



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Regional Food Studies

2020-2021 Annual Theme



Just Nourishment

This marks our second year of continuing with the theme of "Just Nourishment" to examine the ways that anti-Blackness pervades our food system at various scales – rendering uneven health outcomes and life chances – and to center an anti-racist praxis in identifying (nourishing) modes of collective healing.

CRFS News

2020-21 State of the Tucson Food System Report

This year's report assesses the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Southern Arizona. Click [here](#) to read the full report and stay tuned for the video from the State of the Tucson Food System event held May 7, 2021. The Executive

Summary of the 2020-21 State of the Tucson Food System Report can be viewed [here](#).

Executive Summary

System Report

How the Pandemic Made it Harder For Immigrants to Access Food

By [Megan Carney](#) and [Teresa Mares](#)

From avoiding public benefits like food assistance programs, to facing overwhelmed private programs, many immigrants faced increased food insecurity during the pandemic... ([full article](#))

Making Water Affordable for Tucson's Non-Profit Sector - A Policy Brief

By Dr. Stephanie Buechler and Sehdiia Mansaray

This policy brief by Buechler (CRFS board member) and Mansaray in collaboration with Community Gardens of Tucson (CGT) colleagues, assesses the effects of Tucson Water's community garden water rate for non-profits that manage such spaces for urban agricultural production under increasingly challenging conditions. Policy recommendations conclude the brief.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic through Community Gardens: A Lifeline to Food Security and Community

By Dr. Stephanie Buechler and Sehdiia Mansaray

This research report by Buechler (CRFS board member) and Mansaray is based on interviews conducted of gardeners who were affected financially by COVID 19. It addresses the social, economic and health effects urban food production in community gardens had on gardeners during the onset of COVID in Tucson (March 2020) to March 2021. Interviewees included immigrant and refugee populations and women gardeners. Recommendations for research on urban agriculture during crises and policy recommendations conclude the report.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

CRFS Events

Good Food Film Series 2021

CRFS is co-sponsoring Local First Arizona's yearlong Good Film Series. A new, independent short film showcasing Arizona's food system will be released the second Tuesday of each month through February 2022.

From seed to plate, and the many stops in between, the [Good Food Film Series](#) brings the societal challenges facing the farming and food community across Arizona and food access stories to your preferred viewing screen. These are stories of the often unseen heroes, doing the good work of not only growing and providing healthy, fresh food to our communities but also taking bold environmental and food sovereignty action to create a more sustainable and just local food system.

Explore the [upcoming film premieres and on-demand screens](#) available through February 2022. [Tickets and passes](#) available for screening.

May 11, 2021

[*The Business of Farm to Food Banks*](#)

Gain a first-hand perspective from Duncan Family Farms® on the vital role local farms play in supporting food banks' increasing food needs...

CRFS Job Opportunity

Graduate Research Assistant

The Center for Regional Food Studies (CRFS) and the Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS) seek a University of Arizona graduate student for employment as a graduate research assistant (GRA) for the 2021-22 academic year to support the ongoing research project, "Building Resilience in Southern Arizona's Local Food System."

In collaboration with PIs Dr. Gigi Owen (CLIMAS) and Dr. Laurel Bellante (CRFS and School of Geography Development and Environment) and other research team members, this position will build on current research related to building resilience and equity in the local food system of southern Arizona. GRA tasks will vary based on the needs of the research team and may include the following:

1. Conduct qualitative, semi-structured interviews and data collection with food system actors and researchers
2. Conduct participant observation at different food production, processing, and/or distribution sites in southern Arizona
3. Coordinate focus groups, workshops, and communications with working group members
4. Compile and review existing food systems research and data, as well as future risk scenarios for the southern Arizona region
5. Assist in data analysis for and writing of a strategic resilience plan, policy briefs, and other publications.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Required:

Strong written, verbal, and social skills. Experience with qualitative interviewing, participant observation, literature reviews, and data analysis. Ability to work independently on tasks but also work collaboratively with the research team and working group members.

Desired:

Interest or experience in food systems or agriculture. Quantitative data analysis and data visualization skills are a plus. Experience using social media platforms to convey research findings.

Pay Range and Hours:

Pay commensurate with departmental pay rates; .5 FTE GRA includes tuition and benefits. 20 hrs./week for fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters with a possibility to extend through summer 2022.

