Spotlight on Students

My name is Danielle Burr and I am a junior at the University of Arizona, majoring in Family Studies and Human Development. For my externship I had the experience of working with the University of Arizona Coconino County Cooperative Extension in Flagstaff, Arizona. I worked with grandparents who are raising their grandchildren mostly due to incarceration or substance abuse. It was such a positive experience and I have grown to have so much respect and admiration for what these wonderful grandparents do. They truly put their lives on hold to make sure that their grandchildren are cared for.

Danielle Burr is this year’s recipient of the Shirley Jo Taylor Externship award.

My name is Alejandra Lucia Cubillas and I am a senior in Retailing and Consumer Sciences in the Norton School. I have developed a great passion for the business of retailing through related internships and my job at Mars Lucas, a Mexican candy company here in Tucson. As a sales representative and merchandiser, I have learned a great deal about how an international business operates from supply chain to marketing and promotion. My coursework in consumer behavior helped me to understand the choices people make and why.

Invitation from the Director

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the Director of your school, I am delighted to invite you to our 3rd annual "Back-to-School Lecture for Alumni and Friends," which will take place on Friday, November 4th.

During the Homecoming weekend each year, since moving in to our new facility, McClelland Park, we have been giving you a special opportunity to enjoy a classroom experience. Your response to this event has been phenomenal, so we’re continuing the tradition! This year, I am pleased to feature Dr. Ann Mastergeorge, who will talk about her research on autism and young children. I hope you can attend, and also hope you will join us for lunch, which will be hosted by the Council of Alumni and Friends. During lunch, you’ll not only hear from our students who have just returned from their summer internships, but also you will get to meet our new dean, Dr. Shane Burgess, who joined us this fall, replacing Dr. Gene Sander, who just accepted the position as the UA’s President. You will also be able to interact with your classmates and meet other faculty members. Our student ambassadors will be on hand to give you a tour of our state-of-the-art facility.

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by the 11:00 lecture. Then join us for the Homecoming Luncheon at noon. I hope to see you there! - Soyeon Shim

Early Signs and Early Intervention in Autism: What Parents Need to Know

Dr. Ann Mastergeorge is an Associate Extension Specialist/Associate Professor in Family Studies and Human Development in the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Arizona. For the past 20 years, since receiving her Ph.D. from UCLA in 1991, she has built a strong research and outreach program in the area of early childhood, particularly focusing on “at risk” children and children with disabilities. In her position at the UA, Dr. Mastergeorge is providing strong leadership in building an early childhood research-based, extension and outreach program in the state of Arizona and also partner with the state’s First Things First group.

Autism rates have recently been reported to occur in 1 out of 110 children. This rise in autism has important implications for early intervention and the ways in which parents can be involved in these treatments, as well as important indicators for educating children with autism in classrooms. This presentation will provide examples of early autism signs in young children and will provide important information about intervention approaches both in home-based and school-based contexts. In addition, a discussion about creating optimal learning environments and activities for young children with autism will be highlighted.

Thank you alumni and friends for your support!