



2011

Spring Newsletter

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University of Arkansas

The University of Arkansas continues to increase in enrollment with a 7.8% increase in the fall of 2010. The department has experienced nearly 30% growth rate in the past 3 years.

The Department is pleased to announce that **Dr. Donna L. Graham** returned to the faculty after serving as Associate Dean of the Bumpers College for nine years.

Dr. Don Edgar, Dr. Don Johnson and Graduate Students, **Jason Davis** and **Ryan Siebenmorgen**, will be presenting a presentation on alternative energy solutions at a conference sponsored by Energy Corp. An NPR radio spot will also be recorded.

Dr. Donna L. Graham is spearheading the efforts and logistics of the AG ED program of the AG*IDEA Alliance. The University of Arkansas is one of 12 members of the agricultural education program.

The Agricultural and Extension Education Department hosted the Southern Region AAAE research meeting held at the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS) annual research meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas. Drs. Don and **Leslie Edgar** served as the co-chairs of the AAAE section.

The Agricultural Communication program released the first of their student produced magazine, *AR Culture*, showcasing the practical skills of the students and allowing the program to compete with other agricultural communication programs in the national who have similar student produced publications.

Our NCATE accredited Agricultural Education program produced the highest number of teachers in 12 years and it is expected that the 2011 graduates will exceed that number.

The Agricultural Systems Technology Management program received renewed program recognition by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. The ASTM program is one of only two ASABE programs nationally in a department like ours to receive such certification.

Awards & Recognitions

Jason Davis was selected as the Bumpers College Distinguished Scholar Graduate Student and Rachael Pierce was selected as the Bumpers Distinguished Scholar Undergraduate Student. These are the highest awards given to undergraduate and graduate students in the college each year.

Jason Davis received the Outstanding M.S. Graduate



Student award from Gamma Sigma Delta for his presentation on "NOx Emissions and Performance of a Single-Cylinder Diesel Engine Fueled with Emulsified Biodiesel Blends"

Dr. Jefferson Miller was elected chair of Bumpers College Faculty Council.

Agricultural Communications graduate student **Traci Rhodes** and her instructors **Dr. Jefferson Miller** and Dr. Leslie Edgar were the authors of the outstanding research poster at the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS) Agricultural Communications Section meeting in February in Corpus Christi, Texas. **Kristin Pennington** received second place award poster presentation and **Ron Koch** received third place research paper.

Don Johnson was the invited Mystery Speaker/ Distinguished Lecturer at the 2011 AAAE Southern Region Conference in Corpus Christi, TX. His lecture was entitled, "The Human Dimensions of Teaching" and highlighted junior faculty members from across the Southern Region who excel in teaching and student mentoring

Grants in AEED

Further funding of Alternative energy education and performance aspects of biodiesel has been funded through 2013 from the AR Soybean Promotion Board. Project Investigator, Dr. Don Edgar, Dr. Don Johnson and Dr. George Wardlow.

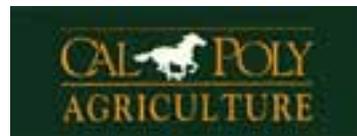
Curriculum Update

The department has submitted program changes to offer its Master of Science degree as an online degree program.

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Jeffery D. Armstrong** as the new university President! Dr.

Armstrong joins Cal Poly after serving as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Professor of Animal Science at Michigan State University since 2001. He was raised on a beef cattle, swine and tobacco farm in Western Kentucky, attended Murray State University where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture in 1981. He received both a Master's (1984) and Doctorate (1986) in Physiology and Endocrinology from NCSU. President Armstrong is the brother of the CEO



of the National FFA Organization, Dr. Dwight Armstrong.

Mr. Richard Darrach joined the Agricultural Education and Communication Department as a graduate assistant for the winter and spring quarters. Richard is from Pleasant Grove, California and earned his BS in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly, SLO. He completed his student teaching at Hilmar High School and is currently enrolled in the MS program while assisting the department.

The department faculty are currently supervising five student teachers during the spring quarter. Thank you to the following high schools for their assistance with student teaching placements: Kingsburg, Los Banos, Orestimba-Newman, Templeton and Turlock-Pittman.

The student planning committee for the California State FFA finals has been identified and preparations are underway to welcome our California FFA family back to campus for the State FFA Finals CDEs on May 7.

