



New Ground

The College of Agriculture and Technology Newsletter



ARKANSAS STATE
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Inside This Issue

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From the Desk of the Dean

Wow, Spring 2016 was an exceptionally busy time for the College of Agriculture and Technology. I continue to be amazed and humbled by the productivity and versatility of our faculty and staff. The spring semester got off to a big start with the 18th Annual Arkansas Soil and Water Education Conference and Irrigation Expo in January. A record attendance of over 350 people attended this year's conference. Just a few weeks after this, the 22nd Annual Agribusiness Conference was held with well over 500 in attendance. Dr. Bert Greenwalt had an "all-star" lineup of nationally renowned speakers and was pleased to share a milestone for the Lew Brinkley scholarship fund as it reached \$100,000.



In March, Dr. Donald (Bud) Kennedy was honored with the Delta Tau Alpha National Outstanding Teacher Advisor award. April brought the College of Agriculture and Technology Honors banquet where we recognized our exceptional students as well as awarding the prestigious CoAT Alumni Awards. Alumni honored this year included: Dr. Earle Pope and Brigidier Gen. Keith Klemmer (both receiving an Outstanding Alumnus Awards), Wesley Ward (Outstanding Young Alumnus Award) and the Craighead County Master Gardeners (Distinguished Service Award). Our students had a number of activities throughout the semester that included the Pack Shack (packing 10,000 meals in just over an hour). Our faculty, staff and students continue to "Lead the Pack" here at Arkansas State University!

Go Red Wolves!



Dr. Kennedy and Students Honored by Delta Tau Alpha

A team of eight Arkansas State University students and their adviser, Dr. Donald "Bud" Kennedy, traveled to Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan., for the 57th annual Delta Tau Alpha honor society's national convention where they placed in all categories of the convention.

The group brought home the prestigious Corbus Award for having the outstanding DTA chapter nationally. This award was established in memory of Professor H.D. Corbus of Western Michigan University in 1960.

A-State placed third in the Delta Tau Alpha Quiz Bowl. Our students earned the traveling plaque for Highest Percent Convention Attendance.

Additionally, Dr. Kennedy, College of Agriculture and Technology associate dean and chapter adviser, was awarded the Delta Tau Alpha National Outstanding Teacher Adviser award in recognition of his service to his students through teaching and advising.



Best Market Partner



The College of Agriculture and Technology was recognized as the 1st recipient of the BEST MARKET PARTNER award sponsored by the Arkansas Farmers' Market Association at their annual 2016 meeting. This award recognized the major contributions that our college made to the success of the ASU Regional Farmers' Market



Dr. Sharma Participates in Half Marathon

Memorial Day weekend Dr. Rajesh Sharma participated in the Great American River Run, a half marathon and 5K run. The Memorial Day Weekend event paid tribute to our past and present servicemen/women by supporting the Wounded Warrior Project and providing an opportunity for runners to raise funds supporting the mission of this important veteran's service organization.

Dr. Sharma Featured in IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications

Dr. Rajesh Sharma published in the Jan-Feb 2016 Issue of IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications. The manuscript entitled: "Photoelectrochemical Hydrogen Production Using Novel Heteroatom-Doped Carbon Under Solar Simulated Radiation" was based on the research Dr. Sharma and his colleagues completed for a NASA RID grant.

Students Come Together to Feed the Needy

Students in the College of Agriculture and Technology joined forces with multiple student organizations on campus. They all worked together to raise \$2,500, and then hired an organization called Pack Shack to come to the college to help. Forty-five students packed 10,000 meals in 1 hour and 45 minutes with the help of the Pack Shack organization.

"I was really excited because it's a way for us to reach out to our community and help," Makenly Coles said.



22nd Annual Agribusiness Conference

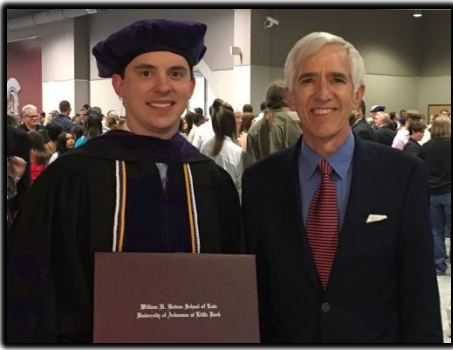
Arkansas State University's 22nd annual Agribusiness Conference was held on February 10, 2016, continuing its tradition of timely information and education outreach to farmers, agribusiness professionals and educators across the Mid-South. This year's conference focused on the agricultural economy, environmental law and regulation, business transition planning, trade policy and the commodity market outlook.



