

Office of Arid Lands Studies (OALS)

The Office of Arid Lands Studies is a multidisciplinary research and information center administered by The University of Arizona's College of Agriculture. OALS conducts interdisciplinary programs that address local, state, national, and international problems related to understanding, regenerating and managing the world's arid lands.

OALS researchers are working to adapt existing technologies and to develop new, affordable methods of alleviating the problems posed by desertification and its impacts upon fragile natural resources. To further its objectives OALS gathers and disseminates information that relates to all aspects of arid lands and their uses. To sustain this work the office manages an internationally recognized graduate program in arid lands resource sciences. Included in the spectrum of OALS research activities are economic botany, remote sensing, natural resources development and management, desertification monitoring and control, water and energy conservation, farming systems research, technology transfer, land use planning and economic development services for the state of Arizona.

Program *Spotlight*

ARID LANDS RESOURCE SCIENCES

This Ph.D. program is administered by OALS as part of the Interdisciplinary Programs of the University of Arizona Graduate College. This program offers new opportunities for unusually gifted and mature students who may not fit into the traditional academic degree-granting structure but who have the qualities and experiences to make an outstanding contribution to the worldwide problems of arid lands.

The program focuses on the intersection of the physical, biological and social sciences as they relate to the utilization and development of arid and semi-arid lands resources. The four doctoral program tracks are developmental, ethnoecological, physical and economic botany studies that are relevant to sustainable development of arid lands. To support this variety and flexibility, the program includes more than 40 faculty members representing almost 20 different departments and colleges at the University of Arizona.



Michael Stoklos

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