# The Critical Zone

COPE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE


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## Notes from Dept Head

Friends,

This semester has tested our ability to adapt. Students have been forced to navigate a pandemic from fully online to flexi-course course modes over the first few weeks of the semester. Faculty have been tested as well.

**And yet, it's inspiring to see how much active teaching, learning, research, extension and outreach continues to unabated. I'm engaged in helping us to collectively thrive despite the pandemic.**

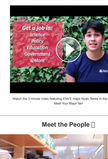
Just a few examples:

- ENVS professor Dr. Rinka Fidler approached to online laboratory development so that social distancing does not disrupt hands-on learning.
- ENVS professor Dr. Ryan Sprissler developed a fully online interactive observational ornithology so that he enhance well-being by understanding "what feeds you" both biologically and emotionally.
- ENVS professor Dr. Kathleen Ferrier is leading the city-wide covid-19 response team in monitoring sewage effluents from the campus sewer, discovered and eliminated a potential outbreak before it occurred.
- ENVS professor Dr. Jeffrey Dukes has started a new graduate student training grant from NSF that will fund graduate students working in life science in economics.
- The new ENVS microsensor in Chino already has 67 freshman students enrolled in the course, and 20 students have signed up for the course in the spring.
- Our ENVS Extension personnel have adapted essential field protocols safety, climate adaptation, and water quality workshops to online modes of delivery to keep science flowing to our stakeholders.

**All of these activities are clear signs that ENVS is alive and well despite the quiet hallways on campus.**

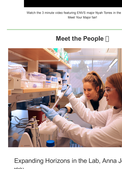
Jeff Chanton

## Video: Meet Your Major




Watch the 3-minute video featuring ENVS major Nyah Torres in the 2020 virtual Meet Your Major fair!

## Meet the People



### Expanding Horizons in the Lab, Anna Jones (BS '23)

Anna Jones (BS Environmental Science '23) came to the University of Arizona looking for research experience. She's found the right fit in Dr. Malak Tfaily's lab, learning analytical and geochemical techniques to better understand carbon cycling in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

**Read Anna's story**

## *Virtual* Events

## ENVS Colloquium Fall 2020

### Mondays 3:00-4:00 PM

**Join us for our departmental colloquium for invited speakers to discuss a variety of topics related to environmental science.**

**All welcome to attend.**

*Join us on Zoom!*

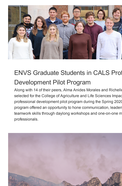
### Upcoming colloquium

- **October 12**: Lab as an ZTA *Community Involvement Coordinator* with Pima County Office of Environmental Quality Programs Agency
- **October 26**: TBD, Dr. Melanie Mebane, University of Washington Bothell
- **November 23**: TBD, Dr. Solange Duhamel, University of Arizona Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology

**More Info**

## News Clips

*Click images to read the full story!*

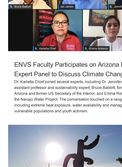


### ENVS Graduate Students in CALS Professional Development Pilot Program

Along with 14 of their peers, Anna Kimble Nicolas and Richella Thomas were selected for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Impact Leader professional development pilot program during the Spring 2020 semester. The program offered an opportunity to hone communication, leadership, and teamwork skills through daylong workshops and one-on-one mentoring with professionals.

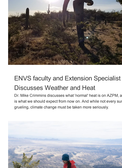
### New Arizona Insitutes for Resilience (AIR) Focuses on Environmental Solutions

Several centers and programs with ENVS faculty are part of a new University of Arizona institute focused on better understanding environmental challenges and developing solutions that tangibly improve people's resilience in the wake of environmental stress. These include the Water and Energy Sustainable Technology (WEST) Center, Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions (CCASS), Climate Assessment for the Southwest, and others.



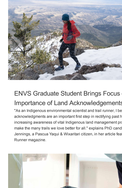

### ENVS Faculty Participates on Arizona Republic Expert Panel to Discuss Climate Change

Dr. Kathleen Ferrier, Dr. Jeffrey Dukes, Dr. Ryan Sprissler, and ASU sustainability and sustainability expert Rinka Fidler, former governor of Arizona and former US Secretary of the Interior, and Emma Robbins, director of the Navajo Water Project. The broadcast focused on a range of topics including extreme heat exposure, water availability and management, vulnerable populations and youth activism.



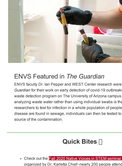
### ENVS faculty and Extension Specialist Discusses Weather and Heat

Dr. Mike Crimmins discusses what 'normal' heat is on ALPFM, and whether this is what we should expect from now on. And while not every summer will be this grueling, climate change must be taken more seriously.



### ENVS Graduate Student Brings Focus on Importance of Land Acknowledgements

"As an Indigenous environmental scientist and their runner, I believe land acknowledgements are an important first step in rectifying past harms, but also in increasing awareness of vital Indigenous land management practices that make the many trails we love better for all," explains PhD candidate Lydia Jennings, a Yavapai Tribal Member citizen, in her article featured in Trail Runner magazine.



### ENVS Featured in *The Guardian*

ENVS faculty Dr. Ian Pepper and WEST Center research were featured in The Guardian for their work on early detection of covid-19 outbreaks through the waste detection program on The University of Arizona campus. The benefit of analyzing waste water rather than using individual swabs is that it allows researchers to test for infection in a whole population of people. If signs of the disease are found in sewage, individuals can then be tested to identify the source of the contamination.

## Quick Bites

- Check out the [illegible] ENVS faculty and staff in the Fall issue of [illegible] organized by Dr. Kamella Cheah-Lopez. ENVS people attended the first speaker in mid-September.
- Dr. Ryan Sprissler presented virtually in Myanmar. [illegible] on bird watching. Dr. Kamella Cheah-Lopez also did a Radio [illegible].
- Dr. David Walker talks about [illegible] on a recent UA News story.
- [illegible] ENVS faculty and graduate student Priya Arora-Pierce's recent [illegible] on a study published in Water Research.
- Hear about how we can [illegible] Science.
- Read about how we can [illegible] Science.
- Interested with Dr. Mike Crimmins.
- Look through the new and developing [illegible] on the department website.

## Snapshots

*Highlights from social media!*

Dr. Rinka Fidler with her lab laboratory kit. Located and shipped to 80 students for her introduction to Soil Laboratory this semester.

**Tfaily Lab** @Tfaily_Lab · Sep 2

We are thrilled to be part of the @ENERGIE_BR teams! #STEMeducation #STEMassistant #WSFundraiser

**ENERGIE** @ENERGIE_BR · Sep 1

We are excited to launch the #WSFundraiser! @ENERGIE_BR Biology integration Institute, whose goal is to enable predictive modeling of microbial response to climate change, using the model ecosystem of #Sonoran Mtns. u.osu/duvmerger (1/3)

Show this thread

Dr. Malak Tfaily's lab are part of a grant that will support ecosystem geomorcos and graduate student training.

The film "A Dancing Scientist," featuring former ENVS student Jesse Solis, seen a Rocky Mountain Ecology award.

Dr. Monica Ramos-Andrades teaches with Tether Society's Continuing Education program that focuses on closing the gap between scientists and decision-makers.

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