



AAAE Newsletter

Fall 2007

www.aaaeonline.org

Important Dates:

- NAAE, ACTE & ACTER – Dec. 11-15, 2007, Las Vegas
- Southern AAAE Meeting – Feb. 2-5, 2008, Dallas
- Association for International Agricultural & Extension Education – March 9-15, 2008, Costa Rico
- Western AAAE Meeting – April 16-19, 2008, Park City, UT
- National AAAE Meeting – May 21-23, 2008, Reno
- Association for Communication Excellence – June 10-13, 2008, Traverse City, MI
- North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture – June 10-13, 2008, Logan, UT
- Association of Leadership Educators – July 13-16, 2008, Spokane

President's Column – Sitting on the Sidelines?

Earlier this month (Oct.) Jacque Deeds and I represented you at a meeting of the National Council for Agricultural Education. As we discussed major initiatives and formulated plans for the profession, I got the distinct impression that AAAE was sitting on the sidelines. The leadership for most of the activities was coming from other segments of our profession. It is good that others are assuming the leadership but I began to wonder why we (AAAE) were not more involved in leading some of these core activities. Perhaps we are too busy calculating t-tests and contemplating other important issues. Even if we are not leading some

of these initiatives, it is important that we know what is going on. Because of the importance of some of these issues, I will be sending out a separate e-mail message discussing some of these vital projects. It is imperative that we are aware of what is happening in our own profession.

So be watching for upcoming information about:

- The Case Model
- Secondary Ag. Ed. Programs Standards
- National Curriculum Standards
- Ag. Ed. National Report
- 10 x 15 Activities



Last Call

AAAE has been asked to submit the names of three individuals to the USOE for consideration to serve on the FFA Board of Directors. If you are interested in being nominated for this position, please contact me by November 1. I have five names in hand but would be glad to include others in the selection process.

Gary Moore
gary_moore@ncsu.edu

Convention Planning

Please circle May 21-23, 2008 on your calendar. AAAE will be meeting in Reno. The Call for Papers and Posters can be found on the AAAE web site. Hotel reservation information and a tentative program will be appearing

on the web site around Thanksgiving.

Unless the "Annual Meeting Study Group" chaired by Jim Flowers recommends otherwise, we will be meeting in Nashville, May 20-22,

2009 and in Chicago, May 19-21, 2010. Then it will be west in 2011.

The AAAE officers are gathering information on these future convention sites.



*"I like a teacher who gives you something to think about besides homework".
Lily Tomlin as "Edith Ann"*

University of Arkansas

Transitions:

Dr. Donald R. Herring retired as Professor and Head of the Department in July 2007 after 10 years of service. His colleagues and current and former students wish Don and wife Beth all of the best in retirement. Dr. George W. Wardlow is serving as interim department head.

Dr. Leslie Edgar, joined the faculty as an assistant professor of agricultural communication in August, 2007. Dr. Edgar is originally from Utah and received her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Welcome aboard Leslie!

Awards:

Dr. Donald R. Herring was inducted as an AAAE Fellow at the 2007 annual meeting in Minneapolis. He will receive the VIP Award from the National FFA Organization in October and the Outstanding Service Citation from the NAAE in December. Congratulations, Don!

Dr. George W. Wardlow was recognized as the Distinguished Agricultural

Educator at the 2007 AAAE Southern Region Conference in Mobile, AL.

Dr. Donald M. Johnson received one of three university-wide Alumni Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards in 2006. Don's award was for Teaching and Public Service.

M.S. student Margo Hale received the Outstanding Research Presentation Award (1st runner-up) at the 2007 AAAE Southern Region Research Conference. The paper was co-authored by Drs. Donna Graham and Don Johnson.

Grants

Drs. Johnson and Wardlow received a two-year grant from the Arkansas Soybean Promotion board for their, "Arkansas Biodiesel Research, Demonstration, and Education Project."

New Graduate Students

New M.S. students beginning in fall 2007 are: Katie Amaral (agricultural communication) received her B.S. from Oklahoma

State University in agricultural communications and attended junior college at Modesto Junior College in Modesto, California. She was involved in Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Alpha Zeta and Oklahoma Ag Leadership Encounter. Katie is a Bumpers College Land Grant Fellowship recipient. She is a teaching assistant in selected agricultural communication courses.

Sonia Munoz (agricultural education) received her B.S. from Texas A&M University in agricultural education. Sonia is a teaching assistant in selected agricultural education and agricultural systems technology courses.

Garris Hudson (agricultural education) received the B.S. from the University of Arkansas in agricultural education. He is working as a graduate research assistant on the Biodiesel project and assisting with selected agricultural systems technology courses.



University of Arizona

After a 14 month review process, the Arizona State Board of Education and Department of Education

recently awarded a 5-year approval (the highest level granted) to the Agricultural Education Department -

the only one granted out of 21 teacher education programs at the University of Arizona.

University of Connecticut

Agriculture Education is alive and well at the University of Connecticut (UConn). Six AgEd students are enrolled in UConn's teacher preparation program and currently student teaching in Connecticut high schools.

Starting in Fall 2008, residents from the states of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont will be eligible for reduced tuition when majoring in Agriculture Education at the UConn. The New England Board of Higher Education's Tuition Break Program, also called the New England Regional Student Program (RSP), enables out-of-state students to pay a discounted tuition when they enroll in an approved major that is not offered by public colleges in their own state. (<http://www.nebhe.org/content/view/18/54/>)

Agriculture Education at the University of Connecticut is offered through a partnership between the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AgNR) and the Neag School of Education (NSoE). Students select a disciplined-based undergraduate major in the AgNR and complete education courses and certification requirements in the NSoE. UConn has two programs available for students preparing for a teaching career.

The Integrated Bachelor's/Master's (IB/M) program combines courses and experiences that address content area knowledge, knowledge of teaching and learning, practical skills, and certification requirements as part of a five-year plan. Students apply to enter the AgEd IB/M program as juniors, student-teach in

their senior year, and continue with courses and school-based professional experiences during the graduate year.

The Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (TCPCG) is designed for students who previously completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in agriculture or a related discipline. The program is a rigorous, full-time Master's degree program consisting of an intense summer followed by two full-time semesters, which include course work, student teaching, and a problem-based inquiry project.

For more information, contact Patricia Jepson: 860-486-2919, patricia.jepson@uconn.edu or visit <http://www.myagnr.uconn.edu/AgricultureEducation.html>



LEAD Accepting Applications

Applications are being accepted for the 2008-2009 class of LEAD²¹: Leadership Development for the 21st Century, formerly known as ESCOP/ACOP Leadership and NELD Leadership programs. The LEAD²¹ program is intended to meet the future needs for

leadership development of faculty, specialists, district and regional directors, program and team leaders, research station and center directors, department heads and chairs, and others in the universities' colleges of agricultural, environmental, natural resources, veterinary

sciences, and human sciences and USDA/CSREES. Individuals from land-grant and AASCARR institutions are welcome to participate. For more information or to apply visit: www.fanning.uga.edu/lead21

"The leaders who work most effectively, it seems to me, never say "I." And that's not because they have trained themselves not to say "I." They don't think "I." They think "we"; they think "team." They understand their job to be to make the team function. They accept responsibility and don't sidestep it, but "we" gets the credit. This is what creates trust, what enables you to get the task done."

Peter Drucker



Cornell University

Cornell will be involved in the new National Research Center for Career and Technical Education. The National Research Center for CTE is authorized under the Perkins Act and a competition is required every five years. The previous Centers were at the Ohio State University (Dissemination Center) and the University of Minnesota (Research Center). The Office of Adult and Vocational Education announced in October that the new Center will be housed jointly at the University of Louisville and the University of Minnesota. Bill Camp and Travis Park were involved in the successful competition for the new Center. Bill worked on the writing team that prepared the successful proposal. Travis is scheduled to conduct a national study on literacy in career and technical education that will identify authentic literacy events in the CTE classroom and provide teachers with research-based reading strategies that make learning more effective.

