



New Ground

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The College of Agriculture and Technology Newsletter



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FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

Since the last newsletter, a number of significant changes and activities have occurred or are underway in the College of Agriculture and Technology (CoAT).

At the end of June, Dr. Greg Phillips stepped down from the dean position and returned to the research lab and classroom in the general area of plant biotechnology. Dr. Phillips served as dean for eight years, and we wish him the best in this new role in the college.

On July 1 this summer, I was appointed as interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Technology. I have served as dean of Engineering at ASU since 2009. Prior to ASU, I served on the faculties of the University of Arkansas (1977-78), Purdue University (1978-88), University of Georgia-Tifton Campus (1988-91) and North Carolina State University (1991-2009). At the last two universities, I was department head of Biological and Agricultural Engineering for a total of 11 years. I grew up on a family farm in St. Francis County (near Hughes), where we grew cotton, rice, soybeans, wheat and grain sorghum.

Dr. Donald "Bud" Kennedy is serving as interim associate dean of CoAT. In that role, he is responsible for much of the day-to-day operation of the college. Michael Barrett is now a full-time instructor in the Technology program and Alan Keith has joined that program as a part-time instructor. A big change that will affect all of us in CoAT is the recent announcement by Wilma Pendegraft of her intention to retire at the end of December.

I have asked a number of leaders in the agriculture industry, the food industry, agribusiness and governmental entities to serve on an ad hoc advisory committee to work with the college to help us better understand our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Over this academic year, I am hopeful we will craft a strategic plan that will serve the college for years to come. Here is a list of the ad hoc committee members: Thom Beasley, Craighead Co. Farm Bureau, Dan Braswell, Nestlé Prepared Foods, David Gairhan, Production Agriculture/Farmer, Homer Lenderman, Education/State Government, Bill Miller, Animal Agriculture, Randall Pope, Agricultural Management, Chuck Tucker, Farm Bureau Field Services, Randy Woodard, Cache Valley Seeds, and Bob Young, USDA-NRCS.

In late September, a search was initiated to find the next dean of CoAT. It is hoped interviews will occur early in 2012, with a new dean in place by summer 2012.



Dr. David B. Beasley,
Interim Dean

Dr. David B. Beasley, Ph.D., P.E. Interim Dean

From Around the World: International Students

One of the most difficult things students face when going off to college is moving away from their homes and families. Some students cope by driving home on the weekends, while others have families who come to them for a visit. In most cases, students are able to interact with their families on a regular basis. What happens if your loved ones are thousands of miles away and on a different continent? The international students of our college are faced with this very challenge. This year our college is fortunate to have 20 international students. We want you to get to know a couple of them.

Lucia Acosta Gamboa, who typically goes by "Lucy," is from Costa Rica. She has already obtained an undergraduate degree in agronomy and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Agriculture (M.S.A.) with an emphasis in soil science. Lucy's brother, Walter, came to ASU in 2008 and is working on a doctoral degree. Lucy credits him for her relocation to Jonesboro. In addition, she previously had the opportunity to intern with Dr. Steve Green. Lucy says she enjoyed it so much that she chose to stay at ASU to continue her education. Arkansans must have made quite an impression on Lucy because she plans to further her education by pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of Arkansas. Although Lucy enjoys her time in the U.S., she ultimately wants to return to her home country. Once there, she wants to teach or work for a government agency.

Sreekanth Chittepu (called "Sree" in our college) is from India. Like Lucy, Sree obtained his undergraduate degree in Agricultural Science while still a resident in his home country. He is now a graduate assistant in the College of Agriculture & Technology and working on an Master of Science in Agriculture (M.S.A.) with an emphasis in plant science. Sree says he was drawn to ASU for a couple of reasons. Although they are thousands of miles apart, India and Arkansas have similar climates. Also, there is a heavy influence of rice in this area. Sree says his "passion for learning" helped to drive him in this direction. That same passion may keep him here after graduation because he wants to pursue a Ph.D. in environmental science at ASU.

