



2011

Fall Newsletter

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California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

The department currently has the highest enrollment it has ever enjoyed- 256 students! Additionally, we welcomed 74 new students (first time freshmen and transfers), which is the largest incoming group in our history.



This spring, the department's proposal to offer a major in Agricultural Communications was approved! A big thank you is extended to everyone who shared their expertise and support to see this effort to its successful end. The new major is currently open to current and incoming students.

The department was honored at the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences end of the year banquet. Congratulations to CFFA for winning Large Club of the Year and to ACT as runner up for Small Club of the Year. Congratulations are also extended to Katie Titus for receiving the Soares Award and to Kelsey Rugani, Cassidy Nicholls and Jiana Escobar for winning Outstanding Senior awards. **Mr. Richard Gearhart** received the Outstanding Advisor award and **Dr. Robert Flores** received the Outstanding Professor award.

Agriculture Science students Katie Titus and Kaitlin Harr were elected to serve Cal Poly ASI through leadership positions in student government for the 2011-2012 academic year. Katie is serving as the Chair of the Board and Kaitlin Harr is serving as Vice Chair of the Board. Their roles are to oversee corporate operations and how student fees are spent.

Congratulations to Leslie Friend, Lauren Moss, Tatiana Prestininzi and Kevy Souza for being selected as National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors. They will spend the year speaking about a variety of agricultural topics at high schools, community colleges, universities and community organizations across the country.

Changes to Department Staffing. After serving a year in the department preparing documentation and evidence for our recent accreditation reviews, **Dr. Glen Casey** ended his participation in the Faculty Early Retirement Program and fully entered retired from Cal Poly. Mr. Richard Gearhart also left the department, accepting a position as an associate professor in the Journalism Department. Mr. Gearhart will however, continue to teach the Introduction to Agricultural Communications course. We thank them both for their incredible service to the department and their commitment to students.

We are pleased to welcome **Mrs. Megan Silcott** to the department. A Cal Poly graduate, Megan earned her degree in Agricultural Science in 2009. Megan interned with CoreClean Group, LLC and was hired full time after graduation. As a member of Core's marketing team, Megan helped guide a company name change, customer outreach, trademarks, and marketing efforts as well as conference and expo preparations. She was the connection for the national sales team to their graphics artist and helped develop regional marketing concepts. At Cal Poly, Megan currently serves as the Brock Center for Agriculture Communications Director and assists the Western Bonanza Junior Livestock Show program. Her duties in the department include working with students who develop the Ag Circle magazine, advising course work, over-seeing several senior projects, as well as managing the agriculture communication minor students. Megan also serves as a Director at Large for the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau. Within Farm Bureau, Megan and her husband, Dean, are involved with the Young Farmers and Ranchers program.

Dan Lassanske Retires

After 36 years with Cal Poly, Dan entered retirement this year. Although housed in the Horticulture and Crop Science department, Dan recognized the importance of agricultural education by sharing his expertise with teachers and students state-wide. It has been said Dan's impact on agricultural education has been more far-reaching than any other's due to his association with the department's masters program. We wish Dan the best in his retirement. A retirement celebration will be held on June 16, 2012 so Agricultural Education can honor his contributions. Save the date!

Student Teachers Around the State

There are currently fourteen student teachers completing their student teaching experiences across the state.

University of Kentucky

The University of Kentucky is proud to be working with other state universities, teachers, high school students, and industry representatives to create The Kentucky Council for Agricultural Education (KCAE) which is set to hold its first meeting in April 2012. This organization is a collaborative group of individuals that has been developed to provide a foundation for a more sustainable Agricultural Education profession in Kentucky.



The purpose is to provide oversight and coordination to Kentucky agricultural education in order to address the current threats facing the profession. The purpose of the council would be to enhance and affect teaching and learning, research and advocacy for all stakeholders within the state.

The Agriculture Education Program recently created and implemented the Wildcat Leadership Workshop. This event was coordinated by **Dr. Rebekah Epps** and the students enrolled in her spring AED 583: Designing Curriculum and Assessment course. The Ag Education Program collaborated with the UK ROTC program to facilitate content and leadership centered workshops for students in grades 6-12 in both Family and Consumer Science and Agricultural Education programs. This event was a huge success and had 192 students and 20 chaperones representing 11 different Ag Ed and FCS programs. There were also 71 students, faculty, staff and guests there to assist with the event. Dr. Epps and the students look forward to continuing this workshop in March of 2012.

