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24th Annual Student Leadership Conference



On September 25, 2015, the College of Agriculture & Technology held the 24th Annual Student Leadership Conference. (Next year will be our 25th anniversary!) The purpose of the conference is to inform students about leadership opportunities in the university and community and to encourage them to enhance their leadership skills. Dr. Karen McDaniel, Assistant Professor in the College of Business, talked about the importance of networking and effective communication for leaders. Dr. Beverly Gilbert, from the School of Teacher Education and Leadership, taught business meal etiquette. Our luncheon speaker always features an alumnus, so Nathan Davis, Field Representative for Senator John Boozman, gave his insights on effective leadership. Thanks to our sponsors for supporting our college and students: Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, Craighead County Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Midsouth, Poinsett Rice & Grain, Greenway Equipment, Inc., and Crop Production Services.



Students Develop Networking Skills



Center - Ag Ed Alumni – Nathan Davis, Luncheon speaker, Dr. Burcham, College Dean on right & David Agnew on the left

Annual Ag Fest as Fund Raiser for *Ag for Autism*

The College of Agriculture & Technology held their annual Ag Fest on Monday, November 2, 2015, at the Equine Center. As this year's coordinators, our Agricultural Ambassadors, decided to use the event as a fund raiser for "Ag for Autism." Several of the Ag for Autism state officers are located in Jonesboro and work for Armor Seed. Along with the food, games, and music, we managed to raffle off a Yeti Cooler, Rod and Reel, and other items donated by sponsors. Ag students raised over \$1000 in just one night to donate to Ag for Autism, so we have decided to make it an annual event. To learn more about Agriculture for Autism and what they do, please visit them on Facebook at Ag for Autism.



Annual AgriCenter International Field-Day

Ag students traveled to AgriCenter International in Memphis, TN, this semester to attend the annual Agricultural Field Day. AgriCenter International is a non-profit dedicated to agricultural research, education, and conservation. Approximately 500 students from Northern Mississippi, west Tennessee, and eastern Arkansas attended to learn where their "food and fiber come from." This event provided an excellent recruiting opportunity for our Ag Ambassadors, faculty, and staff to talk to MidSouth students about attending Arkansas State University.



Local Industries Donate for Ag Mechanics Lab Improvements

Apex Tool Group (*Delta Tool Box*) here in Jonesboro donated two large tool boxes (Job boxes) to the Ag Mechanics and Welding program in the College of Agriculture & Technology in the Summer of 2015.



Colson Casters of Jonesboro donated eight castors for use with those two big Job Boxes received from Delta.



Career Fair for Agriculture

Our annual career fair has been moved from the spring to the fall semester and relocated from the Agriculture Building to Centennial Hall in the A-State Student Union. The change in venue allows more students and vendors to attend. The career outlook is positive for those in agriculture.



Two areas that may provide the best opportunities for growth are organic farming and biofuel development

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dr. Larbi Gives Presentation

Dr. Peter Larbi, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Systems Technology, who joined our faculty in 2014, conducted a presentation on September 16, 2015, at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope, Arkansas. The Center held an In-Service Sprayer Clinic for Specialty Crop and Forage Sprayer Technology for county Extension agents. The event was organized by Jason Davis, Application Technologist at University of Arkansas. Dr. Larbi's presentation included adjusting calibration and coverage in Airblast spraying.



Approximately 22 million people work in agriculture related fields



Dr. Green, Professor of the Month

Assessment is an important part of what we do in education. Dr. Steve Green, Professor of Soil and Water Conservation, was recognized in October for his outstanding assessment achievements and was named professor of the month by newly formed Assessment office. Dr. Green, was acknowledged for helping his students retain knowledge that is key to career success. In a crucial upper-division agriculture course, Green discovered how he could better achieve his goal of imparting critical field skills to future producers and farm managers.

For his work in the classroom, Green was selected by the Learning Outcomes Advisory Committee and Office of Assessment for the A-State professor of the month recognition. Assessment is one of the ways A-State supports its mission to educate leaders, enhance intellectual growth and enrich lives. One of Dr. Green's students, senior J.R. Haywood, talks about classroom effectiveness in a video that can be found at this link.

