



2009

Spring Newsletter

University of Arkansas Agricultural and Extension Education



New Chair — Dr. George Wardlow

accepted the position as Departmental Chair in March 2008. Before his appointment, he served on the faculty since his initial appointment in February 1994. Along with his administrative responsibilities, he also continues to teach and conduct research in the fields of agricultural education and agricultural systems technology management.

New Faculty — Dr. Don Edgar joined the AEED faculty in August 2008 as Assistant Professor. His responsibilities include teaching and research in the areas of agricultural education and agricultural systems technology management.

Very New Kids — Casandra Cox, Instructor in the Department, gave birth to a baby girl, Makayla Grace, on February 4th, 2009. Being the very dedicated employee, she resumed her nine-hour teaching load the following Monday. Don Johnson has already sent recruiting materials to Makayla and her older brother, Cade. **George Wardlow's** first grandchild, Samuel George, was born February 25th, 2009. He is hoping Samuel will call him Obi-Wan when he learns to talk. Quetta is just hoping he takes after his mother.

Awards & Recognitions — Casandra Cox received the John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award. She has served as instructor, recruiter and academic advisor during her appointment in the Department since fall of 2003. **Leslie Edgar** received the awards for Outstanding Faculty Research Paper and Presentation and Outstanding Faculty Research Poster in the Agricultural Communications Section at the 2009 Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS) Conference Jan. 31 - Feb. 3, in Atlanta. **Jeff Miller** was inducted into the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy. **George Wardlow** was honored as one of the six regional winners of the "Teaching Award" of the Food and Agricultural Sciences Excellence in College and University Awards, USDA/NASULGC.

Grants — Leslie Edgar and Don Edgar continue research on their Angus Productions, Inc. Understanding the Readership, a Four-Part Evaluation grant. **Don Johnson and George Wardlow** continue research on their Soybean Promotion Board Biodiesel Research, Demonstration and Education Project. **Don Johnson and George Wardlow** secured a U.S. Department of Energy Biodiesel Education grant.

Curriculum Update — The Department has added a new minor, Agricultural Communications, to the current minors offered which are Agricultural Education, Agricultural Systems Technology Management, and Journalism.

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Agriculture Education and Communication



Awards & Recognitions — Drs. Robert Flores and Bill Kellogg were honored at an awards luncheon hosted by the university for their 25 years of service. The two joined the department in 1983 within mere days of one another, after completing their PhD's. **Dr. Robert Flores** was recognized as an H. O. Sargent Diversity Award winner at the 2008 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

New Faculty — Dr. Ann De Lay joined the faculty as an assistant professor. She completed her BS and teaching credential at California State University, Fresno and her MS from Cal Poly, SLO. She taught agriculture at Central High School in Fresno before serving as a lecturer in Agricultural Education at Fresno State for two years. She completed her PhD at the University of Florida in May, 2008 and began teaching at Cal Poly in June of that same year. **Mr. Jerry Clark** returned for a second year as Teacher in Residence. He has been an agriculture teacher for 29 years at Galt and Templeton high schools respectively. Mr. Clark teaches a number of courses in the department, supervises student teachers, and serves as the CFFA advisor. **Ms. Amanda Galan** joined the Agricultural Education and Communication Department as a graduate assistant for winter and spring quarters. Amanda is from Le Grand, California and earned her BS in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly, SLO. She completed her student teaching at Buhach Colony High School in Atwater and is currently enrolled in the MS program while assisting the department.

Good News — The department hosted its third annual Teach Ag Day in February. High school and community college students with an interest in teaching agriculture were invited to spend the day learning about the teaching profession from undergraduate and graduate students, recent student teachers, current agriculture teachers and leaders in California agricultural education.

The department faculty have supervised 19 student teachers this academic year in departments around the state including: Bakersfield,

Bakersfield Foothill, Bakersfield Highland, Bakersfield South, Buhach Colony, Dinuba, Firebaugh, Hilmar, King City, Le Grand, Lemoore, San Benito, Santa Maria, and Shandon.

Two student teachers received scholarships from the National Association for Agricultural Educators: Jalisca Fry and Ross Macy.

Four student teachers received scholarships from the California Agricultural Teachers Association: Rebecca Anderson, Jessi Bishop, Amanda Galan, and Salvador Hurtado.

