



New Ground

The Official Newsletter of The College of Agriculture



Winter 2007

<http://agri.astate.edu>

Vol. 02 No. 02

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

In a recent interview, the dean, Dr. Greg Phillips, felt that the Judd Hill Cotton Expo for 2007 was a great success, both in the amount of data that were collected from field plots as well as the level of interest in Judd Hill's research. Several agriculture professors were involved with research projects, including Dr. Tina Teague, whose project on Irrigation-Termination was one of the highlights at this year's meeting.

For the first time, the Ag Watch Network conducted live broadcasts throughout the Expo, which made the information and knowledge obtained readily available to those who were not able to attend this year. "We've never had that kind of media coverage before," stated Dr. Phillips in regards to the Ag Watch Network's presence, "and we were very excited to have it." Thanks to this kind of media coverage, research results are getting to farmers in the field, which makes the impact of that research greater than ever before.

Dr. Phillips also discussed how the University of Arkansas funding has been of great assistance to ASU's research at Judd Hill, and has funded several of ASU's current research projects. The dean feels this is leading to an ever-increasing cooperation between the two universities. United, the universities' goal is better agricultural practices for the state.

Dr. Phillips mentioned that Congressman Marion Berry, the Expo's keynote speaker, gave a very moving speech and that "everyone is appreciative of him." The topic of Congressman Berry's speech was the new Farm Bill, in which he stated that there was still firm support for rice and cotton growers and producers, easing concern over reports that the new Farm Bill would greatly reduce the benefits to producers.

Several farm implement companies at Judd Hill this year unveiled their new equipment and ideas on farm management practices. Dr. Phillips expressed his enthusiasm for the continued projects and research being conducted at the site, and expressed his belief that the ongoing activities at Judd Hill "will continue to be of great benefit" to agriculture producers for years to come.

By Joshua Pippenger, Senior Ag Education Major from Bradford, AR

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION: IMPROVING ARKANSAS RESOURCES

On January 24, 2008, Arkansas State University will be hosting the 10th Annual Soil and Water Conference at the Convocation Center. This year the conference is coordinated by Dr. Steven Green. Dr. Green will be incorporating more hands-on demonstrations and tutorials in order to draw the farmers' interests. The conference will highlight topics that have become priorities due to this year's lack of rainfall. Topics such as industrial, municipal, agricultural, and ecological water competition, along with water conservation strategies, will be hot topics for 2008. Wildlife integration will also be discussed during this year's conference. Dr. Green stated that efforts have been made to attract more local farmers, saying, "This year we will be using radio, TV, and the internet, while still using our most valuable source, our local extension agents." The faculty is encouraging more students to attend the 2008 conference. Dr. Green hopes "to educate our landowners to better manage our soil and water in order to sustain and improve our state's natural resources."

By Jason Somers, Senior Ag Education Major, from Piggott, AR



Greg Phillips, Dean

Petting Zoo Dedicated to the Nix Family

On October 11-13, children from all over Jonesboro experienced what has become a recurring event on the ASU campus. The Petting Zoo has grown into a favored event for local elementary children. During the three-day event, children had a chance to learn about the proper care, feeding, and the usefulness of farm animals. Animals ranging in size from baby chicks to horses were available for the children to see, pet, and sometimes ride. Hundreds of hours of work have gone into improving the Petting Zoo over the years, but this year the event was special. More painting, building and other improvements were made. On October 13, during ASU football homecoming events, the Petting Zoo was officially dedicated to Bill and Alice Nix of Ash Flat, AR. The donation by their children was made in their parents' honor, kept secret from Bill and Alice. The ASU Board voted on September 7th to approve the naming of the facility in honor of the Nixs. Not only have the monetary donations been extremely important to the improvement of the facilities, but the donation of livestock from their Ash Flat livestock auction will keep the zoo supplied with animals for years to come. The Bill and Alice Nix Petting Zoo will be open again Friday, April 18, 2008, to local schools and on Saturday, April 19, to the public.

By Jason Somers, Senior Ag Education Major, from Piggott, AR

Below, Congressman Marion Berry speaking, Dean Greg Phillips and Chancellor Robert L. Potts stand to the right. On the other side, the Nix family is sitting with their children Beverly McCollum and Mike Nix standing behind them and Christy Valentine from the Development Office standing to the left of Congressman Berry.



