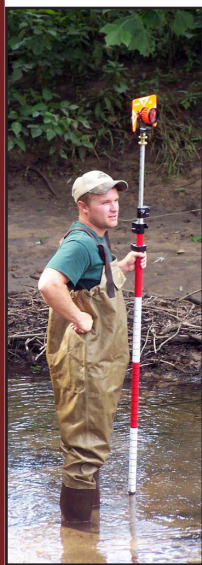


AG R E V I E W

Volume 27

Spring
2009



Missouri StateTM UNIVERSITY

Department of Agriculture Faculty and Staff

Full-Time Faculty

Dr. Anson Elliott, Head	Agronomy
Dr. Clydette Alsup	Horticulture
Dr. Michael Burton	Agronomy
Dr. Ben Fuqua	Agronomy
Dr. James Hutter	Ag Education
Dr. Lyndon Irwin	Animal Science
Dr. Bruce Johnson	Ag Economics
Dr. Martin Kaps**	Pomology
Dr. Laszlo G. Kovacs**	Biotechnology
Dr. Dale Law* **	VESTA, Director
Dr. Ben Onyango	Ag Economics
Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski**	Integrated Pest Management
Dr. Wenping Qiu**	Molecular Plant Virology
Dr. Arbindra Rimal	Ag Economics
Dr. Michael Roling	Forestry & Entomology
Dr. Dennis Schmitt	Veterinary Science
Dr. Pamela Trewatha	Horticulture
Dr. Beth Walker	Animal Science
Dr. Gary Webb	Equine Science
Ms. Sue Webb	Equine Science
Mr. Jon Wiggins	Technology Education
Dr. Karl Wilker**	Enology

Per Course Faculty

Ms. Joyce Cutright - Agricultural Communications, Mr. Tom DeWitt - Soil & Water Conservation, Ms. Amanda Evert - Agriculture Promotions, Mr. Roger Fent, Ag Sales, Ms. Tammy Holder - Forages, Ms. Barbara Irwin- Communications, Dr. Harry James - Agronomy, Dr. Don Levi - Agricultural Law, Ms. Lori Padgett - Horticulture, Dr. Jason Salchow - Veterinary Science, Mr. Pete Smith - Statistics, Mr. Deal Toney - Agricultural Photography, Ms. Sheila Wear - Floral Arranging

Graduate Students

Courtney Coleman**, Codi Burris, Crystal Duey, Kevin Durden**, Crystal Eng, Jennifer Ford, Douglas Gisselbeck, Dennison Heilman, Holly Hurshman, Darren Lakey, Sonja Lallemand**, Andrew McCorkill, Kathi Mecham, Jarred Meyer, Sarah Mohn, Emily Mullen, Samuel Nusz, Travis Phipps, Xiaomei Shu**, Landon Snook, Richard White, Mary Wicker

Staff

Jack Atchison**	Field & Maintenance
Carrie Crews* **	Secretary Agriculture/VESTA
Jeremy Emery**	Field & Maintenance Crew Leader
Michael Matthews* **	Physical Plant Foreman
Pamela A. Mayer* **	Library Associate II
Susanne Howard**	Research Assistant
Dr. Shaista Lunden**	Research Assistant
Janice Moll	Administrative Assistant III
Bob Mosier* **	Custodian
Michelle Norgren	VESTA Grant Director
Justin Sissel	Beef Operations Manager
Randy Joe Stout**	Field & Maintenance Crew Leader
Ramona Taylor	Administrative Assistant I
Pam Turner**	Executive Assistant
Steven Turner**	Field & Maintenance Crew Leader
Joseph D. Wright**	Vehicle & Equipment Mechanic

Visiting Scientists

Dr. Ali Mohammad Babar**
Dr. Yiming Zhang**

Professional Staff

John Avery**	Horticulture Advisor
Marilyn Odneal**	Horticulture Advisor

Adjunct Faculty

Mr. Peter Gaul, Dr. Ernest Keith, Ms. Diane Olson, Mr. Gary Townsend, Ms. Karen Zydenbos, Mr. Robert Kallenbach

Emeritus Faculty and Staff

Dr. Gayle Ashley - Horticulture, Dr. Robert Glenn - Agricultural Business, Dr. Harry James - Soils, Dr. James F. Moore, Jr. - Plant Pathology, Dr. Vernon Renner - Soils, Dr. John Schatz - Horticulture, Dr. Charles Stufflebeam - Animal Science (deceased March 1, 2009), Dr. Howard Townsend- Entomology, Ms. Sally McAlear - Secretary

* Reports to other University Departments

** Mountain Grove Campus

- Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. We encourage applications from women, minorities, and all interested and qualified people.

Statistics Fall 2007

Class	Men	Women	Total	Major Enrollment	
Freshmen	20	24	44	Agricultural Communications	9
Sophomores	21	31	52	General Agriculture	17
Juniors	60	40	100	Agricultural Secondary Education (Graduate Masters)	1
Seniors	86	75	161	Agronomy	25
Graduate Students	14	12	26	Animal Science	104
Total	201	182	383	Agricultural Business/Agricultural Enterprise Management	20
				Agricultural Business/Agricultural Finance and Management	21
				General Agriculture (BAS Degree)	16
				Horticulture	25
				Agricultural Business/Agricultural Marketing and Sales	19
				College of Natural and Applied Science (Graduate Masters)	15
				Graduate Masters	4
				Plant Science (Graduate Masters)	6
				Technology Education	6
				Agricultural Education	41
				Wildlife Conservation and Management	54
				Total	383

Scholarship and Awards Banquet Sponsors

Citizens National Bank - Frank Hilton – 2002, 2006
 Bill and Virginia Darr – 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 W. Anson and Betty Elliot – 2008
 FCS Financial – 2006, 2007, 2008
 Hammons Products Co. - Brian Hammons – 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008
 John and Sally McAlear – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 MFA, Inc. Regional – 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 PFI Western Store – 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Gus and Pat Rutledge – 2005
 Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Willow Brook Foods Inc. – 2006, 2007

Agriculture Founders Club (\$10,000 minimum donation)

Margaret S. and Mervin C. Aude	Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Harrison	Bud E. Orchard
William K. Berry	Cody W. and Marilyn Ice	T. Edward and Carol Pinegar
Laurence R. Buller	Cody W. Ice II	Peggy Quintus
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Robert and Tracy Caruth	Dr. Harry R. and Marion James	Susan Sanders
Central Dodge	Lee J. Johnson	Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Schmitt
Ric L. and Melanie Cooper	Joplin Regional Stockyards	Helen M. Steiner
Larry and Marilyn Daniel	Journagan Construction	Charles and Patricia Stufflebeam
Bill and Virginia Darr	Glenn E. and Ruth Z. Karls	John and Jane Sullivan
Darr Family Foundation	Larson Farm & Lawn	Kenny Teague
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Day Cattle Company	Carl and Dianna Lowe	Gary and Sydney Tompkins
W. Anson and Betty Elliott	Clayton L. and Mary A. Mathile	Mr. and Mrs. James C. Tucker
Farmers Coop Livestock Marketing Assn.	John and Sally McAlear	United States Tobacco Co.
FCS Financial	MFA Foundation	Scholarship Awards Program
Greene County Farm Bureau	Lewis and Patricia Miller	Julie Vestal-Gibbons
Rick Gunlock	Missouri Beef Industry Council	Barry Waack
R. Dwain and Donna Hammons	Missouri Farm Bureau	Rosalie Wooten
Jack and Janice Harris	Kym and Michael Morse	Dr. J. Kathleen Young
Rita Harris	Michelle K. Nahon	Vaughn and Becky Zimmerman



As you review the articles in this year's Ag Review, you will see that the National Convention of Delta Tau Alpha, the National Soils Judging Contest, the Regional Equitation contests, and many state and local instructional and competitive events have been hosted by our department. While we have two new faculty in Dr. Mike Burton (agronomy) and Dr. Ben Onyango (agricultural economics), we are losing Dr. Bruce Johnson due to his retirement and Dr. Tommy Perkins who took a position in industry. Both made a tremendous and lasting positive impact on the department. The special section focusing on our graduate students reflects the added emphasis of research by our faculty and programs.

After moving into the expanded and totally remodeled Karls Hall in 1998, the recent generous gift of Bill Berry, a graduate in 1970, is making construction possible for a high technology, state of the art conference room that will be special for our department and in high demand from others at the university.

We are so appreciative of our many friends and donors who have provided funds for further expansion of the Darr Center and Mountain Grove Campus. Efforts are now underway for construction of a new entrance to the Darr Center and the continuation of fund raising for the Learning Center Building. The facility is in the final planning stages and will be the "signature" building as one enters the Darr Center. Special appropriations from Senator Kit Bond and Congressman Roy Blunt for infrastructure and educational equipment, as well as the lead gift by Bill and Virginia Darr for the Learning Center building, are so appreciated. Congresswomen Jo Ann Emerson and MSU Governor Mary Sheid have provided both funding and tireless support for the outstanding efforts of our faculty and staff at Mountain Grove in meeting the mission of that historic component of our department and the university.

The present and past students, faculty, staff and friends make this a special place! Your visits, calls and involvement are extremely important.

Attention All Alumni!

We'd like to update your contact information, and hear about your work and life. Please go to our website to the *Ag Review* page <http://ag.missouristate.edu/AgReview.htm> and either print the Printable Alumni Update Form; complete and mail, or use the Online Alumni Update Form.

Your colleagues and classmates would like to network with you. Thank you for taking this opportunity to share and connect.

The Staff of *Ag Review* and the Missouri State University Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture Department Welcomes New Agricultural Business Professor

by Jocelyn Butler

Coming from a family of teachers and a strong agricultural background, Dr. Benjamin Onyango, Missouri State University Department of Agriculture assistant professor in agricultural business, said he has a passion to touch students' lives in a permanent and positive manner.

Onyango is in his first year teaching agricultural business-related courses including agricultural economics, agricultural business statistics, agricultural policy, international agricultural trade and agricultural finance.

Along with teaching, Onyango also carries out research on food security and safety, agricultural risk, consumer behavior relating to genetically modified food products, organic foods, and agricultural policy and development.

Onyango received his doctorate from the University of Connecticut in May 1999. He has worked at The Food Policy Institute at Rutgers State University of New Jersey, the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University and served as an economist



with the Ministry of Agriculture for the government of Kenya.

Retired Military Photographer Teaching New Ag Photography Class

by Kalyn Stevens

Deal Toney, a retired military photographer from Marshfield, added a new dimension to the Agriculture Department spring 2009, when he taught the first-ever Missouri State University agricultural photography class.

Agricultural photography was a first-block class worth one credit. The class' only requirement was that students bring a digital camera to each class session.

Toney has been all over the world to take pictures. He was in the military for 23 years with 20 of those years spent as a photographer. As a military photographer, he photographed the release of POWs from North Vietnam, the release of two POWs held in China, the Jonestown recovery, the Canary Island 747 disaster, the earthquakes in the Azores Islands and the release of the Iranian embassy hostages. He also took photographs for the military assistance to safety and traffic program (MAST), and

military training exercises involving the United States and its NATO allies.

Outside of the military, Toney has had many assignments including photographing the King and Queen of Thailand, and the Dutch Royal Family.

Toney said he started out as a sculptor and evolved into a photographer. While sculpting, he worked with pictures of sculptures, and then started working with different forms of media. Later he went into military photography and eventually freelancing. He also still sculpts.

Toney said his favorite subject to photograph is people just being themselves. He said pictures are all around you and you just have to capture them.

"Cameras don't take pictures. Photographers take pictures," said Toney.

