



# New Ground

The College of Agriculture and Technology Newsletter



Fall/Winter 2014

AState.edu/CoAT

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### From the Desk of the Dean



My first year as dean of the College of Agriculture and Technology (CoAT) went by in a flash. As the mild summer of 2014 faded, the CoAT faculty and staff prepared for a banner 2014-15 academic year. My first year as dean was filled with many great experiences. As I traveled throughout the region and the state, I was humbled by the wonderful support from our college's alumni and friends. To understand the impact of this college on the region, state and nation, one only needs to review the inductees in the CoAT Hall of Honor located just outside my office. It is filled with individuals who have made pivotal contributions to agriculture.

Fall 2014 marks the beginning of three new academic areas of study. The new Agricultural Systems Technology (AGST) concentration represents a great opportunity for students to gain educational knowledge and hands-on experience in the technological aspects of modern agriculture. This curriculum provides specific coursework in geographic information systems, precision farming, irrigation systems and enterprise management. These future graduates will provide tremendous value to agricultural machinery companies as well as crop input and maintenance industries.

In addition to the new AGST concentration area, two new minors were introduced in the fall of 2014. The Crop Consulting and Agronomic Services minor is 18 hours of coursework that provides a broad spectrum of knowledge to address soil fertility, weeds, insect pests, precision farming, irrigation and crop production. The Spatial Technologies and Geographic Information Systems minor consists of 18 hours of coursework specifically tailored to precision farming techniques and geographic information systems.

Greenway Equipment provided \$100,000 to fund scholarships for the new Agricultural Systems Technology concentration. This gift offers a total of 20 new scholarships (\$5,000 each) for incoming freshman majoring in agricultural studies with a concentration in Agricultural Systems Technology (over the next four years). In addition, ProAg Services and Greenway Equipment have provided 10 new scholarships (\$2,000 each) for students completing the Crop Consulting and Agronomic Services minor.

The CoAT is fortunate to have two new faculty members to join our college this fall. Dr. Peter Larbi will be teaching in the area of Agricultural Systems Technology. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, and his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Florida. Dr. Larbi's specialty is precision farming and spraying systems. Dr. Stephanie Pulley joins the CoAT faculty in the area of animal science. She earned her B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee at Martin and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Animal Science from Kansas State University. Her specialty area is reproductive physiology. These new faculty members bring a wealth of knowledge to our academic and research programs, and we are excited about their contribution to our college.

Our technology faculty, under the leadership of Dr. Rajesh Sharma, formed the Technology Club. This student club became immediately active by touring many of the regional manufacturers. The Computer-Aided Design Lab (Room 113), utilized by the Technology program, was completely remodeled over the summer and provides a state-of-the-art learning atmosphere for our technology students.

Homecoming 2014 proved to be another hallmark year for our college as Jack Ellington (Animal Science Major) was crowned A-State Homecoming King. This marks the second consecutive year CoAT students have been elected as A-State King or Queen (Chad Easton and Stevie Overby were the 2013 A-State King and Queen - both animal science majors).

The college is off to a great start for the fall of 2014, as our enrollments continue to grow. I want to thank the college's many alumni and friends for their enthusiastic support. The college's endowments continue to grow because of your generosity. Your financial support is making a positive difference in the lives of our students. I extend an open invitation for you to visit me when you are on the campus of Arkansas State University.

- Dr. Tim Burcham, dean

## Dr. Rougeau Leaves Ag Education Legacy

Long time faculty member in the college died in November 14th of 2014. Former professor of agricultural education, Dr. Amos B. Rougeau, 88, retired in 1992 after 34 years of service to A-State and the Ag Ed profession. He and Dr. Jasper Hayles were the two main faculty members in the Ag Ed program.

Dr. Rougeau will be remembered by colleagues and former students for his work in agricultural education. He will also be remembered for his work in the development of the scholarship program in the college, his work in the state with the development of career orientation, and for his work in the formation of the Alpha Gamma Chapter of the ATA here at A-State, for which he served as adviser.

He was born April 15, 1926 in Boyce, La., to Francis and Jessica Rougeau. He retired from Arkansas State University as a full professor of agriculture. He received his bachelor's in education at SLI, his master's in agricultural education/vocational education at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and his doctoral degree in education at University of Missouri.

