



## Dr. Foster Awarded Creative Teaching Award



ria that the committee reviews is outstanding teaching methodologies, a demonstrated effort to ensure the quality of students' learning experiences, and consistently high scholarly standard in both rigor and currency of course content. Dr. Foster's nomination documents her exceptional efforts and excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level.

**"...awarded \$2,500 and the placement of a plaque..."**

She will be awarded \$2,500 and the placement of a plaque in the Donna Swaim Honors Lounge in the Student Union Memorial Center. The annual

Congratulations to Dr. Billye Foster for receiving the University of Arizona Foundation Leicester and Kathryn Sherrill Creative Teaching Award. This award

**"...recognizes excellence in the art of teaching at all levels..."**

recognizes excellence in the art of teaching at all levels, but the Foundation places particular emphasis on teaching at the undergraduate level.

A distinguished university committee reviewed all the nominations for this award. The typical crite-

Awards of Distinction Ceremony will be held on April 16, 2008 at 5: 00 pm in the Student Union

Memorial Center in order to honor recipients of the University of Arizona

highest faculty teaching honors.

Congratulations again Dr. Foster on your outstanding teaching! The department appreciates your efforts to maintain our principles of the premier educational system agricultural education as

offered to its students.



**Dr. Foster working with students at the MANRRS conference held this past fall.**

# Department of Agricultural Education

## Scheduled For Its Seven Year Review

The Department of Agricultural Education will have its UA Academic Program and USDA-Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) Review from April 6-9, 2008. The Review Team consists of nine individuals from the USDA, University of Arizona, and other organizations. The team will conduct a comprehensive program review of the Department during this time. Part of the review process will involve the team visiting with organizations in which the Department has a partnership as well as with personnel within the Department, the College, and the Provost's Office. The following is a partial schedule for the Review Team:

<b>Monday, April 7, 2008</b>	
11:00 – 11:45	Meeting with Department Advisory Committee, Forbes 230
11:45 – 1:00	Lunch with Dennis Fiscus (CTE Student Organizations Team Director and Tech Prep Director), Barbara Border (Interim Deputy Associate Superintendent and State Director, Career and Technical Education), Jimmy Wojcik (State Supervisor), and Tyler Grandil (State FFA Executive Secretary) from Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Jack Elliot, Faculty, Staff, Grad Students, and Department Advisory Committee at the Redington Restaurant, UA Main Student Union.
1:15 – 1:45	Meet with ADE Team, Forbes 230
2:30 – 3:00	Tour of the Agricultural Mechanics Lab, Drs. Glen Miller and Ed Franklin
3:00 – 4:00	Meeting with AGTM Graduates and Majors, Meat Lab Auditorium
4:00 – 5:00	Meeting with Agricultural Teachers and Team Agricultural Education, Meat Lab Auditorium
5:00 – 7:00	Barbecue with the Stakeholder Groups, Campus Agricultural Center, Gazebo. All Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students Invited To Attend
<b>Tuesday, April 8, 2008</b>	
8:00 – 9:20	Undergraduate Program Overview. <u>Discussion Leaders</u> – Dr. Knight, Dr. Franklin, and Mr. Molina, Forbes 230. All Faculty and Staff Invited to Attend
9:30 – 10:30	Graduate Program Review. <u>Discussion Leaders</u> – Dr. Miller and Dr. Foster, Forbes 230. All Faculty and Staff Invited to Attend
1:00 – 1:45	Meet with Undergraduate Students and Department Related Student Groups. In attendance: All Undergraduate Students Invited To Attend, Forbes 230
1:45 – 2:30	Meet with Graduate Students. In attendance: All Graduate Students Invited To Attend, Forbes 230
2:45 – 3:30	Meet with Affiliate Faculty, <u>Discussion Leader</u> – Lisa Lauxman, Forbes 230. All Affiliate Faculty Invited To Attend
3:45 – 5:00	Meet with Faculty, <u>Discussion Leader</u> – Dr. Jim Knight, Forbes 230. All Faculty and Affiliate Faculty Invited To Attend
<b>Wednesday, April 9, 2008</b>	
8:30 – 9:30	Exit Interview with Ag Education Department, Forbes 230. All Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students Invited To Attend
9:30 – 10:30	Exit Interview with Executive Council, Forbes 307
11:00 – 12:00	Exit Interview with Provost's Office, UA Administration Building, Room 512



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# Meet the Graduate Teaching Assistants of the Agricultural Education Department

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## ABIGAIL DAMBECK

**Hometown:** DePere, Wisconsin and Yuma, Arizona

**Bachelors Degree:** Agriculture Technology Management and Education

**GTA Duties:** Grant work, assistant to Dr. Foster and Dr. Knight. In the fall I will be working with Mr. Molina and the student teachers.

