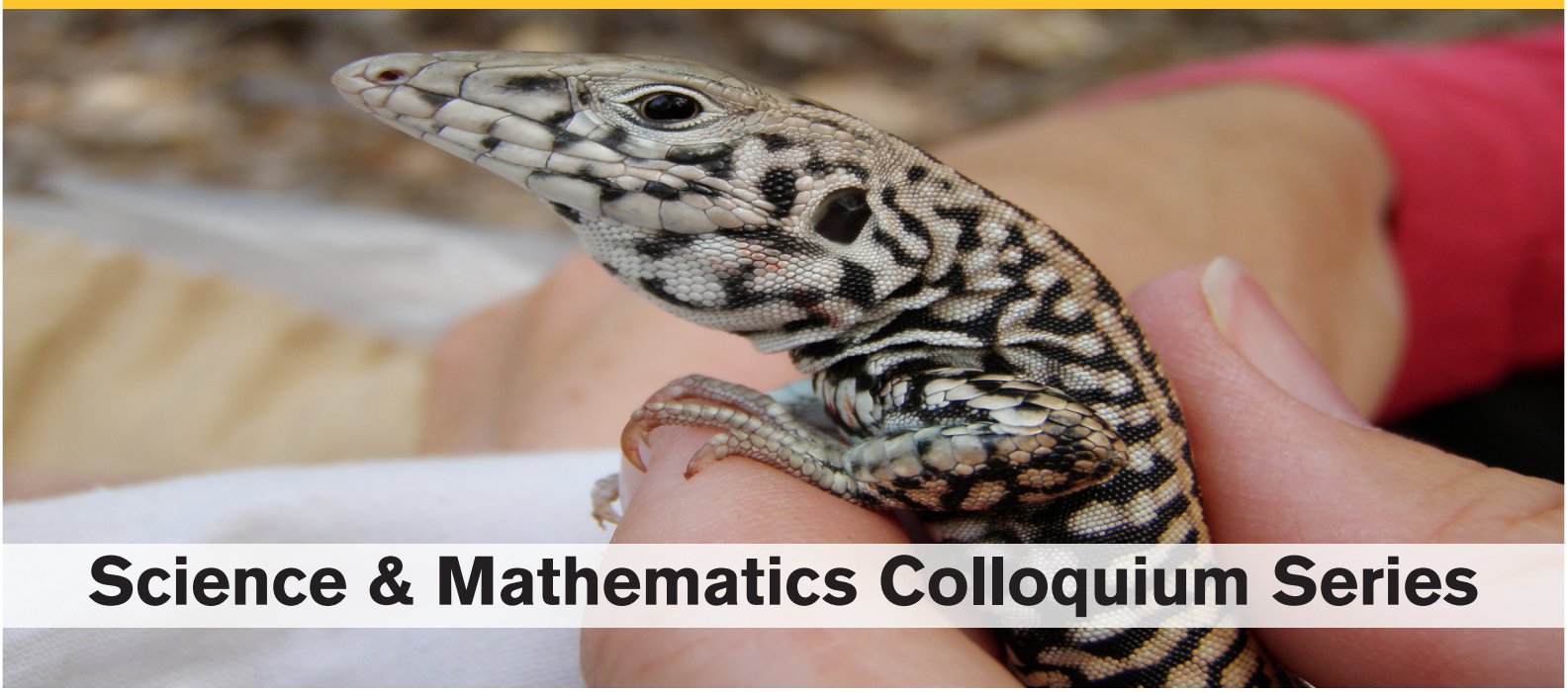
# Where the wild things live

## How riparian forests provision reptiles, amphibians in the arid Southwest



## Science & Mathematics Colloquium Series

### Presentation by Heather Bateman

Associate Professor, Faculty of Science and Mathematics
ASU College of Integrative Sciences and Arts

**Wed., Oct. 26, 3 p.m.**

**Free and open to the public**

ASU's Polytechnic campus
Santa Catalina Hall (SANCA), Room 130
*refreshments at 2:45 p.m.*

Professor Bateman explores the relationship between habitat heterogeneity and wildlife diversity using examples from three Southwestern riparian systems. Riparian vegetation, habitat structure, microclimate, and reptile and amphibian communities were measured from the Middle Rio Grande (New Mexico), the Virgin River (Nevada), and the San Pedro (Arizona). Bateman will explain how changes in vegetation and changes in the thermal quality of habitat can explain lizard assemblages. Predictive models of these Southwest systems linked vegetation-soils-habitat structure to herpetofauna, whereas temperature during summer and spring were good predictors of hatchling (young-of-the-year) lizards.

**Native riparian vegetation could serve as an oasis to buffer temperature extremes and periods of low precipitation. This research has implications for climate change by identifying the vulnerability of some wildlife species sensitive to temperature increases.**

*Faculty and practitioners discuss their current research and field projects in the college's Science and Mathematics Colloquium Series, held throughout the academic year at the ASU Polytechnic campus.*

**Heather Bateman** is a field ecologist and conservation biologist interested in how human land-use affects vertebrate populations and habitats.

Her research interests lie in exploring population responses to habitat alteration, with a particular interest in invasive plants and the effects on amphibians, reptiles, and birds.

Dr. Bateman will report on her sabbatical, during which she had the chance to serve as a visiting scholar at the Natural Resource Research Center in Fort Collins, Colo.

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