



# 2010

## Spring Newsletter

## Let's get down to business...

### Greetings to all AAAE members,

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone in good health and cheer, and looking forward to the upcoming semester.

The most fulfilling and enjoyable activity I've experienced, in the first half of the association year, has been the interaction with people within the profession. Without exception, so many people have been positive and supportive of getting our work done.

The summer and fall months have been full of activity and business on behalf of the AAAE. The business has included the approval of two new AAAE awards for distinguished teaching and research at the national level, representing AAAE at meetings of other TEAM AgEd organizations, filling consultant vacancies, discussing the process of the national supply and demand study, and learning about the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) process for tracking online information.

I have taken time to provide more detail regarding several aspects of AAAE business of which I would like everyone to be aware.

Lloyd Bell, President

### NASAE / AAAE Research Dialogue

Activity commenced shortly after our National meeting with planning for sharing of school based agricultural education research summaries from AAAE members with the membership of National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) at their annual October meeting in Indianapolis. A call to the AAAE membership resulted in 12 submissions that were reviewed for acceptable research protocol, and then forwarded to a team of NASAE representatives for final selection. The submissions selected and presented were **Mark Baldschweid**, addressing the integration of academics; **Brad Greiman**, addressing teacher induction; **Levon Esters**, addressing middle school curriculum/enrollment; and **Roger Hanagriff**, addressing economic impact of SAE.

The presentation sessions were well attended (15-18/session), and an excellent dialogue occurred between presenter and audience as well as between audience members. According to conference evaluations, the presentations were well received, and the intent of NASAE leadership is to continue these sessions. I have asked regional AAAE vice presidents to identify "school based agricultural education" research presented at regional

conferences as well as such presentations at our national conference in Omaha in order to provide reviewed sources for future selection by the NASAE. This activity has served as an excellent way to disseminate our scholarly work to external groups interested in the applied use of our research. It also serves to reinforce the importance, relevance, and contribution to a national research agenda.

### National Research Agenda (NRA 2.0)

The original research agenda was designed for a time period of 2007 until 2010. Realizing the need for a new agenda beginning in 2011, I have asked **David Doerfert**, in his capacity as chairman of the AAAE research committee, to lead the planning and development of the next agenda. David has accepted that request, and has begun by soliciting a planning committee of representatives from the professional organizations represented in the original agenda. The membership of that planning committee includes: **Lloyd Bell**, President of AAAE; **Ed Osborne**, project coordinator for NRA 1.0; **Anna Ball**, contextual leader for agricultural education in university & post secondary settings; **Harry Boone**, contextual leader for agricultural education in schools; **Todd Brashears**, contextual leader for agricultural lead-

ership; **Jack Elliot**, contextual leader for agricultural education in domestic and international settings: extension & outreach; and **Tracy Irani**, contextual leader for agricultural communications.

To date, the committee has met via phone conference to: review the results of NRA 1.0, discuss the parameters and desired outcome of NRA 2.0, establish a timeline for completion, and discuss a process for dissemination. The first face-to-face meeting of the committee, in order to minimize expense, will be during February 9th during SAAS meetings in Orlando, Florida.

You can greatly assist the work of the planning committee during their February meeting, if you will complete a Delphi Survey you will be receiving around the first of the year from David Doerfert. The survey will ask you to respond to the question,

“What are the primary/major/fundamental problems and issues in the broad agricultural education discipline (including education, communication, leadership, and extension) that should be addressed through research in the next five years?”

Thank you in advance for your assistance to the work of this committee!

### **CAST Membership**

The economic pressures of the times have caused many organizations to reassess how they continue to fund their operation. **Jim Flowers**, AAAE representative to CAST, reported to the Board in September that a significant increase in membership dues was being proposed by the CAST executive board. The proposal would increase AAAE dues from \$679 to \$1500. Given this increase, plus the travel support for annual meeting attendance and individual membership dues requirement of our AAAE representative, our expenditure for board membership would rise to over \$2500. Since this was a significant departure from the proposal approved in Louisville, the AAAE Board was asked if our CAST Board membership should be retained. It was the consensus of all board members that we should not. There is an opportunity for Associate Society membership (\$750) which does not include CAST Board membership, but does provide the right to submit proposals on agricultural issues that CAST could address through commissioning scientific papers. This may be an item for discussion at our annual business meeting in Omaha.

### **University of Arkansas Awards & Recognitions**

**Casandra Cox** was one of six faculty members to be inducted into the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy for the 2009-2010 academic year.

**Don Johnson** received the Honorary American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention in October, 2009.

Don Johnson received the UA Teaching Academy's Imhoff Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring at the Teaching Academy Banquet in November, 2009.

**Leslie and Don Edgar** won outstanding poster at the 2009 AIAEE conference, hosted in Puerto Rico, for their poster titled “Creating International Agricultural Experiences in the Virtual World: An Exploration of Second Life®.”

### **Grants in AEED**

Don Edgar, Don Johnson, **George Wardlow** and graduate students **Clayton Sallee** and **Jason Davis** continued their work on the Arkansas Biodiesel Research, Demonstration and Education Project. The project, funded by the Arkansas Soybean

Promotion Board, is in its third year.

**Jeff Miller** and Leslie Edgar are co-PIs along with Project Director Stacey McCullough of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Public Policy Center on a \$25,000 National e-Commerce Extension Initiative grant project titled “Using Social Networking and Web 2.0 Tools to Enhance Small Businesses.”

Leslie Edgar was one of three university collaborators that secured a 2009-2012 USDA Higher Education Challenge grant that focuses on the use of Second Life, an online 3-D virtual world, as an instructional enhancement learning tool for agricultural crisis communications.

