Reflections from the Missouri State University Department Head

by Dr. Anson Elliott

We hope that you enjoy reading this 26th Ag Review. Joyce Cutright and her agricultural communications class are to again be commended for their incredible effort, excitement and caring attitude as they document a representation of the events that occurred during the school year.

Great research and public service is being achieved, but we are most proud of our legacy in the people who have gained through the Missouri State agriculture family. That legacy is dependent upon the continued input and support of all of our friends who make it possible. Please stay in contact. Anson Elliott

Department of Agriculture Faculty and Staff

Full-Time Faculty
- Dr. Anson Elliott, Head Agronomy
- Dr. Clydette Alsup, Horticulture
- Dr. Ben Fuqua, Agronomy
- Dr. James Hutter, Ag. Ed. & Mech
- Dr. Lyndon Irwin, Animal Science
- Dr. Bruce Johnson, Ag. Economics
- Dr. Tommy Perkins, Animal Science
- Dr. Arbinda Rimal, Ag. Economics
- Dr. Michael Roling, Forestry & Entomology
- Dr. Dennis Schmitt, Veterinary Science
- Dr. Pamela Trewatha, Horticulture
- Dr. Beth Walker, Animal Science
- Dr. Weston Walker, Ag. Education
- Dr. Gary Webb, Equine Science
- Ms. Sue Webb, Equine Science
- Dr. Jon Wiggins, Technology Education

Per Course Faculty
- Ms. Kelly Bryson - Horticulture, Ms. Joyce Cutright - Agricultural Communications, Mr. Tom DeWitt - Soil & Water Conservation, Ms. Amanda Evert - Agriculture Promotions, Ms. Tammy Holder - Forages, Mr. Jason Howard - Meat Science, Ms. Barbara Irwin - Communications, Dr. Harry James - Agronomy, Dr. Don Levi - Agricultural Law, Ms. Lewis Miller - Events Management, Ms. Lori Padgett - Horticulture, Dr. Jason Salchow - Veterinary Science, Mr. Pete Smith - Statistics, Ms. Sheila Wear - Floral Arranging

Staff
- Janice Moll - Administrative Assistant III
- Ramona Taylor - Administrative Assistant I
- Michelle Norgren - VESTA Grant Director
- Scotti Charmosson - Jr. Research Assistant
- Justin Sissel - Beef Operations Manager

Graduate Students
- Ramona Andrus, Codi Burris, Bryan Deimeke, Mary Dean, John Deutsch, Crystal Duey, Brian Frederick, Doug Gisselbeck, Sarah Harmon, Holly Hurshman, Sonja Lallemand, Kristy Marson, Kathi Mecham, Jarred Meyer, Sam Nusz, Mary Wicker

Adjunct Faculty
- Mr. Peter Gaul, Dr. Ernest Keith, Ms. Diane Olson, Mr. Gary Townsend, Ms. Karen Zydenbox, Mr. Robert Kallenbach

Mountain Grove Campus

Full-Time Faculty
- Dr. Martin Kaps, Pomology
- Dr. Laszlo G. Kovacs, Biotechnology
- Dr. Dale Law*, VESTA, Director
- Dr. Maciej Pszczolkowski, Integrated Pest Management
- Dr. Wenping Qiu, Molecular Plant Virology
- Ms. Suzi Teghtmeyer*, Librarian – Paul Evans Library
- Dr. Karl Wilker, Enology

Visiting Scientists
- Dr. Ali Mohammad Babar
- Dr. Patrick Winterhagen

Professional Staff
- John Avery - Field Crew Supervisor/Cell/Tissue Culture
- Patrick Byers - Fruit Grower Advisor
- Marilyn Odneal - Horticulture Outreach Advisor

Staff
- Jack Atchison - Field & Maintenance
- Jeremy Emery - Field & Maintenance
- Michael Lynch - Field & Maintenance
- Michael Matthews* - Physical Plant Foreman
- Pamela A. Mayer - Library Associate II
- Susanne Howard - Research Assistant
- Shaista Lunden - Research Assistant
- Bob Mosier* - Custodian
- Randy Joe Stout - Field & Maintenance
- Pam Turner - Executive Assistant
- Joseph D. Wright - Vehicle & Equipment Mechanic

Graduate Students
- Nora Bammidi, Qian Chen, Courtney Coleman, Kevin Durden, Cheri Kail, Nan Li, Richa Rai, Raghu Ratakonda, Appala-Naidu Sasapu

Emeritus Faculty and Staff
- Dr. Gayle Ashley - Horticulture, Dr. Robert Glenn - Agricultural Business, Dr. Harry James - Soils, Dr. James F. Moore, Jr. - Plant Pathology, Dr. Vernon Renner - Soils, Dr. John Schatz - Horticulture, Dr. Charles Stufflebeam - Animal Science, Dr. Howard Townsend-Entomology, Ms. Sally McAlear - Secretary

* Reports to other University Departments
Statistics Fall 2007

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Undergraduate Majors

- Agricultural Communications: 15
- Agronomy: 26
- Animal Science: 125
- Agricultural Business/Agricultural Enterprise Management: 19
- Agricultural Business/Agricultural Finance and Management: 13
- Agricultural Business/Agricultural Marketing and Sales: 29
- General Agricultural: 13
- General Agriculture (BAS Degree): 15
- Horticulture: 28
- Technology Education: 65
- Agriculture Education: 34
- Wildlife Conservation and Management: 6
- Agriculture Secondary Education (Graduate Masters): 3
- College of Natural and Applied Science (Graduate Masters): 13
- Plant Science (Graduate Masters): 10
- **Total:** 414

Agriculture Founders Club (10,000 minimum donation)

- Margaret S. and Mervin C. Aude
- William K. Berry
- Laurence R. Buller
- Mrs. Grace Carr
- Robert and Tracy Caruth
- Central Dodge
- Ric L. and Melanie Cooper
- Larry and Marilyn Daniel
- Bill and Virginia Darr
- Darr Family Foundation
- Day Cattle Company
- W. Anson and Betty Elliott
- Farmers Cooperative Livestock Marketing Assn.
- FCS Financial
- Greene County Farm Bureau
- Rick Gunlock
- R. Dwain and Donna Hammons
- Jack and Janice Harris
- Rita Harris
- Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Harrison
- Cody W. and Marilyn Ice
- Cody W. Ice II
- International Association of Fairs & Expositions
- Dr. Harry R. and Marion James
- Lee J. Johnson
- Joplin Regional Stockyards
- Journagan Construction
- Glenn E. and Ruth Z. Karls
- Larson Farm & Lawn
- Randy and Johnelle Little
- Carl and Dianna Lowe
- Clayton L. and Mary A. Mathile
- John and Sally McAlear
- Kermit and Sandra Miller
- Missouri Beef Industry Council
- Missouri Farm Bureau
- Kym and Michael Morse
- Michelle K. Nahon
- Bud E. Orchard
- T. Edward and Carol Pinegar
- Peggy Quintus
- Vernon and Fay Renner
- Susan Sanders
- Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Schmitt
- 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
- U.S. Tobacco Co. Scholarship Awards Program
- Julie Vestal-Gibbons
- Barry Waack
- Rosalie Wooten
- Dr. J. Kathleen Young
- Vaughn and Becky Zimmerman

Scholarship and Awards Banquet Sponsors

- Joplin Stockyards - Jackie Moore: 2002
- Gus and Pat Rutledge: 2005
Missouri State University Port Wins International Wine Award

by Wenonah Toney

The 2005 Ruby Port produced by Missouri State University Mountain Grove Cellars won a Bronze Medal at the 2007 Indy International Wine Competition.

At the competition more than 3,000 wines from 17 countries were evaluated by 70 judges. Each wine was judged on appearance, aroma, taste and afifetaste.

The winning 2005 Ruby Port has aromas of dark berry fruits with hints of chocolate, oak and vanilla. Wines from the Mountain Grove Cellars are available for purchase on-line at https://www.ws.missouristate.edu/mtngrvcellars/. Selections include the winning 2005 Ruby Port, the 2005 Chambourcin Port, 2005 Norton Dessert Wine, 2006 Catawba Wine and the SMSU 100-hyear Centennial ChardonelWine. Also available are peach butter, elderberry jelly and fresh fruit when in season.

“The proceeds from these sales will benefit our students and faculty, and help support the important research under way at Mountain Grove,” says Dr. Anson Elliott, head of the Department of Agriculture and director of the State Fruit Experiment Station.

Missouri State Trivia

The adage “an apple a day keeps the doctor away” originated at the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station. The station’s first director John T. Stinson, who served from 1899-1902, encouraged the FDA to incorporate fruit into its guidelines for a healthy diet. Since then the FDA has included eating fruit daily into their recommendations.