The Cal Poly Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) chapter has continued to build interest and involvement. This year, Katy Teixeira is serving as the National ACT President and Ian Nachreiner is serving as the National Secretary/Treasurer.

The number of undergraduates in the program is currently at 191 students representing teacher education and agricultural communication emphases. Enrollment of active graduate students on campus is 22.



New Faculty — Dr. Grady Roberts joined the department late last summer as an associate professor of agricultural education. He is a Florida native and taught agriculture at the middle and high school levels for 10 years. After earning his Ph.D. at the University of Florida, Dr. Roberts accepted an agricultural education faculty position at Texas A&M University, a position he held for four years before returning to Florida. Dr. Roberts holds a 60% teaching, 40% research appointment. **Dr. Paul Monaghan** also joined the department last summer as an assistant professor of community-based social marketing. Dr. Monaghan holds the Ph.D. degree from UF in anthropology and had spent the last six years as a research associate in a community-based social marketing research center at the University of South Florida. His extension/research appointment is focused primarily on encouraging target audiences to adopt water conservation practices, although his expertise will be sought in many areas.

Cheek Becomes a Volunteer — Dr. Jimmy Cheek, former Senior Vice President of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, began his duties as Chancellor of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville on February 2, 2009. A Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, Dr. Cheek had been a faculty member at UF for 33 years, including serving as Assistant Dean and Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. All of us in the Gator Nation are extremely grateful for Dr. Cheek's many contributions and great leadership while at UF and wish him the very best as the new Chancellor at UT-Knoxville.

So You Think You Can Teach — Doctoral student Karen Cannon has been selected to receive the 2009 Jack L. Fry Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). This award is presented annually to an outstanding graduate student involved with undergraduate instruction. Karen has taught AEE 3033, Research and Business Writing in Agricultural and Life Sciences, since the 2008 summer term. She will receive her award later this semester at the CALS Scholarship and Leadership Banquet. This

is the third year in a row that a Ph.D. student in the AEC Department has won the Fry Teaching Award.

Impacting the Future — Ph.D. student Crystal Mathews has received a \$12,000 scholarship from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) to support her dissertation research. The W. D. Farr Scholarship is awarded annually to two graduate students whose research will benefit the beef industry. Crystal's research focuses on volunteer leadership in the industry and is the first social science research project to receive NCBA scholarship support. In addition, agricultural communication undergraduate student Kati McWaters has been chosen to participate in USDA's Outlook Student Diversity Forum in Arlington, Virginia. She will meet with USDA officials, tour Washington, D.C., and network with Congressional staffers. Her selection was largely based on her essay about the future of agriculture.

Where You Lead — The department has seen a surge in enrollments since combining its undergraduate specializations in communication and leadership last year. In addition, the campus-wide undergraduate minor in leadership that was launched in 2006 quickly grew to more than 150 active students at any given time, placing significant stress on the leadership courses offered in the department. The curriculum for the minor has now been redesigned, and students must apply for admission to the program. Up to 35 students will be selected each semester.

24/7 — The 2009 cohort of 17 agriscience teachers and county extension educators began the department's Distance-Delivered Master of Science (DDMS) degree program in January. This is the fifth cohort to be admitted to the 32-credit degree program, which is offered entirely by distance using Blackboard/Vista. More than 30 students have earned their MS degree through the DDMS program, which continues to receive extremely positive reviews from participants. Plans are to expand the program to include leadership and communication specializations. Brian Myers coordinates the DDMS and other eLearning programs in the department.

New Variety in Plant City — The Ag Ed undergraduate specialization in the BS degree program is offered in Gainesville and also in Plant City, strawberry capital of the world. Just activated in 2006, enrollment in the program continues to grow and is expected to approach 25 students this fall. Students earn the A. A. transfer degree at nearby Hillsborough Community College and complete the same Ag Ed curriculum as the students in Gainesville. Jim Dyer continues to give leadership to the program in Plant City, which is located about two hours from Gainesville.

Leadership Development Out There — Class VII of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute is well underway, under the direction of assistant professor **Hannah Carter**. One of the largest classes to date, the 30 private sector agriculturists that comprise Class VII recently returned from their trip to the nation's capitol and across the Midwest. In addition, members will participate in nine four-day seminars across the state of Florida as they interact with industry and legislative leaders and become more informed about agricultural practices, issues, and policies. Class VII will conclude its 22-month program with an 18-day trip to China in August.