Survivors include his wife, Marie Rougeau; five sons: Benjamin Lyle Rougeau of Jonesboro; Barry Amos Rougeau of Flower Mound, Texas; Bruce Alan Rougeau of Plano, Texas; Brent Thorsell Rougeau of Jonesboro; and Kevin L Emuel Rougeau of Maryville, Tenn.; a sister, Evelyn Newman of Idaho; a brother, Monroe Rougeau of Louisiana; 22 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Upon his retirement in 1992, a scholarship for agricultural education majors at A-State was established in his name.

## Five Former Ag Faculty added to Wall of Honor

Five former faculty from the college were honored at a ceremony in December. Early last fall, the university requested nominations for faculty from the various colleges to be added to the "Wall of Honor" that was established during our Centennial Celebration of A-State in 2009. Our college submitted five names.

Amos B. Rougeau, Ed.D., was professor of agricultural education from 1957-1992. He and his family lived here in Jonesboro. He died November 14th, 2014. Jasper A. Hayles, Jr., Ph.D., professor of agricultural education, 1967-1988. He and his wife have retired to Frisco City Ala.; Albin J. Langlois, Ph.D., professor of plant science, 1964-1997. He and his family live in Jonesboro. Edgar L. Whitsitt, B.S., was dean of the College of Agriculture, 1917-1937. A great-granddaughter and her husband live in Pochontas. She is married to Jack McCord, former vice president of academics at Black River Technical College and a graduate of our college. George Berger, Ph.D., associate professor of agronomy and plant breeding, 1971-1982. Dr. Berger also served as dean of agriculture 1976-1982. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri - Columbia. Dr. Berger was instrumental in beginning a working relationship with the UA Division of Agriculture. Dr. Berger died suddenly of a heart attack in 2002.

On December 10, all five of our nominees were officially added to the "Wall of Honor" during a ceremony at the Cooper Alumni Center. Dr. Rougeau's wife, Marie and two of his five sons were present to accept his award. Dr. Hayles, now in his 90s and living back home in Alabama, was not able to attend the presentation. Dr. Agnew, professor of agricultural education, accepted the award on his behalf. Dr. Langlois lives in Jonesboro and was present for the award ceremonies. Dr. Bert Greenwalt accepted the award for Dr. Berger, who is deceased. Accepting the award for Dr. Whitsitt was his great-granddaughter.

An official news release about the event is at the A-State web address below. You will also find a video of the event and may recognize some of the former and current College of Agriculture and Technology faculty who are present in the audience. Also, the news release contains other faculty who were honored at the ceremony.

[AState.edu/news/31-distinguished-a-state-faculty-selected-for-wall-of-honor](http://AState.edu/news/31-distinguished-a-state-faculty-selected-for-wall-of-honor)



*Dr. Amos Rougeau*



*Dr. Albin Langlois*



*Dr. George Berger*



*Mr. Edgar L. Whitsitt*



*Dr. Jasper Hayles*

## The College Welcomes Three New Faculty to A-State



**D**r. Peter Larbi moved to Jonesboro from Washington State University where he was a post-doctoral research associate at the Center for Precision and Automated Agricultural Systems in Prosser, Wash., for more than two years. Before then, he spent seven months in post-doctoral research at the University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred, Fla., following his Ph.D work there. His undergraduate work and master's are both from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

*Dr. Peter Larbi joined A-State in August 2014.*



**B**efore coming to A-State, Mrs. Yifeng Ren was an instructor of engineering technology and industrial distribution for four years at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Mrs. Ren was an associate professor teaching at Wuhan University of Science and Technology in China for 12 years. She also has six years industrial experience as a mechanical design engineer.

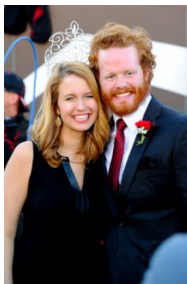
*Mrs. Yifeng Ren joined A-State in fall 2013 to teach full-time in the technology program.*



**D**r. Stephanie Pulley has a doctoral degree in reproductive physiology and a graduate certificate in applied statistics from Kansas State University as of August 2014. Her M.S. and Ph.D. research focused on improving fertility in first and repeat-service lactating dairy cows, dairy heifer fertility and reproduction challenges in beef cows. Her Bachelor of Science degree is from the University of Tennessee Martin, 2007.