Research at Mountain Grove Working Towards Disease Resistant Grapes

by Wenonah Toney

The Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station is producing breakthrough work in creating disease-resistant grape varieties.

Co-directors of the experiment station’s Center for Grapevine Biotechnology Dr. Laszlo Kovacs and Dr. Wenping Qiu are responsible for breakthrough work.

Kovacs and Qiu have published their results in Plant Physiology, Jan 2008, Vol. 146, pp. 236-249, and this summer an article will be released in the American Journal of Enology and Viticulture.

The Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station is in Mountain Grove and is part of the Missouri State University Department of Agriculture. Dr. Anson Elliott, head of the Department of Agriculture, also serves as the head of the experiment station.

The Missouri legislature created the experiment station in 1899 to provide advisement to fruit growers and to test new products. In 1974 the State Fruit Experiment Station became part of Missouri State University.

Drs. Heshing Hou, Laszlo Kovacs and Wenping Qiu thinking very hard together.

Graduate student Jing Zhang transfers a sample of wine.
The smell of nervous cattle, the bawl of freshly weaned calves, the overbearing noise of the auctioneer’s voice and the faint smell of diesel smoke in the air welcome students to a unique Missouri State University classroom.

While this is not the typical classroom experience at Missouri State University, it is typical for Dr. Jason Salchow’s animal health practicum class. Salchow, a per-course instructor, is a large animal veterinarian who specializes in reproduction and has a custom cattle-grazing business.

The animal health practicum class takes place at Springfield Livestock Marketing Center on Wednesdays. First preference is given to students in Salchow’s veterinary science class then other Agriculture Department students. Salchow said that it helps to take both classes simultaneously because they parallel each other.

During the semester students learn how to properly handle cattle within a sale barn venue. Salchow explained that he teaches students to process cattle without being overly aggressive. This helps minimize stress on the animals.

At the sale barn cattle are moved into a hydraulic squeeze chute where they undergo one or multiple procedures. The procedures may include blood sampling, age determination, pregnancy evaluation, vaccinating, deworming, branding, dehorning, horn tipping and castrating. During the semester students learn the proper way to perform these procedures.

The class, according to Salchow, helps students get more comfortable around livestock, especially students who have little livestock handling experience. Salchow added he also hopes students gain appreciation of food origins.

Students Get Hands-On Experience During Sale Barn Class
by Amanda Mayers

Ozarks Farm and Neighbor Editor Works with Students to Start Communications Group
by Rebecca Price

Lindsay Haymes, Ozarks Farm and Neighbor managing editor, is helping Missouri State University students start an Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Chapter (ACT).

Haymes, a 2006 Missouri State University graduate, said she recognizes the importance of professional development in her own career and is encouraging students to take professional involvement seriously.

Haymes is a member of the Livestock Publications Council (LPC). The National ACT has its convention concurrently with the LPC national convention. When the two groups meet together students have the opportunity to network and learn first-hand from industry leaders. Haymes said it was through watching this valuable interaction that she decided to help start the Missouri State University ACT Chapter.

Haymes said she is ready for the challenge of starting the new chapter and noted it should lead to endless opportunities for members.
Sigma Alpha and Agriculture Department Host Relay for Life Fundraiser—Students Gamble for a Cure

by Chase Wilson

This spring members of the Sigma Alpha Sorority found a way to have fun gambling for a cure for cancer.

Sigma Alpha, the Missouri State University professional agricultural sorority, organized a “Night in Vegas” to raise funds for the sorority’s American Cancer Society Relay for Life team. Relay for Life was held April 18 - 19 at Plaster Stadium.

“Night in Vegas” was held March 8 in the Plaster Student Union ballroom. The sorority contracted with Amberg Entertainment to provide the entertainment. The event featured classic gambling games such as craps, roulette, Black Jack, Texas Hold ‘Em and slot machines.

More than 40 guests attended the event raising $1,600. The entry fee was $50 which provided participants with the money to play the games as well as a T-shirt to commemorate the event.

Sigma Alpha member Lynzee Glass served as event chair. Glass said that the American Cancer Society is Sigma Alpha’s chosen charity.

Last year the sorority funded a Relay for Life team with a bake sale. Glass said the sorority decided to do a casino night because they were looking for something different.

“It was a unique fundraiser,” Glass said.

Agriculture Department Head Dr. Anson Elliot served as the honorary committee chair for the event.

“The event was one that reflected very positively upon the club and department,” said Elliott. “It was a fun-filled night with everyone looking forward to another one next year.”

The sorority has not yet set a date for next year’s event, but Glass said they would love to make this an annual fundraiser.

Elliot Receives First University Onstot Award

by Hailey Robertson

Missouri State University’s Agriculture Department Head Dr. Anson Elliott received the first Greg Onstot Outstanding Achievement Award. A plaque and $1,200 were presented to Elliott during the Missouri State Homecoming dinner Oct. 26.

The award is named in honor of Onstot who served the university for 25 years. Onstot retired in 2007 as the vice president for university advancement. This award is an opportunity to recognize a faculty or staff member for outstanding contributions to development and alumni programs at the university.

Elliott came to Missouri State University in 1978 from the University of Minnesota. He was named Agriculture Department head in 1980. Elliott has been involved in agricultural and educational committees and organizations in Missouri and nationally. In 1998 he received the National Association of Colleges and Universities and Teachers of Agriculture Distinguished Educator Award. Elliott has also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Farm Bureau.

Last fall, The Anson Elliott Scholarship for Agricultural Leadership was founded. It rewards students who exhibit the potential to become leaders in agriculture and recognizes their academic successes. The goal of the scholarship is to develop a permanent endowment of at least $100,000 that will fund annual scholarships. Approximately $7,000 will be awarded each year.
The Darr Agricultural Center has become a year-round facility for numerous agricultural activities including event rental.

"Approximately 90-95 percent of the Darr Agricultural Center is used for Missouri State agricultural programs and club activities, while only around 5 percent is rented for agricultural community use," said Agronomy Professor and Director of the Darr Agricultural Center Dr. Ben Fuqua.

The center is used by the Missouri State Department of Agriculture for activities throughout the school year for agricultural classes with hands-on learning opportunities as well as social activities including the fall picnic. Missouri State Agricultural Alumni also hold numerous activities at the Darr Center. Student agricultural clubs use the center for a variety of activities including learning experiences, fundraisers, equestrian and rodeo team activities, the Missouri State University Block and Bridle cattle show, and the Missouri State Bear Cattle Co. Elite Event Sale. The Darr Center is also used to host District FFA Contest each March.

Rental use activities include cattle auctions, therapeutic riding classes, 4-H and FFA activities, local and state breed association events, and cattlemen association events.

For more information about the facility, including rental availability, contact Dr. Ben Fuqua at BenFuqua@MissouriState.edu or (417) 836-5638.
This spring semester the members of the rodeo team named Douglas Gere, University of Missouri State Project Success coordinator for the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, as there new coach and faculty advisor.

Gere works in the Psychology Department at the Learning Diagnostic Clinic where he runs Project Success, a comprehensive support program for college students with brain-based Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) qualified disabilities. He also teaches psychology courses.

Gere found out about the advisor position by chance from visiting with one of his students, who is a member of the rodeo team. Gere has some rodeo experience from participating in the Junior Rodeo Association in high school. Although he enjoyed the rodeo environment, Gere said he decided instead to focus on motorcycle racing.

For 2008-2009, Gere said he would like to improve development of the team's booster club.

“This is going to be the driving financial support for the team, in addition to the SOFAC support,” said Gere.

Gere added that he would like to improve and increase the practice opportunities for team members.

“I have plans to recruit experts in events to come and work with the Missouri State athletes to help improve their skills and knowledge of rodeo performance,” said Gere.

Gere said that in the next five years he wants the team to grow financially and experientially. He also would like to recruit more team members. Gere added that he would like to see an endowed scholarship program to help recruit excellent student athletes to the Missouri State Program, especially agriculture majors.

Gere said he hopes the team will stay small enough that it keeps the “family” atmosphere, but grows to the point that the team could be in the top five in the Ozark region of National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA). Support from the boosters and endowed scholarships will assist in the recruiting process.

Gere said he is very proud to be a part of the Missouri State University Rodeo Team.

“The student athletes are very polite, wonderful people,” reflected Gere. “This is a culture that has been too far removed from our current society. The values of family, integrity, honesty and friendship have impressed me the most. The students work very hard in their academics, sport and life.”

The Missouri State University Rodeo Team is an organization of students interested in the sport of rodeo and preservation of our western heritage. Each year the rodeo team represents the university at 10 NIRA rodeos. Additionally, the team participates in various fund-raisers and the Missouri State University Homecoming Parade.