### **Curriculum Update**

The Department has recently received grants to offer the following courses as distance courses:

AGME 2903 AGHE Applications in Microcomputers  
- Casandra Cox

AGED 4443 Principles of Technological Change - Leslie Edgar

AGED 5033 Developing Leadership in Agri Orgs - Leslie Edgar

AGED 5053 Philosophy in Agri Education - Don Edgar

AGED 5483 Technical Communication in Social Sciences - Leslie Edgar

AGED 5463 Research Methods in Social Sciences - Leslie Edgar

AGED 5473 Interpretation of Social Data - Don Edgar

### **University of Arizona**

U of A students had fun in Debate, Quiz Bowl, and Program of Excellence at the National FFA



Convention. Seven teams participated in Debate, 15 teams in Quiz Bowl, and 12 programs in Program of Excellence. The Program of Excellence involved paper and presentation. The U of A students came in first in the Fundraising portion of Program of Excellence.

### **Dr. Billye Foster**

We bid a sad farewell to Dr. Billye Foster as she leaves for Tennessee Tech at the end of the Fall semester. She will be the new Director at the School of Agriculture. The Department is very grateful for Dr. Foster's dedication, service, and hard work throughout the years, and we wish her the best of luck.

### **Retirements**

**Dr. Glen Miller** and **Dr. Dave Cox** retired at the end of June, 2009. Dr. Cox was the interim department head after **Dr. Jack Elliot** left for Texas A&M last December. Dr. Cox is still with the University part-time as The Bart Cardon Associate Dean at Academic Programs, and Dr. Miller continues with his research. **Dr. Jim Knight** served as the Interim Head of the Department.

The Department is pleased to announce that **Dr. Robert Torres** will be the new department head starting at the end of Spring 2010. He is currently Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Agricultural Education, University of Missouri-Columbia. He has received numerous awards for his teaching and research activities, including the prestigious USDA Excellence in Teaching Award and, most recently, the William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, the most prestigious teaching award at the University of Missouri. He is widely regarded as one of the premier scholars in Agricultural

Education in America.

### California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

**Dr. Bill Kellogg** has filled the leadership role as head of the department. He is doing a beautiful job of meeting the associated expectations and challenges.



**Dr. Wendy Warner** accepted a faculty position in the Agricultural and Extension Education Department at North Carolina State University. She will begin her new appointment January 1, 2010. We are currently seeking candidates for the vacant full-time, tenure track position to begin Fall 2010. To fill the void, **Mr. Larry Shuklian** has rejoined the ranks of the department. He will teach several courses, supervise student teachers and guide students in completing their senior projects.

In these tough economic times the department was fortunate to retain its two teacher education lecturers, **Mr. Jerry Clark** and **Mr. Robert Cummings**. These gentlemen maintain important responsibilities within the department. Each teaches courses, supervises student teachers and advises the CFFA chapter and college ambassadors respectively. Mr. Clark has also become the Student Teacher Coordinator and Mr. Cummings organizes professional development opportunities for secondary educators in the state.

**Ms. Katy Teixeira** joined the Agricultural Education and Communication Department as a graduate assistant for the winter and spring quarters. Katy is from Nipomo, California and earned her BS in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly, SLO. She completed her student teaching at Hughson High School and is currently enrolled in the MS program while assisting the department.

**Dr. Ann De Lay** and her husband Jason Eatmon welcomed their first child. Reagan Marie was born August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The department has been working with the College of Education to align its curriculum with new state credentialing requirements. Candidates must now pass the Performance Assessment for California Teachers (PACT) prior to completing their student teaching experience. The faculty built preparatory activities into existing coursework to ensure students are primed for success. They have also offered a workshop to cooperating teachers to help them learn how to support their student teacher through the PACT. To date, these efforts have yielded positive results.

The department continues to support teacher professional development throughout the state. The faculty and staff hosted the 90<sup>th</sup> annual California Agricultural Teachers' Association summer conference in June. They also demonstrated a commitment to early career teachers by facilitating the Student Teacher Conclave and the New Professionals' Conference for teachers in their first through third years of teaching.

The department faculty have supervised 21 student teachers this academic year in departments around the state including: Ann Sobrato, Bakersfield Foothill, Carpinteria, Dinuba, Hilmar, Hughson, Le Grand, Lemoore, Los Banos, Mariposa, Orestimba/Newman, John H. Pitman/Turlock, North Salinas, Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Shandon, and Templeton.

The number of undergraduates in the program is currently at 198 students representing teacher education and agricultural communication emphases. Enrollment of active graduate

students on campus is 26. Applications to the program have been increasing steadily from 112 for Fall 2009 to 187 for Fall 2010.

Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) staff is pleased to announce that seven post-secondary institutions have accepted the challenge to become the first CASE affiliate institutions. The post-secondary institutions currently collaborating with CASE on this project are:

- Barton Community College – Ms. Kala Steffen
- McNeese State University – Dr. Chip LeMieux
- Oregon State University – Dr. Greg Thompson
- Purdue University – Dr. Allen Talbert
- Rutgers University – Dr. Mark Robson
- South Central College – Mr. Brad Schloesser
- Texas Tech University – Dr. Jonathan Ulmer

It is exciting to have these excellent institutions on board as innovators of the CASE project. Affiliate institutions are potential host sites for CASE professional development sessions during the summer of 2010 and are providing leadership to establish CASE efforts in their state and region. CASE will continue to look for new affiliates to join our efforts to promote increased rigor and relevance in agricultural education and develop program of study pathways to ensure seamless transitions for students from secondary to post-secondary education.

For additional information related to the CASE project and CASE professional development opportunities, please view the CASE website at [www.case4learning.org](http://www.case4learning.org) or contact Dr. Dan Jansen at [dan.jansen@case4learning.org](mailto:dan.jansen@case4learning.org).

### Cornell University



Cornell University

#### Lifetime Achievement –

**Bill Camp**, retired professor of agricultural education at Cornell University, was recognized by the National Association of Agricultural Educators for lifetime achievement and contribution to agricultural education and career and technical education. Bill has served as a teacher, administrator, professor, and state leader in agricultural education in Georgia, Indiana, Virginia, and New York, over his illustrious career.