Leadership Development in Here — The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences launched the LEAD IFAS program in 2000 as a proactive effort to develop leadership capacity within the organization. The program targets newly hired and aspiring

administrators, including department chairs, research and education center directors, program leaders, assistant deans, county and district extension directors, and support unit leaders. Each 25-member cohort completes a four-session program scheduled over a two-year period. The three-day sessions focus on personal assessments, improvement workshops, personnel management, and leadership strategies. Approximately one-fourth of the more than 100 LEAD IFAS graduates have moved into a new or higher level administrative position. The next cohort is expected to begin in March 2010. **Ed Osborne** coordinates the program.

Barnes Professorship — 1957/1958 alumnus John T. Barnes has provided an estate gift to establish an endowed professorship in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication. After earning his degree in agricultural education, Mr. Barnes spent his professional career with the Soil and Water Conservation Service, where he worked with many agriculture teachers and FFA members in conducting contests and educational programs. A former member of the UF basketball team and avid Gator fan, Mr. Barnes passed away in April 2008.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Iowa State University Agricultural Education and Studies

Awards & Recognitions — **Dr. Levon Esters** was awarded the 2009 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Early Achievement in Teaching Award. **Dr. Michael Retallick** was awarded the 2009 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outstanding Advisor Award. **Dr. Harold Crawford** was awarded the 2008 NAAE Life-Time Achievement Award. During the past year **Drs. Wade Miller, Greg Miller** and **Robert Martin** were each awarded the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Distance Education Teaching Award. **Helen Olson** was awarded the Certificate of Distinction for Outstanding Service as a Peer Mentor Supervisor. **Dr. Nancy Grudens-Schuck** was awarded the Faculty Award for Diversity Enhancement. **Dr. Levon Esters** and **Dr. Michael Retallick** were named Wakonese Fellows. **Dr. Levon Esters** was awarded the ACTE Outstanding Beginning Scholar Award.

New Facility — The department has operationalized a new agricultural mechanics facility to offer courses in basic agricultural mechanics for teacher education candidates.

Major Name Change — The name of the undergraduate major in Agricultural Education has changed to Agriculture and Life Sciences Education by approval of the Iowa Board of Regents. The new name is consistent with and reflects the new name of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences approved in 2007.

New Faculty — The department recently welcomed two new faculty to ISU: **Dr. Awoke Dollisso**, Assistant Professor and **Mr. Thomas Paulsen**, Lecturer.

International Travel — Several faculty and staff have been involved in international travel courses and other related international work. (Retallick & Olson to Australia; W. Miller to Georgia; G. Miller to Botswana; Acker to India, Uganda, and Europe; Martin to Egypt.)

Crawfords Recognized — The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies recently conducted a naming ceremony in recognition of the “**Dr. Harold & Rachel Crawford** Agricultural Education and

Studies Suite” as part of the \$11 million renovation of the Curtiss Hall Agricultural Administration Building. Funds will be used to renovate a dedicated Agricultural Education and Studies classroom, library, conference room and departmental offices. The renovated department facilities will bear the name of the honorees. **Dr. Crawford** is an Emeritus Professor having served his profession of Agricultural Education for over 50 years.

Montana State University Agricultural Education



Online Master's in Agricultural Education — The MSU Agricultural Education program will offer an Online Master's in Agricultural Education starting in fall 2009. The program requires 30 credits which can be completed in approximately six semesters (two years). A number of new graduate courses will be offered through this online program.

USDA Secondary Agricultural Education Challenge Grants — **Dr. Carl Igo** is collaborating with Montana Agricultural Education teachers to establish a new curriculum for teachers across the state. Montana is fortunate to have received two different grants. The first is to work on a ninth and tenth grade curriculum and the second is for Montana's 11th and 12th grade curriculum. A team of writers has been assembled and the curriculum is being written to complement National Standards and AFNR Pathways.

Ag Communications course is back — **Dr. Shannon Arnold** taught the AGED 312 -Agricultural Communications this past fall. AGED 312 is a required upper division course for Ag Relation majors.

New Admin Assistant — The new Administrative Assistant for Agricultural Education is Cassandra Balent. Cassandra was the Assistant Director of the University of Denver Honors program prior to her arrival at Montana State.

