SPRINGTIME IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

It is springtime in Tucson, Arizona. Temperatures are already in the 80’s. The warmer 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 move to the Office of Instruction and Assessment and campus, we are in the process of completing the campus Academic Program Review that occurs once every seven years for all UA departments. In addition, we have a new faculty member, Dr. Matt Mars, introduced in this newsletter.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE – THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW

The Department of Agricultural Education website continues to get a face lift®, is updated weekly, and includes events for students on campus. The website can be found at http://aed.cals.arizona.edu.

THE CALS FFA CDE DAY EVENT WAS SUPER!
The Arizona FFA Association participated in the State FFA Career Development Event Day sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and organized by the Department of Agricultural Education, on Friday, March 6, 2015. The events began at 8:00 a.m. at the Campus Ag Center, and 8:30 a.m. on the main campus. 14 different Career Development Events were planned. About 1,275 high school students, teachers, and adult chaperones were on the UA campus for the event.

The Vet Tech CDE event was held at the University of Arizona this year. The event was chaired by Dr. Noble Jackson, Department of Veterinary Sciences and Microbiology and Mr. Jose’ Bernal, Agriculture Teacher – Pima JTED. The College has never hosted the Vet Tech CDE on this campus and is an event that is relatively new at the National FFA Organization competition, and relatively new for the state of Arizona’s FFA competitions. The Vet Tech CDE included a team event, which contained a series of mathematical problems requiring solution.

The FFA CDE Awards Ceremony took place at 4:00 p.m. in the UA Student Union Ballroom. CALS Dean, Dr. Shane Burgess, welcomed the FFA members, teachers and guests. The top team results are located in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>First Place Chapter</th>
<th>Second Place Chapter</th>
<th>High Scoring Individual / Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Mechanics</td>
<td>Chandler</td>
<td>Round Valley</td>
<td>Logan Forbis / Chandler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>Queen Creek</td>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>Carson Pickron / Highland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entomology</td>
<td>San Simon</td>
<td>AAEC-Prescott Valley</td>
<td>Jazmine Philpot / Globe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Evaluation</td>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>AAEC-Prescott Valley</td>
<td>Keaton Haviland / Highland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery / Landscape</td>
<td>Queen Creek</td>
<td>Red Mountain</td>
<td>Paige Gangloff / Queen Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range Management</td>
<td>Round Valley</td>
<td>Ft. Thomas</td>
<td>Kendi Phelps / Round Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soils</td>
<td>Elfrida</td>
<td>Round Valley</td>
<td>Gabe Michaud / Elfrida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag Business &amp; Management</td>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>Chandler</td>
<td>Steven Rojo / Highland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>Round Valley</td>
<td>Safford</td>
<td>Ian Timmins / Round Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Interview</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Isabel Forlastro / Douglas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>Mingus Union</td>
<td>AAEC-Estrella Mountain</td>
<td>Thomas Pomeroy / AAEC-Estrella Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>Benson</td>
<td>Queen Creek</td>
<td>Hannah Lauffenburger / Queen Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meats</td>
<td>Chandler</td>
<td>Gilbert</td>
<td>Levi Berndt / Gilbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Tech</td>
<td>AAEC-Estrella Mountain</td>
<td>Tanque Verde - Pima JTED</td>
<td>Torri Dickinson / AAEC-Estrella Mountain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to ALL the participants and their coaches/advisors/teachers!
**DR. FRANKLIN – ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

As part of a CALS Agricultural Education Student Micro-teaching Navajo Cultural Experience grant, Dr. Franklin received funding that supported students in a visit to the Kayenta area where they worked with high school students using a solar water pumping system that is used to pump water for farm irrigation systems.

Nine students traveled with Dr. Franklin to participate in 3-day micro-teaching and cultural event on November 5 – 7, 2014 held at Monument Valley High School. Clyde and Alysia McBride served as host to this trip.

