



Desert Ramblings

AGED Faculty Set to Attend the Inaugural OMEGA Conference....

Dr. Ed Franklin and Mr. Quintin Molina have been selected to attend the OMEGA Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana from September 13th -16th. Only 30 teacher educators from agricultural education departments across the country were selected utilizing a very intensive application process. We are very excited and proud to have two individuals traveling to the conference as representation of the agricultural education community in the state of Arizona.

The OMEGA Powerful Professional Growth Conference is an outgrowth of the



LifeKnowledge Center's Delta conference. OMEGA is specifically designed for university faculty and Ph.D. students in agricultural education. The lead design team for OMEGA consists of Dr. Jack Elliot from the University of Arizona, Dr. Rick Rudd from Virginia Tech and Dr. Susie Whittington from The Ohio State University. Each of these individuals will serve as the lead facilitators for the conference.

The conference will focus on means of ensuring that agricultural education and its teachers continue to create relevant programs with sustainable futures. The objectives for OMEGA include: learning to be a leader in the profession of agricultural education, to collaborate effectively with other



agricultural education professionals, and to be scholars in education, outreach and research.

The faculty members are very excited about this tremendous opportunity and look forward to the upcoming conference. To be selected as a participant from such a qualified pool of applicants in itself is encouraging but the possibility for personal growth and development through the conference is the real reward. Congratulations gentlemen!



Department Quick-Picks

- Dr. James Knight has been selected as the 2006 recipient of the CALS Faculty Teaching Award—Way to go Jim!
- Overall student enrollment numbers for the department were up again this fall.
- Dr. Foster has been named editor-elect for *The Agricultural Education Magazine*. Her role as editor will run from January 2007 to December 2009.
- The Spring 2007 Student Teachers enjoyed learning about each other and their cooperating centers, but that *was* before they started working on lesson plans...
- Drs. Elliot and Knight along with graduate student, Rodney Glassman won the American Association of Agricultural Education Outstanding Research Award at the conference in May.
- Dr. Foster received the Arizona Outstanding Postsecondary Educator Award at the July CTE Conference. She will represent AZ at CTE Region V in the spring.



"Accept the challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory." —General George S. Patton.

New and Affiliate Faculty—A wealth of knowledge and creativity!

The list of new and affiliate faculty in the Department grows more diverse and impressive every year. These talented individuals bring a wealth of insight and resource to our groups and keep us from thinking too conventionally! We hope to highlight some of their activities over the coming year in order for you to appreciate them as much as we do.

Kerry Schwartz, *Education Program Coordinator*

As the Education Program Coordinator of the Water Resources Research Center, Kerry

Schwartz facilitates water education in the form of interactive outreach, statewide. Much of her work focuses on teachers, but she is in charge of public and student education programs as well. As the State Coordinator for Project WET International, a nationally recognized, teacher tested program, Kerry coordinates a network of Project WET facilitators, conducts educator and facilitator workshops, and promotes water education statewide.

Kerry also coordinates Arizona's annual *Make a Splash with Project WET* Water Festivals celebrating National Water Education Day for students and their teachers statewide.

Born in Rockville, Maryland, middle child of a family of three, Kerry graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA with a BS in Geology. Working as a renewable energy contractor for Meridian Corporation in Falls Church, VA, Kerry spent three years building her practical experience log before returning to graduate school. In 1990 she graduate the U of A with a M.S. in Geosciences. For the next 8



years, Kerry lived a split life as an environmental consultant dividing her time between Seattle, WA and Tucson, AZ.

Starting with the University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center in 2000 and has built a comprehensive water education program statewide. She has expanded to working with a team of four full-time staff and six UA students.

Since January 2000, the Arizona Project Wet has reached 3, 239 teachers and educators with 8 hour professional development workshops. According to the 2001 report, these educators reach a total of 230,160 students in their classrooms annually.



Kerry Schwartz, Education Program Coordinator, Water Resources Research Center

Barbara Hutchinson, Ph.D.,
Assistant Dean & Team Leader of the Digital Library \$ Information Systems Team for the University Libraries

Lisa Lauxman, Ph.D., Acting Assistant Director & Special Assistant to the Director for Curriculum Development, Evaluation, Volunteer Management & Professional Development—Cooperative Extension

Steve Poe, Ph.D., Professor & Coordinator Yuma Academic Program, Arizona Western College/UA Campus

Paul Kohn, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Admissions and Financial Aid

Dave McCracken, Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University
Visiting Professor

“We are continually faced by great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insolvable problems.”

Fall Welcome

August 31st was hot, humid and full of fun at the Department Welcome Back Bar-B-Q held at the Campus Agricultural Center Pavilion. Frank Santiago and Quint Molina, along with the Jacobs-Cline Society organized the event. Great, all-beef burgers were served, volleyball and horseshoes played and a wonderful time had by all. Approximately 36 students and a host of faculty enjoyed the festivities. Faculty and staff attending included Dr. & Mrs. Clint Jacobs, Dr. & Mrs. Glen Miller, Dr. Jack Elliot, Dr. Ed Franklin, Dr. Billye Foster, Frank Santiago, Quint & Davida Molina, Sue Scalerio, Michelle & Bob Hintz, Kodi Havins, Ginnie Bushong, Kyle Sharp and Issac Way. Special appearance by Mr. Charlie Defer!



