



AG ECON NEWS

Department of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University

Fall 2011

News from the Department Head

Greetings! Welcome to the latest addition of Ag Econ News. We really appreciate all the support received from alums, friends, and donors. A special thanks to all of you who not only donate monetarily, but also give your time for interviews, internships, class projects, and mentoring in so many ways!

Our students benefit greatly from the many interactions they have with you. We hope you enjoy this issue of News which includes stories on activities of our students, staff, faculty, and alums.

Former students tell me they have great memories of experiences they had while attending OSU. We hope we are continuing that tradition of excellence. I continue to be amazed by the energy seen with our current student scholars and leaders.

This is the time of year when many people make charitable contributions. Please consider our departmental scholarship funds as you make decisions about end-of-year gifts. Your support really makes a significant difference and all gifts count!

You can find additional information regarding our general departmental scholarship fund as well as specific scholarships on our website at [http://www. agecon.okstate.edu/donation.asp](http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/donation.asp).

Mike Woods

Rural Economic Outlook Conference speakers addressed future trends

Over 150 people attended the 2011 Rural Economic Outlook Conference hosted by the OSU Agricultural Economics Department in November at the ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center.

The focus of the conference was trends and expectations regarding the rural economy and agriculture. The goal was to provide bankers, agricultural leaders, and others with information pertinent to their planning for the coming year.

Keynote Speech

Keynote speaker Dr. David Kohl, Professor Emeritus of the Virginia Tech Agricultural Economics Department, presented a stimulating, informative, and thought-provoking session on "Global Economics: Points to Ponder."

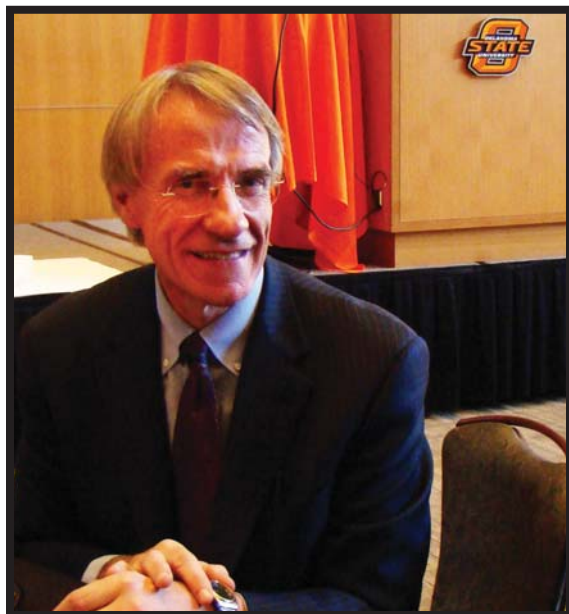
Dr. Kohl presented some current trends in agriculture, such as the presence of more young people, more families, and more minorities. He stated that as our population ages, more people today are "hungry for life-long learning."

He discussed the volatility in our economy today and issues such as the low value of the dollar, the effects of the recent weather conditions, the rise of emerging nations, and land values. He stated that while "volatility creates opportunities, it also creates opportunities to fail," and he advised caution and careful planning.

To survive the volatility and changes in agriculture, Dr. Kohl strongly advised

the following actions for producers:

- Build strong working capital and cash reserves
- Prepare sound risk management programs



Keynote speaker Dr. David Kohl

- Watch financial leverage
- Keep sound financial records
- Have viable systems in place
- Prepare for a five-year down cycle

Environmental Regulations

Dr. Shannon Ferrell, ag econ law professor, then presented "Environmental Regulation in Agriculture: Production Constraint or Business as Usual?"

He discussed the Clean Air Act and

Rural Economic Outlook Conference

(Continued from page 1)



Dr. Shannon Ferrell discussed air, water, and hazardous waste regulations.

the regulation of air emissions in agriculture; water regulations and potential permit requirements for farmers; and hazardous waste management policies and possible future restrictions.

Credit Risk 2012

After lunch, Dr. Kohl returned for a presentation on "Credit Risk 2012: Answers to Inquiring Questions" in which he showed the trends in both ag banking and farm credit regarding lending.