For more information about the rodeo team or to become a member of the booster club go to http://organizations.missouristate.edu/rodeo

Dr. Weston Walker, assistant professor in agricultural education, is leaving the university to pursue agricultural business interests. His student advisement and work with the Pathways Program, which provides opportunity for students at a distance to complete a bachelor’s degree, are among the many areas where he will be missed. We wish him success in this new venture.
Agriculture Department’s Hollie Elliott Honored with University Award
by Levi Moore

Senior agricultural communications major Hollie Elliott from Springfield, Mo., was one of five Missouri State University students honored with the inaugural Board of Governors Citizen Scholar Award Oct. 26, 2007. Students were selected by members of the Missouri State University faculty based on work ethic and outstanding involvement with public affairs within the community and Missouri State University.

Elliott was nominated for the award by Dr. Tammy Jahnke, dean of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences. Elliott’s many internships were key to her nomination.

Elliott’s involvement in public affairs internships began her freshman year when she worked in Congressman Roy Blunt’s Springfield, Mo., office. She also worked at the Ozark Empire Fair, Springfield Mo., as a reporter in the media room, and with the AgriMissouri Market where she helped promote and sell Missouri-produced products during the fair. Elliott also had an internship, summer 2006, with the Missouri Farm Bureau Public Affairs department, Jefferson City, Mo., conducting interviews and writing stories for their Show-Me Missouri Farm Bureau publication. Summer 2007 Elliott had an internship with the American Farm Bureau, Washington D.C., in the public relations department.

Elliott said that some of her most valuable experiences at Missouri State included being involved with the Agriculture Department. She explained that being at the scholarship banquets and other Agriculture Department functions offered her the opportunity to meet people and make important contacts. Elliott added that two of the most rewarding opportunities were serving as vice president of the Sigma Kappa Sorority that has approximately 150 members, participating four years on the equestrian team and volunteering with the therapeutic riding program.

Elliott’s advice for other students is to get out of one’s “comfort zone” and take advantage of the many opportunities offered at Missouri State. She stressed that students not be afraid to find and take internships, as well as involve themselves within the university and the community.

Elliott said her goals are to continue being an agricultural advocate and for the next two years to continue working for Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond. She is currently working in Bond’s Springfield, Mo., office as a Field Representative.
Ag Presidents’ Council
Advisor: Dr. Anson Elliott
Activities: Annual Fall Ag Picnic, Coordination of all club activities

Agronomy
Advisors: Dr. Ben Fuqua
Tom DeWitt
President: Jordan Richner
Vice President: Joey Stokes
Sec./ Treas: Sarah Bunton
Activities: Adopt-a-Highway trash pick-up

Alpha Gamma Rho
Advisor: Dr. Anson Elliott
Noble Ruler: Wesley Davis
VNR Planning: Eric Allison
VNR Activities: Daniel Langston
C- VNR Recruitment: James Kaiser
Logan Yearsley
VNR Scholarship: Chris Rapp
VNR Finance: Jeff Fox
VNR House Mgmt: Nick Rapp
VNR Membership: Cory North
VNR Alumni Relations: Chase Wilson
Activities: Pink Rose Formal; Ball Blast; White Trash Bash; Intramural softball, football, basketball; Homecoming

Alpha Gamma Sigma
Advisor: Dr. Jon Wiggins
President: Jacob Wilhoit
Vice Pres: Mike Mernick
Secretary: Jordan Slavings
Treasurer: Ryan Freeman
Warden: Sean Priest
Rush Chair: Weston Paulik
Activities: Homecoming; Greek Week; Red Rose Formal; Greek Church; Relay for Life; Social exchanges; Parents’ Weekend; Gathering of the Herd

Block & Bridle
Advisor: Dr. Tommy Perkins
President: Nolan Fischer
Vice Pres: Brittany Gillig
Secretary: Brittaney Shelenhamer
Treasurer: Jeri Lynn Fowler
Activities: Annual departmental Christmas Formal (Dance); 4-H and FFA member Fitting Clinic; MSU Bear Classic Steer and Heifer Show for 4-H and FFA members; Ozark Empire Fair Birthing Center

Collegiate Farm Bureau
Advisor: Dr. Anson Elliott
Dr. Bruce Johnson
President: Erin McCorkill
Vice Pres.: Britanny Gillig
Secretary: Katy Scott
Treasurer: Kimberly James
Public Relations: Ashley Gillig
Activities: Salute to Agriculture Football Game, Adopt-a-Family, May Day, National DTA Convention, New Student Mixer, Christmas Wreath Sales, Ag Quiz Bowl

Equestrian Team
Coaches: Dr. Gary Webb
Mrs. Sue Webb

Collegiate FFA
Advisor: Dr. Jim Hutter
President: Wesley Hutter
Vice Pres.: Katy Scott
Secretary: Logan Yearsley
Treasurer: Erin Young
Activities: Food for America; Adopt-a-Highway; National FFA Convention Parliamentary Procedure Contest and Recruitment Booth; State FFA Convention Recruitment Booth; District FFA Contest

Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha
Advisor: Dr. Bruce Johnson
Dr. Beth Walker
President: Sarah Rapp
Vice Pres.: Alicia Vandeveer
Secretary: Kimberly James
Treasurer: Sarah Bunton
Activities: Salute to Agriculture Football Game, Adopt-a-Family, May Day, National DTA Convention, New Student Mixer, Christmas Wreath Sales, Ag Quiz Bowl

Club Corner
Horsemen's Association

Advisors: Dr. Gary Webb, Mrs. Sue Webb
President: Lisl Huford
Vice Pres.: Kelsey Ragsdale
Secretary: Daman Bradley
Treasurer: Lacey Seiffertt
Historians: Toree Bova

Website: Janelle Melton
Website: Anitra Lewis

Activities: MACHS, bake sale, plant sale, Legacy Trails Habitat for Humanity, Helped build the Green Roof, Wrapped trees for MDC, Lawn & Garden Show, bowling, helped set up rose show, DTA Quiz Bowl, Seeding Festival field trip, Lost & Found Landscape, agriculture banquet centerpieces

Pre-Vet Club

Advisors: Dr. Dennis Schmitt
President: Deborah Knight
Vice Pres.: Amber King
Secretary: Allison Overmyer
Treasurer: Shiloh Weaver
PR/Web Page: Alyssa Loveland

Website: Janelle Melton
Website: Anitra Lewis

Activities: Dog wash, Strut Your Mutt Dog Show, BBQ, Adopt-a-Family at Christmas, chili dinner, MU Vet School Open House, Animal Care Expo

Rodeo Club

Advisor: Dr. Doug Gere
President: Liz Henry
Vice Pres.: Derek Carter
Secretary: Lacey Lee
Treasurer: Austin Shelby

Website: Janelle Melton
Website: Anitra Lewis

Activities: Team competes in 10 NiRA-sanctioned college rodeos

Sigma Alpha

Advisor: Janice Moll
President: Emily Mullen
1st Vice Pres.: Ashley Gillig
2nd Vice Pres.: Brittany Gillig
Secretary: Jeri Lynn Fowler
Treasurer: Christi Gonder
Rush Chair: Brittany Shelenhammer

Website: Janelle Melton
Website: Anitra Lewis

Activities: Adopt-a-Hwy, stream clean-up, Adopt-a-Trail (Bois D'Arc), Deer Aging (MDC), annual workshop Missouri Wildlife Society, job fair at Tan-Tar-A, picnics in Phelps's Grove Park

Horticulture

Advisors: Dr. Clydette Alsup, Dr. Pam Trewatha
President: Kirk Amato
Secretary: Callie Wheeler
Treasurer: Shiloh Weaver

Website: Janelle Melton
Website: Anitra Lewis

Activities: Homecoming, Salute to Agriculture, May Day, American Collegiate Horseman’s Association Convention, FFA District Judging Contest, Therapeutic Riding of the Ozarks, Adopt-a-Highway, Providing judges and show management assistance for local horse and mule shows, hosted two IHSA qualifying events, Sponsored the Missouri State Equestrian, Ranch Horse and Horse Judging teams, farm and arena clean-up activities

Soil Judging Team

Advisor: Tom DeWitt

Website: Janelle Melton
Website: Anitra Lewis

Activities: Regional Competition in Iowa

Trap & Skeet

Advisor: Dr. Jon Wiggins
President: Kevin Lee
Vice Pres.: Shawn Priest
Secretary: Chris Brandt
Treasurer: Parker Logn

Website: Janelle Melton
Website: Anitra Lewis

Activities: Hunters Open (Springfield Rod & Gunn) Fall 2007 Tournaments: Iowa State Cyclone Invitational, Kansas State Shootout at the Crossroads, University of Missouri Tiger Open Spring 2008 Tournaments: Missouri State Bear Invitational, University of Missouri Tiger Open, National Collegiate Tournament, May Day Celebration-Missouri State

Wildlife Society

Advisor: Dr. Lyndon Irwin
President: Kara Bader
Vice Pres.: Neal Hutton
Secretary: Emily Spellman
Treasurer: Ron Colatskie
Report: Ashley Vinson

Website: Janelle Melton
Website: Anitra Lewis

Activities: Adopt-a-Hwy, stream clean-up, Adopt-a-Trail (Bois D'Arc), Deer Aging (MDC), annual workshop Missouri Wildlife Society, job fair at Tan-Tar-A, picnics in Phelps's Grove Park
Former Department Professor Continues to Inspire
by Jill Kohler

Role-model and inspirational communicator, are words that describe former Missouri State University Professor Dr. Jerry Crownover.

