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## Notes from Dept Head

Friend,  
Welcome to the inaugural *The Critical Zone*, our monthly e-newsletter for the Department of Environmental Science. The name of this e-newsletter was selected by popular departmental vote.

**Let's start with the meaning of the Earth's critical zone and why the name fits this departmental communication.**

The critical zone is the portion of the Earth's land surface that extends from the outer periphery of the vegetation canopy (or the top of the built environment) to the lower limits of freely circulating groundwater. As such, it contains everything that we study and teach about in our department—plants, soils, microbes, aquifers, water, people, and their infrastructures that are present in natural, managed, and built environments.

The term is used increasingly to recognize that the land surface environment functions as a life support system for the planet as a whole. **And much like we investigate parts of the system to better understand the whole, this e-newsletter is a way to connect the disparate and diverse parts of our department.**

Stay tuned.

## Meet the People

Meet alumna **Catie Gullo (BS '15)** at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. [Read Catie's story.](#)

Hear **Ella Kaufman (ENVS BS '22)** discuss her internship managing rangelands. [Read Ella's story.](#)



## Fall 2019 Outstanding Seniors & Graduate Students

Click the photos to read their stories!



Nick Buchanan - Environmental Science Major



Jalen Sanford - Sustainable Plant Systems Major



Sarah Van Glubt - PhD Student



Joy Custer - MS Student

## Video: A Dancing Scientist

Watch the journey of dance, science and self-love by recent graduate **Jesus Solis**, featuring Dr. Mónica Ramírez-Andreotta and Project Harvest. This the fourth story in our series of the people behind the science tackling today's big environmental challenges.



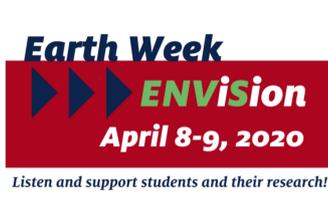
Click to watch the story on YouTube.

[Watch More Stories](#)

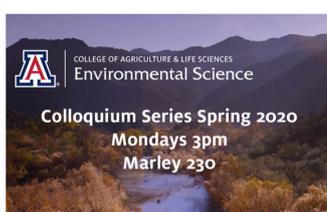
## Events

**SAVE-THE-DATE:** ENViSion at EarthWeek: April 8-9, 2020. Formerly SWESx, this event is organized each spring by SEES graduate students to encourage science communication and collaboration. [See the schedule and details](#)

**Colloquium Series** for Spring 2020: Mondays at 3pm in Marley 230. [See the full schedule](#)



Listen and support students and their research!



## News Clips

Find out what the **Center for Environmentally Sustainable Mining** does according to our faculty Dr. Julie Neilson and PhD student Lydia Jennings. [Read the story in UA@Work](#)

**Dr. Sharon Megdal** receives UCOWR Lifetime Achievement Award. [Read the story in Compass](#)



Field work for the Center for Environmentally Sustainable Mining



Dr. Sharon Megdal

[Read More News](#)

## Quick Bites

- Peak at the revised [Graduate Student Handbook](#)
- Two graduate students featured in "Wonder Makes Me" by UArizona Instagram: [Nikki Tulley](#) and [Aj Moses](#)
- Check out [Voices Unheard - Arizona's Environmental History](#) by our PhD student Denise Moreno Ramírez
- Consider the [Tech Launch Arizona Student Innovation Challenge](#) - Apply by [Feb. 28](#) with up to \$50k available to fund projects that design solutions to problems in health, engineering, water, energy, agriculture and more
- PhD student [JoRee LaFrance](#) is a 2020 Carson Scholar

## Snapshots



Everyone came out to socialize (and for tacos!) at the 2019 Holiday Party



Dr. Craig Rasmussen and his soil demonstration



Students volunteering with wildlife identification



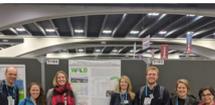
Dr. David Walker discussing aquatic ecology



Dr. Mónica Ramírez-Andreotta at the UArizona AGU booth

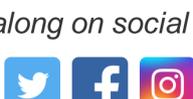


PhD student Lydia Jennings discussing her poster



The Biosphere2 rainforest team

## Follow along on social media

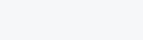


## Questions, Feedback, Content?

Send a note to Caroline Mosley (ENVS Marketing & Communications)

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