Two new staff members started work this fall. The state leadership staff for agricultural education is housed in the Education Department at Cornell. This fall we hired a new Youth Services Specialist

who will serve as the NYS FFA Executive Secretary and as the Staff Assistant to the state FFA Governing Board, Ms Juleah Tolosky. Juleah is a former New York State FFA officer and a graduate of Cornell in Communications Planning and Leadership is on the job and bubbling with enthusiasm. This fall we also added a new Senior Professional Development Specialist who will serve as the State FFA Advisor and Staff Assistant to the NYAAE Board of Directors, Mr. Eric Larsen. Eric comes to New York from Wisconsin where he taught Agricultural Science Education for 11 years in Oconto Falls. Eric brings a great deal of experience to the position and is a great addition to our state staff. We anticipate two searches in the immediate future for a new Director of the NYS Agriculture in the Classroom program and a new Director of the Agricultural Outreach and Education program, both of which are also housed in Cornell's Department of Education.

Travis Park is beginning the first year of a three-year Hatch grant to examine the efficacy of reading strategies in Agricultural Science Education classes in improving student reading comprehension.

Donna Moore left her position as Senior Professional Development Specialist in July and accepted a Graduate Research Assistantship in the Department to work full-time on her dissertation on agricultural education teacher professional development planning. She has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Extension Education at Virginia Tech beginning in August, 2008.

A graduate of Cornell's agricultural education program, Pat Hooker, was appointed by Governor Spitzer as the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Commissioner Hooker was a high school agricultural education student and state FFA President before attending Cornell. He served as the head of Government Relations for the New York Farm Bureau before accepting his current position. Pat is an enthusiastic supporter both of the state's Agricultural Education program and of Cornell's Agricultural Science Education program.

Travis Park chaired the North-Central Region Research Conference held at The University of Missouri in September.

Cornell will host the upcoming North-Central Region AAEE meeting to be held in Ithaca, NY September 21-23, 2008. If you have ever wanted to visit the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York and Cornell University, we encourage you to submit a paper and plan to attend the conference.

University of Florida

Faculty. Drs. Amy Harder and Nicole Stedman joined the Agricultural Education and Communication Department in July 2007 as assistant professors of extension education and leadership education, respectively.

Dr. Harder is a former 4-H agent in Colorado and recently completed her Ph.D. program in agricultural and extension education at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Stedman earned her Ph.D. in agricultural education and communication at the University of Florida and was a faculty member at Texas A&M before rejoining the AEC Department at UF.

Dr. Hannah Carter moved from a lecturer to tenure-accruing assistant professor position during the past academic year. Dr. Carter is a leadership education faculty member and also director of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute.

Dr. Cheri Brodeur was recently appointed to an assistant extension scientist faculty position and now serves as coordinator of the department's Program Development and Evaluation Center, which focuses on extension programs and accountability needs in the

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Dr. Nick Place left UF in August to become Associate Dean for Extension at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Tracy Irani has replaced Nick as the department's Graduate Coordinator.

Computer Lab Upgrades.

The department's computer lab has recently been upgraded with 20 state-of-the-art Mac computers. Drs. Ricky Telg and Tracy Irani have led this effort. The lab supports project activities associated with the Scientific Thinking in Education Partnership (STEP) program, a multi-dimensional university-based program that assists University of Florida faculty in executing the broader societal impacts of their research, engages students in the sciences, and educates the public at large regarding scientific knowledge and cutting edge technologies. Lisa Hightower is coordinator of the project. For more information go to <http://step.ufl.edu>.

Graduate Programs.

Thirteen new on-campus graduate students (five Ph.D. and eight M.S. students) joined the department this fall. The 40 on-campus graduate

students (22 Ph.D. and 18 M.S.) hail from 11 states and four countries outside the U.S. The first group of 14 graduates of the department's distance-delivered M.S. (DDMS) degree program earned their degrees in May. This program targets practicing agriscience teachers and county extension agents and admits cohorts of up to 20 students each January. Students complete two eight-week courses each semester and earn their degree in two and a half years.

New Off-Campus Undergraduate Program.

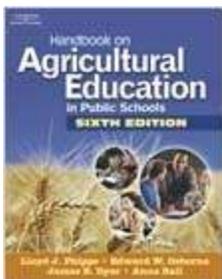
The department launched its first undergraduate program last fall at the Plant City campus of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Jim Dyer relocated from Gainesville to provide leadership for this new agricultural education program. Students complete their general education course work at the adjoining Hillsborough Community College campus. Seven students are on track to complete their student teaching internships in spring 2008.



[Florida news continues on the next page](#)



The department is advertising for an assistant professor position in community-based social marketing – a new position funded through an industry-sponsored legislative initiative to establish a multi-disciplinary Center for Landscape Ecology.



*The sixth edition of the **Handbook on Agricultural Education** was released in October 2007 by Thomson Delmar Learning. Authors include Lloyd Phipps (University of Illinois) and Ed Osborne, Jim Dyer, and Anna Ball from the University of Florida. The Handbook has historically been the primary textbook for university Ag Ed students.*

University of Florida Continues...

External Review. The department underwent a comprehensive external review in March 2007 as a routine evaluation and improvement effort periodically required of all academic units in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. The review team report contained many excellent suggestions for advancing the department in the coming years and will serve as the impetus for development of a new department strategic plan.

Teacher's College.

Under the leadership of Dr. Anna Ball, coordinator of the Teaching Resources Center in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, twenty faculty members in the college are participating this semester in a 12-week, non-credit course designed to assist faculty members in improving

their teaching skills and engaging as a community of practice around learner-centered teaching. Topics include teaching principles and practices - from developing a teaching philosophy to designing effective assessments and reflecting on practice. The three-hour weekly sessions are taught by Anna Ball and Brian Myers in the AEC Department, Mike Kane in Environmental Horticulture, and Kirby Barrick, Dean of the College.

Travis Loftin Inducted into the FFA Hall of Fame. Former department chair Travis Loftin, who passed away in 2003 soon after celebrating his 100th birthday, was one of the first four Florida agricultural education pioneers inducted into the new Florida FFA Hall of Fame in October 2007.

Travis began teaching agriculture in 1931 and went on to become state supervisor and agricultural education faculty member and department chair at UF. Travis was instrumental in relocating the agricultural education program from the College of Education to the College of Agriculture in 1975 and provided 44 years of service and outstanding leadership for agricultural education in Florida.

Undergraduate Minor in Leadership Takes Off!

In the fall of 2005 the department launched a multi-disciplinary Undergraduate Minor in Leadership as a joint project with three other colleges. Enrollment has quickly surged to more than 150 students. Nicole Stedman provides faculty coordination for the minor.

USDA Higher Education Challenge Grants

To learn more about the USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant program go to <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/education/education.html> and click on **Higher Education Challenge Grants Program**. Be sure to check out **Abstracts of Funded Projects**.

USDA sponsored Higher Education Challenge Grants are due on Feb. 1, 2008. This means AAEE members need to be working on proposals now. Projects supported by the Higher Education Challenge Grants Program will: (1) address a State, regional, national, or international educational need; (2)

involve a creative or non-traditional approach toward addressing that need that can serve as a model to others; (3) encourage and facilitate better working relationships in the university science and education community, as well as between universities and the private sector, to enhance

program quality and supplement available resources; and (4) result in benefits that will likely transcend the project duration and USDA support. A number of AAEE members have been successful in securing these grants in the past several years. Is it your turn to land one of these grants?

University of Georgia

New faculty:

Dr. Chris Morgan has joined the UGA team as assistant professor of agricultural communications and agricultural leadership. Chris comes to us from Oklahoma State University, and he is a graduate of the University of Florida and Texas A&M University.