The University of Kentucky continues to serve teachers of agriculture throughout the state by with the UK Field Day. This event will be hosted by **Dr. Stacy Vincent**, UK

Graduate Students **Jonathan Tubbs** and **Randy Adams**, UK 4-H Specialist **Jann Burkes** and the students enrolled in the spring AED 371: Advising a Student Organization course. This field day will be held at UK's Commonwealth Stadium and will host a wide variety of contests and events. The event allows for students to develop their skills in various fields of agriculture while meeting peers from across the state and visiting a college campus. Dr. Vincent is currently seeking out new avenues to offer more opportunities for students to compete such as in the fields of agriculture mechanics and veterinary science.

Finally, students have developed a Graduate Student Association for Community and Leadership Development with the help of the program chair for graduate studies in agriculture education, **Dr. Bryan Hains**. The organization's purpose is to provide support for students performing research and as a venue for passing along helpful information to students entering and working within the program.

Undergraduate Snapshot

There were thirteen new students welcomed into the agriculture undergraduate class in the Fall of 2012 and the program is expecting to send twelve student teachers out in the Spring of 2010 to hone their skills within the profession. The agriculture education department is also proud to announce that we have fourteen students who made the latest Deans List with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Current undergraduate student **Kendall Mallory** was elected as the 2011-2012 State FFA President. Dr. Hains received his Honorary State FFA Degree at the 2011 Kentucky State FFA Convention. There were three students from the University of Kentucky selected by the National Association of Agricultural Educators to serve National Teach Agriculture Ambassadors. The students were chosen based on their passion for agricultural education and because they demonstrated the ability to share the opportunities available through a career in the agricultural education profession. Congratulations to **Rebecca French**, **Kevin Herndon** and **Samantha Clark**!

Undergraduate students recently traveled to the Alpha Tau Alpha Conclave at the 2011 National FFA Convention where the University of Kentucky chapter was officially inducted into the

ATA organization. In addition to chartering, students competed in various events and represented the program very well. The Debate team won 1st place honors with members **Cody Rakes**, **Tashia Taul**, **Ashley Hall**, and **Angela Lyvers**. The Quiz Bowl team won 3rd place honors with members **Matthew Price**, **Shelby Clifford**, **Kaitlin Klair**, and **Kristen Horton**. Finally, the Program of Excellence team received an honorable mention with members **Chris Thompson** and **Megan Trent**. Dr. Rebekah Epps was elected as the Secretary/Treasurer for the National ATA Organization. The agriculture education program is very proud of the achievements and endeavors of the undergraduate students!

Graduate Student Snapshot

This year the department welcomed three new students into graduate assistantships. **Randy Adams** (Teaching Assistant), **Andrea Kirby** (Research Assistant), and **Katlyn Logan** (Research Assistant) joined second year students **Jonathan Tubbs** (Teaching Assistant) and **Savannah Robin** (Research Assistant) in their work to obtain a Master's Degree from the department.

The graduate student research interests include:

-Randy Adams: homophily and personality types within FFA Leadership, scheduling effects on agriculture education programs

-Andrea Kirby: multi-cultural teaching concerns for pre-service teachers, homophily and personality types within FFA Leadership

-Katlyn Logan: novel stimuli in international experiences

-Savannah Robin: policy and legislation for agriculture education and the emotions for stakeholders within agriculture education

-Jonathan Tubbs: sub-cultures within secondary schools and specifically agriculture education.

In addition to conducting research, graduate student Savannah Robin started the Big Blue Tribune. The purpose of this literature is to keep agriculture education stakeholders and UK alumni informed about events and issues within the field. The program is also proud to announce that teaching assistant Jonathan Tubbs has been nominated into the Peace Corps and hopes to leave for Sub-Saharan Africa in May of 2012. He will be working in rural villages promoting and teaching sustainable agricultural practices.

Faculty Snapshot

The department enthusiastically welcomes Dr. Rebekah Epps and Dr. Stacy Vincent into the UK family! Both arrived during the 2010 school year. In the brief time they have been at UK, they have implemented many new programs along with the direction of Dr. Bryan Hains to ensure the success of UK students and the development of quality teachers.

Murray State University

The Hutson School of Agriculture at Murray State University is bustling with

activity! The entire School has a fall 2011 enrollment of 1,036 total students. This is an increase from the fall 2010 semester of 886 students. Overall, the increase in students from the Hutson School of Agriculture accounts for 72% of the total university's enrollment growth! Here are some other exciting events from Murray, Kentucky:

Personnel

The Murray State University Hutson School of Agriculture



is pleased to welcome **Dr. Kimberly Bellah** who joined our university as an Associate Professor of Agricultural Education beginning July 1, 2011. Dr. Bellah received her B.S. and M.S. from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and her Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Education and Communication from the University of Florida. She joins us at Murray State after 13 years of distinguished collegiate teaching experience from, most recently, Tarleton State University and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

We are very excited to have Dr. Bellah joining us as a “value adding” member of the MSU Hutson School of Agriculture faculty/family and as a member of Team AG ED in Kentucky.

