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Meet the writers

The Ag Review is planned, written and designed by the agricultural communications class. See page 53 for pictures of the class.

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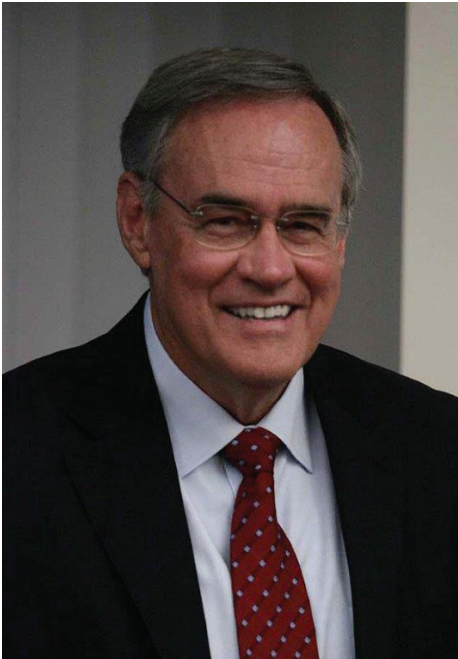
New this year

The newsletter is available for viewing at ag.missouristate.edu/publications and issuu.com/mostateag, but will not be printed and mailed.

Friends, students and alumni wil recieve the first issue of The Darr Difference in the mail summer 2015.

The cover photo was taken by Melissa Remley, an assistant professor in plant science, during a study away trip to Haiti. Pictured is Mike Burton, a professor in plant science, with a child from the Philadelphia Orphanage in Pignon, Haiti. The group was at the location to build gardens for the orphanage.

From the director



In 1983, with the development of our agricultural communications option within the general agriculture degree, the mimeographed editions of "Ag Notes," published by the Ag Club members at the end of each school year, transitioned to the "Ag Review," a professionally written newsletter. The agricultural communications classes taught by Joyce Cutright were responsible for the publication.

After transitioning to a more comprehensive agricultural communications program under the direction of Samantha Warner, we will be moving to two formats. The traditional print form, dubbed "The Darr Difference," will have more lengthy features, and the "Ag Review" will become an electronic format to accommodate the many activities of our students, faculty, and alumni. We hope you will enjoy this expanded coverage, which reflects the growth of the Darr School of Agriculture.

We cherish the involvement of our many friends and alumni in the Darr School of Agriculture. The School's successes can be traced directly to your continued support and the outstanding commitment of our present students, staff, faculty and university administration. Come see us any time and be sure to take part in the third annual Alumni and Friends Ag Celebration one Oct. 17, 2015, at the Bond Learning Center!

Anson Elliott
Director, Darr School of Agriculture

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Largest freshmen class to date holds Ag Expo



Photo courtesy of Mike Klem

The record-breaking Darr School of Agriculture freshman class, which had 95 students, hosted the annual Ag Expo on Friday, Nov. 21.

By Austin Witt

Fall 2014 was an exciting time for the Darr School of Agriculture, with a record-breaking freshman class entering the program. The fall freshmen agriculture first-year foundations (GEP) class, an introductory course to the School of Agriculture and the university, had 95 students enrolled. These students came from schools across Missouri, as well as the country.

Throughout the semester, students in the GEP course took part in community service activities, leadership opportunities on campus and their biggest undertaking, the School of Agriculture Ag Expo.

Jim Bellis, assistant to the director and one of the instructors for the agriculture GEP sections, said he is amazed by the event's continued growth every year.

The Ag Expo serves as a demonstration of the student involvement

in the School of Agriculture to junior and senior high school students, teachers and parents. According to the School of Agriculture office, more than 240 students from over 50 schools attended the event. The fall agriculture freshmen students worked tirelessly to put on the daylong event for the high school students. They performed

“If we can get students to attend the Ag Expo, and visit the School of Agriculture Offices, they will be more likely to attend Missouri State and enroll in the School of Agriculture.”
-Jim Bellis

skits, provided tours, showed presentations and offered an opportunity for high school students to ask agriculture freshmen about Missouri State, classes and the various clubs available.

The entire event was well received by those who attended. Many schools made plans to return in the future with more prospective agriculture students

interested in attending Missouri State and becoming involved in the School of Agriculture. According to Bellis, when he talks to incoming freshmen students and asks if they attended an Ag Expo, their faces light up and they become excited at the idea of becoming involved in it themselves. The Ag Expo put on by the 2014 freshmen set a

high standard for the program, a bar future freshmen classes will be striving to surpass.

“If we can get students to attend the Ag Expo and visit the School of Agriculture offices, they will be more likely to attend Missouri

State and enroll in the School of Agriculture,” Bellis said.

It just goes to show the work done by the freshmen this year will benefit the School of Agriculture for years to come.

Collegiate Farm Bureau hosts 17th Ag Forum

By Kacie Gaines

On Friday, March 20, the Darr School of Agriculture hosted the 17th Annual Collegiate Farm Bureau Agricultural Forum for students and community members at the Bond Learning Center. The Darr Center was full of agricultural students, farmers, ranchers and business leaders of Springfield, eager for the discussion.

Community members came to hear the keynote speakers, which included Senator Roy Blunt, Congressman Billy Long and Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst. Each gave an introductory speech, and the remainder of time was spent taking questions from the audience.

Anson Elliott, director of the School of Agriculture and the event moderator, started the evening by introducing each speaker. Hurst spoke of the Ditch the Rule campaign, biotechnology for farmers and the push for acceptance of

these products in foreign markets.

Long's daughter was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, so his objectives consisted of putting God first, family second and job last. He also touched on the Environmental Protection Agency and the potential increase in city utilities.

Blunt spoke about the great strides the School of Agriculture has taken to advance the program and its presence amongst the community. Other major topics he discussed included more American energy, the increasing use of the Mississippi River for trade and the importance of biotechnology.

Blunt said Bill Gates has embraced science by putting money into agricultural research to help developing countries. According to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation website, Gates has committed "more than US \$2 billion to agricultural develop-

ment efforts, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia."

The rest of the evening revolved around audience participation. Audience members could direct any questions or issues to the three speakers. A major topic was the recent trip to Cuba, which included 35 of Missouri's government officials and farmers. The purpose of the trip was to investigate potential political relations with the country by opening up possible trade. Hurst went on the trip and spoke of an uphill battle.

"A change in mindset will be necessary before they are successful," Hurst said referring to Cuba's views on property ownership and the government treasury.

With the help of the student Agricultural Ambassadors and the hard work of the Collegiate Farm Bureau club, the 17th Annual Collegiate Farm Bureau Agriculture Forum was a success. Community

members were able to build relationships and get answers to specific questions from their government representatives.



Photo courtesy of Mike Klem

Senator Roy Blunt, Congressman Billy Long and Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst spoke to students, the agriculture community and area business leaders about upcoming developments in agriculture.

Second Ag Celebration with Alumni and Friends

By Abigail Shipley

Alumni were welcomed back to Springfield for the annual Missouri State University Ag Celebration with Alumni and Friends, on Oct. 18, at the Bond Learning Center.

The Ag Celebration not only reunited alumni with old friends but it also generated financial support for current Darr School of Agriculture students who demonstrated a strong work ethic and character.

Carrie Crews, a School of Agriculture administrative assistant, said, the event was successful because of the great turnout, it and raised nearly \$20,000 to go toward student scholarships and next year's event.

The evening kicked off with a reception, which included appetizers and an optional wine tasting, featuring Missouri State wines. The main event featured dinner with MSU raised beef, live music performed by the Hendrix and Craig Band and silent and live auctions to end the evening.

The silent auction consisted of items donated by over 80 people, organizations and businesses

within the School of Agriculture and the surrounding community. These items were bid on throughout the evening with the highest bidder claiming the prize.

The live auction featured items donated from companies such as Andrews Farm and Seed, Asgrow&DEKALB and Ag Service of Carthage, Hy-Vee, FCS Financial, Monsanto, Missouri Cattlemen's Association and many others.

The Alumni and Friends Committee announced that the 2015 theme will be "110 Years of Agriculture," as MSU is currently celebrating its 110-year anniversary. This event is not limited to only alumni; they welcome the community and any friends of agriculture to join in the celebration.

This year's celebration will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015, also Missouri State Homecoming. Enjoy fellowship with your friends in agriculture and to help support the next generation of agriculturists.



Photo courtesy of Mallory Early

Individuals, companies and organizations from the School of Agriculture and surrounding communities donated items for the silent auction.

Photo courtesy of Michael Klem
Attendants networked before the dinner portion of the evening.



Missouri State DTA hosts national convention



Photo courtesy of Jessica Ratliff

The national agricultural honor society, Delta Tau Alpha, held their national convention April 16-18 at Missouri State.

By Rebecca Biundo, The Standard

On April 16-18, Missouri State University held the 56th Delta Tau Alpha National Convention at the Darr Agricultural Center.

DTA, an agricultural honor society, has chapters across the nation but all came together at MSU for an educational experience. The national convention brought in schools from around the country. Schools included Eastern Kentucky University, Southeast Missouri State, Abilene Christian University, Arkansas State University, Fort Hays State University, Tennessee Technological University, College of the Ozarks, University of Central Missouri and others.

Jessica Ratliff, a senior animal science major, served as the DTA national vice president of the Midwest for the 2014-2015 year.

"DTA stands for 'dedicated to agriculture,' and our honor society is a professional association for students involved in (agriculture) who excel as leaders and are passionate about pro-

moting agriculture, leadership and volunteerism," Ratliff said.

Over the three days, students attended different events like general speaker sessions, an agriculture quiz bowl and a field trip to Dr. Jason Salchow's farm. Salchow teaches animal science at Missouri State and owns a family farm in the Ozarks.

"The convention included a banquet with speaker Garrett Hawkins from Missouri Farm Bureau, a volunteer event with Ozarks Food Harvest and a community garden," Ratliff said. "We took a trip to veterinarian Dr. Salchow's farm to learn about his managing practices and unique view of agriculture."

During the banquet, several awards were given out. Morehead State University won the Agriculture Quiz Bowl, while Sam Houston State University took home the Corbus Award, an award for overall chapter performance.

Hawkins, the director of National Legislative Programs for

Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, was this year's keynote speaker.

"Excited to be at @missouristate this evening to speak at the Delta Tau Alpha National Convention! #SHOWMEDTA #ag #MOFB," Hawkins said via Twitter.

Ratliff said that meeting such a diverse group of students who all share the same passion for agriculture was her favorite part of the convention.

"The DTA Convention is a place where professional connections are made that I am sure I will carry with me throughout my career," Ratliff said.

Ratliff said this year's convention was noteworthy due to all of the planning and hard work that went into the convention.

"Hosting the convention for other colleges around the United States was a huge success thanks to the amazing Delta Tau Alpha Chapter we have here and the officer team that put it all together," Ratliff said.

Ag Industry Study visits Kansas City



Photo courtesy of Samantha Warner

The Ag Industry Study provides students with the opportunity to visit businesses and future employers.

By Kate Siebert

For more than 40 years, Missouri State University has given juniors and seniors the opportunity to learn through experience as part of the Agricultural Industry Study.

Benjamin Onyango, an associate professor at Missouri State, has helped lead the Industry Study for eight years. Each year, the program alternates between spending several days in St. Louis or in Kansas City.

“Our intentions year-in-and out are to give students a practical experience outside of the classroom,” Onyango said.

Onyango outlined the program in three simple steps: production, processing and marketing. The goal of the program is to teach students the importance of each input of supply and relate each input to the farmer.

First, students learn the production aspect of agriculture. They learn the theories of production

in the classroom and experience them by working on family farms or through internships.

Next, students observe the processing of agricultural products. This year, they went to a processing operation in Kansas City, Onyango said. Students learned what is behind the work they do by experiencing the intermediary step between production and putting the product on the shelf.

The third step is marketing, where students learn how to attract an external buyer. Onyango asked the question the program attempts to answer: “What does it take?” In the marketing sector, it takes an understanding of profitability and how it relates to the production system, Onyango said.

Students were given the opportunity to visit the Federal Reserve in Kansas City this year. They could ask questions about mon-

etary and fiscal policies affecting the agricultural industry. They also looked at forms of financing offered by FCS Financial, as well as commercial banks. They had the opportunity to learn why FCS is the right choice for agricultural businesses, Onyango said.

Onyango said two or three students usually end up finding a niche and making some important connections. These connections often lead to future employment or internships, especially for seniors. Students can learn more through the hands-on work and group reflections in a week than they learn in class all semester, Onyango said.

“In that four days, we are covering a full year course,” Onyango said.

The Ag Industry Study takes place during the winter intercession each year. If you have questions, talk to Arbindra Rimal or Benjamin Onyango.

Beef sales move to Hy-Vee

By Annie Gooch, The Standard

Missouri State University is moooving right along with the local food movement by raising, processing and selling its grass-based beef at two different stores in town.

Hy-Vee and Horrmann Meat Company, both located on West Battlefield Street, have been selling Missouri State's beef product since mid-July of 2014.

Missouri State has one of the largest purebred Hereford cattle herds associated with any university in the country, said Anson Elliott, the director of the Darr School of Agriculture. Hereford cattle were specifically bred for quality meat.

Missouri State has two farms used for beef production — the Shealy Farm and Journagan Ranch — where the cattle are free to roam and fed a grass-based and hormone-free diet.

The Shealy Farm, a 230-acre piece of land located just north of town by Fair Grove, is where the steers are sent before being finished at the Horrmann meat processing plant.

Missouri State was selling its beef to Horrmann last year but stepped back from the business while it sorted out a few concerns and liability issues.

Elliott said they took a break from selling to them to make sure the university was at no risk for selling its beef. He also said there was a delay with insurance and liability.

But they are back at it and checking their meat twice.

"We're glad they're back; it's really good beef," Seth Hoerman, owner of Horrmann Meat Company, said. "At first, it was just us processing for them, but as our relationship grew, we started talking about selling it in the store. We're looking forward to helping grow their product line."

After the meat is processed through Horrmann, a USDA-



Photo courtesy of Nic Deckard, The Standard
Missouri State beef is now available at Hy-Vee.

approved plant, Elliott said they then send a sample to a diagnostic center that tests for salmonella and E. coli. Once processed, the meat is then frozen to ensure quality and freshness.

Elliott explained this is done for a couple of reasons.

"First, we can dictate the aging process and that it's aged properly in the processing plant," Elliott said. "It's cut, wrapped and immediately frozen. We age it for tenderness, and we freeze it so the freshness remains."

He said they chose this method because people will certainly buy frozen meat, and there is a specific niche that wants grass-fed meat with no hormones. This is the reason why Hy-Vee approached Missouri State about selling meat, according to Chief Executive Chef Chadwick Isom.

"MSU is utilizing the entire animal, and it's great," Isom said. "I think they were surprised about how much demand we generated and how the community took to supporting them. They keep buying it because it's exceptional."

