

Officers

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2025 Inaugural Annual Newsletter

Directors

Charlie Ester
Larry Fisher
Jim Hogan
Deirdre LaRochelle
Margaret Meixner



**We thank our generous donors,
in-kind contributors and volunteers:**

Number of Donors: 60
Total Donations: \$37,000
Volunteer Hours: 880



Organizational Milestones

1. Six months after the murder of Thomas Meixner¹, a committee working to honor him identified two important initiatives that would help continue his hydrology education efforts and perpetuate his memory:
 - a. Establishing funding to support development of a one-year MSc curriculum in the Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences (HAS) department at the University of Arizona.
 - b. Sustaining funding to raise capital for [supporting the coordinating professor's salary](#).
 - i. The stipend pays for the extra work the professor must conduct to engage the local hydrogeologic community with one-year MSc student research projects and practical work.
2. The Meixner Memorial Foundation was formed to raise the sustaining capital for the salary stipend, and to help students connect with industry professionals. Our nine person volunteer board has developed its [Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws](#) and these have been approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Internal Revenue Service (EIN 99-4420112). The [MeixnerFoundation.org](#) website was established in November, 2024, and includes a [donation page](#). Our Treasurer, **Erika Gallo**, is using Money Minder, a professional accounting and database software platform, to track revenue and expenses. She has produced our [2024 Financial Statement and IRS 990-N taxes](#).
3. Our first mailing was sent in November, 2024 to inform the public about concerns over low MSc student graduation rates, and the limited number of undergraduates in Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences (HAS). We have received almost \$40k in donations to help us address these issues. We thank our donors for their generosity and look forward to earning their future support.

Gratitude and Welcome

We thank Founding MMF Director, **Suzanne Shields** (HAS Advisory Board Member, Pima County Regional Flood Control District Director, Emerita) who stepped down from her position on our Board to focus on family. We benefited from her sage advice and executive-level counsel. Suzanne notes, "I was fortunate to attend Hydrology and Water Resources (HWR) in the 1970s and 1980s when the department was focused on applied surface and subsurface hydrology. I credit my success in the field of hydrology to the practical training and education I received from HWR." It was that practical approach to hydrogeology that made Suzanne a valuable Board member and we wish her well.

We welcome new MMF Director, **Charlie Ester** (HAS Advisory Board Member, Salt River Project - Manager of Surface Water Resources Operation). Also a graduate of the University of Arizona Hydrology program, Charlie was a professional collaborator and a friend of Tom. We are grateful that he has joined the Board.

¹<https://meixnerfoundation.org/tom-meixner/> Thomas Meixner was a passionate, inspiring professor of hydrology at the University of Arizona. He was murdered in his office on the UA campus on October 5, 2022.

2025-2026 Program Services

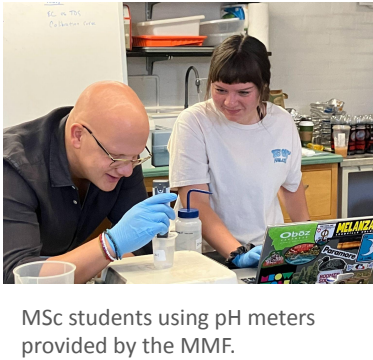


HAS Student-Run [El Día del Agua y Atmósfera](#) (March, 2025): The [Spirit of Tom Meixner Award](#) was presented by **Sean Meixner** to **Hossein Yousefi Sohi** who demonstrated Tom's passion for science and learning at El Dia. The MMF presented five (5) pH/EC/T probes for use by HAS students to **Dr. Ty Ferré**.

Board member **Deirdre LaRochelle** (Pima County Flood Control District) spearheaded an initiative to register the MMF with **Employees Care About Pima County (ECAP)**. Secretary **Kathleen Meixner** registered us with Arizona Gives and the [Fry's Community Rewards Program](#) (NPO # IK433).

FALL 2025 SEMESTER

One-year MSc Student Welcome: Newly arrived one-year MSc students presented themselves at this informal meeting by describing the hydrogeology of their local watersheds. The 14 students in this first cohort represent 5 countries and 8 states. Each year an MMF representative will be present to familiarize the new students with our Program Services.



MSc students using pH meters provided by the MMF.



MSc Student Presentations

Meixner Memorial Lecture Series: Professional working hydrogeologists will be invited by the MMF to come and speak about a technical topic of interest relevant to the one-year MSc curriculum, on behalf of Tom.

SPRING 2026 SEMESTER GOALS

Groundwater Wells & Infiltration (January 14-15, 2026): MMF is helping organize a two-day *field* short course with **Clear Creek, Miller Engineering, Certerra, Boart Longyear and GeoSystems Analysis**. The course will expose students to well drilling, sampling, borehole wireline testing, well construction, development and testing, constructed well NMR, pump sizing, well test set-up (slug and pumping), surface hydraulic characterization, infiltration testing, surface geophysics, and other field analysis and assessment techniques.

Internship Fair: The MMF will help organize an Internship Fair so that students can meet potential employers and develop the six-week summer research project required by the one-year MSc curriculum. Each independent research project begins in March and continues through June at a minimum.



<https://meixnerfoundation.org/>