Toney said he wanted all of his students to be able to have a keener eye on what's happening around them, "to stop looking



and start seeing." He added that his favorite part of teaching is watching the lights come on when someone grasps an idea and makes it their own.

"There is a certain excitement in their eyes," said Toney.

New Professor Values Student Feedback

by Cody Yanko

"I love it at MSU," says Dr. Michael Burton, a new professor of agronomy at Missouri State University. Burton who is finishing his second semester at MSU said he plans to contribute in ongoing efforts to make the Agriculture Department even better.

"I want to make courses scholarly and useful for students," said Burton.

During the semester Burton asks his students to write down what they want to know and/or learn while taking the class. He said receiving anonymous feedback is



a good way to find out what the students already know and understand, and what he needs to cover the remainder of the semester to make the class better.

Prior to teaching at MSU, Dr. Burton taught at North Carolina State for seven years as a research teaching professor, 85 percent research and 15 percent teaching. Burton is an ecologist and has worked with weeds, row crops and turf.

Burton has a son that is in seventh grade, a stepdaughter that is a senior at MSU majoring in elementary education and a stepson that is in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at East Carolina University.

Agricultural Industry Study Valuable to Past and Present Students

by Kelly Roberts

Almost 48 years ago, four senior Southwest Missouri State University students had the desire to explore and study the agricultural industry they were about to become a part of. After being approached about this need Dr. J.N. Smith, professor of agricultural economics, drove the small group to Kansas City where they spent the day touring businesses.

Today, an average of 30 students enroll in the agricultural industry study, a required class for all agricultural business majors. The students visit alternating locations of St. Louis and Kansas City. Students can enroll twice so that they can visit both areas.

While the class is a great way to network with potential employers, the class is also a way for students to study various industries. Students are required to research select companies and are briefed by classmates before the visit takes place. Students are encouraged to ask informed questions in order to gain knowledge about the business. The meetings are with top managers of industry-leading companies such as MFA, John Deere and Monsanto in a conference setting.

The class is held during the first full week of January and there has only been one instance when weather has delayed the trip.

“We have been lucky to have good drivers and the weather has never caused any major problems,” explained Dr. Bruce Johnson,

professor of agricultural economics. “The only time we missed a visit was because it was 17 degrees below Fahrenheit and the bus wouldn’t start,” said Johnson, who has been advisor and planner for the trip 44 times.

Johnson explained, “Even though the itinerary hasn’t differed much over the years, it has been great to watch how companies such as Monsanto have evolved.”

Dr. Arbindra Rimal, associate professor of agricultural economics, was in charge of planning this year’s trip, as Johnson will be retiring the end of 2009. With the help of Dr. Benjamin Onyango, assistant professor of agricultural economics, Rimal will continue to organize the agricultural industry program which began in 1961.



New Agricultural Communications Club Offers Students Opportunities

by Krystal Hanner

A few agricultural communications majors and a recent graduate have joined forces to create a Missouri State Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Chapter (ACT).

ACT will help to provide students with insight on the agricultural community and also allow students to network with future employers and co-workers.

Lindsey Haymes, a 2006 agricultural communications graduate, initially contacted students about forming the ACT chapter and will serve as the group’s advisor. Haymes is the managing editor for Ozarks Farm and Neighbor, a regional agricultural publication based out of Lebanon, Mo.

Haymes recognizes the importance of professional development in her own career and is encouraging students to take professional involvement seriously. The chapter will also help students obtain internships and jobs in the industry.

ACT President Hailey Robertson, junior agricultural communication major from Lamar, Mo., said she is eager to organize meetings and allow students the opportunity to network with local employers.

“It’s our goal to have members attain internships and jobs in the local community,” Robertson said.

Members will have the opportunity to attend the national convention in August to network and gain skills needed to pursue interest in the agricultural industry.

The National ACT is the leading collegiate agricultural communications organization. ACT’s stated goal is to develop personal growth, opportunities and educational programs.



Missouri State University Hosts National Soil Judging Contest

by Kelsey Ragsdale

Missouri State University hosted the 2009 National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. This event was organized by Dr. Harry James, agronomy professor; Tom DeWitt, per course soils instructor and the MSU agronomy club. The contest was sponsored by the American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America and White River Valley Electric Co-op.

Students and coaches arrived on Sunday, March 29, and stayed in Springfield until the award ceremony in Temple hall on Friday. The top teams from each region qualified for the competition with 23 teams competing.

The universities that competed were University of Minnesota, Oklahoma State University, Tennessee Tech University, University of Kentucky, University of Idaho, University of Tennessee–Martin, Delaware Valley College, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, Cal Poly State University, Utah State University, Northern Illinois University, Kansas State University, Purdue University, West Virginia University, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Iowa State University, University of Rhode Island, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Oregon State University, North Carolina State University and South Dakota State University.

“Twenty-one soil practice pits were excavated from Lawrence, Greene, Stone and Christian counties,” said James. “Students were judged on their ability to classify these soils regarding texture, color and other characteristics.”

The contest consisted of two parts, an individual contest where each student scored three soil pits and a contest where all the members of each team worked together to score two soil pits. Overall rankings were determined by adding together these two parts.

The individual contest was held early in the week and involved three different soil profiles. The top three individual scores from each team were added together and went towards the teams overall ranking. Top Individual honors went to Jeremy Fikkenna from University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

The portion of the contest was held near Pleasant Hope and consisted of two different soil profiles. Members of each team worked together to classify the soils. Kansas State University won the team competition.

Team scores were added to the individual scores to determine the overall rankings. Kansas State University, coached by Dr. Mickey Ramson, won the National Soil Judging Contest. Kansas State University also won the national contest in 2008.

“Many of the teams found Missouri soils hard to classify,” said Dr. Ben Fuqua, MSU agronomy professor and agronomy



club advisor. “The number of rocks and fragipans made it difficult for some teams.”

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office in Springfield, Mo., provided major assistance in organizing the contest and technical assistance for soil descriptions at the practice and contest soil pits. NRCS employees John Preston, Scott Paine, J.R. Perkins and Katie Philbrick provided much of that assistance. Steve Wilson from the Christian County NRCS Office also provided help for landowner contacts for the practice and contest sites.



Clay Webb, recipient of the Missouri State University Citizen Scholar Award, with parents Gary and Sue Webb.

FFA Officers on Campus!

by Lyndi Tuttle

The time has come to throw a final salute to the 2008-2009 Missouri FFA officers. This year students at Missouri State University have been lucky enough to share their campus with two of the 16 state FFA officers.

Over the past year, Area 9 vice president and MSU freshman Daniel Kahre, from Miller, Mo., has had the privilege of representing the Miller FFA chapter and the surrounding area in statewide functions and activities. Kahre has had the opportunity to visit with local chapters sharing leadership advice and opportunities available to FFA members. Kahre is required to attend state and national conventions to represent the Missouri FFA Association.



“Unlike high school officer teams,” Kahre said, “The state officer team doesn’t have a ‘Summer Retreat’. By the time you reach the state officer team, you’re all there for one reason, and there is an unwritten trust among the members. That reason is to serve.”

“The President is in charge, but we are all pretty much on the same playing field,” Kahre stated. “There is a great respect between the members of the officer team. They all know they are one of 16 students who represent over 24,000 Missouri FFA members.”

Kahre said to help build trust among the officer team and the Missouri FFA chapters, the team was required to read “How to Win Friends and Influence Others” by Dale Carnegie.

“[The book] helps you put into perspective how to treat new members and new people, and helps you be a more open person,” Kahre said.

Missouri State University freshman Cody Smith, from West Plains, has served as the 2008-2009 first vice president, representing Area 1. Smith said that his main duties as first vice president were to promote FFA, which requires a lot of public relations activities.

Smith said the officer team attended the National Leadership Conference in Springfield, Ill., in the summer of 2008. Smith said the Missouri officer team listened to keynote speakers and learned to function as a team. At the 2008 National FFA Convention in October, the team served as voting delegates.

“Along with the conventions,” Smith said, “we had to attend State FFA camp, give speeches at area and state banquets, and go to Greenhand Motivational Conferences.” The Greenhand Motivational Conference is used to motivate first year FFA members



and inform them of the opportunities the FFA Association offers.

Smith and Kahre agreed that keeping up with schoolwork is one of the hardest parts of serving as a state officer.

The professors can be difficult, but they will work with you,” Kahre said.

During the year both students were taking mostly agricultural classes.

“Ag professors understand your FFA duties better,” Smith said.

Smith also said he had to cut back on his hours to make sure he could keep up.

Missouri FFA officers are required to go to college in Missouri while they are serving as a state officer. Smith and Kahre both said they chose MSU because it was closer to home and their respective FFA areas.

Smith said he wanted to be a student under Dr. Thomas Perkins. Kahre chose Missouri State because he knew Dr. James Hutter, and wanted to have him as a professor and advisor.

“Despite having a hard time keeping up with schoolwork and being busy most weekends, I would advise anyone who has a passion for the FFA to try to serve on the state officer team,” Kahre said.

Kahre said he was able to go to Taiwan for a convention and he enjoyed being involved at the National FFA Convention.

“Coming from a town of 800 people, you get used to being overlooked,” Kahre said. “At national convention last fall, though, a national officer who I had talked to at the leadership convention asked me how things were going. Out of all the people he had talked to over the year, he still remembered me and took time to stop and talk to me for a moment. It was an amazing feeling.”

Smith said that being a state officer was not only a great experience, but it looked good on a resume and showed that you had great leadership skills.

New FFA Officers Coming to Missouri State

by Lyndi Tuttle

With the end of every April comes a new set of Missouri FFA officers. Three of those new officers will be joining us at Missouri State University.

Area 11 Vice President Kelsie Young will be coming to MSU this fall from Aurora, Mo. She plans to pursue a degree in agricultural communications. She has

previously served as the first vice president of the Aurora FFA Chapter and won the Agricultural Education Proficiency Award for Area 11.

From Area 10 comes Paige Jenkins, who will be serving as one of the state vice presidents. She is from Bolivar, Mo., and is a member of the Pleasant Hope FFA Chapter. She formerly served as vice president for her chapter and has attended

the Missouri Agribusiness Academy. She will also be pursuing a degree in agricultural communications.

State President Samantha Warner from Area 7 will be joining the MSU community from Archie, Mo. She runs Clover County Cakes and raises registered Limousines. She hails from the Archie FFA Chapter where she served as president. She will be pursuing a degree in agricultural education.



Kelsie Young



Paige Jenkins



Samantha Warner

Apple Brandy Study Could Mean Opportunities for Producers and Students

by Beth Courter

Apples to brandy is the basis of a recently approved agricultural marketing study headed by Dr. Arbindra Rimal, associate professor of agricultural economics at Missouri State University.

The project will be funded by the United States Department of Agriculture under the Value-Added Producer Grant. The Grant was awarded to Of the Earth, LLC, who owns a distillery in northwest Missouri. Of the Earth, LLC, hired Ellis Management Marketing Group, Inc., who subcontracted the marketing study portion of the overall project to Rimal.

The project will help determine the market potential for brandy and brandy products made from Missouri apples in nine counties including Jackson, Platte, Bates, Clay, Caldwell, Carroll, Chariton, Lafayette and Ray.

The project was awarded \$7,244 to pay summer salaries of faculty and graduate students who will be involved in the project.

“It is important for Missouri producers to produce and market value-added products, including wine and brandies, to maintain the leadership in the agricultural industry,” explained Rimal. “I am very happy to be a part of this project.



This may lead to other studies dealing with value-added agricultural products.”

According to Rimal, this project will provide opportunities to contribute to the development of Missouri Agriculture that could potentially employ agriculture students.