*Dr. Stephanie Pulley, joined the faculty in August 2014.*

## College of Agriculture & Technology Reigns Supreme

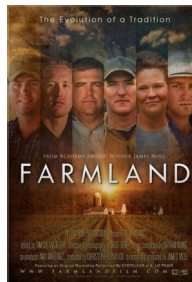


**2**013 Homecoming King Chad Easton handed over his crown to fellow College of Agriculture and Technology student, Jack Ellington last fall. Jack's father, Scott is also a graduate of the college with a degree in agricultural education.

Jack served as a college ambassador for two years and will graduate with a major in agribusiness in May, 2015. Congratulations to Jack Ellington and Ellen Hakenwerth for winning 2014 A-State Homecoming Royalty.

*Jacy Long, Agriculture Education Major, Hardy, Ark.*

## Farmland The Movie



**O**n August 21, almost 200 people attended a screening of the farm documentary film "Farmland." Congressman Rick Crawford made this possible and was at A-State to give a welcome and to answer questions afterward. Randy Veach, president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, a farmer, and a native of Mississippi County, was there to give background information about the film and express the goals of the film producers. Mitchell Nail, Rep. Crawford's press secretary and a graduate of the college, was also there for the showing of the film. We thank A-State Professor Dr. Bert Greenwalt for coordinating the event and also Allen Gallaher of United Country Scenic Rivers Realty.

## Current Animal Science Research

**I**n the livestock industry, the effectiveness of current deworming practices is declining. Internal parasites are becoming resistant to the drenches, and in return, farmers and producers are losing a significant amount of livestock and capital. The research being conducted by Dr. Kevin Humphrey and Dr. Stephanie Pulley is studying the "effects of camelina sativa on intestinal parasites in sheep as an alternative control strategy." Camelina sativa is a type of flax. The oil from the seed is commonly used in biofuel production; the properties of the plant have been recognized to aid in decreasing parasites in livestock. In the project being conducted at Arkansas State University, a team of 12 volunteers will be assessing the value of using camelina sativa in a feed ration to control the parasite problems with sheep on the A-State farm. There are 57 sheep being studied and tested. There is a control group and a treatment group. The treatment group is fed daily with feed consisting of 10 percent camelina meal top dress. The research group meets weekly for a general meeting at the farm on Thursdays, and they also have fecal Fridays. On fecal Fridays, samples are collected and studied under microscopes to determine the presence of parasites. The hypothesis is that the sheep receiving the camelina meal will have decreased parasite concentrations compared to the control diet. "The results from this project are anticipated to serve as a preliminary research data toward application for a 2015 USDA Sheep Production and Marketing Grant," Dr. Pulley said. "Additional help is always needed and appreciated." For more information about the research or volunteer opportunities, contact Dr. Humphrey or Dr. Pulley.

*Jacy Long, Agriculture Education Major, Hardy, Ark.*

## Alpha Tau Alpha Attends National FFA Convention

The Arkansas State Alpha Tau Alpha chapter attended the 87th National Convention on Oct. 29-Nov. 1 2014 in Louisville, Ky. Nine students and one faculty member attended the convention: Dustin Headstream, Ashley Green, Kasey Sims, Todd Blissenbach, Ben Gander, Amber Winter, Brett Hale, Tara Hentz, Keighley Barber and Dr. Agnew. The Arkansas State ATA chapter had a booth in the convention hall, where we recruited many high school students. We had lots of fun meeting new people and getting information for our future classroom. Our ATA chapter was in charge of the Parliamentary Procedure, and participated in the quiz bowl. We attended the 'Programs of Excellence' contest where we won a Lincoln Welder for the shop at Arkansas State University. There were a lot of activities to be involved in and several people to see at the national convention. As a group, we all agreed it was an experience we will never forget.



*Ashley Green, Agriculture Education major, Paragould, Ark.*

## 23rd Annual Student Leadership Conference

More than 60 students participated in the Annual A-State College of Agriculture and Technology Student Leadership Conference on September 26 at the A-State Convocation Center in Jonesboro. The conference is designed to help new and returning students prepare to effectively lead their campus organizations and to provide some basic leadership skills that will help them compete in the business sector. Many A-State graduates become active in leadership positions in the community or their profession. A-State's College of Agriculture and Technology alumnus Marion Fletcher, agricultural education program manager, Arkansas Career Education Department in Little Rock, was the luncheon speaker. Erin Nunan, pictured here with Dr. Burcham is this year's winner of the Leadership Scholarship.