Although Hy-Vee isn't local to the area, their business is run autonomously, meaning individual stores have the ability to come into a community and ask to sell local products without talking to corporate.

Isom said he is happy to support the local community and that 95 cents of every dollar spent on a local product stays in the local economy.

"We're trying to show students that there's more than one way to do things right," Elliott said. "Consumers want a certain niche filled, and we should be providing what they want."

Elliott doesn't want to focus on competing with others but on helping to create a demand for people who enjoy the same quality in locally-raised meat. And, according to Elliott, something else that makes Missouri State's beef special is the fact that students are involved in every step of the process.

Colin Hill, a senior agriculture major, lives on the Shealy Farm and helps raise the cattle. He manages a large group of cattle, prepares them for market and one day hopes to operate a ranch of his own.

"We're all out here working hard and are really proud of it," Hill said. "It's cool to see our product in the store that we had part in raising, and the meat itself is phenomenal. We're just all happy to be a part of it."

Beef production students participate in Farm Fest, Ag and Urban Fest

By Jillian Campbell

This year, Missouri State University students enrolled in the AGS 452: beef production class had the opportunity to participate in public agricultural education events during the spring Ag and Urban Fest at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds.

The class included instructor Mike Klem, School of Agriculture farm operations manager Justin Sissel and 30 Missouri State students who were instructed to assist with an exhibit, which included three polled Hereford cattle from Journagan Ranch. The beef cattle exhibit, adorned in maroon and white, was located in the beef barns in front of the arena. Students worked in rotations, caring for the cattle and speaking with the public about the animals and opportunities at Missouri State.

Many of the students also volunteered their time for a similar event in

the fall, Farm Fest. Farm Fest was held Oct. 3-5, while Urban Fest was held April 10-12. These seasonal Springfield events are popular because they host hundreds of booths that include food, product sales and educational livestock exhibits. The festivals are just a few of the events Missouri State uses to effectively gain positive public interest.

According to Michaela Haley, senior animal science major from Sedgwickville, Missouri, and an AGS 452 student, the group transported the cattle to the fairgrounds early each morning and took them back to the Darr Center each night after they finished cleaning the stall for the following day. Students groomed the cattle each morning after arriving at the fairgrounds. Then they occupied the booth, talking to the public and handing out Missouri State agricultural flyers.

Haley said the three cattle on display included the Polled Hereford cow-calf pair, which won reserve champion at the National Western Stock Show, and a crossbred Charolais heifer. These cattle were displayed to inform the public about beef production.

Haley discussed her belief that many Springfield citizens are unfamiliar with the benefits of agriculture.

“I think that it is important for the college to educate the public because they don’t always understand what people in agriculture do,” Haley said. “The public needs to be educated on what the school is doing to promote agriculture and how they are helping people learn. By educating the public, they will have a better knowledge of what us as farmers and producers do on a daily basis.”

Rimal conducts food hub feasibility study

By Zak Wilkerson

Arbindra Rimal is conducting a study to find the feasibility of bringing a food hub to South Central Missouri for all of the businesses and individuals who are looking for locally grown and raised foods. Rimal, an agricultural business professor in the Darr School of Agriculture, has been using his classes to help coordinate the study.

A food hub, as Rimal explained in his marketing agricultural products class, is an aggregation of producers and consumers who come together in a central location to exchange services, goods and currency. It is a great way for restaurant owners and other businesses to purchase goods that have an identified origin, while at the same time keeping their purchases local. The South Central Missouri food hub study is hoping to

bring agricultural products produced in Texas County, as well as its neighboring counties, to the Springfield area, Rimal said. Of the businesses surveyed, the most demanded locally grown products were tomatoes, apples, lettuce, corn and beef.

Typically, a food hub in the United States sells predominantly fresh produce and meats, while other products—such as eggs, milk and prepared foods—also have a decent-sized portion of sales. Rimal said the purpose of the food hub is to bring the producer to the consumer. The process of buying locally grown food becomes much easier when there is a market created for you, as opposed to having to seek out the producers on your own. The producers at a food hub can also offer services such as cooling, processing,

labeling and so on, Rimal explained.

The food hub is made possible by a grant provided by the USDA, but Rimal said he saw an opportunity within an opportunity and is also using the creation of the food hub to give the students hands-on experience.

Students in his agricultural marketing course helped distribute surveys to local businesses and restaurants, found producers willing to participate, established a marketing plan and organized the findings of the surveys.

While the food hub is still in the early stages of research, it is a great way for students in the Darr School of Agriculture to receive real-world skills and knowledge that can help them with their future careers.

Collegiate Farm Bureau Salute to Agriculture PBR



Photo courtesy of Samantha Warner

Students are given the opportunity to ask the professional bull rider questions. The Salute to Agriculture event is co-hosted by the Missouri Farm Bureau, PFI Western Wear, Collegiate Farm Bureau and the Darr School of Agriculture.

By Brianna Horn

The Farm Bureau Professional Bull Riding event is hosted every year for students and the public, in a salute to agriculture. The event is co-hosted by the Missouri Farm Bureau, PFI Western store, Collegiate Farm Bureau and the Darr School of Agriculture.

The event brought in 600 students from local high schools to the Bond Learning Center, where they listened to a presentation about the opportunities Missouri State has to offer. The students also played games, interacted with one another and ate dinner.

Casteel Kirk, Logan-Rogersville FFA advisor, took her students to the event.

"The PBR is an activity that my students look forward to every year..." Kirk said. "This gives my students an opportunity to meet

members from other FFA chapters, and it allows Farm Bureau to promote agriculture to the next generation!"

After the presentation and activities, students were given the opportunity to participate in a meet-and-greet with a PBR bull rider. This included asking questions and getting to know the rider. Then students traveled to JQH Arena to watch the PBR PFI Western Invitational, Kirk said.

"The Farm Bureau PBR Salute to Agriculture event is a great opportunity for Missouri State agriculture and Farm Bureau to partner with other organizations in the Springfield community," Taylor Mize, senior agricultural business, finance and management major from Campbell, Missouri and Collegiate Farm Bureau president said. "This event allows us to in-

troduce area high school students to Missouri State, and is an important event for our organization."

The PBR includes an opening ceremony honoring veterans and recognizing a local hero, introductions and recognitions of the FFA students and the School of Agriculture, drawing of the bulls, and of, course bull riding and cowboys. There is usually a very large audience. According to the PBR website, the event includes the top 35 bull riders in the world, all fighting to be the champion and to win a share in the \$140,000 purse, along with a chance to continue on to the World Finals.

The PBR is an on-the-edge of your seat event that keeps growing in attendance and supports agriculture in the process.

Record breaking Genetically Yours XXII sale

By Michaela Haley

On Saturday, Oct. 4, Journagan Ranch (LJR) and the Missouri State University (MSU) Darr School of Agriculture held the 22nd annual production sale called Genetically Yours XXII. The sale was one for the record books. It set the highest sale averages for a purebred Hereford sale in the state of Missouri. Ever.

Lot 71A, LJR MSU Dewlicious 32B, was the high selling heifer, bringing \$10,000. She is a heifer calf born Jan. 23, 2014, that sold to the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranch.

"I have never sold a \$10,000 heifer calf before, and it is a new plateau for the Ranch," Marty Lueck, the Ranch manager, said.

Lueck said the sale has been successful for 22 years because, "You have to start with a foundation, and you develop and build on each sale."

When buying females or bulls, people want to buy them from someone they trust and see firsthand that the animals work in any environment. Lueck said the first thing many buyers look at when buying an animal is the genetics behind it.

"The reputation of genetics has helped the sale to grow; there are clients that we have had for 25 years, and they keep buying females because they know that they will work," Lueck said.

Young adults who come to the Ranch production sale are looking to start their own herd. Alex Roth, owner of Alex Roth Polled Herefords, started coming to the sale six years ago.

"I came to the Journagan Ranch sale to start the foundation of my purebred herd," Roth said. "I keep coming back to the sale each year because the cattle that I buy works for me, and the cattle keep improving each year."

There are many reasons why the sale keeps improving from year to year.



Photo courtesy of Mike Klem. Dewlicious sold for \$10,000 — a record for Journagan Ranch.

"The overall outlook on the cattle, the commercial market, the name of the Ranch and people needing seed stock," Lueck said. "The reason people need seed stock is, because the prices are so high at the market production level, people are selling more of their older cows and reducing the size of their herd. If the market price for feeder cattle is \$1,500-\$1,600, then

this will also make the price of seed stock animals higher. When at a sale, there are multiple bidders bidding on one animal. When there is a competition between two bidders, this also drives the price of the animal up."

As the sale wound down, the thought of what to put in next year's production sale was already being talked about.

Journagan Ranch • Darr School of Agriculture • Missouri State University
Genetically Yours XXII Production Sale

Sale Totals

\$482,700
 Average per animal - \$5,851

Bulls - \$148,750	Females - \$333,950
Average per animal - \$4,577	Average per animal - \$6,712

Top Selling Lots

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Bull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LJR MSU 837S Affirm 40A
-\$7,000 for half interest • LJR MSU 023R Aiken 254A
-\$8,000 <p>Bull Calf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LRJ MSU Brazos 17B
-\$5,000 <p>Heifer Calf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LJR MSU Dewlicious 32B
-\$10,000 | <p>Bred Heifer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LJR MSU Lorie 83A
-\$5,300 <p>Pairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LJR MSU Hope 30X • LJR MSU Willow 236B
-\$6,500 each • LJR MSU Vickie 42W
-\$6,000 • LJR MSU Willow 195B
-\$6,500 |
|--|---|

Join us Oct. 3, 2015 for Genetically Yours XXIII.

Ranch Horse team takes third at nationals

By Nikki Newsome

The Missouri State University Ranch Horse team competed in the American Stock Horse Association National Collegiate Championship show, which took place at the Hardy Murphy Coliseum in Ardmore, Oklahoma, from April 23-26.

Missouri State sent riders in three divisions this year. Riders in the non-pro division were Daniel Potter and Chase Gabriel. William Boyer and Shayla Coale participated in the limited non-pro division. The novice division had three participants: Courtney Hall, Brittany Rucker and Zach Davis.

With placings from all seven riders, the Ranch Horse team took the third place, placing behind Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University. The third place finish means the Missouri State team has placed in the top 10 at the ASHA show 10 times.

Daniel Potter, master of natural and applied sciences graduate

student from Bentonville, Arkansas, and assistant coach, was credited as “the driving force behind the Ranch Horse team and was actually involved in creating the team” by Shayla Coale, junior agricultural education major from Ash Grove, Missouri, and team member.

Coale has been involved with the Ranch Horse team since she came to Missouri State in 2013.

“Ranch Horse team has been a great opportunity,” Coale said. “I have made several friends, made connections with several trainers and horsemen, and greatly improved my abilities as a rider.”

Other members of the Ranch Horse team for the 2014-2015 school year are: William Boyer, natural and applied science graduate student from Cadet, Missouri; Cassie O’Hara, natural and applied science graduate student from Kirkland, Illinois; Brittany Rucker, senior animal science major from

Moore, Oklahoma; Chase Gabriel, senior facility management/property management major from Grain Valley, Missouri; Adelaid Safley, senior animal science major from Mount Vernon, Missouri; Zach Davis, freshman agricultural business, finance and management major from Marshfield, Missouri; Kelsey Ellis, junior cell and molecular biology major from Springfield, Missouri; Courtney Hall, sophomore agricultural communications major from Creighton, Missouri; Cassidy Hicks, junior animal science major from Lake Ozark, Missouri; Jennifer Moldovan, senior animal science major from Florissant, Missouri; and Rebecca Hensley, freshman animal science major from Springfield, Missouri.

The team would like to thank Gary Webb, the head coach and animal professor in the School of Agriculture, and Potter for their time and dedication.



Photo courtesy of Cassie O’Hara

The team and their coach. From left: Davis, Rucker, Boyer, Hall, Webb, Gabriel, Coale and Potter.

Students travel to National Western Stock Show

By Jillian Campbell

Jan. 15, was an exciting day in Denver for a group of Missouri State University students as they prepared to exhibit four head of Polled Hereford cattle at the National Western Stock Show, including the reserve champion Polled Hereford cow-calf pair.

The Darr School of Agriculture students and staff who represented the university at the stock show

experiences to students ever since. The Ranch provides students with opportunities to work with the largest purebred cattle operation associated with a university in the nation.

Choate said over winter break, students who had never attended the National Western Stock Show were able to experience the event for themselves. This was the first time Missouri State took part in

mentioned she took particular interest in exploring the yards throughout the fairgrounds.

"I have wanted to take my own cattle to the National Western Stock Show for years but have never had the chance to," Choate said. "I started working with Missouri State's show cattle last fall, and when we all decided we needed to take cattle to Denver, it was a trip I couldn't turn down."

Missouri State students Joel Butler, junior animal science major from Republic, Missouri, and Caitlyn McKibben, sophomore agricultural education major from Lamar, Missouri, assisted the group, along with Missouri State graduate, Jocelyn Washam. As siblings, Butler and Washam have been exhibiting Hereford cattle at local, state and national stock shows for years. Butler discussed how helping his fellow Missouri State students learn was something he took pride in.

"I enjoy helping students that are willing to learn," Butler said. "It was a good experience watching them succeed after months worth of hard work."

**"It was a good experience watching them succeed after months worth of hard work."
—Joel Butler**

included Justin Sissel, the School of Agriculture farm operations manager; Julie Choate, freshman agricultural communications major from Pleasant Hope, Missouri; Nathan Warner, senior animal science major from Archie, Missouri; Benny McWilliams, junior agricultural education major from Asbury, Missouri; Michaela Haley, senior animal science major from Sedgewickville, Missouri; and Ryan Poythress, senior animal science major from Jackson, Missouri.

With the smell of pine shavings and pink oil in the air, the group groomed two senior-yearling bulls and a cow-calf pair they had previously cared for at the Darr Agricultural Center. Little did these students know, they would place fourth and fifth with the bulls that day, and on Jan. 17, they would exhibit the reserve champion Polled Hereford cow-calf pair.

According to the School of Agriculture website, Journagan Ranch, a 3,300-acre purebred cattle operation, was donated to Missouri State by the Leo Journagan family and has provided educational expe-

exhibiting cattle at the National Western Stock Show.

According to Choate, both McWilliams and Haley exhibited the bulls. Choate was responsible for exhibiting the calf, while Haley was responsible for exhibiting LJR MSU PAULA 391Z, the cow of the pair. Choate clarified that the entire group was responsible for setting up the stall and preparing the cattle for show day.

Choate discussed how excited she was about attending the event because she had never had the opportunity before. She



Photo courtesy of the School of Agriculture Students with senior-yearling bull.