The Masters of Agricultural Education (MAE) Program continues to draw interest from teachers across the state and in neighboring western states. Registration is now open for late spring session which begins Monday, June 13, and runs through Friday, July 1. Check the website for course descriptions. <http://aged.calpoly.edu/MasterDegree/latespringsession11.html>

Due to the campus-wide efforts to graduate “super seniors”, Cal Poly admitted 200 more new freshmen and 250 more new transfer students for Fall 2011!

Don't forget to “friend” our department to get the latest information on events and information at Cal Poly!

- Cal Poly, SLO – Agricultural Education & Communication Dept.
- Cal Poly ACT
- Cal Poly Ag Ambassadors
- Cal Poly CFFA
- I Love Farmers... They Feed My Soul
- Latinos in Agriculture (LIA) – Cal Poly

Cal Poly has a number of building projects occurring on campus. The 14,500-square-foot Meat Processing Center is moving along and is scheduled for completion in October 2011. It will be located near the Poultry Unit. There are plans to also begin constructing a Cal Poly Farm Market on campus at the Crops Unit.

Area 52, consisting of Science wings A, B, and C, have been demolished and work has begun to remove the rubble. This three-year project will provide new laboratory, learning, and research space for students, faculty and private research companies. The Soil Science Department will also be housed in this state of the art facility.

Cornell University

Jeff Perry joined the agricultural science education team at Cornell effective February 14. Jeff's 17 years of teaching experience, 3 years of experience with Cornell's FarmNet program through AEM, 15+ years of marriage to a 4-H youth development educator, and numerous years in NY agriculture will provide many benefits to our agricultural education students. We were fortunate to have a strong field of applicants for the position, and Jeff rose to the top. Please join me in welcoming Jeff.



Cornell University

We are also excited about our promising move to the Horticulture Department. The faculty in Horticulture have been truly outstanding in thinking about opportunities for additional collaboration.

University of Missouri



Undergraduate Program

The Agricultural Education undergraduate program at the University of Missouri continues to be a leader within the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CAFNR). This previous fall the Agricultural Education Society was named CAFNR Week champions for the second year in a row and Agricultural Education Society was recognized as the CAFNR 2010 Outstanding Organization.

Since 2007, Agricultural Education Society has hosted a Leadership Career Development Event Contest for high school FFA members statewide. In 2010, 122 high school students from across the state competed in FFA knowledge and public speaking competitions on the University of Missouri campus.

The Mizzou Agricultural Education department also serves youth and the community in organizing and facilitating the annual College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources' (CAFNR) Boy Scout Merit Badge Center. Agricultural Education juniors organize the event and plan and deliver official merit badge curriculum in an authentic, day-long workshop. Boy Scout participants receive a merit badge in their chosen area of instruction. In 2010, more than 180 scouts received instruction in Plant Science, Forestry, Veterinary Medicine, Entomology, Animal Science, Salesmanship, Soil & Water Conservation, Fish & Wildlife Management, Weather, or Farm Mechanization. This event will be held on April 30, 2011.

Dr. Anna Ball developed a new course in Agricultural Education for the leadership option students as well as students interested in educating individuals in nonformal settings in the food, agricultural, and natural resource sectors. This course is entitled, Designing and Delivering Nonformal Education Programs. In this course, students develop and learn to teach educational programs in nontraditional settings.

Graduate Program

The program welcomed two new PhD students in the fall, **Ms. Kristen Kovar** and **Mr. Mike Martin**. Kristen received a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Barry College in Georgia, and a Master's Degree in Agricultural Leadership from the University of Georgia. Kristen taught high school agriscience for five years at Paulding County High School in Dallas, Georgia. Mike Martin, received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agricultural Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mike taught high school agriscience for three years in Urbana, Illinois.

Will Bird, second year PhD student at Mizzou was a co-organizer of the first annual MU Cross-Disciplinary Conference for graduate student research this past fall. The conference hosted over 100 research paper and poster presentations for graduate students across the university.

Dr. Tracy Kitchel was appointed as the faculty chairperson of the Ag Ed division of the Ag*Idea Consortium. Tracy leads the distance education course-sharing efforts of 10 institutions across the nation.

