



New Ground

The Official Newsletter of The College of Agriculture



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FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

In a recent conversation with Dr. Greg Phillips, Dean of ASU's College of Agriculture, he shared about recent events in the college and upcoming plans for improvement. He also discussed how he thinks the college can improve its relationship with the rest of the campus, the local community, and beyond.

In July of '05, Dr. Phillips began serving as Dean of the Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering and Sciences & Mathematics. Since then, he has seen relationships grow among them and has sought to improve each unit's weaknesses.

According to Dr. Phillips, the College of Agriculture has a strong student club/organization and service learning component. Dr. Phillips has encouraged the other colleges to follow the example set by the College of Agriculture.

The Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI), a statewide program involving ASU, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, the University of Arkansas - Division of Agriculture and the Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, has in the last two years begun working with the College of Agriculture. The program, originally funded by state tobacco settlement monies, focus on the agricultural interface with medicine and health issues. At ASU, the focus has been on plant-made pharmaceuticals. Currently, the College of Agriculture and ABI are involved in research to improve the storage life of rice.

The ASU Farm is encouraging community involvement and seeking to enhance public opinion about its role in the College and the community. In the past year, the farm has hosted a petting zoo each fall and spring semester. Children especially, seem to enjoy visiting the farm and seeing the animals up close. Additionally, last summer the ASU farm started hosting a regional farmers' market, which attracts several hundred people each week. Dr. Phillips mentioned that improving public understanding of agriculture remains a high priority for the College of Agriculture. Finally, the school farm has been used for more hands-on courses and has greatly expanded research in the areas of plant and animal sciences.

The Technology program, previously housed in the College of Engineering, is now a joint program between the Colleges of Agriculture and Engineering. Through the development of a food-manufacturing degree emphasis area, the program will work with the College of Agriculture's Associate Degree in Food Technology, started last year. Furthermore, it links the College of Agriculture to ABI, which stresses expansion of the food safety network.

In the area of academics, there is a new doctoral program in Molecular Biosciences, which is directed by the Judd Hill Chair of Agricultural Biotechnology, Dr. Pam Weathers. Also, the Environmental Sciences Program, which has offered doctoral degrees since 1998, has now added a new master's degree.



Greg Phillips, Dean

By Scott Kirkman, Sophomore Ag Education Major from Poplar Bluff, Mo.

THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE HAS THREE NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



**DR. CHRISTIANE
SCHROETER**

Dr. Christiane Schroeter earned a bachelor's degree in food sciences and a master's in Food Economics from the University of Giessen, Germany. She received one of six scholarships in the exchange program between Kansas State University (KSU) and the University of Giessen. She also received a scholarship from the Fulbright Commission for her stay in the U.S.A.

In 2000, Dr. Schroeter graduated from KSU with a M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics and returned to Germany, finishing her Master of Science in Food Economics the following year.

In 2002, she started the doctorate program in Agricultural Economics with specializations in agribusiness and industrial organization at Purdue University. Graduating in '05, she received the award for outstanding dissertation in Purdue's Ag Economics Department.

Her current research relates to health economics, consumer demand and market analysis. She is working on several publications and grant proposals, having already received a grant from the Council of Food, Agriculture and Research Economics. Dr. Schroeter has also received several travel grants, including one from ASU and another from the American Agricultural Economics Association for conferences in Alaska, Connecticut, and California.

*By Clay Turner,
Senior Agricultural Education, Vilonia, Ark.*



**DR. STEVE
GREEN**

Dr. Steve Green is originally from the San Francisco Bay area in California. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and his master's and Ph.D. from Purdue University.

He came to Arkansas State University to fill the position left when Dr. Muir retired. He commented that he wanted to work in Soil and Water Conservation at a smaller school than the ones he attended as an undergraduate and graduate student. Dr. Green said, "Soil and Water Conservation is my passion." He wants to influence students on a more personal scale, and he thinks he has greater opportunity to do that here at ASU.

Dr. Green says that he would like to build the Soil and Water Conservation program at ASU so it will be a place where students can receive training in Soil and Water Conservation, preparing them to enter their chosen profession.

Dr. Green said that he loves it here in Northeast Arkansas and has already begun sinking roots in the area. He plans on being here a long time to see these goals turn into reality.