At the university Crownover taught agricultural education and was the livestock judging team coach. From 1980 to 1997 he taught and inspired students with his humorous and reflective tales. Today Crownover continues inspiring former students and others through writing and speaking.

Crownover is a regular contributor with his inspirational and humorous columns for the Ozark Farm and Neighbor, and the Missouri Ruralist. He also has written two books, “Life is Simple” and “Life is Simple, Second Cut”. Crownover said both books are based on his life experiences.

“There are so many opportunities, if you put the effort out. The sky is the limit,” reflected Crownover when sharing advice to students, “Hard work is the key to success.”

Crownover said his father used to say, “There is only two ways to do something, the right way and the wrong way. There is only two answers to any question, the truth and a lie. And only one way to get ahead in life, work hard for it.” Crownover shared that those words were what he lived by and passed down to his children.

Crownover and wife Judy live on their farm near Everton, Mo. Crownover said he still stays in touch with some of his former students and noted he especially enjoys hearing of their success.

Transfer Student Numbers Rising in the Agriculture Department
by Lauren Kneip

Percentages of transfer students to the Agriculture Department are on the rise. Students from Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky and many other states are coming to Missouri State University for quality education and the attractive surroundings.

Between 1984-2007 the percentage of freshman and sophomore transfer students have fluctuated. The highest yearly percentage increase was in 1990 at 55 percent. The percentages of junior and senior transfers increased 70 percent in 2006. Agriculture Department Head Dr. Anson Elliott said that he expects the numbers of transfer students to continue to increase.

Students cite the campus atmosphere and community as key reasons they selected the university.

When reflecting on why she chose Missouri State University, Debbie Knight, senior animal science major from Marshfield, Mo., said, “The university has a very well established Agriculture Department and a lot of connections within the community as well as with other colleges.”

“The instructors have real-time experience and field experience, not just book smarts,” Knight added.

Brandon Snider, junior wildlife conservation and management major from Shelbina, Mo., also praised the department instructors.

“The instructors seem to really care about the students and seem generally concerned on how you do in class,” said Snider.

“The instructors have you take classes that are broad in your degree, so it’s a well-rounded program,” Knight stated. “The community knows you’ve taken more classes than just what is required for your degree.”

One of the reasons why students choose Missouri State University is for the Springfield community.

“Springfield has a variety of people and things to do,” said Amber King, animal science major from Lebanon, Mo.

“Whatever you want to find you can find in Springfield, small town crafts to big city plays, you name it,” Knight said. “You get the big city feel with a small town atmosphere.”
The Bear Cattle Company and Friends Elite Event this year moved inside Pinegar Arena. With additional seating and covered pens the arena provided an improved setting for the annual event.

The April 27 sale featured 45 lots with 26 Angus, 10 Charolais, six Limousin and two Simmental. The lots included cow-calf pairs, bred heifers, open-show heifer prospects, choice lots, embryos and flushes. Guest consigners included 15 Angus producers, four Charolais producers, two Limousin producers and two Simmental producers.

The Elite Event Sale is in its fifth year. The event has come a long way from when it was just an idea discussed by former agriculture students Josh Worthington, Dadeville, Mo., and Justin Sissel, Republic, Mo. With the help of Animal Science Professor Dr. Tommy Perkins, Sissel and Worthington were able to develop a sale that would be a first-class event. Missouri State University supporters Bill Darr, Springfield, Mo., and Ed Pinegar, Republic, Mo., also played a major role in starting the sale by providing their insight and experience for the program.

Worthington is currently the general manager for the Missouri Angus Association, St. Joseph, Mo., and Justin Sissel is the Missouri State University beef operations manager.

“The facilities at the sale have improved greatly with the sale starting in a rented tent in 2004 and moving to the state of the art Pinegar Arena in 2008,” said Sissel.

Elite Event V was a good sale for Bear Cattle Company and Friends with the average lot price for the sale $2,705. The top-selling lot was a flush of lot 27, ACE Ms Megan Elko 9910-70R, consigned by J&S Ranch, Koshkonong, Mo., and Creek Cut Ranch, Carthage, Mo., selling for $8,500. The top selling lot consigned by Bear Cattle Company was lot 1, MOSB Pride T716, selling for $4,000.

“Elite Event V was an all around better sale than the first event, with better cattle and great facilities,” said Sissel.

Pinegar Arena Hosts Bear Cattle Company and Friends Elite Event V
by Nathan King

Justin Sissel Hired as Beef Operations Manager
by Nathan King

Justin Sissel, a 2004 Missouri State University graduate from Republic, Mo., was named beef operations manager Fall 2007.

Sissel is responsible for the care of the university’s cow herd and show cattle. He also helps with the animal science beef lab, beef production class and advanced beef marketing class.

As a student Sissel helped start the Elite Event sale and was assistant sale manager of the first sale.

“It is great to see how the sale has grown over the last few years,” said Sissel.

Sissel added that with time he would like to see the sale become a complete production sale, selling only university animals.
Missouri State University Graduate is Helping Improve Iraqi Agriculture

by Ellen Timmerman

Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) created by the Department of State work hard to rebuild the damages of war in Iraq, one province at a time. David Speidel, who graduated from Missouri State University in the mid-1970s, takes part in one of these teams as a field crops specialist helping to rebuild agriculture as an industry in the province of Diyala, just east of Baghdad.

The Provincial Reconstruction Teams have been hard at work since they were founded Nov. 11, 2005, by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. These civilian-military inter-agencies were created to help build political and economic development, promote increased security and rule of law, develop sustained capabilities to govern, and provide administration necessary to meet the basic needs of the Iraqi populous in the provinces.

Speidel, a member of an agriculturally-based team, has worked closely with a local college to help jump start a program designed to train unemployed graduate students to become nursery specialists.

During a combat tour from 2005-2006, Speidel discovered the concept of PRTs around the Baghdad area. He then applied for a position on a team.

“The military was trying to clean canals,” Speidel said in a phone interview. “I realized that while they were trying to help, none of them really had the right experience to do it correctly.”

“I wanted to do more,” Speidel reflected. “I saw this as an opportunity to do that.”

Speidel was soon deployed to the province of Diyala, the last stronghold of Al-Qaida in Iraq that had been liberated only a few months earlier. The team soon became involved with the local college, that had been heavily damaged by the fighting. There, Speidel became involved with a program set to train unemployed graduate students to become nursery specialists, who will raise trees and vegetables.

“We helped set up a four-to-six month program for the local unemployed Ag Graduates to learn practical skills as nurserymen raising seedlings for resale to the orchard industry,” Speidel explained. “The Iraqis have already set up a placement program to help students find full time employment later this year.”

According to Speidel, the Department of State is looking to help build this program with several thousand trees, mostly citrus, date and eucalyptus. The trees will help replace the millions that have been destroyed. This will give students a chance at self-sustaining jobs, as well as helping bolster food production and the economy in Iraq.

“Diyala, famous for its citrus and date trees, will be needed as progress is made in Iraq,” Speidel explained.

Three-quarters of the population, either directly or indirectly, make their living through agriculture. Speidel and his team have mostly worked with small grains, vegetables, fruit trees, peanuts and livestock.

One of the more promising markets, according to Speidel, has been the cultivation of peanuts in the northern half of the province. There, one can find good water flowing from underground aquifers.

“They are looking to increase peanut production there as a future food source,” Speidel said. “You may not expect to see a peanut spread at a local restaurant in Springfield. But, maybe someday when buying gift baskets you will be able to purchase peanuts and dates from Iraq.”

When asked how his education at Missouri State University helped him in his work, Speidel recalled principals he learned in Dr. Vernon Renner’s classes. Renner retired from Missouri State in 1981 after teaching crop and soil sciences where he always stressed the importance of sustainable ecological agriculture.

“He would be pleased to see the skills he taught in his class at use over here,” Speidel said. “We use a lot of soil and water conservation practices I learned from him.”