**Continuation of Literacy Research in Career and Technical Education – Travis Park** and his research team were granted continuation of their current multiple year literacy research project. The team is conducting experimental research with literacy interventions across career and technical education subjects with over 100 teachers in New York and South Carolina.

**USDA Grant to Establish Beginning Farmers and Rejuvenate SAE in New York – Travis Park and Eric Larsen** are working to enhance and rejuvenate SAE in New York and the Northeast through collaboration with the New York Beginning Farmer Program, the Greenhorns, Heifer International, and the Northeast Organic Farmers Association. The project is a multi-unit collaborative research project for three-years and is sponsored by USDA. The project is evidence of the collaborative nature of the faculty at Cornell and the state leadership for agricultural education in New York State.

**LEAD-NY Director Honored – Larry van de Valk**, director of the Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute (LEAD New York) was recently honored by the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership

(IAPAL) with their “Outstanding Leadership Program Director” award. The award was presented at IAPAL’s annual meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming on October 16, 2009.

**Dean Susan Henry Supports FFA and 4H Members –** **Dean Susan Henry** and her husband **Peter** announced their \$100,000 gift to CALS for scholarships in support of FFA members, 4H members, and students from farm backgrounds. Dean Henry received the Honorary American FFA Degree in 2008 and is a supportive partner of agricultural education in New York State.

**CALS Reorganization Moves Forward –** As the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences reimagines itself, the Department of Education has been directed to focus solely upon the preparation of agriculture and science teachers. Currently, the Cornell Teacher Education program is the only program in the Nation that focuses solely upon the preparation of teachers in both the basic and applied sciences. As such, our enrollment continues to grow with more than 60 students preparing to teach agricultural and life sciences.

### **Iowa State University New Chair for AGEDS Department**

**IOWA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

After 12 years **Robert Martin**

decided to not seek another term as Chair of the Department. He has assumed a heavy teaching and advising role and is conducting an active research program. **W. Wade Miller** was selected as the Interim Chair of the Department for a period of one to two years. His term began on July 1, 2009.

**Levon Esters** resigned his position at Iowa State to accept a new position at Purdue University. We will miss him, but we appreciate the outstanding professional opportunity that he was offered at Purdue. We hope to be able to fill this vacant position in the next few months. This position will be in Teacher Education and concentrate on the sciences.

**Tom Paulsen** has assumed the Teacher Education Coordinator role for the Department. He is the Instructor for AgEds 450 and AgEds310, He serves as the Farm Op Club advisor and the Ag Ed Club advisor. He received his BS in Agricultural Education from Northwest Missouri State in 1987 and a Master’s Degree in Ag Education in 2001 from Iowa State. He was licensed in education administration in 2004 and is currently working on his PhD in Agricultural Education.

**Greg Vogel** organized a Community Betterment Day on September 19. Several clubs and organizations participated to clean up the roadsides and fence lines for area homes and farms located near the Department’s Ag 450 Farm in Story County. Greg coordinates and provides direction in the decision-making process for all livestock and crop production operations conducted by the AG450 Farm.

**Michael Pate** finished his Ph.D. program and graduated in August. He accepted an assistant professor position at Utah State University. Dr. Pate helped to organize the Department’s new agricultural mechanics teaching facility and he developed and taught the new course in Methods of Teaching Agricultural Mechanics. We wish him well in his new position. We are looking for someone to teach agricultural mechanics and work on a Ph.D. program in agricultural education.

**Science With Practice** (SWP) is an experiential learning program sponsored by the ISU Agricultural Endowment Board (AEB) and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

(CALS) and is led by the Agricultural Education and Studies Department. SWP provides opportunities for students in agriculture to learn and work with faculty and staff in university research laboratories, farms, greenhouses, and other units through a planned education and work experience program. The program was conceptualized, in part, to help students defray some college expenses and provide students the opportunity to earn academic credit while learning and working within a research program. Since its inception in 2005, more than 200 students have participated in SWP. These students have worked a total of 20,345 hours and have earned \$186,634 nearly half of which (\$87,025) has been contributed by the ISU Agricultural Endowment Board. **Michael Retallick**, Assistant Professor in Ag Ed, coordinates this college-wide program.

**Experience Australia: An authentic learning experience.** During the summer of 2009, twenty students participated in a 28 day study abroad course which took them to Sydney, Broken Hill (where an ISU Ag Ed major had previously student taught), Mildura, Shepparton, Melbourne, and Wagga Wagga. In addition to visiting the various tourist attractions, students participated in programs at University of Western Sydney at Hawkesbury, Broken Hill High School, University of Melbourne – Dookie Campus, and Charles Sturt University. The purpose of this program was to enhance students’ global perspective of world agriculture by developing a comprehensive view of agricultural food, fiber, economic, and educational systems in the Victoria and New South Wales regions of Australia. The program was directed by **Michael Retallick**, Assistant Professor in Ag Ed, with assistance from **Helen Olson**, Academic Advisor in AgEdS, and **Melissa Nasers**, AgEdS Graduate Student.

### **University of Missouri**

Once again, enrollment is up at Mizzou! Undergraduate enrollment is at a record high for the university as well as for the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Enrollment in Agricultural Education courses has also surged. AGED 2220 – *Verbal Communication in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources* serves 240 students a year. The popularity of our leadership oriented service classes has also increased. Both AGED 2250 – *Personal Leadership Development* and AGED 2260 – *Team and Organizational Leadership* are now offered during the fall and spring semesters and demand outpaces openings.

The **CAFNR Study Abroad program** ([cafnr.missouri.edu/study-abroad](http://cafnr.missouri.edu/study-abroad)) provides Mizzou students a great opportunity to expand their horizons. Our students earn credit while gaining unique cultural experiences the world over. This year, Agricultural Education students have participated in programs in Australia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ireland, New Zealand, and Thailand. **Rob Terry** served as the faculty advisor for the Czech Republic program that focused on post-communist agricultural development in central Europe.