<http://www.astate.edu/news/dr-steven-green-is-october-professor-of-the-month>



According to the USDA, there are nearly 60,000 high-skilled agriculture job openings expected annually in U.S., yet only 35,000 graduates available to fill them

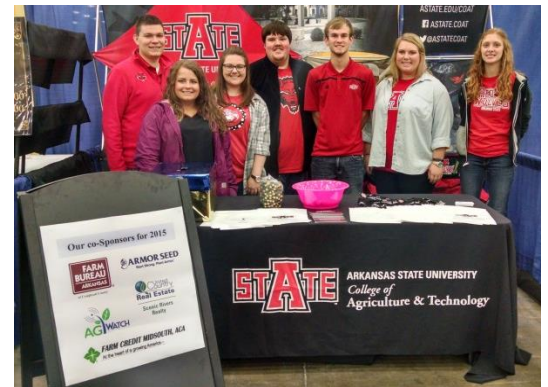
National **FFA** and National **ATA** Conventions

Two of our student organizations, Collegiate FFA (CFFA) and Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA), partnered together last fall to attend their national conventions which were held at the same time in Louisville, Kentucky. The Collegiate FFA is a national Agricultural Education organization committed to developing student leadership and career success. Alpha Tau Alpha is a national professional Agricultural Education Honor Society.

Dustin Headstream, treasurer of CFFA, president of ATA, and second national vice president of ATA, chaired a committee to help raise funds for convention expenses. The student organizations received support from Craighead Farm Bureau, Ag Watch Network, Armor Seed, and Farm Credit Mid-South. CFFA, ATA, and the College of Agriculture & Technology are grateful to these sponsors for their support of our students and programs.

The group (consisting of seven students and one faculty member, Dr. David Agnew) left Jonesboro on October 27, stayed overnight in Elizabethtown, and arrived at Louisville, Kentucky on the 28th. Members of both FFA and ATA manned the College of Agriculture and Technology recruiting booth during the trade show held at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Dr. David Agnew and Dustin Headstream coordinated two national competitions while at the conventions: the ATA Parliamentary Procedure Contest and the Program of Excellence Award. Our students also helped with facilitating the discussion meet and quiz bowl.



Delta Tau Alpha Initiates New Members

Each semester the Delta Tau Alpha (DTA), an honorary organization for agriculture majors, invites and initiates new members into the organization. The DTA is open to students who have completed at least 45 hours of course work, 12 of which must have been in agriculture, and have a GPA in the upper 35% of all students in the College of Agriculture & Technology. Dr. Donald "Bud" Kennedy is the advisor for DTA.



New Initiates for Fall 2015

Front Row: Sharlett Johnson, Casey Burdett, Sara Jane Beauchamp, Keighley Barber, Morgan Lowe, Sara Henson, Bailey Grissum, Julia McRee,
Back Row: Allie Kendall, Olivia Crisp, Rachel Bridgeman, Bret Hale, Anthony Guiltner, Ryan Holbert



Devore Endowment Will Benefit Agriculture Students for years to come

A Prairie County brother and sister have made a gift to Arkansas State University that will benefit future generations of Prairie County students who wish to pursue a degree in agriculture. Bruce Devore and his sister, Daphna Gwin, of Prairie County, Arkansas, transferred their jointly held Walmart stock to the ASU Foundation to establish an endowed scholarship in the College of Agriculture and Technology.

Additionally, Devore has executed a living trust planned gift to A-State that will add additional funds into the endowment upon his death. Following his retirement earlier this year, he started to think about his legacy. Because he has no children, Mr. Devore knew he would keep the farm in the family by selling it to his cousin. Since another cousin, Dr. Bert Greenwalt, teaches at A-State, Devore decided to make a legacy gift to the university that will benefit students from his home county.

"I didn't get a college education," he said. "But I think students coming from where I did should be able to if they want to." Once he set up the legacy gift, Devore said he started thinking about how long it might be before the endowment would be used. It was then that he and his sister decided to liquidate their Walmart stock, gift it to A-State, and name the endowment in honor of their father (Earl) and Bruce.

Dr. Timothy N. Burcham, dean of the A-State College of Agriculture and Technology, said the Earl and Bruce Devore Endowed Scholarship will be made available in 2019 to students from Prairie County who intend to pursue an agriculture degree at Arkansas State University. Students from the county who have attended the university's sister campus in Beebe and want to further their education at A-State will also qualify.