Graduate Students — MSU's Agricultural Education program is fortunate to have an excellent group of graduate students on campus to support our teaching, research and outreach functions. **Eric Larson** (Shelby) is assisting Dr. Igo with classes and plans to graduate in 2009. **JoLynn Miller** (San Luis Obispo) is helping Dr. Frick with classes. **Michelle Passmore** (Kalispell, Montana) is assisting Dr. Arnold with her classes. **Allison Flynn** (Townsend, Montana) graduated in fall 2009 and will be the new extension educator in Sheridan County, Wyoming.

Fall COA Enrollment — College of Agriculture enrollment for fall 2009 was 616 undergraduates and 123 graduate students. Seventy four Agricultural Education students were enrolled during 2008 Fall Semester.

2010 NAAE Region 1/AAAE Western Region Conference in Montana — The 2010 NAAAE Region 1 and AAAE Western Region Conference will be held in Montana during April 2010. We hope that AAAE members from across the nation will be able to attend this conference.

A distinction of this program is its high percentage (80%) of division graduates who find professional employment in Montana, which contributes to the Montana agriculture sector and economy.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Agricultural Leadership, Education and
Communication



Awards & Recognitions — Professor Lloyd Bell is the incoming President of the American Association for Agricultural Education (2009-10). Dr. Bell is currently serving the profession this year as president-elect.

Retirement — Professor Leverage Barrett has officially announced his retirement effective June 30, 2009. Dr. Barrett has been on the faculty in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication since 1980. In 1995, Dr. Barrett was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers at UNL. Dr. Barrett retires having taught for 47 years, 15 of those years as a high school vocational agriculture teacher, three years at Penn State University and 29 years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He's successfully mentored 27 Ph. D. students and 42 M. S. degree students. His international activities have led him to deliver programs in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Scotland, Ireland, and England. He's published over 40 refereed publications and has over one million dollars in external grant funding.

In December 2008, the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication graduated eight students with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agricultural Education, three students with a Master's of Science degree in Leadership Education, and one student received their Doctorate of Philosophy in Leadership Studies.

The AgLEC Department is currently planning to host the North Central Region AAAE Research Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska September 27-29, 2009. Dr. Tom Osborne, former UNL Head Football coach and current athletic director is the featured keynote speaker for the awards luncheon. In addition, plans are being made for several tours of local areas of interest.

Dr. Jason Ellis' senior level capstone course in Agricultural Communications is currently working on a marketing plan for AgLEC and has been tasked with creating a brand, tag line, and other elements of a communication/marketing plan to position AgLEC within the marketplace of potential and current students, alumni and other constituents.

Dr. Lisa Pennisi, Assistant Professor in AgLEC, has been instrumental in securing a \$170,000 grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for a project entitled *Nebraska Master Naturalist Program: Recruitment, Training, and Management of Conservation Volunteers*. Dr. Pennisi's research emphasis is agro/eco-tourism.

Joana Story, Ph. D. student in Leadership Studies, was the recipient of the Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence. Joana was one of only two graduate teaching assistants in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources to receive this award.

North Carolina State
University
Agricultural and Extension Education



Curriculum — General Education Requirements – NC State is changing all of the general education requirements for the university.

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All undergraduate curricula had to be changed. At the same time, we had to "re-vision" all teacher education programs at the university. Both projects are near completion, after months of meetings and developing curriculum proposals. New Certificate Program in Agricultural Leadership: The University has approved a new certificate program in Agricultural Leadership. The program is aimed at mid-management positions in the agricultural industry who need to increase their leadership skills. We are piloting the program at a local community college with the intention of expanding to other areas of the state. The entire certificate program is available via distance education/interactive video.

Department Offices Moving —We have been notified that our departmental offices will be moving sometime this summer. Fortunately, we will not have a long way to go. We are just moving to a different location in the same building. Our addresses and phone numbers will remain the same.

New Faculty —The Department is excited to welcome **Dr. Jacklyn Bruce** as a new faculty member on July 1, 2009. Dr. Bruce comes to us from Penn State. She will be teaching courses in our Extension and our Leadership programs. We feel very fortunate to be able to add her to the Wolfpack family.

Retirements — We will have two faculty members retiring this year. **Dr. John Richardson** will be retiring at the end of April after serving for 40 years in Cooperative Extension in North Carolina. Dr. Richardson leads the federal accountability and reporting efforts for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. John has also been a leader in AIAEE. Also retiring from the department is **Dr. George "Bo" Bostick**. Dr. Bostick's area of expertise is in Agricultural Communication, specifically in the area of message design.