Awards:

We have a decorated group of graduate students and faculty at the University of Georgia. A few examples of their hard work follows:

Kerry Priest - Association of Leadership Educators Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Richard Rohs - America Evaluation Association-Extension Education Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service to the Extension Evaluation Profession

Maria Navarro – Association of International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) Outstanding Early Achievement Award; UGA President's Fulfilling the Dream Award in

recognition of people from UGA and the Athens area who have made significant efforts to build bridges of unity and understanding in the community; National Advisor of the year from the Sigma Alpha sorority for women in agriculture.

Dennis Duncan - Outstanding Teaching Faculty Award at UGA

John C. Ricketts – Outstanding Teaching Faculty Award at UGA; College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Outstanding Advising Award; Gamma Sigma Delta Jr. Achievement in Teaching Award

Dick Hudson – Dr. Hudson was invited to serve as a Judge for the Peabody Awards on campus, before final judging takes place in New York. Dr. Hudson is also President-Elect of the Athens Symphony Board of Directors and was recently named to the Slippery Rock University Sports Hall of Fame.

Travel:

We have also done our share of proselytizing agricultural and extension education across the globe. For instance:

Ray Herren traveled to Armenia to meet with Dr. Glenn Shinn to plan faculty development workshops involving UGA faculty, and he traveled to the Republic of Georgia to organize a pig chain for Future Farmers of Georgia (FFG) schools, but an outbreak of African Swine Fever put that project on hold.

Maria Navarro, Dennis Duncan, and Jason Peake have presented a series of faculty development workshops at the State Agrarian University of Armenia (SAUA), Yerevan, Armenia.

Richard Rohs has also conducted extension education trainings in Armenia, but also China and Australia this past year.

John Ricketts, Kerry Priest, Bridget Mixson, and Rachel McCall worked to provide leadership training in the Republic of Georgia, a country on the Black Sea between Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Dennis Duncan traveled to Vienna Austria to teach students in his Global Seminar course.



The Greenhand, a book about the FFA, was made into a film that was shot in Georgia in the 1930s. The film made a revival recently. Read about it at http://onlineathens.com/stories/040507/living_20070405017.shtml.

University of Idaho

A Baby Vandal was born to Ben and Melinda Swan on December 28th, 2006. Bo Gabriel Swan joined the list of AgEd babies born at Moscow's Gritman Hospital. The list

includes... baby Elliot, baby Whittington, baby Connors, among others...

[Editor's Note: The University of Idaho mascot is the Vandals]



*"It takes a village to
raise a child.
African Proverb"*

Iowa State University

Personnel – After nearly 50 years of service to Agricultural Education, Dr. Harold Crawford has decided to retire from the profession. In his honor the Department of Agricultural Education & Studies has dedicated our teaching laboratory in Curtiss Hall to Dr. Crawford and his wife Rachel. An official naming ceremony will be held as a part of the renovation of Curtiss Hall. The laboratory will be named the "Crawford Classroom for Instruction in Agricultural Education".

Dr. Gaylan Scofield has been named the Director of the Brenton Center for Instructional Technology. Dr. Scofield had served as the Interim Director for two years.

New Facility – A new building has been constructed at the Ag 450 Farm. This building will serve the agricultural mechanics education and program needs of our teacher education

candidates as well as serve other students in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

Dr. Wade Miller heads a committee to develop plans for equipping this facility with all the needed materials as well as developing courses and workshops for students and inservice programs for teachers in agricultural mechanics.

Masters at Distance – A new means of earning a Master's of Science in Agricultural Education was initiated Fall, 2007.

Students can now earn the M.S. in Agricultural Education totally on-line. The delivery of this program joins the Master of Agriculture program in the department which has always been offered "at-a-distance". A new line-up of courses has been designed specifically for meeting the needs of educators who have difficulty attending classes on-campus. Dr. Greg Miller provides leadership for the graduate program.

Endowed Lecture Series – A \$100,000 endowment has established the Leadership Lecture Series in Agricultural Education in the Department of Agricultural Education & Studies. The William K. Deal Leadership Lecture Series will bring "people of achievement" in leadership to the campus for interaction with students and faculty to emphasize the importance of developing leadership skills to meet the agriculture challenges of the present and future.

New Name – The College of Agriculture at Iowa State University has a new name as of July 1, 2007. The name is now the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The new name represents a broader image of agriculture and places an emphasis on the "sciences" of agriculture rather than a narrow focus on production agriculture.



University of Kentucky

Welcome Bryan Hains!

It is with great pleasure to announce the arrival of **Bryan Hains** to the faculty of the University of Kentucky as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education. Bryan joined our faculty August 13, 2007. He completed his Ph.D. from Purdue University with the Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education, under the direction of Dr. Mark Balschweid. While at Purdue, Bryan won the Outstanding Student Award for Teaching, Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education in 2004 and 2006, as well as being named a Ross Fellow in 2004. His dissertation is titled *The Dilemma of Student*

Downshifting: Educational Practices Which Influence Downshifting in a High School Agricultural Science Classroom, which stems from brain-based theory. He has three years of high school agriscience and agribusiness teaching experience at Western High School in Russiaville, Indiana, where he collaborated with the science department in infusing advanced placement standards and science inquiry learning into his curriculum. We are excited about what Bryan has to offer to our program, department and university.

Robin Peiter Horstmeier named NACTA Teacher Fellow

Dr. Robin Peiter Horstmeier was named a

North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teacher Fellow at the 2007 NACTA conference held June 20-22, 2007. Dr. Horstmeier is only the fourth UK faculty member to receive this recognition. Congratulations, Robin!

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning established

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture is pleased to announce the newly created Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The purpose of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is to provide teaching and learning resources for faculty in the College of Agriculture. Dr. Tracy Kitchel is providing leadership to this new center as Director.



"Professors known as outstanding lecturers do two things; they use a simple plan and many examples."

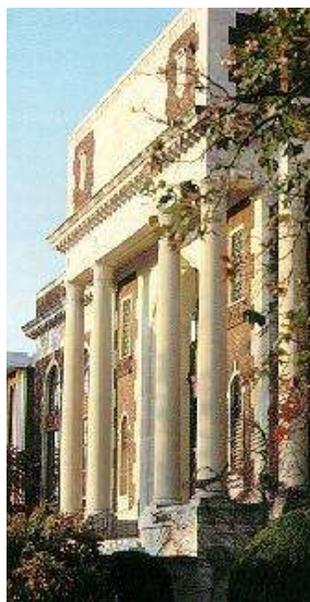
W. McKeachie

Murray State University (Kentucky)

Dr. Tony Brannon, currently serving as Dean, was also appointed to Chair the Task for the Future of Agriculture in Kentucky.

Dr. Jay Morgan, was elected as the University Faculty Regent and also serves as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Regents for Murray State University.

Mr. Stacy Vincent, was recently hired in Aug. 2006 as a new faculty member in Ag Ed. He has been teaching classes and working with the C-FFA. He is a doctoral student at the Univ. of Florida.



Mississippi State University



Dr. Walter Taylor received the designation of Fellow of the American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE) at the 2007 annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN. Additionally, he was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the Black History Month Committee and IHL Board of Trustees for his positive advancement of diversity on campus and in the community. Dr. Taylor was also promoted to the position of Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in July 2006.

Dr. Jacque Deeds Professor and Graduate Coordinator, just completed her term as President of the American Association for Agricultural Education. Dr. Deeds was the first female to hold the office of president. As a result of her position, Dr. Deeds also serves as Vice President of the National Council for Agricultural Education and is providing leadership on the 10 X 15 Initiative to have 10,000 quality agricultural education programs by 2015.

Meredith McCurdy, a senior in Agricultural Information Science

(communications emphasis) was selected to be a National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador for the National FFA Organization. Meredith is one of 15 collegiate students representing agricultural education and the FFA to promote agricultural awareness across the nation. During this year, Meredith will be visiting college campuses and making presentations about agriculture and the FFA.