### *A Special "Thank You" to the co-sponsors of the Leadership Conference:*

*Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce-Agribusiness Commerce, Craighead County Farm Bureau, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, Farm Credit Midsouth, Crop Production Services, Greenway Equipment Inc., and Poinsett Rice & Grain, Inc.*

### *CoAT Student Named to 2014 Who's Who Registry:*

*Ben A. Gander, a senior from Paragould and a graduate of Greene County Tech. He is an agricultural education major, and is the only CoAT student to be selected to the A-State Who's Who for 2014.*

### Agricultural Policy Class visits Southern Tennant Farmers Museum

Dr. Bert Greenwalt, Dr. Lew Brinkley, Dean Tim Burcham, and 40 agricultural policy students toured the A-State Southern Tennant Farmers Museum in Tyronza on September 9, 2014. Museum Director Linda Hinton described how the Southern Tennant Farmers Union was organized in Tyronza in 1934 in response to the economic hardships of the Great Depression. By 1938, the union had grown to more than 35,000 members and had moved its headquarters to Memphis. As an integrated organization in which women played a prominent role, the union provided an example for the post-war civil rights and women's movements.



Dr. Ruth Hawkins, director of A-State Heritage Sites, made a presentation about the Dyess Colony. The colony was a federal government program to give dispossessed farmers a new start during the Great Depression, and was the boyhood home of Johnny Cash. The Dyess Colony, the Cash family home and the museum are part of the A-State Heritage Sites program. More information on these historical sites is available at STFM.AState.edu and DyessCash.AState.edu.

### Agribusiness Club Visits Firms in St. Louis

Ten members of the A-State Agribusiness Club and adviser Dr. Bert Greenwalt conducted an agribusiness study tour in St. Louis, Mo., on November 13-15. The group met with company representatives and toured facilities at Bunge North America, Monsanto, Anheuser-Bush and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Jasper A. Hayles Agri Fund        | <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer's Market Building                         |
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Send all gifts to the A-State 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 A-State Foundation Office at 870-225-8343



**ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
*College of*  
**Agriculture & Technology**  
P.O. Box 1080  
State University, AR 72467

### *Spring 2015*

Agribusiness Conference ..... Feb. 11  
Eastern District FFA CDE's ..... March 11  
Spring Break ..... March 23-28  
Scholarship Application Deadline:  
    March 1, 2015 [AState.edu/college/agriculture-and-technology/scholarships](http://AState.edu/college/agriculture-and-technology/scholarships)  
CoAT Honors Banquet ..... April 21  
Farmers Market Opens ..... May 9  
Spring Commencement ..... May 9  
Summer Session I ..... May 30  
Summer Session II ..... July 1

### **Faculty Kudos**

- Dr. Agnew had an article published in the Agricultural Education magazine. The title of the article is: "Securing the Future with Leadership Fundamentals Learned in FFA." Agricultural Education magazine, Volume 87, #2.
- Dr. Keith Morris had a feature article and front cover photo in the Spring 2014 Ag Leader Insights magazine. The article "Mapping New Classroom Opportunities – Rewarding Careers in Precision Agriculture," (pages 8-11) provides a great overview of the precision agriculture program in our college. You can download the entire issue at this link: [www.agleader.com/about/insights-magazine/](http://www.agleader.com/about/insights-magazine/)
- Drs. Pulley, Humphrey and Xu received a Provost's Scholar Award Faculty Seed-Grant. The Pulley and Humphrey proposal was entitled, "Effects of camelina sativa on intestinal parasites in sheep as a potential alternative control." Dr. Jianfeng (Jay) Xu's proposal was entitled, "Synthetic gene technology for dissecting the roles of plant cell wall glycoproteins in plant defense to stresses."
- Dr. Xu also received the Provost's Faculty Development Award for his project entitled, "Presenting Designer Glycopeptide technology at the 2015 in vitro biology meeting."
- Dr. Jianfeng Xu, received a USDA-NIFA grant. Co-authors are Dr. Brett Savary and Dr. Greg Phillips. The project title is, "Engineering Designer Biopolymers for Reconstructing Plant Cell Walls to Improve Biomass Processability."
- If you have a story, idea, announcement or update on a promotion or award you or someone else has received, send it to the newsletter. Email us at [agri@AState.edu](mailto:agri@AState.edu). Please send us your email address so we may send this newsletter by email in the future. You can send it to the same email address as above.

### **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):  
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    Technology Management  
    Computer Aided Drafting & Design  
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### **Bachelor of Applied Science**

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