Our third international student, Yedan Xiong, is from China. For her professors and classmates, she has simplified her name to "Victoria" Yedan. Victoria came to Jonesboro through an exchange program offered by the college she was attending in China. While here, she is working on a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (B.S.A.) with an emphasis in agronomy. After graduation, Victoria hopes to remain in the U.S. to pursue a master's degree. Eventually, she will return to China to live and work.

Morgan Constant, Sr. Agribusiness major, Caruthersville, Mo.



Lucy, Sree and Victoria

Dr. Bud Kennedy serves as Interim Associate Dean



Dr. Donald "Bud" Kennedy, professor of Animal Science in the College of Agriculture and Technology, has been an ASU faculty member since July 1993. In addition to teaching and advising students in Animal Science, Dr. Kennedy

has been adviser for the Agriculture Honor Society, Delta Tau Alpha, for the last 15 years and co-advised the Pre-Vet Club and the Block and Bridle Club. His educational background includes an undergraduate degree in Agricultural Education from Sam Houston State University and a Ph.D. in Animal Science from LSU.

Earlier this year, Dr. David Beasley, who is serving as interim dean for the college, approached Dr. Kennedy about serving as interim associate dean during this transitional time. Dr. Beasley, who is also dean of College of Engineering, needed someone familiar with CoAT and its needs who could provide day-to-day oversight. Dr. Kennedy agreed and began his new duties in July 2011.

When asked about the challenges of being the interim associate dean vs. a faculty member, Dr. Kennedy said they were minimal so far because of his knowledge of the department. He said, "My long-term experience with the college is paying off because over that time I have learned the system, and there have been few surprises."

Although experience is a plus, a few challenges do exist, such as availability for advising students and being more involved with broader aspects of college public relations than just animal science. Dr. Kennedy enjoys representing the whole college and said, "It's always good to experience something new." He believes it is important to have faculty with excellent teaching skills who are available to guide students in the right direction.

Dr. Kennedy is currently focused on recruitment. He is studying enrollment numbers and where to concentrate recruitment efforts. He believes the college "needs to send a message to potential students that we want them on our campus."

Dr. Kennedy's main tips for student success is "go to class" and "be organized in studying so you can avoid surprises." He also recommended getting to know new people. He mentioned the importance of becoming involved with clubs and organizations on campus. Dr. Kennedy said active membership in a student organization increases leadership skills that can be applied later in life.

Cory Tyler, Sr., Agricultural Education major, Salem, Ark.



Dr. Bert Greenwalt's class visits Southern Tenant Farmers Museum. Mr. Jim Van Oven, (far right) a 1981 Agricultural Education graduate came along with his daughter, Kassey Whitner (back row center). Dr. Greenwalt is on the far left & Dr. Ruth Hawkins is standing next to Mr. Van Oven.

Agricultural Policy Class Visits Southern Tenant Farmers Museum

Dr. Bert Greenwalt, professor of Agricultural Economics, and 15 students enrolled in his Agricultural Policy & Current Issues class held an off-campus session at the ASU Southern Tenant Farmers Union (STFM) Museum in Tyronza on September 20th. Dr. Ruth Hawkins, director of ASU's Delta Heritage Initiatives program and developer of the museum, presented the history of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union (STFU) and conducted a tour of the museum exhibits. The STFU was organized in Tyronza in 1934 in response to the economic hardships of the depression. By 1938 the STFU had grown to more than 35,000 members and moved its headquarters to Memphis. As an integrated organization in which women played a prominent role, the STFU provided an example for the post-war civil rights and women's movements. More information on the STFM is available at stfm.astate.edu.

Alpha Tau Alpha

On October 19, 2011, three Agricultural Education majors along with their Ag Ed Professor/Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA) adviser traveled to Indianapolis, Ind., to attend the National FFA Convention and National ATA Conclave. Thousands of FFA members, their advisers and families attended. Also, ATA members (mostly college students and their advisers) from across the country attended the annual conclave, which is held in conjunction with the FFA convention. ATA is an honorary organization for Agricultural Education majors. ATA events included a meal function to kick-off the conclave, business meetings and various contests including the Program of Excellence Contest, Parliamentary Procedure Contest, Quiz Bowl Contest and Debate Contest. In addition, there were professional development activities related to career development, networking and social activities. The convention concluded with an awards luncheon on the last day.