*By Adam Clairday,
Senior Agricultural Education, Jonesboro, Ark.*



**DR. SOOHYOUN
AHN**

Dr. Sooyoun Ahn earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Yonsei University, in her native country of South Korea. She came to the United States in 1998 to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where she earned her doctorate in Food Science in 2003.

Dr. Ahn and her husband moved to Jonesboro in July to become an Assistant Professor of Food Science at ASU. She said she wanted to teach at the college because the food science program is a new offering with much potential. Dr. Ahn added that this region has great diversity among industries in the food sector.

Dr. Ahn says her goals for the Food Science program include seeing the program develop into a four-year undergraduate degree program, strengthening ties among the region's food industries and the college which will lead to supporting internships and job opportunities for students.

Dr. Ahn said that aside from the hot, humid weather and large number of mosquitoes, she enjoys living in Jonesboro.

*By Adam Clairday,
Senior Agricultural Education, Jonesboro, Ark.*

Dr. Widick Passes Away, 1942-2006

We are sad to announce that Dr. Darrell Widick died suddenly on June 14, 2006. Although Dr. Widick did not teach many courses at ASU, many people knew him and his work in soybean research and development. Although born in Springfield, Tennessee, Dr. Widick spent most of his life in Arkansas, having spent the last 24 years in Jonesboro. He served as professor of soybean research at both ASU and the University of Arkansas. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and received his master's and doctorate from the University of Arkansas in '78 in Plant Breeding and Genetics. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the Widick family. Memorials may be made to: ASU, College of Agriculture, c/o Dr. K. Pittcock, P.O. Box 1080, State University, AR 72467



Drs. Brinkley and Muir Retire

Dr. Lew Brinkley retired after earning much respect as a professor in the College of Agriculture. After his retirement, he came back to ASU to help teach Land Economics and the new First Year Experience (FYE) course for the College of Agriculture. When asked about the FYE class, he said he thought it benefited new students at ASU. In 2005, the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce awarded Brinkley the highly esteemed Outstanding Agribusiness Person award.

Dr. Muir also retired in May of 2005 after serving ASU and the U of A for 17 years. Dr. Muir and his wife are living in Cherokee Village and enjoying more time together. He attends special events and visits with faculty.

*By Jody Potter,
Junior Agricultural Education, Paragould, Ark.*

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE PHOTO ALBUM



Horse Judging Clinic at Show Barn



Teachers learn how to integrate ag into the classroom



Students gain practical experience in the greenhouse



Students on the edge of inactive volcano in Costa Rica



Entry drive to the Costa Rican farm where we stayed



Helping at State Fair



Agribusiness Conference



Student teaching



The head cooks at Club Fest



School Children Touring ASU Farm



College of Ag Booth at National FFA Convention

ASU
ARKANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITYTM
College of Agriculture

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

- ➔ Classes begin for Spring Semester — January 8th
- ➔ Soil and Water Conference — January 11, Convocation Center 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- ➔ North Delta Farm Expo — February 8-9, Craighead County Fair Grounds
- ➔ Agribusiness Conference — February 14, ASU Fowler Center & Convocation Center
- ➔ Scholarship Applications due — February 15, See Web page for more details,
<http://agri.astate.edu/Scholarships/Scholarshiprequirements.mht>
- ➔ Spring Break — March 19-23
- ➔ Northeast Arkansas FFA District Career Development Events — March 28
- ➔ COA Honors Banquet — April 12
- ➔ Spring Petting Zoo — April 13-14, ASU Farm (13th for organized groups, 14th for general public)
- ➔ Golf Tournament — April 24
- ➔ Farmers Market Opens — in April
- ➔ Graduation — May 6
- ➔ Herbicide Symptomology Training — June (contact Dr. Shumway for more information)

For more information about these or other events associated with the college please contact us at 870-972-2085 or visit the College of Agriculture Webpage at: <http://agri.astate.edu>

— Please cut or tear along dotted line, place in envelope with check, and mail to appropriate address —

Please remember ASU in your Charitable Giving. If you would like to make a gift to the College of Agriculture or the scholarship fund please complete the information below, or go to the ASU Web site: <http://support.astate.edu/OnlineGiving.htm> and complete the form online.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Your Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Amount of Gift: _____

