H High Ropes Course! To wrap up the academy, students collaborated and presented their own teaching activities.

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**Cullison Scholar Luncheon**

Congrats Cullison Scholars. Cullison scholars are remarkable Arizona high school agriculture students who have been selected by their Ag Teachers because they show excellence in scholarship & leadership and have a teacher-like disposition. We had a record number of Cullison Scholars this year - 39! We look forward to seeing many of you in our UA labs and classrooms.

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**AGTM Students Certified in Fire Extinguisher Training**

Students from both AGTM100 and AGTM350 classes attended a Fire Safety presentation from UA Risk Management. After the in-depth presentation, students equipped with their new knowledge identified different types of fires, applied what they learned and extinguished their own fires. Thanks UA Risk Management.

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**Student Awards**

**Outstanding Seniors**

Congratulations to the following undergrad and grad students for receiving the Outstanding Senior Award. Their hard work and dedication are just a couple of their incredible qualities which make AETI proud.

- **Ashley Lane** - AGTE Outstanding Senior, Fall 2021
- **Skylar Kammann** - ASM Outstanding Senior, Fall 2021
- **Chloe McClain** - CALS and AGTE Outstanding Senior, Spring 2022
- **Laramie Pruit** - CALS and ASM Outstanding Senior, Spring 2022

And at the graduate level:

- **Angus Donaldson** - CALS Meritorious Award for Graduate Teaching Assistant at the MS Level in Spring 2022

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**Alumni Awards**
Heritage Family Award 2022
Recipient

The Heritage Family Award was established in 2007 to honor a multi-generational family with a history of dedicated service on behalf of agriculture, family and consumer sciences, natural resources, the College, or the University of Arizona.

This year, the Heritage Family Award was presented to the Whitehurst Family. For four generations, the Whitehurst family has been involved in dairy farming. Their impact on Arizona's dairy industry started in 1950's with Bob Whitehurst, and continues today. Bob, along with Sarival Dairy, founded Gogurt yogurt. Bob then went on to become VP and General Manager of Shamrock Farms.

The Whitehurst Wildcat tradition began with Jim, (Bob's son) who graduated from CALS. Jim was recruited to run the Chandler Heights Dairy for Shamrock Farms and increased the Shamrock herd by 275% during his tenure there. Jim's three children also hold degrees from University of Arizona and Jim's son, Kevin, is the third generation Whitehurst to work at Shamrock.

The family's unwavering commitment to agriculture in Arizona, their engagement and support of CALS and the University of Arizona; the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is proud to present the Whitehurst family the Heritage Family Award. Congratulations to this phenomenal family.

Alumni Award: Jose Bernal

An agricultural instructor for over forty-four years, Jose exemplifies the ag teacher's creed by actively promoting and developing the agricultural education profession in the state. Jose earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Animal Science and Agricultural Education. Throughout his career, Jose has led outstanding high school agriculture programs. Hundreds of Arizona ag teachers have benefitted from his mentoring and support over the years. Jose has provided leadership in professional organizations, and has been active in the Arizona and National FFA, and served as the National Chairman of the Agriscience Fair. He represents Arizona agriculture and ag education programs through his involvement with the Farm Bureau, Arizona Department of Agriculture, Cattle Growers, and other institutes of higher learning. An exemplary ambassador for the university, he has worked closely with the Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation, and Animal Sciences programs. He is always promoting the University of Arizona Land Grant Mission. Jose has been on the CALS Alumni Council Board of Directors since 2012 and has often served in a leadership role. Because he is a role model for agriculture educators, and for his unwavering interest in and loyalty to CALS and the University of Arizona, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is proud to present Jose Bernal with the Sidney S. Woods Alumni Service Award.

Alumni Award: Tom Jones
Robert "Tom" Jones is a two-time alumnus who received his bachelor's in 1970 and master's in 1985, both in Agricultural Education. Tom is a tireless advocate for CALS, the university, and land-grant institutions. He is a former board member and president of the Alumni Council Board of Directors, and current president of the Ag100 Council. A lifetime member of the Arizona Alumni Association, he served on its Governing Board from 2005 to 2010. From 2005 to 2018, Tom also served as one of Arizona's delegates with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching. As a CARET delegate, he played a pivotal role in advocating for legislative support and promoting a better understanding of the impact of agricultural research, Extension, and teaching programs at our nation's land-grant universities. Tom’s career is a model of resolute leadership and public service in education, agriculture, and business. For years, he was a teacher and educational administrator while serving as councilman and mayor of the Town of Marana. As CEO of the Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association, he has been called "the face of rural electrification throughout Arizona" and is credited with expanding safety training programs and engaging with federal and state regulatory agencies on policies affecting the Southwest's co-ops.