The group also attended the FFA career show, included vendors from all aspects of agriculture and a shopping mall with a large selection of Ag Ed materials, FFA resources and western wear. The Teachers' World Workshops included topics on animal science and husbandry, genetics, organic agriculture, groundwater contamination and floral design - all demonstrated with creative strategies for engaging students in the classroom.

Friday morning the debate teams gave pro and con views on whether a national secondary agriculture curriculum should be mandated. Dr. Agnew was one of the three judges for this event. The national curriculum is already written and in place for individual states, local schools or colleges to adopt if they wish.

Members who attended this convention included: Dr. David Agnew (faculty), Aaron King, Kara Deardorff and Ella Ellingson. ATA members are: Cory Tyler-president, Lucas Anderson- vice president, Kara Deardorff-secretary/treasurer, Ella Ellingson-reporter, Aaron King, Graham Agee, Henry Laxton, Cody Cornett, Tiffany Redwine and Michael Hollis.

Ella Ellingson, Jr. Agricultural Education major, Jonesboro, Ark.

Ag Fest Brings Success to New Students

Cooler temperatures arrived just in time for the College of Agriculture and Technology's annual "Ag Fest" on September 15 at the ASU Equine Center. The event was sponsored by Farm Bureau and organized by the CoAT Ambassadors. Festivities were under way at 5:30 p.m. with a free meal cooked by AGR member, Cody Whisnant and Dr. Tina Teague. Dr. Paul Teague kindly loaned the cooks his custom-built grill. The main course of the evening was pulled pork, smoked chicken and side dishes included baked beans, potato salad, chips, and cookies. After the meal, students were divided into groups for games and activities. Various student organizations associated with the CoAT provided games for the attendees. Students participated in groups and had fun getting to know each other. Once the games were completed, door prizes were awarded to lucky students who were present. The main purpose of Ag Fest is to promote communication among new students in the college, especially freshman. It allows them to meet other students with similar academic interests and learn about student organizations associated with their majors. The 2011 Ag Fest was a blast! See you there next year.

Cory Tyler, Sr. Agricultural Education major, Salem, Ark.



Student Leadership Conference 20th Anniversary

In an economy like the one we are living in today, it takes more than just good grades for college graduates to get the job they want. Because employers typically receive a host of resumes and applications for job postings, one might wonder who to make an impression over and above other applicants. Good leadership skills and the ability to network are tools graduates need to set themselves apart from other applicants. ASU's College of Agriculture and Technology has hosted an annual Leadership Conference for the past 20 years to provide students with these tools by giving them the opportunity to meet local agricultural business leaders and discover what employers are looking for in job candidates. They also hear recent graduates discuss the transition from school to work and various challenges they face.

This year's Leadership Conference was held at the ASU Convocation Center and sponsored by local agricultural businesses and entities. Dr. David Beasley, interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Technology, greeted the morning session along with conference organizers, Dr. David Agnew and Dr. Bert Greenwalt. The first speaker, Christy Valentine, executive director of Marketing and University Communications, opened with a presentation on "Branding Yourself." Because a person's "brand" is the way they are perceived by others, her message to students stressed the importance of creating a positive brand for themselves. Valentine concluded by reminding students their actions in college, whether good or bad, are a reflection of the brand they build.

Following Valentine's presentation an executive panel of agricultural business professionals discussed what employers want. Rick Bormann, senior vice president of Greenway Equipment, and Melissa Coles, a human resources generalist for Farm Credit Midsouth, are veterans of the Leadership Conference. They told students to prepare for talking to potential employers by conducting "mock" interviews. They also emphasized good leaders are made not born, so students must work to improve their skills.

New to the executive panel this year was Michele McLesky, of McLeskey Consulting, and Matt Coulter, Commercial Manager to Bunge North America's southern division, who discussed the importance of being familiar with a company before an interview and maintaining good relations with potential employers. They also reminded students to keep Facebook pages, as well as any other forms of social media, free of questionable material.