Dr. Bellah stepped into the position vacated when **Dr. Jay Morgan** was promoted to assistant provost for graduate education and research. Dr. Morgan recently traveled with a contingent of university personnel to China as an exploratory means for expanding relationships between China and Murray State University.

Mr. Brandon Wilson, lecturer in agricultural education is currently pursuing his doctoral degree from Auburn while maintaining a full-time lectureship, serving as Collegiate FFA advisor and directing the Racer Academy agricultural programs.

Racer Academy of Agriculture

Murray State University offers dual credit courses for students in high school. While this is not an unusual event, the Hutson School of Agriculture offers dual credit in four entry-level agricultural courses. For fall 2011, there are more than 200 students enrolled in the course, with an increase of more than 100 students from the fall 2010 semester!

This program is coordinated on campus through Murray State University faculty in the Hutson School of Agriculture and is facilitated off campus through the assistance of the local agricultural science teacher at each high school site. Additionally, **Curtis Dame**, graduate student in agriculture, was recently named the off-site coordinator to serve as a liaison between the Hutson School of Agriculture and the local high school agricultural education programs.

The entire Racer Academy of Agriculture is under the coordination of Mr. Brandon Wilson. As an innovative twist to this program, Wilson, Bellah, and equine faculty member, **Dr. Alyx Shultz** team-teach one of the courses at Calloway County High School.

Racer Roundup

Murray State University’s Collegiate FFA hosted its 17th annual Racer Roundup Leadership event on September 16, 2011 in the MSU CFSB Center. Special guests in attendance included Dr. Dwight Armstrong, CEO of the National FFA Organization, James Flatt, 2010-2011 National FFA Southern Region Vice President, and Warren Beeler of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The event hosted approximately 630 high school FFA members ranging from freshmen to seniors. This year’s event unveiled a new component in the program by targeting College and Career Readiness for seniors in a special “Senior Seminar.” Underclassmen attended four concurrent break out sessions focusing on leadership development led by Hutson School of Agriculture college students. The event proved to be a successful day of networking and personal growth for all FFA members involved.

The faculty, staff and students of Murray State

University’s Hutson School of Agriculture wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season!

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Dr. Karen Cannon Joins ALEC Faculty

On December 1, 2011 **Dr. Karen Cannon** joined the ALEC faculty as an assistant professor of Agricultural and Life Sciences Communication. Dr. Cannon received her Ph. D. in Agricultural Education and Communication from the University of Florida. In addition, she has several years of industry experience as a communications and public affairs specialist, working for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service in Washington D. C.

Dr. Cannon’s line of inquiry aligns with the AAEA Research Priority Public and Policy Maker Understanding of Agriculture and Natural Resources as she has focused her research on exploring public perceptions of online food safety information, public understanding of science and risk issues, and new media habits and interests of agricultural college students. Dr. Cannon received her M. S. and B. S. degrees from Colorado State University.

Welcome Dr. Karen Cannon!

ALEC Ph. D. Student Awarded \$20,000 Fellowship

Susan Burton, a Leadership Studies Ph. D. graduate student advised by Dr. Gina Matkin, was recently awarded a Ping Fellowship. This \$20,000 doctoral fellowship provides support for doctoral research focused on U.S. undergraduate study abroad. It is funded through an endowment named after Dr. Charles Ping, a teacher, scholar, advocate for the internationalization of U.S. higher education, and President Emeritus of Ohio University.

ACT Chapter Wins National Award

ALEC’s Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) Chapter received the National ACT Chapter of the Year Award for Membership. Club presidents during this period were **Amanda Bergstrom**, president until December 2010, and **Stephanie Smolek**, current president. The group was advised this past year by **Lisa Jasa** and **Dr. Jason Ellis**.

Dr. Susan Fritz Named NU Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs

On August 15 **Dr. Susan Fritz** was named associate vice president-academic affairs in the Office of the Provost at the University of Nebraska. Susan’s previous roles at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have included associate vice-chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), she served as interim dean of the Agricultural Research Division and directed IANR’s international agricultural programs. Prior to these positions Dr. Fritz served as the ALEC department head from 2000-05.

Congratulations Dr. Susan Fritz!

Two Tenure Track Faculty Position Openings in ALEC

ALEC is currently seeking qualified applicants to fill two tenure-track faculty openings. The first is an associate professor in the Agricultural and Life Sciences Communications program and the second is an assistant professor in Youth Leadership Development. Please check the ALEC website for more information <http://alec.unl.edu/> by clicking on “About Us” and “ALEC Job Listings”.