The marketing project is expected to be completed this summer.

Clubs and Competitive Teams Active in 2008-2009

Agronomy Club

Advisor: Dr. Ben Fuqua
President: Jordan Richner
Vice President: Joey Stokes
Secretary/Treasurer: Sarah Bunton
Activities: Adopt a Highway Trash Pick Up, competed at the Region V Collegiate Soil Judging Contest, Hosted the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest.

Alpha Gamma Rho

President: Matthew Wommach
Wommack001@missouristate.edu

Alpha Gamma Sigma



President: Michael Mernick
Mernick405@Missouristate.edu
<http://organizations.missouristate.edu/agsig/>

Article by Adam Hanneke

The men of Alpha Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chapter are celebrating their 40th year on campus. The celebration started with a day at the ball park watching the Springfield Cardinals. Dr. Anson Elliott, Dr. Jon Wiggins and numerous Alpha Gamma Sigma alumni were present in welcoming new members.

The chapter's annual Porkfest helped raise \$160 for Therapeutic Riding of the Ozarks. In addition to raising money they participated in 100 hours of

community service, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in constructing a house in Springfield, Mo. The chapter volunteered at the Child Development Center and spent a Saturday assembling playground equipment and landscaping improvements.

Alpha Gamma Sigma participated in homecoming week winning first place in the float competition for the second consecutive year. The chapter also participated in Greek Jam, a dance competition that is held during Greek Week.

Alpha Gamma Sigma would like to thank the department and alumni for their contributions to the future of the chapter.

For more information please feel free to contact Michael Mernick, president of Alpha Gamma Sigma at Mernick405@Missouristate.edu.

Block & Bridle



President: Brittaney Shelenhamer
Activities: Dead Day Eve Formal which helped everyone relax before finals. Block and Bridle Fitting Clinic, sponsored by ADM, demonstrated fitting on four species with 82 participants. The Bear Classic Steer and Heifer Show had 187 head, 98 participants, over \$6,000 in prizes and money, and Claire Martin taking Grand Steer and Grand Heifer.

Collegiate Farm Bureau

Advisors: Dr. Anson Elliott
Dr. Bruce Johnson
President: Kymberly James
Vice President: Amanda Smith
Secretary: Daniel Wisner
Treasurer: Michelle Elgin
Public Relations: Christi Gonder
Activities: Salute to Ag. Football Game, Missouri Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Legislative Day in Jefferson City, Annual Agriculture Forum, Food Check Out Day @ Ronald McDonald House

The purpose of Collegiate Farm Bureau is to serve as a bridge between current agricultural production and business interests, and Missouri State students, faculty, and administration. We also interact with legislators in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. as an active voice for agricultural interests along with state and national Farm Bureau organizations, other Collegiate Farm Bureau organizations, and other interested groups with the goal of uniting in common interests and promoting the industry of agriculture in America.

Collegiate FFA

President: Wesley Davis
Treasurer: Kyle Cushard
Activities: National FFA Convention Recruitment, State FFA Convention Recruitment, Food for America's Farmer for a Day.

Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha



Advisors: Dr. Beth Walker
 Dr. Bruce Johnson
 President: Sarah Bunton
 Vice President: Kym James
 Secretary: Christi Gonder
 Treasurer: Matt Wingo
 Activities: DTA National Convention,
 wreath making, KTTS Adopt-
 A-Family, Ag Quiz Bowl

Horseman's Club



President: Kelsey Ragsdale
 Vice President: Toree Bova
 Secretary: Jenny Ford
 Treasurer: Collette Marler
 Historian: Amanda Burdick
<http://organizations.missouristate.edu/horsemens/>
 Activities: Homecoming Parade;
 Therapeutic Riding of the Ozarks; trash
 pick-up; bowling; mini-golf; watch horse
 races in Hot Springs; Fall and Spring
 Banquet; community involvement (FFA,
 4-H, Boy Scouts); support Equestrian Team,
 Horse Judging Team, and Ranch Horse Team.

Horticulture Club

Advisor: Dr. Pam Trewatha
 President: Dustin Collins
 Vice President: Luca Knutter
 Secretary: Alesia Mestayer
 Treasurer: Janelle Melton
 Historian: Micayla Keipter
<http://organizations.missouristate.edu/hortclub/>

Pre-Vet Club



Advisor: Dr. Dennis Schmitt
 President: Alyssa Loveland
 Vice President: Brett Buchanan
 Treasurer: Julie Francis
 Secretary: Joseph Evans
 Public Relations: Erica Lindemann
 SGA Representative: Emily Grady
 SGA Representative: Bobby Sammartino
<http://organizations.missouristate.edu/prevets/>
 Activities: UMC CVM Fundraiser
 Guest Speakers: Doug Tindall, UMC
 CVM's coordinator of student recruitment;
 Dr. Strickland, MSU Music Department;
 Jason Salchow, DVM; and Shelia Taylor,
 DVM.
 Events: UMC CVM Pre-Veterinary
 Advisor's Workshop, Spooktacular at the
 Dickerson Park Zoo, member Help session
 for the MSU Scheduling & Vet School
 Pre-Req's, club trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Zoo, biannual Dog Wash, Strut Your Mutt
 Dog Contest, and Buffalo Wild Wings &
 Bowling Night.

Sigma Alpha



Advisor: Janice Moll
 President: Christine Gonder
 1st Vice President: Lynzee Glass
 2nd Vice President: Brittany Shelenhamer
 Secretary: Sarah Ross
 Treasurer: Kymberly James
 Rush Chair: Erin Young
<http://www.sigmaalphabet-alpha.org/>

Article by Christine Gonder

Sigma Alpha is a professional agricultural sorority that strives to promote women involved in agriculture. This year the girls at Missouri State University have been expanding their philanthropic activities.

A new pen pal program was started with a first grade class in Ava. While the students improved their letter writing skills, sisters were able to share information about life on farms and animal agriculture. This is part of the overall Agriculture in the Classroom program that promotes greater agricultural awareness in young students.

In October, sisters canvassed local neighborhoods and collected over 400 lbs. of canned and dry goods for a local food kitchen. Trick-or-treating for canned goods is a favorite rush-week project with active sisters.

Sisters have also been very active in Relay for Life for a number of years. Last year, a Night in Las Vegas was held to help raise money for the relay and the American Cancer Society. Participants made a donation to the cause and played Vegas-style games for fun and prizes. This year, the sorority received t-shirt donations from 11 of the 14 organizations in the Agriculture Department. These shirts were made into a t-shirt quilt that was then raffled off to benefit Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. The sorority matched the donations at \$800.

Clubs and Competitive Teams Active in 2008-2009 *cont.*

Wildlife Conservation Club

Advisors: Dr. Lyndon Irwin
Dr. Lynn Robbins
President: Emily Spellman
Vice President: Shelly Dey
Secretary: Ashley Dunkle
Treasurer: Kara Bader
Reporter: Melanie Stanek
Public Relations: Jacob Cowherd

Competitive Teams

Horse Judging Team

Advisors: Dr. Gary Webb and Sue Webb



Article by Kelsey Ragsdale

The week of Dec. 3, 2008, the Missouri State University Horse Judging Team was in Oklahoma City, Okla., for the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Collegiate Judging Contest where they competed against 18 other universities. The five person MSU team included Kelsie Minton, senior animal science major from Archie, Mo.; Valerie Craft, senior animal science major from Butler, Mo.; Katie Fisher, sophomore animal science major from Strafford, Mo.; Kelsey Ragsdale, senior animal science major from Willard, Mo.; and Claire Dohmen, sophomore animal science major from Springfield, Mo. MSU coaches were Dr. Gary Webb, equine science professor and Jenny Ford, MSU graduate and animal science graduate assistant.

The contest consisted of a written rule book exam, a video penalty clip test, scoring and placing of 20 reining horse runs. This year MSU placed eighth, winning \$200, ribbons and t-shirts. Funds for this trip were raised by hosting an FFA horse judging clinic in the spring semester, other fundraisers, and donations.

Equestrian Team

Advisors: Dr. Gary Webb and Sue Webb



The MSU Equestrian Team, made up of over 20 members, is also competitive at the national level. The past two years, MSU has had the high-point western rider for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone Nine, Region Two. Points are accumulated at IHSA shows throughout the school year and riders are judged on their horsemanship and reining abilities. Twenty-two high point riders from all the regions compete at the IHSA National Horse Show for the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Cup.

In 2009, Craft competed for the AQHA Cup at Tennessee Miller Coliseum, in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Craft placed ninth in the competition, winning a ribbon and a top-10 jacket. Ford competed in the English riding division in the alumni over fences class and placed 11th.

In 2008, Ragsdale, qualified for the AQHA Cup as well as in the individual

reining class and competed at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center, Los Angeles, Calif. She placed ninth in individual reining. Codi Burriss, MSU graduate student, was reserve champion in alumni reining and was champion in the alumni western horsemanship, winning a ribbon, trophy and a show saddle.

Ranch Horse Team

Advisors: Dr. Gary Webb and Sue Webb



Ranch Horse Team provides the opportunity for students to participate in a wider variety of more traditional western performance events than they can on the equestrian team. Students can ride their own horses or Missouri State horses in the competitions. This is a new team and due to the high cost of travel with horses, members only participated in one show in the fall and one in the spring.

Rodeo Team

Advisor: Dr. Doug Gere
President: Liz Henry
<http://organizations.missouristate.edu/rodeo/>

The Rodeo team, coached by Dr. Douglas Gere, consists of 12 individuals who compete in collegiate level rodeo events. Members participate in 10 rodeos a year. Missouri State is a part of the Ozarks



Region, which consists of universities from Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri. Students travel to all the rodeos as a team. They are supported by SOFAC and other local fundraisers, which pay for gas and lodging expenses. The organization provides an opportunity to learn horsemanship, training and animal care. It also provides the opportunities to make contacts with rodeo athletes and animal experts from across the country.

Soil Judging Team

Advisor: Tom DeWitt

Team Members: Sarah Bunton, Kymberly James, Ashley Vinson, Chris Lanz, Caleb Robertson, Chris Rapp, Jordan Richner, Chris Brandt, Sean Priest and Nick Henderson.

Article by Jocelyn Butler

The Missouri State University Soils Team participated in the Region 5 American Society of Agronomy Collegiate Soils Contest at Coquet, Minn., sponsored by the University of Minnesota. Coach Tom DeWitt said the contest was a great learning experience even though the MSU team only placed seventh.

“It is an honor to compete with the land grant universities,” said DeWitt. “Kansas State, for instance, has won the national contest two years in a row. Iowa State University placed first at the regional contest in Minnesota last fall.”

“I always tell my students that it is OK not to place first in the regional contest because of the excellent competition,” said DeWitt. “My goal for the team is always to place in the top four at regional so we can compete in the national contest.”

The regional contest this fall will be held at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.



“We will be trying very hard to place in the top four at that contest so we can compete in the national contest the spring of 2010,” said DeWitt.

“A major educational goal of the soils contest is to have students learn an appreciation for use of soil information and to make wise land-use decisions for the rest of their lives,” said DeWitt. “For instance, in the Ozarks it would be great if we could all learn not to build on the floodplain or in a sinkhole.”

Trap & Skeet Team

Advisor: Dr. Jon Wiggins

President: Kevin Lee

Article by Justin Pride

The Missouri State University Trap and Skeet Team competed at several meets this year including their own Bear Invitational Tournament.

The Bear Invitational Tournament was held at Ozark Shooters Sports Complex in Walnut Shade, Mo. The team also helped defray the cost of clay targets and ammunition by pulling and scoring rounds of registered skeet as a fundraiser at the Springfield Rod and Gun Club’s Hunters Open regional tournament.