Undergraduate Student News
Fall 2022 Student Teaching Cohort and Why They Love to Teach Agriculture

Ms. Bria Duran – Chandler High School with Mrs. Kari Williams

"Agricultural Education is a wonderfully complex field to be involved in, and despite its complexities, many who walk into this field find a home here. During my high school years, I became one of those people, finding peace in all the nitty gritty hands-on work and the unique career development it offered. Growing up in a small rural farming town in California, I was around agriculture my entire life in some way, but I feel like I only became aware of the true value of all the agriculture around me after joining my FFA chapter. I fell in love with this field and now strive to ignite that same passion and sense of belonging with the coming generations. I love that Ag Ed is unique in the way it caters to every type of learner and really gives all students an opportunity to thrive and be proud of their achievements. My goal while teaching is not only to expose students to the amazing learning opportunities at hand, but also to show them that there are many paths ahead of them, in and out of ag, all of which we will help them prepare for. Parents and guardians can rest easy knowing that with The 3-Circle Model our program is comprised of, our classes are structured in a way that ensures every student leaves with real world skills and knowledge to carry with them onto their next chapter in life. At the end of the day, my goal is to not only help students cultivate countless fond memories with their chapter, but also to give students all the tools and support they need in life to make the world a better place. Whether students go down a path of higher education, join the workforce, attend a trade school, enlist in the armed forces, or devote themselves to family life, their time in any Ag Ed program will set them up for their future success. To help students reach their full potential and shine in whatever path they may choose, it is the biggest honor and something I am beyond excited to be a part of."

Ms. Emma Troub– Chandler High School with Mr. AJ Argueta

"Growing up, I bounced around with many different ideas for my future career. I went into my Freshman year of high school convinced I was going to be an
architect and no way was ag going to change that. Wouldn’t you know it, by the time sophomore year hit, I had changed my mind. Throughout high school I was a very shy and reserved student. However, my ag teachers and chapter officers were constantly pushing me to do more. They helped me slowly break out of my shell and become who I am today. I owe so much of my life to them, and I hope I can also have an impact on my students, whether that impact is big or small. I hope I can lead them toward their passion and help them grow themselves.

Ms. Hailey Porter – Valley Union High School with Mrs. Davida Noble

"Each and every day from this point forward, I get to make my dream a reality. I get to grow alongside students of all different backgrounds and help them find their passions and dreams, just like my teacher, Mr. Dinges, did for me. I get to give those shy students, like I was, that nudge that they need to keep challenging themselves, to be better than they were the day before. However, more than anything I get to make a positive difference in the lives of my students by being their mentor, their guide, and most importantly their number one fan. Agricultural education chose me long ago without me realizing it and now I couldn’t find a better place in this world to devote more time to. My passion outgrew my setbacks, and I am finally in a place in life where I can’t think of a better place to call “work.” In the end, I chose agricultural education because I believe that every student has their place in the classroom no matter where they are heading after their time in school has come to an end. I want to help students develop their passions, skills, and mindset to be the most prepared that they can be for a successful future."

Mx. Jay Ostberg - Westwood High School with Mrs. Reta Yanik

"Henry Brooks Adams, a historian and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, stated, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” E.M. Tiffany, author of the FFA Creed, said: “I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.” The part I’ve chosen in the inspiring task of American agriculture is preparing youth to better our industry and our world. My fullest potential can only be reached when I’m helping students reach theirs."

Ms. Kaylin Buzard - Gilbert High School with Ms. Taylor Bird

"Agricultural Education combines all of my interests which makes it an undoubtedly prominent career choice. I am sure we have all heard of the saying “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” However, I prefer the saying, “Choose a job that you love, and you will work harder than you ever have before.” I do not want to be an agriculture teacher because it would be fun or easy. I know that being a teacher will challenge me in unimaginable ways. Being an agriculture teacher is so much more than just teaching content. Agriculture teachers are mentors, supervisors, advocates, event planners, accountants, and most importantly they are lifelong learners. It is impossible to adequately put into words how my ag teacher, Mrs. Reynolds saved my life but because of what she did, I now have the
chance to change someone’s life the way she changed mine. It is incredible how little moments that seem insignificant are the ones that matter most.”

Grad Student Teaching Assistants
Fall 2022 GTA’S

Courtney Bryant
Hometown: Queen Creek, Arizona
Bachelor's Degree In: Agricultural Technology Management and Education - Teaching Emphasis
Graduate Teaching Assistant: AED496/596D with Dr. Rice

Cody Young
Hometown: Chandler, AZ
Bachelor's Degree In: Agricultural Technology Management and Education - Teaching Emphasis
Graduate Teaching Assistant: AED150C1 with Mr. Matt Lewis

Tyler Saiz
Hometown: Greenville, South Carolina
Bachelor's Degree In: AETI Leadership and Communication

Revecca Rioux
Hometown: Tolleson, AZ
Bachelor's Degree In: Forestry with a certificate in Ecological Restoration and Forest Health
Alumni in the Workforce

Results are in from AETI Alumini Survey

The Department of Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation conducted an alumni follow up survey to better form the future of AETI by obtaining insight from recent graduates from 2016 - 2020. The survey was designed to answer two main questions,.. One, what professions do AETI graduates (both grad and undergrad) work in after graduating and two, did our graduates feel they were part of an AETI community? The key findings were interesting and insightful and will help serve in guiding future AETI decisions.