New Responsibilities — Dr. Lisa Guion has been named Interim Assistant Dean for Diversity in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She has been serving in that role for almost a year. This is a half-time position with the remainder of her responsibilities in Cooperative Extension.

Congratulations — Dr. Gary Moore, who was named the Outstanding Career and Technical Education Educator in North Carolina this past summer. Dr. Moore is also a candidate for President-Elect of ACTE. **Dr. Barry Croom** is the current President of the Association for Career and Technical Education Research. **Dr. Beth Wilson** was named the Southern Region AAAE Distinguished Teacher for 2009 at the recent Southern Region Conference for AAAE. **Dr. David Jones** will be chairing the 2009 AAAE Poster Session and was re-elected chair of the poster session for the Southern Region AAAE Conference in 2010. **Dr. Jay Jayaratne** serves as the chair of the Scholarly Activities Committee for AIAEE and is busy planning the research sessions for that annual conference.

The Ohio State University
Human and Community Resource Development



Congratulations to **Dr. Susie Whittington**, who received the National Award for Teaching Excellence, sponsored by the USDA in December 2008. This award takes into consideration the candidate's teaching quality, teaching methods and philosophy, service to students, professional growth, and endorsements from students, colleagues and administrators.

To generate scholarly discussion, **Dr. Jamie Cano** partnered with Dr. Tracy Kitchel at the University of Kentucky to bring together teacher education faculty and graduate students on January 8, 2009. They facilitated a discussion on effective teaching in colleges of agriculture, asking what it looks like, how it can be witnessed, and the importance of effective teaching. The day's activities prompted more questions and will be an active line of inquiry. Future conversations are being planned with the intention of improving teaching in colleges of agriculture.

ABN Radio, a long-standing agricultural network in Ohio is partnering with WOSU (a National Public Radio affiliate) on the Ohio State campus. This new partnership will provide practical broadcast internship experiences for students in the agricultural communication program.

Dr. Emily Rhoades has secured funding for cutting-edge technology for online production in an updated computer lab for agricultural communication students. The Macintosh-based lab will be set up for online broadcasting, as well as print media. The new lab facility presents exciting opportunities for undergraduate student development, as well as graduate student and research projects.

The OSU Curriculum Materials Service (CMS) is pleased to have **Dr. Warren Flood** serving as the director. Over the past year, CMS has been developing an updated web site for its products (cms.osu.edu) as well as renewing its mission and vision, based on input from an advisory committee.

Alumni Awards to be presented at the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Alumni Awards Luncheon on March 7, 2009 at the OSU Fawcett Center include:

Lindsey Hill – Young Professional Achievement Award

Blannie Bowen – Distinguished Alumni Award

Ted Flickinger – Distinguished Alumni Award

Seung Il Na – International Alumni Award

Bernie Ervin – Meritorious Service Award

The B.S. degree in Agricultural and Extension Education (AEE) recently added a third option, focusing on Leadership (in addition to the Teaching and Extension options). The Leadership option prepares students for careers in the broad field of agriculture and natural resources with an emphasis on communications and interpersonal relations. Students will complete an internship in an agricultural business, government agency, non-profit organization, or livestock/commodity association.

Graduate associate (GA) positions are being filled for next year. Please direct inquiries or provide nominations of potential candidates to Dr. Larry Miller (Miller.103@osu.edu) Director of Graduate Studies, or another faculty member or current graduate student at Ohio State.

Texas A&M University
Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications



New ALEC Head — The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications, Texas A&M University is pleased to announce **Dr. John F. (Jack) Elliot** has joined our faculty as Professor

and Head, effective January 1, 2009. Dr. Elliot received his B.S. in Agricultural Education in 1975 and M.A. in Agricultural Economics in 1978 from Washington State University. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Education in 1988 from The Ohio State University. His initial faculty position was as Assistant Professor in Agricultural and Extension Education at Michigan State University. In 1992, he relocated to The University of Arizona where he moved through the ranks and was promoted to full professor in 2002. Dr. Elliot had served as Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Education at The University of Arizona since that time.