North Carolina State University

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Program Enrollments

Enrollments in both the undergraduate and graduate programs in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at NC State remain strong. The spring semester is our student teaching and extension internship semester, and the faculty are busy traveling around the state to visit these students. We have 24 student teachers this spring and 6 graduate students who are completing teaching internships that lead to initial teaching licensure. We also have 5 undergraduate students who are completing internships in Cooperative Extension. At the graduate level, we have 75 students enrolled in master's and doctoral degree programs. There are currently 195 undergraduates enrolled in our three degree programs.

Budget Reductions

North Carolina State University, like many universities, is attempting to deal with declining budgets at a time when demand for our programs is increasing. The university is looking at realignment of Colleges, and possible realignment of departments within Colleges could occur. At this time, we do not know if the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education will be affected. However, budget cuts in excess of 20% are being discussed by the state legislature. Should cuts of this magnitude occur, it would have major impacts on all academic programs, but the effects on Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension programs would be devastating. We remain optimistic that the final budget that is passed by the legislature will result in more funding than is presently being discussed.

New Extension Education Concentration Approved

We have received approval from the university to offer a new concentration in our undergraduate Extension Education degree program. The concentration is in Youth Leadership Development, with the primary audience being students who are preparing to become 4-H agents. However, other students interested in careers in youth programs would also benefit from this degree program.

Part-Time Instructor

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to add Ms. **Christy Thornton** to our faculty as a part time instructor in Agricultural Education this spring. Christy retired from her agricultural education teaching position in North Carolina last year after a distinguished career. She had served as a cooperating teacher for a number of years, and this spring she is assisting us in supervision of student teachers.

Graduates

This May, 18 students earned B.S. degrees in Agricultural Education, 3 students earned B.S. degrees in Extension Education, and 6 students graduated with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Science. A total of 12 more students are expected to complete their undergraduate degree programs this summer. We will also have 20 graduate students who will be completing their degree programs—14 with master's degrees in Agricultural Education, 4 with master's degrees in Extension Education, and 2 doctoral students in Agricultural and Extension Education. Of the 14 master's degree students, 5 were in the Master of Science degree programs. They were **Jessica Anderson, Elizabeth Gray, Lendy Johnson, Justine Kinney, and Lauren Mouton**. Our two doctoral level graduates were **Joy Staton** and **Cassie Uricchio**.

Graduate Assistantship Positions

We have a graduate teaching assistantship position and two graduate research assistantships available in Agricultural Education or Extension Education. The assistantships are for 9 months (August 15 – May 15) and includes a stipend, a waiver of tuition and a health insurance plan. We would welcome applicants at both the master's and doctoral degree levels. Contact Dr. Gary Moore for more information.

Faculty Recognitions and Activities

We were pleased to report that our faculty continue to receive awards and recognition for their accomplishments. The following faculty have received awards since the last newsletter was published:

USDA Excellence in Teaching Award,
Regional Winner – **Dr. Beth Wilson**

Outstanding Agricultural Educator, Southern
Region, AAAE – **Dr. Beth Wilson**

Distinguished Teaching Award, Southern
Region, AAAE – **Dr. Mark Kistler**

Academy of Outstanding Teachers, North
Carolina State University – **Dr. Mark Kistler**

At the Southern Region AAAE Meeting, the following
faculty and graduate students received awards:

2nd Place Research Poster -- New Competencies
to be Successful as an Extension Agent in the Present
Context. Authors: **Dona Lakai (graduate student), Dr.
Jay Jayaratne, Dr. Gary Moore, and Dr. Mark Kistler**

3rd Place Research Poster --Assessing the
Impact of an Academic Internship. Authors: **Dr.
Mark Kistler and Dr. Jackie Bruce.**

Congratulations to **Dr. Gary Moore**, who completed
his term as President of the Association for Career
and Technical Education. Gary continues his service
to that organization as Past President this year.

Dr. David Jones was selected to be an ACTE Fellow
for 2011. There are only 5 nationally. He will be engaged
in intensive leadership development activities that focus
on professional leadership and public policy advocacy.

International Travel

Dr. David Jones accompanied a group of NC State
students to Belize for a service learning spring break activity.
They built cocoa drying facilities for the local growers.

Dr. Gary Moore will be traveling to Malaysia this
spring. He will be serving as an External Examiner for
the Universiti Putri Malaysia at the end of April.

The Ohio State University

Ken Martin Named Interim Department Chair

Dr. Ken Martin has been named Interim
Chair for the department by Dean Bobby
Moser. His term began July 1, 2011 and
will continue until a permanent chair is in place. Ken
currently serves as Chair of the Department of Extension
and Associate Director, Programs for Ohio State University
Extension, and will continue in that position part-time.