See all findings from survey...

Research and Outreach

Faculty Research


Read more about it here....


Read more about it here....


Read more about it here...


Read more about it here...

Mars, M.M., & Hart, J. (In press). Entrepreneurial sensemaking and transdisciplinary graduate entrepreneurship education. Studies in Graduate and Postdoctoral Education. Read more about it here...


Mars, M.M., (In press). From heroism to martyrdom: Entrepreneurial identity work in alternative market movements. Marketing Theory. Read more about it here...

Grad Students Present Research at Western Region Conference

Former grad student, Alexendra Schoeffling, presented her research titled, "The Influence of COVID-19 and Virtual Learning on the PCK Development of AZ Preservice SBAE Teachers", at a research session at the Western Region American Association for Agriculture Educators Conference in Las Cruces, NM. Alex did a fantastic job and we are proud to have her representing University of Arizona and AETI!

Additionally, recent graduate Jackie Rybin's abstract poster submission was accepted and presented at Western Region AAAE. The title of her research was, "Teaching Core Subjects and Traditional Food Knowledge through Farm-to-School (F2S) Curriculum: The Useability and Cultural-Relevance of Garden Lessons serving Diné youth at an Off-Grid Charter School in Leupp, Arizona". Great job to Jackie as well!

Brown Bag Series

Another forum the grad students have an opportunity to present their research is at the beloved monthly AETI Fall Brown Bag Series. Brown Bag Series occur every third Friday in the fall semester from 12:30-2:00. Read more about AETI Grad Student Research here...

Fall 2021 Spring 2022 MS Grad Theses

Congratulations to our Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 MS Graduate Student cohort. See links below for a summary of their thesis.

Autumn Gilbert: 
The Influence of Participating in Livestock Projects on 4-H Developmental Outcomes Among Pima County Senior 4-H Members As Perceived by Their Parents
Angus Donaldson:  
*Experiences of Recently Graduated Women School Based Agricultural Education Students in Arizona: A Critical Feminist Approach*

Natalie Kimble:  
*The Influence of Gender Inequities Experienced on the Intended Career Pathways of Women Veterinary Students*

Sean Lally:  
*An Exploration of Innovation Adoption and Family Farming Dynamics Throughout Intergenerational Transition*

Weslee Potts:  
*Generation Z’s Philanthropic Engagement in the United States Agrofood Sector: Perceptions, Motivations, and Intentions*

Jaclyn Rybin:  
*Teaching Core Subjects and Traditional Food Knowledge through Farm-to-School (F2S) Curriculum: The Usability and Cultural-Relevance of Garden Lessons serving Diné youth at an Off-Grid Charter School in Leupp, Arizona.*

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**Outreach in AETI**

The Department of Agricultural Education Technology and Innovation works to provide a better quality of life through a knowledge base in agricultural technology and systems management, formal and non-formal education, and leadership and innovation for our students, the people of Arizona, and society. AETI faculty members are engaged and in pursuit of this goal with a few outreach endeavors listed below.

Dr. Franklin is doing outreach in both Solar Photovoltaic Energy Education and Drone Technology. This spring, drone technology demonstrations led by Dr. Franklin were conducted for the Veterans Agricultural Education & Apprenticeship Program (VAEAP), the UA Campus Agriculture Center as well as the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association (SWIAA) at Wildhorse Pass.

Dr. Franklin’s outreach work continued in Solar Photovoltaic with solar pumping demonstrations given throughout Arizona at the Veterans Agricultural Education & Apprenticeship Program in Maricopa County, Southern AZ Beginning Farmer and Ranching Education Program and Backyard Gardening Series in Cochise County, The STAR School in Leupp, AZ and at the UA Campus Ag Center.

Additionally, AETI’s Dr. Ethan Orr is partnering with and performing outreach with the Healthy Forest Initiatives, an exciting new initiative with the National National Forest Service, the Arizona Governor’s Office and the Arizona Department of Corrections to create feasible ways to facilitate forest health. This includes studying the economic and scientific feasibility of Biochar. Biochar, (also called biomass), is a charcoal-like substance that’s made by burning organic material from agricultural and forestry. Feasibility studies have been conducted with leadership at the Arizona Department of Corrections, and Bio-Char demonstrations have been given to local leaders and National Forest managers in Globe, Payson, and Pinetop.

Dr. Orr is also working with the Arizona Cattle Growers Association, the UA...
Cooperative Extension, and the National Forest Service in the Tonto and the Apache- Sitgreaves forest to evaluate the range and biological capacity for specific plots of designated land. This project has scientifically established the number of cattle that can graze in a targeted area. This highly effective program will be expanded to the Prescott National Forest in the near future.

Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
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Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O’odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.