

Seaman A. Knapp: Perspective

American agriculturist and educator Seaman Asahel Knapp was born in Schroon Lake, NY, in 1833 and died in Washington, DC, in 1911. After graduating from Union College in 1856, he became a teacher. An incapacitating accident interrupted his career in 1866, and he moved to Iowa, where at various times he was a farmer, a Methodist clergyman, and superintendent of the state school for the blind. Becoming interested in scientific farming and stock breeding, he founded the *Western State Journal and Farmer* in Cedar Rapids in 1872 and was a co-founder of the Iowa Improved Stock Breeders' Association. He served as the association's first president.

After 1880, Knapp's agricultural pioneering began to gain national attention. A teacher at the Iowa State Agricultural College, he was appointed in 1902 by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture as special agent for the promotion of agriculture in the South. He introduced improved methods of farming into Louisiana, spurred the development of rice culture in the Southwest, demonstrated methods for curbing the boll weevil in Texas, and inaugurated a federal program of farm demonstrations throughout the South.

While he wrote no books (he was the author of numerous articles and many farmers' bulletins issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture), Knapp's legacy was to bring progressive agricultural methods to the American farmer. An agrarian reformer, he wanted to change the pattern of society for the benefit of humankind. He achieved this partly by organizing a system of county farm and home demonstration agents and boys and girls clubs from which developed the U.S. Cooperative Extension Service. As he once wrote,

"What a man hears, he may doubt; what he sees, he may possibly doubt; but what he does himself, he cannot doubt" (Knapp, as cited in Martin, 1921). Seaman Knapp's discovery was the realization that the individual lays at the base of any human problem.

(Source: International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame, <http://www.halloffame.outrreach.ou.edu/1997/knapp.html>)

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Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College Address delivered June 30, 1894

11th Annual Seaman A. Knapp Seminar "Thinking Differently: The Hybrid Extension Educator of the Future"

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Past Knapp Seminars Topic and Presenter(s)

- 2009 *Post-Conflict Agricultural Development in Iraq: Lessons Learned in Engaging Communities and Measuring Impact - A Blueprint for Action*
Drs. Gary Briers & Glen Shinn, Texas A&M University
- 2010 *Madagascar Conservation - Providing Solutions in Complex Cultural Environments*
Shannon Engberg & Gary Shore, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo Conservation Genetics Department
- 2011 *Navigating 21st Century Culture: Staying Relevant in a Rapidly Changing America*
Laura Laumatia, Extension Educator, University of Idaho Extension, Coeur d'Alene Reservation
- 2012 *Our Forest Heritage: The Cradle of Forestry*
Ms. Cindy Carpenter, USDA Forest Service, Cradle of Forestry in America Historic Site, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina
- 2013 *Extension- Evolving and Building on our Land-Grant Mission.*
Dr. Keith Smith, The Ohio State University Extension
- 2014 *Cooperative Extension and the Next 100 Years.*
Dr. Tim Cross, Dean, University of Tennessee Extension
- 2015 *International Agriculture and Food Security.*
Dr. Elsa Murano, Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture
- 2016 *Partnering for the Future: Trends in Community, Industry, Extension, and Education for Agricultural Outreach.*
Dr. Kristina Boone, Kansas State University, Mr. Cliff Becker, Farm Journal Media; Dr. Londa Nwadike, University of Missouri; Dr. Timothy Shaffer, Kansas State University
- 2017 *Community Innovation Lab (CIL); at the University of Kentucky - Model for the 21st Social Science Research Station.*
Dr. Kristina Hains, University of Kentucky and Dr. Bryan Hains, University of Kentucky
- 2018 *Turning Agricultural Education Research into Understanding Practice, Outreach, and Extension Materials*
Dr. Alexa Lamm Ashley and Ms. Ashley McLeod, UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education

Speaker Profile

President Wendy Wintersteen



Dr. Wendy Wintersteen became the 16th president of Iowa State University on Nov. 20, 2017, after a nationwide search, followed by a unanimous vote of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa. The first woman to hold the university's highest office, Dr. Wintersteen has served Iowa State for nearly 40 years in several capacities.

After working in eastern and central Iowa as one of the first female ISU Extension associates in integrated pest management, Dr. Wintersteen completed her doctorate in entomology at Iowa State. Rising through the ranks to become a professor of entomology (with a brief stint at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.), she then assumed a number of administrative roles in extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS).

Most recently, Dr. Wintersteen served for eleven years as the endowed dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station. During her tenure, CALS rapidly increased enrollment to become the third largest college of agriculture in the nation, research grants increased markedly, awards for teaching excellence grew, and the college achieved a 98% placement rate for its graduates. She was selected for the 2018 Women of Influence award from the Des Moines Business Record.

Dr. Wintersteen holds a bachelor's of science degree in crop production from Kansas State University and Ph.D. in entomology from Iowa State University. She is married to Robert Waggoner, author and former businessman.