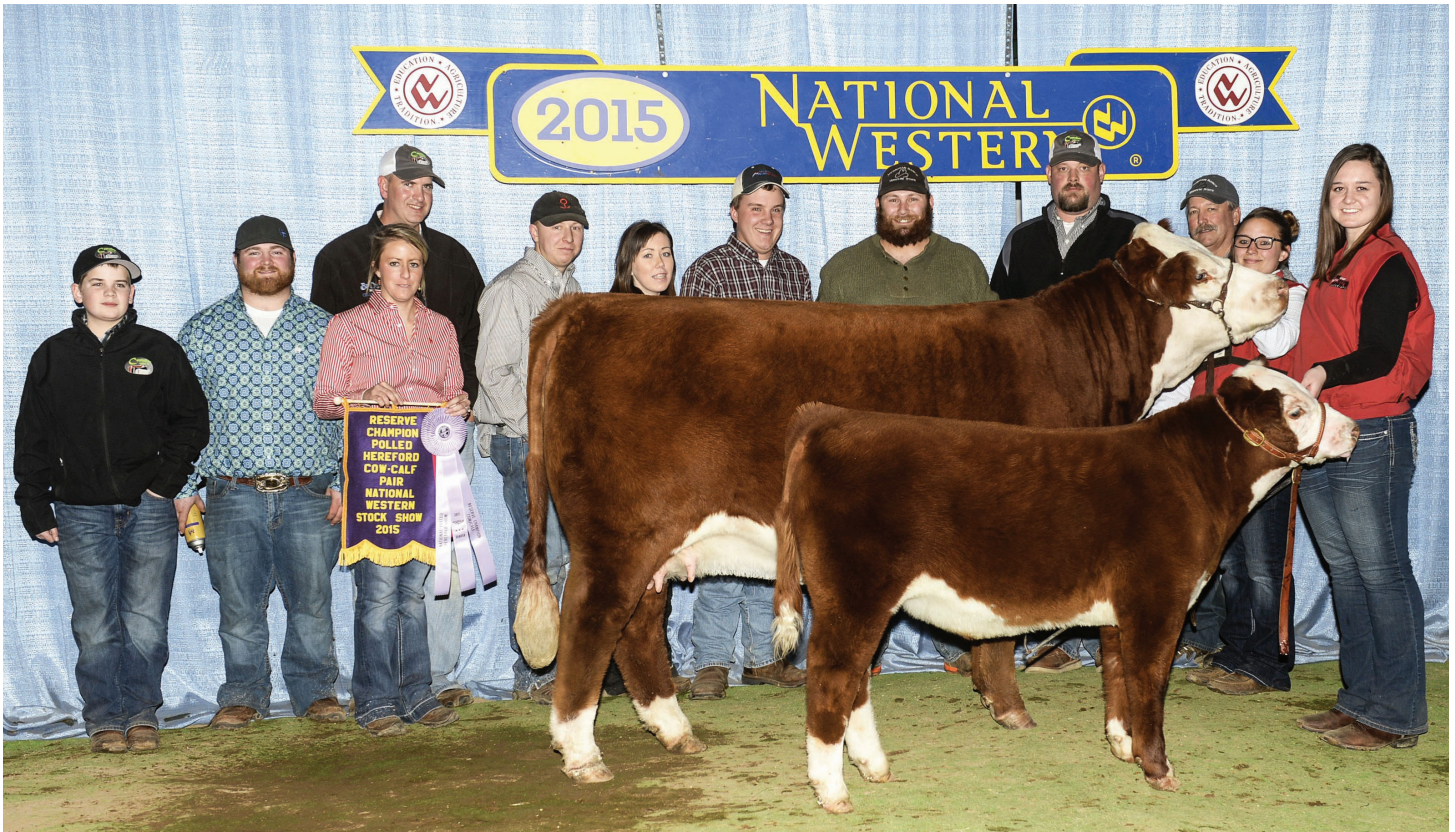


Photo courtesy of the School of Agriculture
The students who were able to show Hereford cattle in Denver in January. Pictured with reserve champion cow-calf pair.

New MediaSite Room provides online learning

By Audra Blevins

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Darr School of Agriculture received a new MediaSite room for students and teachers to better utilize online learning.

The MediaSite room is a studio with video recording equipment used to record lectures for online courses offered by the School of Agriculture. The lighting and sound system in the studio allows for higher quality recordings. The main equipment and server were provided by Sonic Foundry, according to Arbindra Rimal, agricultural business professor in the School of Agriculture.

According to Rimal, the purpose of the room is to provide online courses to students at different universities. He also said the technol-

ogy is possible through a Capacity Building Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture.

When asked who was able to utilize it and how often, Rimal said faculty and staff of the School of Agriculture have the ability to use the room, and it is utilized almost everyday.

"There are many faculties—including Dr. Elliott, myself, Dr. Walker, Dr. Onyango and Dr. Trewatha—actively engaged in developing and offering online courses," Rimal said. "I hope that more faculty will participate in online program in the future so that it gets used extensively."

Rimal said the funding for the room came through the Non-Land Grant Agricultural College Capacity

Building Program under the USDA. Rimal also said it was a year of funding, totaling nearly \$600,000.

Rimal believes the room is effective for students and teachers.

"Online education is an important part of higher education in agriculture," Rimal said. "The studio is a very important aspect of our enhanced capacity to deliver digital material to distant students. We already have two classes capable of capturing lectures. We will have one more classroom with such capacity in the near future."

The MediaSite room is something important to the School of Agriculture. Overall, it has been considered effective, and it is a tool greatly utilized by students and faculty.

Block and Bridle club holds annual Bear Classic

By Nikki Newsome

The Missouri State University Bear Classic is a yearly cattle show hosted by the Darr School of Agriculture Block and Bridle club, and is open to anyone 21 and under. The 2015 Bear Classic occurred on

champion in her class at the show.

From the Showmanship classes, to the individual breed classes, showmen showed their cattle with pride and energy that the judge and audience highly enjoyed. The

grand champion steer was owned and shown by Cole Murphy, from Houstonia, Missouri, and

running the check-in table and helping out in any way they could. Izzy Michitsch, senior agricultural business, finance and management major from Russellville, Missouri, and club treasurer, was one of individuals running the check-in table.

Michitsch said she has been helping at the table for the past three years.

"I love seeing people that have come all three years," Michitsch said. "I especially enjoy it because I can see how the show kids have grown and what they are doing now."

With people like Bubulka, Gunnett and Michitsch, the Bear Classic will likely continue for many more years and showcase several generations of showmen who have all come together at Pinegar Arena for this exciting event.

**"...I can see how the show kids have grown and what they are doing now."
—Izzy Michitsch**

Sunday, April 15, at Pinegar Arena.

Showmen from Mountain Grove, Missouri, to Hillsboro, Missouri, and everywhere in between participated. Missouri State students, students from surrounding colleges, high schools and even younger all came out with their best cattle.

Several participants also exhibited in the showmanship portion of the show. Emily Bubulka, junior agricultural business, marketing and sales major from De Soto, Missouri, said she was both "nervous and excited" as a "horse person" at her first livestock show.

Bubulka was accompanied by Andrew Gunnett, a biology student at Drury University. Gunnett said he was "happy for Emily to be getting involved with showing by using my Rosa." Bubulka and Gunnett showed Branveigh cattle—a minority breed among Angus, Herford, and other more popular breeds of beef cattle—at the Bear Classic.

Bubulka and Gunnett hope to take Rosa, a heifer owned by Gunnett, and other cattle to the national show in Kansas City, Missouri, this summer after Rosa earned reserve

the grand champion heifer was owned and shown by Rayleigh Morris, from Ash Grove, Missouri.

Although the focus of the Bear Classic is indeed on the showmen and their livestock, the whole show would not take place without the Block and Bridle club hosting,



Photo courtesy of Nikki Newsome

Emily Bubulka, participated in the Showmanship portion of the MSU Bear Classic.

George Washington Carver Academy a success

By Clara Jungermann

Educating high school students from urban areas about current agricultural practices, the variety of careers within agriculture and the legacy of George Washington Carver were the major goals of the first George Washington Carver Academy.

GWCA was a five-day camp held at Missouri State University from July 21-25. Students from Springfield and St. Louis spent the week learning about the importance of agriculture and how their food makes it from the farm to the table.

Christi Sudbrock, Darr School of Agriculture agribusiness instructor and outreach coordinator, said the students loved learning about agriculture and the opportunities Missouri State offers. Many of the students said they are strongly considering Missouri State, and the only high school senior who attended plans on attending Missouri State this fall.

“The students started to change their minds about agriculture, looking at agriculture differently, looking at agriculture positively,” Benjamin Onyango, agribusiness professor, said. These students are



Photos courtesy of Christi Sudbrock
Students attending the George Washington Carver Academy spent the week learning about Missouri State, the importance of agriculture and where food comes from.

the best ambassadors for The School of Agriculture and the careers agriculture offers, Onyango said.

The underclassmen had such a great experience that many of them have applied to attend GWCA this summer, Sudbrock said.

Eric Moya Nyamwange, natural and applied science graduate student from Kenya, said learning about the different backgrounds of

the students and what drives them to continue their education after high school was inspirational. In addition, seeing the students learn about the importance of agriculture education was really rewarding for Nyamwange. Every day he and the students learned something new about each other.

Photos courtesy of Christi Sudbrock
Students attending the GWCA spent time at Journagan Ranch.



Undersecretary Scuse visits campus

By Nikki Newsome

On Feb. 17, the Darr School of Agriculture welcomed Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Michael Scuse.

The school hosted a luncheon in his honor, where he spoke to Missouri leaders and stakeholders in the agricultural industry. Following the luncheon, Scuse took part in a round table discussion with agricultural students and others.

Scuse was appointed by President Barack Obama on May 14, 2012, and is the third-ranking USDA official, according to the United States Department of Agriculture website.

According to the School of Agriculture blog, "Scuse is the highest-ranking USDA official to ever visit Missouri State."

Many young leaders in the School of Agriculture were able to attend the round table discussion. This was their opportunity to discuss topics such as advice for future agriculturists, Scuses'

chosen career path and other bits of wisdom the students could learn from his experiences.

Scuse had quite a journey becoming undersecretary. He said during the round table discussion he "had no desire to be an ag secretary, but the government asked me and so I agreed." He mentioned that up until that point, he farmed full-time. Although farming was a priority, he made sure to be active in agricultural organizations.

Scuse made sure to share advice with the young agriculturists in attendance.

"Ag communications and ag education are extremely important: one educates and one works to," Scuse said. He also mentioned students should stay in agriculture because there are hundreds of job opportunities in Missouri alone. Right now is the "best time to pursue a career in ag," Scuse said.

Although Scuse was able to achieve his current position through

his involvement in various agriculturally related organizations, he said students should not "do it the way I did...follow through with your education." Another point Scuse made was, as a student, you should not be afraid to volunteer or challenge yourself; be engaged.

After the question and answer session, Scuse made time to talk to individual students and take some pictures with them. For Audrey Thomas, sophomore natural resources major from Greenwood, Missouri, and Alesha Wilson, sophomore agricultural business, finance and management major from Hunnewell, Missouri, this was a special occasion.

Thomas said that along with the picture, "[Scuse] was cool enough to talk to us." Thomas also shared that her favorite part was learning more about public relations and career paths directly from Scuse.

Photo courtesy of Maddy Cushman, The Standard
Michael Scuse, the undersecretary for farm and foreign services, visited Missouri State this spring.



School of Agriculture welcomes new professors

By Taylor Pittman

This year, the Darr School of Agriculture added several new faculty and per course instructors to the roster.

In the fall, the School of Agriculture welcomed four new instructors: Mike Shoemaker, Tim Russell, Samantha Warner and Lacy Hobbs.

Shoemaker is a per course instructor in the agricultural business, education and communications unit. He taught agricultural mechanic practices as a new elective for agriculture students.

Russell is a per course instructor in the environmental plant science and natural resources unit. He brought new insight to our students with his class, wildlife in the Ozarks.

Warner is a full-time instructor in the agricultural business, education and communications unit. She teaches agricultural communications courses and sections of technical writing and senior seminar.

Warner received her undergraduate degree in general agriculture with an emphasis on agricultural communications from Missouri State University. She then received her Master of Science in agricultural communications from Oklahoma State University.

"I am excited to further develop the agricultural communications foundation the School of Agriculture has developed over the years," Warner said.

She is working with administration to take the agricultural communications program from an emphasis area to a full degree. Warner has also been the lead organizer in establishing an agricultural career fair.

Hobbs is a per course instructor in the animal science unit. She taught reproductive physiology in the fall. In the spring she introduced a new companion animal class for animal science and pre-veterinary medicine majors.

Hobbs graduated from Missouri State with a Bachelor of Science in animal science. Then she received her doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2008.

"The first week or two, she seemed nervous, but after a few classes, she had transitioned into a caring, confident and invested individual," Branden Roberts, senior animal science major from Bolivar, Missouri, said.

In the spring we welcomed three new teachers: Wenonah Marlin, Mike Wiles and Michael Goerndt.

Marlin, a per course instructor in the environmental plant science and natural resources unit, introduced a floral arrangement class. Marlin is a recent graduate of the School of Agriculture.

Wiles is a per course instructor in the agricultural business, education and communications unit. He taught agricultural selling to students. He graduated from Missouri State in 1980 with a Bachelor in Science in electronic media communications with a minor in general agriculture.

Goerndt is an assistant professor in the environmental plant science and natural resources unit. He taught introductory forestry and terrestrial natural resources management.

Goerndt received his Bachelor

of Science in forest ecosystem management in 2003 and Master of Science in forest biometrics in 2005 from Iowa State University. He then attended Oregon State University and received his Master of Science in statistics in 2009 and his doctorate in forest biometrics in 2010.

"(My) primary aim is to expand the forestry curriculum at Missouri State University to meet the growing demand for forestry education from students and professionals at Missouri State," Goerndt said.

He is working to develop a forestry minor, which can be obtained in conjunction with a natural resources and plant science degrees.

"I also aim to incorporate my research experience and analytical expertise into local issues of forest management and forest health in the Ozarks through productive collaboration with colleagues within the university and at the state-level," Goerndt said.

Each new addition to the teaching staff brings students new opportunities and possible mentors to learn from.

**"My primary aim is to expand the forestry curriculum at Missouri State University to meet the growing demand for forestry education from students and professionals at Missouri State."
—Michael Goerndt**

School of Agriculture publishes *The Woodlands's* history



Photo courtesy of University Communications

The Woodlands, 161 acres of land donated to the Darr School of Agriculture by Jeanne Turoff.

By Jessica Probst

Sally Lyons McAlear, who describes herself as a local history buff, knows quite a bit about Greene County, but never in a million years did she think a significant part of American history was in her backyard.

Although she grew up only a half mile south, McAlear never questioned the past of the mysterious wooded area her brothers explored. Through a chance conversation with a friend, McAlear's curiosity grew about the area referred to by locals as the "transit camp."

The day after, she went to the library and discovered the site once held a federal transient camp during The Great Depression. Her curiosity led her on a two-year journey into the lives of hundreds of people who lived and worked on the land. McAlear decided this camp was so important to the history of Springfield, she needed to compile her research into a book.