During the Bear Invitational Tournament the MSU Trap and Skeet team competed against eight teams. The team competed in American trap, American skeet, wobble trap, doubles trap and shot sporting clays.



The team attended their first shoot at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, Neb. The team competed in American skeet, doubles skeet, American trap and doubles trap.

The final competition of the season was held in Lenexa, Kan., and was hosted by Kansas State University. MSU Competed in American trap, Doubles trap, American skeet and sporting clays.

The MSU Trap and Skeet Team will be attending more competitions including the National Intercollegiate Clay Target Championship held annually in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Jon Wiggins is the faculty sponsor for the trap and skeet team. For further information contact Dr. Wiggins at 417-836-8824 or by email at jwiggins@missouristate.edu.

Graduate Students Are Conducting Important Research

by Julie Francis

Courtney V. Coleman



Courtney Coleman, from Springfield, Mo., is working towards a master's degree in plant science.

She is a graduate assistant to Dr. Laszlo Kovacs, professor of biotechnology.

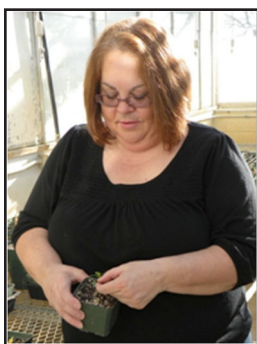
She is currently working with DNA analysis in grapevines, looking for a gene in the grapevines that is fungus resistance to powdery mildew.

Coleman's plans after graduate school are to receive a doctorate in plant science. Her doctorate program will be a cooperative effort between Missouri State University and University of Missouri.

Coleman received her undergraduate degree from Drury University in biology and chemistry.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate student is the flexibility, including being able to design her own plan of study and working on what interests her.

Kathi S. Mecham



Kathi Mecham, from Cape Girardeau, Mo., is working towards a master's in natural and applied sciences.

She is a graduate assistant to Dr. Pam Trewatha, professor of horticulture.

Mecham is currently a teacher's assistant and her master's project is in landscape design conducting different work on the genus *adenium* more

commonly known as the desert rose, in the manipulation of the growth habits in order to make it a better horticultural plant.

Her plans after graduate school are to get a job in landscape design. Mecham received her undergraduate degree at Southeast Missouri State University in horticulture.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate student is being able to be in the greenhouse and working on what she has learned.

Sonja Lallemand



Sonja Lallemand grew up in Haiti and has lived in Springfield, Mo., since 1983. She is working towards a master's in plant science.

Lallemand is in her fourth semester at Missouri State University and is a graduate assistant to Dr. Martin Kaps, professor of pomology.

She is currently doing studies on strawberries, different grapevines and root stock.

Lallemand has received three undergraduate degrees, a degree in accounting from New York, a French Baccalaureate from Haiti and a degree in horticulture at Missouri State University.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate assistant is the challenge. She also said helping others, and being able to come and go as she needs is a plus.

Crystal D. Eng



Crystal Eng, from Houston, Texas, is working toward a master's in natural and applied sciences.

She is a graduate assistant to Dr. Dennis Schmitt, professor of veterinary science.

Eng is currently working in reproductive biology.

Eng's plans after graduate school are to return to Texas and go through the veterinary program at Texas A&M.

She received her undergraduate degree at Texas A&M.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate student is the freedom.

Kevin P. Durden

Kevin Durden, from Norwood, Mo., is working towards a master's in plant science.

He is a graduate assistant to Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski, professor of integrated pest management.



Durden is currently doing research in plant based extracts and using the mass anti-feedants on codling moths.

His plans after graduate school are to apply to the doctorate program at the University of Missouri.

Durden received two undergraduate degrees, one in biology at Drury University and another in industrial management at Missouri State University.

What he enjoys most about being a graduate student is doing research and spending time in the lab.

Jennifer A. Ford



Jennifer Ford, from St. Louis, Mo., is working towards a master's in exercise nutrition and physiology.

She is in her second semester of graduate school and is a graduate assistant to Dr. Gary Webb, professor of equine science.

Ford is currently a teaching assistant and her master's project is studying the effects of fescue on the maximum exercising capacity for horses

to thermo-regulate.

She received her undergraduate at Missouri State University in animal science.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate student is the freedom and getting paid to ride horses.

Andrew M. McCorkill



Andrew McCorkill, from Greenfield, Mo., is working towards a master's in animal science.

He is in his second semester of graduate school and is a graduate assistant to Dr. Gary Webb, professor of equine science.

McCorkill is currently working on a mineral study with Vigortone and how minerals affect body temperature. He is also studying how fescue affects

body temperature in cattle.

He received his undergraduate degree in general agriculture at Missouri State University.

What he enjoys the most about being a graduate student includes "the power, the teaching side of things and working with cattle."

Megan J. Eaves



Megan Eaves, from El Dorado Springs, Mo., is working towards a master's in agricultural education.

She is in her first semester of graduate school and is graduate assistant to Dr. James Hutter, professor of agricultural education.

Eaves is currently a teaching assistant in agricultural education. She will be teaching agriculture at Cass-Midway High School in Cleveland, Mo.,

and will be starting a first-year agricultural education program and FFA chapter.

She received her undergraduate degree at Missouri State University in agricultural communications.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate student is working with kids. She noted that teaching agriculture can be diversified.

Mary Wicker



Mary Wicker, from Aurora, Mo., is working towards a master's in business administration.

She is in her fourth semester of graduate school and is a graduate assistant to Dr. Arbindra Rimal, professor of agricultural economics,

Wicker is currently working on explaining farm credit demand from the count level data from the most recent USDA Census.

Her plans after graduate school are to except a doctoral assistantship at Oklahoma State University in the administration program with emphasis in finance.

Wicker received her undergraduate at Missouri State University in animal science.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate student is the flexibility of what she can study and the fact that there is lots of freedom.

Jarred L. Meyer

Jarred Meyer, from Glasgow, Mo., is working towards a master's in plant science.



Meyer is in his fourth semester as a graduate student and is a graduate assistant to Dr. Anson Elliott, head of the agriculture department.

He is currently working with tall fescue and perennial rye grass with the New Zealand dairy farmers.

After graduate school Meyer plans to start his own farm with row crops and beef cattle.

He received his undergraduate degree at Missouri State University in agronomy.

What he enjoys most about being a graduate student is being able to do what he wants and needs to do.

Douglas Gisselbeck



Douglas Gisselbeck is originally from southern California, but now lives in Springfield, Mo. He is working towards a master's in natural and applied sciences.

Gisselbeck is in his third semester as a graduate student and is a graduate assistant to Dr. Harry James, professor of agronomy.

He is currently working on bio-solids (human wastes from sewage plants) and its infiltration into the soil.

Gisselbeck hopes eventually to work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

He received his undergraduate degree at Missouri State University in agronomy.

What he enjoys most about being a graduate student is the work and being able to teach others.

Angela R. Boyer



Angela Boyer, from Park Hills, Mo., is working towards a master's in natural and applied sciences.

She is in her first semester as a full-time graduate student in the Accelerated Master's Program. She began the program in her last semester as an undergraduate finishing with a 4.0 GPA. She

is a graduate assistant to Dr. Elizabeth Walker, assistant professor of animal science.

Boyer was recently recognized with the first place graduate honor at the Missouri State University Graduate Interdisciplinary Forum. She competed against 45 other graduate students to win, many of whom were in the final stages of their graduate work. This was the first time that an agriculture student has been recognized with this award.

This was a team effort that included the assistance of Travis L. Mays, senior in Wildlife Biology from Seymour, Mo.; Dr. Gary Webb, professor of equine science; Dr. Walker, and the Darr Center staff.

Boyer is currently working on the effects of ergot-endophyte-infected fescue seed on prepubertal female meat goats. She is also studying the temperament, behavior, hormonal concentrations, and growth of grass fed small framed bulls in southwest Missouri.

She plans to continue her education by pursuing a doctorate at another university. She would like to continue the fescue, temperament, and behavioral research on livestock species, with an emphasis in cattle and goats.

Boyer received her undergraduate in animal science at MSU, as well as an associate's degree in art from Mineral Area College, Park Hills, Mo.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate student is all aspects of research, working with the animals and being in the lab.

Holly M. Hurshman



Holly Hurshman is originally from New Jersey, but is currently living in Nixa, Mo. She is working towards a master's in natural and applied sciences.

She is in her third semester as a graduate student and is a graduate assistant to Dr. Gary Webb, professor of equine science.

Hurshman is a teaching assistant for animal science classes. She is currently working on the effects of endophyte-infected fescue in relationship to anaerobic exercise and is attempting to find a technique to quantify hindquarter turns.

She plans to continue teaching and after graduating would like to teach at the university level, or continue to work towards a doctorate so she could qualify to become a professor.

Hurshman received her undergraduate at Missouri State University and received a bachelor's in animal science. She also received an associate's degree from Ozark Technical Community College.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate student is being a teaching assistant, which allows her to share her passion and knowledge of riding. She also enjoys watching students grow into young equestrians.

Xiaomei Shu



Xiaomei Shu, from China, is working towards a master's in plant science.

Shu is a graduate assistant to Dr. Wenping Qiu, professor of molecular plant virology. Shu is in her third semester as a graduate student.

She is currently working on molecular biology in grapevines.

Shu plans to do a doctorate program after completing her master's.

She received her undergraduate degree at Sichuan Agricultural University in China with a major in biotechnology.

What Shu enjoys most about being a graduate student is having the ability to learn and doing her research.

Heather A. Raines

Heather Raines, from Willard, Mo., is working towards a master's in agricultural education.

Raines is in her second year working on her master's. She is currently teaching in Bethany, Mo., and student taught in Chillicothe.

When Raines receives her master's she would like to continue her education and eventually teach agricultural education at a university.

She received her undergraduate in agricultural education at Missouri State University.

What she enjoys most about being a graduate student is being able to continue her education while teaching others.

Codi Burris



Codi Burris, from Southwest Wyoming, is currently living in Ames, Iowa, working at Iowa State University. She received a master's in natural and applied sciences.

She graduated in December 2008 and was a graduate assistant to Dr. Gary Webb, professor of equine science.

Burris studied the effects of egg yolk source on the cryopreservation of stallion semen. She compared chicken egg yolk, omega three enriched chicken egg yolk, duck egg yolk, turkey egg yolk and a cryopreservation extender.

Burris is managing the horse teaching farm at Iowa State University.

What she enjoyed most about being a graduate student was learning all that she could about her research and teaching students.

Other Graduate Students in the Department of Agriculture are:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Richard B. White | Jeffrey A. Woodward |
| Jerrold P. Lawrence | Brenda A. Leap |
| Bryan D. Gast | S. Nath Choudhury |
| Emily K. Mullen | Crystal J. Duey |
| Christina McKinney | Samuel R. Percival |



Mary Sheid, Eighth District Board of Governors member and member of the Mountain Grove Campus advisory committee.

Agriculture Forum Participants Discuss Cap and Trade Issues and Water Quality

by Jocelyn Butler

The 11th Missouri State University Collegiate Farm Bureau Agriculture Forum featuring speakers U.S. Representative Roy Blunt and Missouri Farm Bureau President Charles Kruse was held April 16 at the Knights of Columbus Diamond Room. The annual event's purpose is to bring awareness to and focus on critical issues facing rural America.



Dr. Anson Elliott, Missouri State University Agriculture Department head, and Dr. Belinda McCarthy, Missouri State University provost, welcomed guests to the event.