In September, the department participated in the annual conference of the **North Central Region of the American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE)**. This year, the meeting was held on the campus of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Mizzou faculty and graduate students earned several awards including the top research poster and top innovative idea poster.



Nerd Alert! **Bobby Torres** was recognized as a “Nerd of Mizzou.” This distinction resulted from a nomination by graduate students and included a feature write up on the Mizzou website about his contributions to the university and Agricultural Education as a whole. You can read the feature about Torres [:mizzouwire.missouri.edu/stories/2009/nerds-of-mizzou-november/index.php?utm\\_source=agEdHomepage&utm\\_medium=agEdHomepage&utm\\_campaign=agEd](http://mizzouwire.missouri.edu/stories/2009/nerds-of-mizzou-november/index.php?utm_source=agEdHomepage&utm_medium=agEdHomepage&utm_campaign=agEd). Torres will be leaving Mizzou at the end of the current academic year to become Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Education at the University of Arizona. He has been a valued colleague a great asset to our program. The search for a replacement will be conducted this spring.

The **Agricultural Education Society** won the club competition during CAFNR Week last fall. Members of the club earned the award from their success in competitions such as mud volleyball and tricycle races as well as from having a high percentage of its membership attend events like Ag Safety Day, Speaker Night, and Barn Warming. This recognition is another indicator of the high quality of our students. They are hard working, talented and enthusiastic leaders in our college.

The second annual **Agricultural Education Society FFA Leadership CDE Practice Contest** will be held on Wednesday, March 3 on the MU campus. This event provides Missouri FFA members an opportunity to hone their skills as they prepare for competitive district and state competitions later this spring.

**Adult Education**– Norman Rohrbach, Adult and FBMA Specialist

Because of the serious state budget situation this year, our adult education programs lost part of the grant funding that has greatly benefited our programs since 2007. However, we are still reaping benefits from the \$200,000 in additional funds we continue to receive. 2009 saw a 16% increase in the number of farms in the state FBMA record summary. An exciting new outcome of the program has been introduced and is especially well received by program cooperators. “Producer Notebooks” are designed and prepared for each FBMA producer submitting records for the state summary. The notebook includes benchmarking and comparative data for each farm, making the summary and analysis information more useful and user-friendly for each cooperator.

There has been an increase in the number of local agriculture education programs including an adult education component. Adult education classes of all kinds are being well received in local communities and certainly strengthen the bond between the program and the community. Use your adult ed. resource at [adultaged.missouri.edu](http://adultaged.missouri.edu) and get involved!

Upcoming events in the Missouri adult agriculture program are open all agriculture instructors and include: 1) new location for the 2010 State MYF Convention – Lodge of the Four Seasons in February 2) the 1<sup>st</sup> MYF speaking contest for FFA members will be held in conjunction with the state convention. 3) Missouri YF State Tour to be hosted by Bolivar YF in August 4) Missouri is planning to host the National Young Farmer Institute in Kansas City in December, 2011

**Service & Outreach**– Ron Schiederer, State Professional Development Specialist

Missouri Professional Development education started in September of 2009 with 16 Area Workshops being conducted on the topic of “Linking Career Development Events to Authentic Assessment (TSA) and the Classroom”. Missouri teachers were

provided information related to the process to be implemented for Technical Skills Assessment of high school students to meet the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act requirements.

The Protégé/Mentor program includes 62 first and second year Missouri Agriculture Teachers and their Mentors engaging in teacher development through interactive workshops held on the District and State level. The continuing education course focuses on pedagogical knowledge, skills, and attitudes and managerial skills needed for the professional development of beginning teachers.

Two winter Technical Institutes on “Teaching Meats Identification and Judging” will be conducted in December. Summer Technical Institutes being planned are Agronomy, Forestry, Fish & Wildlife, Nutrition, Ag Structures, Ag Construction, Record Books, Parliamentary Procedure, the Young Farmer Tour and a Seminar on Wheels of Agricultural Education Programs.

**Graduate Programs**– Bobby Torres, Director of Graduate Studies

**Will Bird**, from Tennessee and **Erica Thiemann**, from Missouri, joined the department as doctoral candidates this fall. After successful careers as high school agriculture teachers, they are contributing to the teaching, research and service functions of the department as they pursue their doctoral degrees.

**Misty Lambert**, **Ryan Saucier**, **Lucas Maxwell** and **Stacy Vincent** will complete their doctoral degree program with us this spring. These individuals have made important contributions to our department and have served the Missouri Agricultural Education family in many ways through their teaching, research, and outreach.

We continue to be involved in an online course-sharing consortium with our colleagues at Iowa State, Texas Tech, Kansas State and Nebraska. This arrangement has increased the frequency and variety of course offerings available to our masters degree candidates, many of whom are working off campus.

**Undergraduate Program**– Anna Ball, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Twenty-five new Ag Ed students joined the department this fall! Much of this enrollment surge is due to your efforts to recruit students into our program. We greatly appreciate you passing along to us the names of your star students and for being the kind of professional agricultural educator that young people want to emulate.

Scholarships are available for FFA members entering the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources in fall of 2010. The **Curators Interscholastic Events Scholarship** is awarded to entering freshmen who have achieved high ratings in state CDEs and rank in the upper third of their graduating class. The **Orscheln Farm and Home Supply Scholarship** is awarded to four-year FFA members who have demonstrated outstanding leadership ability, and have excelled scholastically.

Twenty-four teaching interns are participating in their 16-week student teaching experience at schools located throughout the state of Missouri. They completed their internship in late April.

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

**Professor Lloyd Bell** is currently serving as President of the American Association for Agricultural Education (2009-10).