In January 2015, "A Refuge in The Woodlands: A History of

the Springfield Federal Transient Camp in Springfield, Missouri," was published by the Darr School of Agriculture. The 47-page book details the history of the owners of the land from the 1840s to the present. It also illustrates, with pictures from a scrapbook at the State Historical Society of Missouri, the construction and life at the transient camp.

McAlear was also able to read through first-hand accounts in *The Transient Journal*, a newsletter published on-site from April 1934 to July 1935. From her research, she discovered the camp officially closed in 1941, and all of the buildings constructed by the federal government were destroyed, leaving only the foundations. After the original house built on the property burned down, it became a vacant piece of land.

In December 2013, Betty Jeanne (Wood) Turoff, a descendant of John Wood, donated 161 acres to be named The Woodlands to the School

of Agriculture. Wood purchased the land in 1852 from its first owner Major Joseph Weaver. Two months after the donation, the site where the transient camp once stood became a Greene County Historic Site.

During a recent interview with KSMU's Andrea Mostyn, Anson Elliott, director of the School of Agriculture, said, "Its ruggedness and its closeness make it totally a unique location for a university to have for its educational purpose." Elliott goes on to describe his plan to have part of The Woodlands accessible to the public with tours given by students for several days in the fall.

The Woodlands has a great deal of history and even more potential to teach students majoring in wildlife, conservation and management about forestry and natural resources. If you are interested in learning the complete history of The Woodlands, a digital copy of the book written by McAlear is available at ag.missouristate.edu.

Elliott travels to Mongolia

By Gretchen Wood

In March 2015, Anson Elliott, director of the Missouri State University Darr School of Agriculture, traveled to the Mongolian University of Life Sciences in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to discuss possible collaboration projects. Elliott traveled with Stephen Robinette, associate vice president for International Programs at Missouri State University.

Elliott has many objectives for an alliance with MULS, located in the capital city of Mongolia. His primary objective is to develop a network of professionals and students who will find a symbiotic partnership with the School of Agriculture.

Elliott hopes to increase student exchange with MULS.

"We're searching for Mongolian students to come study here at Missouri State University," Elliott said. "At this time, there are only half a dozen students from Mongolian University of

Life Sciences that are studying here in the School of Agriculture."

Another objective is to assist with agricultural issues Mongolia is facing. An immediate challenge they are experiencing is the palatability of their beef.

"There are managerial practices that can improve the quality of agriculture production," Elliott said. He said the beef is "very rugged."

Introducing genetic diversity to cattle by artificial insemination is one way Elliott hopes to implement improvements. Artificially inseminating Hereford genetics into their cattle would improve the tenderness of their beef, while also retaining the hardiness of their cattle.

Forage improvements are also needed in Mongolia. Elliott describes Mongolian climate as a very dry area. The winter is cold with many days dropping below zero degrees Fahrenheit and summers are dry with little moisture.

"Synchronizing fertilization of the forages with the rainfall and stockpiling could improve the quality of forage while also improving the quality of the animals themselves," Elliott said.

Mongolia has seen long-term poverty, Elliott said, but now there is a larger financial class, and their infrastructure hasn't kept up.

"Mongolia is experiencing challenges emphasizing agriculture," Elliott said.

Historically, the Mongolian people are nomadic, and private individuals do not own most of the acreage.

"There are ways to solve scientific challenges, but how do you deal with public policy?" Elliott asked.

His main goal is educating students. There are many benefits to international collaboration, but we "have to make sure they benefit the Missouri State University agriculture students as well."

Missouri State signs MOU in Haiti

By Kate Siebert

Missouri State University collaborated with Convoy of Hope to create a Memorandum of Understanding that will change the future of agriculture in Haiti and other impoverished countries.

Jason Streubel, director of agriculture at Convoy of Hope, described the intentions of the program as "eliminating the deficit of education in the hands of farmers in Haiti." Streubel, as well as Missouri State faculty and students, have traveled to Haiti in efforts to rebuild the agriculture industry after years of devastation.

These efforts have proven to be informal routes of educating the community in Haiti. The MOU is a collaborative agreement that will

create formal pathways of education through the Haitian university to support and provide opportunities for agricultural communities.

Streubel said they want to "take this to the next level." With the cooperation of universities like Missouri State and Evangel, the agreement came together easily. The timing and parameters matched up at just the right time for this project to soar.

"It just worked," Streubel said.

The agreement will satisfy the shortages in research and practical skills in the Haitian university. Streubel said students will be able to apply for grants for specific projects that will enable Haitian students to learn sustainable practices. Through individual re-

search and working with trusted farmers, communities in Haiti can implement techniques they do not have the resources to research themselves, according to Streubel.

Missouri State faculty and students now have the opportunity to share important information and to help the underserved in Haitian communities. This will not only benefit farmers in Haiti but it will give faculty and students cultural experience and enhance their understanding of foreign nations. Streubel said this project was a "no-brainer." He said the "heart and soul of faculty at Missouri State" contributed to the ease of collaboration with Convoy of Hope.

School of Agriculture holds first career fair

By Brianna Horn

Eight companies from around Missouri gathered to give Missouri State University Darr School of Agriculture students an opportunity to explore careers in agriculture during the first Missouri State Agricultural Career Fair. The fair was held Nov. 11-12.

The participating companies included MFA Inc., Hummert International, FCS Financial, Missouri Farm Bureau, Osborn Barr, Missouri Corn Growers Association, BWI Companies Inc. and the Missouri State Career Center.

"The Career Fair took place on a Tuesday and Wednesday, with some companies guest speaking in classes and visiting with faculty at dinner on Wednesday," Samantha Warner, agricultural communications instructor and career fair organizer, said. "The actual career fair was held on Wednesday."

The main point of the career fair was for students "...to put their names out there and network with industry leaders," Samantha Riley, junior agricultural education major from Salem, Missouri, said. "Going to things like this helps to improve your conversation skills, which could lead to better interviews. It also gives students a chance to practice dressing and acting in a professional manner and a chance to polish up that resume," Riley said.

Will Knuckles, sophomore environmental plant science/crop science major from Springfield, Missouri, said, it was an intimate setting to meet with potential employers. The size of the event gave the students the opportunity to meet and greet with several representatives.

"Career fairs are a great way to get to know people in the business," Gina Pate, junior animal science major from Stockton, Missouri,

said. Students can really impress future employers by dressing nicely, having resumes, asking questions and engaging in conversations." The event allowed students to learn about other occupations outside of their career fields.

The day was a constant dialogue between employers and students, with students asking what opportunities employers had and employers asking students about their interests and agricultural backgrounds. The career fair was a beneficial function that "helped students prepare for their future careers by letting

them get their feet wet," Riley said.

Pate appreciated the event.

"I know Ms. Warner worked really hard to even get that for us and I hope she knows how much we, as students, appreciated it." Students should be proud Missouri State offers events to help students find jobs and explore careers.

Warner said the second annual Agricultural Career Fair will be held during the fall 2015 semester. If you are interested in participating, contact her at SamanthaWarner@missouristate.edu.



Photos courtesy of Mike Klem.

Top: students visit with Osborn Barr employees about internships.

Bottom: students visit with FCS Financial.



School of Agriculture says goodbye to retiring faculty members

By Savannah Ash

Don't you love that amazing feeling you get when you do not have to set an alarm for work the next day? Well, four faculty and staff members at Missouri State University's School of Agriculture can vouch for that, as they have announced their retirement.

John Avery, horticulture outreach advisor; Pamela Mayer, library associate and publications; Dennis Schmitt, animal science faculty emeritus; and Pamela Trewatha, environmental plant science professor, are ready to kick their feet up as their time in the workforce comes to a close.

Avery worked with plant growing and fruit propagation in Mountain Grove, Missouri, for about 28 years.

"I think John came across well to the student[s]," Martin Capps, a fellow co-worker, said. "He was good at putting it in his own words—things that interested students in agriculture. Of course, he was very good at demonstrating how to do plant propagation techniques."

Mayer grew up outside of St. Louis, Missouri, on a large farm with a vegetable garden. Mayer attended Jefferson College before attending Southwest Missouri State University. She achieved a Bachelor of Science degree in geography with a minor in philosophy. Mayer has been at Missouri State for 35.5 years, eight as a student and 27.5 as support staff.

She was awarded a grant from the Center for Research Libraries, administered by the United States Agricultural Information Network, to preserve and digitize, all the newsletters, annual

reports, culture guides, etc., published by the Missouri State Mountain Grove Fruit Experiment Station since its inception in 1901.

In retirement, Mayer plans to have more time and energy to garden and care of her property and to take little vacations. She wants to "fully appreciate the changes of plant growth, weather, sun and sky color of our beautiful Ozarks."

"Pam is a true professional in every sense of the word," Sally McAlear, a former co-worker, said. "On two histories that I wrote regarding properties managed by the Darr School of Agriculture, Pam did the professional layout. We worked flawlessly together on both projects, and she turned them into works of art! Pam is the 'real deal,' and I'm sure her talents will be greatly missed. I know we all wish her many years of happiness during her retirement."

Schmitt grew up in the Glidewell, Missouri area, where his family had a dairy farm of registered Guernseys. Schmitt attended Southern Missouri State University as a freshman and sophomore, he then transferred to the University of Missouri-Columbia to major in vocational agriculture teaching. At the time, there were no agricultural education programs in the state.

After teaching at Forsyth for two years, Schmitt went back to UMC to obtain his master's in dairy science. He then returned to SMSU to take additional courses needed to apply to veterinary school at UMC. While Schmitt was in vet school, he obtained his Ph.D. in dairy science.

Schmitt has been at Missouri State for over 20 years.

"I miss teaching reproduction

to undergraduates and the graduate students. Also the comradeship among the faculty," Schmitt said.

Schmitt believes he will ever fully retire because he is currently employed by Feld Entertainment as the Ringling Bros. chair of veterinary care and director of research and conservations. It is an extension of the work he has been doing through a grant to Missouri State for the past eight years. Schmitt said he "plans to be part-time, spending more time camping and fishing, as well as watching his grandchildren mature and grow."

Trewatha was born in Ohio but grew-up in Indiana, where she pursued her undergraduate studies in botany and plant pathology in plant protection at Purdue University. After receiving her Bachelor of Science degree at Purdue, Trewatha went to Kansas State University and obtained her master's and doctorate in horticulture. As she was finishing her doctorate degree, she found her job at Missouri State.

Trewatha has always had a love for agriculture, even when she was a little girl. She said she loved to play with the weeds in the grass. Trewatha will have been at Missouri State for 28 years after the 2015 summer session. Upon retiring, she will finish her weed identification manual research, then travel with her husband.

"I will miss teaching and interacting with the students the most," she said.

The School of Agriculture would like to thank the retirees for their years of service and dedication to students and the university.

Remembering Cody Uber

By Peyson Shields, The Standard

As I looked to my left Monday morning, a seat normally filled by my classmate Cody Uber was empty. Other students shuffled into class, filling empty seats, unaware of why the seat was vacant. Maybe he hit the snooze button a few extra times this morning. Maybe he decided to play hooky. Or maybe students didn't even know that's where Cody sat.

Cody, a freshman who was majoring in agricultural business, finance and management, passed away in a car crash early

Thanksgiving morning along with three others: his best friend Logan Middleton, Landon Potts and Lance Porterfield.

At just 19, Cody had graduated from Nixa High School in May and was attending Missouri State University. Graduating from the same high school a few years earlier, I didn't know Cody until this year.

While walking to class one day, Cody passed me to say our class was canceled. Not knowing who he was, I introduced myself and said thank you. He said he

knew who I was because we had attended the same high school. We continued to chat while we walked toward the parking lot — that's probably the longest conversation Cody and I ever had.

Sitting next to each other in class, we had little conversations with the students around us, about the homework or notes, but that's about it. I would be too

“We can choose to sit class and not pay attention to others, or we can choose to ask someone how their day is going.”

consumed with the lecture — or my cell phone — to talk to the person sitting right next to me.

When I heard the news Thanksgiving Day, all I could feel was sorrow for their families. People always say situations like this will never happen to you, but when it happens to people in your own community, it puts everything into perspective. It's unfortunate it takes a tragedy like this to realize you're not invincible. To realize life is unfair, short and mean.

The teenagers who lost their

lives were doing what most small-town kids do: driving on backroads. They weren't doing anything crazy or out of the norm; we drive in the country, go too fast and laugh about the good times. It's just what we do.

Every 12 seconds, a life is lost in the United States. Someone's friend, brother or son. Someone who you knew, someone you didn't. Death is the inevitable but so is life.

I'm a firm believer that we choose the life we live. We can choose to sit in class and not pay attention to others, or we can choose to ask someone how their day is going.

It takes 12 seconds to compose a Tweet or start scrolling through Facebook. It also takes 12 seconds to start a conversation with the person next to you, 12 seconds to hold the door for a stranger, 12 seconds to look around and realize even though you might be having a crappy day, at least you're here.

Take 12 seconds. Because sometimes it's the people you don't know the best who have the largest impact on your life.

Alpha Gamma Sigma's Gathering of the Herd

By Savannah Ash

Alpha Gamma Sigma's alumni event, known as Gathering of the Herd, was held during the spring semester.

The event takes place every five years, and this year, it was held at the Springfield Brewing Company. The Alpha Gamma Sigma chapter at Missouri State University was founded in 1969, making it one of the longest-tenured fraternities on campus.

During the event, the fraternity raised a total of \$1006 for Relay for Life.

“The turnout was more than any of us had expected, and we are proud of our alumni for demonstrating what this fraternity means to them, still, after many years out of school,” President Garrett Vest said.

Vest gave a short speech at the event on the fraternity's goals, the alumni's involvement moving forward and the fraternity's accom-

plishments since the last Gathering.

Alpha Gamma Sigma's national association president, Brad Lewis, was in attendance. Lewis spoke on behalf of the alumni to the active chapter, referring to the fraternity's 13 principles, which include self-reliance, temperance, health, obedience, perpetuation of morality, cooperation, sociability, leadership, fellowship, honesty, sportsmanship, sacrifice and scholarship.

School of Agriculture receives sustainability award for water conservation program

By Austin Witt

Fall 2014 marked the completion of the water reclamation project formed in a joint effort between the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and Missouri State University's Darr School of Agriculture.

The project consists of a system that gathers rainwater from the roof of Pinegar Arena and repurposes the water for a variety of uses.

The actual body of the system consists of 10, 2,000-gallon tanks supplied by Free Water Systems. The tanks are located underground near the arena, and a special system designed by Geosyntec Consultants maximizes the collection of rainwater.

Mike Klem, coordinator of business and support services, said the project actually began by planting trees, bushes and shrubs around the Darr Agricultural Center as a water conservation project. This led to the brainstorm idea of finding

a system to save rainwater that comes off Pinegar Arena and use it in various ways at the Darr Center.

After connecting with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, the project found funding through the \$1.1 million Big Urbie grant—a grant designed to help improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff. With funding, the project took off and was designed and planned by numerous groups from the university, including the Student Government Association, the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and several sustainability groups and agencies.