After a short break, attendees heard from a young professionals' panel consisting of Mr. Jeff Hignight, Glaub Farm Management, and Jennifer Victory, Arkansas Farm Bureau (both CoAT graduates). Since recently entering the work force, they shared insights about transitioning from school to work. Also on the panel were current CoAT students, Ali Baum and Art Singleton. They were selected to participate because they recently completed internships with Senator Boozman's office (Ali) and Arkansas Farm Bureau (Art). Ali and Art stressed the importance of gaining work experience through internships while in college.

Mr. Randy Kingston, a College of Agriculture and Technology 1983 alumnus, was the luncheon speaker. He is branch manager for Farm Credit Services Midsouth in Jonesboro. The conference ended with the presentation of a certificate to Kingston, an annual Leadership Scholarship award presentation to Houston Burford, and presentation of certificates to conference participants. A special thank-you was given to coordinators and sponsors of this important event.

Morgan Constant, Sr. Agribusiness major, Caruthersville, Mo.



Houston Burford of Conway, recipient of the Fourth Annual Leadership Scholarship



Historical Review

The first student leadership conference, conducted in the fall of 1992, was the result of a discussion between the College of Agriculture and Technology faculty members, Dr. Bert Greenwalt and Dr. David Agnew, about the needs of members in the student organizations they advise. They worked cooperatively to develop an orientation program for leaders in student organizations within their college.

With the support of the dean of the college, Dr. Greenwalt and Dr. Agnew organized the first Leadership Conference, which included presentations by business and industry representatives, the University of Arkansas, a state representative (an Agricultural Education alumnus) as the luncheon speaker, and a meal. The first year, 24 students participated. Students and faculty were featured on the local television station, KAIT, and pictures of students were in about 21 hometown newspapers.

Since the beginning, the goal of the conference has been to prepare students to grow personally and be effective leaders in their respective student organizations and careers.

SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:

Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce-Agribusiness Committee, Craighead County Farm Bureau, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, Farm Credit Midsouth, Ritter Agribusiness, Greenway Equipment Inc., and Poinsett Rice & Grain, Inc. Without their help this conference would not be possible.

A Different Kind of Agricultural Internship

I had the opportunity to participate in the Delta Garden Study program at Harrisburg Middle School in Harrisburg, Ark., this year. Over a period of three months, I saw a grassy area in the corner of the school grounds become a fertile garden. Ryan, and his partner, Jill, directed the project into reality.

Volunteers built raised beds (20 in all) and helped students plant seeds. Topsoil, bales of straw, strawberry plants and rabbit manure were donated by local businesses. A greenhouse was built and seeds were started in flats. In a short time, the transplants were put in the rest of the raised beds. I assisted with laying out the drip irrigation system. I also planted, weeded, watered and thinned plants as needed. Some of the vegetables grown included: Swiss chard, broccoli, cheddar cauliflower, basil, sunflowers, zinnias, corn, cucumbers, yellow scallopini squash, bib lettuce, mizuna, beets, carrots, kale, napa cabbage and spinach. On certain days, students got to pick and taste the produce. Some of it was also served in the cafeteria. A compost area has been set up to compost all vegetation and waste from the cafeteria as well.

"Dig Day," was a related event at the school where students came out each class period and worked on building raised beds. They planted strawberries, cabbage, onions and ornamental flowers. Straw was laid between the rows to keep down weeds and mud. The school also has four chickens which the students feed. A solar panel with a weather station was recently donated and will be used to heat the greenhouse this winter. The students seemed to enjoy being a part of the garden project and looked forward to their class time outdoors. I am happy to have been a part of this worthwhile program.

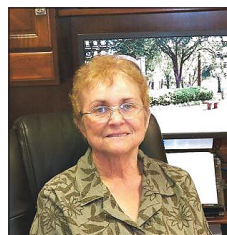
Ella Ellingson, Jr. Agricultural Education major, Jonesboro, Ark.



Left: Ella Ellingson with cooler season veggies. **Right:** (left to right) Ryan Newman, coordinator Delta Garden Project, Ella, and Dr. Bud Kennedy.