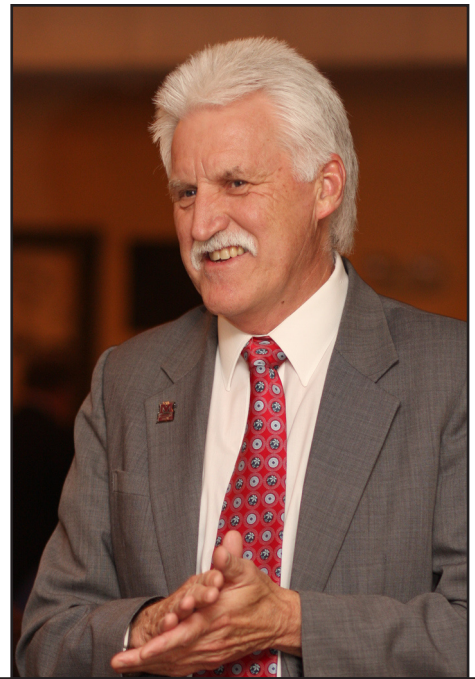
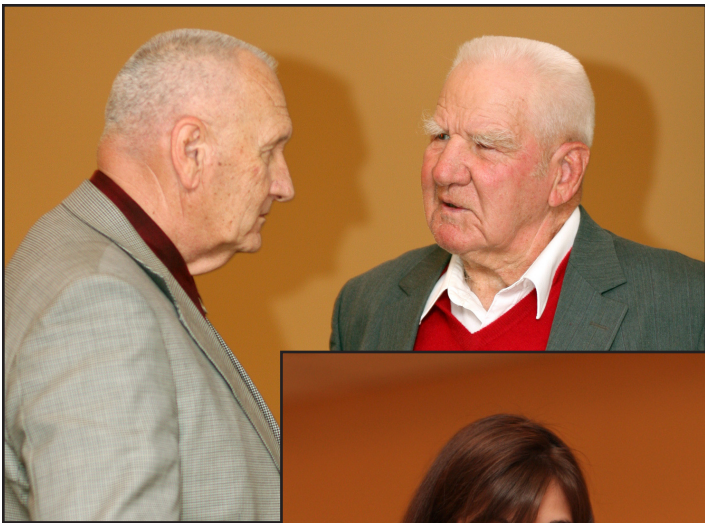


Janet Adkison, a 1997 Missouri State University agricultural communications graduate and current farm director for KMZU radio in Carrollton, Mo., served as moderator for the forum.



U.S. Representative Roy Blunt and Missouri Farm Bureau President Charles Kruse both expressed their views on American agriculture and the issues facing rural America. The cap and trade issue, and water quality were two of the main topics discussed. Federal, state, and county government officials; business leaders; farmers; and students asked questions and voiced their opinions during the open forum.





Department Banquet Has Been an Annual Event for 70 Years

by Whitney Wiegert

“The Agriculture Scholarship Banquet has a long and tremendous 70 year history, and has always been a program held to recognize the achievements made by the agriculture students,” said Dr. Anson Elliot, head of the Agriculture Department. “It is a unique event that is about the students, parents, donors, community and university leaders, and legislatures coming together for an annual celebration of the achievements of our students.”

The banquet started out as a department event that was part of Farm Week, a week-long event that focused on a specific area of agriculture each day. The purpose of the week was to create more efficient farm products, and to recognize farmers and the farming industry.

The first Farm Week was held Feb. 7-10, 1928, in the Administration Building auditorium. The speakers who attended were individuals from the college, Mountain Grove Experimental Station, the Frisco Railroad, Missouri Pacific Railroad and people from around the area. The week’s events included Poultry Day, Fruit Day, Soils and Crop Day, and Dairy Day. The banquet was held the final night.

The purpose of the banquet was to show appreciation for all of the farmers that had taken part in the week’s events. The program for the night included speeches by Professors W.O. Cralle and E.V. Thomas, and singing by the Men’s Glee Club. The college decided that if Farm Week was a success it would become an annual event.

Mrs. Harry Carr presenting the Uncle Tom Watkins Agricultural Award to Mr. Edgar Lee Howard, Willard, October 31, 1967.



Farm Week continued to be a part of the department for the next 9 years with very few changes made. The year 1938 was the event’s 10th year, and with the arrival of Professor Glenn E. Karls, there was a new energy for the program. There were many area schools whose vocational agricultural classes attended including Republic, Clever, Marshfield, El Dorado Springs, Buffalo, Carthage, Willard and Jasper.

In 1939 Farm Week was changed to the Agriculture Improvement Program. It was held in January as a three-day session addressing problems Missouri farmers were facing.



Vance Hambelton, Gainesville, \$190 KYTV Scholarship; John Hoffman, Willard, \$300 Federated Garden Club Scholarship; Dennis Schmitt, Springfield, \$150 KWTO Farm Service Scholarship; Brian Lawrence, Springfield, \$150 Springfield Rotary-Urban Scholarship.

KWTO Radio Station sponsored the first scholarship for \$100 in 1954. The scholarship was to be presented to an outstanding freshman agriculture major in the fall.

The 23rd Agriculture Improvement Program was held Nov. 1-3, 1961. The last day was the Farm Forum and the night ended with the banquet, which included the presentation of scholarships. It was held at Dent's Dinner House.

At the 1970 Agriculture Improvement Program Banquet Dr. Karls was honored for his 33 years of service to the Agriculture Department. Remarks were made by President Arthur Mallory and Dr. Karl's portrait was unveiled by a former student, Sam McCroskey.

The 2008 banquet was the 70th banquet. Through the years the banquet has only been cancelled one time. During the Great Depression in 1930, the lack of funding and faculty prevented the department from having the event.

"We might be struggling with some of the same issues as in the 30s, but because of the achievements of the students we plan to work hard and hold the event anyway," explained Elliott. "We will have the annual banquet unless we find it impossible."

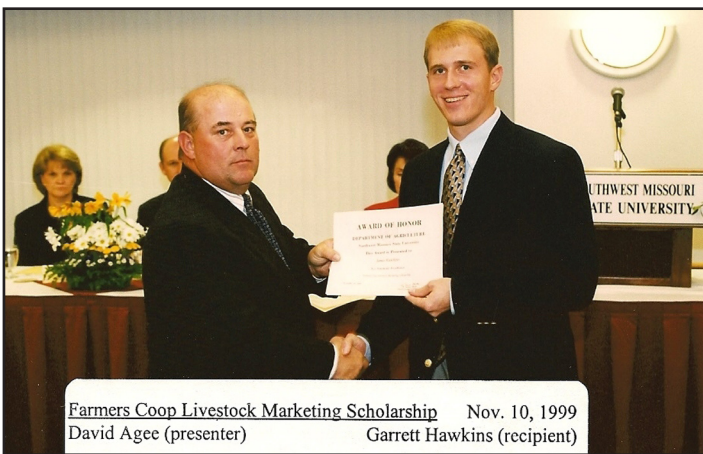
Writers's Note: The early history for the article came from Dr. Lyndon Irwin's book - "History of Agriculture at Southwest Missouri State University".



Elaine Foster, an SMSU Senior, was presented the Glenn E. Karls Sr. Excellence Award in Ag by Dr. Elliott and Mrs. Glenn E. Karls 1986



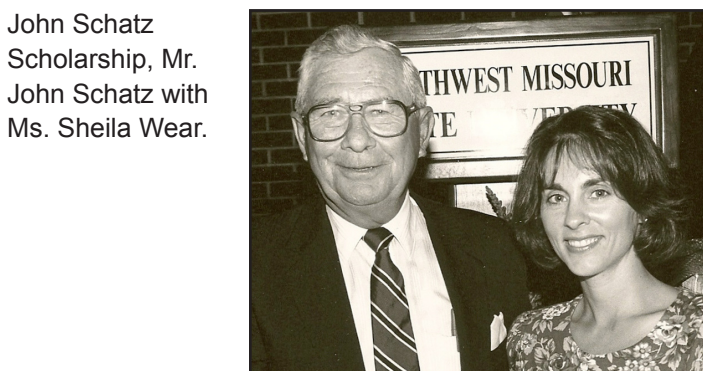
TIM EGGERMAN CYNTHIA YOUNGBLOOD
AGRICULTURE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP 1994



Farmers Coop Livestock Marketing Scholarship Nov. 10, 1999
David Agee (presenter) Garrett Hawkins (recipient)



John Schatz with Dr. Vernon Renner.



John Schatz Scholarship, Mr. John Schatz with Ms. Sheila Wear.

Unidentified scholarship winners.



November Scholarship Banquet Highlights



Agriculture Alumni Scholarship

Ryan Wood, junior wildlife conservation major from Springfield, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Tim Eggerman, alumni representative (right).



Gayle Ashley Horticulture Scholarship

Cynthia Peterson, senior horticulture major from Le Mars, Iowa. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Ben Fuqua, professor (right).



Carr Farm Scholarship

Joshua Cutler, junior general agriculture major from Morrisville, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Wilma Jean Lower, Carr family member (right).



Marilyn Daniel Scholarship

Dr. Gary Webb, professor, (left), presenting the award to Susan Demster, postbaccalaureate student from Miller, Mo. (right).



Douglas W. Darr Leadership

Jordan Richner, senior agronomy major from Pleasant Hope, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Sherry Hellweg, scholarship founder (right).



FFA Scholarship

Kalyon Stevens, sophomore agricultural business/enterprise management major from Bolivar, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Jon Wiggins, professor (right).

Scholarship	Recipient	Home Town
Agriculture Alumni		
Senior	Lauren Bacon	Cuba
Junior	Ryan Wood	Springfield
Junior	Jamie Burch	Butler
Sophomore	Daniel Wisner	Osceola
Freshman	Evan Kempker	Eugene
Freshman	Cody Smith	West Plains
Transfer	Tyler Fox	Ozark

Gayle Ashley Horticulture Club Scholarship

Cynthia Peterson Le Mars, Iowa

Block & Bridle Club Scholarship

Caleb Robertson Lamar

Carr Farm Scholarship

Senior	Kelsey Ragsdale	Willard
Junior	Joshua Cutler	Morrisville
Sophomore	Andrew Kautsch	Russellville

Marilyn Daniel Scholarship

Susan Demster Miller

Douglas W. Darr Leadership Scholarship

Senior	Lynzee Glass	Tunas
Senior	Christine Gonder	Lexington
Senior	Jordan Richner	Pleasant Hope
Senior	Jamie Vest	Stoutland
Senior	Allie Massa	Lamar
Junior	Wesley Davis	Ava
Junior	Amanda Parrack	Macks Creek
Junior	Matthew Wommack	Buffalo
Junior	Wenonah Toney	Marshfield
Sophomore	Kevin Lee	Nevada
Freshman	Allison Bos	Billings
Freshman	Daniel Kahre	Miller

The Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Scholarship

Kymerly James Edgar Springs

FFA Scholarship

Kalyon Stevens Bolivar
Breanna Walrath Mt. Vernon

FFA State Officer Scholarship

Cody Smith West Plains
Daniel Kahre Miller

FCS Financial Scholarship

Senior Victor Gradinariu Anina, Romania

Farmers Coop Livestock Marketing Scholarship

Victor Arnaud Monett
Katy Scott Marshfield
Jocelyn Butler Republic

Jack Gordon Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Cope Aurora

Christian Robert Hirsch Memorial Scholarship

Jacob Wilhoit Lone Jack

Harry & Marion James Agronomy Scholarship

Chris Rapp Rockville

Norman Justus Scholarship

Erin Young Pomona

Glenn E. & Ruth Z. Karls Memorial Scholarship

Senior Sarah Ross Ava
Junior Chad Arnone Montreal
Sophomore Courtney Jones Stockton
Freshman Cody McCann Falcon
Freshman Kaley Harmon Mt. Vernon
Freshman Amber Cobb Everton
Transfer Michael Coleman Carl Junction
Transfer Kayla Hoffman Lebanon

Benjamin Charles Kruse Memorial Scholarship

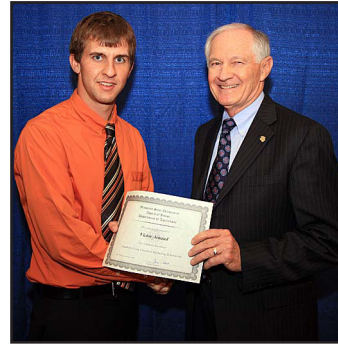
Callie Mawson Archie

James P. & Margaret S. Landreth Scholarship

Kara Bader Campbell
Lyndi Tuttle Halltown

MFA, Inc. Scholarship

Whitney Wiegart Pleasant Hope
Shannon Henry Humansville



Farmers Coop Livestock Marketing Scholarship

Victor Arnaud, junior animal science major from Monett, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Bruce Johnson, professor (right).