The water collected in the tanks is used at the facilities for dust management in the arena, to cool-down the Pinegar Arena building and for landscaping. In the future, it will be possible to use the water for other projects, such as irrigation or watering livestock.

According to Klem, with the reclaimed water being used for these purposes, it reduced water consumption by 30 percent at the Darr Center in the first month.

Along with its achievements in sustainability and water conservation, the project also earned praise. Missouri State's Sustainability Advisory Committee recognized the School of Agriculture for its efforts in demonstrating a sustained commitment to environmental excellence and programming that makes an impact, according to a university press release.

Klem said the award came as a pleasant surprise to those involved with the project and was confirmation of the success of their project.

This project is "a wonderful demonstration of sustainability," Klem said.

Cody R. Uber Memorial Scholarship

By Peyson Shields

This past Thanksgiving, the Darr School of Agriculture lost one of its family members. Freshman agricultural business, and agricultural finance and management double major, Cody Uber, lost his life in a tragic car accident.

Cody was a vibrant and smart student according to those who knew him. So, instead of mourning his death — the school is celebrating his life. The Cody R. Uber Memorial Scholarship has been established to have Cody's name live on.

The \$1,000 scholarship, established by his family, will be awarded

to one incoming freshman each year that shares the same passion for agriculture education as Cody.

The scholarship will be managed by the Missouri State University Foundation and will continue for a minimum of five years.

If you are interested in donating to the Cody R. Uber Memorial Scholarship, contact foundation@missouristate.edu.

Photo courtesy of Uber's family
Uber enjoyed competing in rodeos.



FFA Excellence at Missouri State

By Sarah Bishop

While many students hung up the blue corduroy jacket, a prominent symbol of membership in the National FFA, last year, a lucky few did not. Those lucky few happen to include Missouri State University students Mercer Martin and Ally Hultgren.

Martin is a freshman agricultural communications major from Willard, Missouri. This fall, Martin competed in the National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking event, which took place at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

His journey to Louisville began last spring when Martin competed at the Area X speaking contest and then at Missouri's State FFA Convention.

"I was more worried for state than nationals because my parents were there," Mercer said.

When it came to competing at the national level, Martin said it was different. All the finalists got along well and hoped the best for each other, and the attitude of the contest was unlike any he had been in before. Martin and the other finalists were not aware of the results from the final round before the awards ceremony, so hearing his name called was quite a shock.

Mercer said any students interested in competing in the extemporaneous public speaking event should make sure to stay up to date on current agricultural issues.

"You don't know what your topic is going to be, so you need that really wide knowledge and not just the news but issues also," he said.

Also attending the National FFA Convention was Hultgren, sophomore environmental plant science major from Willard, Missouri. Hultgren served as the Area IX state vice president this past year, and one of her duties included attend-

ing the National FFA Convention as a delegate. She also helped run the State FFA Convention in April, which was an intense experience that began Monday, April 13, with training and practicing that lasted all the way until convention began on Thursday, April 16.

When asked to sum up her year of service in one word, Hultgren chose "unforgettable." Part of this is due to the visits she made around the state to FFA chapters, including her visit to Fair Play.

Hultgren said this particular visit stood out to her because she still talks to members from the chapter. The feeling she got from her visit there was goo—"It's that feeling you actually did

something," Hultgren describes.

When asked to give advice to those thinking about applying for a state FFA office, Hultgren said, "Go for it, and when you do interview, be yourself."

Maura Butler, Seneca high school senior, had the same frame of mind as Hultgren. Butler is the Area XI vice president on the 2015-2016 Missouri state FFA officer team and will attend Missouri State in the fall.

Butler said she plans to major in agricultural education. She is excited to be part of the School of Agriculture and is "ready to meet new people and get involved in as many clubs and organizations as possible!"



Photos courtesy of Missouri FFA Association

Top: Martin competes at nationals.

Bottom: Past and current officers call Missouri State home. Left: Hultgren, Butler.





Photo courtesy of Clara Jungermann

Three agriculture students were peer leaders for agriculture GEP sections. From left: Hall, Mize and Gaines.

Peer leaders lend a helping hand to freshmen

By Clara Jungermann

During the 2014 fall semester, three agriculture students took on the leadership role of peer leader for the agriculture section of the GEP: First Year Foundations class.

The students were Taylor Mize, senior agricultural business, finance and management major from Campbell, Missouri; Courtney Hall, sophomore agricultural communications major from Creighton, Missouri; and Kacie Gaines, junior agriculture business marketing and sales and communications double major from Oran, Missouri.

All freshmen are required to take GEP to learn about Missouri State University and the School of Agriculture. It is a peer leader's job to help freshmen make a smooth transition into their first semester at Missouri State University.

In addition, peer leaders

give freshmen a friendly face to look for when they have questions about life in college, the School of Agriculture and campus organizations, Mize said.

"I really loved the idea of helping out incoming freshman and teaching them the tips I have learned in my time at Missouri State," Hall said.

The relationships with freshmen were important to Gaines.

"My favorite part of being a peer leader was the relationships I developed with the incoming freshmen," Gaines said. "I loved being able to see familiar faces instead of new people.

Being a peer leader was extremely rewarding, Mize said.

"When students come into class on the first day, you can sense that many of them are nervous," Mize said. "However, as

the semester goes on, I could see my students becoming more and more confident about taking on leadership roles, talking to me and asking questions or for advice."

Being a peer leader can be very rewarding, but it also has its difficulties.

"The hardest part was probably making sure I established my position and not letting the students think I could help out their grade," Hall said.

Peer leaders help freshman find their place at Missouri State.

"In the School of Agriculture, we feel that there is a leadership role for each and every student of ours somewhere on campus," Mize said. "I, as a peer leader, feel that it is my personal responsibility to help students find their role in which they can be most successful."

University Ambassadors share their passion for Missouri State University

By Clara Jungermann

A passion for Missouri State University motivated Peyson Shields, junior agricultural communications major from Nixa, Missouri, and Justine Wasser, freshman from New Baden, Illinois, double majoring in animal science and plant and environmental science, to become University Ambassadors for the 2014-2015 school year.

An ambassador's job is to promote Missouri State and give tours to potential students. However, showing prospective

students around campus is not the only job of an ambassador.

"A University Ambassador gives a potential student the 'real life' Missouri State experience," Shields said.

Wasser was motivated to become an ambassador because of her passion for Missouri State. She wanted to help potential students make this university their future home.

"It is our job to help potential students picture their life at Missouri State," Wasser said.

Hearing a student say, "you helped me make my decision to become a Bear," is one of the most rewarding parts of being an ambassador for Wasser.

Shields said her job, as an ambassador is most rewarding when she can see a potential student fall in love with Missouri State because of the tour she gave.

As ambassadors, Shields and Wasser work to help potential students follow their passion and find their place at Missouri State.

Photo courtesy of Clara Jungermann
From left: Wasser, Shields



Brazil Study Away

By Brittney McBride

Loading a plane and traveling to a different country was the beginning of one of the biggest learning experiences 14 students ever imagined gaining at Missouri State University.

Two faculty members—Christi Sudbrock, outreach coordinator, and Mike Klem, business and support services coordinator—supervised the partnership between the Darr School of Agriculture and Unicesumar in Maringá, Brazil.

Kacie Gaines, junior agricultural business, marketing and sales and agricultural communications double major from Oran, Missouri, described her experience as the greatest cultural experience of her life.

“To compare our lives and see the similarities and differences was very unique to this particular study,” Gaines said. “Sustainability isn’t just a concept; it is the way of life.”

After explaining his experience, Taylor Mize, senior agricultural business, finance and management major from Campbell, Missouri, gave two major pieces of advice to future students who are considering this trip.

“You can sleep when you get home,” Mize said. “If you are asleep, you might miss something. Be a sponge. Soak in as much of the experience as possible while you are there.”

Study abroad experiences are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities because of great guides and involvement you could only have with a group. Both Gaines and Mize encourage every future student to consider at least one study abroad opportunity.



Photo courtesy of Mike Klem. Students toured Brazilian agricultural operations during their Study Away experience.

“You can sleep when you get home. If you sleep you might miss something”
-Taylor Mize

Photo courtesy of Mike Klem. Last May, students had the opportunity to travel to Brazil for a one of a kind learning experience through the Darr School of Agriculture.



Haiti Study Away

By Brittney McBride

A partnership with Convoy of Hope resulted in the chance of a lifetime for several students and faculty.

Students and faculty from Missouri State University boarded a plane destined for Haiti on March 6-14. During their trip, they had the opportunity to teach others about agriculture and compare traditions of everyday life in the United States.

Emma Hackett, sophomore global studies major from Bentonville, Arkansas, described her experience as a chance to become culturally aware of a different lifestyle in the world.

Benjamin Rodabaugh, senior natural resources major from Lowry City, Missouri, joined Hackett and several other students in order to make a difference to the citizens of Haiti.

"Principles of sustainability go way beyond agriculture," Rodabaugh said.

When both Hackett and Rodabaugh were asked to describe



their favorite part, they were speechless. After the experience they had in Haiti, highlighting one part as their favorite was impossible. Both students encourage future students to participate in a study abroad trip similar to Haiti.

Photo courtesy of Melissa Remley

Over spring break, students had the opportunity to travel to Haiti and share sustainably agriculture practices.

China Study Away

By Brittney McBride

A small group of individuals took advantage of an opportunity to visit the United States's biggest importer — China.

As a very populated country, China's perspective on feeding the world is both similar and different from the United States's.

"They are constantly working to become more sustainable and produce more food," Alyssa Cassidy, senior agricultural communications major from Fulton, Missouri, said.

After taking part in this opportunity, Cassidy encourages every student who is considering this trip to "stay open with new

experiences and don't hold back!" She said getting out of her comfort zone helped push her to take advantage of more opportunities.

Between language barriers and cultural changes, Cassidy said

Photo courtesy of Olivia Jaco

From left: Jon Bellis, junior env. plant science major from Auroa, Missouri; Trystan Thompson, sophomore env. plant science major from Spokane, Missouri; Cassidy; and Olivia Jaco, senior agricultural communications major from Whitewater, Missouri.

this opportunity was an enlightening experience on how the rest of the world lives a normal life.

Studying abroad is an opportunity no one should miss out on.



Taiwan Study Away



Photo courtesy of Taylor Young

Three first-year students went to Taiwan during fall 2014 finals week. From left: Travalos, Hultgren and Young

By Brittney McBride

Three students left the country during fall 2014 finals week, excited to explore Taiwan.

The individuals chosen to represent Missouri State University across the globe for six days were Ally Hultgren, sophomore environmental plant science major from Willard, Missouri; Taylor Young, sophomore agricultural education major from Russellville, Missouri; and Benjamin Travalos, sophomore agricultural business, marketing and sales major from Ashland, Missouri.

After the selection process, the students in the Darr School of Agriculture started preparing for

a week full of exploration. After their plane landed in Taiwan, each participant commented on instantly noticing the language barrier and cultural differences.

According to Hultgren, the experience really opened her eyes to how both her personal life and the agricultural industry differ.

"It opened my eyes up to how much I have here at home and made me really appreciate it," Hultgren said.

Young said the most interesting part of the trip was to see the differences in how people lived their lives and practiced agriculture.

"You could definitely tell we

were on the other side of the world, but not in a bad way," Young said.

Travalos said his favorite part was spending a day at the agricultural high school.

"It was really awesome interacting with the students, seeing their perspectives on not only agriculture but on life in general," Travalos said. He made connections through social media during the exchange program.

The three participants encourage every student to take part in a study abroad trip. All three agree that taking part in something of this nature is "more than worth it."

Sri Lanka Study Away

By Brittney McBride

Many college students consider traveling studying abroad, but few actually across the globe to a completely different society; however, one student took on this challenge.

Jessica Ratliff, senior animal science major from Naylor, Missouri, had a life-altering experience when she visited Sri Lanka on a study abroad excursion.

According to Ratliff, Sri Lanka provided a “moment

**“Take a chance
and do something
different, you will
not regret it!”
— Jessica Ratliff**

of clarity that told me who I really was.” This experience helped her learn about herself and forced her to step out of her comfort zone.

Ratliff said she experienced culture shock when she encountered cold showers, jellyfish stings and the absence of McDonald’s. However, she would not change her experience because of the personal growth she gained from these cultural differences.

Ratliff encourages every college student to take advantage of the study abroad opportunities offered in the Darr School of Agriculture.

“Take a chance and do something different; you will not regret it,” Ratliff said.



Photo courtesy of Jessica Ratliff
Last summer Ratliff was able to visit Sri Lanka.

Interested in Study Away?

Contact Study Away programs or School of Agriculture:

international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/ • 417-836-6146

or

ag.missouristate.edu • 417-836-5638

Darr's graduate students research many fields

By Kerstine Whittaker

Brigette Williams

Brigette Williams is from Raymondville, Missouri. Williams thesis is on morphometrics and breeding with a focus on genetics and molecular biology. After her graduation in May of 2016 Williams plans to pursue her Ph.D.

Cassie O'Hara

Cassie O'Hara is a graduate student from Kirkland, Illinois. Her Graduate Advisor is Dr. Gary Webb. She is competing alongside Daniel Potter in Florida for their equine research. O'Hara is researching deworming practices for horse owners. To conduct her research, she analyzes the fecal egg count from a horse and asks the owner 30 questions about the horse to collect data. O'Hara said she is excited to present her hard work, and she is also excited to represent Missouri State and the School of Agriculture.



Photo courtesy of Cassie O'Hara
O'hara is researching deworming practices in horses.

Cheyenne Arthur

Cheyenne Arthur is from Greenfield, Missouri. Arthur

is working toward a master's of plant science. Arthur's thesis is improving tall fescue baleage using varying levels of pasture fertilization with phosphorus and nitrogen. Arthur is hoping to obtain a career in agriculture. Arthur plans to graduate in fall of 2015.



Photo courtesy of Cheyenne Arthur
Arthur researches improving tall fescue baleage.

Mia Mann

Mia Mann is from Leonard, Missouri. Mann's thesis has three different aspects. Mann has performed a genome-wide analysis comparing Norton and Cynthiana grape cultivars to determine if they are genetically identical. Mann is also working on true-hybrid identification and linkage map construction for a Chambourcin x Cabernet Sauvignon population. Mann intends to analyze the berry quality of a Norton x Cabernet Sauvignon population. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in research and development at a seed company. Mann expects to graduate in the fall of 2016.

Jennifer Morgenthaler

Jennifer Morgenthaler is from Bois D'Arc, Missouri. Morgenthaler's thesis is on high tunnel production rotation of

primocane bearing raspberries in grow bags. After graduation, Morgenthaler plans to work in research and horticulture outreach.

Dakota Arthur

Dakota Arthur is from Greenfield, Missouri. Arthur is working toward her master's in plant science and is doing an internship with University of Missouri Extension. After graduation, Arthur plans to obtain a job in the plant science field. Arthur plans to graduate in December of 2015.



