**Desirae E. Kissell**

MS Student, Plant Science

School of Plant Sciences

University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ 85721

**EDUCATION**

**Master of Science in Plant Science** (*In Progress)* **December 2019** *University of Arizona*  Tucson, AZ

**GPA: 4.0/4.0**

**Bachelor of Science in Plant and Environmental Science December 2017**

*Clemson University*  Clemson, SC

Concentration: Agronomy; Minor: Plant Pathology **GPA: 3.48/4.0**

**PROFESSIONAL**

**Tissue Culture & Micropropagation Laboratory Assistant,** Dr. Jeffrey Adelberg  **2017**

*Plant & Environmental Sciences, Clemson University* Clemson, SC

* Research trials on various fiber grow mats for microgreens production.
* Assistance on projects with members of industry and researchers in tissue culture involving stage one plants such as *Echinacea* and *Prunus spp.*
  + Use of tissue cultureto identify genetic markers for disease resistance in *Prunus* rootstocks
* Preparation of complex medias with various nutrient solutions for nutrient optimization studies.

**Clemson Cooperative Extension Service,** Andy Rollins  **2017** *Clemson University*  Clemson, SC

* Assisted Spartanburg County vegetable and small fruit extension agent in monitoring Brown Marmorated Stink Bug populations in Landrum, SC. Including insect identification, checking pheromone traps, collecting and organizing data.
* Assistance in several experiments at various growers such as fungicide trials in strawberry and Armillaria root rottrials in peach.

**Peach Variety Trial**, Dr. Juan Carlos Melgar  **2016**

*Musser Fruit and Research Farm* Seneca, SC

* Harvested over 200 various peach varieties for data collection at Musser Farm and Cooley Farms in South Carolina. Data collected included fruit weight, size, firmness, amount of total soluble sugars, acidity, personal taste analysis and photographs. Data is published online and made available to commercial growers to assist in varietal growing decisions.
* Assisted graduate students on research projects such as bagged fruit trials and conducting nutrient analysis of peach using leaves, pits and bark for determining nutritional requirements for different season peach cultivars.

**Plant Pathology Laboratory Assistant,** Dr. Guido Schnabel  **2016**

*Plant & Environmental Sciences, Clemson University* Clemson, SC

* Assisted graduate students in identifying and isolating *Botrytis* from field samples. Analyzed fungicide resistance of *Botrytis* using fungicide profile kits. Preparation of various medias and fungal stocks.
* Assisted in the development of myIPM application for fruit disease management.

**GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS**

College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Graduate College Fellowship ($1,000) 2018

2018 Intertribal Nursery Council Travel Grant, US Forest Service 2018

Alfred P Sloan Foundation’s Indigenous Graduate Partnership Scholarship ($36,000) 2018

University of Arizona Graduate Access Fellowship ($4,000) 2018

Muscogee Creek Nation Tribal Funds Grant ($12,125) 2016 - 2018

Greenville County Farm Bureau Scholarship Award, SC Farm Bureau ($1,000) 2017

Distinguished Agronomists Scholarship, Clemson University ($650) 2017

John Robert Wigington Memorial Endowment in Agronomy, Clemson University ($1,500) 2017

Dr. Victor B. Shelburne Endowed College Enhancement Fund Recipient, Clemson University ($1,500) 2017

Creek Nation of Oklahoma Scholarship Grant ($4000) 2016 -2017

Lawrence & Rita Olson Scholarship, Muscogee (Creek) Nation ($2,000) 2017

South Carolina Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association Scholarship ($3,000) 2016

NAICC Foundation for Environmental Agriculture Education Scholarship ($1,500) 2016

**PUBLICATIONS**

Kissell DE, Leo AB, Arnold AE *(in prep)* Recruitment of Microbes to Seeds of Ethnobotanical Plants of Southern Arizona Tribal Nations

**PRESENTATIONS**

Intertribal Nursery Council Annual Meeting 2018

Recruitment of Seed-associated microbes in ethnobotanical plant species as a result of soil degradation

**PROFESSIONAL MEMEBERSHIPS**

American Indian Science and Engineering Society

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association; Tour Support 2014 –2017

Implementation project of raised beds gardens at local elementary school Fall 2016

Pendleton Elementary, Pendleton, South Carolina

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

University of Arizona School of Plant Sciences Graduate Club 2018

Clemson University Agronomy Club 2016, 2017

Treasurer; Fall 2016- Spring 2017

International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences 2016- Present