"We appreciate this generous gift," said Burcham. "Mr. Devore's vision will benefit generations of students who have a desire to improve their lives and the lives of others, through educational achievement."

Adapted from news release at:

<http://www.astate.edu/news/devore-endowment-will-benefit-agriculture-students>

Wilson Family Endows Faculty Agribusiness Chair at Arkansas State

Last summer Perry Wilson, great-great grandson of R.E. Lee Wilson of Mississippi County, announced that his family will endow a faculty chair in Agricultural Business with a \$1 million gift to Arkansas State University. "It is very, very important to my family that Arkansas State carries on the tradition it has had in educating folks to go into agriculture and into business," Wilson said. "That's the real purpose of the endowment; to be a crossover between the agriculture school and the business school."

Wilson said a lot of people come into farming well educated in agriculture but lack the business training they need, for instance, to market their crops. Because Arkansas State is, what he said, " smack in the middle of the Delta," the university finds itself uniquely situated to address that concern.

"Perry Wilson and his family have been a part of Arkansas State for nearly a century; their leadership and philanthropy have contributed to the very fabric of our university," said Dr. Tim Hudson, A-State chancellor. "This generous gift to create an endowed chair further extends the Wilson family's legacy. The position it supports will allow our agricultural business program to lead the way for generations to come."

According to Dr. Timothy Burcham, agriculture dean, the endowed faculty chair in agricultural business will ensure academic distinction at A-State by attracting a faculty member who exhibits the highest degree of excellence in agri-business. "When you look at having an endowed faculty chair, that sets you at a whole other level with regard to the type of individual you're recruiting," said. "This is a tremendous program and concentration that will allow us to do a great job with our students."

Wilson said the legacy of his family is what brought him to A-State, but seeing how the university has advanced since he has been involved has been "thrilling."

Planning coursework and selecting the chair holder will take time, Burcham said. The university hopes to have a curriculum in place for the fall 2017 semester.

Adapted from news release at:

<http://www.astate.edu/news/wilson-family-endows-faculty-chair-at-arkansas-state>



Upcoming Events

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

Scholarship Applications Deadline — March 1, 2016

<http://www2.astate.edu/a/agriculture/information-for-students/scholarships/index.dot>

Miscellaneous notes:

- ◆ The college officially opened an advising center in fall 2015. Advisors are Mrs. Lori Fenner and Ms. Qubieinique Greer.
- ◆ Well known Arkansas fisherman, Scott Suggs, was featured at the Ag Day FFA/4-H event held September 19.
- ◆ Dr. David Agnew completed the CASE curriculum training for Agricultural Education in July 2015.
- ◆ Dr. Hood's research into pines as a biofuel was featured in the Jonesboro Sun on October 12, 2015.
- ◆ Congressman Rick Crawford spoke to Agricultural Policy students 9/1/15 on the importance of understanding Ag Policy and how it affects all sectors of the agriculture industry.
- ◆ The annual Fall Petting Zoo was October 8-10 at the ASU Farm.
- ◆ Ms. Jenna Guidry from the State Department spoke to the Intro to Ag Ed class in November.
- ◆ The Eastern District FFA Leadership CDEs were held at A-State in December.
- ◆ The FFA CDE committee meeting was moved to Westside H.S. due to the active shooter event on campus the day of the meeting.
- ◆ Dr. Shumway will be on a Sabbatical in the Spring of 2016.
- ◆ In June 2015, Dr. David Agnew received the Win Paul Rockefeller Leadership Award presented by Arkansas Literacy Councils for his Service to aAdult Education in Arkansas.

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

Agricultural Business (major)

Various emphasis areas

Agricultural Studies (major)

Agricultural Education (emphasis)

Agricultural Systems Technology

Agricultural Science

Animal Science (major)

Various emphasis areas

Plant & Soil Science (major)

Various emphasis areas

Technology (major)

Technical Studies (emphasis)

Technology Management (emphasis)

Computer Aided Drafting & Design (emphasis)

Computer Systems (emphasis)

Bachelor of Applied Science

Associate Degree

Technology

Endorsements

Adult Education

Career Education

Do you have a story, idea, announcement, or up-date on a promotion or award you or someone else has received? Send it to the newsletter! Email us at agri@astate.edu. Please send us your email address so that we may send this newsletter by email in the future. You may send it to the same email address as above.



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