Photo courtesy of Dakota Arthur
Arthur interns with the University of Missouri Extension while getting her degree.

Steven Beach

Steven Beach is from Springfield, Missouri. Beach's thesis is on molecular virology, studying grapevine vein clearing virus in wild and cultivated grapevines. After graduation, Beach plans to find a career in an agriculture research lab. Beach plans to graduate the summer of 2015.

Sylvia Petersen

Sylvia Petersen is from

Springfield, Missouri. Petersen's research is over grapevine viruses. After graduation, Petersen plans to further pursue plant science research.

Kaylyn Dalbom

Kaylyn Dalbom is from Houston, Missouri. Dalbom's thesis is the comparison of chemical and mechanical treatments for elimination of invasive woody species in forest understory and pasture. After graduation, Dalbom plans to pursue a doctorate degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dalbom plans to graduate in May of 2016.



Photo courtesy of Kaylyn Dalbom
Dalbom plans to pursue a doctorate at the University of Missouri-Columbia after graduation.

Cody Secest

Cody Secest is a graduate student from Mountain Grove, Missouri. His thesis is undecided. He plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia in the fall to attend veterinarian school.

Katelyn McCoy

Katelyn McCoy is from Ozark, Missouri. McCoy is doing an internship option through Mountain Grove. McCoy is hoping to obtain a career at a

university doing outreach for an agriculture department. McCoy plans to graduate May of 2016.

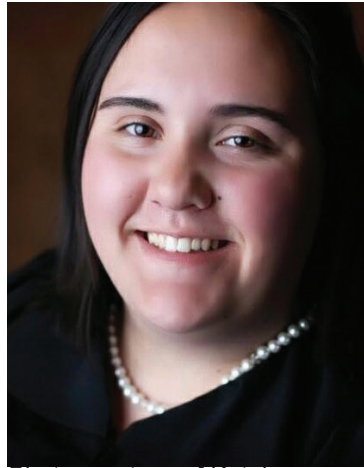


Photo courtesy of Katelyn McCoy
McCoy wants to do outreach for a university agriculture department after graduation.

Logan Duncan

Logan Duncan is from Springfield, Missouri. Duncan obtained his undergrad at Truman State University. Duncan's thesis is dormant rooting ability of the *Vitis aestivalis*-derived Norton grape, sulfur sensitivity analysis of *Vitis aestivalis*-derived 'Norton' grape, hybridization and gene-flow potential in squash and host preference of the squash vine borer.



Photo courtesy of Logan Duncan
Duncan researches genetics in Norton grapes and squash.

William Boyer

William Boyer is from Old Mines, Missouri. Boyer's thesis is on cow-calf response to seed head suppressed tall fescue pastures in southern Missouri. Boyer worked in cooperation with Scott Flynn, a field scientist in range and pasture, and crop protection R&D with Dow AgroSciences, LLC. After graduation, Boyer plans to attend Texas A&M, seeking a Ph.D. in animal science specifically beef cattle production in a forage-based system.



Photo courtesy of William Boyer
Boyer researches beef cattle production in a forage-based system.

Xu Lianhua

Xu Lianhua is from China. Lianhua's thesis is on promoters of some genes. After graduation, Lianhua hopes to pursue a doctorate or a career in research. Lianhua plans to graduate in May of 2016.

Jennifer Muzinic

Jennifer Muzinic is from Springfield, Missouri. Her research focuses on the producer side of a South Central Missouri food hub feasibility study, being conducted by her advisor, Arbindra Rimal. She plans to graduate in the fall of 2015.

Daniel Potter

Daniel Potter is from Bentonville, Arkansas. He, along with Cassie O'Hara, is competing in the Graduate Student Competition at the 2015 Equine Science Society Symposium. Potter's thesis is on L-carnitine and pyruvate inclusion in diluents of cold-stored stallion spermatozoa. He will be evaluated on his presentation quality, abstract quality and ability to answer questions. He is excited to present the research and meet the other students, professors and companies within the equine industry that will be represented. Potter will be graduating in May of 2015. He will begin his career at Reproduction Enterprises Inc. in Stillwater, Oklahoma.



Photo courtesy of Daniel Potter
Potter will present his research at the Graduate Student Competition at the 2015 Equine Science Society Symposium.

Other graduate students are Jason Cutler, Nicholas Guthery, Jessica Handley, Ken Harmon, Rachel Hopkins, Seleene Lewis, Caleb Schaffitzel, Taryn Smith, MaryAnn Boro, Melissa Bueker, Nicole Crocker, Ashlee Hearod, Jordan Kinder, Casteel Kirk, Erica Wagenknecht, Staci Garvin, Jamie Gundel, Robin Butler, Jarred Lewis, Michael Liebig, Joseph Serpico, Shawn Waldman.

Outstanding senior receives national award

By Peyson Shields

Brittanie Schuette, a senior natural resources major from Richmond, Missouri, won a National Student Recognition Award for Outstanding Senior this year. The award was presented through Missouri State University's Agronomy Club, a chapter of The Students of Agronomy, Soil and Environmental Sciences.

Schuette was nominated by her academic advisor, Melissa Remley, environmental plant science and natural resources assistant professor, and was selected by a committee of three faculty members based on scholarship, leadership activities and personal traits.

Upon graduation, Schuette will enter the master of natural and applied science, plant science program in the Darr School of Agriculture. Schuette will also hold an internship with the Natural Resource Conservation Service through their Pathways Program, where she eventually hopes to obtain a full-time position.

"Brittanie is an outstanding student in the School of Agriculture," Remley said. "Academically, she has excelled in the classroom and is pursuing an accelerated master's degree. Personally, I have found Brittanie to be genuine, engaging, attentive and a joy to mentor."



Photo courtesy of Mike Klem
Schuette receiving National Student Recognition Award for Outstanding Senior from Provost Frank Einhellig.

Interested in graduate school?

The School of Agriculture offers two graduate programs: Master of Science in plant science and Master of Science in natural and applied science. If you have questions about graduate school at Missouri State, visit the School of Agriculture website at ag.missouristate.edu or call 417-836-5638 or email Agriculture@missouristate.edu.

School of Agriculture club updates

Compiled by Rose Marthis, with additional reporting by Kerstine Whittaker

Photos courtesy of each club.

Agronomy Club

The Agronomy Club made history last year by going to the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture crops contest for the first time. The contest was held in Moline, Illinois. Members also traveled to Ames, Iowa, to participate in Region 5 soils judging. The club plans to continue to focus on judging, growing, building relationships and volunteering with stream and street clean ups.

Advisors: Tom Dewitt, Mike Burton and
Melissa Remley



Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow

The newly re-established ACT chapter traveled to the National Association of Farm Broadcasters Conference in Kansas City in November. Members also attended the National ACT Leadership Development Conference in Orlando. Successful fundraising efforts for the chapter included selling pecans picked from the Bond Center pecan trees and selling concessions at the Block and Bridle Cattle Show. ACT is planning to attend the Agriculture Media Summit Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, this summer. They are growing their leadership and finding opportunities within the industry and the national ACT program.

Advisor: Samantha Warner

Alpha Gamma Rho

Members of this fraternity traveled all over the nation this year, going to the national leadership conference in Fort Worth, Texas, a national recruitment school in Kansas City, a national convention in Indianapolis, a chapter visit at Illinois State University and the national barbecue competition in Lebanon, Tennessee, where they took home second place in the nation in tug of war. The chapter also saw the return of their Backwoods Bash philanthropy event, which raised money for the Child Advocacy Center, and held its first Dad's Day event this year. The fraternity hopes to exceed 40 members next year and is planning to bring back the Ball Blast philanthropy to raise money for testicular cancer research and hold its first Mom's Day event.

Advisor: Anson Elliott



Block and Bridle Club

The annual Bear Classic Cattle Show was a great event in the spring for Block and Bridle Club, having 102 head of cattle and around 50 exhibitors, with lots of prizes to win. In October, members traveled to the American Royal Livestock Show to view pigs, sheep, goats and cattle. The group hopes to add a pig, sheep and goat show soon in addition to continuing to grow the Bear Classic show. Members want to raise enough money next year to return to American Royal Livestock and to take trips to other national shows to increase student involvement with livestock.



Advisor: Justin Sissel

Pre-Vet Club

This year, Pre-Vet Club launched a volunteer program through the C.A.R.E Animal Rescue Shelter in Springfield. This allows members to meet volunteer requirements for veterinary school applications as well as give the members more hands-on experience with animals. The group plans to continue the growth of the club and continue the programs that currently exist, aiming to make the club as useful as possible to its members.

Advisor: Lacy Hobbs

Horseman's Association

The Horseman's Association western riders traveled to Truman State University and Black Hawk East College this year, while the hunt seat riders visited Illinois State University and Illinois State-Carbondale. Some group members also went to the National Reining Horse Association futurity finals in December. In competitions, six western riders qualified for regionals and one for semi-finals, and three hunt seat riders qualified for regionals with two qualifying for hunt seat zones. Devon Russel became the first Missouri State hunt seat rider to qualify for the national show in Springfield, Massachusetts. Next year, the western team will host the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association regional show. When they're not representing the school all over the country, Horsemen's members volunteer with the Equilibrium Therapy Center in Rogersville, hold trail rides and clinics, host practice horse judging contests and the district FFA contest, and help with ranch horse shows.

Advisors: Gary Webb and Sue Webb

Collegiate Farm Bureau

The Collegiate Farm Bureau members returned to the National Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, and traveled to the Missouri Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference on the state level. The group also attended the 100th-anniversary meeting of the Missouri Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. The group hosted a successful Ag Forum and the Salute to Ag Professional Bull Riding event and got involved with intramural basketball and sand volleyball with other students. Members volunteered during Thank a Farmer Week at the Ronald McDonald House, turning food donated from Farm Bureaus into meals for the people there.



Advisors: Jim Bellis and Anson Elliott

Cattlemen's Association

The Missouri State Cattlemen's Association represented the school both at the state and national level this year, traveling to Lake of the Ozarks for the MCA State Convention in January and to San Antonio for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association the following month. Last fall, members hosted an FFA Farm Safety workshop for high school students and held a Beef Quality Assurance Certification event. In the spring, the group visited Jefferson City for Cowboys at the Capitol, learned at the MCA Leadership Conference and hosted a successful Stockmanship Clinic. The group hopes to continue adding members next year, and it will be returning to the state and national conventions, leadership workshops and hosting more events.

Advisors: Beth Walker, Mike Klem, Justin Sissel, Marty Lueck, Sandra Arthur and Jim Bellis



Alpha Gamma Sigma

The fraternity had a large growth in chapter size this year, which allowed it to host more events. In January, the chapter celebrated 45 years with Gathering of the Herd, an alumni reunion that takes place every five years. More than 100 alumni and their spouses attended this year's event. During the spring, the chapter held its annual Porkfest, turning 130 pounds of smoked pork into \$650 for the Wounded Warrior Project. Members also participated in Missouri State's Relay for Life, raising over \$1,200 for cancer research. The chapter held an open forum on GMOs and labeling, sponsored by the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council. Over the year, members accumulated more than 150 hours of community service. The chapter is looking to add a philanthropy event next fall and to continue to add members.

Advisor: Jim Bellis

Delta Tau Alpha

The biggest highlight for Delta Tau Alpha this year was hosting the National Convention for other university chapters around the country. During the convention, members attended a banquet with guest speaker Garrett Hawkins, participated in a volunteer event with Ozarks Food Harvest and took a trip to Jason Salchow's farm to learn about his managing practices and unique view of agriculture.

Advisor: Beth Walker

Beekeeper's of Missouri State

The newest club in the School of Agriculture is the Beekeeper's of Missouri State. The club's main goal is to help interested students learn about the hobby. The club has joined forces with the Beekeeper's Association of the Ozarks to provide as many resources as possible for students.

The organization has learning hives placed at the Darr Agricultural Center. They have plans of guest speakers, workshops and fundraisers for next year.

Advisor: Chris Barnhart



Ranch Horse Team

Every year, the Ranch Horse Team travels to the American Stock Horse Association, National Collegiate Championship Show. This year, the show took place at the Hardy Murphy Coliseum in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Throughout the school year, the Ranch Horse Team holds clinics and shows at Pinegar Arena. This year, the team held two clinics and shows in the fall and two clinics and shows in the spring. At the end of their regular show season, the Ranch Horse Team went on the road and competed against 13 other colleges and universities at the American Stock Horse Association, National Collegiate Championship Show.

The Missouri State team placed third in overall standings, falling only to Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University. This coming year the Ranch Horse Team will hold its regular clinics and shows and it will travel to Sweetwater, Texas, for the National Show.

Advisor: Gary Webb



Wildlife Society

This year, the Wildlife Society members attended the Spring Workshop at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, and traveled to the Missouri National Resource Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. Members also continued their extensive list of volunteer work in the community. Next year, the group hopes to continue educating students interested in wildlife and hold more fun events.

Advisor: Mike Burton

Trap and Skeet

The Trap and Skeet team traveled all over the state and country for shoots, representing Missouri State at the ACUI Clay Target National Competition in San Antonio, Texas; the Oklahoma State Cowboys Shootout; the Missouri S&T Miner Classic in Rolla; the ACUI Upper Midwest Regional Competition in St. Louis; the University of New Mexico Nationals Warm-up Shoot; University of Missouri Competition in Columbia; and the University of Kentucky Shootout.

Ashley Bryant won High Overall Female Shooter at the Nationals Warm-up Shoot in New Mexico. The team hopes to attend these events next year and is looking to add shoots in Colorado, Mississippi and Arkansas. Members are also planning to host a gun safety workshop and a shoot for area high schools.

Advisor: Matthew Fanetti

Collegiate FFA

This past year Collegiate FFA traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, for National FFA Convention and to Columbia, Missouri, for State FFA Convention. At National Convention the club worked the parliamentary procedure contest and operated a recruitment booth at the career show. At State Convention the group had a recruitment booth in the career show, where they strived to talk with potential students.

One of the biggest events was Farmer for a Day, where third graders from Bowerman Elementary School learned about agriculture. The event consisted of various stations and workshops, including hogs, no-till planters, chickens, goats, horses, general fruits and vegetables and more. Other events included Street Clean Up and monthly chapter meetings.

Next year we plan to attend National and State Convention, possibly expand Farmer for a Day to more schools and add more chapter events.

Advisor: Jim Hutter



Trixie Chicks

The Trixie Chicks riders performed all over the country this year, traveling to rodeos such as the Blue Eye Saddle Club Reunion Ranch Rodeo; the International Finals Rodeo Contract Act Showcase in Oklahoma City; the Red Top Ranch Trick Riding School in Pueblo, Colorado; and the Tri-State Rodeo Association Firefighter Rodeo in Liberty, Mississippi. The largest crowd the team performed in front of was at the Washington Parish Free Fair and PCA Rodeo in Franklinton, Louisiana, which had a sold-out crowd of 250-300,000 for all four shows. This was the last year for the Trixie Chicks Trick Riders to be affiliated with Missouri State, as all members are graduating this spring. The riders will continue to perform as IPRA, MRCA, URA, and PCA card holders, and they will be evaluated for their PRCA card this summer.



