



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, the Dean of ASU's College of Agriculture, he reflected back on the success of the past semester and where the College of Agriculture is going.

Dr. Phillips feels that the North Delta Ag Expo was a complete success for the community and the College of Agriculture. The previous organizers had difficulties sustaining the program and so they withdrew. Rick Crawford of Agriculture Watch Network and Randy Kingston of Mid South Farm Credit Services, among several others, took over and substantially reorganized the Expo. The number of sponsors increased substantially, and the number of attendees was also greater than for past Expos. The Ag Expo is designed so that a certain portion of the proceeds goes towards the College of Agriculture. The larger the Expo grows, the more the college benefits. Dr. Phillips would like to thank all those who helped the North Delta Ag Expo succeed this semester. Without all their aid, an excellent Expo would not have been possible.

Dr. Phillips also addressed the improved relationship and spirit of amity between ASU's College of Agriculture and the University of Arkansas' Division of Agriculture. The U of A Division of Agriculture has been supporting research at ASU College of Agriculture through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Extension Service. Some of those who are involved with research for the College include Dr. Teague, Dr. Shumway, Dr. Baker, Dr. Green, Dr. Ahn, Dr. Schroeter, Dr. Young, and Dr. Bouldin. Research has been good for our College because it has increased the number of faculty involved in research to improve Arkansas agriculture, and also provides more resources for the faculty. Dr. Phillips would like to thank Dr. Mark Cochran, the Director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, who has been very supportive in developing this expanded relationship.

Other announcements: In the fall, some seminar classes will be combining into a three credit hour class. The seminars were created to help students develop good study habits, understand career options, and become familiar with their available resources.

The Dean would like to send a special thanks to all the student organizations and faculty members who helped with the FFA Career Development Events.

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



Greg Phillips, Dean

LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



Mitchell honored as a 2007 Chancellor's Scholar with father Jody at his side

Mitchell Nail, an Agribusiness major from Biscoe, Arkansas, was named the 2007 College of Agriculture Chancellor's Scholar. The achievement of this honor is extremely difficult; in order to become a Chancellor's Scholar, the student must have the highest GPA in the their college. In the event of multiple students with a 4.0, the student with the most credit hours is given the award. ASU has only nine Chancellor's Scholars each year. This prestigious award is a tribute to an enduring commitment to academic excellence.

In 1978, Mitchell's father, Jody Nail, was honored with the equivalent award. At that time, it was called the Outstanding Agricultural Business and Economics Award, but the tribute to a lifestyle of academic dedication remains the same.

We congratulate Mitchell on his scholarly recognition, and look forward to more students with the same commitment to the College of Agriculture at ASU.

HELLO FROM NAMIBIA, AFRICA: DR. PAUL ARMAH, AGRI-BUSINESS FACULTY

Dr. Paul Armah received a Fulbright Fellowship for 2007 to teach and conduct research in Windhoek, Namibia, and the surrounding farmland. He has been there since January 2007, and is due to return in December 2007. He sent the College of Agriculture the following letter. We look forward to hearing more from Dr. Armah and wish him all our best as he continues his sabbatical in Windhoek.



Dr. Armah in Namibia



Downtown Windhoek



Dr. Armah visits a Namibian farm

I arrived at Windhoek (capital of Namibia) on January 18, 2007 with my wife and 14-year-old daughter. We live on the campus of the Polytechnic of Namibia where I am currently teaching three courses: Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Management and Strategic Management in Agriculture. My daughter is attending Windhoek International School (WIS). It costs about \$15,000 (US) to attend WIS for a year. Windhoek, a population of about 200,000 is very clean with good restaurants and shopping. The Polytechnic of Namibia is in the center of Windhoek.

I have assisted the Department of Agriculture in the development of a four-year Bachelor Program in Aquaculture which is now being reviewed by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMAR). The aim of this proposal is to obtain official financial and material support in developing human resources for the sustainable development of aquaculture in Namibia to complement livestock production (sheep, cattle and goats), Namibia's main agricultural output. Agriculture's potential contribution to Namibia's economic development is limited because most of its land is desert (Kalahari Desert). Aquaculture can play a significant role in promoting rural development, ensuring food security, and environmental and ecological sustainability.

I have also been asked to assist the Department of Agriculture to conduct applied research to find solutions to Namibia's agricultural problems. As part of this process we have been visiting various farms in the country to identify their problems.

We are having a good time and hope to send you more pictures.

