



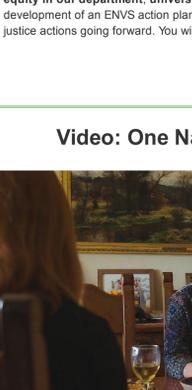
What's in the Clips...

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Notes from Dept Head

Friend,
Welcome back to those returning and a hearty welcome aboard to those that are joining us anew!

As we begin our fall semester here in ENVS, we are all adjusting to novel approaches to our teaching, learning, research, and extension activities as COVID-19 remains active.

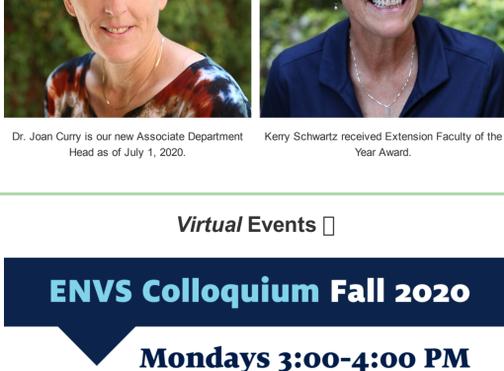
Our faculty, staff, and graduate students worked tirelessly over the summer to prepare for this semester so we can continue to teach engaging classes, conduct environmental research, and deliver Cooperative Extension programs, all in a way that is consistent with maintaining a healthy workplace.

The University of Arizona has preemptive "test, trace, and treat" approach, intended to limit the spread of the virus as many of us return to campus. Key to our collective success will be that we all: 1) Get Tested 2) Mask Up 3) Download Covid Watch 4) Sign up for Wildcat Wellcheck. Visit <https://covid19.arizona.edu/> for details and updates.

Some of our faculty, staff, and graduate student team engaged in a facilitated, multi-week intergroup dialogue that focused on issues of race, justice, and equity in our department, university, and society. One outcome of this work was the development of an ENVS action plan – a "living document" – to guide our equity and justice actions going forward. You will hear more on this in the coming months.

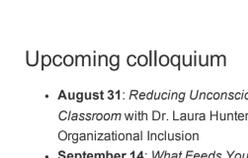
John Chanton

Video: One Nation Under Science



Watch the new 8 minute documentary featuring our faculty Kathy Jacobs and graduate students Mira Theilmann and Neha Gupta.

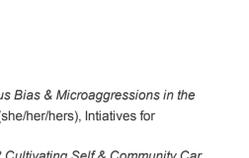
Meet the People



Joy Custer, MS

Spring 2020 Outstanding Graduate Thesis Award

[Click to read the story about growing and learning all about soil microbes](#)



Bryan Moravec, PhD

Spring 2020 Outstanding Graduate Dissertation Award

[Click to read the story digging deep into critical earth zone processes](#)



Dr. Joan Curry is our new Associate Department Head as of July 1, 2020.



Kerry Schwartz received Extension Faculty of the Year Award.

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

- **August 31:** *Reducing Unconscious Bias & Microaggressions in the Classroom* with Dr. Laura Hunter (she/her/hers), Initiatives for Organizational Inclusion
- **September 14:** *What Feeds You? Cultivating Self & Community Car* with Kunal Palawat (they/them/theirs), ENVS MS Student
- **October 12:** "Life as an EPA Community Involvement Coordinator" with Yolanda Anita Sanchez, Environmental Protection Agency

[Learn More](#)

News Clips



The University of Arizona Says It Caught a Dorm's Covid-19 Outbreak Before It Started. Its Secret Weapon: Poop.

(The Washington Post)

Testing wastewater from The University of Arizona dorms possibly prevented an outbreak on campus. **Dr. Ian Pepper and researchers** had wastewater samples come back positive, and after testing all individuals living at the dorm, two asymptomatic individuals tested positive and were quarantined.



Digging into Online Learning: Assistant Professor Sends Custom Lab Kits to Students Across U.S.

(Lo Que Pasa)

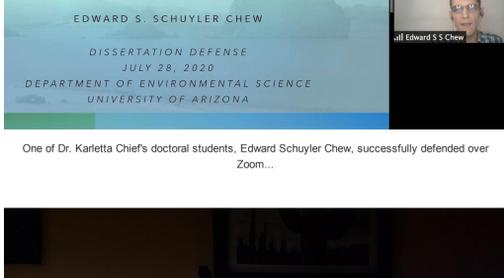
The COVID-19 pandemic forced a quick adaptation to online learning, and laboratory courses are no exception. The development of a virtual laboratory course could take more than a year, so **Dr. Rivka Fidel** decided to create soil lab kits to send to her students all over the country for the fall 2020 semester.



Superfund Research Center Receives \$10.6M to Study Mining Waste, Arsenic-Diabetes Link

(UA News)

Working to understand mine waste systems and their relationship to human and environmental health, the **Dr. Raina Maier** and the **Superfund Research Center** will explore the link between chronic exposure to arsenic and the development of diabetes, thanks to a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.



Study Suggests Tucson's Miserable Monsoon Might Not Be Your Fault

(Arizona Daily Star)

Your mind is playing tricks on you, as preliminary results by **Dr. Mike Crimmins** and his colleagues show there are no cursed locations in the Tucson area where summer rains consistently refuse to fall.



Taking the Fish Out of Fish Feed

(Hakai Magazine)

Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons is determined to disrupt the status quo. You can hear it in his voice. He's in Myanmar, leading a three-year sustainable aquaculture program, funded by the European Union. In his life back home, he's a professor in the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Arizona, a research scientist, and a judge of the F3 (Fish-Free Feed) Challenge, and private partnerships.

Quick Bites

- The Biosphere 2 Water, Atmosphere, and Life Dynamics Team (featuring Dr. Malak Tfaily's lab) received the [Team Award for Excellence](#).
- Check out the [Agnes Nelms Haury Program's conversation with ENVS graduate student Nikki Tulley](#), and her work on water accessibility in food sovereignty, energy dependency, and health in the Navajo Nation.
- Read the [paper in Geophysical Research Letters](#) by [Dr. Marcel Schaap](#) and his colleagues that will improve weather and climate change models by producing detailed, reliable and high resolution maps of any given location on Earth.
- Find out about the [CALS Impact Leader professional development pilot program](#), including two ENVS graduate students, Alma Anides Morales and Richelle Thomas.
- Read the [interview](#) between Dr. Sharon Megdahl and the Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR).

Snapshots

Highlights from social media!

We welcomed 20+ new environmental science majors during our virtual Welcome & Tour on August 19!

Postdoctoral research Dr. Priyanka Kushwaha draws to explain soil microbial diversity.

One of Dr. Karletta Chief's doctoral students, Edward Schuyler Chew, successfully defended over Zoom...

... as did M.S. student Ariel Leger in Dr. Joey Blankinship's lab!

Postdoctoral researcher Dr. Nathalia Graf Grachet works in the lab (click for a short video).

Our front office is remains closed and we miss seeing everyone's faces!

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