Lee James, a 1977 Agricultural & Extension Education graduate, was named Mississippi Teacher of the Year for 2006. As part of this award, he had the opportunity to meet President and Mrs. Bush. Mr. James is currently the Agricultural Education teacher at the Choctaw County Vocational Center in Ackerman, MS. Furthermore, he serves as president of the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE).

Dr. Lyle Westrom, a 1990 Agricultural and Extension Education graduate, was recently awarded the Region I Outstanding Higher Education/Adult Agricultural Education Program Award for 2007 at the Minnesota Association of Agricultural

Educators (MAAE) Agriculture Technology Conference. The MAAE is an organization of teachers of agriculture who seek to advance agricultural education in Minnesota and is affiliated with the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). Dr. Westrom now serves as Associate Professor of Dairy Science and Agricultural Education at the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

Dr. Kirk A. Swartzel, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, was named a Teaching Fellow by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) at their 2007 annual meeting at the University of Illinois. The NACTA Teaching Fellow Award recognizes those individuals whose efforts represent the very best in agricultural higher education. Candidates are evaluated based on their personal teaching philosophy; evaluations from students, alumni, peers, and administrators; and a self-evaluation on a number of teaching factors. Dr. Swartzel was one of 14 individuals to receive the teaching fellow award this year. Dr. Swartzel has been a faculty member at MSU since January 2001.

"In what may as well be starkly labeled smug satisfaction, an amazing 94% [of college instructors] rate themselves as above average teachers, and 68% rank themselves in the top quarter of teaching performances."

K Patricia Cross

University of Missouri

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Bryan Garton was recently named Assistant Dean of Academic Programs for the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Bryan will work with Dr. Paul Vaughn, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, on matters related to curriculum and student service in the college. He will retain many of his teaching, research and service responsibilities in the Department of Agricultural Education.

In additional changes of responsibility, Dr. Rob Terry is serving as the Chair of the Department and Dr. Bobby Torres is the new Director of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Garton and Dr. Torres were recently promoted to the rank of professor earlier this year. Congratulations Bryan and Bobby!

Dr. Jon Ulmer was named an Honorary State FFA Degree recipient at the 79th Missouri FFA Convention. Jon recently served as coordinator for the Missouri State FFA Agricultural Career Development Events and worked with first and second year agricultural education teachers. He also assisted in the planning of workshops and institutes for agricultural education throughout the year.

Congratulations to Dr. James Anderson who graduated with his PhD in Agricultural Education in May. In March, he received first-place honors in the Graduate Oral Research Competition — Social Sciences Division at the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) 22nd Annual National Conference. James is now an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Charles Ogbeide completed his PhD in Agricultural Education with an emphasis in hospitality management in December, 2006. He is now Assistant Professor of Hospitality and Restaurant Management at the University of Arkansas.

There are currently eight students pursuing doctorate degrees with us. Each is listed with their home state and expected date of graduation.

- Jason Scales, Missouri, December 2007.
- Mollie Aschenbrener, California, May 2008.
- Amy Smith, Iowa, May 2008.
- Marc Strid, Missouri, August 2008.
- David Frazier, Texas, May 2009.
- Becki Lawver, Nebraska, May 2009.
- Misty Lambert, North Carolina, May 2010.
- Ryan Saucier, Texas, May 2010.



"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination are omnipotent. The slogan press on has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race. No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."

Calvin Coolidge

SAAS Registration

If you have yet registered for SAAS and the Southern Agricultural Education Meeting and Research Conference, now would be a good time to do so. There will be

some excellent research papers, professional improvement sessions and a chuck wagon dinner on the South Fork Ranch. Plan now to attend and learn more from your

professional colleagues. Registration and program materials can be found on the AAEE web site: <http://aaee.okstate.edu/southern.html>.

Montana State University



Carl Igo Receives NACTA Teacher of Merit Award – Dr. Carl Igo recently received the NACTA Teacher of Merit Award for his outstanding performance in the classroom. Dr. Igo's teaching responsibilities include Agricultural Education Teaching Methods courses and a MSU core course titled "*Leadership Development for Agribusiness & Industry Employees.*" The NACTA Teaching Award of Merit is an award that is selected by the college or university to recognize faculty and graduate students for outstanding teaching.

Carl Igo, Invited Presentation, Western Region Teaching Symposium, 2007 – Dr. Carl Igo gave an invited presentation at the Western Region Teaching Symposium held at the University of Arizona in Tucson. The title of Dr. Igo's presentation was "A Primer on Problems-Based Learning."

Marty Frick, Co-Chair of the 2007 Association of International Agricultural and Extension Education conference - Dr. Marty Frick co-chaired the 2007 conference of the Association of

International Agricultural and Extension Education. The conference was held in Polson, MT. Mr. Jim Hafer from Chief Dull Knife College served as co-chair with Dr. Frick. The theme of the 2007 conference was "[Internationalizing with Cultural Leadership.](#)"

Marty Frick Receives Western Region AAEE Distinguished Service Award – Dr. Marty Frick was awarded the Western Region AAEE Distinguished Service Award at the 2007 Western Region AAEE Conference in Cody, WY. Dr. Frick is a Fulbright Scholar and served as an officer for the Western Region AAEE from 1999 to 2005.

Graduate Students - MSU's Agricultural Education program is fortunate to have excellent graduate students on campus to support our teaching, research and outreach functions. **Allison Flynn and Halsey Wallace** are actively engaged in the MSU Agricultural Education graduate program. We are currently recruiting a new group of graduate students to begin their studies in fall '08 and serve as teaching assistants for agricultural education courses.

New Faculty Position - The MSU Agricultural Operations Technology Program has been discontinued. A SWOT analysis revealed the direction of the next faculty hire should be reoriented to Extension Education. The search for a new faculty position is in the final stages. The search committee will request an onsite interview with the top candidates during the month of November.

Value Added Agriculture Curriculum – Dr. Frick is completing a Value Added Agriculture curriculum for high school agricultural education instructors. The curriculum is being supported by a grant from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Center at Iowa State University.

Summer Update and MSU College of Agriculture – MSU's College of Agriculture faculty provided a number of in-service workshops for Montana Agricultural Education Instructors at the 2007 Agricultural Education Update in Bozeman, Montana during June 2007. Workshop topics provided by MSU COA faculty included agronomy, horse evaluation, and agricultural economics.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

Charles Darwin

North Carolina A&T State University

The past academic year was an exciting one for the Agricultural Education program at NC A&T State University.

A total of twenty three students received the bachelor of science and master of science degrees.

The 2+2 Online Studies in the Agricultural Education program for individuals who possess an Associate of Applied Science Degree in horticulture, landscape gardening, or turfgrass technology, made history within the sixteen university UNC System at the Fall 2006 Commencement Exercises by graduating the first three online 2+2 teacher education candidates. The candidates representing various demographic and personal backgrounds. Student teaching internships were conducted at Person High School, Bunkerhill High School, and Starmount High School. One additional candidate, who completed graduation requirements during the Spring 2007, did student teaching at Burns High School.

Kathryn Picotte, one of the online 2+2 teacher education candidates was awarded the most outstanding student teacher award for the Fall 2006 semester.

Agricultural education faculty members and graduate students attended regional and national research conferences and presented papers on various topics such as instructional technology, special education in agricultural education, cooperative extension, and agricultural diversity.

Agricultural education students received summer internships with governmental agencies such as the NC and Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, USDA-NRCS, USDA - Forest Service, and NC A&T Agricultural Research Service.

Dr. John "Rusty" Miller joined the agricultural education faculty during the Fall 2006 semester with a split appointment between the agricultural education program and the Department of Animal Sciences, where he coordinates the new equine education program.

Husqvarna Forest and Garden partnered with NC A&T State University and provided an Educator Service School for the agricultural educators of North Carolina concerning string trimmer repair and two stroke engine theory. Husqvarna is the leading Outdoor Power Equipment manufacturer.

