AETI Fall 2021 Newsletter

Faculty News

Dr. Amber Rice

Promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure....Congratulations!!

Earlier this fall, the University of Arizona Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost formally announced Dr. Amber Rice earned the promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Rice joined the AETI faculty as an assistant professor in 2016. She has served the AETI department in various roles, including a lead role in teacher preparation, Director of Graduate Studies, mentor to numerous undergraduate and graduate students, and a key University liaison with school-based agricultural education teachers in Arizona. She continues to provide leadership to agricultural education, regionally and nationally. She has been recognized with multiple awards for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

2021 Honorary State FFA Degree Recipient
This past summer Dr. Amber Rice of the AETI Department was recognized as one of the 2021 Honorary State FFA Degree Recipients by the Arizona FFA. Dr. Rice is truly deserving of this award based on her extraordinary efforts to support agricultural education and FFA in Arizona through a variety of ways.

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

Recipient of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Educator Award

Congratulations Dr. Amber Rice for being a recipient of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture 2021 Educator Award!

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

Dr. Matt Mars

USDA/APLU Teaching Award Ceremony

We are beyond elated to announce that Dr. Matt Mars will be receiving the USDA/ALPU 2020 Excellence in College and University Teaching for Food and Agricultural Sciences Western Regional Award! "Six regional awardees were also named recipients of the 2020 Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards for Food and Agricultural Sciences. In recognition of their scholarship, exemplary pedagogy, and dedication to instruction, the annual awards include stipends of $5,000 for the national winners and $2,000 for regional and early-career honorees to be used for improving teaching at their respective universities."

Read about Dr. Mars Teaching Award here...

Dr. Tanya Hodges

Esteemed Recipient of Sidney S. Wood UA Alumni Service Award

On October 1, 2021, Dr. Tanya Hodges was recognized at the CALS Annual Award Dinner as the Sidney S. Wood UA Alumni Service Award!

Sidney S. Woods, a long-time loyal alumnus of the University of Arizona, graduated in 1939. After a military career as a much-decorated ace pilot in World War II, he became prominent in the field of agriculture and also was a member of the Arizona Board of Regents. The Sidney S. Woods Alumni Service Award is given to an alumnus or alumna who has demonstrated unwavering interest in and loyalty to the University of Arizona for a minimum of FIVE years. The award is given to an individual who has been out of school for more than 15 years. Particular consideration is given to alumni who have taken the initiative to serve effectively on behalf of the university and who have responded to requests for service from the university. Special consideration is given to an individual who has received a degree from the university, but it is not a requirement. This award was determined by the UA Alumni...
Association National Board of Directors.

Congratulations to Dr. Hodges on this prestigious award!

**Best of the Best UA Award for Excellence**

Tanya Hodges, Regional Manager Yuma Distance Education was in her online, distance, and continuing education meeting and was pleased to see a fellow team member receive the announcement of his Award for Excellence and was doubly surprised when it was announced she had also been chosen as one of the Best of the Best to receive a UA Award for Excellence. Her nominators had wonderful things to say about her but Tanya was quick to say it was due to a great team of people that so much is accomplished even in difficult times and across long distances.

*Read more about Dr. Hodges Award here...*

---

**Dr. Edward Franklin**

Dr. Ed Franklin, Dr. Ursula Schuch and Mr. Trent Teegerstrom Receive USDA AgVets Grant

Congratulations on your team's recently funded USDA-Painted Desert Demonstration Projects Inc. grant, “Veteran's Agricultural Education and Apprenticeship Program in the Southwest for the 2019 AGVETS Grant.”

*Read about Dr. Franklin's Grant here....*

---

**Welcome Jonathan Link**

**New AETI Lecturer / Student Recruiter**

Jonathan, a UArizona alum and former AETI Graduate Teaching Assistant and CALS Ambassador, will bring his skills and talent towards attracting and recruiting perspective students into the Agricultural Technology Management and Education program. Additionally, Jonathan will be a lecturer within the AGTM curriculum. We look forward to working with him and capitalizing on his knowledge, skills, and experiences as we move towards advancing the AETI vision. Please welcome Jonathan into our department.