The department hosted the North Central AAAE Region



Research Conference on September 27-29, 2009. Over 100 faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students participated in the event from across the region. Dr. Tom Osborne, former UNL Head Football coach and current athletic director, was the featured keynote speaker for the awards luncheon.

The department is enhancing the Agricultural Journalism program by adding 5.5 faculty FTE in a program redesign that will be called *Agricultural and Life Sciences Communication*. This effort is designed to build a premier agricultural communications program built upon the experiential learning theory and capitalizes on the physical and personnel resources from the agricultural communication service unit. On January 1, 2010 the agricultural communication service unit will officially join the department. Approximately 45 staff members will be joining the department and the goal is to expand the current curriculum to include real world experiences in television and video production, radio broadcasting, strategic communication and media convergence among other experiences. The department is offering the undergraduate program jointly with the College of Journalism and Mass Communication and Nebraska Educational Television, the statewide public broadcasting network.

The department is currently interviewing candidates for a joint faculty hire with the Nebraska Department of Education to house the State Agricultural Education Specialist/State FFA Advisor on campus within the department. This individual will have joint responsibilities within the department for teaching undergraduate and graduate students in Agricultural Education, coordinating the beginning teacher induction program, and other duties typically associated with state staff in agricultural education.

In April 2010 the department will undergo its five year external review.

### The Ohio State University

2009 was a year of significant transition for HCRD. Late in 2008, the Rural Sociology program and faculty began a process of transferring to the School of Environment and Natural Resources within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). That transfer should be completed in early 2010.

CFAES Dean Bobby Moser gave the remaining faculty (Agricultural and Extension Education and Agricultural Communication) the opportunity to reinvent the department and create a “new” department. Faculty seized upon the idea, and have spent the better part of 2009 developing a framework for the “new” department and a five-year strategic plan. Several components of the plan have already been completed or are well underway:

Four faculty members from the Department of Extension have now affiliated with the “new” department to reinforce the historical connection with OSU Extension. New faculty members are **Karen Bruns, Graham Cochran, Jeff King, and Jerry Thomas**.

A leadership studies minor is now waiting for final University approval. **Bob Birkenholz** is leading this effort.

An Interdisciplinary Youth Development minor is being created and is seeking approval. **Scott Scheer** is leading this effort.

A two-week study abroad program has been developed by

**Jamie Cano** and is scheduled to have its first tour in June, 2011.

The OSU Leadership Center ([www.leadershipcenter.osu.edu](http://www.leadershipcenter.osu.edu)), formerly with the Department of Extension, has now become a part of the “new” department.

Other news in the department:

**Bob Birkenholz**, chair from 2001-2009, returned to the faculty July 1, 2009 and is serving as Director of Research and Graduate Studies. Many thanks to him for excellent leadership during his tenure as department chair.

**L.H. Newcomb**, former department chair (1986-90) and retired CFAES Senior Associate Dean, has come out of retirement to serve as Interim Chair, leading the department through the transition.

**Marilyn Trefz**, retired CFAES Assistant Dean in Organizational Development, has returned with Newcomb to assist in the transition.

**J. Robert Warmbrod**, faculty Emeritus and former department chair (1978-86) has been selected to receive the 2010 CFAES Meritorious Service to the College Award.

Ohio State is undergoing a transition from a quarter to semester academic calendar, to take effect autumn, 2012. Faculty are using this opportunity to completely rebuild curriculum in all majors and minors at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The OSU student chapter of Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, advised by **Emily Rhoades**, received the 2009 Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award at the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow conference in August, 2009. The group also won awards of excellence in educational activities, fundraising, social activities, leadership, and membership.

Doctoral Placements: **Daniel Foster**, who received his Ph.D. in Spring 2009, is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at Penn State. **Ryan Foor**, a doctoral candidate slated to graduate in Spring 2010, has accepted a position at the University of Arizona.

### Penn State

**Faculty Hires** - The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education is pleased to announce the addition of two new faculty who joined our unit on July 1, 2009.

**Dr. Mark Brennan** will provide direction to the resident education portion of the leadership education program. Prior to joining us, Mark was an Assistant Professor of Community Development in the department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences at the University of Florida. Mark earned his PhD and M.S. in Rural Sociology from the department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Penn State and a B.S. in Sociology from Salisbury University, MD. Mark also served as Director of Distance Education at Marywood University, PA and as a Research Associate for the NE Regional Center for Rural Development, University Park, PA.

**Dr. Daniel Foster** will provide leadership and support to our teacher education program. He will also support pre-service and in-service activities through the Center for Professional Personnel Development. Dr. Foster recently completed his doctoral degree in Agricultural and Extension Education in the department of Human and Community Resource Development at Ohio State. Daniel holds a M.S. from Ohio State and BS Degrees in Agricul-



tural Education and Ag Tech Management from the University of Arizona. Daniel taught high school agriculture at Willcox High School, Willcox, AZ prior to beginning his graduate program. **Promotions - Drs. Patreese Ingram, Matthew Kaplan, and Rama Radhakrishna** were promoted to the rank of Professor effective July 1, 2009.

**Dennis and Janet Scanlon Trustee Scholarship** - Students in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences will benefit from a Penn State Trustee scholarship created by Dennis Scanlon, professor emeritus in Agricultural and Extension Education, and his wife, Janet Scanlon, former State College School District elementary school principal and educator. The State College couple, who are also Penn State alumni, have pledged \$50,000 to establish the Dennis and Janet Scanlon Trustee Scholarship, which will assist students majoring in agricultural and extension education who have financial need.

The Trustee Scholarship program is designed to keep a Penn State education accessible to all qualified students, regardless of their financial means. Launched in 2002, the program has a unique matching component: the University matches 5 percent of each gift annually and combines these funds with the annual spendable income from the endowment to increase the financial impact of the scholarship.

#### **Faculty Awards and Honors**

**Jan Scholl** and Patricia Powley, retired extension educator in Dauphin County, have been named to the national planning committee for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences to be held in Alabama in 2009.