He discussed what constitutes risky lending versus successful lending, and proactive practices of regulators. Then, he provided some items for farmers to think about when considering borrowing.

Farm Bill

Next, Dr. Jody Campiche presented an update on the Farm Bill being



Dr. Jody Campiche spoke on the Farm Bill.

considered in the U.S. legislature. She spoke about the Farm Bill's history and listed some of the items it does include and some it does not.

She discussed various proposals and their potential effects on agriculture in Oklahoma.

Outlook Panel

Following that, Ron Smith, editor of Southwest Farm Press introduced members of

Sponsors

Sponsors for this year's conference were

- InterBank
- Farm Credit Associations of Oklahoma
- American Farmers and Ranchers
- Payne County Bank
- The Central Bank of Alva
- OSU Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
- OSU Department of Agricultural Economics



Ron Smith (left) introduced Outlook Panel members Dr. Kim Anderson, Dr. Derrell Peel, and Dr. Damona Doye.

an Outlook Panel who presented information on what the future holds: Kim Anderson - Crops; Derrell Peel - Current Economic Climate of the Cattle Business; and Damona Doye - Rental Rates and Land Values.

The PowerPoint presentations for the various speakers are available for viewing and downloading at <http://agecon.okstate.edu/extension/ruralconference.asp>.



Andrew Greer, Aggie-X Secretary/reporter, and Jody Lollis, Aggie-X Treasurer, presented information about the Aggie-X club, its mission, its activities, and events planned for the coming year.

Ag econ professors assume chairs and professorship

The OSU Board of Regents recently approved three changes in appointments for three ag econ professors who have taken on new responsibilities after being awarded chairs or professorships in the department.

Brorsen awarded new A. J. and Susan Jacques Chair

Dr. Wade Brorsen, Regents Professor has been awarded the A.J. and Susan Jacques Chair.

The A.J. and Susan Jacques Chair in Agricultural Economics is the newest chair in the ag econ department and was established to “encourage excellence in teaching and scholarship in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University.”

According to Brorsen, “The main use of the funds will be to provide three quarter-time research assistantships. Thus the funds will support students as well as support the research that they produce.”

Brorsen formerly held the Jean &



Patsy Neustadt Chair, and he says, “These funds are a huge benefit. In addition to supporting students, the funds allow purchase of computers and supporting hardware and software. They also provide funds for students to attend conferences. The presentations they give there not only raise the reputation of our

Jacques Chair (Continued on page 5)

Epplin holds Neustadt Chair

Dr. Francis Epplin, Professor and former Breedlove Professor, now holds the Jean and Patsy Neustadt Chair.



Neustadt Chair (Continued on page5)

Chung named as Breedlove Professor



Chanjin Chung, ag econ professor was recently named Charles Breedlove Professor.

Chung states, “The agricultural industry is one of the major industries in Oklahoma, and I believe this professorship fund will effectively help advance state food and agricultural industries through the support of teaching and research programs in agribusiness at OSU.”

Chung plans to use the chair funds to recruit excellent graduate students and support graduate student research programs that focus primarily on agribusiness, extend and support ongoing research projects

BreedloveChair (Continued on page5)

Campiche, Dicks, Sanders, and Jones receive AAEA extension/outreach award for farm bill program

Ag Econ faculty members Dr. Jody Campiche, Dr. Mike Dicks, and Dr. Larry Sanders, and Dr. Rodney Jones, Area Extension Ag Econ Specialist, NW District; received the prestigious Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program: Group Award from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) at their summer meeting in Pittsburgh.

Farm Bill Education Program

These individuals received this award for their Farm Bill Education Program, which Dr. Mike Woods, ag econ department head says, "...successfully addressed a very important issue for many Oklahomans who depend on the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Program for information and assistance critical for their businesses."

The Farm Bill Education Program was developed in response to the 2008 Farm Bill, which brought about

major changes in farm programs, and created significant challenges for those who needed to implement and adopt these changes.

Drs. Campiche, Dicks, Jones, and Sanders headed up a team of state specialists and area economists at OSU who began developing the Farm Bill Education Program two years prior to the passage of the bill. Their work included framing the debate for those most affected, providing scientific analysis to decision makers on relevant alternatives and consequences, and following through as the programs were implemented after the bill's passage.