Coming to Ohio State in 2005 as OSU Extension's
Assistant Director for Community Development, Ken was
responsible for program leadership and development, rural
development, and community and economic development.



Prior to joining OSU, Ken was on the faculty at West Virginia University, where he served as director of the Center for Community Economic and Workforce Development, associate dean in the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, and director of the Center for Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Community Development.

His areas of expertise are community resource development, economic development, rural development, public policy analysis, leadership, and rural health development.

On-line Master's Degree in Development

The department is developing an on-line Master's Degree in Agricultural and Extension Education (thesis and non-thesis) to be open for enrollment in Autumn, 2012. The academic focus will be grounded in foundational disciplines of planning, implementing, and evaluating educational and communication programs in the food, agricultural, and environmental sciences. Students will be admitted as part of a cohort. The two-year program will be delivered predominantly online with required annual intensive face-to-face meetings that will be held outside Columbus in conjunction with research conferences throughout the U.S. or abroad.

The project is being led by **Graham Cochran**, Associate Professor, and **Matt Baker**, an alumnus of the Department (Ph.D., 1990) on sabbatical from Texas Tech.

For more information about the on-line master's program, contact Bob Birkenholz, Graduate Studies Chair, at birkenholz.1@osu.edu.

Restructured Undergraduate Department Majors Approved for Semesters

As Ohio State continues to prepare for the transition to semesters in Summer, 2012, the department is pleased to announce that the restructuring and renaming of our undergraduate majors has been approved by the University. Effective next summer, we will be offering three bachelor's degrees: (1) Agricultural Communication, (2) Agriscience Education (teacher education), and (3) Community Leadership, which has two "tracks" – (a) Community and Extension Education and (b) Leadership.

Youth Development Minor Approved

Scott Scheer's efforts in leading a university-wide interdisciplinary team of faculty has led to the approval of an undergraduate interdisciplinary minor in Youth Development. The minor will prepare students for careers in schools and out-of-school organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, FFA, 4-H, and various youth sport organizations. It will also be valuable for students seeking careers in city governments, parks, recreation centers, and after-school programs, hospitals, or residential treatment centers. The minor offered through the Colleges of Arts and Sciences (Social and Behavioral Sciences and Humanities), Education and Human Ecology, Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, and Social Work.

Emily Wickham Selected as Student Services Coordinator

Emily Wickham joined the Department of Human and Community Resource Development on October 31 as Student Services Coordinator.

In her new position, Emily will help the Department grow through undergraduate recruitment by working with Ohio's agriculture teachers, 4-H and FFA students and county extension professionals. She will also coordinate activities that promote the Department and develop relationships with our alumni.

A 2007 graduate of the agricultural communication program, Emily joins the Department from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, where she was a member of the Public Affairs staff for three years. She also worked as a substitute teacher for Columbus Public and Scioto Valley Local school districts. Emily grew up in Pike County and was actively involved in 4-H.

Egyptian Agricultural Study Abroad Program Gearing Up for First Offering

The Department has established a study abroad experience to Egypt, thanks to the efforts of Jamie Cano, and the College and University Offices of International Affairs.

The FAES Egyptian Agricultural Program, scheduled for June 11-24, 2012, will provide undergraduate and graduate students with an opportunity to learn about Egyptian issues related to agriculture. Students will begin and end the program in Cairo, but will also travel to Luxor and Hurghada to explore life outside the capital city. Transportation around Egypt will take place by both bus and train in country.

The program will emphasize the concept of international development through the auspices of US-AID and MUCIA highlighting their partnership to improve the agricultural production, processing, and marketing of the Egyptian farmers by enhancing the educational and research capacities of agricultural and educational institutions in Egypt. In addition to the core content of the program, students will also visit cultural sites of importance such as the pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, the Valley of the Kings and the Red Sea. For more information on the program, contact Jamie Cano at cano.1@osu.edu.

Faculty Award and Recognition

Dr. Jamie Cano was elected to the Journal of Agricultural Education Review Board.

Dr. Emily Rhoades was chosen as the 2011 recipient of the Association for Communication Excellence (ACE) Academic Programs SIG Award of Excellence.

At the North Central AAEA Research Conference held in September (see photo, l to r):

Dr. Susie Whittington received the Distinguished Research Award.

Emily Rhoades received the Early Career Agricultural Educator Award.

Dr. Bob Birkenholz received the Outstanding Agricultural Educator Award.

Doctoral Degrees Conferred

Dr. Anne Baird – received her Ph.D. in Agricultural and Extension Education in June, 2011 and will continue in her role as Extension Educator with the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State.

Dr. Jeremy Falk, received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Extension Education in June, 2011 and has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at the University of Idaho.

