



LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY

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CLASS

# SHANNON ARNOLD



is associate professor of agricultural education at Montana State University. Dr. Arnold's teaching, research, and service focus on extension and non-formal education for youth and adults, outreach education for agricultural professionals, program development and evaluation, and equine guided education. She is the major advisor for students in the Agricultural Communications, Leadership, and Extension (CLE) options, a co-advisor for the Agricultural Education Pre-Professionals Club, and serves as the Division Graduate Coordinator. Highlights of her credentials include the NACTA Teaching Award of Merit and Teacher Fellow Award; the Western Region American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE) Outstanding Young Member and Distinguished Teacher awards; the State, Regional, and National Award Winner for Excellence in Teamwork from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents; and the MSU President's Award for Service Learning. Finally, she has led various regional and national AAAE committees and served as the AAAE national secretary.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

-John Quincy Adams

# JOEY BLACKBURN



completed his B.S. in agricultural education at the University of Missouri in 2006. He then went on to earn his M.S. degree in career, technical, and leadership education from the University of Kentucky in 2007. He taught secondary agriculture at Marceline R-V High School in Missouri, where he started a new program and chartered the FFA chapter. He was recognized as the district's teacher of the year in 2009. Dr. Blackburn completed his doctoral program in May 2013 at Oklahoma State University and was on faculty at Washington State University in 2013-2014. In fall 2014 he was hired at Louisiana State University to help begin the newly formed Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and Evaluation (AEEE). He serves as the co-undergraduate curriculum coordinator for the department and represents AEEE on the College of Agriculture Courses and Curriculum committee, as well as the university's Teacher Education Council.

"You don't lead by hitting people over the head – that's assault, not leadership."

-Dwight Eisenhower

# STEVEN "BOOT" CHUMBLEY



is originally from San Antonio, TX. He is the son of a high school agriculture science teacher and brother to two agricultural educators. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University, Boot served as a secondary teacher coordinating the FFA, agricultural mechanics and swine breeding programs, later becoming a school administrator. He received his master's degree in educational administration from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and doctorate from Texas Tech University in agricultural education and communications. He served four years as assistant professor of agricultural education and administrative coordinator for the state agriculture dual enrollment program at Eastern New Mexico University. Boot is currently an associate professor of agricultural science at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. He shares his passion of education with his wife Sarah, a middle school teacher, and his son Nolan.

"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you.  
In between, the leader is a servant."

-Max De Pree

# DON EDGAR



taught secondary agricultural education for 14 years in Texas. He earned his B.S. (1992) and M.S. (2003) degrees at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas and completed his Ph.D. in 2007 at Texas A&M University. Upon completion of the Ph.D., Don began a tenure track position in agricultural education at South Dakota State University. In fall 2008, he moved to the University of Arkansas, where his position focused on agricultural education and agricultural systems and technology management. Don was promoted and tenured in fall 2013. In fall 2018, Don moved to a tenured position focusing on agricultural education at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. Don believes the secret to being an impactful teacher and advisor at any level can be summed up as most appropriately stated by Malcom Gladwell (see quote below). As a person who strives to impart knowledge and skills on students, Don believes we must understand that we are not the same. We all hold different experiences, values, and intuition. If we understand this basic premise, we can understand that we are different and determine a common vision and where each of us has strengths and weaknesses.

“The world – much as we want it to – does not accord with our intuition.”

-Malcolm Gladwell

# JEREMY FALK



is an associate professor of agricultural and extension education at the University of Idaho, where has worked since 2011. He is the advisor for Collegiate FFA and serves to prepare undergraduates for careers in agricultural education, communication, and leadership. Dr. Falk completed his Ph.D. at The Ohio State University, and he taught secondary agriculture for four years in southeastern Ohio. He enjoys judging sheep shows and continues to be involved in his family's sheep operation. His research has included teaching/coaching behaviors, community supporters of agricultural education, and student motivation.

"The best leader is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and the self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it."