Faculty

There has been a lot of change this past year in the Agricultural Education department at Mizzou. We are excited to welcome our two newest faculty members, Dr. Tracy Kitchel and **Dr. Jon Simonsen!**

Tracy Kitchel was excited to return to Missouri as an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies. Following his three years as an agriculture teacher in Ohio, Kitchel completed a Ph.D. in Agricultural Education at the University of Missouri. For the last five years, Kitchel was an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky and for three of those five years, was the Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for UK's College of Agriculture. Prior to leaving UK, he was named the college's Outstanding Advisor, named a Fellow in the College of Agriculture's Academy of Teaching and Learning, and earned the Provost's Outstanding Teaching Award for non-tenured faculty. His research focus was and continues to be about how secondary and post-secondary agriculture educators move from being novice to expert teachers.

Jon Simonsen became a new faculty member at the University of Missouri last summer and serves as the Director for Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Simonsen received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Extension Education from The Ohio State University and his undergraduate work was completed at the University of Nebraska. Prior to working at the post-secondary level he was a high school agriculture teacher for 10 years in Holdrege, Nebraska. His research interest is in the area of teaching and learning of leadership within agricultural education.

Grants and Awards

Dr. Anna Ball and Dr. Tracy Kitchel in Agricultural Education in partnership with **Dr. Jeni Hart** in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, were awarded a research grant by the University of Missouri Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and the University of Missouri Graduate School to investigate the roles, goals, and expectations of undergraduate and graduate teaching faculty at MU. The grant is a part of a comprehensive faculty development study and program at the University of Missouri.

Montana State University

Graduate Students

MSU's Agricultural Education program is fortunate to have excellent graduate students on campus to support our teaching, research and outreach functions. **Seth Whitney** and **Alexandra Hill** are actively engaged in the MSU Agricultural Education graduate program. Seth Whitney is a recent graduate of the MSU Agricultural Education program. Alexandra Hill has a degree in Animal Science from Colorado State University.

Student Teachers

One Ag Ed Broadfield students is student teaching this spring. **Shane Stender** is completing his student teaching experience in Joliet under the supervision of **Chad Massar**. At least seven students will complete their student teaching experience in 2011-12.

Faculty News

Dr. Shannon Arnold recently received a grant from USDA under the Multicultural Scholars Initiative(MSP). She and Dr. Frick are recruiting five Native American students from Montana

reservations to enter the Agricultural Education program at MSU as undergraduates. The grant provides substantial scholarships to financial support minority students such as Native Americans in Montana to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in agricultural education. **Dr. Carl Igo** has just completed a Wildfire Management curriculum project funded by U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). **Dr. Martin Frick** is scheduled to return to Croatia as a Fulbright Specialist in May of this year to help faculty at Agronomski Fakultet develop articulation agreements with other agricultural universities in Europe.

Tuition Waivers for Ag Ed Graduate Students – This year we were able to award tuition waivers to our online graduate students which included one high school agricultural educator. We hope to continue this in the future. Our online graduate program continues to grow in numbers.

Former National Officer is Agricultural Education Major – **Chase Rose**, 2009-10 Western National FFA Vice President has returned to Montana and is now majoring in Agricultural Education at Montana State University. He is interested in pursuing a career in the Agricultural Industry after completing his degree at MSU.

Montana State FFA Convention - The MSU Agricultural Education Division will coordinate many of State FFA CDEs at the State FFA Convention in Billings this year. Over 40 Agricultural Education students carry out the CDEs with

University of Nebraska-Lincoln



On July 1, 2011 the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will join the Big 10 Conference. Of most importance academically, UNL has accepted membership into the prestigious Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), a consortium of the Big Ten universities plus the University of Chicago. The faculty and staff in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication (ALEC) are excited about the potential for new collaboration with sister departments in the Big 10 Conference. The CIC leverages faculty, funding, facilities, investments and ideas to help the collective whole compete and succeed. Among its core projects are library collections and access; leadership and development programs for faculty and staff; course-sharing mechanisms by which students may take courses at other consortium institutions; and study-abroad collaborations. The Big Ten conference is the only NCAA Division I conference whose members all belong to the Association of American Universities, as does Nebraska.

Dr. Gina Matkin, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Leadership, received UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Holling Junior Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence in March 2011. Dr. Matkin has teaching experience at both the Jr. High/High School and College/University levels. She currently coordinates ALEC 102 Interpersonal Skills for Leadership for the W. H. Thompson Learning Community. Students in the W. H. Thompson Learning Community are all recipients of the Susan T. Buffett Scholarship for entering freshmen. Student feedback indicates that Dr. Matkin helps them gain confidence, make new friends, and shows them that faculty can be caring in the large and unfamiliar environment of the university setting. She has co-authored several journal articles and conducted a number of conference presentations. Her research interests include intercultural sensitivity in organizational

and workplace settings, and gender and leadership issues.