The team also developed software to enable farmers to determine the economic advantages of the new programs and gave numerous extension programs pertaining to these new programs.

Web-based tools based on scientific review of land resources, prices, and programs were developed to provide farm-level analysis to interested producers and other groups affected.

Decision Tool

A major software component developed was a spreadsheet decision tool that allowed farm program participants the opportunity to compare the bottom line impact of new and existing economic elections (such as the ACRE election option) on their respective farms.

This decision tool has been used by county extension educators, FSA county offices and other agricultural industry personnel. According to Dr. Woods, "Producers and federal agencies have expressed appreciation for the decision tool and the willingness of county, area, and state extension educators to work individually to understand the alternatives and consequences with objective, scientific information and tools."

Training Meetings

During 2008-2010, roughly 250 meetings were conducted statewide; many of which were sponsored by partnering agencies and farm and commodity organizations. Over 7500 attended, while thousands followed up through personal consultations, phone calls, and email discussions.

Partnerships

A critical component of this education program were the coordinating partnerships that developed at the federal, state, and local levels, and represented government, banking, education, and farm and commodity organizations.



Thomas W. Hertel, AAEA President (second from left), presents certificates to (left to right) Jody Campiche, Rodney Jones, and Larry Sanders for the Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program: Group Award at the AAEA meeting. Not pictured is Mike Dicks.

Ag Econ faculty and students attend AAEA meeting

Ag econ faculty members and students were well represented at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) meeting this past summer.

- Two Invited Papers were presented during the meetings.
- Three faculty members served as Moderators for paper presentation sessions.
- Seven Selected Papers were presented by faculty members or graduate students.
- One Organized Symposium was led by OSU.
- Three Posters were selected for presentation from our department.
- Derrell Peel led six students in competition during the Undergraduate Academic Bowl. Each team performed very well (three students per team) with both teams making it to the second day of competition. Kristen Kovalsky assisted in team preparation and assisted as a judge. Student team members included Johnna Rushin, Paula Smithheisler, Charlie Slough, Cole Lamson, Robert Parrish, and Trindle Brueggen.
- Jody Campiche coached the Graduate Student Case Student Team composed of Lance Weaver, Amanda Simpson, and Kalyn Neal. The team finished first in the competition. Congratulations! (See story on page 11.)
- The Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award for Group went to Jody Campiche, Mike Dicks, Rodney Jones, and Larry Sanders for their Farm Bill education program. (See story on page 4.)
- Dr. Bailey Norwood provided leadership to the Undergraduate Student Section and the many activities of this section.
- Dr. Damona Doye serves as Chair of C-FARE, the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Jacques Chair (Continued from page 3)

institution, but also let more people know about research results.

Brorsen says that he anticipates advances over the next three years that would not have been possible without the support for this chair.

Brorsen's research is primarily in price analysis and econometrics with an emphasis on futures markets, but he also addresses many other issues relevant to agriculture, including wheat quality, agricultural land prices, and generic markers in cattle.

A.J. and Susan Jacques live in Southlake, Texas. Both are 1975 graduates of Oklahoma State University. A.J. Received his BS degree in agricultural economics and Susan received a BS degree in recreation.

A.J. is currently the president of Cheyenne Drilling Inc and Susan is a former science teacher.

Breedlove Professor (Continued from page 3)

in agribusiness, provide seed money for obtaining additional grants, and foster research collaborations with Oklahoma producer organizations.

Mr. Charles Breedlove established the Charles A. Breedlove Endowed Professorship in Agribusiness because he felt a need to help strengthen international trade for U.S. agricultural products. His intention was to assist OSU, and the Department of Agricultural Economics in particular, in providing new knowledge and expertise that would benefit rural Oklahoma and developing countries around the world.

Breedlove was from Muskogee and received a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Oklahoma A&M (now OSU) in 1942.

He later traveled throughout the world in his careers in government and private industry.

Neustadt Chair (Continued from page 3)

The policy guidelines for the Neustadt Chair specify the earnings from the Chair's endowment be used to "supplement the salary of the individual" holding the chair and "for program enrichment activities by the recipient".