Farm and Home Safety Expo

On October 3, 2007, the College of Agriculture hosted the 2007 Farm and Home Safety Expo at the Craighead County Fair Grounds. Held annually, this event is aimed at educating local 5th graders about hazards on the farm and in everyday life. With the help of over 20 sponsors, including six local FFA chapters, this year's presentations included food, animal, and gun safety, ATV and other farm machinery safety, fire and electrical safety, and 911 emergency protocols. Also added this year was a weather safety booth sponsored by KAIT. In the year 2000, 6 out of 46 fatal farm-related accidents affected children 15 and under. By focusing on this age group, the National Committee for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention hopes to prevent such accidents. Since 2000, this program has reached over 2000 students. "Some schools have said that they only get one field trip a year and they choose to attend the Expo," Dr. Kevin Humphrey proudly stated. Dr. Humphrey has been the director of the Expo since 2000 and is very pleased with how much the program has grown over the years. For more information about the Farm and Home Safety Expo, contact Dr. Kevin Humphrey or go to <http://www.ct.astate.edu/khumphrey/myweb/index.htm>

By Bethany Broadway, Senior Ag Business Major, from Bono, AR

Below, 5th graders learn about electrical safety at home and on the farm.



Over 1000 children visited the petting zoo during the three-day event. This little girl (below) is one of the many who enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about animals and get to interact with them.



EVENT AND TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Sign up and a Have a Ball at the Golf Tournament



Above, kickoff of the 2007 Golf Tournament



The winners of the 2007 golf tournament (L to R) Bob Young, David Felts, Tommy Toombs, Randy Garrison. (the Dream Team)

The 5th Annual New Ground Classic Golf Tournament is set to take place on Friday, May 2, 2008. The tournament benefits Arkansas State University's College of Agriculture. This major fund raiser is planned by Arkansas Farm Bureau, a chief sponsor of the event. Funds go to support the student activities in the college of Agriculture, such as field trips and the Fall Club Festival which welcomes students back to campus and promotes student leadership opportunities. If you would like to participate this year, contact the Dean's Office at 870-972-2085.

By Stephanie West, Senior Ag Education Major from Brighton, TN



Costa Rica Anyone?

For those of you who saw the first edition of the newsletter you may remember this picture where some students and Dr. Agnew were standing on the side of a volcano in Costa Rica. That picture was taken by Walter Acosta, who Dr. Agnew met when he first traveled to Costa Rica in 2000 and visited EARTH University. When Dr. Agnew returned in 2002 with Ag Ed students, he called Walter and asked if he wanted to meet his students and go on some of the tours with them. Walter said yes and that is how the picture on the side of a volcano came about. Walter, while still a student at EARTH, came to the U.S. for an internship at Virginia Tech at Blacksburg, and worked with Dr. Carole Cramer, who later became head of ABI here at ASU. Walter contacted Dr. Agnew in early January of 2007 and indicated that he was going to be coming to Jonesboro to work at ABI with Dr. Cramer and to enter the Doctoral Program in Molecular Biosciences. This brought about the opportunity to renew their friendship. Since Walter was on campus, just next door in the ABI, he has come to Dr. Agnew's Intro to Ag Ed class and has shared first-hand about Agricultural Education in Costa Rica and about EARTH University. EARTH, although less than 20 years old, is a highly respected, world class, premier agricultural university with students from over 20 countries. We welcome Walter to the U.S. and wish him well in his work and in his pursuit of a degree.



For anyone interested in learning more about international agriculture and seeing Costa Rica in person, ASU will take another group to Costa Rica in the spring. We have a limited number of slots for alumni. The exact cost has not been established yet but it is expected to be between \$1500 and \$1750. This will include airfare to Costa Rica, lodging, most of the meals, transportation while in Costa Rica and the exit tax. Contact David Agnew at dagnew@astate.edu or 870-972-2453 for more information.

PICTURES FROM THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE PHOTO ALBUM



5th Graders learn about tractor safety at the Farm Safety Expo



Leha Rose, HR Coordinator for E. Rittter Co. involved in a mock interview with Ag Student Chuck Gratzle



Sach Oliver as luncheon speaker at the Student Leadership Conference



The teacher becomes the student as Dr. Ahn learns to throw a rope while Ag Ed major, Joe Smith, gives very clear directions at the Club Fest



The 2007 Student Leadership Conference Participants

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

- Fall Commencement — December 14
- Classes begin for Spring Semester — January 14
- Soil & Water Conference — January 24, Convocation Center
- North Delta Farm Expo — February 7-8, Craighead County Fair Grounds
- Agribusiness Conference — February 13, ASU Fowler Center and the Convocation Center
- Scholarship Applications due — February 15

See webpage for more details,
<http://agri.astate.edu/Scholarships/Scholarshiprequirements.htm>

- Northeast Arkansas FFA District Career Development Events — March 12
- International Agricultural Study Tour to Costa Rica — March 14-22
- Spring Break — March 17-21
- COA Honors Banquet — April 10
- Spring Petting Zoo — April 18-19, ASU Farm
 (18th for organized groups, 19th for general public)
- Farmers Market Opens — April
- Graduation — May 10
- Golf Tournament — May 2 at Sage Meadows (Check the website for date and details)
- Summer Session I begins — May 28

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

BSA Degrees offered in:
Agriculture Business
Agricultural Education
Agriculture Science
Animal Science
Plant Science
Technology

Associates Degrees in:
Technical & Vocational Ed
Food Technology
Technology

Endorsements in:
Adult Education
Career Education

Now is a good time to start thinking about summer school..... Summer is an ideal time to get ahead in coursework! Summer classes are often smaller, so there is more one-on-one interaction between the professor and the student. Taking only one or two classes at a time also means that the student can devote their academic energies to those classes exclusively, without the distraction of other coursework. Summers at ASU have three terms: full term, first half-term, and second half-term. Students, please remember this as you sign up for your summer coursework.