**Patreese D. Ingram** was selected as one of the Penn State 2009-10 Administrative Fellows. Her mentor will be Rodney A. Erickson, Executive Vice President and Provost.

**Rama Radhakrishna** received the 2009 NACTA Eastern Regional Outstanding Teacher Award.

**Rama Radhakrishna** received the 2009 Sustained Excellence in Extension Evaluation Award from the American Evaluation Association.

**Rama Radhakrishna** was selected as recipient of a College of Agricultural Sciences 2009 Community of Teaching Excellence Award.

**Rama Radhakrishna** received the 2009 North Central American Association for Agricultural Education Distinguished Research Award.

**John Ewing** was recognized as the recipient of the 2009 College of Agricultural Sciences NACTA Teaching Award of Merit

**John Ewing** received the 2009 North Central American Association for Agricultural Education Outstanding Early Career Agricultural Educator Award.

**Daniel Foster**, Susie Whittington, and Jedidah Bookman received the 2009 North Central American Association for Agricultural Education Outstanding Paper Presentation Award.

**Cathy Bowen** and others were recognized for Excellence In Financial Literacy Education with the Curriculum of the Year in Postsecondary/ Adult Money Management: *Right on the Money: Talking Dollars and Sense with Parents & Kids* by Penn State Cooperative Extension & PA Office of Financial Education.

**John Ewing** received the 2009 Roy C. Buck Faculty Award in Agricultural Sciences for his article "Types and Cognitive Levels of Questions Asked by Professors during College of

Agriculture Class Sessions" which was published in the 2007 issue of the *Journal of Agricultural Education*. The Buck Award recognizes the best refereed article published in the previous two years by an untenured faculty member in the college whose research involves human or social sciences.

**Blannie E. Bowen**, Penn State vice provost for Academic Affairs, received the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award by the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Alumni Society of The Ohio State University.

#### **Texas A&M University New Hires**



**John Rayfield** joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor

in the area of teacher education, effective June 1, 2009. He came to us from North Carolina State University. The faculty and staff in the ALEC Department welcome John and his family, Kelly, Karley, and Kendall to Texas and Texas A&M University.

**Traci Naile** joined the faculty in August as an Assistant Professor in the area of agricultural communications and journalism, having completed her doctorate at Oklahoma State.

**Bill Cochran** joined the Department on May 27 as a Micro-computer/LAN Specialist. We welcome Bill and his family, Sylvia, Samantha and Billy.

**Jennifer Williams** joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the area of leadership education effective January 4, 2010. We welcome Jen and her family, Michael, Brenna, and Cooper. She comes to us from the University of Georgia at Griffin.

#### **Awards/Recognitions**

**Tim Murphy** was selected as an AAAE Fellow at the 2009 National meeting in Lexington, KY.

**Manuel Piña** was selected to receive not only the University Diversity Service Award, but also the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for Partnership – System Academic Partnership.

**Summer Odom** was the recipient of the President's Award for Academic Advising. She also received a \$2000 Neuhaus-Shepardson Faculty Development Grant.

**Tracy Rutherford** received a Neuhaus-Shepardson Faculty Development Grant.

**Andy Vestal** became a "Regents Fellow" for distinguished achievements recognized by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents in December of 2009.

**Charlene Boggus** received the President's Meritorious Service Award in December.

**Tanya Gunnels** received the Texas AgriLife Extension Superior Service Award at the Agricultural Program Conference in January.

**Paul Pope** received the Texas AgriLife Extension Superior Service Award, Program Specialist Category, at the Agricultural Program Conference in January.

Congratulations to Andy Vestal for winning the USDA/CSREES Partnership Award for Effective and Efficient Use of Resources.

**Barry Boyd** was named Editor of the *Journal of Leadership Education*.

**Billy McKim** received the award for Distinguished Manuscript the Western Region AAAE meeting in April, 2009.

**Drs. Joe and Chris Townsend** were recognized by the 2009 La Muneca Cattle Company with the "2009 Educators of the Year Award." The award was presented at the 22nd annual La Mun-

eca Field Day and Customer Appreciation Fiesta held at the La Muneca Ranch located in Linn, Texas. Dr. Joe and Dr. Chris were honored with this citation, "A big hearty THANKS for all that you do for our youth. You are both great leaders that have made a difference in the lives of many students. We appreciate your lifetime dedication to education." Joe Townsend was Special Assistant to the Provost and Chris Townsend was a professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications. Both Townsends will retire from TAMU mid-January 2010 and now reside in South Padre Island, Texas. Special recognition was held during the Department's Annual Parent's Breakfast in April.

#### Grants

Tim Murphy and **Bart Gill** submitted a multi-year NSF proposal, "Increasing science competence of CTE teachers and students through the implementation of Academically Integrated Methods of Enhanced Demonstration (AIMED) Learning Modules." \$2,144,384.

**Gary Wingenbach** received a USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant of \$137,840

John Rayfield was selected to receive a \$15,000 grant from the National Council for Agricultural Education for "Innovative Agricultural Education That Address New Markets."

Congratulations to **Gary Briers** and **Chanda Elbert** on submitting a multi-year Department of Education Grant, "Improving Educational Outcomes for At-Risk Hispanic Students through Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors): Development of a Parental Involvement Intervention," for \$1,184,240.

**Jimmy Lindner** and **Kim Dooley** received a \$2,650.00 Neuhaus-Shepardson Faculty Development Grant.

The following USDA Higher Education Challenge Grants were awarded:

Tracy Rutherford and **Theresa Murphrey** (with Leslie Edgar and David Doerfert) \$460,320 for the grant entitled "Educational Effectiveness of Utilizing Second Life in Teaching Agricultural Crisis Communications."