Agribusiness Club Visits Wilson, AR

Eleven members of the A-State Agribusiness Club visited the town of Wilson, Arkansas, on April 29. The students toured the Wilson Gardens, an organic produce farm; Farm Source Ag, a crop input retailer headquartered in Wilson; and ended the tour with dinner at the Wilson Café. The program was organized by club member Rachel Tucker who is an intern at Farm Source Ag.





Art Singleton Completes Law Degree

Mr. John Arthur Singleton completed his Juris Doctor degree and graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Bowen School of Law in May, 2016. He earned his BSA in Agricultural Business at A-State in 2013. While an A-State student, Art completed internships with the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation and Congressman Rick Crawford's Washington D.C. office. A native of Monticello, Arkansas, Art is employed by Riceland Foods, Inc. in Stuttgart.



Dr. L.E. Brinkley Scholarship Reaches Milestone

At this year's Agribusiness Conference, Dr. Bert Greenwalt announced that the L.E. Brinkley Scholarship Endowment has now reached \$100,000. The endowment is in honor of Dr. Lew E. Brinkley, who began teaching agribusiness at A-State in 1969. Dr. Brinkley retired in spring of 2005, but has remained faithful in attending and assisting with various activities in the college. In fact he still teaches an occasional Agribusiness course. Dr. Brinkley was at the conference and spoke briefly to the audience which included many of his former students and donors to the fund.

Dr. Pulley Gives 4-H Horse Presentation

Dr. Stephanie Pulley, Animal Science instructor in our college, as many know, is an avid horse rider. She was recently ask to give a presentation to the local 4-H Horse Club. So on February 22, at the A-Sate Equine Center, Dr. Pulley spoke to about a dozen club members on the Bashkir Curly horse breed. She brought her own gelding named Buckle to demonstrate breed characteristics.



Collegiate FFA Pancake Breakfast

On February 25, 2016, the A-State Collegiate FFA held a pancake breakfast to celebrate National FFA Week and to promote the Collegiate FFA in our College. The CFFA members and advisors prepared a "free" breakfast for the faculty and students in the CoAT lobby but accepted donations for those who wanted to contribute.

A-State Student Visits Outstanding Alumnus

A-State senior agribusiness student, Hunter Biram, met with Dr. J.B. Penn in the Washington D.C. office of Deere & Company on March 16, 2016. Dr. Penn is an Outstanding Alumnus of the A-State College of Agriculture & Technology, a native of Lynn, AR, and the Chief Economist for Deere & Company. Hunter is currently a Congressional Intern and is spending the spring semester in Congressman Rick Crawford's Washington D.C. office. Hunter is a native of Floral, AR.



Dr. Peter Larbi's Classes Learn about New Technologies

Dr. Peter Larbi's Modern Agricultural Systems class took a field trip to Greenway Equipment in Weiner, AR, and Cache River Valley Seed in Cash, AR, on February 26, 2016. Then on March 17, 2016, Dr. Larbi instructed students of the Precision Application Technology class in a lab at the ASU Farm



Agribusiness Club Members Assist at Conference

A-State Agribusiness Club member Emma Johnson served as a student assistant at the Arkansas Women in Agriculture conference in North Little Rock on March 10-11, 2016. Pictured with Emma is Dakota Williams, a student at Ozarka College who will transfer to the A-State agribusiness program in 2017. Also, representing A-State at the conference was senior agribusiness major, Rachael Tucker.

Plant Science Students Receive Scholarships

Plant Science Students, Trey Bevis, Whitney Schug, and Morgan Harlin visited the Arkansas State Plant Board on April 1, 2016. They were recipients of the 2015-2016 ASPB internship awards.



18TH ANNUAL SOIL AND WATER EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Wes Ward, Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Arkansas, was the luncheon speaker for Arkansas State University's 18th annual Soil and Water Education Conference and Arkansas Irrigation Expo on Wednesday, Jan. 27, at the A-State Convocation Center.

Ward was one of a number of speakers on this year's program who addressed the latest issues and trends in soil and water conservation. With the addition of the Arkansas Irrigation Expo this year, the conference included a trade show with vendors and displays.

"The conference serves the Mid-South region by providing outreach information/education offerings to the public, crop producers, ranchers, educators and agribusiness professionals, and, of course, our students," said Dr. Tim Burcham, dean of the College of Agriculture and Technology. "The conference planning committee secured a wonderful group of nationally recognized speakers for this year's event."

"Many of the presentations featured producers who implemented a particular conservation practice alongside the soil-water professional that assisted them with their particular project," Burcham added. "There is no substitute for producers hearing from other producers when it comes to implementation of new and/or innovative conservation practices. I believe this perspective has played a major role in the continued growth and relevance of this conference."

