



Agricultural Education

PREPARING AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES EDUCATORS FOR LEADERSHIP

FALL 2018
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Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation*

*Please note impending name change from *Agricultural Education to Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation*. This new name clearly conveys our departments emphasis on innovation in teaching, leadership and professional practices in agriculture and life sciences.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Kudos to our talented, driven, and hardworking faculty

Bart Cardon Early Career Faculty Teaching Award

Congratulations to Dr. Amber Rice for receiving the 2018 Bart Cardon Early Career Faculty Teaching Award. This award was created to recognize and honor unusual dedication and outstanding performance by a member of the teaching faculty who is within their first five years of teaching at the University. Dr. Rice was nominated and selected by her peers and was presented her award and a \$1,000 stipend at the CALS Annual Fall Luncheon in October. See [Cardon Academy for Teaching Excellence](#) for detailed info. Congratulations Dr. Amber Rice!



2018 APLU Innovation in Teaching Award

Dr. Matt Mars (U of A) received the award along with Jeni Hart (U of M) for developing a graduate level course that brings together Agricultural Education and Higher Education graduate students to learn entrepreneurial skills to improve the economic and social impact of land grant universities. "The course design will be project-based, include graduate students in Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Innovation and Higher Education at both universities. It will focus on the development of innovative strategies for addressing food insecurity among college student populations." Food insecurity refers to students without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. The course will focus on entrepreneurial leadership in the agricultural and higher education contexts, with specific emphasis on how to prepare the next generation of land grant college and university professionals to lead social innovation on their campuses. See [APLU Innovative Teaching Award](#) for more info. Congratulations Dr. Mars!



2018 American FFA Degree

The Honorary American FFA Degree is for individuals who have provided exceptional service on a national level to agriculture, agricultural education, or the FFA. Mr. Lewis was one of 54 recipients from around the country selected and the only teacher from Arizona. For more details [click here](#). Congratulations Mr. Lewis!



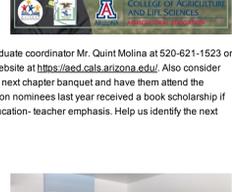
NEWS & EVENTS

Exciting collaborations and innovations continue in our department

New Website

Agricultural Education Department

Please visit our [new website](#) for valuable information regarding the Department of Agricultural Education, Technology, and Innovation.



New Course Offerings

Energy Sources of AZ and the U.S. AGTM 170A1

Students completing the course will be able to recognize and identify multiple methods of obtaining energy from our environment for both personal use on a small-scale as well as commercial applications on a larger scale. Actively participating, students will discuss, contrast, and evaluate different methods employed to utilize resources to provide power. Students will research a specific renewable energy source and recognize the variables which make it appropriate for specific circumstances, recognizing limitations, and offering strategies for adoption. The course will be offered fully online through D2L. For more information contact Dr. Ed Franklin at ufranko@mail.arizona.edu



CASE Summer Institute

June 11th-21st The University of Arizona Agricultural Education Department hosted their first Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Institute for practicing agriculture teachers in the newly renovated Saguaro108 hybrid classroom/laboratory. CASE is an instructional system that is changing the culture of agriculture programs in the United States through intense teacher professional development, inquiry-based, student-focused lessons, assessment, and certification. CASE helps teachers to elevate student experiences in the Agri science classroom and prepares students for success in STEM fields. Agriculture teachers from across the United States participated in the 10-day professional development opportunity and received certification to teach the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) curriculum. The AZ Star Grant and Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association (AATA) awarded three \$1,500 case materials acquisition scholarships to the following Arizona teachers to purchase CASE supplies and implement CASE in their programs this fall: Ginnie Strait, Highland High School; Heather Scott, Snowflake; and Jeff Dinges, Mayer High School. The Agricultural Education Department continues to offer the integrated CASE AFNR training for preservice teachers every fall as a part of the teacher preparation curriculum. Find out more about CASE [here](#).



- [Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources](#) Iowa State University, Eastern State University, Oregon State University, University of Arizona, and West Virginia University
- [Principles of Agricultural Science - Animal](#) Purdue University, University of Missouri, and Washington State University

Could Your Student be the Next Arizona Agriculture Teacher?