Wilma Pendegraft Retiring



Mrs. Wilma Pendegraft, Budget Specialist in the College of Agriculture and Technology, will retire December 31, 2011, after over 20 years at Arkansas State University. Not only does ASU feel like home to her, she was practically born and raised on the ASU campus. As a young girl, Wilma remembers playing on campus while her father managed the ASU farm, first at Rivervale, then later in Jonesboro where he managed the school farm on the main campus. After her father retired, Wilma's husband, Doug Strickland, took over management of the ASU Rivervale farm until his death in 2001. Other family members who have been employed at ASU are her current husband, John Pendegraft, Assistant Farm Director for five years (who retired last year) and her sister, Glenda Brooks, who has been employed for 38 years in the accounts payable department. Wilma and her husband now manage their own farm in Lake City.

Wilma says she likes seeing the new students arrive on campus and will miss the faculty and staff after she retires. Her advice to the person taking her place is, "It's a lot of work. Take your time and do things right and don't let anyone rush you through your work." Her retirement plans include enjoying her free time, traveling, and helping her husband on their farm. We wish Wilma the best in her retirement and hope to see her around campus.

The College of Agriculture and Technology faculty and staff will miss Wilma. Dr. Kennedy says, "Wilma is a pillar in the College of Agriculture and Technology: her knowledge, wisdom, and expertise in budget and financial management of our college will be greatly missed as well as her sweet and cheerful personality. I don't know how many times over the years I have heard faculty and staff say, "Go ask Wilma!" Dr. Beth Hood says "Wilma has been a lifesaver for me with my Dept. of Energy grant. She is patient, kind and efficient! She is knowledgeable and has helped me solve numerous problems and always has my balances at her fingertips. I'm not sure how I will survive without her, but I applaud her retirement! Have a great time with your grandchildren!"

Cody Emerson, Sr. Agricultural Business major, Jonesboro, Ark.

Students Attend Agricultural Council of Arkansas Board Meeting



Above: (Left to right) Senator John Boozeman, Ali Baum, and Art Singleton

Dr. Bert Greenwalt, professor of Agricultural Economics, and Ali Baum and Art Singleton, College of Agriculture and Technology students, attended the Agricultural Council of Arkansas Board of Directors meeting in Dumas on August 25th. The Agricultural Council of Arkansas is an organization which represents the interests of Arkansas row crop agriculture.

The keynote speakers were Arkansas Senator John Boozman and Dr. Mark Cochran, University of Arkansas vice president of Agriculture. Senator Boozman discussed the political and economic situation in Washington, including the outlook for the 2012

Farm Bill and the Columbia and Panama Free-Trade agreements. Dr. Cochran discussed the funding challenges faced by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture as state and federal governments tighten their budgets. He explained agriculture contributes 20 percent of Arkansas' jobs and continues to play a key role in economic development.

In the summer of 2011, Ali Baum worked as an intern in Senator Boozman's Jonesboro office. Art Singleton was a 2011 summer intern with the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, another farm organization that represents Arkansas agriculture. Dr. Greenwalt is a member of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas board of directors.

Art Singleton, Jr. Agribusiness major, Monticello, Ark.

Conley Williams Fights Hunger Around the World

Mr. Conley Williams, a 1969 Animal Science major from Paragould, visited the campus recently and reminisced with Dr. David Agnew about his time here in the 1960s. As a student worker on the ASU farm, Williams was a dairy herdsman for two years and had full responsibility of planting, cultivating and harvesting corn silage used to feed livestock and various other animals. He said, "It was hard work, and I earned my \$1.20 an hour."

While visiting, Mr. Williams shared various humorous stories about retired faculty including Dr. Hochstetler and his livestock, Dr. North and his notes, and Dr. Nail and his glasses. He recalled seeing two barns destroyed by a wind storm on campus and investigators from the National Weather Service trying to determine if it was a tornado or not. After graduation, Williams worked for Tyson Foods, Inc. for 12 years and other companies in the poultry industry.

Mr. Williams also shared his concern for food shortages and his humanitarian efforts with various organizations to help overcome hunger in remote parts of the world. Mr. Williams' concern for the plight of the hungry and his deep Christian values led him to become involved with the Agricultural Development Foundation affiliated with the Southern Baptist Church. Involvement with this organization has led him to work on developmental projects in Honduras, Africa, and other places to increase food production while maintaining soil stability and fertility.