---

**AETI Department News**

**James A. Knight Student Engagement Center Dedication**

The new student engagement center located in Saguaro Hall will be officially dedicated to James A. Knight on November 5, 2021. James Knight, Professor Emeritus, was a Professor on the Ag Ed Faculty from 1996-2014. Known for instilling the Wildcat spirit in his students, he
also greeted each student by name and encouraged them to Bear Down. The Engagement Center is already proving to be a success and students can be seen working independently in there as well as collaborating in groups working on projects together.

---

**New AETI Life Sciences Minor**

The AETI Life Sciences Education Minor is designed to meet the needs of students who are interested in pursuing a leadership role in an educational setting outside of the traditional classroom environment.

**No Prerequisites Required!**

Students in the Minor will be able to facilitate the exchange of key ideas and practices learned and developed via their major course of study.

*Read more about AETI's new Life Sciences Minor here...*

---

**Agricultural Technology Management and Education Minor**

The Agricultural Technology Management and Education (AGTE) Minor is designed to engage students in leadership, communication, and

**No Prerequisites required!**

AETI's minor options are unique because they do not require any prerequisite courses. This means you can start taking courses to earn your minor or certificate right away.
Heritage Family Award 2021 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 Zamudio Family. The Zamudio’s multi-generational involvement with Agricultural Education began when brothers’ Guillermo, Ernesto, and Gilberto immigrated from Mexico, attended and graduated from UArizona’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with degrees in Agricultural Education. As first-generation college graduates, the brothers set the standard of higher education for the next three generations of the family. Together with their combined families, the Zamudio’s earned a total of ten degrees from CALS, along with several post graduate degrees as well. The family’s commitment to Agricultural Education demonstrates their dedication to educating past, present, and future generations of Arizona students, many in rural areas of the state. It is exceptionally noteworthy one Heritage Family earned ten degrees from the Department of Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation. Congratulations to this phenomenal family!

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA at YUMA

Congratulations to Drs. Hodges and Brenes along with your project partners Arizona Western College, Imperial Valley Colleg, and CALS for securing a two year federal USDA /NRCS conservation collaboration grant award of $790,000 to address lack of a diverse pipeline of STEM educated and skilled local talent

Read more about STEM / ISEEME Project Grant here...

AETI INNOVATOR CLUB

Calling all innovators and entrepreneurs!! If you are an innovator or entrepreneur within the UArizona College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, join the NEW CALS Innovators Club. Brainchild of Emre Toker, AETI’s Mentor in Residence and Adjunct Instructor he’s driven to help create the future of tomorrow today by receiving peer feedback, training in entrepreneurial concepts, learning from mentors, and so much more.

Learn more about our AGTE minor here...
Contact the Club leader, Edmundo Hernandez, at edmundohernandez@email.arizona.edu for more information.

NEW COURSE OFFERING AED295C

Learn about UArizona’s heritage and traditions in a 7.5 week one credit course! The course is designed to be light on textbooks and heavy in school spirit! Great way to gain appreciation for UArizona history, heritage and traditions while connecting with students, alumni, and community leaders. The course is fully online, asynchronous, and available to main campus, online, distance and community campus learners.

SUMMER CASE AFNR

During Summer 2021, the University of Arizona AETI department hosted a virtual Curriculum for Agriscience Education (CASE) Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) institute. The institute lasted 10 days in length during the month of June and served 21 agriscience teachers from across the United States, including three Arizona teachers. The institute was hosted by Dr. Amber Rice and Ms. Alexandra Schoeffling and was facilitated by a phenomenal team of Lead Teachers, Ms. Katie Titus and Ms. Cathy Berrier. This is the third summer institute for practicing teachers in which The University of Arizona has served as a host. The AETI department looks forward to hosting additional institutes in the years to come along with the continuation of their preservice institutes occurring each fall with all teaching emphasis students in the major!