Application Materials:

To apply, send a 1-page statement of interest, your CV, and contact information for 2 references as a PDF file. You may also include an optional writing sample or other example of previous work. Please send your application materials to gigi@arizona.edu.

Review of applications will begin on May 10th and the position will remain open until filed.

Background Information:

For more information about this research project and team click [here](#).

CRFS Research Awards - Call for Applications

Description

The UA Center for Regional Food Studies (CRFS) is offering up to 3 awards of \$500 to any UA graduate or undergraduate student in support of food-related research or educational activities over the summer 2021. Funds can be used to cover tuition costs or other expenses related to the successful completion of planned academic work related to food during summer 2021.

If awarded funding, recipients will be expected to:

- File a 1-page summary describing how the funds helped to support your academic goals and/or research.
- Share a 15–20-minute oral presentation at a CRFS event in the fall semester 2021.

Eligibility

UA students from all departments, disciplines and backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

How to apply

Please submit the following as one PDF to assistant director, Dr. Laurel Bellante, by email at: bellante@email.arizona.edu by May 21st, 2021.

- Basic information, including full name; mailing address; phone number; email address; UA Net ID and student ID number
- A current resume or CV
- A one-page essay briefly describing how funding will support your educational goals and/or research. Please describe what research, projects, and/or coursework is planned and how financial support will be used to enable those activities. Financial need will be taken into consideration in the review of applications.
- As part of your application, please articulate how your current research or program of study aligns with the mission and goals of CRFS (see our website: <https://crfs.arizona.edu/>)

Notification process

Candidates who apply will be notified by June 1st and funds will be disbursed within 6 weeks of award notification.

Applications due Friday, May 21st, 2021

Please direct any questions to CRFS Assistant Director, Dr. Laurel Bellante, at bellante@email.arizona.edu.

Local Events

Save the Dates! Revisiting the AZFSN Statewide Food Plan

Who should attend the regional meetings?

Anyone interested in lending their voice to the statewide food plan. The meetings are open to all. Please share with your networks so we can make sure everyone has a seat at the table.

Can I attend meetings in multiple regions?

Yes! You are welcome to attend any and all meetings. We want this process to be open and flexible, so please participate as your schedule allows.

How do I attend?

Save the dates in your calendar along with the meeting link and at the time of the meeting, use the link to join the meeting room.

- **Northern region:** 5/12 & 6/9 (2:00 - 4:00 PM)
- **Central region:** 5/19 & 6/16 (2:30 - 4:30 PM)
- **Southern region:** 5/26 & 6/23 (2:00 - 4:00 PM)

Meeting Link: <https://bit.ly/2021AZFoodPlan>

Other questions?

Contact Jessie Gruner at jessiegruner@pinnacleprevention.org

SAVE THE DATE

ARIZONA STATEWIDE FOOD ACTION PLAN: 2021 VIRTUAL PLANNING SESSION

NORTHERN REGION: 4/14, 5/12, & 6/9 (2PM-4PM)
CENTRAL REGION: 4/21, 5/19, & 6/16 (2:30PM-4:30PM)
SOUTHERN REGION: 4/28, 5/26, & 6/23 (2PM-4PM)

Meeting Link:
<https://bit.ly/2021AZFoodPlan>



Other Events

NSF-Sponsored Convergence Accelerator Conference Sustainable Food Systems in Extreme Environments and Food Deserts

We are excited to announce the NSF-sponsored Convergence Accelerator conference “Accelerating Sustainable Systems for Food Security in Extreme Environments and Food Deserts: The Convergence of Food, Energy, Water and Systems for Societal Impact”

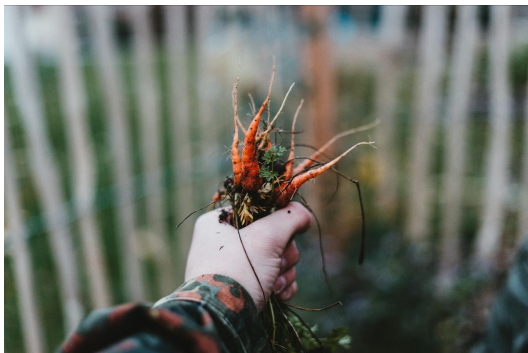
May 19-21, 2021 12:00-4:00 PM EDT

Registration is free but required.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the event.