We are always looking for future agriculture teachers! If you have any students who are interested in pursuing a career in agricultural education, please have them contact under graduate coordinator Mr. Quintin Molina at 520-621-1523 or email qmolina@mail.arizona.edu. Visit our website at <https://aed.cals.arizona.edu>. Also consider nominating them for the Cullison award at your next chapter banquet and have them attend the prestigious Cullison luncheon at SLCI All Cullison nominees last year received a book scholarship if they attend the UA and major in Agricultural Education- teacher emphasis. Help us identify the next generation of agriculture teachers today!



Innovation Collaboratory

In Spring 2018, the Department of Agricultural Education began offering its entrepreneurial leadership and innovation courses in the newly created Innovation Collaboratory. The Collaboratory, which is in Saguaro Hall room 127, was created in 2018 with support from the Dorrance Scholarship Program. This unique learning space is designed to enhance the development of CALS students, faculty, and statewide stakeholders in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurial leadership. In particular, the Collaboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art collaborative learning technologies and resources that foster creativity, ingenuity, and higher order strategic thinking. In addition to hosting entrepreneurial leadership and innovation courses, the Collaboratory will support and facilitate student and faculty-led entrepreneurial activities and innovative initiatives across CALS. Dr. Matthew Mars, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Leadership and Innovation, is the Founder and Academic Director of the Collaboratory and Mr. Emre Tokser, CALS Innovator-in-Residence, is the Managing Director. For more information on the Innovation Collaboratory, please contact Dr. Mars at mmars@mail.arizona.edu, Innovation Collaboratory. Creating Opportunities. Advancing Students. <https://aed.cals.arizona.edu/qoinnovate>

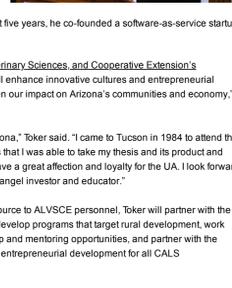


NEW FACULTY & STAFF

Meet our newest additions to the Department of Agricultural Education

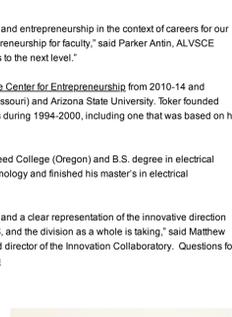
Baleshka Brenes

Dr. Brenes is originally from Nicaragua. She earned her Bachelor in Socioeconomic Development and Environment at Zamorano University in Honduras, her Master in Agricultural Sciences at Texas A&M-Commerce, and her PhD in Agricultural Education and Communications with an Ag Leadership Certificate at Texas Tech University. She started January 2018 as New Director of Ag Programs and will start teaching this upcoming Fall 2018. She will support outreach and recruitment efforts to grow UA-Yuma Agriculture Program. She is currently the advisor for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Club. Her office is located at 928-782-1990 or by email bbrenes@mail.arizona.edu



Deborah Huie

Deborah Huie, the newest team member in our AgEd Department is our new administrative assistant. Deborah brings to the department over 10 years of high-level administrative support and expertise in office management skills. Deborah a long time Tucsonan, came to us from another department at the U of A where she spent the previous three years as an office manager. Deborah looks forward to many years of being a part of the AgEd family and to serving the AgEd department to the best of her abilities. Deborah can be contacted at 520-621-1523 or email dhue@mail.arizona.edu