When he is not away on agricultural missions, Mr. Williams resides in Centerton, Ark. Because of his age, he is less active in some of the international work and is looking for younger agriculture professionals who have a heart for mission projects and are willing to travel. The next major project will be in Africa, Cuba or Central America. The project has various phases, the first of which involves groups on site for two-to-three weeks, but he is also interested in people who can spend one-to-two years on site. Anyone interested in this or other agricultural projects may contact Mr. Williams via email agri.action@live.com or phone at 1-479-426-3500. For additional information, visit the website at www.adfarkansas.com.

Cory Tyler, Agricultural Education major, Salem, Ark.



Conley Williams



Nicholson & Vance Share Insights with Finance Class

Two ASU alumni gave students some interesting information about AgHeritage Farm Credit Services (AFSC) and an overlooked field that may interest college graduates. Charles Nicholson presented via compressed video from the Beebe campus to Dr. Bert Greenwalt's Agricultural Finance class on the Jonesboro campus on Tuesday, October 25th. Nicholson has been an Agricultural Financial Services Officer at the AFCS-Lonoke branch since 2003. AFCS offers loans, appraisals and financial investment services for farmers, ranchers and homeowners in nine branch locations. It is part of the AgriBank farm credit system with three associations in Arkansas—Farm Credit Midsouth, AgHeritage Farm Credit Service, and Farm Credit in West Arkansas. Nicholson said \$1 billion dollars in credit services is offered through AFCS alone. As a loan officer, his main focus in lending is customer service and value that results in high customer satisfaction.

Joining Nicholson for the lecture was Drew Vance, appraiser for AFCS appraisal services since 2004 and an alumnus of the College of Agriculture and Technology. He told the class only two appraisers work in all nine branches of AFCS. Job opportunities are available, but young people have not been entering the appraisal services field. Vance does not know why young people are not entering this field of work, but he thinks putting the time and effort into being a certified appraiser is definitely worth the effort. The first appraisal internship at AFCS was offered in 2011. Another internship available next summer through the Lonoke branch will involve shadowing a certified appraiser. Thanks to Dr. Bert Greenwalt for making this information available to Agricultural Business students.

Cody Emerson, Sr. Agricultural Business Major, Jonesboro, Ark.



Drew Vance



Charles Nicholson



UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING SEMESTER 2012

- Soil and Water Conference – Jan. 26, (ASU Convocation Center)
- Agribusiness Conference – Feb. 8, (Fowler Center and Convo)
- CoAT Job & Internship Fair – Feb. 21, (Agri Bldg. lobby)
- Eastern District FFA CDE's -- March 8, (ASU campus)
- Spring Break --- March 19-21
- CoAT Honor's Banquet -- April 10, Centennial Hall
- Last Day of Class -- April 30
- Farmer Market Opens -- May 5
- Spring Commencement -- May 12
- Summer I Session -- Starts May 30
- Summer II session -- Starts July 2

For more information, please contact us at 870-972-2085 or visit the College of Agriculture and Technology webpage at: <http://agri.astate.edu>

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (B.S.A.)

Agricultural Business (major)
various emphasis areas
Agricultural Studies (major)
Agricultural Education (emphasis)
Agricultural Technology
Agricultural Science
Animal Science (major)
Various emphasis areas
Plant & Soil Science (major)
Various emphasis areas
Technology (major):
Technical Studies
Technology Management
Computer Aided Drafting & Design
Computer Systems
Manufacturing-Industrial Technology

Bachelor of Applied Science

Associate Degrees in:

Technology
Food Technology

Endorsements in:

Adult Education
Career Education

TIDBITS

- Our condolences to Dr. Gregory Phillips who lost his daughter, Jessalyn, on August 28, 2011.
- Our condolences to Mr. Mike Johnson, ASU Farm director, on the loss of his mother, Vonda Johnson, on November 8, 2011.
- Congratulations to Agricultural Education majors, Graham Agee of Brookland, Michael Hollis of Rector, and Amy Dawson of Jonesboro, who all have new arrivals in their families. Each of these students is now a parent to a baby girl. All are reportedly healthy and doing well. Also Ag Ed major Tiffany Redwine was married in November. She is now Tiffany Phillips.
- Megan Lloyd has been awarded a \$500 CoAT Academic Performance Scholarship for the highest score on the Senior ACAT exit exam fall 2011.
- The college is expanding its internship program. Please email Dr. Bud Kennedy at dkennedy@astate.edu with internship information.