Undergrad Internship Opportunities

FOOD 393 Summer Internship Opportunities



Are you looking to earn academic credit this summer while also acquiring new life experiences and job skills? Consider applying for one of these internship opportunities (FOOD393)

- Local First Arizona - Local First Arizona Foundation (LFA) is a non-profit organization that is building opportunities in Arizona. LFA is an award-winning organization focused on community and economic development throughout the state in order to build self-sufficient, healthy, and prosperous communities.

- UA Garden Kitchen - The Garden Kitchen, located in the heart of South Tucson, is a seed-to-table nutrition education program of the University of Arizona's Pima County Cooperative Extension.
- Mission Gardens - Mission Garden is an ancient agricultural site, farmed continuously for more than 4,000 years. Today it is an agricultural heritage museum interpreting and celebrating the multicultural history of Tucson through a series of Timeline Gardens.
- Pivot Produce - Pivot is a produce distribution/warehousing company which sources produce from southern Arizona small scale farms to restaurants and consumers in the Tucson area.
- Iskashitaa Refugee Network - Iskashitaa Refugee Network creates opportunities to integrate UN refugees into the Southern Arizona community while educating the public, strengthening the local food system, reducing local food waste, and increasing food security. The network focuses on harvesting and gleaning food from local sources and backyard gardens that would otherwise go to waste.

Note: FOOD 393 Internships are also available in Fall and Spring semesters

FMI and to apply, please visit: <https://foodstudies.arizona.edu/internships>

Fall Internships with the Whetstone Prison Project



The Whetstone Prison Project (WPP) aims to work towards a lowered recidivism rate for the people of Arizona. The WPP works toward this goal by bringing quality environmental education AND updated housing resources to current inmates in the Arizona Department of Corrections at the Whetstone Unit. Remotely AND/OR in hybrid, UA students contribute to teaching at Whetstone OR developing updated housing resources.

Other internship role possibilities may be developed for the Fall 2021 semester. The primary goal of the WPP is to teach current inmates within the Whetstone Unit about overarching environmental concepts and build a connection between inmates and local community resources.

An intern at the WPP will develop skills in communication, big picture planning, educating, and critical thinking. This is the second year implementing internship positions. This means each position description is flexible and needs interns who are self-starters and team players who can also work independently.

Interns on this project will be a part of one of the three following teams:

Housing Resource Development:

An intern on this team will be focused on researching and developing updated housing resources available to people exiting prison. This includes contacting transitional housing resources for information and communicating with other reentry groups to best serve the needs of people exiting prison. We need students who are interested in research and communication.

Curriculum and Teaching:

An intern on this team will be focused on creating and teaching environmentally focused lesson plans such as gardening, energy, climate change, and environmental social justice. We need students who are interested in building content, teaching, and interacting with inmates.

Scope and Sequence:

An intern on this team will be focused on researching and developing educational curriculum and materials to support future interns of the project. This team may work with community organizations to develop certificate programs at Whetstone. We

need students who are interested in research, curriculum development, and community outreach.

NOTE: These are the three definite positions, however we are open for discussion on creating additional positions if they will help facilitate overall growth of the project and align with our goals.

Please do not be afraid to apply because you think you do not have the desired traits! This is a teaching and learning experience for everyone involved. We want to see you grow. We want interns who care about making a difference and are willing to do the work, the rest can be learned through our internship.

Apply now!:<https://forms.gle/ngEMFWHLyYp4XaTDA>
FMI, contact: Erin Scott, erinscott@arizona.edu

100% ENGAGEMENT: Summer Impact Awards

The 100% Engagement: Summer Impact Award is designed to help you get the most out of your experience while providing financial support to do it. If eligible, you can receive \$2500 awarded to your Bursar's account. In addition, you'll receive access to on-demand, online content, live workshops, and other resources to help you be successful in your new position.

**May 15, 2021: Final Deadline to submit application materials
in [Scholarship Universe](#)**

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Candidates will be notified if they will receive funding following these review dates.

May 15, 2021: If awarded, deadline to submit confirmation of internship offer and Internship Work Plan (this can be in progress)

May 15, 2021: If awarded, funds dispersed to Bursars accounts

Click [here](#) for more information and application instructions.