Speidel said he is also planning to set up a soil testing program to help the Iraqis better understand their soil.

Another principal Speidel applies is farm business planning.

“Because of their past government, the Iraqis never had to use farm business planning,” explained Speidel. “They need to learn how to do it themselves.”

Figuring the costs of fertilizers, forecasting markets and other important agricultural economic principals are currently being taught to local farmers and students.
“There is a lot more to do and a lot more to teach,” Speidel said. “But, I feel satisfied with the work we’ve done so far.”

“The best solution for an Iraqi problem is an Iraqi solution,” Speidel said, “We are just there to help push them in the right direction.”

Agriculture Professor Shares Ultra Sound Knowledge in Brazil
by Ethan Miller

Dr. Tommy Perkins, professor of animal science at Missouri State University, went to Sao Paulo University (SPU) in Pirassununga, Brazil, November 2007 to instruct graduate students on the use of ultrasound technology.

Due to their heat tolerance and resistance to disease and insects, Bos Indicus are the most common cattle in Brazil. They typically have poorer marbling and ribeye area. Perkins taught the SPU class how ultrasounds can be used to improve selected traits in the herd.

Brazil is the world’s leading exporter of beef, but higher quantity does not necessarily mean higher quality. Perkins said he wanted to show that by selecting animals with higher meat scores the Brazilian feedlots could produce better beef and more of it.

While in Brazil, Perkins also visited a sugarcane ethanol plant and a feedlot where the cattle were fed using the plant’s by-products. The feedlot contained 5,000 bulls. Due to their larger size, bulls are most commonly used in Brazil’s beef production.

“The bulls were very peaceful and they wouldn’t ride or fight each other,” said Perkins.

The ethanol plant sends the by-products to the feedlots where it is used to replace grains. Finished bulls are then shipped to a processing plant.

Perkins also toured one of the processing plants.

“The corrals, the alleys and the squeeze chutes are all made of wood.” said Perkins. “This is because the metal tends to frighten the cattle.”

Most of the cattle come from places where metal is uncommon so they are more at ease without the clanging and other harsh sounds that metal makes.

“Everything else is just as modern there as it is here in the U.S.” said Perkins.

Something that was less modern was the Roto-Mix factory that Perkins toured. He said the mixers are made without the use of mechanized equipment.

“They do everything by hand, from welding to bending the metal, and it comes out looking just like it would in the states,” said Perkins. “It’s the same thing, just done by men instead of machines.”

Perkins said that despite the differences in the method of production, Brazil produces mixers of the same quality as U.S. factories.

Perkins said his favorite part of the trip was getting to hold a Toucan, something he had never done before.
1939
Hardin, Harold M.
Children: Lois (’43); Dale (’48)
822 Richards Drive, Mtn. Grove, MO 65711
Major: Science and Math
Occupation: Retired since 1971. Mechanical Engineer, Naval Ordinance System Command with the Navy.

1957
Haraldson, Randall E. Spouse: Daisy
Children: Candy (’58); Randy (’60); Rusty (’63)
Major: Agriculture and Math
Occupation: Retired

1959
Frieden, Tim L. Spouse: Brenda
Children: Brock (’77); Garrett (’80)
545 SW 30th Rd., Lamar, MO 64759
Major: General Agriculture
Occupation: Self-employed Farmer and Stockman

1970
Rhodes, James C.
16318 Summer Wind Dr., Houston, TX 77090
Major: Agriculture and Conservation
Occupation: Retired after 16 years with the USDA as a Regulator Enforcement Officer and 8 years with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Vassar, John “Wayne” Spouse: Linda
Children: Deborah (’70); Aimee (’74); Travis (’78)
628 S. Hwy T, Clinton, MO 64735
Major: Agriculture (plants and soils)
Occupation: President and CEO of Sharp Brothers Seed Company of Missouri.

1973
Waite, Mike Spouse: Penny
Children: Parker (’79); Ashely (Waite) Ruzich (’81)
5233 Brawner Place, Alexandria, VA 22304
Major: Agricultural Business
Occupation: Lobbyist and Government

1978
Ruzicka, Don T. Spouse: Julie
Children: Kelsey (’93)
1328 Deer Ln., Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
Major: Wildlife Conservation/Management
Occupation: Former MDC Conservation Agent (27 years), current State Representative of the 132nd District in Lawrence County.

1979
Chapin, Roy L. Spouse: Patricia
Children: Cathy (’85); Beth (’90)
5752 Co. Rd. 9720, West Plains, MO 65775
Major: Agronomy
Occupation: Farming full time with dairy and beef operation.

Tennant, Gregory L. Spouse: Shirley
P.O. Box 404, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085-0404
Major: Wildlife Conservation/Management
Occupation: District Conservationist with the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service in Sleepy Eye, Minn.

1980
McGinnis (Roberts), Debbi Spouse: Charles
Children: Isaac (’83); Daberath (’85); Whitney (’88); Denver (’94)
1030 E. 444, Bolivar, MO 65613
Major: Agricultural Economics
Occupation: Polk County Collector of Revenue

1981
White, Jonathan M. Spouse: Patty G.
Children: April (’73); Ryan (’83)
P.O. Box 131, Willow Springs, MO 65793
Occupation: President of First National Bank-Willow Springs, Mo.

1985
Kennemer, Timothy K. Spouse: Theresa
Children: Taylor (’97) Tanner (’00)
509 Wilderness Rd., Rogersville, MO 65742
Major: Agricultural Business
Occupation: County Executive Director (Douglas/Ozark) Country Farm Service Agency

1986
Smith, Miles F. Spouse: Lori
Children: Justin (’88); Lauren (’92)
210 S. Utah, West Plains, MO 65775
Major: Agricultural Business
Occupation: Manager of Member Services, Howell-Oregon Electric Cooperative. Directs the overall communications and marketing efforts of the cooperative.

1988
Porter, Tony Spouse: Lisha
Children: Austin (’87); Andrea (’89)
180 Park Ridge Dr., Bolivar, MO 65613
Major: Agricultural Economics
Occupation: Manager of Porter Seed House Inc. Buys, Processes, Packages, and markets KY31 tall fescue seed.

1989
Ramori, Jeffery A. Spouse: Mara
Children: Kristen (’96); Dalton (’99)
215 HWY AA, Steelville, MO 65565
Major: Agricultural Business
Occupation: Vice President and Compliance Officer- First Community National Bank (Steelville, Cuba, Sullivan, Rolla, Vienna and Eureka)
1990
Crane, Nancy L.  
13204 Willow Breeze Lane, Huntersville, NC  
Major: Agricultural Education, Animal Science  
Occupation: Previously a Marketing Specialist for Syngenta Crop Protection (formerly Novartis and Zeneca). Currently a Real Estate Broker with and founder of the land company NLC Holdings LLC. Emphasis is on land and development.

1991
McDaniel, Keith A.  Spouse: Michele  
Children: Chase (’98); Trey (’02)  
6096 S. Farm Road 249, Rogersville, MO 65742  
Major: Agricultural Business  
Occupation: Manager of Greater Ozarks MFA Agri Services in Ash Grove.

1993
Boles, Jody D.  Spouse: Julie  
Children: Tristan (’95); Thad (’96); Teagan (’01); Tate (’05)  
141 Kelboon Drive, Marshfield, MO 65706  
Major: Animal Science  
Occupation: Area Sales Manager for MFA Inc.

1994
Hollis, Cindy  
10520 W. Farm Rd, Walnut Grove, MO 65770  
Major: Agricultural Business  
Occupation: ED/trauma provider, graduate school UCM Nurse Program, raise crossbred and limousin cattle

1995, cont.
White, Jason B.  Spouse: Cindy  
Children: Jordon (’99); Olivia (’00); Nathan (’03)  
8214 N. Virginia, Kansas City, MO 64118  
Major: Agricultural Business  
Occupation: Account Manager with Pioneer Seed Company- service all accounts and reps in northwest Missouri.

1997
Earl (Barnitz), Sara K.  Spouse: Pat  
Children: Alison (’99); Nathan (’06)  
P.O. Box 174, Lake Spring, MO 65532  
Major: Animal Science  
Occupation: Recruiting Assistant for the University of Missouri-Rolla Career Opportunities Center. Works with different employers that are interested in hiring UMR students for Full-Time, Internships or Co-op opportunities.

Hilty, Joe H.  Spouse: Tricia  
Children: Trenton (’02); Anna (’04)  
36 NE Hwy C, Clinton, MO 64735  
Major: Agricultural Business  
Occupation: Vice President of Hilty Quarries, Inc. Bids; organizes; and administers multiple commercial, state, and federal construction projects throughout west central Missouri.