In January 2011, **Dr. David Kwaw-Mensah**, joined the ALEC faculty as an Assistant Professor of Practice specializing in agricultural and extension education. Dr. Kwaw-Mensah's professional experience includes years of teaching at the Secondary School, Polytechnic and at the University levels. He also has experience as an extension educator. His international work experience includes teaching in the following four culturally diverse countries of Ghana, Zambia, Namibia and South Africa. Prior to his graduate education at Iowa State University, Dr. Kwaw-Mensah had previously taught physics, chemistry, biology and environmental science at two secondary schools in Ghana and Zambia, respectively; agriculture and chemistry at the Polytechnic of Namibia in Windhoek, Namibia and agricultural land use planning at the University of Fort Hare in Alice, South Africa. Dr. Kwaw-Mensah has co-authored published papers in the *Agronomy Journal*, *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture and The Land* (*Journal of the International Land Use Society*). He is a member of the American Association for Agricultural Education. Welcome Dr. Kwaw-Mensah!

ALEC is currently seeking qualified applicants to fill two openings in the Agricultural Communication program. Positions are available in the area of Strategic Communication (Assistant/Associate Professor) and Agricultural and Environmental Communication (Assistant Professor). Please check the ALEC website for more information <http://alec.unl.edu/>

The Ohio State University

Collaborative Partnership Developing with Central State University

What began as attendance at a one-day conference earlier this year has grown into a collaborative partnership with significant growth potential and benefit for our faculty and students. In January, **Jamie Cano** and **Susie Whittington** attended a one-day conference on multicultural education sponsored by the National Institute for Urban Education (IUE) at Central State University.

Central State, located in Wilberforce, Ohio, is one of the nation's oldest historically black universities. The IUE serves as a national resource center for the training of urban teachers and the exchange of scholarship on urban education issues.

Since that first encounter, Jamie and Susie and **Emily Rhoades** have collaborated with two IUE administrators to develop a three-phase partnership.

- In April pre-service teachers in agricultural and extension education will attend a one-day workshop at Central State to meet and collaborate with Central State's pre-service teachers. Part of the day the students will engage in brainstorming for short, intermediate, and long-term collaboration partnership plans. An anticipated long-term goal of this collaboration is to have the students from OSU and CSU work together in urban and rural school settings.

- The second partnership in the planning phase is for HCRD to use Central State's model for their Exxon Mobil Military Camp to create an outreach and engagement activity two-week camp focusing on STEM education for eighth-grade children in Appalachian communities.

- A plan has also begun to jointly create a National

Conference on Urban Agricultural Education.

This connection with Central State has been energizing. In thinking about ways to expand that energy and increase collaborations, Susie would love to hear from AAAE departments that have developed programs and initiatives with a historically black college or university. Send her a quick e-mail at Whittington.1@osu.edu and let her know about your experiences!

Bob Sommers Appointed to State of Ohio Education Leadership Position

On February 7th Governor John Kasich named **Robert (Bob) Sommers**, an alumnus of the department, to be Director of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education. In this role, Sommers will be Kasich's chief education adviser and will coordinate K-12 education policy, charter schools and other school-choice initiatives and workforce training efforts.

He has been the CEO of Detroit's Cornerstone Charter Schools, and previously was the CEO of Butler Tech — a career-technical school in southwest Ohio. Sommers also worked at the Ohio Department of Education. Bob received his master's (1987) and doctorate (1998) in Agricultural Education from Ohio State.

Cano Appointed to JAE Board

Jamie Cano was elected to serve as a member of the Editorial Review Board for the *Journal of Agricultural Education*. His term runs through 2013.

OSU Hosts 2011 HOT Conference

HCRD is hosting the 2011 Hands-On Teaching (HOT) Conference June 15-16. The HOT Conference is an annual collaborative effort sponsored by the Ohio Association of Agricultural Educators, the Ohio Department of Education, Wilmington College, and Ohio State to provide agricultural teachers across the state with educational experiences that are easily transferable to their classrooms.