Kim Dooley, Jimmy Lindner, Theresa Murphrey (with Florida and Georgia) - \$459,770

USAID/HED Africa Initiative - 20 were awarded from 300 applications. **Jack Elliot**, Gary Wingenbach, Linda Cleboski (with Michigan State, Arizona, LSU) - \$50,000 and the opportunity for \$1,000,000/year for 10 years (up to 10 winners from the 20 finalists).

Andy Vestal, **Shannon Degenhart**, and Theresa Murphrey were part of a team who received a grant from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security for \$191,000 for the FAZD Extension Outreach Project dealing with Dairy, Train-the-Trainer, CASHN, and MRME.

#### Utah State University

**Gary Straquadine** was named the Dean and Executive Director of the



Utah State University Tooele Regional Campus on May 1, 2009. He coordinates distance education for the western side of Utah. While still technically a faculty member of the department, he has relocated to Tooele, a community approximately 40 miles west of Salt Lake City. We miss having him around more regularly, but are grateful we still have the opportunity to work with him.

**Dr. Rudy Tarpley** left USU on August 1, 2009 to take the

position of New Mexico supervisor of agricultural education and the director of the New Mexico FFA Association. He is surely missed by the students and faculty in the department.

**Denise Stewardson**, a member of the Utah Agriculture in the Classroom team, has taken over leadership of the agricultural communication program. She is busy teaching classes, coordinating with the Journalism and Communication program at USU, and working with Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. She is very enthusiastic about this new role.

**Michael Pate** joined the department in January 2010 as an assistant professor in the agricultural systems technology program. Dr. Pate completed his Ph.D. in Agricultural Education at Iowa State University. He is originally from Arkansas and is excited about teaching in the program and about trying out his fly fishing skills in the blue ribbon trout streams of northern Utah.

An announcement will be made in the very near future regarding another new faculty member who will join the department as an assistant professor of agricultural education.

The agricultural education program at USU continues to grow. This spring semester's student teaching class will be the largest in more than 35 years. Placement sites for these 19 student teachers stretch from Jerome, Idaho (220 miles to the northwest of Logan) to St. George, Utah (380 miles to the south of Logan) with an additional student teacher placed in Spotsylvania, VA (thank you Virginia Tech for assistance in placing this student.

#### NYFEA

The National young Farmer Education Association (NYFEA) met in December in Mobile, AL for their annual Leadership Institute. As the AAAE representative to NYFEA, I hold a position on the NYFEA Board of Directors and have been asked to head the research committee. This task involves working with Dr. Steve Brown (FFA) and William Nelson (CHS Foundation) to identify avenues of research aligned with the National Research Agenda that will aid in achieving the NYFEA mission. Beginning in January, this committee will meet monthly to determine pertinent courses of action and will report to the Board of Directors during the monthly NYFEA conference call.

To provide an update on an ongoing initiative, the NYFEA has continued to make progress with the online bachelor degree program offered through the University of West Alabama. The first course of the curriculum has been approved to be offered in the spring. This program will offer NYFEA members an opportunity to complete a bachelor degree program designed to be relevant and convenient for agriculture producers. In addition to this education opportunity, NYFEA is seeking to create change on a national level through impacting policy-makers. NYFEA is partnering with other professional organizations dedicated to agriculture for the "Agriculture's Promise" initiative. This new program is a national networking opportunity for those concerned about the next generation of agriculture producers. Participants will meet once a year in Washington D.C. for the opportunity to speak with legislators, USDA representatives, and others involved with agriculture policy. For more information on this exciting opportunity visit [www.agriculturespromise.com](http://www.agriculturespromise.com).



The year 2009 will be noted as having been a busy one, to say the least. It's been marked by significant changes at the national level of agricultural education. I'd like to share a few changes and issues that are affecting the National FFA Organization.

### **New FFA Chief Operating Officer**

As you know, the FFA Board hired Dr. Dwight Armstrong as our new COO for the National FFA Organization. He is a highly experienced, highly motivated individual who is an expert on customer service. Dwight assumed his duties Oct. 1, 2009 and hit the ground running. He is quickly learning the operations, including all staff names and functions. He has been consistent and clear about his expectations for the staff to be much more customer-focused. He observed the recent National FFA Convention from the perspective of the COO and represented FFA very capably in front of the media during some very difficult times.

### **New FFA Board Policies**

We are nearing final revision of the Mission Based Board Policies for the National FFA Organization. Once the FFA staff and Board have reviewed the final drafts, we will post them online for public viewing and comment. It is the Board's goal to take final action on the new policies during the January meeting.

### **FFA Foundation Trustees Meeting**

The National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees will meet Jan. 24-25, 2010 in Washington, DC. By now, most of you should have heard about the proposed changes to the Board of Trustees. We have received some input regarding the changes. On another note, the Foundation had another record-breaking year in spite of the economic challenges. This is a testament to the value industry places on the FFA mission and brand. It is also a direct and positive statement commending your work and the achievement of our students. A hardy thank-you goes to the National FFA Foundation staff, sponsors, state leaders, local teachers and FFA alumni. Working together really does make a difference in the lives of many! The Foundation continues to make progress in restoring its unrestricted fund balances. Careful financial management, including staff and budget cuts, and a more positive stock market have helped.

### **FFA Organization Board of Directors Meeting**

The National FFA Board conducted a planning/business meeting Jan. 26 and 27, 2010. Last August, the Board asked Dr. Brian Myers and a working group of consultants to seek input from you, the stakeholders, around two questions: 1) What should be the expected outcomes from the resource investments (financial, time, effort) made in the National FFA Organization? 2) What should be the National FFA Organization's role in supporting school-based Agricultural Education? In addition to hearing a report from the stakeholders, the Board will receive a presentation on the trends and issues related to agriculture and education. They will use this information in a facilitated discussion to identify priorities and adjust their policies for desired results.

