Fall 2020 Issue

previous issue here

- Faculty News
- Department News
- Student News
- Grad Students

Faculty

David E. Cox Faculty Teaching Award

Congratulations Mr. Quint Molina! Mr. Molina received the David E. Fox Faculty Teaching award at the Fall 2019 CALS Luncheon. The teaching award was created to recognize and honor unusual dedication and outstanding performance by a member of the CALS teaching faculty. Mr. Molina was honored at the CALS luncheon where he received a

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plaque and a check for $1,000.

We are honored to have Mr. Molina on our faculty.

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Dr. Bobby Torres ALVSCE Difference Maker

Congratulations Dr. Torres, AETI Department Head on being recognized as an ALVSCE Difference Maker! We are grateful for his exceptional leadership and selflessness with everyone he meets.

“Dr. Bobby Torres has shown exceptional leadership to the Department of Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation during the COVID-19 pandemic. He has encouraged colleagues, led faculty wellness check-in meetings, supported graduate and undergraduate students, answered countless emails and phone calls, and many other acts of selflessness during a trying time. Bobby always maintains a positive outlook and is solution oriented in his efforts to make CALS the best place on campus for students, faculty, and staff. On behalf of the entire department, we want to celebrate and recognize an outstanding leader and administrator!” Submitted by Dr. Amber Rice, Agricultural Education, Technology, and Innovation.

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Faculty Service Awards

Congratulations to our outstanding faculty members for achieving their years of service awards. Dr. Franklin 20 Year Award, Mr. Molina 15 Year Award, and Dr. Torres 10 Year Award. We are greatly appreciative of the time and effort each individual has poured into AETI!

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Dr. Edward Franklin Awarded Two Green Fund Annual Grants

Dr. Franklin was awarded two Green Fund Grants for 2020-21 which will be used to fund the construction of a storage building at the UA Campus Agriculture Center for AETI's solar equipment teaching inventory. The building will include a solar PV system for lighting and electrical power. Additional grant money will fund an outreach solar energy education program for 4-H programs in three Tribal communities.

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Native Waters on Arid Lands Tribal Summit

Dr. Edward Franklin and members of Native American tribal communities from the Western United States convened in October 2019 to discuss water usage, climate change, agriculture and tribal food sovereignty. Dr. Franklin shared his expertise in solar power at the Tribal Summit.

See link for Native Waters on Arid Lands.

Faculty Research and Publications

Dr. Matthew Mars and Dr. Amber Rice have been busy performing top notch research and publishing papers. Please see link for list of Dr. Mars recent publications. Please see link for list of Dr. Rice's recent publications.

Additionally, please see link to the fascinating podcast detailing the research Dr. Amber Rice (University of Arizona), collaborated on with Dr. Amanda Bowling (Ohio State University) on "Are Students Motivated by the Same Thing Teachers Are?"

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Introducing Entrepreneurial Thinking ALC 196

Emre Toker, Innovator in Residence and instructor for ALC 196, asked the Chief Medical Officer of General Electric Healthcare Dr. Jeff Hersh, and Emilio Oyarzabal, Academic Outreach Lead at Bayer Crop Science: What do employers look for in job applicants beyond just great academic training? Their response: **Innovative and entrepreneurial thinking!**

AETI is offering a one unit course *Developing an Entrepreneurial Mindset* to help train the next generation of job seekers and job creators. Emre Toker has an extensive background as a technology entrepreneur and as a local start up investor.

See link to seminar Emre hosted at the Innovation Collaboratory with Dr. Jeff Hersch.
Breanna Watkins AETI Academic Advisor

Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation is excited to welcome Breanna Watkins as the department's new Academic Advisor. She will be advising students in the Agricultural Technology Management and Education major/minor. Bre will also be collaborating on student success initiatives within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She is a recent graduate of our undergraduate program with an emphasis in Leadership and Communication and has a Master's degree in Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications from Texas A&M University.

CASE Cohort 2019 Graduates

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During the Fall 2019 semester, nine preservice teachers completed the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) certification. CASE is a comprehensive national agricultural science curriculum that requires intensive professional development and focuses on inquiry-based learning strategies. AFNR is one of 10 courses in which agriculture teachers can become certified. This integrated institute was co-led by Dr. Amber Rice, Mr. Quint Molina, and Teaching Assistant Joshua Troub. Every fall all preservice agriculture teachers attending the UA will complete the CASE AFNR certification as a part of their degree requirement.