This year nineteen different sessions are being taught by faculty from across the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Workshop topics include, "The Science of Assisted Reproductive Technologies", "Teaching Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Bio-energy with Microbial Fuel Cells", "Basics of Biogas", "Dairy Chemistry" and a "Wetlands Workshop".

The location of the conference annually rotates among career centers, two year post-secondary colleges, four-year colleges, or agricultural corporations.

Reminder – OSU Luncheon at AAAE Conference

Don't forget to RSVP for the Buckeye Connection Luncheon if you plan to attend. Reserve your ticket by May 1st – email eick.16@osu.edu. The luncheon is being held on Wednesday, May 25 from 12-1:15 in the Board Room at the CDA Resort.

New Faces Join Ag. Education Section of Ohio's Office of Career and Technical Education

Three agriculture teachers have made recent career moves and joined the Ohio Department of Education's Agricultural Education Section. Leah Amstutz formerly taught agriculture at Wauseon High School and earlier at Archbold High School. Leah is now a district supervisor and serves as Executive Secretary for the Ohio FFA.

Cyndi Brill and Kevin Williams are also new district supervisors. Cyndi formerly taught at Canal Winchester High School and Kevin taught at Mechanicsburg High School. We wish them the best in their new roles.

Ohio State and Miami Valley Career Technical

Center Co-Host CASE Institute

Ohio State is serving as the host institution for the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education Institute (CASE) this summer. CASE is a project of the National Council for Agricultural Education. The Miami Valley Career Technical Center is housing the institution on their campus in Dayton. Institute coordinators are Susie Whittington from OSU and Harold Neihaus from MVCTC.

Participants in the institute will become certified in the CASE Plan Science Curriculum. Additional information on the Institute is available at <http://www.case4learning.org/register-for-case-institute.html>.

Whittington also serves on the national CASE Advisory Board.

Other News in the Department

Bob Birkenholz received the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education's Agriculture Division.

Graham Cochran received the Excellence in Teamwork Award from the Joint Council of Extension Professionals.

Emily Rhoades received the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow 2010 Leadership Award.

Jeff Workman received his doctorate in Autumn 2010 and continues his work as a Program Assistant with OSU Extension in the Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine

Hannah Thompson, a senior in Ag Communication from Walkersville, MD, has received a fellowship from the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center to pursue her master degree in Agricultural Communication. In addition, Hannah was named a National Buckeye Scholar for 2010-2011, received the Provost Scholarship for 2010-2011, and was named a member of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board, beginning her term this coming Autumn.

Jed Bookman, a senior in Ag and Extension Education from Loudonville, was one of 15 students in the nation selected for the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Delmar-Cengage Upper Division Agricultural Education Scholarship.

Jason Hartschuh, a senior in Ag and Extension Education from Bloomville, won the 2010 National Dairy Promotion and Research Board Scholarship.

Emily Krueger, a junior in Agricultural Communication from West Salem, Ohio, was named the winner of the 2011 American Farm Bureau Federation Collegiate Discussion Meet held in early February in Orlando, Florida.

State University of New York at Oswego

Department Name Change Proposal

The faculty has proposed a new name for the department – The Department of Workforce Leadership Development, subject to the approval of the college. As part of overall process of change the department is also assembling an advisory committee.



Research and Development Projects

Ben Ogwo, Matt Spindler, & Margaret Martin; Training of occupational competency coordinators and vocational educators in Nigeria. Assist in the design and launching of a nationwide program to collaborate with affiliate universities to locate suitable examination centers and qualified examiners for a Nigeria

specific series of Occupational Competency Examinations. Provide instruction and assistance related to the design of new teacher education programs for skilled technical professionals which will help to introduce into the CTE and workforce system a new crop of technical educators with years of tested industrial/workplace experiences. These teachers will be trained through the new programs and will then be qualified to train students on the exact occupational skills needed in places of work. Flexibility will be a critical facet of the programs because it will make them much more attractive to the population of potential applicants.

Matt Spindler and Alok Kumar (physics) will again be running a grant supported energy and sustainability institute for elementary teachers. The institute is an intensive weeklong inquiry oriented experience which provides teachers with resources, a laboratory kit, and ongoing professional development.