Hubbard (Biglieni), Suzanne  Spouse: George  
Children: Grant (’99); Shelby (’01), Carter (’04)  
53160 E. 110th Rd. Miami, OK 74354  
Major: Agricultural Communications  
Occupation: Executive Director of Miami Area Chamber of Commerce

Lathram (Salladay), Tracy  Spouse: Richie  
Children: Era Kay (’97)  
5000 Fawn Ct., Lincoln, NB 68516  
Major: Animal Science  
Occupation: Mammographer at Bryan LGH

Scotten, Doug W.  Spouse: Michelle  
P.O. Box 182, Kaiser, MO 65047  

Doug Scotten, cont.
Major: Agricultural Business  
Occupation: Missouri State Park Ranger- law enforcement position within the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

1998
Bader, Ryan  Spouse: Sarah (Simons)  
5582 Pinehurst Ln., Columbia, Mo 65202  
Major: Animal Science  

Martin (Plank), Jamie C.  
P.O. Box 454, Osage Beach, MO 65065  
Major: Agricultural Business  
Occupation: Owner of Barefoot Floors LLC- retail floor covering store in Osage Beach, Mo.

Winka, Brian J.  Spouse: Alison  
Children: John Patrick (’04)  
1771 Heffington Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017  
Major: Agronomy  
Occupation: Parks Department Supervisor for the City of Chesterfield. Maintains 14 baseball fields, 9 soccer fields, 4 football fields, 3 parks, and other areas in the city

Harris (Hulsner), Jody L.  Spouse: Nathan  
Children: Natalie (’05); Mallory (’07)  
18758 Duncan Rd., Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Major: Agricultural Communications  
Occupation: Consultant - Marketing & PR

1999
McIntire, Matt R.  Spouse: Dana  
Children: Emma (’03); Briar (’05)  
Rt. 5 Box 345A, Butler, MO 64730  
Major: Agricultural Education  
Occupation: Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor at Archie R-V High School

2000
Kincaid, Jenny S.  
4654 Pennsylvania, 2N, Kansas City, MO
The gypsy moth is a non-native moth species that is a major forest pest in the eastern United States and work is underway to prevent its spread to Missouri.

Dr. Michael Roling, entomologist at Missouri State University, and the Missouri Department of Agriculture are working together to prevent the gypsy moth from establishing in Missouri.

“We come together with different groups with a stake or interest in controlling or eradicating gypsy moth populations before they get established,” said Roling.

Gypsy moth larvae will eat many different tree species but they prefer oak. This makes Missouri’s oak-dense forests especially vulnerable to gypsy moth damage.

According to the US Forest Service, gypsy moths defoliate over 1 million acres of forest every year.
Dr. Dennis Schmitt, veterinarian and Missouri State University animal science professor, continues to work on exotic animal reproduction issues with Ringling Brothers Circus and other circuses and zoos across the United States.

Schmitt and his team, two graduate students and Jr. Research Scientist Scotti Charmasson, travel to work with the animals on-site.

Back on campus the team performs laboratory work for the organizations. Most of the work is with elephant reproduction.

Julie King, Natural and Applied Sciences graduate student in endocrinology from Forsyth, Mo., said that the laboratory work on campus includes monitoring hormone levels of pregnant elephants and for elephants that are hoping to be bred.

Julie King, Natural and Applied Sciences graduate student in endocrinology from Forsyth, Mo. and Dr. Dennis Schmitt, animal science professor, with elephant Renee at the Toledo Zoo, Toledo, Ohio.
Missouri State University’s Agriculture Department has a rich history. Created in 1906, the institution was originally named The 4th District Normal School. It consisted of a one-room schoolhouse sitting on six acres of fertile soil. The six acres were divided up for use by agricultural classes and it stated in the class schedule publication, “Agriculture will be emphasized”.

In 1915 the school offered 11 agricultural classes which met 7 a.m. Monday through Friday. Students taking these early classes were required to complete farm projects that included hatching and raising their own brood of chicks, and growing a garden at their home.

In 1917 the Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act, which promoted vocational agriculture as a course taught in public schools, was enacted by Congress. This created a new demand for high school agricultural teachers and the Normal School rose to the occasion. Immediately, the necessary coursework was established for an agricultural education program.

In 1919 a legislative act renamed the institution to Southwest Missouri State Teachers College. That same year, the Agriculture Department became a separate branch from the Science Department.

In the early 1920s students took field trips to view some of the best stock farms in the county. Also, the Country Life Club was established with 78 members. In April 1925, at the club’s Dairy Days, the first Dandelion Queen was elected. By 1926 the Country Life Club had 138 members and was the largest student organization on campus.

The first Farm Week was in 1928. In 1931 the first Barnwarming was held, a tradition carried on today by FFA chapters across the state. Glen Karls joined the department in 1938. By 1939 one-fifth of the students on campus were enrolled in an agricultural class.

During World War II enrollment declined as many young men went to war. The department offered 19 agricultural classes and emphasis was placed on enhancing food production to aid the war effort.

In 1945 the teacher’s college was renamed Southwest Missouri State College. In July 1947 a new department was created with Dr. Karls named as head. Soon after, the department installed new laboratories, processors and ovens.

KWTO radio station announced in 1956 that they would sponsor the first scholarship for an agricultural student. The $100 scholarship would be given as the outstanding freshman award. In the late 1950s construction began on Karls Hall, the current home of the Springfield campus Agriculture Department.

Dr. J.N. Smith, who joined the faculty in 1959, initiated the unique Agricultural Industry Study that was a field trip especially organized for agricultural business majors.

In 1960 the SMS chapter of the National Agriculture Honor Society organization, Delta Tau Alpha, was established under the guidance of John Schatz who became department head in 1968. In 1970 1,500 students enrolled in agricultural classes, setting a new attendance record.

In 1972 Southwest Missouri State College became Southwest Missouri State University.
Dr. Anson Elliott was named head of the Agriculture Department in 1980. That year, 1,200 students visited the agricultural research center to view 15 research demonstrations on the farm, but due to the severe drought in 1979 many of the crops had barely survived. During the 1980s the Agriculture Department hosted and broadcast a farming radio program from Karls Hall. Students competed in national contests, participated in internships from across the country and Europe, and hosted hundreds of FFA members at district contests.

During the 1990s Agriculture Department faculty members increasingly were honored in state and national spotlights. Karls Hall housed over 15 clubs, including a successful rodeo team.

Because many high school agricultural students weren't returning to family farms, agriculture majors refocused their studies by getting away from traditional production classes. In the late 1990s Karls Hall expanded. A new wing was added, nearly doubling the size of the building. The department created its first-ever Web site and in 1997 the first Salute to Agriculture football game was held.

In 2000 the 125-acre SMSU Agriculture Research and Demonstration Center that had been part of the university since 1968, was renamed the William H. Darr Agricultural Center. A major donation by William H. and Virginia Darr made several improvements possible.

In August 2005 Missouri Governor Matt Blunt signed the resolution that changed the university name to Missouri State University.

For more than a century, traditions have begun, minds have been stretched and legacies have been made within the walls of agricultural classrooms at Missouri State. From a one-room school house in 1906 to the technology-driven building of Karls Hall, Missouri State’s Agriculture Department is truly one with a dynamic and rich history.

**For more information about the history of the Missouri State University Agriculture Department or to order a history book, contact Dr. Lyndon Irwin at LyndonIrwin@missouristate.edu or 417-836-5088.**
Students Gain Media Room Experience

Five Missouri State University students worked in the media room at the 80th Missouri FFA Convention in Columbia, Mo., April 16-19, to gain valuable agricultural communications experience.

Under the direction of Joyce Cutright, FFA media room coordinator, students drafted, edited and posted more than 400 news releases. News releases were sent all over the state to the hometown newspapers of FFA award winners. Students began working the day before convention started and stayed the day after it ended.

Some students return each year to take part in the media room.

"It was a learning experience. I had a lot of fun," said Ormiston. "I had a great time at last year's media room and asked Joyce [Cutright] if I could do it all over again."

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

Agricultural Industry Study Provides Real World Look at Agribusiness

by Lauren Bills and Andrew Ormiston

This January approximately 30 Missouri State University agriculture students got a first-hand look at agribusiness by participating in the Missouri State Agricultural Industry Study.

The Agricultural Industry Study is an intensive five-day study that gives agriculture majors a chance to experience the real-life agribusiness industry. This year’s study was led by Dr. Bruce Johnson, professor of agricultural business and Dr. Arbindra Rimal, associate professor of agricultural business.

Study participants first visited FCS Financial in Jefferson City. Next they travelled to St. Louis spending the next three days visiting DOT Foods-Holden Meats Inc.; RABO Agrifinance; DMR Kinetic; Lange-Steadman Co.; Monostato Co.; The American Soybean Association; the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and Land O’ Lakes Purina Feed LLC.