Sincerely, Paul Armah

Student Praises Internship Experiences

Following four or more years of college, students should look at their resumes with pride. After all, this paper lists their achievements, scholarships, clubs and other activities helping shape them into suitable employees. Still, employers often ask the same dreaded question during interviews: "Do you have any experience?" Unfortunately, experience requires hands-on work. Fortunately, students have access to a tool combating this problem: internships. I've been involved in three internships, working for the Greenway Farm Network (now the Ag Watch Network), the Arkansas Farm Bureau, and now for the Craighead County Cooperative Extension Service. As a broadcast intern, I learned how audio equipment operates and how a network can link media outlets to a single source. As a public relations intern, I wrote press releases, took photographs, and wrote for the Front Porch and Arkansas Agriculture magazines. Now I assist agents with public school and 4-H functions along with production education such as organizing seminars and taking soil samples. Through these opportunities, I have improved my communication skills and strengthened my network among potential employers. I have more confidence in my abilities and know I want to pursue a career in agriculture. I encourage all college students — especially sophomores and juniors — to consider an internship. I also encourage employers to develop a program for these students (or should I say, future employees?).

By Mitchell Nail, Ag Business Senior from Biscoe, AR

College of Agriculture Welcomes New Staff



Shona honored at baby shower

In January 2007, the COA welcomed both Shona Potts and Joy Holmes. Shona Potts is the new Agriculture Studies Secretary. Shona had been the secretary for the Chemistry Department since May of 2006, but transferred to her new position this past January. Shona had her third child, Kaley Grace, in April. Joy Holmes is the COA's new Writing Program Coordinator. She is also assisting Dr. Phillips in the copyediting of the scientific journal *In Vitro Plant*. Joy works with both graduate and undergraduate COA students when they want a little more help with their writing. "I love working with students," she said. We welcome both Shona and Joy, and wish them all our best.

Biofuel a Hot Topic at ASU Agribusiness Conference

The COA and twelve other sponsors hosted the Agribusiness Conference in the Fowler Center on February 14, 2007. Although many topics were addressed, such as the cotton market outlook, management issues for rice, and the beef market outlook, the most interest seemed to revolve around the future of biofuel for Northeast Arkansas. A general session on bioenergy featured the possibilities and pitfalls of biofuel and energy crops, including how biofuels could affect the region. Representatives from FutureFuel Chemical Company, Ceres Inc., and Bunge all discussed the potential for biofuels. Additionally, the Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Richard Bell spoke on a panel regarding the implications of bioenergy for Arkansas. One speaker quoted the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister by saying, "The Stone Age didn't end for lack of stone, and the oil age will end long before the world runs out of oil." This is especially true if the interest in biofuels continue.

By Stephanie West, Ag Education Junior from Brighton, TN

2007 NORTH DELTA AG EXPO

This year was the first year that the non-profit group North Delta Ag Incorporated assumed leadership of the Expo. The members of this group, including Dr. Greg Phillips, Rick Crawford, Randy Kingston, Jim Tubbs, and Thom Beasley, worked to further interest in the Expo as well as bring opportunities for the COA to branch out into the community. Over fifty booths and exhibitors were at this year's Expo. For the first time, pesticide applicator training classes were available. "I think that we had a very successful year," asserted Dr. Bill Humphrey. All proceeds went to the various clubs in the COA and to research training programs offered to students. Preparations are already underway to make next year's Expo even better.

By Joshua Pippenger, Ag Education Junior, from Bradford, AR and Mandy Reilly, Ag Education Senior, from Greenbriar, AR

DR. PITTCOCK: FRIEND OF CONSERVATION

Dr. Kim Pittcock received the Friend of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Award for 2006, given by the Arkansas State Association of Resource Conservation and Development. Nominations for this award came from across the state. The RC&D said that Dr. Pittcock has been instrumental in several projects, including the support of a farmers' market on ASU campus, working closely with the RC&D council on the L'Anguille Watershed Coalition, and coordinating a tour of the Arkansas Biosciences Institute for the RC&D council. Weeder's Digest published an article in honor of Dr. Pittcock. We congratulate her on this award, and look forward to her continued work in environmental conservation.

By Jody Potter, Junior Ag Education, from Paragould, AR

EQUINE COLUMNIST VISITS ASU

On April 26, 2007, Larry Thornton was a guest speaker at the ASU campus. Mr. Thornton has been a prolific writer on quarter horse pedigrees since 1984. His articles have appeared in multiple equine magazines and journals, including his popular column "The Working Lines," published in *Southern Horseman*, and in *Working Horse Magazine*. This activity was sponsored Agriculture Education Students in Dr. Agnew's Adult Education class.

By Charlie Barker, Ag Education Junior, from Poplar Bluff, MO

ASU AT NATIONAL DTA CONVENTION

The National DTA Convention was held from March 23-25 at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. ASU sent Danielle Jones, Tristan Young, Samantha Gerecke, Tiffany Squares, and Rick Hatfield to represent the university at the Convention. Dr. Bud Kennedy and graduate student Gene Robinson accompanied them. The delegation participated in the National Quiz Bowl and voted in the National DTA Council. They also toured a winery, a cattle company, and a ranch. ASU DTA members look forward to attending next year's convention at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas.