Mark Harris; Fulbright Professional Scholar and Senior Strategy Officer Queensland VET Development Centre; Through his Fulbright Scholarship, Mark was able to spend four months with the State University of New York at Oswego researching the area of vocational education and training. His research was directed at identifying innovative human resource strategies which recognize value and manage the VET workforce in competitive and dynamic environments.

Susan Camp; Susan remains the SUNY Oswego Faculty Assembly Chair. Susan will be traveling to Germany this summer, in part, to explore partnership opportunities with several universities.

Davaughn Cunningham; Is a graduate student with a departmental assistantship. Davaughn is working with Matt Spindler to complete research regarding the public's awareness of food production and sustainability.

Tennessee State University

Dr. John C. Ricketts was hired by Tennessee's Historically Black Land Grant Institution to revitalize the Agricultural and Extension Education majors on the Nashville campus. The University has provided a fertile atmosphere for program growth and development. Any Tennessee student qualifying for the state-sponsored lottery scholarship (HOPE) is promised an additional work scholarship from the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences to cover the remainder of tuition. In addition, graduate assistantships are readily available as well. Dr. Ricketts recruited **Ms. Clarissa Parks** upon her graduation from the University of Florida and **Ms. Rachel Hendrix** from Middle Tennessee State University, both Agricultural Education majors, to help build the program of Agricultural and Extension Education. If you know of quality students seeking to earn their Master's Degree in Agricultural and Extension Education at the Country Music Capital of the World send Dr. John Ricketts at note at jricket1@tnstate.edu.



Grants

TSU received an 1890 Capacity Building grant to assist Dr. Ricketts in revitalizing the graduate degree program in Agricultural and Extension Education. The main objective is explore online degree options and to consult with individuals and institutions who have been successful in integrating distance education for their Agricultural and Extension

Education programs. TSU would like to thank Dr. Tim Murphy (TAMU), Mr. Steve Gass (TN Dept. of Education), and Dr. Antoine Alston (NCAT) for serving as consultants on the project. We would also like to thank all of you who have offered advise as we revitalize the program at TSU.

Kudos

Ms. Clarissa Parks, Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, was invited to speak at the “Achieving the Dream” Conference (<http://www.achievingthedream.org>) held February 8-11 in Indianapolis, Indiana. She has been a leader here at TSU, but we are proud that others have recognized her abilities as well. Congratulations Clarissa!

Collegiate FFA Charter

Ms. Racheal Gregory, Ag Ed Undergraduate, worked very hard this year to help us charter the TSU Collegiate FFA program. The Collegiate FFA will provide an integral role as a place where students in the growing BS and MS programs of Agricultural and Extension Education can learn and lead as preservice agricultural educators.

Texas A&M University



The Agricultural Science student teaching block moved its meetings to the three newly renovated IMS classrooms. There are 45 student teachers this school year.

Drs. Julie Harlin, John Rayfield, Gary Briers, Alvin Larke, Kirk Edney, and Tim Murphy along with **Clay Ewell, Jamie Norgaard, Vidya Patil, and Prahma Vasudevan** have been restructuring the IMS operations to a Service and Innovation focused business. Stay tuned.

The Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications is moving to the new Agriculture and Life Sciences Building on May 31.

Undergraduate enrollment stands at 900 and we have 150 graduate students.

Drs. James Lindner and Kim Dooley conducted a Costa Rica study abroad in January. Drs. Larke and **Chanda Elbert** are headed to Brazil in May. **Drs. Gary Wingenbach and Tracy Rutherford** are leading a group to Namibia in June.

Dr. Robert Strong joined the faculty in fall. He received his Ph.D. from Florida.

Debbie King received the prestigious faculty/staff Koldus award. She is one of only a few staff to ever win the award.

Drs. Briers, Wingenbach, **Glen Shinn, Jack Elliot,** and **James Christiansen** were recently named as Senior Scientists, Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture.

Drs. Rutherford and **Jeff Ripley** were selected for the inaugural AgriLife Advanced Leadership Program. Only 15 faculty from the 4 state agencies and the college were selected.

Dr. Theresa Murphrey received Fulbright Scholar in Resident funding to bring Sean Kalundu from the University of Nambia to teach classes at Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M in the fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters.

Texas Tech University



Texas Tech will certify 28 teachers of agricultural science for the 2010 – 2011 academic year.

Texas Tech University, Department of Agricultural Education and Communications experienced an all time high record in student enrollment in the fall of 2010 with over 270 undergraduates and 90 graduate students.