— 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?
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm 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"/> Equestrian Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dean's Discretionary Fund (General College Fund) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jasper A. Hayles Scholarship Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Keene Endowment |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Brinkley Endowment |

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. HAYLES



*Dr. Jasper A Hayles
Professor of Agricultural Education
1967 to 1988*

(Photo Courtesy of Joey Glaub Photography)

The College of Agriculture will soon be honoring Dr. Jasper A. Hayles Jr. and adding his picture to the emeritus faculty who already have their likeness hanging in the college's conference room. The picture will be officially unveiled at the Spring 2008 College Honors Banquet in April. Also at that time a scholarship in his name will be announced and established for Agricultural Education majors. There is a form included in this newsletter for those who wish to contribute. The Alpha Tau Alpha, an honorary organization for agricultural education majors, and one that Dr. Hayles advised while he was on faculty, has taken the leadership to honor Dr. Hayles.

Dr. Jasper A. Hayles, a native of Alabama and a former vocational agriculture instructor in Alabama, completed his BS degree in 1942 and then served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war, he taught vocational agriculture for five years. He then entered the Army. Later during the Korean War, Dr. Hayles again served his country as a member of the military. Dr. Hayles received his B.S and M.S. Degrees from Auburn University and his Ph.D.

from Louisiana State University before coming to ASU in 1967. He retired in 1988, after over 20 years of service to Agricultural Education, the College of Agriculture and ASU. He has lived a life full of many achievements, both inside and outside the field of education. After retiring at the age of 68, Dr. Hayles worked for 10 years with FMC. Dr. Hayles' many contributions in the field of Agricultural Education include publishing articles in the Agricultural Education Magazine as well as publishing a Vocational Teacher's Aide Program Handbook and other manuals for the Arkansas Department of Vocational Education. He has also made over 20 scholarly presentations before professional agricultural and educational organizations. Dr. Hayles has been actively involved in organizations such as the Arkansas Vocational Ag. Teachers Association, Arkansas Vocational Special Needs Association, Arkansas State Collegiate FFA and the Alpha Tau Alpha. We thank Dr. Hayles for his many contributions and congratulate him on receiving this honor.

By Scott Kirkman, Senior Ag. Education Major, Poplar Bluff, MO

Student Leaders Get "Branded" at Annual Conference

"A Brand Called You" was the theme of the 2007 Student Leadership Conference held on September 22nd. Dr. David Schweikhardt and Mr. Larry Zink from Michigan State University gave an exceptional presentation encouraging students to develop their own personal brand. Schweikhardt and Zink facilitated an employer panel which focused on what employers look for during interviews. The Leadership Conference also focused on internships and featured "first year out" panel which included recent graduates sharing their views. A highlight of the conference was the luncheon speaker Mr. Sach Oliver, an attorney with Bailey and Oliver Law Firm. A 2003 agriculture graduate and Student Government President in 2002-2003, he gave a motivational talk on perseverance and going for "your dreams." Oliver said that students need to take a risk and step forward to fill leadership roles when the opportunity arises. He also said that many of the opportunities in life don't seem like opportunities at first. The Leadership Conference ended with a mock interview. This year the co-sponsors of the conference were the Craighead County Farm Bureau, Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, Agri-Business Committee; AgHeritage Farm Credit, Midsouth Farm Credit; E. Ritter & Company; and Greenway Equipment. Individuals from industry who participated on the various panels were Ms. Sherry Williams (Sr. VP-Human Resources with AgHeritage Farm Credit Services) Mr. Quinton Hornsby (District Director, Delta District UA, Division of Agriculture), Mr. Kevin Higgins (Operations Manager with Ritter Grain Services), Mr. Josh Gallion (Location Manager with Ritter Crop Services), Mr. Jim McDonald (General Manager with Ritter Oil Company), Ms. Leha Rose (HR Coordinator for E. Ritter & Co.), Ms. Jennifer Victory (Safety Coordinator, Arkansas Farm Bureau) and Mr. Mike Engelken (Grain Merchandiser with ADM.) Student leaders from the Beebe campus also attended.