UA agricultural education students worked 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. In addition, this spring, Dr. Franklin participated in the Yuma Ag Summit and worked with Solar Energy International to bring one of their curriculum programs to the UA campus during a three-day seminar.

**DR. MARS – ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION**

Dr. Matt Mars joined the Department of Agricultural Education in fall 2014. This spring, he has been busy with two large lecture courses and a graduate course. Additionally he has a huge research agenda and 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 – ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE**

Mr. Quint Molina continues his role as Director of Undergraduate Studies and Coordinator of the Teacher Preparation Program and Recruiter. As have other faculty, this year Mr. Molina has taken on a heavier than normal teaching load due to a position vacancy.
**DR. TORRES – PROFESSOR AND HEAD**

Dr. Bobby Torres, along with Dr. Matt Mars have pick up the ever popular Heritage and Traditions of the UA course that Dr. Jim Knight developed and historically taught. The course reaches close to 300 students each semester from around the campus community. On his spring teaching schedule, he has three classes on the roster. Fall 2014 included an Academic Program Review consisting of an in-depth self-study, and external/internal review panel. The self-study is found at [http://aed.cals.arizona.edu/pdf/APR_Dec2014.pdf](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. Dr. Torres is currently in the process of reviewing the review panel results and preparing a response to the University Provost, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Fortunately, no major negative concerns, however, the review panel did note that the faculty and staff are stretched beyond “capacity”.

**MS. SCHWARTZ – ASSOCIATE EXTENSION SPECIALIST & DIR. OF AZ PROJECT WET**

Arizona Project WET (APW) has been incredibly busy this year running statewide programs that target classroom teachers, K-12 students and community members. This year she is 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/](http://arizonawet.arizona.edu/). Project Wet is the place to go for water education in southern Arizona.

**CURRICULUM CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

The Department of Agricultural Education is the first department on campus to offer an undergraduate curriculum certificate. We’d like to introduce you to the **Undergraduate Certificate in Agricultural Leadership and Innovation** - the certificate program is set at 12 units (choose four courses from the list below) and can be taken by any student admitted to the University. The certificate of completion is added to the students’ degree transcript. The undergraduate certificate includes the following courses from which to choose:

- **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 & 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 & 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 **Certificate** offers students interested in pursuing any profession within agriculture and the life sciences, as well as those generally interested in serving as community agents of change. Additionally, students have an opportunity to develop and enhance leadership skills.

Graduate curriculum certifications offered by the Department of Agricultural Education include:

- Agriculture Leadership graduate
- CTE Administrator
- Adult Teaching graduate certificate

**MEET DR. MATT MARS**

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 be reached by phone at 520 621-2239.

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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICE STAFF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The department has restructured its business operations. Beginning in August 2014, the department entered into an Shared Business Center model. Ms. Paige Jacobson, Ms. Gina McCann, Mr. David Reeves, Ms. Kelly Keyser, and Ms. Amanda Amadin our former Business Manager. The Center also serves with the Norton School, and Agricultural and Resource Economics. <strong>Primary Aims:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- To create a Center to responsibly, accurately, and responsively manage the financial and administrative workload of all three units (AED, FCS &amp; AREC) to the highest standards of fiduciary stewardship and customer service;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Develop cross-training of Center personnel and backup support for when Center personnel are out of the office;</td>
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<td>- Create professional development and career growth opportunities for Center personnel, and develop succession planning through mentoring and coaching of Center personnel;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Maintain the separate academic identity of each unit; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Provide greater student and faculty support of financial and administrative functions.</td>
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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.

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.
Join the Wildcat Family in Agricultural Education.

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- Ms. Paige Jacobson, Business Manager - paige@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-2239.
- Accountants: Ms. Gina McCann, Mr. David Reeves, Ms. Kelly Keyser, and Administrative Assistant: Amanda Amadin.
- Mrs. MaryAnne F. Kelly, Office Specialist - mkelly3@email.arizona.edu or 520-621-1523.

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- Bre Watkins, brej12@email.arizona.edu

GO CATS – BEARDOWN!