How would like to direct your gift? ☐ Agricultural Education ☐ Agricultural Technology ☐ Safety Expo
 ☐ Equestrian Center ☐ Arkansas Food Land and People ☐ Nail Circle
 ☐ Soil and Water Conference ☐ General Scholarship Fund ☐ Agribusiness Conference
 ☐ Other, Please Explain or Specify _____

Send all gifts to the ASU Foundation, P.O. Box 1990, State University AR 72467-1990. If you have questions you may contact the College of Agriculture at 870-972-2085 or the ASU Foundation Office at 870-225-8343

MEET THE STUDENT WRITERS, CONTRIBUTORS, DEVELOPERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter was developed by members of the Alpha Tau Alpha and Collegiate FFA at the request of the Dean and with the help of faculty advisors Lori Fenner, Kevin Humphrey and David Agnew

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Jody Potter
Joe Smith

Clay Turner
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15th Annual Student Leadership Conference

The College of Agriculture hosted the 15th Annual Student Leadership Conference on September 16th. The primary focus of this year's event was on the Collegiate Life Knowledge program developed by the National FFA organization. The collegiate program manager for the National FFA Organization, Jill Casten, presented information that the agriculture students could use in their student organizations and clubs to help develop programs. Chuck Tucker, an ASU graduate and director of organization and member programs at Arkansas Farm Bureau, was the luncheon speaker. Throughout the conference, students participated in educational activities relating to leadership. To end the conference, three agricultural education volunteers, Mandy Reilly, Micka Hampton and Joe Smith, each taught a lesson to the group. The College of Agriculture looks forward to hosting next year's conference.

By Mandy Reilly, Senior Agricultural Education, Greenbriar, Ark.

*Preparing
leaders for
the future of
agriculture.*



ASU Regional Farmers' Market

This year marked the opening of a local farmers' market on the corner of Aggie and Stadium. The first weekend, June 17th, saw 2,000 people enjoying the market. Dr. Pittcock, a member of the advisory committee for the market, said, "It's a big success and an outlet for consumers to get fresh products." The six member advisory committee explored feasible options, set ground rules and managed the market. Throughout the season, at least 25 different vendors have set-up and sold their produce. This non-profit group is raising funds for a building in the future, but for now, people seem happy to come and socialize under the trees and tents.

By Mandy Reilly,

Senior Agricultural Education, Greenbriar, Ark.



*Richard Bell, the Secretary of Agriculture
toured the market*



Farm and Home Safety Expo: 325 Students Attended



Each year there is a farm and home safety program held here in Jonesboro for the purpose of educating children about the proper and safe ways to work and play around the home or farm. The focus of the event is fifth grade students from the Jonesboro area. Community volunteers, ASU students, local sponsors and area high school FFA Chapters make this event possible. Presenters discussed and demonstrated topics such as fire safety, proper ATV safety, electrical and high voltage safety, 911 and farm medics, proper methods of hand washing and food handling, proper grain safety, chemical safety, lawn mower safety, animal safety and tractor safety. Students rotated through a presentation on each of these topics, then received a free T-shirt and lunch. Valuable assistance was provided by the Westside FFA Chapter, which cooked and served lunch. The Bay, Brookland, Corning, Cross County and East Poinsett County FFA chapters provided members that served as team leaders. ASU students also helped in set-up and facilitation of the event. Plans are already in progress for the 2007 expo.

*By Callie Blevins,
Senior Agribusiness, Bono, Ark.*

Club Fest: Fall 2006

Every fall semester, the Agriculture Council hosts Ag Fest. This is a time when new and old students have the opportunity to meet one another as well as their professors. The students also have a chance to check out all the clubs in the College of Agriculture. Each club has a booth set up with an activity where participants can win a prize or even be lucky enough to kiss a pig. This year, the colleges of Engineering and Sciences & Mathematics joined in the fun. The Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity has cooked for Ag Fest the last two years and have done a remarkable job. The celebration ends with an auction that each of the clubs involved puts items in. The auctioneer for this past year was Joey Austin from Marmaduke. The new Club Fest was a great success and will continue.

By Amanda Snider,

B.S.A Agricultural Sciences/ Agriculture Education, Lonoke, Ark.