The group then visited Osborn and Barr Communications in Clayton, Mo. On the last day of the study, the group went back to Jefferson City and met with representatives from the Missouri Department of Agriculture and Missouri Farm Bureau.

Rimal stressed that the Agricultural Industry Study is not a tour, saying, "We go to the company's board room. We talk with the company president and vice president, and hear about the company's management, marketing and production practices."

Rimal said that students in the study were graded based on their participation in the event. Students taking the study were expected to ask relevant questions during presentations and also were required to complete and turn in projects which included filling out forms and writing essays after the presentation. Every evening ended with a discussion about the day's events.

Students who took part in the study said that the first-hand experience gave them an outlook on job possibilities and how hard work, determination and teamwork make those businesses succeed.

"The study gave me a look into so many different careers. I now have a good idea of what I would like to do once I graduate," said study participant Kym James, senior agricultural business major from Edgar Springs, Mo.
The Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station on the Mountain Grove campus hosted Raising Honeybees, a bee and honey production workshop, June 19.

The event was led by John Avery, field superintendent for the Fruit Experiment Station. Avery demonstrated bee keeping equipment and covered topics such as making good honey, harvest and storage methods, and ways to recognize honey bee diseases and mites. Raising Honeybees was part of the University County Extension Small Farm Tour which was held over seven days.

The Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station on the Mountain Grove campus hosted a wine chemistry workshop May 11 – 12. The workshop was sponsored by Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance, (VESTA) a National Science Foundation funded partnership that includes Missouri State University, area two-year colleges and area winemakers. The workshop featured wine making expert Dr. Barry Gump, professor of enology and food science at Fresno State University, Fresno, Calif. During the two-day event, Gump lectured and led participants through hands-on wine chemistry procedures.

The Springfield Nature Center hosted a two-day workshop January 12 – 13, teaching landscapers to incorporate native plants into their designs. The workshop was sponsored by Grow Native!, a joint program of the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Department of Agriculture that encourages use of Missouri’s native plants in landscaping. The two-day series featured presentations from nine different landscape experts, including keynote speaker Dave Tylka who lectured on integrating native plants into yards with small acreage. The workshop was sponsored by Grow Native!, City of Springfield Public Works Department, Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods, Springfield/Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence, Missouri State University, and University of Missouri Extension.

The Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station on the Mountain Grove campus hosted a pruning workshop March 3. Participants learned basic pruning techniques in a classroom and gained hands-on experience at the station’s horticulture garden.

University Staff Ambassador (USA) members visited the Mountain Grove and West Plains campuses last October. USA is a program at Missouri State meant to build communications across departments and help staff members learn more about the university. Participants are divided into teams and complete small projects. USA is open to full-time staff and the program is offered at no cost to participants.

Alumni and community representatives showed their support for the Mountain Grove campus by wearing denim and diamonds at the Jeans and Jewels wine tasting and barbeque held October 20 at the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station. Guests were served barbeque and sampled wine and port produced by the campus winery, Mountain Grove Cellars. Tickets for this event were $40 per person and $75 per couple with proceeds going to support the enology and viticulture programs. The Mountain Grove Campus Advisory Board organized the event.

Sept. 5 Grow Native! and The Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station on the Mountain Grove campus presented Missouri Cut Flowers: From Field to Market. This all-day event featured a field tour and presentation of cut-flower planting as well as lectures presented by area experts including Dr. Alan Stevens, associate professor of horticulture at Kansas State University.
## Graduates

### Summer 07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yoder, Ashleigh E</td>
<td>Wildlife Conservation</td>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>Nixa Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilder, Laura A</td>
<td>Wildlife Conservation</td>
<td>Master's</td>
<td>Springfield Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson, Brittany L</td>
<td>Wildlife Conservation</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Aurora Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoder, Ashley E</td>
<td>Wildlife Conservation</td>
<td>Master's</td>
<td>Nixa Mo.</td>
</tr>
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### Fall 2007

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barb, Renae K</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>La Russell Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnett, Barry V</td>
<td>General Agriculture</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Nixa Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Felicia R</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Carthage Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branson, Kimberly D</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Belle Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brannon, Kimberly D</td>
<td>Agricultural Education</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Alexandria La.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck, Jordan L</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Springfield Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caskey, Michelle L</td>
<td>Wildlife Conservation</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Springfield Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devaney, Timothy J</td>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Hallsville Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devore, Dustin W</td>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Rogersville Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dover, Tera L</td>
<td>Agricultural Communications</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Monett Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eaves, Megan</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>El Dorado Spg Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elbert, Luke A</td>
<td>Agricultural Business</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Pierce City Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellis, Jordan A</td>
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West Plains, Mo., Sept. 25, 2007 – Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt announced $2.927 million in National Science Foundation funding for Missouri State University’s Viticulture and Enology Science & Technology Alliance (VESTA). The grant to Missouri State will be used to provide education to community colleges in 12 states through online training courses about the grape and wine industry.

“I’m pleased to announce this critical funding that will help both our grape and wine industry and the economy of southwest Missouri grow,” Congressman Blunt said.

“This NSF grant allows Missouri State University through the Viticulture and Enology Science & Technology Alliance to continue to play a key role well into the future.” “This NSF grant will enable Missouri State University’s Viticulture and Enology program to expand and become even more influential for Missouri and all of the Midwest region of the United States,” Missouri State University President Mike Nietzel said. “Our faculty and staff, as well as those in the partner institutions, deserve enormous credit for earning this support based on a nationally competitive process. Their scientific and technical merit has been recognized, and many communities and individuals will now benefit.”

VESTA Principal Investigator and Executive Director Dr. Dale Law, based at Missouri State’s West Plains campus, said the program has drawn 270 students from 27 states over the last three years to the only on-line internet learning program of its kind. Because the program is Internet-based experts in wine and grapes from California, New York and around the nation are able to teach classes.

“The grape and wine industry has seen steady growth and will need educated and highly trained individuals to continue this growth. There is great interest in expanding the program to cover Midwestern states, because the modern grape and wine industry require scientific knowledge in math and related technologies. VESTA provides all of these skills,” Law explained.

The scientific research for VESTA is conducted at the Missouri Fruit Experiment Station in Mountain Grove, which is part of Missouri State University system. The grant recognizes the Mountain Grove facility, where scientific research has been practiced for more than a century, as a “regional center of excellence.”

Initially community colleges in Iowa and Illinois were part of the on-line learning model VESTA started three years ago. Two-year colleges in Oklahoma (Redlands Community College) and Illinois (Rend Lake College) and Iowa (Northeast Iowa Community College) will join the project as it expands into 12 states.

Missouri, which ranks 11th in the nation in wine production, has seen the number of wineries increase from 64 in 1999 to 89 in 2005 with similar increases in surrounding states. A 2007 study found the grape and wine industry produced a $162 billion benefit to the U.S. economy, including $17 billion in state and federal taxes. There are 930,000 acres of grapes and 4,900 wineries employing 1.1 million people in the U.S.
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Farmers Coop Livestock Marketing Scholarship
Melissa Kleiboeker Pierce City
Nathan Owens Slater
Katy Scott Marshfield

Jack Gordon Memorial Scholarship
Holly Hurshman Nixa

Christian Robert Hirsch Memorial Scholarship
Ryan Stackhouse Paris

Harry & Marion James Agronomy Scholarship
Kimberly Brownlow Ash Grove

Missouri Society of Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers Scholarship
Kymberly James Edgar Springs

Norman Justus Scholarship
Jessica Soloman Bucklin

Glenn E. & Ruth Z. Karis Memorial Scholarship
Senior Hollie Elliott Springfield
Junior Emily Spellman Mt. Vernon
Junior Cathleen Vought Tower, Minn.
Sophomore Kara Bader Campbell
Sophomore Josh Cutler Morrisville
Sophomore Carrie Lampe St. Louis
Freshman Eric Allison Greenfield
Transfer Junior Jessica Bailey Neosho
Transfer Junior Jacob Church Clinton
Transfer Junior Erin Young Pomona

Benjamin Charles Kruse Memorial Scholarship
Erin McCorkill Greenfield

James P. & Margaret S. Landreth Scholarship
Caleb Robertson Lamar

MFA, Inc. Scholarship
Jerrod Lawrence West Plains

H. Lewis Miller Scholarship
Andrew Kautsch Russellville

Missouri Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Scholarship
Austin Shelby Osceola
Daniel Wisner Osceola

Ed Pinegar Scholarship
Amanda Burdick Willard
Kelsey Ragsdale Willard

Douglas W. Darr Leadership Scholarship
Courtney Johnson, freshman animal science major from Hannibal, Mo. (center), receiving award from Bill & Virginia Darr.