Dr. Scott Burris was notified by the Texas Tech University Board of Regents that he will be promoted to Associate Professor with tenure effective September 1, 2011. Scott also received the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award for 2010 at Texas Tech University and received the IS 1100 Innovative Teaching Award - The Freshman Seminar, 2010.

Dr. Cindy Akers was promoted to professor and continues her role in the Dean’s office as Director of the Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center.

Dr. Jonathan Ulmer conducted the first “Study Abroad” class for both graduate and undergraduate students during May 2010 in Costa Rica. The focus of the study was sustainable agriculture. He worked with faculty from Earth University in Costa Rica. He will take a second group in May along with Dr. Burris.

Dr. Courtney Meyers, with a little assistance from her husband Daniel gave birth to their second daughter, Amelia Lynn on April 11.

Texas Tech and Texas A&M are currently reviewing the applications for the fifth cohort to be admitted to the Doc @ Distance program, the distance delivered doctorate, for the fall of 2011.

Jon Ulmer and Scott Burris conducted our first CASE Institute for Animal Science in 2010 and will conduct a second CASE Institute in June of 2011.

Dr. Erica Irlbeck was recognized by the Association for Communications Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences for the Outstanding Dissertation in 2010. Dr. Courtney Meyers was CASNR Ag Council Faculty Member of Semester, Fall 2010 and along with Dr. Irlbeck were designated as Texas Tech Service Learning Fellowes, 2010-2011.

Utah State University



Faculty

We are currently conducting a search for a tenure-track assistant professor in Agricultural Communication and Journalism. We are very excited about this new position and the opportunity it will give us to build the agricultural communication program. We hope to make an announcement sometime in May and hope to have the new faculty member in place by August.

Denise Stewardson has served as a lecturer in the Agricultural Communication and Journalism program since August 2009 and advises the agricultural communication student organization. Denise brings many talents and skills to the program and is an outstanding teacher. Prior to her current position, Denise taught courses in the department and

worked as a program coordinator with Utah Agriculture in the Classroom. She completed a B.S. degree in Technology Education (communication emphasis) at Eastern Illinois University and a M.A. degree in Industrial Arts Education at University of Maryland. She taught technology education and math courses for six years at the junior/senior high school levels in Maryland and Virginia. Denise will continue to serve in her role as lecturer in agricultural communication and will work closely with the new faculty member.

Dr. Rebecca Lawver joined our faculty in January 2010 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 this past May. 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. In just a year, Becki has already made a significant impact on the agriculture teachers in Utah and the teacher education program at USU.

Dr. Michael Pate joined our faculty in late December 2009 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 just last month. He 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. Michael is a great addition to our faculty. He has made significant improvements to several courses taught in the department and is establishing himself in his research role in agricultural systems technology.

Graduates

The agricultural education class of 2010 at Utah State University was the largest in over 40 years, with 20 graduates. For the seventh year in a row, all graduates seeking teaching positions were employed. We are expecting 14 graduates in agricultural education in 2011 and are hopeful that all will receive teaching positions in the Intermountain West.

The Utah Agriculture in the Classroom K-12 agricultural literacy program, located in the Department of Agricultural Systems Technology and Education, continues to grow. A year in the making, AITC launched an integrated online course, e-store, and website this year (<http://utah.agclassroom.org/>). This free, open-access, site delivers thematically aligned curriculum, instructional resources, and assessment, that can easily be adapted to life science, social studies, and nutrition K-12 curriculum maps. The site also allows teachers to create a library of resources, and subscribe to paper-based and electronic newsletters. Over 25 lesson plans and other resources were added to the site this year. AITC Education Specialist trained 700+ undergraduate students last year in various institutions in their methods course with agricultural instruction correlated to state standards. A FaceBook page was created to market the program and provide a forum for dialog between supporters, teachers, and pre-service teachers.

On-campus enrollments in the Department of Agricultural Systems Technology and Education have steadily increased over the past few years with an undergraduate student enrollment of approximately 200 and graduate student enrollment of approximately 30. The department has been leading a consolidation effort of applied science and technology programs

at regional campus sites – primarily in Price and Blanding, Utah. This effort is culminating in the creation of a School of Applied Sciences Technology and Education housed within the College of Agriculture at Utah State University. This brings an addition 32 faculty members and approximately 1500 students into the College and in association with the department.