Advisors: Mike Klem and Sandy Arthur

Sigma Alpha

Sigma Alpha members started off the year by attending their National Convention in Naples, Florida, in August, and they returned to Missouri State with the Founders Cup, the highest award a chapter can receive. This spring, they took a trip with Alpha Gamma Rho to a Joint Leadership Seminar in Fort Worth, Texas. The biggest event the chapter held this year was Giving Thanks to Ag, where the department was invited to a potluck dinner provided by student organizations. Attendees brought two cans of non-perishable food for admittance, and everything collected was donated to Ozarks Food Harvest. The group plans to continue to grow its philanthropy events in order to make an even bigger impact in the community.



Advisor: Christi Sudbrock

Horticulture Club

This year, the Horticulture Club members hosted many successful sales, including the annual Valentine’s Day flower sale and the terrarium sale, and they participated in campus events such as making floral arrangements for the scholarship banquet, contributing to the Ag Auction and attending new student festival. Members volunteered with the campus garden and went to the local Mizumota Japanese Stroll Garden to help with their annual cleanup. The group traveled with other agriculture students to visit the Hummert facilities in St. Louis to participate in a demonstration concerning hydroponics. Next year, the group plans to attend even more community and campus events and travel to the botanical gardens in St. Louis and Kansas City.



Advisor: Clydette Alsup-Egbers

Students gain experience with internships

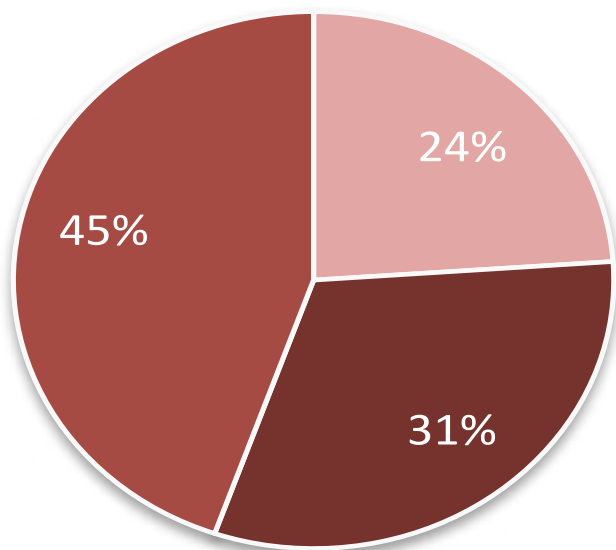
Graphic and information compiled by Kacie Gaines

Students in the Darr School of Agriculture are always bettering their education with real-world internship experiences. Some of the internships that students have held in the past academic year include:

Business

Location

Nationwide Agribusiness	Central Missouri
MFA Inc	Southwest Missouri
Viticulture Enology Science and Technology	Springfield, Missouri
Soil and Water Conservation District	Scott County, Missouri
Soil and Water Conservation District	Ray County, Missouri
Senator David Sater, Dist. 29	Jefferson City, Missouri
Springfield Urban Agriculture Coalition	Springfield, Missouri
Point O' Pines	Brant Lake, New York
Illinois Corn Marketing Board	Bloomington, Illinois
Healing Paws	Springfield, Missouri
CNH Industrial	New Holland, Pennsylvania
Campbell's Maze Daze	Clever, Missouri



- Spring 2015
- Fall 2015
- Summer 2014

SCHOOL *of* AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS

Compiled by Rhonda Brashears and Peyson Shields
Graphic by Rebecca Biundo

596

students in
the School of
Agriculture

1,710

credit hours taken
in the 2014-2015
school year

approximately
200+

years of experience
instructors have in
teaching
agriculture-related
courses

774

credit hours taken
during the spring
semester



90

students from
Greene County

45

miles that Dr. Walker
travels to campus
every day

40

miles that Jim Bellis
travels to campus
every day

22

miles that Dr. Webb
travels to campus
every day

DEMOGRAPHICS *of* AGRICULTURE STUDENTS

545

Caucasian
students

17

More than
one race

8

Hispanic

7

African-
American

5

American-
Indian



Photo courtesy of Jessica Probst

Pictured from left to right: Rockers, Bishop, Martin, Rapp, O'Donnell and Jackson

Presidential Scholars in the School of Agriculture

By Jessica Probst

Scholarships are always offered by Missouri State and other donors, but becoming one of Missouri State University's presidential scholars is no easy feat.

According to the Missouri State website, recipients must rank in the top 10 percent of their high school class and score a 30 or higher on the ACT. If applicants meet these criteria, they will be invited for an interview by the university. Out of all of the individuals who are interviewed, only 35 will receive the \$12,500 scholarship each year. Additionally, to keep the scholarship, you must complete 30 hours of credit yearly, maintain a 3.6 GPA or higher and

complete 120 hours of community service before your senior year.

This year, the Darr School of Agriculture is proud to have six of the 35 presidential scholars majoring in agriculture. They are:

Sarah Bishop from Tipton, Missouri, is majoring in agriculture communications.

Ellen Jackson from Miller, Missouri, is majoring in agricultural business, finance and management.

Mercer Martin from Willard, Missouri, is majoring in agriculture communications.

Delaney O'Donnell from Fredericksburg, Virginia, is majoring in animal science.

Wyatt Rapp from Marionville,

Missouri, is majoring in agricultural business, finance and management.

Alyssa Rockers from Carthage, Missouri, is majoring in agricultural business, finance and management.

"Anything is possible when you focus and work hard," Jackson said. "I am greatly honored to have been chosen to represent the university and the Darr School of Agriculture as a presidential scholar."

Rapp considered it a great honor to be selected as a presidential scholar.

"There were so many people that were just as qualified, and they chose me," Rapp said. "I am truly blessed."

2014-15 School of Agriculture Scholarship Banquet

By Sarah Bishop

Agriculture Alumni Recognition Student Employment and Character Award

Aeriel Davis	senior	Ava
Alyssa Cassidy	junior	Fulton
Anna Klem	junior	Kirkville
Cassandra O'Hara	master's	Kirkland, Ill.
Cheyenne Arthur	master's	Greenfield
Colin Hill	master's	Fair Grove
Dakota Arthur	master's	Greenfield
Daniel Potter	master's	Bentonville, Ark.
Emily Stephenson	senior	Branson
Eric Nyamwange	master's	Kenya
Jamie Gundel	master's	Washburn
Jennifer Moldovan	senior	Florissant
Jennifer Morgenthaler	senior	Bois D' Arc
Jennifer Muzinic	master's	Springfield
Kassidy Hicks	junior	Lake Ozark
Leah-Marie Thomas	senior	Springfield
Mia Mann	master's	Leonard
Nathan Warner	senior	Archie
Phillip Wattenbarger	junior	Marshall
Rebecca Tyler	sophomore	Sweet Springs
Shayla Coale	sophomore	Ash Grove
Spring Goodson	junior	Springfield
Taryn Smith	masters	Springfield
Taylor Petersen	senior	Springfield
William Boyer	master's	Cadet

2014 Freshman Presidential Scholars

Delaney O'Donnell	Fredericksburg, Va.
Ellen Jackson	Miller
Mercer Martin	Willard
Sarah Bishop	Tipton
Alyssa Rockers	Carthage
Wyatt Rapp	Marionville

Agriculture Alumni Scholarship*

Wyatt Long	sophomore	Aldrich
Jessica Probst	sophomore	Waterloo, Ill.
Austin Reedy	sophomore	Windsor
Rebecca Tyler	sophomore	Sweet Springs
Joshua Vollmer	sophomore	Boonville

Craig E. Arnett Memorial Agricultural Scholarship

Matthew Brooks	senior	Fair Grove
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Craig E. Arnett Memorial Equestrian Scholarship

Megan Mothershead	senior	Sikeston
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Gayle Ashley Horticulture Club Scholarship*

Jennifer Morgenthaler	senior	Bois D' Arc
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Henry and Grace Carr Farm Scholarship*

Eric Hankins	freshman	Stockton
Justine Wasser	freshman	New Baden, Ill.
Courtney Hall	sophomore	Creighton
Emily Stephenson	senior	Branson

Marilyn R. Daniel Equine Scholarship

Brittany Eagleburger	sophomore	Buffalo
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Douglas W. Darr Leadership Scholarship

Emily Thompson	freshman	Herman
Benjamin Travlos	freshman	Ashland
Taylor Young	freshman	Russellville
Jonathan Bellis	sophomore	Aurora
Carley Brucks	sophomore	Glasgow
Shayla Coale	sophomore	Ash Grove
Alyssa Cassidy	junior	Fulton
Brittanie Schuette	senior	Richmond
Laura Wolf	senior	Tipton
Mia Mann	senior	Leonard
Rebecca Travis	senior	Frankford

Einhellig Family Scholarship

Brittanie Schuett	senior	Richmond
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Dr. R. Bruce Johnson/

Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Scholarship

Taylor Mize	junior	Malden
-------------	--------	--------

Farmers Cooperative Livestock Marketing Scholarship*

Carlee Phipps	sophomore	Lamar
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FFA Scholarship

Trystan Thompson	freshman	Spokane
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FFA State Officer Scholarship

Alyssa Hultgren	freshman	Willard
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FCS Financial Scholarship

Ethan McNeill	freshman	O'Fallon
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* Endowed Scholarship

Ben and Janis Fuqua Scholarship

Christopher Basden sophomore Mason, Okla.
 Jessica Reel sophomore Bois D' Arc

Jim and Kami Gollhofer Scholarship

Bradley Dillner junior Pilot Grove

Jack Gordon Memorial Scholarship*

Chandra Sullins freshman Galena

Greene County Farm Bureau Scholarship

Mikayla Buckner junior Fair Grove
 Joel Butler junior Republic

Dennis M. and Janice K. Grisham Scholarship*

Jessica Ratliff junior Naylor

Christian Robert Hirsch Memorial Scholarship*

Tucker Dunaway junior Carthage
 Zachary Funk junior Brighton

Harry and Marion James Agronomy Scholarship*

Olivia Jaco junior Whitewater

Arne Johnson Agriculture Scholarship

Emily Hix sophomore Harrisonville
 Anna Klem junior Kirksville

Dr. Norman Justus/SWVATA Scholarship

Julie Choate freshman Pleasant Hope

Glenn E. and Ruth Z. Karls Agriculture Scholarship*

Tasha Dame freshman Sarcoxie
 Emily Garton freshman Conway
 Emily Grossmann freshman Fults, Ill.
 Sally Hinkle freshman Morrisville
 Jesse Carroll junior Warrensburg
 Raysha Tate junior Purdin
 Justin Mauss senior Bois D' Arc

Benjamin Charles Kruse Memorial Scholarship

Catie Tune freshman Rolla

James P. and Margaret S. Landreth Scholarship

Britney Mitchell freshman Seligman

Liberty Bank Agricultural Business Scholarship

John Freese sophomore Ozark
 Nicole Hafkemeyer junior Springfield

MFA, Inc. Scholarship*

Chalene Fecht senior Walker



Agriculture Alumni Scholarship

Susan Dawley alumna, 1982 (left), presents the award to Rebecca Tyler.



Jack Gordon Memorial Scholarship

Chandra Sullins(left), accepts the award from Ralph Gordon.



Douglas W. Darr Leadership Scholarship

From left: Tara Chitwood and Erin Danastasio, granddaughters of Bill Darr, present the award to Benjamin Travlos.



Glenn E. and Ruth Z. Karls Agriculture Scholarship

Carol Wilker (left) presents the award to Raysha Tate.



James P. and Margaret S. Landreth Scholarship

Britney Mitchell (left), accepts the award from Marty Lueck, manager, Journagan Ranch.



MFA, Inc. Scholarship

Chalene Fecht(left), accepts the award from Ed Long.

* Endowed Scholarship

H. Lewis Miller Endowed Scholarship*

Danielle Kothe freshman Wright City

Missouri Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Scholarship

Izabella Michitsch junior Russellville
Abby Ashley senior Pierce City

Missouri Seedmen’s Association/Southern Seed Association Scholarship

Kaylie Winschel junior Perryville

Quail Forever Gateway Chapter Scholarship

Brian Bueker sophomore Higginsville

Ed Pinegar Scholarship*

Victoria Hart junior Springfield
Cecily Telford junior Willard

Howard Pyle Memorial Scholarship*

Melanie Preston freshman Webb City
James Quisenberry freshman Buffalo

Vernon Renner Scholarship*

Jerri Henry sophomore Washburn
Joshua McCormick sophomore Lee’s Summit
Caitlin Brown junior Urbana
James Wilkerson junior Buffalo
Kimberly Clem senior Willard
Mallory Early senior Leeton
Mackenzie Oswald senior Urich

S&H Farm Supply Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship

Donora Johnson senior Aurora

John D. Schatz Scholarship*

Hannah Ingram sophomore Sedalia
Alexanderia Varney senior Springfield

Dennis and Phyllis Schmitt Animal Science Graduate Scholarship*

William Boyer master’s Cadet
Daniel Potter master’s Bentonville, Ark.

Schnelle-Sparkman Farm Bureau Salute to Agriculture Award

Shelby Markum senior Wentzville

Helen Spangler Smith Agriculture Scholarship*

Kathryn Warfield freshman O’Fallon



Missouri Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture
Diane Olson presents the award to Izabella Michitsch.



Dr. R. Bruce Johnson/ Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Scholarship
Taylor Mize (left), accepts the award from Bruce Johnson.



FFA Scholarship
Trystan Thompson (left), accepts the award from Jim Hutter.



FCS Financial Scholarship
Ethan McNeill (left), accepts the award from Tara Dover.



H. Lewis Miller Endowed Scholarship
Danielle Kothe (left), accepts the award from Rocky Miller.



Randy Little from PFI Western Wear presents Anson Elliott with a \$5000 dollar check.

* Endowed Scholarship

Dr. J.N. Smith/FCS Financial Memorial Scholarship

Garett Rose senior Liberal
Harley Stockton senior Bernie

Stanlie H. and Belva Ross Spangler Memorial Scholarship

Felicia Blanchard freshman Morrisville

David F. Stanke Memorial Scholarship*

Morgan Coday sophomore Seymour
Adelaid Safley senior Mt. Vernon

Charles and Patricia Stufflebeam Agricultural Scholarship

Emily Dilley junior Pattonsburg

Robert F. Thomson Jr. Family Memorial Scholarship

Braden Roberts senior Bolivar

Uncle Tom Watkins Memorial Scholarship*

Zachary Davis sophomore Marshfield
Marissa Tucker junior Cassville

Waite Scholarship

Ru Dai MSU/MU Collaborate Ph.D. China

White River Valley Electric Cooperative Scholarship

Ashli Coday sophomore Seymour

Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Norm Shealy

The Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Outstanding Freshman Award

Jonathan Bellis sophomore Aurora

W. Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award

Katelyn McCoy senior Ozark
Justin Mauss senior Bois D' Arc
Mia Mann senior Leonard

Glenn E. Karls Senior Excellence Award

Brittanie Schuette senior Richmond



Distinguished Service Award
Anson Elliott (left) and Provost Frank Einhellig (right) present Dr. Norm Shealy the award.



W. Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award
Mia Mann (left), accepts the award from Anson Elliott.



W. Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award
Katelyn McCoy (left), accepts the award from Anson Elliott.



W. Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award
Justin Mauss (left), accepts the award from Anson Elliott.



Glenn E. Karls Senior Excellence Award
Brittanie Schuette (left), accepts the award from Anson Elliott.



The Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Outstanding Freshman Award
Jonathan Bellis (left), accepts the award from Anson Elliott.

* Endowed Scholarship

Statistics 2014-2015

Class	Men	Women	Total	Major Enrollment	
Freshmen	44	76	120	General Agriculture	14
Sophomores	57	83	140	General Agriculture/Agriculture	24
Juniors	82	88	170	Agriculture Communications	31
Seniors	77	101	178	Agronomy	2
Graduate Students	12	15	27	Animal Science	172
Total	272	363	635	Agricultural Business Enterprise Management	33
				Agricultural Business, Finance and Management	47
				Agricultural Business, Marketing and Sales	52
				Environmental Plant Science/Crop Science	28
				Environmental Plant Science/Horticulture	43
				Horticulture	3
				Natural Resources	41
				Agricultural Education	55
				Wildlife Conservation and Management	63
				College of Natural & Applied Science (Master's)	11
				College of Natural & Applied Science (Accelerated)	5
				Plant Science (Master's)	11
				Plant Science (Accelerated)	0
				Agricultural Secondary Education (Master's)	0
				Total	635

Scholarship and Awards Banquet Sponsors

Bill and Virginia Darr
W. Anson and Betty Elliott
FCS Financial
Hammons Products
John and Sally McAlear
PFI Western Store
Gus and Pat Rutledge
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

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

Margaret S. and Mervin C. Aude
Chris Basso
William K. Berry
Laurence R. Buller
Mrs. Grace Carr
Robert and Tracy Caruth
Ric L. and Melanie Cooper
Cummings Performance Horses
Larry and Marilyn Daniel
Bill and Virginia Darr
Darr Family Foundation
Cameron Davis
Day Cattle Company
W. Anson and Betty Elliott
Farmers Coop Livestock Marketing
Association
FCS Financial
Ben and Janis Fuqua
Greene County Farm Bureau
Dennis and Janice Grisham
Rick Gunlock
R. Dwain and Donna Hammons
Hammons Products Company
Jack and Janice Harris
Rita Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Harrison
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Cody W. Ice II
International Association of Fairs and
Expos
Dr. Harry R. and Marion James

Lee J. Johnson
R. Bruce and Vicki Sterling Johnson
Joplin Regional Stockyards
Journagan Construction:
Allen Journagan
Leo and Jean Journagan
Glenn E. and Ruth Z. Karls
Brenda H. Kelly
Larson Farm & Lawn
Randy and Johnelle Little
Carl and Dianna Lowe
Clayton L. and Mary A. Mathile
John and Sally McAlear
Dennis Meier
MFA Foundation
Lewis and Patricia Miller
Missouri Beef Industry Council
Missouri Farm Bureau
Kym and Michael Morse
Michelle K. Moulder
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Neeley
Bud E. Orchard
PFI Western Store
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Peggy Quintus
Vernon and Fay Renner
John R. Rollins
Susan Sanders
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Schmitt
Dr. C. Norman Shealy
Richard and Mary Sheid

Clif and Gail Smart
Helen M. Steiner
Charles and Patricia Stufflebeam
John and Jane Sullivan
Kenny Teague
Ron and Sue Carrol Terry
Gary and Sydney Tompkins
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Tucker
Betty Jeanne Wood Turoff
U.S. Tobacco Co. Scholarship Awards
Julie Vestal-Gibbons
Barry Waack
Rosalie Wooten
Gary and Cindy Wright
Dr. J. Kathleen Young
Vaughn and Becky Zimmerman
Waite Family Agriculture Research
Fund

Don't Be a Stranger!

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Missouri State University
School of Agriculture

Twitter

@MoStateAg

Instagram

@MoStateAg

Darr School of Agriculture Graduates

Summer 2014

Daniel Amick
Loren Collison
Cory Creed
Emily Deckard
Sean Edwards
Erica Ehrhardt
Molly Garver
Cassandra O'Hara
Megan VanGordon
Josie Vaughn
Abigail Zender

El Dorado Springs
Lansing, Mich.
Willard
Willard
Springfield
Springfield
Carthage
Kirkland, Ill.
Spring Hill, Kan.
Monett
Springfield

General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS
Natural & Applied Sci-AG-MNAS
Natural Resources-BS
Natural & Applied Sci-AG-MNAS
General Agriculture/Agr-BS
General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Animal Science-BS
Agriculture Education-BSED
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Nat&Appl Sci-AG-Accelertd-MNAS

Fall 2014

Pragya Adhikari
John Battles
John Boatwright
Matthew Brooks
Jacob Bryant
Melissa Bueker
Jeff Burr
Charles Butcher
Ashley Davidson
Monica Dishman
Branden Duff
Kyle Dunda
Connor Erwin
Morgan Faubion
Chalene Fecht
Aubrey Fletcher
Staci Garvin
Christopher Gonterman
Dana Gray
Jamie Gundel
Jessica Handley
Ken Harmon
Ashlee Hearod
Melissa Hedges
Melissa Heide
Colin Hill
Rachel Hopkins
Leann Hubbert
Samantha Kent
Taylor Loges
Mia Mann
Marissa Martin
Courtney May
Shannon McClintock
Katelyn McCoy
Justin Meeker
Jennifer Morganthaler
Jennifer Muzinic
Ethan Owens
Emily Perkins
Sylvia Petersen
Devon Priester

Oklahoma City, Okla.
Springfield
Mount Vernon
Fair Grove
Urbana
Higginsville
Neosho
Ozark
Springfield
Strafford
Hawk Point
Wildwood
Springfield
Stella
Walker
Purdy
Anderson
Springfield
Rogersville
Washburn
Marshfield
Springfield
Springfield
Springfield
Springfield
Fair Grove
Davisville
Bolivar
Springfield
Sweet Springs
Leonard
Half Way
Fairland, Okla.
Purdy
Springfield
Elm Springs, Ark.
Bois D Arc
Springfield
Slater
Cole Camp
Springfield
Springfield

Plant Science-AG Dept-MS
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Animal Science-BS
Animal Science-BS
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Nat&Appl Sci-AG-Accelertd-MNAS
Natural Resources-BS
Horticulture-BS
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
General Agriculture-BAS
Wildlife Consvrt & Mgt-AG-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS
General Agriculture/Comm-BS
General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Horticulture-BS
Natural Resources-BS

Natural & Applied Sci-AG-MNAS
Animal Science-BS
Animal Science-BS
Animal Science-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Natural & Applied Sci-AG-MNAS
Plant Science-AG Dept-MS
Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Animal Science-BS
General Agriculture-BAS
Agronomy-BS
General Agriculture/Comm-BS
General Agriculture-BAS
Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Animal Science-BS
Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS
Animal Science-BS

Andrew Putman
Emily Quas
Curtis Russell
Jacob Stephens
Billy Thigpen
Jason Trudeau
Brandon Verfurth
Brittany Walters
Emily Wilbers
Kohlten Wilson
Raymond Winfrey
Crystal Worden

Republic
Columbia
Sarcoxie
Ozark
Strafford
Springfield
Billings
Camdenton
Jefferson City
Nevada
Humansville
Springfield

Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Animal Science-BS
General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Animal Science-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Animal Science-BS
Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS
Agriculture Education-BSED
Wildlife Consrvt & Mgt-AG-BS
Wildlife Consrvt & Mgt-AG-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Animal Science-BS

Spring 2015

Abby Ashley
Meagan Bell
Dylann Bishop
Olivia Bowers
Jarrett Burke
Victoria Carson
Kimberly Clem
Andrew Cook
Angela Crase
Trevor Cunningham
Cassandra Fisher
Jerrica Fleming
Kyle Francka
Mikayla Fries
Scott Green
Christian Henderson
Daniel Hoppman
Joshua Hubbard
Laura Hudson
Heather Hull
Leah Lagares
Kelsey Lauberth
Tesa Madsen-McQueen
Sarah Mangan
Mark Mareth
Shawn Massey
Kevin Mata
Johnna Miller
Amanda Moore
Austin O'Neal
Avis Oswald
Cassie Reid
Benjamin Rodabaugh
Garett Rose
Sara Ruff
Haley Stockton
Alexandra Tennison
Daniel Thiel
Ashton Tolman
Nathan Warner
Ethan Willis

Pierce City
Republic
Willard
Springfield
Reeds Spring
Bolivar
Willard
Springfield
Thayer
Crane
Edwards
Nixa
Bolivar
Bland
Springfield
Louisburg
Republic
Adrian
Fordland
Carthage
Tipton
Bonnots Mill
Springfield
Springfield
Monett
Kirkwood
Rogers, Ark.
Seneca
Stark City
Wheatland
Urich
Springfield
Lowry City
Liberal
Ozark
Bernie
Ozark
Saint Peters
Springfield
Archie
Macks Creek

Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
General Agriculture/Comm-BS
Animal Science-BS
Natural Resources-BS
General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Wildlife Consrvt & Mgt-AG-BS
Animal Science-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Wildlife Consrvt & Mgt-AG-BS
Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Animal Science-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Agr Bus/Enterprise Mgt-BS
General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Agriculture Education-BSED
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Animal Science-BS
Env Plant Sci/Crop Science-BS
Env Plant Sci/Horticulture-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Natural Resources-BS
General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Animal Science-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
General Agriculture/Comm-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Fin & Mgt-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
General Agriculture/Agr-BS
Natural Resources-BS
Agr Bus/Agr Mkt & Sales-BS
Animal Science-BS
Animal Science-BS
Natural Resources-BS

Darr School of Agriculture, Faculty and Professional Staff

Dr. W. Anson Elliott, Director

Agricultural Business, Education & Communications

Dr. Arbindra Rimal, Unit Leader Agricultural Economics
Dr. James Hutter Agricultural Education
Dr. Ben Onyango Agricultural Economics
Ms. Christi Sudbrock Agricultural Economics
Ms. Samantha Warner Agricultural Communications

Per Course

Mr. Travis Elliott Agricultural Law
Ms. Joyce Cutright Agricultural Communications
Mr. Craig Grisham Agricultural Education
Ms. Jamie Johansen Agricultural Communications
Dr. Pete Smith Farm Management
Mr. Mike Shoemaker Agricultural Mechanics
Mr. Mike Wiles Agricultural Sales

Animal Sciences

Dr. Gary Webb, Unit Leader Equine Reproduction Science
Dr. Dennis Schmitt Veterinary and Dairy
Dr. Elizabeth Walker Sheep and Goat Science
Ms. Sue Webb Equine Exercise Science

Professional Staff

Ms. Tracy Northcutt Junior Research Scientist

Per Course

Dr. Lacy Hobbs Companion Animal
Dr. Jason Salchow Veterinary Science
Mr. Lyle Whittaker Meat Science

Managerial and Support Staff: Karls Hall

Mr. Jim Bellis Assistant to Director–Stdt Serv/Pub Affrs
Ms. Jana Kendrick Administrative Assistant I
Ms. Sue Morris Accounting Specialist
Ms. Ramona Taylor Administrative Assistant I
Ms. Rhonda Breshears Academic Admin. Assistant III

State Fruit Experiment Station: Mountain Grove

Ms. Pam Turner Administrative Assistant IV
Ms. Leslie Akers Clerical and Sales
Ms. Pamela Mayer Library Associate and Publications
Mr. Jeremy Emery Field Crew Leader
Mr. Randy Stout Field Crew Leader
Mr. Steven Turner Mechanic
Mr. C.J. Odneal Cellar Technician
Mr. Michael Matthews Physical Plant Foreman
Mr. Bob Mosier Custodian

Shealy Farm

Mr. Joe Webb Farm Operator

Plant Science and Natural Resources

Dr. Pamela Trewatha, Unit Leader Horticulture
Dr. Clydette Alsup-Egbers Horticulture
Dr. Michael Burton Agronomy
Dr. Michael Goerndt Forestry
Dr. Chin-Feng Hwang Grape Breeding and Genetics
Dr. Martin Kaps Pomology
Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski Integrated Pest Management
Dr. Wenping Qiu Molecular Plant Virology
Dr. Melissa Remley Plant, Insect & Microbial Science
Dr. Karl Wilker Enology and Distillation

Professional Staff

Mr. John Avery Horticulture Advisor
Ms. Li-Ling Chen Agriculture Research Specialist
Ms. Susanne Howard Grape Research
Ms. Marilyn Odneal Horticulture Advisor

Per Course

Ms. Ashley Brown Entomology
Mr. Tom DeWitt Soil & Water Conservation
Ms. Lori Padgett Landscape Design
Mr. Timothy Stanton Forestry and Fire Management
Mr. Time Russell Ozarks Wildlife
Ms. Wenonah Marlin Floral Arranging
Ms. Sheila Wear Floral Design

Darr Agricultural Center and Bakers Acres

Mr. Mike Klem Coordinator Business & Support Svc.
Ms. Sue Webb Coordinator
Mr. Justin Sissel Farm Manager
Ms. Christi Sudbrock Coordinator of Outreach
Ms. Carrie Crews Administrative Assistant II

Journagan Ranch

Mr. Marty Lueck Ranch Manager & Adjunct Faculty
Mr. Chad Emery Ranch Hand
Mr. Russell Driskell Ranch Hand
Mr. Eric Lueck Ranch Hand
Mr. Jacob Peterson Ranch Hand

The Woodlands

Mr. Mike Klem Manager

VESTA

Ms. Michelle Norgren Director
Ms. Emily Gray Administrative Assistant I

Emeritus Faculty and Staff

Mr. Gayle Ashley: Horticulture, Dr. Ben Fuqua: Soils, Dr. Robert Glenn: Agricultural Business, Dr. Lyndon Irwin: Animal Science, Dr. Harry James: Soils, Dr. Bruce Johnson: Agricultural Economics, Dr. James F. Moore, Jr.: Plant Pathology, Dr. Vernon Renner: Soils, Dr. Mike Roling: Entomology, Dr. Howard Townsend: Entomology, Dr. Jon Wiggins: Technology Education and Ms. Sally McAlear: Administrative Assistant

Agricultural Communications Class



Editorial Staff



Photos courtesy of Samantha Warner

Top picture: students in the agricultural communications class and Ag Review writers.

Bottom picture from left: Bishop, Jungermann, Marthis and Shields.