Again this year, North Carolina Farm Bureau and

NC A&T State University held a week-long conference for Junior and Senior high school students. IFAL, Institute for Agricultural Leaders hosted 32 students from nineteen counties. Spirited adventures were held on and off-campus.

Agricultural Education faculty continue to be highly active in the areas of research and grantsmanship, addressing a wide array of issues impacting the profession of agricultural education.

The Collegiate FFA chapter at NC A&T State University performed various community service projects, in addition to sponsoring a display at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

NC A&T State University hosted the inaugural NC FFA Middle Grades Rally in March, with schools from all regions of the state being represented.

Dr. Paula Faulkner, a recent graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of agricultural education for the Fall 2007 semester.

Mrs. Chastity Warren, a current doctoral candidate at Virginia Tech University, has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of agricultural education for the Fall 2007 semester.



"Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials."

Lin Yutang



North Carolina State University

Enrollment Milestone:

This fall, we reached an enrollment milestone of 150 undergraduate students in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education. This is the largest number of undergraduate students in the last 20 years. We also have 75 graduate students in our graduate degree programs.

Curriculum Changes:

We received approval for new Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science in August. The degree program provides students with a broad background in agriculture through introductory courses in agricultural disciplines, two areas of agricultural specialization (to be selected by the students), and the equivalent of a minor in Agricultural Leadership.

The late approval prevented us from advertising the degree to incoming freshmen this past year, but we are beginning to receive internal transfers into this new degree program.

This fall we are submitting a proposal for a minor in Leadership through the university courses and curricula committee. All of the required courses have already been approved, so we expect approval of the minor soon. When approved, Dr. David Jones will serve as the coordinator for the minor.

Faculty Assume New Responsibilities:

We are pleased to announce some changes in departmental administrative responsibilities. Undergraduate Coordinators have been appointed for each of our undergraduate degree offerings. Dr. Beth Wilson serves as the undergraduate coordinator for the Agricultural Education program. Dr. Mark Kistler is the undergraduate coordinator for the Extension Education program. And Dr. Barry Croom is the undergraduate coordinator for the new degree program in Agricultural Science. Dr. Gary Moore continues to serve as the Director of Graduate Programs for our department.

Grant Activity:

We are pleased to announce that NC State University was awarded two USDA Higher Education Challenge Grants in the last funding cycle.

Beth Wilson along with two faculty members in the Department of Animal Science and the Department of Plant Biology have received a USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant. The grant is for \$139,237 and it titled "*Agricultural Biotechnology in Today's Society: An*

Interdisciplinary Course"

The goal of the project is to develop an online science course that can be used by the general population of students. Dr. Wilson is the principal investigator for the project.

A consortium involving NCSU, Auburn University and the University of Georgia have received a \$464,481 grant from the USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant program. The title of the project is "*Development of a Distance Education Consortium Among the Southern Universities.*". The plan is to develop consortiums in Agricultural Education and in Poultry Science. Gary Moore will be providing the leadership for the Agricultural Education component of the project.

Assessment Activities:

Like many other universities, we seem to be mired in what seems to be continuous program assessment/reviews. Last spring, we completed our NCATE review of the teacher education program at NC State, along with our State Department accreditation of our agricultural education program. Both reviews required self-studies and require a great deal of faculty effort.

[NCSU news continues on the next page...](#)

"Keep away from people who belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

Mark Twain

North Carolina State University continued...

This fall, our department completed it's comprehensive review, as required by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. While this was not an official CSREES review, it followed a similar format, with an external review team coming to campus to examine the work of our department. This review also served as our undergraduate program review and our graduate program review. While these assessment activities provided us with

some good recommendations for improving our department, we are relieved that we do not have another self-study to write in the next few years.

Cooperative Program:

The Department has signed a cooperative arrangement with Mount Olive College to certify agriculture teachers. Students will complete three years at Mount Olive and then be at NCSU for their final year to complete

the agricultural education courses and student teach. Mount Olive is a private college with an established Agribusiness program.

Faculty Recognition:

This past spring Gary Moore participated in the Tarleton State University "Alumni Academic Forum". Distinguished graduates of Tarleton are invited back to campus to interact with the students and are recognized at a special awards luncheon.

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitude of mind."

William James

North Dakota State University

Dr. Brent Young, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education and Dr. Mari Borr, Assistant Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences at North Dakota State University have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$172,867 from the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education to conduct a research study known as the Math-in-CTE project. The purpose of this study is to

empirically test the hypothesis that students who participate in an integrated, mathematics-enhanced high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum and aligned instruction will develop a deeper and more sustained understanding of basic mathematical concepts than those who participate in the traditional CTE curriculum.

Forty secondary agricultural education and family and consumer science teachers and 20 secondary math teachers from across North Dakota will participate in this year long, experimental study. The study will begin with 5 days of intensive professional development for the teachers this fall and will end with debriefing sessions in June of 2008.



Glasbergen Cartoons

Do you need a chuckle? Randy Glasbergen is a highly published cartoonist. He has a number of cartoons that

focus on education. His web site features a cartoon for the day plus an archive of past cartoons arranged by

categories. Check them out at <http://www.glasbergen.com/>.

Oklahoma State University



Oklahoma State University Agricultural Communication students Sara-Jane Smallwood and Cortney Timmons are among 80 students from 60 colleges and universities selected to receive Morris K. Udall Scholarships. Smallwood and Timmons, both students in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, are the university's fourth and fifth recipients of the national honor since the scholarship program began in 1996.

Dr. Cindy Blackwell was awarded by the Oklahoma State University's Mortar Board Chapter with the Golden Touch Award. The Golden Torch Award is given to the faculty member in each college who best exemplifies and supports the values of outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service. The honored faculty member is the individual in each college whom the chapter believes has made significant contributions to the success of students.

Dr. Dwayne Cartmell received the 2007 Association for Communications Excellence Research Award. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence in a special interest group area as well as leadership and

involvement in the Association for Communications Excellence.

Cartmell was also named as a finalist for the 2006-2007 Phoenix Award. Each Spring, the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association selects an outstanding faculty member to present with its highest honor. The Phoenix Award recognized exemplary achievement in leadership, scholarship, professional involvement and university and community service; especially as it relates to involvement with graduate students.

In addition the American Association for Agricultural Education awarded Cartmell the 2007 Outstanding Early Career Award. This award is designed to recognize individual early-career members for their achievements and competencies in the profession.

Dr. Craig Edwards received the Outstanding *Journal of Southern Agricultural Education Research* (JSAER) Article Award as co-author, Volume 56 – 2006. The other author was Dr. R. Brent Young who is a doctoral graduate of the Department of Agricultural Education,

Communications and Leadership at OSU.

Dr. R. Brent Young under the advisement of Dr. Craig Edwards received the American Association for Agricultural Education Alan Kahler Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award. This award recognizes the doctoral student who has completed the most outstanding dissertation during the previous calendar year.

Dr. R. Brent Young, under the advisement of Dr. Craig Edwards and Dr. James Leising was recognized by the American Association for Agricultural Education for the Outstanding Research Presentation.

Dr. Brian Parr, Dr. Craig Edwards and Dr. James Leising were recognized by the *Journal of Agricultural Education* Editing Managing Board with the Outstanding Article of the Year, Volume 47, 2006. The article was entitled Effects of a Math-Enhanced Curriculum and Instructional Approach on the Mathematics Achievement of Agricultural Power and Technology Students: An Experimental Study.

[OSU news continues on the next page....](#)

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

Aristotle

Oklahoma State University continues ...

Dr. Chris Morgan was recognized by the *Journal of Agricultural Education* Editing Managing Board with the Second Runner-up Outstanding Article Volume 47, 2006. The article was entitled Teaching Leadership in Agricultural Science: Behavioral Factors that Influence Secondary Agricultural Science Leadership Instruction.