Spring 2016 Petting Zoo

This semester's biannual Bill and Alice Nix Petting Zoo was open to the public on April 14-16. Groups and individuals were able to get up close to animals and learn more about agriculture and the A-State Farm. The College of Agriculture & Technology students and faculty gave tours and information about the animals at the petting zoo and other animals at the farm. For some of the children, and even adults, it was their first time to encounter animals on a farm, as you can tell from the pictures.



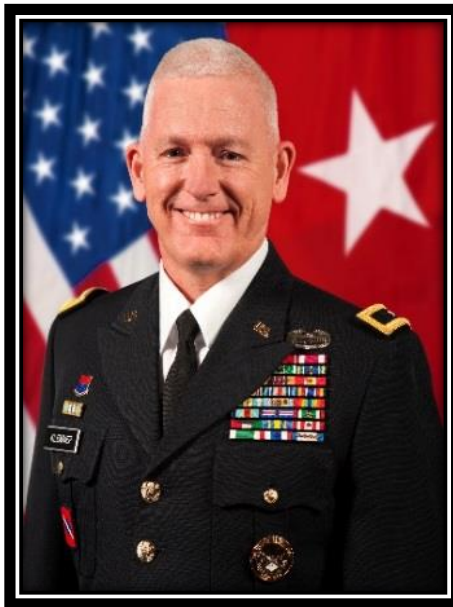
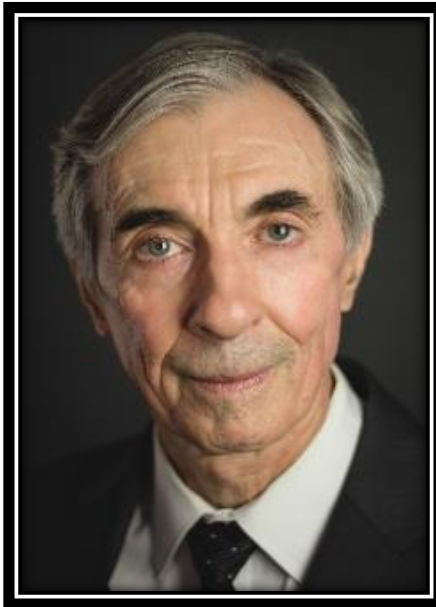
The 2016 College Honors Banquet

This year's CoAT Honors Banquet was held on the evening of April 19 to honor students, teachers and alumni for their achievements during the 2015-2016 school year. Students were recognized for outstanding academics, club involvement, leadership, and scholarships.

Outstanding Graduating Seniors included; Rachael Tucker - Agricultural Business; Cassie Burdett and Corey Readnour - Animal Science; Kanssandra Riley - Plant and Soil Science; and Kevin Hart - Technology. Kevin Hart was also recipient of the Chancellor's Scholar award, while Avery Bise was recognized as the Olen P. Nail Outstanding Junior.

Outstanding Members of Student Organization went to: Carter Kaiser – Agribusiness Club; Dustin Headstream – Alpha Tau Alpha, Collegiate FFA, and Garden Club; Jane Harris – Block and Bridle/PreVet Club; Trent Taylor – Collegiate Farm Bureau; Corey Readnour and LaNese Mahan – Delta Tau Alpha; T'Ray Rutledge – Equine Club, and Lyle Fulton – Plant and Soil Science Club.

Dr. Steve Green was the college's nominee for the Excellence in Teaching Award, and Dr. David Agnew was a Nominee for Excellence in Professional Service Award. Dr. Green was the winner of the 2015-16 university wide Excellence in Teaching Award.



Outstanding Alumni that were recognized this year were Dr. Earle Pope (left), Brigadier General Keith Klemmer (Center), and Mr. Wesley Ward (right).

The Distinguished Service Award went the Craighead County Master Gardeners. This group is involved in numerous service activities in on campus.

OTHER EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER

On July 23rd, the U of A Extension Service held a Small Ruminant Conference at the ASU Farm. The conference covered areas of caring for sheep and goats and detecting parasites in ruminants.

In July, Dr. Peter Larbi presented research at the American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers annual international meeting held in Orlando, Florida.

Whitney Schug and Ryan Holbert were recipients of the Jim and Betty Sloan Agriculture Scholarship and featured in the Jonesboro Sun.

On June 25th the ASU Farmer's Market celebrated 10 years of providing farm fresh produce, creative crafts, and showcasing local farms and vendors.

UAPB AgDiscovery group visited A-State and participated in a tour of the A-State Farm, Bill and Alice Nix Petting Zoo, and the Equine Center.

The Greenway Scholarship Dinner was held on April 28th.

Do you have a story, idea, announcement, or up-date on a promotion or award you or someone else has received? Send it to the newsletter! Email us at agri@astate.edu. Please send us your email address so that we may send this newsletter by email in the future. You can send it to the same email address as above.


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