Harry & Marion James Agronomy Scholarship

Christopher Rapp junior general agriculture major from Rockville, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Harry James, professor emeritus (right).



Norman Justus Scholarship

Erin Young, senior agricultural education major from Pomona, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Jason Haymes, vocational agriculture teacher, Mt. Vernon, Mo. (right).



Glenn E. & Ruth Z. Karls Memorial Scholarship

Chad Arnone, senior agricultural business/finance & management major from Montreal, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Lyndon Irwin, professor (right).



James P. & Margaret S. Landreth Scholarship

Kara Bader, senior wildlife conservation major from Campbell, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Arbindra Rimal, associate professor (right).



MFA Scholarship

Whitney Wiegert, sophomore agronomy major from Pleasant Hope, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Owen Highley, MFA southwest regional manager (right).

November Scholarship Banquet Highlights *cont.*



Missouri Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture
Cole Warren, junior agronomy major from Lockwood, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Diane Olson, Missouri Farm Bureau (right).



Howard Pyle Scholarship
Megan Brandt, sophomore horticulture major from Westphalia, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Martin Kaps, professor (right).



Vernon Renner Scholarship
Ben DeTar, senior agronomy/agricultural business major from Coffeyville, Kan. (left), receiving the award from Tom DeWitt, per-course instructor (right).



Dennis & Phyllis Schmitt Graduate Scholarship
Andrew McCorkill, graduate student from Greenfield, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Phyllis Schmitt (right).



JN Smith/FCS Financial Memorial Scholarship
Matthew Wingo, senior agricultural business major from Marshfield, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Carolee Smith, founder's daughter (right).



Stanley H & Belva Ross Spangler Scholarship
Cathleen Vought, senior general agriculture major from Stotts City, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Tommy Perkins, professor (right).

H. Lewis Miller Scholarship

Barbara Anderson Walnut Grove

Missouri Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Scholarship

Cole Warren Lockwood
Nathan Owens Slater

Ed Pinegar Scholarship

Amanda Burdick Willard

Howard Pyle Memorial Scholarship

Megan Brandt Westphalia

Vernon Renner Scholarship

Soils	Sarah Bunton	Liberal
Soils	Christopher Lanz	Liberal
Environmental Studies	John Henry	Humansville
Leadership-Upperclass	Ben DeTar	Coffeyville, Ks
Leadership-Upperclass	Ashley Vinson	Mt. Vernon
Ecological Agriculture	Lucas Snodgrass	Seymour

John D. Schatz Scholarship

Jennifer Smith Fair Grove

Dennis and Phyllis Schmitt Graduate Scholarship

Andrew McCorkill Greenfield

JN Smith/FCS Financial Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Bailey Neosho
Matthew Wingo Marshfield

Stanlie H. & Belva Ross Spangler Memorial Scholarship

Cathleen Vought Stotts City

David F. Stanke Memorial Scholarship

Melissa Kleiboeker Pierce City
Joseph Stokes Pleasant Hope

Charles & Patricia Stufflebeam Agricultural Scholarship

Kelsie Minton Archie

Robert F. Thomson, Jr. Family Scholarship

Joseph Stokes Pleasant Hope

Uncle Tom Watkins Memorial Scholarship

Hanna Henley Eugene

White River Valley Electric Cooperative Scholarship

Angela Boyer Park Hills
Cory North Lebanon

Awards

Farm Bureau Salute to Agriculture Award

Eric Allison Greenfield

Greene County Farm Bureau Award

Jessica Solomon Marceline
Leah Francka Pleasant Hope

Missouri Entertainment and Events Center Internship

Hailey Robertson Lamar
Wenonah Toney Marshfield

Bear Creek Boers Meat Goat Award

Benjamin Vanhooser Dadeville

Distinguished Service Award

Randy Stock

Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Outstanding Freshman Award

Wenonah Toney Marshfield

Glenn E. Karls Senior Excellence Award

Christine Gonder Lexington

W. Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award

Sarah Bunton Liberal
Christine Gonder Lexington
Kymberly James Edgar Springs
Jordan Richner Pleasant Hope



Farm Bureau Salute to Agriculture Award

Eric Allison, junior general agriculture major from Greenfield, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Wayne Schnelle, co-founder (right).



Greene County Farm Bureau Award

Leah Francka, sophomore horticulture major from Pleasant Hope, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Tom Huff, president (right).



Delta Tau Alpha Outstanding Freshman Award

Wenonah Toney, freshman horticulture major from Marshfield, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Anson Elliott, department head (right).



Glenn E. Karls Senior Excellence Award

Christine Gonder, senior agricultural communications/business major from Lexington, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Anson Elliott, department head (right).



W. Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award

Sarah Bunton, senior agronomy major from Liberal, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Anson Elliott, department head (right).



W. Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award

Kymberly James, senior agricultural business/animal science major from Edgar Springs, Mo. (left), receiving the award from Dr. Anson Elliott, (right).



Distinguished Service Award

Randy Stock, alumnus (left), receiving the award from Dr. Anson Elliott, department head (right).

Alumni Update

1977

Kreider, Jim A. Spouse: Debbie
Children: Lacey (1981); Neeley (1988)
Major: Agricultural Business
Occupation: Former Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives; Currently Executive Director Missouri Retired Teachers Association (MRTA) from Nixa, Mo.

1979

Chapin, Roy L. Spouse: Patricia
Children: Catherine (1984); Beth (1989)
Major: Agronomy
Occupation: Farming full time with dairy and beef cow/calf operation.

1983

Green, Mark Spouse: Jill
Children: Laura, Jana, Jared
Major: Agronomy
Occupation: District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Springfield, Mo.
Favorite Professor: Most all of the professors
Memory: The Ag. Department
Advice: Work hard, earn what you get. If you work for what you get and don't get it handed to you, you will appreciate it more later.



1991

McDaniel, Keith A. Spouse: Michele
Children: Chase (1998); Trey (2002)
Major: Agricultural Business
Occupation: Manager – Greater Ozarks MFA Agr Services, Ash Grove, Mo.



Favorite Class: Animal Science
Favorite Professor: Dan Smith
Memory: Going to the College National Finals Rodeo while on the rodeo team
Advice: Apply yourself and learn as much as you can while in school because it will benefit you in the real world.

1993

Melton, (Cole) Beth Spouse: David
Children: Cole (1999); Claire(2005)
Major: Animal Science
Occupation: Laboratory Manager – Missouri Department of Agriculture – Veterinary Diagnostic
Favorite Class: Ag. Chemistry
Favorite Professor: Dr. Pruitt
Advice: Do your best and follow what you like to do

1995

Dykes (Baertschi) Cori N. Spouse: Bobby
Children: Wyatt (1999); Garrett (2004)
Major: Agricultural Business
Occupation: Pharmacist at Lake Pharmacy in Crane, Mo.

Favorite Class: Jerry Crownover's class
Favorite Professor: Dr. Elliott
Memory: Being involved with the Block and Bridle Club
Advice: Learn all you can while you have the chance.

1996

Carlín Wade E. Spouse: Kasey
Major: Animal Science
Occupation: Advertising Sales Representative for Forum Communications Company, selling online and print advertising for The Forum Newspaper.

Wolfe, Kevin Spouse: Jenny
Children: Case (2001); Cannon (2004)
Major: Agronomy
Occupation: Manager, Marion County MFA Agri-services
Favorite Class: Harry James' soil morphology class
Favorite Professor: Dr. James
Memory: Talking with other Ag. students in the hallway.
Advice: Enjoy college – Enjoy life.

1997

Lathrom (Salladay), Tracy K.
Spouse: Richie
Children: Eva (2007)
Major: Animal Science
Occupation: Mammographer at Cox Breast Care Clinic

1997/2007

Scotten, Doug W. Spouse: Shelly
Major: Agricultural Business/ 1997; MS Criminal Justice/2007
Occupation: Trooper with the Missouri State Highway Patrol
Favorite Class: Animal Science
Favorite Professor: Mr. Gayle Ashley
Best Memory: Dr. Elliott really helped out

when it came to looking for jobs.

Advice: Pay attention to what you learn in class because it will help you out in the real world.

1999

Hayward, Jeremy R. Spouse: Julie
Children: Rhett (2003); Drew (2007)
Major: General Agriculture
Occupation: Regional Manager – Forage Genetics International/WL Alfalfas



2002

Stefanie Eslinger
Major: General Agriculture and Agricultural Education
Occupation: Agriculture Teacher in Jefferson City, Mo.
Favorite Class: Agricultural communications with Joyce Cutright and animal science with Tommy Perkins.
Favorite Professor: Dr. Jim Hutter
Best Memory: Studying for tests and playing cards in the student activities room.
Advice: Always know that the professors have an open door policy and are always willing to talk and visit about anything.

2005

Harkrader, Justin K.
Major: Agronomy
Occupation: Enduro Popeline Services, Inc. – DFL Analyst; Geospatial alignment of direct assessment data
Comments: I owe everything to working for Dr. Fuqua at the ag center.
Favorite Class: AGA 215 Agronomy
Favorite Professor: Dr. Fuqua
Best Memory: Agronomy club trip to Seattle, Wash.
Advice: Listen to the advice of Tom Dewitt and Ben Fuqua if you take their classes.



Ozarks Rain Gardens Provide Solution to Erosion

by Jocelyn Butler

The Ozarks Rain Gardens project under the management of Marilyn Odneal, horticulture advisor at Missouri State University Mountain Grove campus, features an educational experience for those interested in the erosion caused by rainwater surface runoff.

The rain gardens designed at the Mountain Grove Campus demonstrate how water runoff is intercepted, detained and decontaminated while allowing the water to soak into the garden containing mulch, native garden plants and shrubs. Visitors

can learn how to construct, maintain and minimize pollution on their property through a rain garden.

The project was completed with the help of the Mountain Grove High School biology students who planted the garden and mulched the shrub border. The State Fruit Experiment Station staff and the Tri-County Master Gardeners maintain the gardens during the planting year.

The project was funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region VII and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



Former MSU Professor becomes CEO of Beefmasters Breeders United

by Jessica Haney

Dr. Thomas Perkins taught college courses for 18 years, 13 of those were spent teaching agriculture at Missouri State University. Fall semester of 2008 was Perkins' last semester as a professor of animal science. His classes included animal science, livestock evaluation and beef production.