Dr. Shelly Sitton was awarded by the Southern Region, North American College and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) with the Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award. The Outstanding Teacher Award is presented to one individual from each of the regions that have previously received the NACTA Teacher Fellow Award.

Penny Weeks received the North American College and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teaching Fellow Award. The purpose of the Teaching Fellow Award is to recognize those individuals whose efforts represent the very best in agricultural higher education.

The Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership awarded and recognized nearly \$52,000 in scholarships at the departmental awards reception April 3, 2007.

These scholarships are funded by alumni donations and departmental supporters.

Achieving tenure and promotion in rank at Oklahoma State University for a faculty member are important professional milestones. The OSU Board of Regents, at their June 2007 meeting, approved tenure and promotion from the rank of Assistant Professor to the rank of Associate Professor for Dr. D. Dwayne Cartmell and Dr. Penny Pennington.

Promotion from the rank of Associate Professor with tenure to the rank of Professor was approved for Dr. M. Craig Edwards.

Three-year reappointment at the rank of Assistant Professor without tenure was approved for Dr. Cindy Blackwell and Dr. Chris Morgan. Please congratulate each of these faculty members on their professional achievement.

A team of 10 Oklahoma broadcast and communications specialists traveled to the West African country of Mali March 13 to 25 to work with Malian journalists and interview individuals to participate in summer internships at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

The department hosted a

cohort of six students from Chiang Mai University, Thailand. The students studied research methods (AGED 5983) and a special problems course for 8 weeks while in Stillwater this summer.

The Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership in conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Oklahoma FFA Foundation and the Oklahoma Alumni Association provided the inaugural Future Agricultural Education Teachers Academy on the campus of Oklahoma State University June 18-22.

The purpose of the academy was to encourage and promote the teaching of high school agricultural education as a positive and promising college major and career choice. Academy participants will be eligible for a \$1000.00 scholarship upon their acceptance and enrollment at OSU, their major must be agricultural education for the scholarship to be awarded. This effort is designed to recruit highly motivated students to the agricultural education profession.



"The society which scorns excellence in plumbing as a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy...neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water.

John W. Gardner

Ohio State University



Dr. Susie Whittington received the Distinguished Teaching Award from during North Central Region – American Association for Agricultural Education research conference and meeting in Columbia, Missouri in September, 2007.

Larry Miller received the 2007 "Outstanding Service Award" from the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE). The award is the highest given by the international association. Dr. Miller was a founding member of the organization.

Dr. Jim Connors will be serving as the Advisor to the Alpha Zeta Partners (AZP) organization within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. In addition to advising the organization, Dr. Connors will also be serving as the Resident Director for the AZP members participating in the Study Abroad Program titled: *Linking Individual Leadership to Organizational and Societal Change* at the Universidade de São Paulo ~ Escola Superior de Agricultural Luiz de Queiroz (ESALQ) during January 2008.

The Agricultural Education major has been renamed

as the Agricultural & Extension Education (AEE) major. The renamed AEE major includes the following options: Teacher Education, Extension Education, and the new Leadership option. The new leadership option includes courses in Fundamentals of Personal & Professional Leadership, Leadership in Teams and Community Organizations, and Leadership and Community Development. Dr. Jim Connors will serve as the Coordinating Advisor for the new Leadership Option.

Dr. Susie Whittington, Dr. Jim Connors, Dr. Pat Whittington and Dr. Bob Birkenholz received grant funding from the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) as part of the U.S./India Agricultural Knowledge Initiative (AKI) titled *Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence: A Capacity Building Model*. The project is designed to promote student-centered teaching and learning at Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, India.

Dr. Susie Whittington recently delivered two invited keynote presentations at the Lilly North Teaching Conference in Traverse

City, Michigan and the Western Region Teaching Improvement Conference in Tuscon, Arizona.

Twenty-four OSU agricultural education students are currently completing their student teaching internship experiences in Ohio secondary agricultural education programs. Each cooperating teacher is Pathwise certified and each student teacher completes a Praxis III assessment at the conclusion of the ten week internship.

Dr. Bob Birkenholz is engaged in the second half of a two-year program as a Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) Fellow. The 20 person cohort is involved in planning a capstone project that applies leadership principles introduced during three, week-long residential sessions during the first year. The FSLI program is directed by staff at North Carolina State University with funding provided by the Kellogg Foundation.

The AEE Advisory Committee consisting of 18 members met recently to address issues related to recruitment, graduate follow-up, developing impact statement, and strategic planning. The advisory committee meets in February and October.

"The reason most people never reach their goals is that they don't define them, or ever seriously consider them as believable or achievable. Winners can tell you where they are going, what they plan to do along the way, and who will be sharing the adventure with them."

Denis Watley

Purdue University

YDAE student, Jill Steiner was appointed in June by Gov. Mitch Daniels to the Purdue University Board of Trustees. She is the only student who sits on the board. Steiner double majors in Agricultural Communication and Agricultural Economics. She has had numerous leadership experiences through agricultural organizations at Purdue and has served as a state FFA officer.

The 2006-2007 school year marked the first year all three of the newly developed Advanced Life Science courses were offered in Indiana high schools. Purdue University faculty in the Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education, along with the Indiana Department of Education state staff, developed the courses in 2004 to meet the growing demand of life science workers needed for Indiana and surrounding states. The courses were designed to meet the state requirements for teaching advanced science concepts. These courses

were approved by Indiana's State Board of Education and the Commission for Higher Education for both Core 40 and Academic Honors diplomas in 2004. Starting with the 2007-08 academic year, Advanced Life Science (ALS) courses can be taught for College of Agriculture credit through a new agreement with Purdue University. Students successfully completing *ALS: Animal* can earn credit for *ANSC 102 Introduction to Animal Agriculture*, students completing *ALS: Plant and Soil* can earn credit for *BTNY 210 Introduction to Plant Science*, and those successfully completing *ALS: Food* can earn credit for *FS 161 The Science of Food*. Certain stipulations apply for students, teachers, and schools.

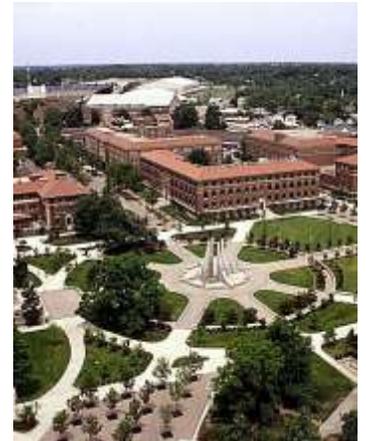
The prestigious David C. Pfendler Outstanding Undergraduate Counselor award was presented to Dr. Mark Balschweid, associate professor in the Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education.

Dr. B. Allen Talbert was promoted to professor effective August 2007.

YDAE student, Kelli Hoffman, a senior in Agricultural Education, earned the title of Miss Purdue 2007. She competed for the Miss Indiana title in June.

Bryan Hains, August 2007 Ph.D. graduate, was a Purdue University 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award recipient.

Dr. Neil Knobloch started his new position as an assistant professor in the Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education and will provide leadership for the Life Science Education Initiative. His research interests focus on how teacher/educator motivation and the use of learner-centered teaching influence youth/student motivation and learning outcomes in the life sciences (environmental, plant, animal, food, and nutritional sciences).



"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

George Santayana

Southern Arkansas University

Penny S. Haase-Wittler recently wrote a Masters of Science in Agriculture degree for SAU. It has been approved by Arkansas ADHE and North Central. We are very excited about this as it will help current agri

teachers, farm business employees, farm credit, coop extension folks and the like to continue their education with a General Masters Degree in Agriculture.

In addition, we have two

students, Kory Dedmon and Monica Coker who have been working for national FFA as Ag Ambassador and leadership trainers. Kory was accepted to travel as an international participant with National FFA as well.