Grants

Emily Rhoades and **Robert Agunga** are Co-PI's on a \$1.5 million USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative grant, "Developing the Genomic Infrastructure for Breeding Improved Black Raspberries". The overall goal of this proposal is to develop and make available genomic tools for the improvement of black and red raspberries and begin the application of these tools in using wild black raspberry germplasm for crop improvement.

Bob Birkenholz received a \$49,984 USDA Secondary and Two-year Post Secondary Agricultural Education Challenge grant. The grant focuses on Food Safety and Security Instruction in Secondary Agricultural Education. The project will increase the food safety and security awareness and knowledge of Ohio secondary agriculture teachers and increase their capacity to teach secondary agricultural education students important food safety concepts and skills.

Scott Scheer has received a 2011 Northeast Sun Grant Initiative grant for \$29,982 through Cornell University, funded by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, USDA, and U.S. Dept. of Energy. Title of the grant is "Development and Dissemination of a Bioenergy Educational Curriculum for Children", and it will develop a bioenergy educational curriculum for children (K-2) to inform and educate future consumers and supporters of bio-based energy and its products. The leader-directed curriculum would be disseminated and evaluated initially through the Ohio 4-H Extension system via a print and web-based platform ultimately leading to its utilization with the Northeast Sun Grant regional states.

Oklahoma State University Major Gift

The Agricultural Education program at Oklahoma State University received a very generous gift this summer!

Mr. Ben Grant of Pasco, WA, gave \$630,000 to establish the William E. Brown Student Teacher Assistance Program. Given in honor of Mr. Grant's vocational agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor, the program provides funding for a scholarship to be provided to every OSU Ag Ed student teacher to assist with the added expenses incurred during their internship. Though Mr. Grant, a 92-year-old retired farmer and custom harvester, did not major in Ag Ed, he felt compelled to give the gift because of the positive influence school-based agriculture teachers have on young people. In addition to the initial gift, Mr. Grant also pledged \$200,000 for a 1:1 match to bring the endowment for the scholarship program to \$1 million.



Faculty

This summer, the department welcomed **Dr. Traci Naile** to the Agricultural Communications faculty. Dr. Naile, a native of Indiana, comes to us after two years on faculty at Texas A&M University. She is teaching and advising undergraduate and graduate students focusing on AGCM. She is also involved in a number of research projects in collaboration with faculty at OSU and other institutions.

Dr. Penny Pennington Weeks was awarded the Distinguished Leadership and Service Award at the 2011 conference of the Association of Leadership Educators held in Denver this past July.

Beginning this summer, the role of some of our faculty members changed. **Dr. Craig Edwards** is now the Graduate Programs Coordinator and **Dr. Jon Ramsey** has assumed the role as Leader of the Agricultural Education Unit in the department. **Dr. Shane Robinson's** extension appointment has been adjusted to allow him to focus on professional development of agricultural educators in our state.

Students

Amy Lynn Truitt was crowned the 2011 Homecoming Queen. Amy, an Agricultural Education senior from Wetumka, OK, and will student teach this spring. **Corbin Dewitt**, an Agricultural Leadership major from Hominy, OK, and **William Carson Horn**, an Agricultural Communications major from Yukon, OK, were also in the Homecoming Court.

Alumni

Three alumni of the Department have been recognized with impressive honors this fall.

The OSU Alumni Association named its five 2011 Distinguished Alumni for the University. Two of those honored are Agricultural Education graduates. **Mr. Don Ramsey**, who taught vocational agriculture in three communities before founding Blue & Gold Sausage Company. Blue & Gold is nationally recognized for providing outstanding meat products used for as a fundraiser program for hundreds of FFA chapters and other student organizations. Mr. Ramsey and his family have been very generous to causes they support, providing major donations to the Agricultural Education program at OSU, the Oklahoma FFA Foundation and the National FFA Foundation. Mr. Ramsey earned his BS degree in Ag Ed in 1950 when OSU was known as Oklahoma A&M College.

Mr. Kent Boggs taught agriculture at two Oklahoma high schools before joining Oklahoma FFA Association as the State FFA Executive Secretary. Mr. Boggs is responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing the leadership component of the Oklahoma FFA that includes state officers, membership development, marketing and public relations, conventions, contests and awards. He has had a positive influence on countless young people and agriculture teachers. Boggs was awarded the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Agriculture Award by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau in 2009 and the Arch Alexander Award for Outstanding Contributions to Career Tech Education in 2010. In 2009, OSU Ag Ed Scholarship, Inc. established the Kent Boggs Endowed Trust in his honor. He graduated from OSU in 1978 with BS degree in Ag Ed.