By Philip Ives, Ag Education Junior, from Cave City, AR

PICTURES FROM THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE PHOTO ALBUM



Ronnie Roberts, Kara Smith, Jason Bradley, and Dr. Bert Greenwalt at the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Steve Green representing the USA and ASU at a reforestation project in Costa Rica



Dr. Greg Phillips spending time with professors emeriti Dr. Albin Langlois and Dr. Howard Keene



The Agribusiness Club at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



Dr. Bert Greenwalt, Jason Bradley, Chancellor Robert L. Potts, and Ronnie Roberts on the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce trip to Washington, D.C.



Children enjoying the bugs at ASU's petting zoo

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

- Summer I Classes Begin - May 30
- Summer II Classes Begin - July 2
- Regular Classes Begin - August 20
- Labor Day Holiday - September 3
- COA Leadership Conference - September 22
- Fall Break/Thanksgiving Holiday - November 19-24
- Last Day of Class - December 3
- Commencement - December 14

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

Summer is an ideal time for students to get ahead in their 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. Summer courses at ASU are either full term, first-term, or second-term. Students, please remember this as you sign up for your summer coursework.

Full term: May 30 – August 2, 2007 (10 week course)
 First term: May 30 – June 29, 2007 (5 week course)
 Second term: July 2 – August 2, 2007 (5 week course)

The College of Agriculture will offer the following courses offered this summer:

- AGRI 4201-3INTERNSHIPS IN AGRICULTURE
- ANSC 4733/5733ENDOCRINOLOGY OF FARM ANIMALS
- ANSC 4743/5733EQUINE NUTRITION
- ANSC 6003CURRENT ISSUES IN ANIMAL AGRICULTURE
- FDST 330VFOOD TECHNOLOGY PRACTICUM
- VOED 6503PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
- AGEC 3043MARKETING SPECIALTY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
- VOED 4513/5513HANDS ON ACTIVITIES AND OBERVATION EXPERIENCES FOR CAREER ORIENTATION
- VOED 4533/5533METHODS OF ORGANIZING AND TEACHING CAREER ORIENTATION
- HORT 4273/5273NURSERY MANAGEMENT

— 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 ___ Nail Circle ___ Farm Safety Expo

 ___ Arkansas Food Land and People ___ Soil and Water Conference ___ Keene Endowment

___ General Scholarship Fund ___ Student Leadership Conference ___ Equestrian Center ___ Brinkley Endowment

___ Agricultural Technology ___ 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

Soil and Water Conservation a Success

On January 11, 2007, the Soil and Water Education Conference was held in the Convocation Center. More than 200 attendees participated in the Conference. Dr. Tina Teague felt that it was "educational," "multi-disciplinary," and overall, very successful. Part of the purpose of the conference is to "bring together policy makers, environmental scientists, and agriculturists" to discuss water conservation and related topics, such as erosion. Dr. Phillips called water conservation "the number one priority [...] of row crop agriculture in Eastern Arkansas." Dr. Steve Green will direct the Soil and Water Education Conference for 2008, and Dr. Teague, who had been co-ordinating the Conference for eight years, is enthusiastic about the new leadership.

By Patrick V. Hatfield Jr., Ag Business Senior, from Slovak, AR

MEET THE STUDENT WRITERS, CONTRIBUTORS AND DEVELOPERS OF THE COA NEWSLETTER

This newsletter issue was developed by members of the Alpha Tau Alpha and Collegiate FFA at the request of the Dean and with the help of faculty and staff David Agnew and Joy Holmes. A special thank-you to all who provided photos to include in New Ground.

Student Contributors

Charlie Baker	Jody Potter
Patrick Hatfield, Jr.	Mandy Reilly
Phillip Ives	Amanda Snider
Scott Kirkman	Clay Turner
Mitchell Nail	Stephanie West
Joshua Pippenger	

Farmers, educators, and community leaders at the Soil and Water Conference



Graduate Students Research for Practical Solutions



GPS prototype in field testing

Gene Robinson, under the direction of Drs. Bud Kennedy and Bill Baker, has been researching a custom-designed Global Positioning System pack for beef cattle since August 2005. The GPS pack is intended to track grazing patterns, and was first developed as a collar by former students Casie and Michael Person. Gene redesigned the pack, and hopes the GPS will serve as "a practical model for cattle ranchers." The idea is to be able to track the cows' locations for up to five days, and gather the fixed points every 10 minutes. These GPS points can then be analyzed to find areas in the pasture that are overgrazed or undergrazed. This would give cattlemen the information they need to make improvements in their pastures, like temporary fencing or where to place salt feeders. "Research always has its challenges," says Gene, "but this has been a good project."