Opportunities for Ph.D. Students

Temporary Graduate Student Researcher Position

Application Deadline May 17, 2021 or until filed

Description

Dr. Gary Paul Nabhan, with the Southwest Center in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, is looking for a part-time graduate student worker for the Summer of 2021. The student will assist with the collection and analysis of participant surveys from a pilot outreach program that promotes desert plant foods. Desert foods like agave, prickly pear, and mesquite are emerging as a critical tool for food system resilience in a hotter and drier future. These plants can produce reliable yields with a fraction of the water used to grow conventional crops, even under adverse heat and drought conditions. They also provide numerous environmental and health benefits. Dr. Nabhan and Dr. Erin Riordan are piloting an outreach program to broaden public awareness of regional, desert-adapted plant foods of the Sonoran Desert through gardening and cooking workshops. Workshops led by the Garden Kitchen, Mission Garden, Pima County Master Gardeners, and Borderlands Restoration Network will provide participants with the practical skills and knowledge needed to grow and use desert foods in their homes. Workshops will also highlight the environmental and health benefits of these plants, especially in the context of climate change.

The graduate student worker will help administer, analyze, and summarize workshop participant surveys under the guidance of Drs. Nabhan and Riordan. Surveys will evaluate outreach effectiveness, participant interest and familiarity in desert foods, and participant perspectives on the links between climate change, food production, environmental health, and human health. Depending on student experience and interests, there are additional opportunities to (1) assist in development of education materials and/or (2) surveys of local southern Arizona businesses about the barriers and opportunities to grow consumer interest in desert food plants. Prior research experience in a social science field and familiarity with survey methods, data, and analysis are required. Applicants should be able to work effectively in both collaborative and independent environments.

Duration of Employment

May 17 – July 31 2021

Hourly Rate

\$24.62 - \$26.88/hr for a total of 304 hours

Works Schedule

This is a part-time, temporary, student position. Total hours for the duration of employment is 304 hours. Flexible work schedule between 8am and 5pm, Monday through Friday, but must not exceed 35 hours per week.

Minimum Qualifications

- Eligible for [student employment](#)
- Minimum enrollment of at least 3 Summer Session credit hours or must have completed at least 6 credit hours during the Spring 2021 semester and registered for at least 6 credit hours for the Fall 2021 semester
- Currently admitted or enrolled in a graduate degree program in environmental science, geography, food systems, or nutrition fields
- BA/BS from an accredited university
- Demonstrated experience in social science research methods
- Quantitative skills analyzing survey data
- Ability to work 304 hours (approx. 30-35 hrs/week) during the employment period

How to Apply

To apply, send the following to [Erin Riordan](mailto:ecriordan@arizona.edu) (ecriordan@arizona.edu):

Curriculum vita or resume, contact information for three references, and cover letter describing how your experience, knowledge, and interests are a good fit for the position.

Ph.D. Opportunities University of Gloucestershire, Wales, England

The CCRI, as a part of the ESRC funded Wales Doctoral Training Partnership, has two fully-funded PhD studentships available under the DTP's Environmental Planning pathway. The topics for these are:

Agroecological transition: understanding farmers' cultural identities and social practices to enable mixed farming futures

and
Farmer-centred innovation: understanding and co-designing evaluation
methodologies to support sustainable agriculture

FMI, including applications,click [here](#)

The deadline for both opportunities is May 21, 2021

UA Campus Pantry

Please Remember to Support our Campus Pantry

The mission of the UA Campus Pantry is to alleviate hunger in the UA Wildcat community by providing food assistance to those in need. On average, 1 in 3 college students experience food insecurity at some point in their academic career. The Campus Pantry helps to reduce this statistic by providing supplemental groceries to students in need. In addition, food insecurity looks different for all students. Sometimes it can be a lack of access to transportation, lack of financial resources or simply not having enough or nutritious foods.

**For more information, including how to donate, please visit
the[Campus Pantry](#) website.**

Send Us Your News!

Do you have a piece of news you would like to circulate on the CRFS newsletter? Do you have a new book out? Won an award? Recently wrote a public-facing essay, an op-ed, or appeared in an interview? We'd love to share your news and keep our network informed of each other's successes, recent work, and/or initiatives. **Send your news items for inclusion in our newsletters to CRFS Assistant Director, [Laurel Bellante](#).**

CRFS Blog Submissions

The CRFS blog aims to highlight the diversity of teaching, research, and service happening around food within our community. We invite submissions of 500-700 words by faculty, staff, and students, as well as community members. We are also open to proposals for photo essays, video compilations, and/or interviews. **Submit your ideas or questions to CRFS Assistant Director, [Laurel Bellante](#).**

Please visit the [Food Studies Website](#) for more information about the Bachelor of Arts in Food Studies.

Please visit the [Nutrition and Food Systems Website](#) for more information about the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Systems.