James P. & Margaret S. Landreth Scholarship
Caleb Robertson, junior animal science major from Lamar, Mo. (left), receiving award from Clydette Alsup, associate professor (right).

FFA Scholarship
Landon Snook, senior agricultural education major from Exeter, Mo. (left), receiving award from Jim Hutter, associate professor (right).

Jack Gordon Memorial Scholarship
Holly Hurshman, senior animal science major from Nixa, Mo. (left), receiving award from Ralph Gordon (right).

Missouri Society of Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers Scholarship
Kymberly James, junior agricultural business major from Edgar Springs, Mo. (left), receiving award from R. Bruce Johnson, professor (right).

Glenn E. & Ruth Z. Karls Memorial Scholarship
Josh Cutler, sophomore general agriculture major from Morrisville, Mo. (left), receiving award from Lyndon, Irwin, professor (right).
November Scholarship Banquet Highlights cont.

Howard Pyle Memorial Scholarship
Timothy Niebruegge, senior horticulture major from Owensville, Mo. (left), receiving award from Pam Trewatha, associate professor (right).

Vernon Renner Scholarship
Lucas Snodgrass, junior agronomy major from Seymour, Mo. (left), receiving award from Ben Fuqua, professor (right).

David F. Stanke Memorial Scholarship
Angela Boyer, senior animal science major from Park Hills, Mo. (left), receiving award from Beth Walker, assistant professor (right).

White River Valley Electric Cooperative Scholarship
Andrew Scheuer, senior wildlife conservation major from Branson, Mo. (left), receiving award from Jon Wiggins, Professor (right).

Farm Bureau Salute to Agriculture Award
Logan Yearsley, freshman agricultural education major from Buffalo, Mo. (left), receiving award from Wayne Schnelle, co-founder (right).

Glenn E. & Ruth Z. Karls Memorial Scholarship
Erin Young, junior agricultural education major from Pomona, Mo. (left), receiving award from Sue Webb, instructor (right).

Howard Pyle Memorial Scholarship
Timothy Niebruegge
Owensville

Vernon Renner Scholarship
Sarah Bunton
Liberal

Soils
Christopher Lanz
Liberal

Environmental Studies
Ben DeTar
Cherryvale, Kan.

Leadership-Upperclass
Sarah Rapp
Rockville

Leadership-Upperclass
Ashley Vinson
Mt. Vernon

Ecological Agriculture
Lucas Snodgrass
Seymour

John D. Schatz Scholarship
Megan Griggs
Stockton

JN Smith/FCS Financial Memorial Scholarship
Chad Arnone
Montreal

Christopher Gunn
Versailles

Stanlie H. & Belva Ross Spangler Memorial Scholarship
Whitney Wiegert
Pleasant Hope

Ryan Wood
Springfield

David F. Stanke Memorial Scholarship
Victor Arnaud
Monett

Angela Boyer
Park Hills

Charles & Patricia Stufflebeam Agricultural Scholarship
Julie Fullerton-King
Forsyth

Robert F. Thomson, Jr. Family Scholarship
James Kaiser
Purdy

Uncle Tom Watkins Memorial Scholarship
Megan Eaves
El Dorado Springs

Jocelyn Butler
Republic

White River Valley Electric Cooperative Scholarship
Shannon Garretson
Humansville

Andrew Scheuer
Branson

Awards
Farm Bureau Salute to Agriculture Award
Logan Yearsley
Buffalo

Greene County Cattlemen’s Association Award
Flinton McCabe
Elk City, Kan.

Greene County Farm Bureau Award
Jennifer Main
Ash Grove

Andrew McCorkill
Greenfield

Missouri Entertainment and Events Center Internship
Lynzee Glass
Tunas

Grasslands, Inc. Assistantship
Jarred Meyer
Glasgow
Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Outstanding Freshman Award
Alicia Vandever Seymour

Carr Farm Scholarship
Hailey Robertson Lamar

Farmer’s Coop Livestock Marketing Scholarship
Katy Scott Marshfield

James P. & Margaret S. Landreth Scholarship
Caleb Robertson Lamar

Glenn E. & Ruth Z. Karls Memorial Scholarship
Erin Young Pomona

Robert F. Thomson Jr. Family Scholarship
James Kaiser Purdy

Farmer’s Coop Livestock Marketing Scholarship
Katy Scott, junior agricultural business/ agricultural marketing and sales major from Marshfield, Mo. (left), receiving award from Arbindra Rimal, associate professor (right).

W. Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award
Ashley Gillig Aurora
Brittany Gillig Aurora
Tera Dover Aurora
Hollie Elliott Springfield

Robert F. Thomson Jr. Family Scholarship
James Kaiser, junior agricultural education major from Purdy, Mo. (left), receiving award from Mariana Thomson, founder (right).

Ashley Gillig (left) and Brittany Gillig (right), senior agricultural business majors from Aurora, Mo., receiving award from Department of Agriculture Head Dr. Anson Elliott (center).

The Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha Scholarship
Sarah Rapp, President of Delta Tau Alpha (left), presenting award to Alicia Vandever, senior animal science major from Seymour, Mo. (right).

Glenn E. Karls Senior Excellence Award
Ashley Gillig Aurora
Brittany Gillig Aurora

Ashley Gillig, senior agricultural business major from Aurora Mo. (left), receiving award from Department of Agriculture Head Dr. Anson Elliott (right).

Glenn E. Karls Senior Excellence Award in Agriculture
Ashley Gillig (left) and Brittany Gillig (right), senior agricultural business majors from Aurora, Mo., receiving award from Department of Agriculture Head Dr. Anson Elliott (center).

Brittany Gillig, senior agricultural business major from Aurora Mo. (left), receiving award from Department of Agriculture Head Dr. Anson Elliott (right).

Tera Dover, senior agricultural education major from Aurora, Mo. (left), receiving award from Department of Agriculture Head Dr. Anson Elliott (right).

Hollie Elliott, senior agricultural communications major from Springfield, Mo. (left), receiving award from Department of Agriculture Head Dr. Anson Elliott.
The agricultural communications class, under the direction of class instructor Joyce Cutright, provided feature stories for the spring 2008 edition of the Missouri State University Ag Review.

Class members pictured are:

- Hailey Robertson, freshman agricultural communications major from Lamar, Mo.
- Lauren Bills, junior agricultural major from Fair Grove, Mo.
- Jordan E. Haymes, junior agricultural communications major from Mount Vernon, Mo.
- Ellen Timmerman, freshman agricultural communications major from Nunica, Mich.
- Amanda Mayers, senior animal science major from West Plains, Mo.
- Andrew Ormiston, senior agricultural communications major from Sparta, Mo.
- Wetonah Toney, freshman agricultural education major from Marshfield, Mo.
- Jill Kohler, junior animal science major from Seneca, Mo.
- Rebecca Price, junior animal science major from Schell City, Mo.
- Nathan King, senior animal science major from Lebanon, Mo.
- Lauren Kneip, junior animal science major from Harrison, Ark.
- Allie Massa, junior, agricultural education major from Lamar, Mo.
- Levi Moore, sophomore animal science major from Mountain View, Mo.
- Jake Wilhoit, senior animal science major from Cole Camp, Mo.
- Jocelyn Butler, junior animal science major from Republic, Mo.
- Ethan Miller, sophomore animal science major from Centralia, Mo.
- Chase Wilson, senior agricultural communications major from Marshfield, Mo.
- Cory North, senior animal science major from Lebanon, Mo.

Layout and Copy Editing: Pamela Mayer, Joyce Cutright, Andrew Ormiston, Agriculture Department Office Staff
Agriculture Forum Deemed a Success

by Wenonah Toney and Kimberly James

The 10th Missouri State University Collegiate Farm Bureau Agriculture Forum hosted speakers Congressman Roy Blunt and Charles Kruse May 2 in the White River Room at Bass Pro Shops to bring awareness to and focus on critical issues facing rural America. This annual program is exemplary of Missouri State University’s public affairs mission.

Dr. Neitzel, Missouri State University president, welcomed guests to the event.

Jeremy Hayward served as moderator of the forum. Hayward is an agronomy specialist who works as MFA field crops area sales manager.

United States Representative Roy Blunt expressed his views of American agriculture. “Agriculture is an industry in a dramatic change… One of the greatest opportunities is that we produce more food than we can consume.”

Missouri Farm Bureau President Charles Kruse cautioned that “this is an exciting yet perilous time for agriculture. What’s scary is that we are now the number one importer of nitrogen fertilizer.”

“The audience consisted of federal, state and county government officials as well as business leaders, and farmers,” said Dr. Anson Elliott, Missouri State University Agriculture Department head. “This allowed a healthy discussion of the issues facing rural America.”