Back row: Kevin Rogers, Alex Stinson, Logan Forbis  
Middle row: Paige Gangloff, Tristen Gillespie  
Front row: Ellie Rollins, Taylor Merrick, Sydney Pearce, Mariah Shiner

See link for CASE news in National Association of Ag Educators Utilizing Pre-Service CASE Opportunities

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**In Memoriam Mr. Jerry Cullison**

Mr. Jerry Cullison from Wellton, Arizona passed on August 13, 2020. Mr. Cullison devoted his life to supporting FFA and agricultural education through selfless service. Serving as a National FFA Officer in 1957-1958, helping to found the Arizona Agricultural Education/FFA Foundation, and continuing to provide support and insight as a member of the Foundation board are just a glimpse of the dedication Mr. Cullison had towards the advancement of agricultural education. Through a generous contribution, he also established the J.R. Cullison endowment. Named in honor of his father, J.R., this endowment has opened the door for countless students to pursue a career in agricultural education, a portion of which now teach in Arizona secondary schools. Mr. Cullison’s legacy of support for agricultural education and FFA will continue to shine through the J.R. Cullison Scholar Award Program and Scholarships. The UArizona Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation Department staff/faculty and students are deeply grateful for the lasting impact Mr. Cullison had and will have on the promotions of agricultural education.
Link to Mr. Jerry Cullison's obituary here: Jerry Wheeler Cullison 1938 -2020
We express our deepest sympathies to the Cullison family.

Teach Ag Happenings

Virtual Teach Ag Signing:
Using the online learning platform, Nearpod, a virtual signing board was created for anybody to show their support for agricultural education. The board was made live on National Teach Ag Day for students, teachers, stakeholders, and other supporters of this field to "sign". Several participated in this activity by writing positive messages about why they celebrate agricultural education.

Teach Ag Trivia:
Perhaps the most exciting activity of National Teach Ag Day was the trivia contest coordinated through UAriazona's AETI 's Instagram page. Ten questions revolving around teaching agriculture, FFA, and general education were posted on the accounts story. All who wanted to participate had until the afternoon to answer the questions until three winners were announced. Each winner is receiving a small prize basked including a Teach Ag campaign shirt, a Teach Ag logo pin, and other merchandise from the Teach Ag Campaign.

Ag Teacher Appreciation Campaign:
The real purpose behind National Teach Ag Day is to not only celebrate the excellent field of educators and leaders but also show appreciation for the agricultural teachers who have made a difference in the lives of their students. Current and former agricultural students were asked to complete a survey where they could recognize their agricultural teacher for how they personally impacted them with words of encouragement, through

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being able to celebrate the extraordinary individuals who go above and beyond their job description.

**Undergrad Students**

**Why They Love to Teach Agriculture**

**Morgan Berrigan**

As an educator, my main goal is to spark a passion for learning inside every single one of my students. This passion is one that is not restricted to my classroom, but one I wish to extend to other classes, higher education courses, and everyday life. As an Agriculture teacher, I have the benefit of instructing an engaging and tactile course compared to the lecture style instruction of most core classes. I have the opportunity to reinforce concepts learned in those core classes through hands-on application in a way that builds confidence and understanding. By providing a learning experience that caters to the dynamic needs of the adolescent mind, my hope is that all of my students will discover the joy of learning and develop a passion for their own education. Once that self-realized passion has been recognized by a student, a whole cascade of personal development is bound to occur. Another added benefit of teaching agriculture is the opportunity to teach a student over the entire course of their high school experience. Being able to observe, encourage, and influence the personal growth of students over the course of four years could be nothing short of fulfilling. And after these four years, agriculture teachers are often able to see how their students are applying themselves beyond high school with the confidence, knowledge, and preparation they developed in my program.

*Student Teaching 2021: Flowing Wells High School*

*Supervising Practioner: Ms. Caitlin Reynolds*

**Angus Donaldson**

It is truly rewarding and exciting to help others learn something new and is even more exciting when you

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This is the reason that I cannot wait to become a teacher. I am thrilled to soon have the rewarding privilege of sharing knowledge with my students every day an expanding their educational and professional horizons. Specifically, I want to be an Agricultural Education teacher because I believe that Ag Education offers students many opportunities that are not available in other educational programs. A Education opens students up to the promising field of agriculture that many o them would never have come in contact with. This not only helps students become more informed citizens and consumers, but also connects them with many new career paths. Agricultural Education and other CTE programs directly help students prepare for jobs and set them up for a better future. Thanks to the training I received through my Agricultural Education courses I have been better prepared for my university coursework and have also had the skills necessary to obtain and excel at every job I have had. Just like my Ag Education teachers did for me, I want to set all my students up for success later in life, then have the privilege of watching achieve that success in whatever they commit themselves to.