Matt Lewis

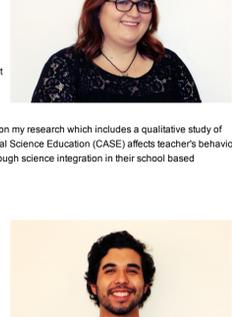
Arizona native born and raised in Navajo County. He grew up on a small farm raising beef cattle, corn and alfalfa. Matt graduated from Snowflake High School and was involved in Agricultural Education and FFA. As a poor college student he applied for the Shaffer Scholarship at UA in Ag Ed. This put him on the path as an Agricultural Educator! He completed my student teaching at Safford High School under the direction of Guillermo Zamudio. Due to a shortage of Agriculture teaching positions after graduation, he enrolled in graduate school at UA. In October of 1987, Buddy Deimler left Agua Fria HS as the Ag Teacher to become the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. This created an opening and he started teaching at Agua Fria HS in October of 1987. In 1992 Matt moved to Chandler and began teaching at Chandler High School where he taught for 26 years. While at Chandler, he taught with five other great teachers who helped build the program into a very complete program. Together, they built new facilities, created a school farm at Turnbweled Park in coordination with the City of Chandler and had many successes in developing leadership opportunities for students through FFA. Matt served the Arizona Ag Teachers as President in 1995-96 and have been on the AATA Board for most of his career. His wife Suzy and he have five children. The family rule was that they enroll in high school Ag class as a freshman and after that, they could leave the program if they discovered something better. All were four year FFA members and two served as State Officer and received the American FFA Degree. Matt and Suzy have seven grandchildren. He is excited to have the opportunity to join the faculty at the University of Arizona and continue her career in Agricultural Education. Matt is passionate about helping others and loves working with others who feel the same! He is located at 225F Saguaro Hall and can be contacted at 480-277-3255. Email address mattlewis@mail.arizona.edu



Emre Tokser

Our Inaugural Mentor-in-Residence!

Emre Tokser said he has always been thankful to the University of Arizona for enabling him to transfer his master's thesis in electrical engineering into a real-world product and start his first life sciences company in Tucson more than 20 years ago. As an entrepreneur, he founded three successful biomedical start-up companies between 1994-1996, and in the past five years, he co-founded a software-as-a-service startup and one medical imaging startup.



"As the UA Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences and Cooperative Extension (ALVSCE) first ever Mentor-in-Residence he will enhance innovative cultures and entrepreneurial capabilities throughout the division and so widen our impact on Arizona's communities and economy," said Shane Burgess, ALVSCE vice president.

"I am delighted to return to the University of Arizona," Tokser said. "I came to Tucson in 1984 to attend the UA, and the greatest thing the UA gave to me was that I was able to take my thesis and its product and start a company in Tucson, in addition, so I have a great affection and loyalty for the UA. I look forward to sharing my experiences as an entrepreneur, angel investor and founder."

In addition to serving as an entrepreneurial resource to ALVSCE personnel, Tokser will partner with the CALS Career Services to expand internship and mentoring opportunities, and partner with the department's Innovation Collaboratory to assist entrepreneurial development for all CALS undergraduate and graduate students.

Tokser will guide practical workshops in both classroom and online settings, connect faculty and students with other mentors and students, provide opportunities for one-on-one discussions, and facilitate connections between the UA and local and national startups, Tech Launch Arizona, Startup "ecosystems"—including angel investor groups, industry, start-ups, Tech Launch Arizona, Startup ventures—and venture capital firms.

"We've been looking up the notion of innovation and entrepreneurship in the context of careers for our students and ramping up innovation and entrepreneurship for faculty," said Parker Antin, ALVSCE associate vice president. "He is going to help us to the next level."

Tokser held a similar position at the UA's McGuire Center for Entrepreneurship from 2010-14 and previously worked at Washington University (Missouri) and Arizona State University. Tokser founded three successful biomedical start-up companies during 1994-2000, including one that was based on his UA master's thesis.

Tokser earned his B.A. degree in physics from Reed College (Oregon) and B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the California Institute of Technology and finished his master's in electrical engineering at UA in 1990.

"Emre joining us is remarkably forward thinking and a clear representation of the innovative direction the Department of Agricultural Education, CALS, and the division as a whole is taking," said Matthew Mars, assistant professor in the department, and director of the Innovation Collaboratory. Questions for Emre may be sent to etokser@mail.arizona.edu

Antonio Valenzuela

Antonio Valenzuela is an undergraduate Academic Advisor in the Department of Agricultural Education. He advises students majoring in Agricultural Technology Management and Education. He also advises students majoring in Plant Sciences and supports CALS college-wide initiatives in the Career and Academic Services office.