Mr. Scott Dewald, was named one of three 2011 Distinguished Alumni for the OSU Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Dewald, is the executive vice-president of both the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation, as well as publisher of the Oklahoma Cowman magazine and senior adviser of the Oklahoma Junior Cattlemen's Association. He earned the BS of Agricultural Communications degree from OSU in 1985 and is believed to be the first AGCM graduate to earn this award.

Details about these awards and honorees can be found at http://aged.okstate.edu/alumni_spotlight/spotlight_distinguished2011.html

Food Security Fellows Project

In July, two teams of faculty, students, and others traveled to Africa as a part of our Department of State supported Food Security Fellows project. The project, led by co-PI's **Dr. Dwayne Cartmell**, **Dr. Craig Edwards**, and **Dr. Shelly Sitton**, is designed to work with agricultural educator and agricultural communicators to develop their role in developing and maintaining safe and secure food supplies. One group traveled to Uganda while the other team focused on Kenya. During the fall, 14 Fellows (7 Kenyans and 7 Ugandans) came to Oklahoma for a month for educational programs and individual internships.

**Penn State University
New Name for Penn State
AEE Department**



Based on an extensive restructuring process in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State, a new department was created by the merger of the current Agricultural and Extension Education (AEE) and Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (AERS) units. Effective July 1, 2012, the new name of the merged department will be Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology and Education (AESE).

Congratulations to John Ewing, Rama Radhakrishna and Daniel Foster

John Ewing is a recipient of the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences 2011 Community of Teaching Excellence (CTE) Award. **Rama Radhakrishna** as a three-time recipient of the CTE Award becomes a lifetime member of the Academy of Teaching Excellence in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State. **Daniel Foster** is a recipient of 2011 NACTA Teaching Award of Merit. John, Rama, and Daniel will be recognized during the college's "Annual Celebration of Excellence & Achievement" reception/event scheduled later this spring.

Ag Ed Student Receives World Food Prize Grant

Allison Hoover received the National FFA Organizations' World Food Prize Grant to attend the 2011 World Food Prize. Hoover, a former Pennsylvania FFA state officer says, "The next generation of leaders will need to be informed about agriculture. We will best prepare them by educating and intriguing them to be engaged with global agricultural issues and solutions. This challenge is one that I plan to pursue as a career."

**South Dakota State University
Undergraduate Program**

Things are in full swing for Agricultural Education on the SDSU campus. This fall, initial reports indicated that we have a total of 49 returning students and 24 freshmen pursuing the teaching specialization offered through Agricultural Education, Communication, and Leadership major. Currently, there are 6 student teachers completing their student teaching internship, at programs in South Dakota and Minnesota. Approximately 14 students are on track to student teach in Fall 2012. A total of 13 students are completing Professional Semester I which consists of Educational Psychology, Philosophy of CTE and Practicum in CTE (a 20-hour early field experience). A back-to-school social/student teacher send-off was held on September 14th at the Ag Heritage Museum for Agricultural Education students and program supporters. Approximately 55 students and a number of guests (faculty, administrators, and state FFA officers) attended the event. Those in attendance explored the museum, mingled with others in Agricultural Education, and enjoyed refreshments. The program plans to host one event of this nature each semester to allow for student interaction and personal/professional development. Collegiate FFA/Ag Ed Club is also off to a fantastic start, with over 100 dues-paying members. They have many leadership and community-oriented activities planned for the year, including the annual Jackrabbit Invite CDE Invitational, which brings approximately 400 South Dakota FFA members to Brookings.



A number of program revisions have been submitted for the education specialization, in order to meet new BOR requirements, which reduce the number of credit hours for all degrees completed in South Dakota from 128 to 120), and bring degree requirements more in line with other regional Agricultural Education programs. Specifically, two new Ag Systems Technology courses have been developed for Ag Education students, an additional course focused on managing the FFA and SAE programs has been created, and collaborative efforts with Family and Consumer Sciences Education faculty have been initiated.

Faculty & Staff

Dr. Lonell Moeller, long-time Agricultural Education faculty member at SDSU, retired in May after 38 years in Agricultural Education...30 of which included employment at South Dakota State University. While Dr. Moeller continues to be involved in South Dakota and National FFA activities, he is also enjoying the flexibility of retirement and spending more time with family. As a result of his retirement, **Dr. Amy Smith** has taken on the role of Program Leader in Agricultural Education, a position she is excited to fulfill. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, there are no immediate plans to hire a replacement for Dr. Moeller at this time. In the meantime, we will continue to move the Ag Ed program forward by utilizing **Mrs. Ellen Thompson** as an adjunct instructor. Mrs. Thompson brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the program. We are fortunate to have such a fantastic resource available to us at SDSU!