New International Position Filled — Dr. Elliot has announced that **Dr. Gary Wingenbach** will assume the newly created position in International Agriculture beginning with the 09-10 fiscal year. Dr. Wingenbach, will, however, proceed with several specific international tasks this spring during the transition. Gary Wingenbach received his Ph.D. in 1995 from Iowa State University. He joined the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication at Texas A&M University in 2001. He specializes in teaching agricultural communications and journalism courses. His research interests include public opinion of agricultural biotechnology, international agricultural development, and information technologies in education. He has USDA projects to recruit urban youth into agricultural science degrees, and to increase international teaching, research, and outreach collaboration between Texas A&M University and Mexican universities.

New Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist — **Jeff Ripley** is the new Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Organizational Development Unit of Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Jeff had previously served as the District Extension Administrator in Corpus Christi, Texas with responsibilities of coordinating Extension Programs in 18 Coastal Bend Counties and supervising a staff of approximately 60 County Extension Agents. Prior to that position, Jeff had served as a County Extension Director and County Extension Agent for 18 years. Jeff holds a BS in AgriBusiness from Tarleton State University, and M.Ed. in Agricultural Education from Texas State University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Education from Texas A&M University.

Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist — **Landry Lockett** was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. He completed both a B.S. and a Masters degree at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Lockett spent six years as an Ornamental Horticulture County Extension Agent in Collin County. He attained a Doctorate of Education in Agricultural Education through a joint degree program from Texas A&M and Texas Tech, and is currently serving as an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist within Texas AgriLife Extension's Organizational Development unit in the Agricultural Education Department at Texas A&M University.

Assistant Professor, Distance Education and Evaluation and Accountability — **Dr. Theresa Pesl Murphrey** was recently selected for the newly created tenure-track position of Assistant Professor in Distance Education and Evaluation and Accountability. She has more than ten years of experience in the area of eLearning and Distance Education. Her current teaching and research focus is on instructional design for eLearning, assessment and evaluation strategies, and methods of technological change, for both domestic and international settings. She has traveled in 21 countries on six continents. Dr. Murphrey earned her Ph.D. in agricultural education from Texas A&M University in 1997.

Assistant Professor, Leadership Development — Dr. Lori Moore was hired June 1, 2008 as an Assistant Professor. She will develop and teach undergraduate and graduate courses, conduct scholarly research in leadership education and advise graduate students and serve as a member of the graduate faculty. Her primary research focus is in the area of collegiate leadership programs. Prior to taking the position at A&M she was an Assistant Professor at the University of Idaho from 2003 to 2008. She received her PhD from the University of Florida.

Awards & Recognitions — Dr. Doug Starr was recently named as a recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Achievement Awards for Teaching College Level. The Association of Former Students' Distinguished Achievement Awards are highly competitive and are truly a high recognition of a faculty member's commitment to the student experience," said Dr. Ann Kenimer, interim executive associate dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Starr is professor of agricultural communications and journalism in the department of agricultural leadership, education and communications. He joined the Texas A&M faculty in 1986. He earned his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his master's degree and doctorate from Florida State University. His career has spanned more than 60 years. He also worked as a photographer, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, columnist and educator. **Dr. Jack Elliot** received the 2008 Outstanding Paper Presentation Award at the annual ACTER (Association for Career and Technical Education Research) Conference. The title of the paper was "A Study on the Relativity and Validity of CTE Evaluation of Program Assessment". Additional awards received at this conference included the 2008 Meritorious Service Award and the 2008 Retiring Past President plaque for his outstanding service to the Association. These awards/recognitions were presented on December 3, 2008 at the ACTER annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. **SAAS Awards — Women Impacting Agricultural Communication: Giving Voice to Women's Stories by Rebecca McGovney-Ingram and Tracy Rutherford:** Outstanding Innovative Poster SAAS-Ag Communications. Economic impact of Supervised Agricultural Experience in Texas: 2007 Returns from SAE Investment Costs by Roger Hanagriff, **Tim Murphy, Grady Roberts,** and **Gary Briers:** second runner-up for Outstanding Paper Presentation. Characteristics of Secondary Agriculture Teachers and 4-H Youth Development Personnel in Missouri by **Billy McKim,** Amy Smith, and Robert Torres: Second Runner-up Research Poster

ALEC Leadership Fellows Program — In the spring 2009 semester, the department launched the **Dr. Joe Townsend '67** ALEC Leadership Fellows Program. With support of former students' donations, the program was created to enhance leadership capacity for positive relationships in the global community. Seventeen students were selected from 4 leadership-oriented majors (approx. 1,000 students) to participate in the inaugural class. Four student directors assist **Chris Townsend** in providing experiences so the fellows can explore the program's core leadership competencies: Expanding One's Vision, Developing Self and Others, Serving Organizations, and Reinforcing Positive Values.