**Thesis:** The Rural Youth Entrepreneur Project

**Graduation Date:** Fall 2008

**Career Objective upon graduating:** This is in the Lord's hands...seriously, I don't know yet.

**Hobbies:** Cooking and baking, being outdoors-e.g. hiking (and generally exploring nature), swimming, biking, crocheting, collecting and watching Veggie Tales videos, making people smile.



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## ARIN HAVERLAND



**Hometown:** Atlanta, GA

**Bachelors Degree:** Environmental Science with Minor in International Science and Technology Policy

**GTA Duties:** Assist with TRIF Plant Partners Project, AED408, NSF-CATTS Program

**Thesis:** International Transboundary Watershed and Hydrology Dynamics

**Graduation Date:** May 2009

**Career Objective upon graduating:** Post Doc in Global Environmental Change - Water and Disease Focus

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## Graduate Teaching Assistants....

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### RANDI NICKELS



**Hometown:** Goldendale, Washington

**Bachelors Degree:** Agricultural Education

**GTA Duties:** AED 438/538- The Teaching of Secondary School Agricultural Science, AED 462/562- Curriculum Development for Non-majors, Department Newsletter, and Arizona Teachers Bulletin Board

**Thesis:** Arizona Agricultural Teachers Association Agriscience Curriculum Review Phase II

**Graduation Date:** Spring 2008

**Career Objective Upon Graduating:** Secondary Agricultural Educator in Washington

**Hobbies:** Outdoor recreation, hunting, trap shooting, cardio, basketball, hanging out with family/friends, working with youth, raising and exhibiting livestock, cooking, gardening, and traveling.

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### MEGAN OTTO

**Hometown:** Yuma, Arizona

**Bachelors Degree:** Family and Consumer Sciences Education

**GTA Duties:** NAVIT Study, CALS Follow-Up Study and T.A. UNVR 295A

**Thesis:** Career and Technical Education Involvement at the High School Level and Its Effects on Positive Financial Planning and Decision Making in College Freshmen at The University of Arizona

**Graduation Date:** Spring 2009

**Career Objective Upon Graduating:** Academic advisor or instructor at community college level

**Hobbies:** Reading, jogging, going out with friends, movies, cooking, and sleeping (when possible).



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## Graduate Teaching Assistants....

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### HOLLY SCHINDLER



**Hometown:** Buckeye, Arizona

**Bachelors Degree:** Agricultural Economics and Management

**GTA Duties:** AED 462/562- Curriculum Development, AED 195a-Freshman Colloquium, AED 408- Diversity Issues in a Contemporary Society, and AED 422/522- Communications in Agriculture and the Life Sciences

**Thesis:** Ag in the Classroom and Academic Achievement

**Graduation Date:** Summer 2008

**Career Objective Upon Graduating:** Agriscience Instructor in Arizona

**Hobbies:** Cooking, baking, reading, and learning as much as I can about agriculture in Arizona!

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### KYLE SHARP

**Hometown:** Coolidge, Arizona

**Bachelors Degree:** Agricultural Economics and Business Management

**GTA Duties:** AED 422, AGTM 432, AED 615, AED 616

**Thesis:** Building Social Capital Through the Involvement of Outside Professionals in an Educational Setting.

**Graduation Date:** May 2009

**Career Objective upon graduating:** To work in public relations for agriculture related company or agency.

**Hobbies:** Listening to music, reading, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.





# Blue Jackets Invade the University of Arizona— State FFA CDE Day

On Friday March 08, 2008, a blanket of blue corduroy covered the University of Arizona campus. An astounding 1,024 Arizona State FFA members, advisors and guests attended the 2008 State FFA Career Development Day. The university was pleased to host the one day leadership event that allowed members to showcase their skills and knowledge in one of fifteen different Career Development Events (CDEs).

**“...1,024 Arizona State FFA members, advisors, and guests attended...”**



**FFA members competing in the tractor portion of the Ag Mechanics CDE.**

CDEs are curriculum-based events that allow students to demonstrate content and leadership skills that they have gain within the classroom. Many of the events are team oriented, which include team activities. These activities help develop group dynamics and communication skills. The wide range of CDEs allows students to find an event fitted to their interests. Events range anywhere from ag mechanics to job interview and from livestock judging to aquaculture.

**“...curriculum-based events that allow students to demonstrate content and leadership”**

By participating in these events, high school students are preparing for future success in a variety of career paths. Not all students who are in FFA or agriculture classes are interested in pursuing agriculture-related career, but the skills gained by participating in these CDEs are useful for career success in any profession.

Great preparation was taken to make the CDE day a success. Student chairs and volunteers from all over the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences spent weeks before the big day collaborating with college faculty members to make sure the CDEs operated smoothly. Over 90 volunteers spent all day on Friday watching students compete, scoring, and assisting in running the events.



**FFA members participating in the Aquaculture CDE.**

Overall, all the CDEs were successful due to the hard work of all the volunteers and chairpersons. The students were able to enjoy a fun day of competition. Misha Hindman, student chair of the Ag. Mechanics contest, said “My favorite part of the entire day was being able to see how passionate the students were about the contests they competed in. It was great to see them get so excited to be able to demonstrate everything they’ve learned in school.”