Texas A&M University

International Higher Agricultural Education Reforms

Gary Briers, PI, and Glen Shinn, resident advisor, are assisting Armenian State Agrarian University with strategic planning and their transition to a European-model university. ASAU, the sole agricultural university in Armenia, has 540 faculty and 9,250 students offering bachelor's, master's, candidate of science, and Ph.D. degrees. Technical assistance is provided for curriculum development, course development, teaching and learning methods, student evaluation, and transcript management compliant with ECTS credit standards. A consortium of higher agricultural education specialists from Clemson, New Mexico State, Oklahoma State, Penn State, Texas A&M, Georgia, Virginia Tech, and Washington State assist with the transition. Innovative approaches, including case studies, social structured network and diffusion research, and mentoring are being tested. The project is authorized by USDA-FAS and USDA-CADI. See <http://sauabologna.com> and <http://www.armagrar-uni.am/eng/eng-page=home.htm> for additional details.

Collaboration

Wash Jones, Prairie View

A&M University, and T. Grady Roberts, Texas A&M University, both assistant professors, are heading up a collaborative program in agricultural education. They have designed and are leading instruction of a course in human resource development in agriculture, a generic "survey of agricultural education" course, taught to students at Prairie View A&M. Faculty from Texas A&M—Don Renchie, Alvin Larke, Jr, Kim Dooley, Chanda Elbert, Scott Cummings, Landry Lockett, Chris Townsend, Tim Murphy, Theresa Murphrey, Julie Harlin, Gary Briers—travel to Prairie View to teach and learn with students on topics such as diversity, teaching, learning, leadership, and extension. Plans are underway to continue the collaboration with a second course this spring.

Increasing Diversity in Agricultural Education and FFA

With funding from the Toyota Corporation through the National FFA Foundation, T. Grady Roberts and Gary Briers, co-principal investigators, continue to lead a joint pilot/demonstration project with the National FFA (Ernie Gill, collaborator) to increase diversity in agricultural education and the FFA. This on-going project involves three high

schools in San Antonio, Texas (Burbank High School, Southside High School, and Southwest High School). The project has provided teacher inservice, student workshops, and multiple opportunities for travel to increase student involvement. So far, enrollment in agricultural education, membership in FFA, and involvement of Hispanic students, have all increased. One of the most obvious causes / results has been increased activity of local FFA alumni chapters and involvement of parents, administrators, and other supporters.

Teacher Preparation in Agricultural Science—2007-8

Thirty-three students are scheduled to complete their programs of teacher certification in agricultural science and technology this academic year. Twelve students are completing their internships / student teaching this fall semester, with 23 more scheduled for spring semester. Julie Harlin heads up the program of teacher education in agriculture, with T. Grady Roberts leading student internships / student teaching in the fall and Harlin in the spring.

[A&M news continues on the next page](#)

"Give me an army of West Point graduates and I'll win a battle. Give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I'll win the war."

General George Patton

Texas A&M University continues ...

During the past year, 28 program graduates began teaching agricultural science and technology. Through generous support of TAMU graduates and supporters, professional dues for all of the new teachers were paid for 2007-8.

New Faculty, Staff, and Promotions

On September 1, Katie Scott joined the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications as an academic advisor. She is responsible for advising students in the Agricultural Leadership program, with her primary focus on advising students in the new University Studies—Leadership Studies degree. Leadership Studies allows each student to explore and learn valuable leadership theories and practices, while having the flexibility to choose two minors in their fields of interest. Katie graduated from Texas A&M University in

May 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Development. Following graduation, she served as the consumer relations representative for Blue Bell Creameries, L.P., in Brenham, Texas. Katie is also pursuing a Master of Science in Leadership Development.

Gary Wingenbach was named an Alumni Fellow at Dickinson State University.

Jovonna Ivester has joined the staff of the department as a Lead Office Associate in April. Michelle Pavelock and Lexi Wied are assistant lecturers in agricultural science and agricultural leadership and development, respectively. Landry Lockett joined the faculty as assistant professor and extension specialist.

Kim Dooley and James Lindner were promoted to the rank of professor on September 1, 2007.

Big City, Big Country Road Show

Gary Wingenbach, PI, and Tracy Rutherford completed the first phase of an educational program developed to recruit urban youth to agriculture science careers through crisis communications and technology. This collaborative project with Texas Tech University and Howard College is funded by a USDA-CSREES Grant. The road show traveled to Houston and San Antonio in 2007 and will be in El Paso, Atlanta, Chicago, and Portland in 2008. Students participating in the project learn communication skills such as news writing, photography, web design, and videography. Each student is responsible for the development of a final project – a news release and a multimedia project. Examples of student projects and additional information can be found at <http://www.ag-communicators.org/BC2B C/index.htm>



"I do not try to dance better than anyone else. I only try to dance better than myself."

Mikhail Baryshnikov

Your AAAE Officer Team

Jack Elliott, Western Region Vice President, The University of Arizona, elliott@ag.arizona.edu
 Jim Dyer, Southern Region Vice President, University of Florida—Plant City, jedyer@ufl.edu
 Lloyd Bell, North Central Region Vice President, University of Nebraska, lbell1@unl.edu
 Barry Croom, Historian, North Carolina State University, barry_croom@ncsu.edu
 Tom Dobbins, Treasurer, Clemson University, tdbbns@clemson.edu
 Shannon Washburn, Secretary, University of Florida, sgwash@ufl.edu
 Jacquelyn Deeds, Past President, Mississippi State University, JDeeds@ais.msstate.edu
 Gary Moore, President, North Carolina State University, gary_moore@ncsu.edu



*"A teacher affects
eternity; he can never
tell where his influence
stops."
Henry Brooks Adams."*

Utah State University

The 2008 Western Region AAAE meetings will be held April 16-19 at the breathtaking Canyons Resort in Park City, Utah. This meeting will be held in conjunction with NAAE Region I meetings. Conference information can be found at <http://www.uaae.org>. The call for research papers can be found at <http://www.csuchicoag.org/aaae/wrpaper> and the call for posters at <http://www.csuchicoag.org/AAAE/WRposter>.

Utah State University has the opportunity of hosting the NACTA Conference in 2008. Make plans now to attend this conference June 10-13 in beautiful

Cache Valley. Additional information can be found at <http://www.usu.edu/aste/nacta> or on the NACTA website at <http://www.nactateachers.org>.

The Department of Agricultural Systems Technology and Education was approved to begin offering Agricultural Communication as a major program beginning fall semester 2006. This program works closely with the USU Department of Journalism and Communication. Nearly fifty students have enrolled in the program in its initial year.

Dr. Rudy Tarpley received the 2007 AAAE Western Region Distinguished Teaching Award and was recently named the 2007-2008 College of Agriculture Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Brian Warnick was recently selected as the 2007-2008 College of Agriculture Faculty Advisor of the Year.

Dr. Gary Straquadine continues to serve as the Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Agriculture. Fortunately, a portion of his time is still spent in agricultural education.

Washington State University



Dr. Swan was on professional leave spring semester. His work during the sabbatical was for the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the United Arab Emirates. He actually lived in Abu Dhabi. Now back to teaching in our new degree program, Agricultural & Food Systems.

Dr. Kleene is currently working with a state group in developing new CTE teacher education standards (Ag Ed) for Washington.

Probably the biggest news for us is now being in a degree program where we have identity and a home. Our new degree program, Agricultural and Food Systems, is a systems approach program where we get to put all of the pieces together and see how they work in the real world of agriculture. An exciting time for us all to have been involved from the very start and see how the programs have grown into a full degree. The degree is actually a college wide degree so very interdisciplinary with faculty from almost every

department participating.

Another change in the past couple of years has proven to be a healthy move was our physical move from Biological Systems Engineering into the Crop and Soil Sciences Department. A much better fit for AgTM and Ag Ed.

Visit our new web site and see our new AFS Program, www.afs.wsu.edu

West Virginia University

Faculty and staff in Agricultural and Extension Education at West Virginia University, as in many universities and high school agricultural education departments, continue to be overworked. New responsibilities continue to be added to the workload and nothing is removed. West Virginia University has three tenure track faculty members and one full-time instructor. With the addition of the full-time instructor, major changes have been made in the area of agricultural mechanics instruction.