Perkins was not actively looking for a job, but Beefmaster Breeders United asked him if he would apply for the position of executive vice president. He knew Nolan Ryan was on the selection committee and thought it would be worth it to meet the former Major League Baseball player. He did get to meet Nolan Ryan and was selected for the position.

In January Perkins started his new position as executive vice president of Beefmaster Breeders United (BBU) in San Antonio, Texas.

Though his contract with BBU does not allow Perkins to teach classes, ultrasound cattle or judge any shows, he still teaches.

"I am still teaching all the same components of producing and marketing beef cattle, but at a much higher level with more money at stake," explained Perkins.

Perkins has a staff of seven people and is in charge of budgeting for the company. Perkins said he teaches people that work on ranches for a living and people that are just raising cattle for entertainment.

"I have had the opportunity to work with Hall of Fame Baseball Players like Nolan Ryan, recording artist Daryl Worley, county judges, lawyers, medical doctors, veterinarians, chemists and many other professionals," said Perkins.

Perkins said one of his biggest concerns about moving from Missouri to Texas was uprooting his seventh and ninth



grade daughters. He shared that they are doing fine and have made new friends. He added that the weather in San Antonio is better than he remembered and the traffic is worse.

Perkins said he is busier now than he has ever been.

"I wake up talking on the cell phone and go to bed talking on it," said Perkins.

Perkins travels a lot more too. He said in the past three months he has logged more car and air miles than in his last five years at MSU.

"I miss the day-to-day challenges that the classroom brought," said Perkins. "It always kept me on my toes."

Perkins said that even though he isn't teaching at Missouri State any longer, MSU students are welcome to call him. He also invited students who are in the San Antonio area to stop by his office.

Elite Event VI Successful Once Again

by Jocelyn Butler

The annual Bear Cattle Company and Friends Elite Event Sale was held April 26 featuring 47 lots with 36 Angus lots, 10 Charolais lots, and one use of recipient herd lot.

The lots included cow-calf pairs, bred heifers, open-show heifer prospects, choice lots, embryos and flushes. Guest consignors included 18 Angus producers and eight Charolais producers.

Students enrolled in the advanced beef marketing class spent the entire semester learning what it takes to plan the event. Justin Sissel, Missouri State University beef operations manager, and Jocelyn Butler, senior animal science and agricultural communications major from Republic, Mo., served as sale managers. This was the sixth year the event has been held.

The average lot price for the sale was \$2,516. The top-selling lot was lot 47, the use of recipient herd at Gariss Cattle Co., consigned by Cody Gariss, Gariss Cattle Co., Lamar, Mo., selling for \$23,000. The top selling lot consigned by Bear Cattle Company was a flush of TP Miss Missouri T703, lot 39, selling for \$3,000.

Bear Cattle Company would like to thank Bill and Virginia Darr, Ed and Carol Pinegar, Leo Journagan Ranch, and all the consignors for their continued support of Bear Cattle Company, the Department of Agriculture and the university.



Ag Review Documents Department History

by Ryan Schniedermeyer

What you are holding in your hands and reading is part of Missouri State University Agriculture Department history. The annual newsletter has been compiled by the introduction to agricultural communications class, AGR 250, for the past 27 years.

Prior to the *Ag Review*, there were other department newsletters. The earliest issue that could be found is from 1958. At that time the newsletters were produced primarily by the faculty. The early newsletters were titled *Ag News*. At one point students from the Ag Club took over producing the newsletter, still calling it *Ag News*.

“It is the longest continuing newsletter on campus,” said Dr. Anson Elliott, head of the Agriculture Department.

In 1983 the Agriculture Department, for the first time, offered an agricultural communications class. The class was taught by Joyce Cutright, who at the time was a farm broadcaster with Springfield radio station KWTO. Students in the class, then and now, produce the *Ag Review* as their final project. Cutright continues to teach the class.

“There has been excitement from the beginning,” said Cutright. “The students are excited to learn about writing and the newsletter process. Students can enroll in the class a second time to serve in a leadership role and more newsletter editing responsibilities.”

Even though a department newsletter has been continuous for 51 years it has gone through many changes. Joyce Cutright said the *Ag*



Review started out with eight pages and is now up to 28 to 36 pages. The process of producing the newsletter has become more efficient, going from a cut-and-paste process to today's desktop layout.

There has even been a little color added. The newsletter originally was entirely black-and-white and now has maroon on the covers.

Cutright said that the Agriculture Department staff is also very involved in the newsletter

“The department office staff has been involved from the beginning. And, last year and this year Pamela Mayer from the Mountain Grove campus spent hours handling the layout process. We would not accomplish this project without the department staff and Pam,” said Cutright.

Hatching Birds Create Enthusiasm for Students and Professor

by Zach Pratt

For Dr. Lyndon Irwin, professor of poultry science, hatching day is one of his favorite parts of the game bird production class.

“Hatching day is my favorite day because I get to see a class of enthusiastic college students, which is hard to come by,” Irwin said.

In the game bird production class students care for and tend to a set of game birds. The overall objective of the class is to give students a basic understanding of the various game bird production practices. Game birds include quail, pheasants and Chukars.

In the second block spring 2009 semester, students were given three to four birds, one male and the others female. They had to manage and care for the adults, and move the eggs into an incubator to maintain until hatching.

This year the breed of choice was Coturnix quail, or Japanese quail. Other breeds used in the past include Bobwhites, Chukars and Gambel quail.

For the past 10 years the class has only been taught as an intersession course, and is always filled. The number of students is limited to 24, because there are only 24 cages available. Because of the popularity of the course, spring 2009 was the first

semester that the course was taught in block format, allowing for two possible classes per semester.

Irwin not only teaches the class, he developed it more than 20 years ago.

“The class is a popular choice with wildlife conservation majors because it gives them a chance to be hands on, and raise birds,” Irwin explained.



Branching Out at the William H. Darr Center

by Rajena Williams

The Darr Agricultural Center in recent years has undergone numerous changes and more renovations are planned.

An improved entrance off Kansas Expressway will be completed this summer.

Other expansion plans will focus on agronomy and horticulture. Dr. Michael Burton, professor of agronomy, and Darr Center Director Dr. Ben Fuqua, professor of agronomy, will be helping expand and incorporate the Darr Center facilities for these curriculum areas.

The beef herd under the direction of Justin Sissel, beef operations manager, is continuing to grow. The university beef herd is now averaging around 60 head. They are not only pastured at the Darr Center, but also at the other agricultural center, Baker's Acres, near Elkland, Mo.

Susan Webb, equine science instructor, said there are about 35 head of horses at the Darr Center.

The horses are used for equine related classes, club-related events and the Therapeutic Riding of the Ozarks program. The therapeutic riding program gives emotionally and physically challenged children a safe place to ride.

Webb said nutritional testing and breeding for local horse owners are also conducted at the center.

Fuqua said the interest in animal science continues to grow. Research in goats and goat management is being added at the center.

The Darr Agricultural Center is not just for Missouri State students. It is also for the community and faculty. Each year the center serves about 3000 students, faculty and community members. The center hosts events for 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, and other organizations to help their members gain knowledge about agriculture. The

center also rents out the Pinegar Arena for special events. For example, The American Cancer Society's Cattle Barons Ball will be held at the facility this summer. Currently there are five students living at the Darr Center. The students participate in classes, laboratory sessions and special events at the center. They also help with grounds upkeep, building maintenance, and feeding and caring of the animals. Most of the students who help are volunteers or part-time workers.

The next expansion plan, Phase III, includes constructing a learning center building to be located close to the entrance. This complex will have facilities to host public meetings and classes with distance education abilities, offices, greenhouses, a mechanization shop and a small research laboratory.

Fuqua said there are ongoing efforts to raise funds to complete Phase III.



Director Jian Li, Chairwoman of the Board of Trustee of the Ningxia Forestry Institute, Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, P. R. China, viewing a garden at the William Darr Agricultural Center. The Ningxia Forestry Institute and the Missouri State University Department of Agriculture has collaboration on scholarly exchanges and research projects including molecular detection of grapevine viruses, grapevine certification program and grapevine biotechnology. Dr. Anson Elliott, Missouri State University Agriculture Department head and Dr. Wenping Qiu, Missouri State University associate research professor in molecular plant virology, visited the Ningxia Forestry Institute to promote sustainable agriculture last year. Li visited the Mountain Grove campus, Springfield campus, Hammons Products Company and the William Darr Agricultural Center. She was also an invited speaker for the 2009 Missouri State University Public Affairs Conference with the theme of "Sustainable Actions for a Sustainable Future".

Elliott Provides Leadership for Nearly 30 Years

by Evan Fugitt

For the last 29 years as head of the Agriculture Department, Dr. Anson Elliott's experience and leadership skills have led the department through many changes and accomplishments.

Currently Elliott is looking at new advances for the Agriculture Department including the Phase III Learning Center Building and the entrance to the Darr Agricultural Center, maturing the beef program and adding a state-of-the-art conference room in Karls Hall. The Darr Center development and expansion has been a major focus during a large portion of Elliott's time at MSU. At Mountain Grove, plans are to improve the research laboratory facilities to house national and international guests, as well as the graduate students.

Elliott also has been committed to furthering the dual credit and Pathways programs which deliver opportunities

to earn a bachelor's degree through community colleges.

The Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award was recently founded during 2008 to provide financial rewards to those students who demonstrated they were making a positive difference while at Missouri State.

Elliott said his goal has been to listen to good ideas, put them into action and

achieve better learning opportunities for the students, and better resources for faculty and staff.

"It is fun and rewarding to be here," said Elliott. "The students are the reason we are here and I gain pleasure in watching them succeed."

Elliott is the advisor for the Missouri State Farm Bureau Club, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and the Presidents Council. He is currently teaching classes including food security, agricultural leadership and senior seminar.

Elliott also serves on local and state advisory committees dealing with agricultural issues. At the national level Elliott serves on the Budget and Advocacy Committee for university, extension and teaching budgets. The committee worked on the language for the Farm Bill that allows for Missouri State and other Non Land Grant Universities to access funding for solving societal needs.



Students Work in FFA Media Room

by Krystal Hanner

Four Missouri State University students worked in the media room at the 81st Missouri FFA convention in Columbia, Mo., April 15-18, to gain valuable agricultural communications experience.

Under the direction of Joyce Cutright, Missouri FFA Media Room coordinator, students drafted, edited and posted more than 400 news releases. News releases were sent all over the state to the

hometown newspapers of FFA award winners. Students began working the day before the convention started and stayed the day after it ended.

"I learned a lot to help me in the real world," said Kelly Roberts, senior agricultural communications major, Neosho, Mo.

"The students who participated in the media room did a fabulous job," said Cutright, "I know the experience that they gained there will prepare them to work in any professional media room situation."



Missouri State University students and other Missouri FFA Media Room staff members during the 2009 Missouri FFA convention. Pictured from left to right. First row - Rachel Holmes, animal science major from St. Louis, Mo.; Kelly Roberts, agricultural communications major from Neosho, Mo.; Hailey Robertson, agricultural communications major from Lamar, Mo. Second row - Joyce Cutright, FFA Media Room coordinator and MSU per-course instructor; Greg Rotert, University of Missouri Agricultural Economics; Jeremy Whistance, University of Missouri Health Care; Amanda Stapp, University of Missouri Extension Cooperative Media Group. Last row - Krystal Hanner, agricultural communications major from Carthage, Mo.

Graduates

Summer 2008

Andrus, Ramona A	MS in Ed, 2 nd Ag	Cabool, Mo.
Fanning, John P	Animal Science	Maysville, Mo.
Haymes, Jordan E	Ag Communications	Mt. Vernon, Mo.
Osterdyk, John A	Agronomy	Springfield, Mo.
Robinson, Jeffrey E	General Agriculture	Afton, Okla.
Stewart, Tyler W	Wildlife Conservation	Bolivar, Mo.
Wirsig, Brandon E	Wildlife Conservation	Sheldon, Mo.