Wingenbach President-Elect of AIAEE — Gary Wingenbach is the president-elect of the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE). Following the 25th Annual Conference of the AIAEE in San Juan, Puerto Rico this May, Wingenbach will serve a one-year term as AIAEE president.

International Work — Gary Briers and Glen Shinn completed a six-month deployment in central and southern Iraq. As part of Team Borlaug, Briers and Shinn contributed to rural agricultural assessments, provided technical training, conducted problem-solving research, formulated agricultural policies, and advised local, provincial, and national level leaders on improving the Iraqi agricultural economy. The project objectives evolved into a systems approach for improving crops, farm machinery, feed and forages, fish farming, irrigation, livestock, poultry, soils, and water. Eight provincial reports and a composite MND-C report were produced giving direction and focus for sustainable agricultural development in the Multi-National Division-Center area of operations. Briers and Shinn found agricultural development to be a critical link in the transformation from conflict to a civil society. Many countries in conflict have 70% of the population in rural areas and the majority of the population unemployed. Full employment in rural agriculture reduces political and economic unrest and contributes to a higher quality of life for all people. As an observation of Briers & Shinn's work, FOB commander Colonel Keith Sharples noted it was similar to making sausage—not a pretty sight but resulting in a great product.

Assistant Professor, Agricultural Communications and Journalism — ALEC is reviewing applicants for an Assistant Professor, tenure-track position, with responsibilities in teaching, research, and service in the area of agricultural communications and journalism. Qualified applicants will have an earned doctorate in agricultural communications, journalism, mass communications, agricultural education, or closely-related field. Preference will be given to candidates with formal academic preparation and/or professional experience in journalism and communications. Candidates should have demonstrated scholarship in teaching, research, and service activities. The successful candidate will demonstrate potential for excellence in teaching, research, scholarly writing, and service; advising students; and teaching courses in agricultural communications and journalism. For more information contact Tracy Rutherford, Search Committee Chair, Phone: (979) 458-2744, Email: trutherford@tamu.edu

This space reserved for news from your campus

**A call for articles will be distributed
through the listserv in the spring.**

**All university reports can be submitted to Jason Peake for
publication in the Fall 2009 AAAE Newsletter.**

President Challenges Members to Bloom Where They are Planted

Theme of “Say It, Do It, and Live It” Sets Pattern for Year

Every year our appreciation for the FFA as the greatest youth organization in the United States continues to grow. As the greatest adult support group for FFA, the FFA Alumni provides the support necessary for FFA youth to enjoy endless leadership and networking opportunities. In short, we as Alumni “say it, do it, and live it!” As we continue to support and advocate for FFA, we must tell our story and promote our programs (say it), we must take action by stepping up and leading by example (do it), and we need to show our students, the community, and the nation the value and impact FFA Alumni offer (live it). I will admit that communicating our message can at times be difficult. The theme highlighted above can help us focus our efforts. If we set and strive to achieve the goal of spreading the message of FFA and the FFA Alumni and work side-by-side to sustain agricultural education, we can make definite strides in the right direction. In working with FFA members in their activities and special events, you will see just how special they and the educational programs that support them really are.

All too often we think we have to do spectacular things in order to make a difference. Yet, if we remember that the sea is actually made up of individual drops of water and that each drop matters, we can truly appreciate our own contributions and those of others--no matter how small they may seem. The key is finding out what you can do to serve the cause. Each one of us can do something in your local community. My Mother regularly told

me, “bloom where you are planted.” FFA Alumni across this great nation are blooming and making huge impacts on FFA members and their communities.

In my annual travels, I witness a new freshman class “planting” themselves and beginning to learn about the opportunities in the food and fiber industry. They are realizing that whether they live in New York City or Cherryvale, KS, they can have an agricultural career. It sure is great to know that we are helping those students realize their awesome potential! What an important role we have in building leadership for a lifetime through FFA members!

As Alumni, if we believe when we say it, and believe when we do it, and believe when we live it, we will believe the FFA is the greatest youth organization in the United States. If we truly believe in the success and quality of these students and programs, it will show in our actions and become contagious. We can have such a huge impact on the lives of other people just by showing that we believe in ourselves, the programs, opportunities, and above all, the students.