Antonio is a native Tucsonan and earned a bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law in 2009, after earning his degree in Higher Education from the University of Arizona. Outside of college, Antonio enjoys spending time with family, attending concerts, helping his siblings figure out the college process, and solo traveling to new cities with no set plan. He may be reached by calling 520-621-1528, stopping by his office in Saguaro Hall 206, or by emailing av11@mail.arizona.edu

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Agricultural Education has a pool of tremendous and talented TA's

Taylor Bird

My name is Taylor Bird and I am the teaching assistant for the AED 496D course, *Teaching Science and Mathematics through Inquiry*. I am originally from Chandler, Arizona and came to Tucson for my undergraduate. I earned my Bachelor of Science from the University of Arizona in Agricultural Technology Management and Education with a teaching emphasis. I am excited to be back at the University earning my Master of Education in Agricultural Education while am working with Dr. Amber Rice as my advisor on my research which includes a qualitative study of how certification in the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) affects the behavior of patterns of including inquiry-based learning through science in their school based agricultural education programs.



Austin Derma

My name is Austin Derma and I am a current graduate student at The University of Arizona. I am originally from a small border town known as Yuma, Arizona. Immediately after graduating high school in Yuma I pursued a bachelor's degree at the UA. While in college I majored in Animal Science and minored in Agriculture Technology Management and Education. I am currently a master's student in Agricultural Education where I am studying the experiences that support retention and attrition of students majoring in a Nutritional Sciences degree at The University of Arizona. As well, I am the current graduate teaching assistant to Professor Quintin Molina's AED 301 class - *Youth Leadership Development*.



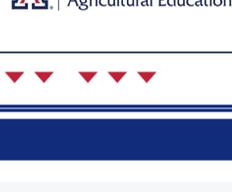
Sarah McNall

Sarah McNall is from Tucson, Arizona. She received her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Resource Economics with a focus in Agriscience Economics and completed a General Business Administration Minor. Sarah's area of research is in Agriculture Teacher's Mathematical Content Knowledge. She works with Dr. Torres and assists in the *Heritage and Traditions of the University of Arizona (AED 295B)*.



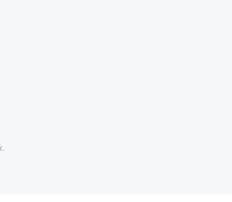
Taylor Merrick

I am from Safford, Arizona, and I completed my undergrad here at the University of Arizona in Agriculture Technology and Management, with an emphasis in Leadership and Communications. My research interests include teaching methods and the different ways or processes that a teacher implements them in the classroom. Right now, I am specifically looking at problem-based learning and how teachers are using it in class or lab settings, under my advisor Amber Rice. I am currently a teaching assistant to Matt Mars in his ALC 422 Strategic Communication class, which happened to be one of my favorite classes as an undergrad!



Tyler Thorp

Tyler Thorp is from Tucson, Arizona. She went to Northern Arizona University for undergrad and received her BA in Political Science, Communication, and Spanish. After graduating Tyler interned and then worked full time for the Arizona Supreme Court for two years before coming to the University of Arizona for graduate school. She received her master's degree this past year in Agricultural Education and is now pursuing a joint Ph.D. in Agricultural Education and Higher Education. Her research interest includes the relationship between higher education institutions and food/agricultural social movements. She currently assists her advisor, Dr. Mars.



Kaycie Waters

Kaycie Waters is from the great city of Yuma, Arizona and has a strong connection to lettuce because of this. She completed her undergraduate degree in Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Arizona, and worked in the professional world for a year before returning to the UA for her MS in Agricultural Education. Kaycie is interested in understanding how wildlife media influences perceptions on different social conservation efforts and is very interested in the effective communication of natural resource conservation. She is advised by Dr. Matthew Mars and is a teaching assistant for Dr. Torres' *Heritage and Traditions of the University of Arizona (AED 295B)* course. She is very excited to be a part of the Agricultural Education Department and has thoroughly enjoyed her first few months as a teaching assistant!