Infected soybean samples

Leslie Hooker, another graduate student, has also been working hard on her research since April 2006. Under the direction of Dr. Cal Shumway of ASU and Dr. Terry Kirkpatrick of UA, she has been experimenting with a salt as a deterrent to soybean pests. Initially she was testing against soybean cyst, but in December began testing against root-knot nematodes instead. "I've been enjoying the research," says Leslie. "I come from a cotton farm, so it's been an experience growing soybeans." She said it's been good having two advisors: Dr. Shumway helping her with the soybeans, and Dr. Kirkpatrick with the nematodes. Leslie's hoping to find the salt level which will control the pests with the least damage to the crop.

Dr. Green Participates in Innovative International Conference

Dr. Steven Green recently returned from San Jose, Costa Rica where he presented at the 5th Global Conference of the Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture. This was a world-wide conference where 53 different countries were represented. At the conference, workshops were conducted on innovation, entrepreneurship, university-government relations, natural resources and environment, and leadership. The President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias Sanches, also spoke to the group of two hundred attendees including university presidents, college deans, department heads, industry leaders, government leaders, entrepreneurs, and professors.

Dr. Green took a field trip to EARTH University which trains students for careers in agriculture focusing on leadership and entrepreneurship. At EARTH University, he visited with students involved in their own agriculture-based entrepreneurs, such as producing paper from banana trees that have already had their fruit harvested, and would otherwise be considered waste. We are proud to know that Dr. Green was able to represent the United States as well as ASU.

By Clay Turner, Senior Ag Education, from Vilonia, AR



Dr. Green at the 5th Annual Global Conference



Student entrepreneurs pulling banana paper off the press

STUDENTS HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE

On April 12, the COA held the Annual Honors Banquet in the Hames Room at the Convocation Center. Recognition is based on certain criteria such as G.P.A, participation in activities, and peer vote. Many students were recognized, including Charles Barker and Mitchell Nail, who won Collegiate Awards, and Steven Craig, Nanci Solis, Austin Kennon, and Jason Pitcher, who the College of Agriculture recognized as Outstanding Graduating Seniors. The Outstanding Student Organization this year was the Collegiate FFA. Over thirty scholarships were awarded, and over sixty students were honored for their scholarship and their dedication to service to organizations. Congratulations!

By Amanda Snider, Agricultural Sciences/ Agriculture Education from Lonoke, AR

ALUMNI HONOREES

Michael J. McCarty (B.S. in Agriculture, 2002) is a first lieutenant in the United States Army. He has served in Iraq and in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts. LT McCarty returned to ASU as a temporary instructor for the ROTC program in the spring of 2003. LT McCarty is a graduate of the US Army's Infantry Officers Basic Course, Basic Airborne Course, Pathfinder Course, and Mountain Warfare Course. His awards and honors include the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Valor, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Valor, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Rick Crawford (B.S. in Agriculture Business and Economics, 1996) announced the International Finals Rodeo telecast in 1997 and 1998, and was named Announcer of the Year in 1996, 1997 and 1998. He has been a news anchor and agri-reporter on KAIT-TV in Jonesboro, Farm Director on KFIN-FM in Jonesboro and producer/anchor of the syndicated Delta Farm Roundup. He's been a featured agri-columnist in the Northeast Arkansas Business Today publication. Now he co-owns and operates the AgWatch Network, and in 2006 he received a NAFB Newscast Award for his work as a farm broadcaster. He has one son, Will, and another child is due in November.

Randy Kingston (B.S. in Agriculture, 1983) is a former Craighead County 4-H board member, and has served as Vice President of the Northeast Arkansas Babe Ruth Baseball League for 3 years and President of the League for 2 years. He is currently a member of the Brookland School Board where he has served for 11 years. He serves on the Judd Hill Field Day Committee as well as the North Delta Ag. Expo board. He is on the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce's Agricultural Committee. Randy's son Matt is now a sophomore at Arkansas State University.

Robert B. Young (B.S. in Agriculture, 1982) is serving the citizens of Eastern Arkansas in his position as Coordinator for the East Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council. Bob has worked in several positions throughout his 26 year career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Bob has held positions as an engineering technician, soil conservationist, district conservationist, area resource conservationist and currently coordinator of the RC&D program.

Dr. J.B. Penn (B.S. in Agriculture, 1965), the chief economist for John Deere & Company, was scheduled to be honored at Homecoming but was unexpectedly unable to attend. Instead, he was honored this spring for his tireless dedication. Dr. Penn is originally from Lynn, Arkansas and was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2001. He also was the keynote speaker at this year's Agribusiness Conference. Gary Pugh of Pocahontas, the incoming president of the ASU Alumni Association, presented Penn with his recognition.



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 you send us your email so that we may send this newsletter by email in the future.
Send your email address to: agri@astate.edu*

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

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