**“...being able to see how passionate the students were about the contests...”**

The hard work and dedication of students was showcased by an awards ceremony to end the great day. The individual and team winners in each event category were recognized and

## State FFA CDE Day....



Dr. Miller working with FFA members at the Ag Mechanics CDE.

“I really enjoyed seeing an increase in the number of smaller chapters participating and winning the various CDEs,” exclaimed Brittany Choate, a Agribusiness Student Chair.

In addition, Bethany Masters, the student CDE day Chair said, “The hard work of the faculty and student volunteers culminated in a smooth, efficient day and a wonderfully positive experience for the FFA members.”

“The hard work of the faculty and student volunteers culminated in a smooth, efficient day...”

**A special thank you to all of the students, faculty and volunteers that helped make this years contest an amazing success!**

## Meet Dr. Patty Merk



Dr. Merk is an affiliate faculty within the Agricultural Education Department.

Dr. Patty Merk is a regional specialist and area agent with University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in Maricopa County. She recently celebrated her 15th year with Extension. Her current programs include early brain development education for professionals working with young children. Of particular interest is the role of experience in developing the senses. In 2006, Dr. Merk attended a World Forum on Nature Education in Preschools. As a result of this experience, she began working on an educational outreach program in the Phoenix area.

Dr. Merk graduated from the University of Arizona Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences with a Ph.D. in Family Studies and Human Development in 2005. She earned her M.S. degree in Child Development and Family Studies from Indiana University (IU) in 1981 and her B.S. from IU in Journalism with a Business minor in 1978.

From 1981 to 1983, Dr. Merk worked in Cochise County as a 4-H Youth Development Agent. She then spent nine years working in financial services, having been a financial consultant with Merrill Lynch and business development officer with Northern Trust Bank in Tucson. Being very involved with the community and serving on boards made her realize how much she missed Extension work. In 1992, Dr. Merk was hired as a Family and Youth Development agent in Santa Cruz County. In 1999, she made a lateral move to Maricopa County working with the family and consumer science program in the area of child development and family relations.

Dr. Merk lives in Chandler with her husband, David Sawaya and her 87-year-old father Clarence, a retired Hoosier farmer and entrepreneur. They have two children, Daniel (UA CALS graduate in nutrition sciences) and Leila.

*“He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life.”*

*— Muhammad Ali*

## University of Arizona

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**Arizona's First University**  
**UA's 1st College—CALs**

## VISION

*To be a leader in Agricultural Education by providing a better quality of life through agricultural technology management and formal and informal education for our students, the people of Arizona, and society.*



## 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.*

## Telephone Numbers

In an effort to economize and redirect precious resource, the faculty voted to eliminate seldom used telephone lines in the Department. Where appropriate two lines were condensed to one cell phone. The following list of contact numbers should make contact with the faculty an easy matter:

Jack Elliot, *Professor and Head*

520-621-7173

520-940-3720 (cell)

Billye Foster, *Associate Professor*

520-909-8402

Ed Franklin, *Assistant Professor*

520-940-3718

Jim Knight, *Professor*

520-621-9144

520-940-3710 (cell)

Glen Miller, *Professor*

520-940-3716

Quint Molina, *Lecturer*

520-940-2471

Bill Hanekamp, *Lecturer*

520-621-1391

Kerry Schwartz, *Project Wet*

*Coordinator, WRRC*

520-792-9591

Frank Santiago, *Recruitment*

*Coordinator* 520-576-2416

Isaac Way, *Technology Technician*

520-626-1287

Heather Jepsen, *Instructional*

*Specialist* 520-621-7175

Michelle Hintz, *Accountant*

520-621-2239

Kristen Vann,, *Administrative Associate*

520-621-1523

*Please note: Main office phone is not able to transfer calls to faculty phones.*

Randi Nickels, *Graduate TA*

520-621-7164

Kyle Sharp, *Graduate RA*

520-621-7175

Arin Haverland, *Graduate TA*

520-621-7164

Holly Schindler, *Graduate TA*

520-621-7175

Abigail Dambeck, *Graduate TA*

520-621-7164

Megan Otto, *Graduate TA*

520-626-2230



### Affiliate Faculty

Barbara Hutchinson (Research Admin)

520-626-0329

Paul Kohn (Admissions Financial Aid)

520-621-3705

Lisa Lauxman (Cooperative Ext.)

520-621-7131

Dave McCracken (Ohio State)

520-626-1287

Steve Poe (ABE)

928-317-6418

Nancy Regens (CATTS)

520-907-2617

Sabrina Tuttle, Gila County Ext.

928-475-2350

Ag Mechanics Lab

520-327-8602

Patty Merk (Area Assoc Agent)

602-470-8086