STUDENT TEACHERS

AgEd Student Teachers are a valuable contribution to our team

Taylor Bird

Why teach agriculture? Agriculture is the basis of our past and the hope for the future. There are a vast number of lessons to be taught from agriculture. Through agricultural education, a student can learn about anatomy, biology, chemistry, business, and so much more through the lens of agriculture. By teaching agriculture, students are exposed to the endless job and leadership opportunities available within the agricultural industry while gaining the exposure to be career ready. For the great aim of education is not knowledge, but action. I have wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. I found my passion for the agricultural industry during my sophomore year of high school and never looked back. I hope to help students find their passion, and I could not think of a better way to do so than being an agricultural educator. Taylor student taught at Valley Union High School and Davida Noble was her cooperating teacher.

Kaycee Larios

Why teach agriculture? I was tagged to teach Ag way back when I was a sophomore in high school, but it took me five years to realize it. I want to teach agricultural education to help high school students feel like they belong somewhere, help them unlock their potential, and help them find careers in the agriculture industry that needs the new generation to take over. If they do not think agriculture is the place for them as a career, then my students will have the skills to be able to advocate for the agriculture industry. High school is a confusing and awkward time for students. I want to make it a time to set up and launch their early adult lives with a smidge less awkwardness. Kaycee student teaches at Mingus Union High School and Eric Banuelos is her cooperating teacher.

Sarah McNall

Why teach agriculture? I want to be an agriculture teacher because I did not have the opportunity to take an agricultural education course in high school. My high school had one animal science courses, but there was never any connection to agriculture. FFA or the different opportunities and exposure involvement could bring to members. Looking back now I see all the experiences I missed out on because my high school's program was so weak. I want high school students to learn about the field of agriculture, especially that it is more than just the stereotypical idea of farming. It was not until my sophomore year of college that I was able to learn about agriculture and all the different opportunities the field possesses. I believe that agriculture is multifaceted and being an agriculture teacher will allow me to share the joys of agricultural life with future generations. To me, being an agricultural teacher is more than just the core educational learning that will happen in my class but preparing students to be leaders and productive members of society in any direction of life they chose to take after our time together. Sarah student teaches at Coolidge High School and her cooperating teacher is Jadede Rohner.

Meghan Rodgers

Why teach agriculture? "I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds..." as a freshman in high school I wasn't entirely sure what these words meant. "I believe..." well, sure, but it is simply because my teacher told me so or do I really believe it? When I was younger, I didn't really know what agriculture was other than Old McDonald's Farm. Through my experience in agricultural education high school, I quickly learned it is so much more than that old nursery rhyme. Agricultural education is the path to creating tomorrow's leaders by engaging them in an industry ripe with opportunity and today's innovative technology. It promotes leadership, career success, and personal growth among students regardless of their prior experiences with the industry. Therefore, teaching agriculture has become my passion, the topics I am able to cover with students is just a bonus to an already outstanding subject. With each passing day, I grow in faith that the agricultural industry has a bright future. Meghan student teaches at Chandler High School and her cooperating teacher is Kari Williams.

Joshua Troub

Why teach agriculture? Quite frankly, I did not start college with the goal of being an Agricultural Educator; I wanted to be a Wildlife Manager with Arizona Game and Fish. On the other hand, as I completed my freshman year in college, I took a moment introspectively evaluate the tasks I had completed and the purpose behind them. The main reason that I had gone into the Natural Resources major at the University of Arizona was because I had placed first as an individual and as a team in the Wildlife Career Development Event in the FFA Organization. While I enjoyed the competition and the success I had therein, I realized that what I enjoyed even more was the program behind my competition and my success. Indubitably, the Agricultural Education model and my teacher both played significant roles in producing well rounded individuals who become, and believe the passion have to teach will drive me to produce well rounded individuals to lead the rapidly growing population. Furthermore, agriculture is the inherent basis of our society since it provides food, shelter, clothing, and medicine. Growing up in Buckeye, Arizona in the early 2000's; agriculture has been a major part of who I am. Due to its importance in society and it being engrained in my person, I could not see myself teaching any other subject besides agriculture or its related entities. Joshua student teaches at Mayer High School and Jeff Dinges is his cooperating teacher.