*The Dean plays a
mean guitar.
The Dean's band
provided
entertainment at
Club Fest.*

College of Ag has Booth at National FFA Convention

Six students from the College of Agriculture attended the 79th National FFA Convention. The students were Micka Hampton, Amanda Snider, Callie Blevins, Mandy Reilly, Joe Smith, and Philip Ives. Also, Drs. Kevin Humphrey and David Agnew attended the convention. This was the first year for the convention to be held in Indianapolis. Half of the students worked the Ag Mechanic contest and the other half stayed with the ASU booth at the career show. This year, roughly 50,000 high school students across the country attended the event. We brought over 300 completed reply cards back on prospective students. This was the first booth that ASU has had at the convention and it went great. The College of Agriculture appreciates the leadership of Farm Bureau in helping this become a reality.

*By Phillip Ives,
Junior in Agricultural Education, Cave City, Ark.*

FACULTY KUDOS

Dr. Paul Armah receives a Fulbright Grant for 2007. Dr. Armah came to the United States from Accra, Ghana in Africa. He graduated from the University of Ghana with a bachelor's in Business Administration. He received his master's and doctorate from the University of Wales in Great Britain. Dr. Armah came to ASU in '98, where he started teaching in the ag business program. This spring, however, he will be going back to Africa on sabbatical to teach and conduct research in Namibia. He receives this opportunity to go abroad as part of a Fulbright Fellowship. He will leave for Namibia in January and will return the following December. As Dr. Armah leaves to represent the United States and ASU in Namibia, we wish him a safe and joyful journey.

By Joe Smith, Senior Agricultural Education, Brookland, Ark.

Dr. Bill Humphrey, on top of his other duties of teaching, advising students and being advisor to the Block and Bridle, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and Pre-Vet Clubs, is now serving as President of the ASU Faculty Senate for 2005-07. One of the primary responsibilities he has had as president elect and now president is the development of a faculty handbook. Dr. Humphrey has been representing the faculty on many committees. We wish him well as he provides leadership for the Faculty Senate.

By James Ashcraft, Senior Agricultural Education, Pocahontas, Ark.

Dr. Christiane Schroeter was elected as the secretary of the Food and Agricultural Marketing Policy Section of the American Agricultural Economics Association. She organized a workshop at the Association's conference in Long Beach, California and received the Outstanding Dissertation award from the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University in '05.

Dr. Steve Green traveled with a team of four faculty members from ASU that attended the "Leadership Summit to Effect Change in Teaching and Learning" at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

Dr. David Agnew, along with graduate student David Powell, attended the National Agricultural Education Research Conference sponsored by the American Association of Agricultural Educators in Charlotte, N.C., where they presented a paper relating to ag literacy. Dr. Agnew and Dr. Mark McJunkin, from the College of Education, presented four papers at the 13th International Conference on Learning in Jamaica last June.

Do you have a story, idea, announcement, or up-date on a promotion or award you or someone else has received that you think should be in the newsletter? If so, please send it to Dr. Greg Phillips at agri@astate.edu

We also ask that if you would, send us your email so that we may send this newsletter by email in the future.

You can send it to the same email address as above.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Michael McCarty, a 2002 graduate of the ASU College of Agriculture from Bald Knob Ark., was serving in Baghdad, Iraq only two years after graduation. He has received the Purple Heart and the Silver Star awards for his outstanding conduct in battle. To learn more about his experiences, check out the story in the ASU alumni publication called Voices, Volume 9, Number 1.



Brian Harris, a 2001 graduate of ASU in Agricultural Education, was selected as the 2005-06 Outstanding Young Agriculture Teacher of the Year for Arkansas. Brian teaches in Paris, Ark. The award was presented at the State FFA Convention last June, at Couchdale.



Marcus Ashlock, a 1994 graduate of ASU, recently completed his doctoral degree in agricultural education at Oklahoma State University, with an emphasis in the area of agricultural communications. Dr. Ashlock's most recent work, currently in press for the Journal of Applied Communications, reported on a media framing study of the BSE issue in Washington titled "The cow that stole Christmas: Framing the first U.S. mad cow crisis." Before going to graduate school, he worked for Tyson. Marcus recently accepted a position in the Department of Agricultural Communications at Kansas State University.



↓ side note

OUTSTANDING CLUB AND MEMBER

ASU student Kim Lee was selected Outstanding Club Member for the Southern Region, American Society of Horticulture Science. At the Society's annual meeting the Plant Science Club placed 3rd as Outstanding Club among all clubs in the Southern Region.

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