-Theodore Roosevelt

# LAURA GREENHAW

is an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida with a 70% teaching, 30% research appointment. Laura teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in agricultural leadership. Previously, Laura spent 6 years at Mississippi State University, where she taught agricultural leadership and directed Mississippi State Extension's Thad Cochran Agricultural Leadership Program (TCALP), which she developed and initiated. TCALP is a statewide leadership development program for professionals in agriculture and natural resources in Mississippi. Laura's research interests include examining experiential learning and self-directedness in leadership education, and understanding networks and social capital development as outcomes of leadership education. Laura is married to Andy Greenhaw and they enjoy traveling, baseball, biking, cooking, and spending time with their dogs, Ginger and Scooby.



"Sometimes it is not good enough to do your best, you must do what is required."

-Winston Churchill

# KELSEY HALL



is associate professor and program coordinator in agricultural communication at Utah State University. She teaches undergraduate agricultural communication courses and graduate courses in the online master's degree programs. Most of Dr. Hall's research explores how knowledge, attitudes, demographics, psychographics, barriers, benefits, communication strategies, and other factors about food marketing and agricultural practices influence the behaviors of farmers, consumers, and policy makers. Dr. Hall is a native of Ohio and earned her B.S. in agricultural communication and M.S. in agricultural and extension education from The Ohio State University. She received her doctorate in agricultural education with an emphasis in agricultural communications at Texas Tech University. She enjoys gardening, eating local food, camping, hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."  
-John F. Kennedy



# GAEA HOCK

is an associate professor of agricultural education at Kansas State University. She teaches introduction to agricultural education and teaching methods, assists with student intern placement and supervision during the spring semester, teaches curriculum development as an AgIDEA course, serves as an advisor for agricultural education students and helps recruit new students into the major. Gaea also conducts research and serves on multiple committees on and off campus. She is the current AAAE Poster Submission and Review Manager and Editor of The Agricultural Education Magazine. Dr. Hock taught agricultural education at Centre High School, Lost Springs, KS. She was an instructor of agricultural leadership at Texas Tech University and an assistant professor of agricultural education at Mississippi State University before returning to her alma mater in 2016. She is a member of AAAE, NAAE, and NACTA. She and her husband, Matthew, are proud parents of Corabel.



“Would I rather be feared or loved? Easy – both.  
I want people to be afraid of how much they love me.”  
-Michael Scott, The Office



# MISTY LAMBERT

is a first-generation college student and found her future through agricultural education and FFA. She has degrees from North Carolina State University and University of Missouri. She taught high school agriculture for four years in North Carolina, loving every minute. Dr. Lambert served as director of teacher education at Oregon State University, where she was tenured. Now, she is an associate professor in the Iowa State University Department of Agricultural Education and Studies. She spends her days educating agriculture teachers, teaching graduate courses, and helping ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' students gain undergraduate work and research experience through the Science with Practice program. She does international engagement work in preventing post-harvest loss. Her life on the Iowa prairie is made more interesting by her beagle, Rory.

*"Mountaintops inspire leaders, but valleys mature them."*  
-Winston Churchill

# BECKI LAWVER

is associate professor and interim head of the Department of Applied Sciences, Technology, and Education at Utah State University. She grew up in Elkhorn, Nebraska. Although she did not grow up on a farm or have the opportunity to participate in high school agricultural education, her passion for agriculture started early by helping her grandfather in his garden. Lawver graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a B.S. in agricultural education and an M.S. in leadership education. She taught high school agricultural education for nine years in Nebraska before earning a Ph.D. in agricultural education at the University of Missouri. In addition to her administrative role in her large and diverse department, Becki teaches undergraduate agricultural education courses and graduate courses in USU's online master's degree program, is the current Faculty Senate President, and serves on multiple university committees.



"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

-Maya Angelou

# JILL RUCKER

believes the quote below from Rosalynn Carter represents her career in agricultural leadership. Great leaders have encouraged Dr. Rucker to get out of her comfort zone, leave personal baggage behind, and dream big. After obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Marketing and a Master of Business Administration, Jill tells people she got right with the Lord and earned her Ph.D. in agricultural education with an emphasis in leadership and communications from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Rucker has been at the University of Arkansas for six years and has worked to develop a new concentration and minor in agricultural leadership. She is passionate about student development and designs engaging curriculum to prepare students to successfully enter the workforce and become agents of change in their communities.