Student Teacher Program Up-Dates—Quint Molina

We are very pleased to have Ginnie Bushong serving as the 2006-2007 Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Student Teacher Program. Her duties include assisting with the student teacher courses, Jacobs-Cline and Alpha Tau Alpha. Ginnie is very familiar with the program as she graduated last May after student teaching at Casa Grande Union High School with Steve Sipes. Her recent experience brings a new perspective to the program, where she is able to offer a recent student perspective to the faculty. Ginnie looks forward to continuing the tradition of the program while implementing new ideas. Ginnie's new role is critical to maintaining positive and ongoing communication between students and faculty.



"Well done is better than well said." —Ben Franklin



CDE DAY—A NEW LOOK

—*Jim Knight, Quint Molina and Jack Elliot*

The 2007 Career Development Events Day at the University of Arizona will take on a new look designed to be more efficient and rewarding than in years past. All events will be conducted during the day, but the top awards will be presented at the State Leadership Conference. All other awards will be presented at chapter banquets by the State FFA Officers.

- Improved attendance at State Leadership Conference
- Reduction in facility overhead
- Customized award plaques with Chapter name
- Superintendents and Sponsors can be present

DISADVANTAGES:

- Delayed gratification

Details: This format will in essence return to the Arizona State CDE Day format that existed prior to March of 2001. The exception will be the change regarding the award ceremony.

Required Format:

- CDE Registration (one option would include an opening ceremony at the Campus Ag Center): 8-9 AM
- CDE Contest Start Time: 9 AM
- CDE Contest End Time: Noon-2 PM depending on CDE Event
- Advisor and Teams depart Tucson at 2:30 PM at the latest
- CDE Official Contest Scoring: 3-5 days
- CDE Contest Results posted via Internet: 1 week after CDE Day (100% Accuracy Scoring Guarantee)
- CDE Awards Presentation: During SLC in June for top teams and individuals—during chapter banquets for other winners

ADVANTAGES:

- 100% Scoring Accuracy Guarantee
- Later Start Time
- Earlier Departure Time
- Opportunity to involve parents and key stakeholders in the awards ceremony

Mark Your Calendar

2007 CDE Day

March 2nd

CHANGES:

- State officers present National Plaques and certificates at the chapter banquets.



“Do not follow where the path may lead....go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

TEACHING—IT'S WHAT WE DO!

Agricultural Education—The Only Department in CALS to win the University – Wide Teaching Award

Spotlight—Billye Foster

You probably didn't see much of me from January to August this past year. You might say I was in a state of semi-hibernation. You definitely could say I was in the process of shedding skin. The University calls it a sabbatical, I call it the opportunity to re-invent yourself. No, it is not a vacation—it is just working in a different environment, away from the routine stresses on campus.

Change, of any type, can be the most rewarding activity you can do—and at the same time, the most painful. In the fall of 2005, Jack and I had several discussions about the next direction for my career. I had been coordinating the student teaching program for almost five years. We had just pulled a major “coupe” in hiring Quintin Molina. It was obvious that Quint was primed and ready to bring new life and enthusiasm into the student teaching program. But, if Quint was “in” and I was “out,” where would I go next?

My research focus has been on women and other under-represented groups in academic agriculture. From that focus I have developed a graduate class on women in academic agriculture and an undergraduate class on diversity issues in the workplace. In addition, through my role as Special Assistant for Diversity to the CALS Dean, I have been introduced to the world of Intercultural Communications. In fact, I have spent a fair piece of the past two summers and one fall semester studying this field and looking for connections to agriculture. This, then became the obvious “new direction” I was looking for.

What am I doing now?

This fall, my undergraduate diversity class passed all the requisite jumps and became a

Tier II, Individuals and Society class. It also meets the requirement of a Gender, Race, Class or Ethnicity course. I am pleased to report the class filled quickly to its limit of 50 students. This time next year I will be teaching two sections of AED 408.

I am also in process of drafting a proposal to begin a new graduate certificate program. This is a relatively new option at the UA, designed to allow graduate students to create a value-added component to their chosen degree. I am very excited about this and believe it will become a popular option. The program, *Intercultural Communications through Agriculture*, will be composed of 18 additional units. Nine of these will be on-campus course work and nine will take the form of a six-month internship. Two new graduate courses will be added to support the program, with the remaining classes taken from already existing courses on campus. The plan is to establish three primary international internship partnership locations and two continental US locations.

I think this is going to be an exciting phase of my career—keep watching for more details!

Hope to see you soon!



Billye Foster is an associate professor in the Department and Special Assistant for Diversity to the CALS Dean

“The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.” —O.W.Holmes

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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 Department 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*

520-940-0852

Isaac Way, *Technology Technician*

520-626-1287

Michelle Hintz, *Accountant*

520-621-2239

Sue Scalero, *Administrative Associate*

520-621-1523

Heather Jepsen, *Office Associate*

520-621-7164

Please note: Sue's phone is not able to transfer calls to faculty phones.

Ginnie Bushong, *Graduate TA &*

Kyle Sharp, *Graduate RA*

520-621-7164

Kodi Havens, *Graduate TA*

520-621-7175



Arin Haverland, *Graduate TA*

520-626-2230

Affiliate Faculty

Barbara Hutchinson (UA Digital Library)

520-626-3882

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

Ag Mechanics Lab

520-327-8602