Sam Atherton
National FFA Alumni President

FFA Alumni Joins Campbell Soup Company to Support FFA Barn Project Designed to Raise Awareness

The Campbell Soup Company has partnered with the National FFA Organization and Grammy-nominee Jewel to raise awareness of the importance of supporting the future of U.S. agriculture. The “Help Grow Your Soup” campaign seeks to raise a quarter of a million dollars to champion FFA educational efforts that encourage youth to embrace agriculture so they can continue growing the quality ingredients that go into our food.

In late September, representatives of the National FFA Organization joined Jewel and members of the Campbell’s team in New York City for a media tour to launch the campaign. National officer Tyler Tenbarge and two members from the John Bowne High School FFA chapter in Flushing, NY, were participants in a taping of The Martha Stewart Show. The John Bowne students presented Martha with an honorary National FFA Alumni Membership and a basket of homegrown vegetables, including butternut squash used in a recipe she cooked with singer/songwriter Jewel on the episode. Jewel, who was also presented with a National FFA Alumni Membership, says growing up on the farmland helped her appreciate the important role farming plays in ensuring families have quality food on their tables.



The other campaign initiative offers an exciting opportunity for FFA Alumni members. The website listed above features photos of barn restoration projects across the country. This initiative was created and is being implemented with the help of the staff at the National FFA Alumni Association. Alumni affiliates and FFA chapters are working to preserve or restore five barns, with one already completed in Reddick, IL.

The Riordan family provided the perfect barn to be revived by four area chapters and the Illinois FFA Alumni Association. Jim McCray, Illinois FFA Alumni vice president, was the contractor on site, directing students to remove and replace boards, build new doors, and replace windows. Another 70 students and Alumni cleaned, painted, and landscaped the site. After two days, this hardworking crew made a lasting impression on all the participants and the sponsor Campbell Soup Company.

The FFA Alumni has selected four other barns to revive by May 2009. Each of these barn preservations will enable farming families to update and revive their planting and harvesting processes, while also providing an educational opportunity for FFA members who are primarily high school students. Applications will be available February 2009 for the next five barn restorations on www.ffa.org/alumni/. To learn more about the project or to follow the progress of each barn, visit www.helpgrowyoursoup.com

Alumni at Any Age Recruiting FFA Members

By Nikki Savell, FFA Alumni Intern

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." These words from John Quincy Adams describe all the things that make FFA Alumni members leaders. He may not have been speaking directly to or about FFA Alumni, but these characteristics define exactly what FFA Alumni members do for FFA members throughout the nation.

The real question, though, is how do we recruit new Alumni members to help reach even more students? The key is to target a group of individuals that still want to feel connected to FFA but do not know how. High school seniors or those youth entering college may not know that they can continue their involvement with FFA through the FFA Alumni.

It is exciting to know that there is an organization within FFA to which I can belong in order to continue my FFA experience past high school and college and develop into a mentor providing opportunities and guidance for current FFA youth. Unfortunately, there are so many who do not realize the opportunities for involvement beyond high school and even the collegiate level.

Recent high school graduates remember the excitement of winning a speaking event or receiving a scholarship. These are the people who still have the fire and passion for FFA and would be perfect recruits. And they have a strong desire to provide someone else the same opportunities they had been given. All we need

is to be shown the way. One way to engage these energetic FFA supporters is by explaining that the speaking events or the funding for their scholarship were sponsored by Alumni members.

Engaging also means becoming more visible. A great way to do this is by showcase the ways they are supporting the local FFA chapter in displays at county fairs, homecoming events, FFA week, and high school sporting events. Youth are more likely to join FFA Alumni when they leave high school or college, if they know and understand how valuable the program is and see the impact Alumni are having on your agricultural education program. Invite current members to your meetings and giving a lifetime membership to graduating seniors.

I never knew about FFA Alumni through the actual activities of Alumni or Alumni affiliates. It has just been through a series of fortunate events that I learned about this wonderful organization. I would be disappointed to know that someone missed out on an opportunity to be a part of the organization because of assumptions. It is crucial that FFA Alumni promote the benefits of membership to their own high school and collegiate students. Alumni do inspire people to learn and provide great opportunities through numerous scholarships. Alumni inspire others to become more through endless encouragement and support. FFA Alumni members, you are true leaders, and I thank you for mentoring me.