### **FFA Float in Tournament of Roses Parade**

The National FFA Organization and agricultural education were featured on a float sponsored by RFD-TV in this year's Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California Jan. 1. The six national FFA officers, an officer from each of 52 state FFA associations, four Star Finalists and the national FFA advisor were on or walked alongside the float. This moment of visibility was seen on television broadcasts by some 40 million Americans and an international audience of another 100 million. Special coverage of

the FFA float and the parade was featured on RFD-TV (available on DISH, DirectTV and cable systems around the country). Many other networks will carry coverage of the parade. More information about the FFA float and the broadcast coverage can be found here: [http://www.ffa.org/documents/med\\_091021\\_roseparadefloat.pdf](http://www.ffa.org/documents/med_091021_roseparadefloat.pdf).

On January 24, 1966, I began a career of service to Agricultural Education as a local agricultural education instructor at Northwestern High School in Mendon, MO. Now 44+ years later I am writing you this email to announce something that I have always thought of as being a long time in the future. Most of the time, I really did not think about it, at all! The time has come, however, that I will be doing more than thinking. I will be starting a new phase in my life on Jan 1, 2011 called retirement. This date is 23 days short of being 45 years of service in public education. With your permission, I am going to call it 45 years!

I started my Federal journey on May 29, 1984. I have worked with many dedicated and competent professionals in the U. S.

Department of Education. I especially enjoy my work in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE). The OVAE staff is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of students through the effective administration of Federal policy. They take their work seriously and enjoy working together. It is a pleasure to work with them.

It goes without saying that I truly enjoy working in the best profession in existence! I have enjoyed being a part of the changes and growth in agricultural education over the past 26 years. Many victories have been won for the benefit of the profession, program, teachers and most of all our students! The work is important!

As agricultural education professionals, we provide educational services that help students to be successful in their careers and lives. The agricultural industry and our Nation are served by providing well-prepared and highly motivated leaders who will effectively lead and operate our Nations' agricultural business sector. Our communities are well served with local leaders who care about the places they live and the success of others as well as themselves. I thank each of you for your work!

I look upon this next phase of my life as an opportunity to continue to grow, learn and serve. I also am excited to be able to spend more time with my wife Joy, our children Jeff and Chanda Case; Becky and Mike Carter; and Matt and Rebecca Case. I am especially excited to be able to spend more time with Riley, Rachael, Aaron and Annabelle. They, of course, are the brightest children in the world as they are Joy's and my grandchildren. In addition, Joy and I will be traveling. So it is my hope to see many of you on one of our "unhurried trips" sometime in the future.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 83rd National FFA Convention. It will be my 27th and final National FFA Convention where I will serve as your National FFA Advisor "Stationed by the Owl." I hope you will celebrate agricultural education as I intend to do the rest of my life! Best wishes to all!!!

Larry D. Case  
Senior Program Specialist-Agricultural and Rural Education and  
National FFA Advisor/CEO  
US Department of Education  
Washington DC, 20202



# New Faces, New Places

**Rebecca Lawver** has joined The Department of Agricultural Systems Technology and Education (ASTE) at Utah State University as an assistant professor with a primary role in agriculture teacher education. Becki completed a Ph.D. in Agricultural Education at the University of Missouri. She holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Education and Leadership Education from the University of Nebraska. Becki taught high school agriculture in Nebraska for nine years prior to beginning her doctoral program.

**Michael Pate** joined the Department of Agricultural Systems Technology and Education (ASTE) at Utah State University in January 2010 as an assistant professor with a primary role in the agricultural systems technology program. Michael completed his doctoral degree in Agricultural Education at Iowa State University. Michael holds M.S. and B.S. degrees in Agricultural Education from the University of Arkansas. Michael taught high school agriculture in Arkansas prior to beginning his graduate program.

**Wendy Warner** joined the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at North Carolina State University on January 1. Dr. Warner came from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she served as an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication. Dr. Warner is a native of Ohio and earned her B.S. in Agricultural Education from the Ohio State University. She has experience in teaching middle school and high school agricultural education in the state of Florida and earned her Ph.D. in Agricultural Education from the University of Florida.

**Robert Torres** will join the Department of Agricultural Education at the University of Arizona on June 7, 2010 as department head. He has been part of the faculty at the University of

Missouri, and has received numerous awards for his teaching and research activities, including the prestigious USDA Excellence in Teaching Award and the William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, the most prestigious teaching award at the University of Missouri.

**Ryan Foor** will join the Department of Agricultural Education at the University of Arizona as an Assistant Professor beginning July 1, 2010. Ryan is in the process of completing his doctoral studies at The Ohio State University.

**Tracy Kitchel** will join the Department of Agricultural Education at the University of Missouri on July 1, 2010 as an Associate Professor. Dr. Kitchel comes to Mizzou after five years at the University of Kentucky. He has an impressive record in teaching, research and service and will be a great asset to the graduate and undergraduate programs in the Department.

**Andrew Thoron**, doctoral candidate at the University of Florida, will be joining the faculty at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in the Agricultural Education Program on August 16, 2010. Andrew is originally from Raymond, Illinois and was a graduate of Illinois State University in agricultural education. He taught secondary agricultural education at Mt. Pulaski High School before taking a position as an advocate for Illinois agricultural education as a program advisor with the Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE). Upon completion of his doctoral degree this spring, Andrew will continue his research program on effective practices for agriscience integration, including developing STEM initiatives for secondary agricultural educators. In addition, he will be an integral part of the newly revised undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs.

## Upcoming Events

May 16-19, 2010	AIAEE Annual Conference	Saskatoon, Canada
May 24-27, 2010	AAAE National Research Conference	Omaha, NE
June 14-17, 2010	ACE Annual Meeting and Conference	St Louis, MO
June 20-23, 2010	ALE Conference	Charlotte, NC
June 22-25, 2010	NACTA Conference	Penn State, PA
October 9-11, 2010	North Central AAEE Conference	Manhattan, KS