“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.”

-Rosalynn Carter



# KATE SHOULDERS

received her undergraduate degree in agricultural education from Murray State University in Murray, KY. She taught high school agriculture in a three-teacher program in Graves County, KY. While teaching, she received the M.S. in Agriculture degree and M.A. in School Administration. Dr. Shoulders received her Ph.D. degree from the University of Florida and has been a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology at the University of Arkansas since earning her doctorate in 2012.

"It's better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt."  
-Mark Twain

# SCOTT SMALLEY

joined the Agricultural Education and Studies Department at Iowa State University in fall 2016. He completed his bachelor's degree at Michigan State University before heading to graduate school at Iowa State University. While in Iowa, Scott taught high school agricultural education for six years. He began his faculty career at South Dakota State University in fall 2013 before transitioning to Iowa State. In his current position, Scott coordinates the undergraduate and graduate teacher licensure program in agricultural education. He is an advocate for preparing high quality school-based agricultural teachers and conducts research related to teacher preparation.



"One reason people resist change is because they focus on what they have to give up instead of what they have to gain."

-John Assaraf

# AMY SMITH



joined the agricultural education faculty at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities as an assistant professor in 2013. Despite growing up in eastern Iowa, Amy chose to complete her undergraduate degree in agricultural education at Oklahoma State University. Amy then taught school-based agricultural education for five years before entering graduate school at the University of Missouri. Earning her Ph.D. in 2008, Amy spent one year as the Youth Education Coordinator for Jefferson Farm & Gardens in Columbia, Missouri before accepting a faculty position at South Dakota State University. In her current position, Amy teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in agricultural education and serves as the Director of Graduate Studies. She is passionate about the preparation of high-quality school-based agriculture teachers, and conducts research related to teacher recruitment and retention. Amy is also an advocate for connecting with new and diverse audiences through agricultural and food systems education.

“If we want people to fully show up, to bring their whole selves including their unarmored, whole hearts – so that we can innovate, solve problems, and serve people – we have to be vigilant about creating a culture in which people feel safe, seen, heard, and respected.”

-Brené Brown

# KRISTIN STAIR

completed her B.S. degree in agricultural education at Mississippi State University in 2004. She went on to begin her M.S. in agricultural education at North Carolina State University, while also teaching agriculture at Jordan High School in Durham, NC and Southern Nash High School in Bailey, NC. She completed her doctoral degree at North Carolina University in 2010 and then accepted a position at New Mexico State University as an assistant professor of agricultural education. In 2014, Dr. Stair was hired in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and Evaluation (AEEE) at Louisiana State University and now serves as an associate professor in AEEE, as well as the co-coordinator of the agricultural education teacher preparation program. She is the Rector for the Agricultural Residential College, as well as the instructor for several undergraduate and graduate teacher education classes.



“Leadership is not defined by the exercise of power but by the capacity to increase the sense of power among those led. The most essential work of the leader is to create more leaders.”

-Mary Parker Follett



# ANDREW THORON



is associate professor and Head for the Education and Agricultural Communication department at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Andrew grew up in rural Illinois, attended Lincoln Land Community College (A.S. degree), Illinois State University (B.S. degree), taught high school agriculture at Mt. Pulaski High School in Illinois, and worked in a state leadership position for school-based agricultural education in Illinois. Andrew then attended the University of Florida for both his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Dr. Thoron has been a faculty member focused on teacher education/preparation at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Florida, where he also took on leadership roles as teacher education coordinator and provided leadership for state-wide agriscience teacher professional development. Dr. Thoron has been recognized for his research, advising, and teaching across the local, regional, national, and international level.

“A business short on capital can borrow money and one with poor location can move, but a business short on leadership has little chance of survival.”

-Warren Bennis



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