**Texas A&M University
New Location**



The Department moved into the new TAMU Agriculture and Life Sciences Building in June of 2011. Located on the west campus (John Kimbrough Boulevard east of Reed Arena) it is a five story building which encloses 168,000 square feet and houses three academic departments that moved from the main campus: our Department, along with Agricultural Economics and Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences. The top floor houses the administrative offices of the Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Directors of two state agencies (Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension Service). A 13,000 square foot AgriLife Center was opened beside the new building and showcases the broad impact of agriculture on people's lives, and offers an educational inspirational look at a variety of agriculture and life sciences opportunities for youth today. The two buildings were formally dedicated in October with a grand opening celebration. The College Centennial has been celebrated during the year. A very successful Centennial Tailgate was held on the grounds of the new building on October 29th before the Missouri football game. **Shirley B. and Daniel C. Pfannstiel '49 Chair for International Agriculture Development and Extension Education**

A luncheon was held in October celebrating the new Shirley B. and Daniel C. Pfannstiel '49 Chair for International Agriculture Development and Extension Education. This chair was made possible due to the very generous donation of Shirley and Dan Pfannstiel.

New Hires

Effective August 1, 2011, **Dr. Summer Odom** joined

the ALEC faculty as Assistant Professor – Agricultural Leadership. Summer has served the Department since 2000 as Assistant Lecturer and recently received her PhD in Education and Human Resource Development.

Dr. Landry Lockett was hired September 1, 2011 as Senior Lecturer. Landry previously worked with AgriLife Extension as an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist.

Dr. Kim Dooley was hired as Associate Dean for Academic Operations for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Dr. Dooley will retain a partial teaching appointment in the Department. As Associate Dean, she will oversee undergraduate academic programs for the College and serve on the University's Academic Operations Committee. A new and growing area of responsibility for this position will be providing leadership for college strategic priority areas, including distance education and international academic programs. She will also be responsible for our College's efforts in academic assessment and for helping develop a positive and productive assessment culture.

Dr. Tracy Rutherford was appointed Associate Department Head for Undergraduate Programs for the ALEC department.

Fulbright Scholar

Texas A&M University and Prairie View A&M University jointly welcomed **Sean Kennedy Kalundu**, a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, on August 12, 2011 from Namibia, Africa. He joined the faculty of the two institutions and is currently working with Theresa Murphrey and Wash Jones in the delivery of a course entitled "International Agricultural Development in Africa," delivered at both TAMU and PVAMU. In addition to teaching, Mr. Kalundu has been involved in research at both Texas A&M University and Prairie View A&M University and has also attended tours and events held in Texas and across the United States. Highlight activities have included the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana; field trips and tours in New Mexico, hosted by Brenda Seevers; and serving as a guest speaker at World Food Day at Prairie View A&M University.

Study Abroad Opportunities

ALEC will offer seven study abroad opportunities in 2012: Costa Rica, Trinidad-Tobago, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Greece, and Namibia

Faculty Members named Senior Scientists

Four members of the ALEC faculty were recently recognized for their partnerships with the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture. **Dr. Gary Briers, Dr. Jack Elliot, Dr. Glen Shinn** and **Dr. Gary Wingenbach** were named Senior Scientist in recognition for their dedication to making international agriculture an important part of their teaching, research and extension activities. The recognition acknowledges work accomplished, as well as future opportunities, with the Borlaug Institute. "It is an honor to be recognized as a Senior Scientist by the Borlaug Institute" said Dr. Gary Briers, "we live in a world where it is increasingly important to collaborate globally to improve food security and agricultural livelihoods." International experience is an important component of the mission of the ALEC department. Faculty, students and staff work in over a dozen countries on a variety of projects from building the teaching and research capacities at partner universities in Namibia and Peru to community needs assessments and extension development in Africa, the Middle East and South America.

New Position

Position Description — Assistant Professor, 10-month, tenure-track position with responsibilities in teaching, research, and service in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications at Texas A&M University. Duties include teaching agricultural communications and journalism courses in an established program, conducting research in agricultural communications and related areas, and managing outreach and service learning projects.

Western Illinois University

The School of Agriculture has welcomed four new faculty members to the academic ranks at Western Illinois University in the fall 2011 semester. One of those faculty members, **Dr. Bart Gill**, a recent graduate from Texas A&M has accepted the position in Agricultural Technology Management. His strong background in teacher preparation and agricultural technology management will be a welcomed asset to the program. He has been actively participating in College of Education activities, recruitment events, and sits on the Board of Directors for the Illinois FFA Association. In two short months, he has made connections to find a way to ride the trails of west-central Illinois. Yes, he is back in the saddle again! Welcome to the rank and file of academia Bart!



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