Deborah Boone was named the Outstanding Teacher in the Division of Resource Management in 2007. The division consists of faculty members in Agricultural and Extension Education, Agricultural and Resource Economics, and Landscape Architecture. She was the Division's representative for Outstanding Teacher in the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences.

Undergraduate enrollments continue to fluctuate slightly. At the start of the 2007-2008 school year the department had fifty-

seven undergraduate students in the program. The number of full-time Master's degree students also continues to fluctuate between eight and fifteen students.

Five students completed teacher certification requirements during fall 2006. Another eight students completed certification requirements during spring 2007. These individuals were needed to fill twelve teaching vacancies in West Virginia announced during the spring/summer of 2007.

Eight students from West Virginia University participated in the 5-Star Consortium Student Teacher Retreat held at Smyrna, Delaware in May. The 5-Star Consortium is composed of agricultural education programs in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The students had the opportunity to network with other student teachers, university faculty, and state supervisors and reflect on their experiences as a student teacher.

West Virginia University's Agricultural and Extension Education Department

continues its involvement in web based courses offered on-campus and as distance education courses. Currently the department offers two undergraduate and two graduate web-based courses. Global Food and the Agricultural Industry, a university "general education curriculum" course, has enjoyed tremendous success as a web-based/distance education course. This fall the course reached its capacity of 100 students.

Don Michael, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, retired in 2007 after nearly thirty-four years with the West Virginia Department of Education. Keith Burdette was selected to replace Mr. Michael as Lead Coordinator of Agricultural Education and State FFA Advisor. Following a successful career as a high school teacher, Keith served West Virginia as Program Specialist and WV FFA Executive Secretary for eight years. Mr. Jason Hughes, 2004 West Virginia Teacher of the Year and former agricultural education teacher at St. Marys High School, was selected as Coordinator of Agricultural Education and WV FFA Executive Secretary.



"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."

William Arthur Ward



*“Passive acceptance of the teacher's wisdom is easy to most boys and girls. It involves no effort of independent thought, and seems rational because the teacher knows more than his pupils; it is moreover the way to win the favour of the teacher unless he is a very exceptional man. Yet the habit of passive acceptance is a disastrous one in later life. It causes man to seek and to accept a leader, and to accept as a leader whoever is established in that position
Bertrand Russell”*



Clemson University

The Agricultural Education program at Clemson University continues to grow in student numbers and success of its graduates. With four faculty members comprising 2.27 FTEs, the program has fully recovered from single digit enrollment (7) in 1998 to over 70 undergraduates in the fall of 2007. Since 1999, the program has graduated 101 undergraduates and 72 Masters of Agricultural Education. We have maintained 100% employment with our graduates over this same time period. The program has expanded its offerings to include three emphasis areas: Teaching, Communications, and Leadership.

We are pleased that three Agricultural Education faculty members were recently promoted to full professor status. They include Thomas Dobbins, Donnie King, and Curtis White, Sr.

National studies have shown that most new teachers will depart within the first three years of teaching. For this reason, Clemson University Agricultural Education program has emphasized and delivered a successful annual in-service program for the past six years specifically designed for new and beginning teachers. As a result, we take pride in the fact that over the past seven years, fewer than eight of our young teachers have

departed the classroom for other employment offers.

In addition to specific in-service programs for new and beginning teachers, the Agricultural Education program at Clemson over the past four years has designed, coordinated, and hosted the annual summer conference for South Carolina Agricultural Educators. Participation has grown from approximately 60 percent attendance in 2004 to nearly 98 percent in 2007.

Clemson University Agricultural Education is Tiger Proud of its graduates!

Tarleton State University

Dr. Wilmara Harder joined the faculty of the department of agricultural services and development at the beginning of the fall 2007 academic year. Dr. Harder is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. Most recently, Dr. Harder completed her doctoral degree at Penn State University. She is on a 100% teaching assignment with agricultural communication courses at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Dr. David Drucekhammer, chair of the department of agricultural services and development, was a guest of the Chinese government over the summer. While in China, he made presentations about agricultural education at Tarim University in western China.

The third Delta Conference for agricultural teachers across the nation was hosted at Tarleton State University in June. Dr. Kyle McGregor focused tremendous effort

to raise the funds for the conference. All of the funds came from private funds, as well as from Tarleton State University. Forty seven secondary agricultural educators enjoyed a week-long experience as they focused on improving their teaching methods and better learning how to integrate LifeKnowledge™ concepts into the lessons. Dr. Kimberly Bellah was selected to serve as the co-facilitator for the Delta Conference, along with lead facilitator Mark Reardon.

Virginia Tech

The Department of Agricultural and Extension at Virginia Tech is pleased to report several interesting and exciting stories from Blacksburg...

Faculty joining our department.

We have added two new faculty members to our department from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Program Development and Evaluation unit. **Dr. Nancy Franz** will continue to work with program development and evaluation efforts. **Dr. Mike Lambur** is serving

as the evaluation leader for the national eXtension initiative. Both Nancy and Mike will contribute to our graduate education program.

Dr. Eric Kaufman joined our faculty this fall and will serve as the coordinator for our leadership education focus in the department. Eric came to us from the University of Florida.

Dr. Heather Boyd joined AEE in August and will serve as an evaluation specialist in the program development and evaluation unit. Heather will lead our efforts in evaluation research and will contribute to our graduate education program.

Donna Moore will join our faculty next summer after

completion of her Ph. D. at Cornell University. Donna will lead teaching and learning program and coordinate agricultural teacher education at Virginia Tech.

We have added three adjunct faculty from Virginia Tech who have an interest in agricultural and extension education. They include **Cathy Sutphin**, youth development, **Dixie Watts – Reaves**, agricultural economics, and **Barry Garst**, youth development.

New Degree Programs

We are pleased to announce that Agricultural and Extension Education has a **new Masters of Science and Ph. D. program** in the department! The new programs were approved this fall and are quickly attracting quality students. The degree programs are flexible and allow students to build a program of study to meet their professional needs in agricultural and extension education fields.

The new Agricultural sciences Degree is in its second year and already has over 50 undergraduates enrolled. This program is designed to give students a flexible undergraduate degree with two – three minors to meet individual career goals.

We are launching a new teacher education Masters of Science program this summer in conjunction with Career and Technical Education. This will be a four semester program designed around principles of experiential learning and utilizing peer networks and action research to prepare future teachers. This immersion program is intended to better prepare new teachers for their first teaching position and provide a strong foundation to enhance teacher retention.

Students

We are pleased to have 12 full time graduate students in the department this fall. The students are working hard and contributing to the department on many levels!!

Sarah Baughman - Ph. D. - Virginia
Rose Bradshaw - M.S. - Virginia
Thasya Campbell - Ph. D. - Jamaica
Jill Casten - Ph.D. - Kansas
Keyana Ellis - Ph. D. - Virginia
Pat Grace - Ph. D. - Florida
Holly Kasperbauer - Ph. D. - Iowa
Ed McCann - M.S. - Virginia
Rachel Morgante-Richmeier - Ph. D. - Colorado
Tamara Slovinskaya - Ph. D. - Russia



Laura Staklin - Ph. D. - Ohio
Johnnie Westbrook - Ph. D. - North Carolina

Our distance Masters Degree program has 15 students and we have an additional 45 part-time graduate students.

Student Activities

The students in AEE revived the Collegiate FFA Chapter at Virginia Tech this fall. The initial meeting attracted over 50 interested students! The students have been active with Homecoming activities (Second place float), Hosting a middle school FFA leadership conference (nearly 500 in attendance), and conducting professional development activities for members.

The graduate students have initiated a new student organization to meet their needs. The yet-to-be-named group is busy with professional and social activities.