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

Please remember ASU in your Charitable Giving. If you would like to make a gift to the College of Agriculture & Technology 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?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Nail Circle	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm & Home Safety Expo
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Food Land and People	<input type="checkbox"/> Soil and Water Conference
<input type="checkbox"/> General Scholarship Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Leadership Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> Equine Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Langlois Endowment	<input type="checkbox"/> L.N. Hochstetler Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Dean's Discretionary Fund (General College Fund)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jasper A. Hayles Scholarship Fund	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

PERSPECTIVES

Faculty Kudos

Dr. David Agnew was a judge at the National Alpha Tau Alpha debate contest held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Last June, Dr. Agnew began his third term as president of the Board of the Literacy League of Craighead, Poinsett and Greene counties.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma recently attended the annual meeting of IEEE-Industrial Applications Society in Orlando where he presented a paper and served as a session chair. In the same meeting, Dr. Sharma was elected vice president of the Electrostatic Processes Committee executive council. He has been serving as Secretary for the council for the past two years.

Dr. Zariff Chaudhury resigned his position as associate professor of Technology in April 2011 and has returned to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to be with his wife. Dr. Zac is now working with a company in Albuquerque.

Dr. Soohyoun Ahn has accepted a position as assistant professor of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Florida in Gainesville beginning January 2012.

Dr. Agnew is planning to take a group of students to Costa Rica in summer 2012. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dr. Agnew dagnew@astate.edu

Dr. Soohyoun Ahn and Dr. Bud Kennedy received a \$149,571 USDA grant to study the prevalence of shiga toxin producing E. coli on beef cattle farms in eastern Arkansas.

Visiting Fulbright Scholars

Two visiting Fulbright scholars are conducting research in the College of Agriculture and Technology and will remain at ASU for nine to 12 months before returning to their home countries.

Dr. Velmurugan Palaniyappa Shanmugam, assistant professor of Commerce at Pondicherry (Central) University in India, is working on *Futures Markets for Agricultural Commodities: The Road Ahead* under the direction of Dr. Paul Armah, professor of agricultural economics. Dr. Velmurugan selected ASU because he wants to study at a traditional agricultural college, rather than an urban institution, and learn about the futures market including its rules and policies with emphasis on marketing commodities. He has presented one paper that is currently under review for publication. He has also published three books in the commodities market field. Dr. Velmurugan hopes to return to India to educate his government on the advantages and disadvantages of the American Derivatives Market system to help his country's commodities futures market improve and flourish.



Dr. Ola Banwo, a Professor from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria, is researching ways to eradicate a rice virus disease that affects developing countries, including his own. The devastating rice virus has reduced the yield of rice in Africa by 20-100 percent. Dr. Gregory Phillips, professor of Plant Biotechnology, oversees Banwo's research project. Dr. Banwo chose ASU because Dr. Phillips' lab is the only one in the U.S. that works on tissue culture and genetic engineering of all the model rice types. Dr. Phillips has a protocol that does not discriminate between different rice types for gene transfer. Dr. Banwo plans to use the transgenic approach to produce varieties that will offer broad, effective, durable and safe resistance to the disease and thereby lead to greater food security. After these lines are satisfactorily tested in Africa, they may be able to provide a solution to the virus problem. Consequently, there will be increased productivity and profitability in the rice sector and enhanced food security. Dr. Banwo has been researching the virus for more than a decade and presented a seminar entitled "Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV) Disease Resistance in Indica Rice using Hairpin Constructs" in the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI) recently.



The Fulbright Scholar Exchange Program offers grants for U.S. citizens to study, teach and conduct research abroad and for citizens of other countries to come to the United States. Dr. Paul Armah, professor of Agriculture Economics in the College of Agriculture and Technology, was also a Fulbright Scholar. He said it is rare for one college to host two scholars at the same time. This speaks to the quality of our college and its faculty.

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