Fall 2008

Barker, Brianna M	Animal Science	Tulsa, Okla.
Boyer, Angela R	Animal Science	Park Hills, Mo.
Brandt, Christopher	Agronomy	La Monte, Mo.
Burris, Codi L	MNAS in Agriculture	Farson, Wyo.
Capkovic, Amanda M	Animal Science	St. Louis, Mo.
Capps, Jeremy L	Wildlife Conservation	Broseley, Mo.
Carman, Deanna R	Animal Science	Union, Mo.
Cornell, Dana L	Ag Communications	West Plains, Mo.
Cortez, Cedric D Jr.	Ag Marketing	Carthage, Mo.
Day, Joseph W	Wildlife Conservation	Ballwin, Mo.
Deckard, Jared M	Wildlife Conservation	Brighton, Mo.
Demster, Susan R	Animal Science	Miller, Mo.
Duff, Erik C	Technology Education	Fair Grove, Mo.
Estes, Kurtis W	General Agriculture	Mt. Vernon, Mo.
Glass, Lynzee C	Ag Communications	Tunas, Mo.
Haggard, Christopher	Wildlife Conservation	Hermann, Mo.
Henry, John W	Wildlife Conservation	Humansville, Mo.
Holliday, Whitney A	Animal Science	Springfield, Mo.
Jungermann, Rachel A	Ag Marketing	Moscow Mills, Mo.
Killion, Tracy L	Ag Enterprise Mgmt	Joplin, Mo.
Lampe, Thomas M	Horticulture	Springfield, Mo.
Miles, Rachael E	Animal Science	Stockton, Mo.
Myers, Richard F IV	General Agriculture	El Reno, Okla.
North, Cory R	Animal Science	Eldridge, Mo.
Patrick, Kent A	Ag Marketing	Diamond, Mo.
Piatt, Jason R	Wildlife Conservation	Clever, Mo.
Radford, Loryn B	Wildlife Conservation	Highlandville, Mo.
Ross, Sarah S	General Agriculture	Ava, Mo.
Scott, Katy B	Ag Marketing	Marshfield, Mo.
Teasley, Tory C	Ag Marketing	Silex, Mo.
Vinson, Ashley D	Wildlife Conservation	Mt. Vernon, Mo.
Wheeler, Callie J	Animal Sci/Horticulture	Kirksville, Mo.
Williams, Janet D	Animal Science	Rogersville, Mo.
Worthington, Josh J	MNAS in Agriculture	Dadeville, Mo.

Spring 2009-tentative

Allison, William D	Ag Education	Springfield, Mo.
Amato, Kirk K	Horticulture	Sacramento, Calif.
Ashley, Catherine G	Animal Sci/General Ag	Mtn. Grove, Mo.
Atkins, Laura D	Ag Education	Jasper, Mo.
Bailey, Jessica E	Ag Marketing	Neosho, Mo.
Blades, Jesse L	Animal Science	N/A
Bova, Toree L	Animal Science	Hazelwood, Mo.
Bunton, Sarah A	Agronomy	Liberal, Mo.
Burns, Larin L	Animal Science	N/A
Campbell, Laura A	Animal Science	Springfield, Mo.
Church, Jacob W	Ag Education	Clinton, Mo.
Coleman, Courtney V	MS in Plant Science	Springfield, Mo.
Dailey, Brad M	Wildlife Conservation	Ballwin, Mo.
Dean, Elizabeth R	Animal Science	Essex, Mo.
Draffen, Ryan A	Animal Sci/Ag Ent. Mg	Versailles, Mo.
Earls, Brandy M	General Agriculture	Springfield, Mo.
Erb, Zach J	Horticulture	Columbia, Ill.
Forgey, Rebecca J	Animal Science	Springfield, Mo.
Forst, Raulin J	Wildlife Conservation	Lamar, Mo.
Francka, Leah M	Ag Finance & Mgmt.	Brighton, Mo.
Frerking, Ryan T	Animal Science	Brighton, Mo.
Gonder, Christine E	Ag Comm/Ag Market	Lexington, Mo.
Gradinariu, Victor	Ag Marketing	La Russell, Mo.
Gunn, Christopher P.	Ag Market/Ag Finance	Versailles, Mo.
Gunter, Jordan M	General Agriculture	Binger, Okla.
Hampton, Alex R	Animal Science	Springfield, Mo.
Hubbard, Kyle L	Wildlife Conservation	Adrian, Mo.
James, Kymberly R	Ag Marketing	Edgar Springs, Mo.
Jobe, Lacey B	Animal Science	Adrian, Mo.
Johnson, Susan A	Ag Ent. Mgmt.	Joplin, Mo.
Kindall, Jessica L	Wildlife Conservation	Springfield, Mo.
King, Nathan, B	Animal Science	Lebanon, Mo.
Kleiboeker, Melissa	Ag Fin./Ag Ent. Mgmt.	Wentworth, Mo.
Knutter, Lucas K	Agronomy	Springfield, Mo.
Kohler, Jillian D	Animal Science	Springfield, Mo.
Light, Clayton J	Wildlife Conservation	Freeburg, Mo.
Lombard, Stuart W	General Agriculture	Wheaton, Mo.
Mann, Rexx A	Animal Science	Yukon, Okla.
Massa, Allie M	Ag Education	Lamar, Mo.
McMullen, Daniel G	General Agriculture	Ozark, Mo.
Metzger, Christopher	General Agriculture	Wilmore, Kan.
Meyer, Jarred L	MS in Plant Science	Glasgow, Mo.
Nusz, Samuel R	MNAS in Agriculture	El Reno, Okla.
Owens, Nathan S	Ag Marketing/Ag Fin.	Springfield, Mo.
Peregoy, Daniel E	Technology Education	Lebanon, Mo.

Prewitt, Ashley M	General Agriculture	Exeter, Mo.	Vought, Cathleen E	General Agriculture	Stotts City, Mo.
Priest, Sean M	Agronomy	Fairview, Mo.	Weaver, Shiloh L	Horticulture	Springfield, Mo.
Rankin, Jenna M	Ag Finance & Mgmt.	Lebanon, Mo.	Whorton, Cody L	General Agriculture	Mansfield, Mo.
Richner, Jordan M	Agronomy	Buffalo, Mo.	Wilhoit, Jacob J	Animal Science	Lone Jack, Mo.
Savat, Kathryn C	Ag Education	Poplar, Bluff, Mo.	Wingo, Matthew T	Ag Finance & Mgmt.	Marshfield, Mo.
Shaw, Joshua T	Ag Ent. Mgmt.	Bronaugh, Mo.	Wood, Ryan W	Wildlife Conservation	Springfield, Mo.
Shelby, Austin W	Animal Science	Osceola, Mo.	Wray, Nicholas J	Wildlife Conservation	Harrisonville, Mo.
Snodgrass, Lucas D	Agronomy	Seymour, Mo.	Wright, Alison M	Wildlife Conservation	Springfield, Mo.
Spellman, Emily L	Wildlife Conservation	Mt. Vernon, Mo.	Young, Erin L	Ag Education	Pomona, Mo.
Stanek, Melanie J	Wildlife Conservation	Silex, Mo.			

Student Balances School, Work and Family

by Rachel Holmes

“It’s a hassle for the tassel,” is a saying one student has about attending college while raising a family.

Kelly Roberts, 27, a senior agricultural communications major from Neosho, Mo., and a mother and wife is putting herself through college at Missouri State University. Roberts is raising three children and working different jobs, as well as being a full-time student at MSU.

Roberts started college at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M right out of high school. Her intended major was agricultural education.

She graduated from Northeastern Oklahoma A & M in 2002 with an Associate’s of Science Degree in agriculture. She married that summer. Roberts said she wasn’t really sure what she wanted to do and didn’t want to go to school without a goal in mind. She worked a wide variety of jobs including positions at various stockyards, Neosho Dental Care, MFA, a veterinarian’s office, restaurants and the family trucking company. Roberts even has certification to give equestrian riding lessons.

“The common factor was that all of the jobs involved customer service and communication skills as well as the need for marketing,” explained Roberts. “I finally figured out what I wanted to do.”

The challenge was that Roberts now had three children, ages 1, 6 & 10, a husband, and 30 head of horses that all needed her attention.

With the support of her husband, children and parents, Roberts enrolled at MSU in the spring of 08. She has taken at least 12 hrs each semester and seven hours in the summer.

“It wouldn’t be possible without the support of my family especially during the weeks when my kids have sports practices



after school or when the baby is sick,” explained Roberts. “I’m very lucky because I am currently just working on the farm, although sometimes just keeping up with the kids, the house, dinner and the farm feels like I’m employed. The worst part of going back to school is the homework. Group projects are really hard because I commute over an hour. It’s so hard to stay focused when there are so many other things I need to get done too. I have learned to type papers one handed and my one year old may type before she speaks clearly, but it works. I am fortunate to have support and my kids are great.”

Roberts will be graduating with a bachelor’s in agricultural communications this summer. After graduation she hopes to find employment close to Neosho, Mo., where she currently resides.

“With the economy the way it is right now I will just have to see what’s available when I’m done with school,” Roberts said. “I just know. I don’t want to be working minimum wage jobs for the rest of my life, and to get out of that I need a college education. I want to do this for my family and my future. My husband has been a great support, financially and emotionally. I could have never done this without him.”

The agricultural communications class, under the direction of class instructor Joyce Cutright, provided feature stories for the spring 2009 edition of the Missouri State University Ag Review.

Pictured below are the class members.



RaJena Williams, junior animal science major from Springfield, Mo.



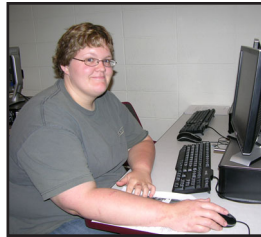
Evan Fugitt, junior animal science major from Monett, Mo.



Beth Courter, junior animal science major from Coffey, Mo.



Kalyn Stevens, sophomore agricultural education major from Bolivar, Mo.



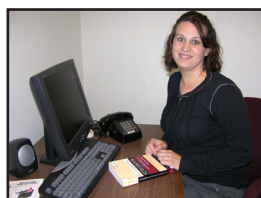
Julie Francis, junior animal science major from El Dorado Springs, Mo.



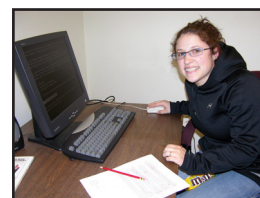
Whitney Wiegert, sophomore agronomy major from Pleasant Hope, Mo.



Rachel Holmes, junior animal science major from St. Louis, Mo.



Kelly Roberts, senior agricultural communications major from Neosho, Mo.



Krystal Hanner, senior agricultural communications major from Carthage, Mo.



Ryan Schniedermeyer, senior animal science major from St. Louis, Mo.



Cody Yanko, junior general agriculture major from Willow Springs, Mo.



Zach Pratt, senior wildlife conservation major from Jefferson City, Mo.



Jessica Haney, senior animal science major from Dexter, Mo.



Jocelyn Butler, senior animal science and agricultural communications major from Republic, Mo.



Kelsey Ragsdale, senior animal science major from Willard, Mo.



Lyndi Tuttle, sophomore agricultural education major from Halltown, Mo.



Layout and Copy Editing: Pamela Mayer, Joyce Cutright, Jocelyn Butler and the Agriculture Department Office Staff.



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