By Mandy Reilly, Senior Ag Education Major, from Greenbriar, AR

Agri Student Builds Alcohol-Fueled Motorcycle



One ASU student has taken alternative fuels for a ride, literally. Chuck Gratzle, an Agriculture Education major, has designed and built his own alcohol-fueled motorcycle. Chuck, a long time proponent of alternative fuels, manufactures the alcohol for the bike from rice. "What good is the technology?" he asks, "if you have nothing to run it on?" Chuck was featured on local TV on "Off-Beat with Bob" a few years ago when he designed and built an alternative vehicle powered by electricity. Chuck openly discussed his desire to run the bike (and other vehicles) on a 100% alcohol mix soon; right now its design allows only a 50% blend of alcohol and gasoline. As for whether this idea of alcohol-based engines will catch on, he noted that "most engines will run on alcohol if rubber parts were changed out." Chuck hopes that soon more people will embrace this emerging technology. He has already applied for a license to manufacture alcohol on a small scale and is currently researching various production models. Chuck foresees a time when farmers grow and make their own fuel.

Joshua Pippenger, Junior Ag Education major, from Bradford, AR

FACULTY & ALUMNI

Faculty Kudos

Dr. Paul Armah presented a paper at the 14th International Conference on Learning in Johannesburg, South Africa. The paper was co-authored by **Dr. David Agnew** and former graduate assistant **Ms. Tammy Pannells**. The presentation focused on the attitudes, perceptions, and limitations of College of Agriculture students regarding participation in international travel experiences. A poster presentation on this same topic was given at the National Agricultural Education Research Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 15-18, 2007.

Dr. Steve Green from the College of Agriculture, in collaboration with **Dr. Alan Christian**, in Zoology, **Dr. Jennifer Bouldin**, in Ecotoxicology, and **Dr. Robyn Hannigan**, in Geochemistry, received a \$190,835 National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation grant. Collaborators on the grant include Dr. Ben Rougeau, Chemistry, and Dr. Bill Baker, Plant Science.

Dr. Soohyoun Ahn received a research grant from Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station for her research on "Molecular-based diagnostics of food borne pathogens." This research will be funded with \$10,000 per year for five years. Dr. Ahn was appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor in Department of Food Science at University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Dr. David Agnew and **Mr. David Powell** have had two articles published in the *Journal for North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture*. The titles were "Student Leader Preferences: What Students Want from Involvement in Student Organizations;" and "Meeting Diverse Needs Through Student Leadership Organizations: The Dilemma of Working and Commuting Students."

Dr. Steve Green published an article in the journal *Soil Science* titled "Bioactive phosphorus loss in simulated runoff from a phosphorus-enriched soil under two forage management systems." He also presented a paper at the SENCER Institute. The title was "Developing skills through team research in environmental science".

Alumni Update:

Animal Science Grad Makes a Splash

Jeremy Profitt, a 2002 graduate with a B.S.A. (Animal Science major), is doing exciting things with marine animals in Orlando. A native of Tuckerman, Arkansas, Jeremy is a senior trainer at Sea World in Orlando. He works with killer whales, bottlenose dolphins, and false killer whales. When asked what he found most interesting about working with the animals Jeremy stated, "Every show introduces a different scenario. The animals decide how the show goes." The marine show of which Jeremy is a part, Blue Horizons, showcases dolphins and runs six times a day every day. Several sessions are used to prepare the animals for their show. These include sessions on exercise, learning, play time and relationship building. "The animals are just like humans, some learn quickly, some learn slowly." Jeremy said. "I can teach one in a couple of sessions or it might take six to seven months." Sea World in Orlando houses the only two false killer whales born in captivity. These animals are normally found off the coast of Japan. They are very rare and the trainers and scientists are still learning about these animals. When asked about ASU and how it prepared him for the future, he stated that ASU was "fantastic," a wonderful program that provided him with the necessary tools for him to further his career. The biggest statement he wants to get across to students consists of two key elements for the job market networking and internships. He stated that without these two his job today would not have been possible.



Dr. Kennedy and his family visit, ASU Animal Science graduate, Jeremy Profitt while at Sea World last summer

By David Carwell, Junior Animal Science major, from Cherry Valley, AR

THE STUDENT NEWSLETTER TEAM: This semester has a new aspect to the *New Ground* newsletter. For the first time, students are allowed one hour of credit for writing the articles, provided they have signed up for the course credit when registering for classes. Dr. David Agnew and Mrs. Joy Holmes, the advisors, work with the students on layout and articles for the newsletter. Dr. Agnew has expressed his desire to continue with this approach, stating that the same credit will be offered to student writers next semester. He also expresses his hope that writing for *New Ground* will grow into a course that students will be able to enroll for credit in the area of Agriculture Communication. For more information on writing for the newsletter for credit, contact Dr. Agnew.

Joshua Pippenger, Senior Ag Education major, from Bradford, AR

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

*Send us your email address so that we may release this newsletter by email in the future.
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