Student Teaching 2021: Basha High School
Supervising Practioner: Ms. Sharon Metzger

Kori Dorsey
Growing up I have always had an interest in becoming a teacher. It was not until high school that I realized I wanted to teach agriculture. In high school I fell in love with the endless opportunities my agriculture classes provided me with. Growing up in the suburbs of Gilbert, I never imagined that I would have been able to raise livestock and work in a greenhouse. Along with those opportunities, I enjoyed how agriculture classes applied what I was learning in my other classes. I am the type of person that learns best with doing as opposed to reading and hearing about things and I hope to make a positive impact on others who learn the same way. I feel like my role as a teacher will allow me to bring opportunities like raising livestock or working hands-on with plants so students who otherwise would not have the opportunity can now experience it. I feel I will be able to use my experiences and knowledge to help them learn and develop skills that will benefit them in the future. I believe one of the main roles of a teacher is to encourage students to try new things and take risks. I look forward to the challenge of teaching these new curriculum.
to be able to mentor students, be a role model and motivate them to do the best they can in school and allow them to get the most out of their experiences. I want to see students become successful and reach their full potentials.

Student Teaching 2021: Chandler High School  
Supervising Practitioner: Mrs. Kari Williams

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Rayna Fite

I would like to be an agricultural teacher because I believe in the future of agriculture. I believe that every student should have the opportunity to learn how agriculture works and where their food comes from. I want them to gain leadership skills and be a well-rounded citizen working in any profession they chose. Agriculture is surrounding every little thing we do and I want to be a part of it. Times will continue to change but no matter what there will always be fields to plant, animals to feed, jobs to acquire, and people to meet; and I want to help others achieve their goals.

Student Teaching 2021: Duncan High School  
Supervising Practitioner: Mrs. Kayla Presley

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Tristen Gillespie

I think teaching agriculture is so much more than the surface value it shows. It brings me a lot of excitement to know that I will have a direct impact on students by teaching them values, leadership skills and knowledge of agricultural practices as well as environmental knowledge that is so important in an ever changing environmental climate. The fact that I get to play a part in their growth in those areas and more brings me a ton of pride.

Student Teaching 2021: Basha High School  
Supervising Practitioner: Mr. Kevin Hartfield

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My ultimate goal is to change the lives of people and I've chosen to do that through agriculture education. It takes one person to be a light in someone’s life. It takes one person to be a helping hand. It takes one person to change an unmotivated, broken life, and make it brand new. Teachers are those people. We motivate students to do their best, we guide students to success when no one else will, and we are always available to listen. One teacher can change the lives of thousands of students. That is my motivation. But agriculture is my passion. Just like students, it is a subject that will never stop teaching you and it's practical information that students can take with them on any journey they embark on. I know that after college, I will be a teacher, a guider, and a friend to so many students. I want be that person a student needs, but also spread knowledge of agriculture to everyone who sits in my classroom seats. It just takes one person and I'm ready for it!

**Student Teaching 2021:** Estrella Mountain High School  
**Supervising Practitioner:** Mr. Brody McQuire

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**Alex Stinson**

I believe that is important to teach agriculture because of how the industry is essential is for life. Agriculture whether we notice it or not is involved in some way or another with what we do day in and day out. It is important that people get the proper knowledge and understanding of agriculture industry. In every agriculture class you are covering every core subject such as math, science and English. In an agriculture class you get to expand your knowledge from those subjects and apply in hands-on scenarios. I want to be an agriculture educator so that I can help students realize this just as I was able to in my agriculture classes when I was in high school.

**Student Teaching 2021:** Buckeye Union High School  
**Supervising Practitioner:** Mrs. Melissa Veo

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**AETI Grad Students Research and Capstone Projects**

**Newly Graduated AETI Grad Students Shine!**

Subscribe to our email list.
Jamie DeConcini
Thesis Project: The Influence of Written Composition on Audience Perceptions of Social Media Posts Surrounding the Wild Horse and Burro Controversy

Taylor Foerster

Gayle Gratop
Capstone Project: Online Master Gardner Training for the Higher Elevations of Northern Arizona: University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Kalee Hunter
Capstone Project: Online Learning for Volunteers: Arizona 4-H Training Video Modules

Shauni Jarvis
Thesis Project: The Impacts of Personal Beliefs of 4-H Instructors on their Teaching of Animal Food Production to Youth Populations

Taylor Merrick
Thesis Project: A Case Study Analysis of Problem-Based Learning via Fabrication Laboratory Applications in a Southwestern Secondary School
https://aed.cals.arizona.edu/publication/case-analysis-problem-based-learning-fabrication-laboratory-applications-southwestern

Christina Sims
Thesis Project: Youth Leadership Development: An Urban Ecosystem Perspective

Francisco Tovar
Capstone Project: Research on the Potential Cause of Food Safety Outbreaks in Yuma, Arizona

Joshua Troub
Thesis Project: Western State FFA Officer Selection Process: A Case Study Analysis