Campus Ag Center News

After receiving his Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA, Dr. Ed Franklin demonstrates he understands the regulations, operating requirements, and procedures for safely flying drones at the Campus Ag Center!
With the help of students, new solar panels are installed at Campus Ag Center

With grant funds a much needed new storage barn was erected at the Campus Ag Center

Undergraduate Student News
Fall 2021 Student Teaching Cohort and Why They Love to Teach Agriculture

Ms. Courtney Bryant – Chandler High School with Mrs. Kari Williams

When I was in my 14-year-old prime, I was struggling to find my ‘why’. It felt like everyone was great as something or had some unbelievable talent, but I felt like I lacked it. So why would I believe in myself if no one else had? That all changed the moment I walked through my agriculture teacher’s door. Even if I felt like I had nothing to offer, he believed in me more than I had believed in myself. He encouraged me to compete in CDEs and to take on leadership roles. Agriculture education is much more than the curriculum we teach and there is no other program quite like a total-agriculture education class.
Katie Clontz – Flowing Wells High School with Mrs. Caitlin Reynolds

When I start teaching, I know I will find it incredibly fulfilling. I love the “ah-hah” moment of realization, when content and concepts click for a student and they “get it”. I hope to develop dynamic curriculum which makes knowledge accessible to all students. Agricultural education is unique in its scope and the program consists of an almost “club” element and focuses on vocational readiness and career skills while delivering agriculture-based curriculum. As agricultural educators, we have to be prepared to meet the needs of these diverse students. I hope to foster an environment in which student fall in love with learning, the same way I did.

Erynn Labut – AAEC South Mountain with Mr. Isaiah Govea

Outstanding teachers are those who extend their love and passion beyond the confines of a typical job description. Namely, these individuals are the ones that populate agricultural education programs across the nation. My goal as a teacher is to set students up for success in any future they decide to pursue through the development of technical, soft, and personal skills in an agricultural education program and enter into a career/academic major of their preference confident in their abilities. My goal is to be supportive of my students in their different pursuits, whether it be agriculturally or academically based.

Shinobi Horikawa – AAEC South Mountain with Mr. Kevin Norris

My agriculture teacher saw potential in me and pushed me to do my best. He gave me opportunities to participate in leadership events, compete in contests, and complete applications for awards. It is because of his mentorship that I have chosen to pursue a career as a high school agriculture teacher. As a teacher, I believe that my role is to help students become confident in themselves. I know I can accomplish this by helping them reach their full potential through agricultural education. I believe agriculture has a place for everyone, regardless of their background.

Grad Student Teaching Assistants

Fall 2021 GTA's
Angus Donaldson  
**Hometown:** Mesa, Arizona  
**Bachelor's Degree In:** Agricultural Education  
**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** AED496/596D with Dr. Rice

Autumn Gilbert  
**Hometown:** Tucson, Arizona  
**Bachelor's Degree In:** Agricultural Tech Management and Education. Emphasis: Leadership and Communication  
**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** AED295D with Dr. Torres

Sean Lally  
**Hometown:** Clovis, California  
**Bachelor's Degree In:** Agricultural Technology Management
Natalie Kimble

*Hometown:* Tempe, Arizona

*Bachelor's Degree In:* Veterinary Science

*Graduate Teaching Assistant:* ALC422 with Dr. Mars

---

Weslee Green

*Hometown:* Prescott Valley, Arizona

*Bachelor's Degree In:* Agricultural Technology Management

*Graduate Teaching Assistant:* AED150A with Angela Kaczowka

---

Graduate Student Research

Grad students have the opportunity to present their research at the AETI Fall Brown Bag Series

*Read more about AETI Grad Student Research here...*

---

Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
1110 E South Campus Drive
Tucson AZ 85721

---

You are receiving this email from the University of Arizona's mailing list.

Unsubscribe  ·  Manage Preferences

Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences and Cooperative Extension, Forbes Building,
1140 E. South Campus Dr., Tucson, AZ 85721, US
© Copyright 2021 The University of Arizona. All rights reserved.
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.