Epplin states, "The availability of Chair dollars has enabled us to do a much better job of funding deserving hard working students from around the world. It has also supported research activity, our graduate program, and graduate students."

The late Mr. Jean Neustadt received his BS and MS in agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University. His wife Patsy resides in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Neustadt was Senior Partner of Neustadt Land and Development Company, President of Evergreen Mills, Inc; President of Weiser Feed Mills, and Vice President/Secretary of Pilgrim Drilling.

Frances Epplin Receives Sarkey Award



Clarence Watson, associate director of the statewide Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station system (left) and Dr. Robert Whitson, dean and director of DASNR, present the Sarkey award to Dr. Epplin.

Dr. Francis Epplin was named the 2011 recipient of the Sarkeys Distinguished Professor Award by DASNR.

The Sarkeys award is based on outstanding contributions to agriculture through teaching,

research or extension efforts. The award was established by the Sarkeys Foundation in 1980 to honor Elmo Baumann, an agronomist who worked with the foundation after his retirement from OSU.

“Francis has made and continues to make distinctive and influential contributions to agriculture and those who will impact agriculture’s future,” said Mike Woods, head of the ag econ

department.

Even though he has no formal Extension appointment, Dr. Epplin has been honored by the American Society of Agronomy – twice – for his contributions to Extension educational materials.

Shida Henneberry chosen to Head MIAP MS program

Dr. Shida Henneberry, ag econ regents professor, has been appointed director of the Masters of International Agriculture Program (MIAP), started in 2008.

As the director of MIAP, she administers the program, and she says what she enjoys most is her interaction with MIAP students, who come from a wide range of backgrounds, with broad and diversified interests.

The MIAP degree program, an interdisciplinary program within DASNR, provides students with the skills necessary to work in an internationally oriented position in the agricultural sector. The program currently has 50 students enrolled.

Joseph E. Williams Scholarship and Study Room honor dedication to students and passion for scholarship support

In 2002, Dr. Joe Williams received the first CASNR Student Mentoring Award, and at that ceremony Dr. Williams was said “to fit the prototype of who this award is supposed to honor.”

Throughout his teaching career, one of Dr. Williams most outstanding characteristics has been his service and commitment to his students. He has been honored for these traits many times.

In 2002, a group of former students, friends, and family members endowed the Joseph E. Williams Agricultural Economics Scholarship to honor his dedication to students and his passion for developing scholarship support for students.

Most recently, the ag econ department faculty, led by Dr.

Bailey Norwood and Dr. Shannon Ferrell, recommended to the DASNR administration that room 419, a student study lounge in ag hall, be renamed The Joseph E. Williams Study Room to honor his incomparable service to students.

Faculty, staff, and students attended a reception to dedicate the room. Dr. Williams stated, “I am very, very appreciative and extremely humbled by the naming of this room in my honor.”

Even in retirement, Dr. Williams continues his commitment to students. As Dr. Ferrell says, “Dr. Williams’ vision for his

students does not end with the completion of their academic career. He keeps in close contact with graduates, helping them with career development challenges far beyond graduation.”



Dr. Joe Williams stands beside the plaque outside the Joseph E. Williams Study Room-ag hall room 419.

Ag econ faculty members share NIFA Partnership Award with biofuels team

Ag Econ faculty members Dr. Francis Epplin, Dr. Phil Kenkel, and Dr. Rodney Holcomb, were members of the Oklahoma State University Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (OSU DASNR) Biobased Products and Energy Center team that was awarded the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Partnership Award for *Mission Integration*.

The award was given for the center's work with its major emphasis on integrating research, education, and extension.

The Biobased Products and Energy Center was formed in 2008 to promote greater integration within DASNR's interdisciplinary, multi-institutional team of scientists and engineers and their collective collaborative efforts with other agencies and organizations. Dr. Ray Huhnke, professor in biosystems/ agricultural engineering serves as director of the center.

The center was formed in response to the need to diversify America's energy resources. It's mission is to conduct research and provide educational programs in environmentally sound biobased product and energy development, helping to establish related industries in Oklahoma.

The work of the center builds on OSU development of unique conversion technology that converts low-cost biomass into ethanol and other value-added products.

Dr.s Epplin, Kenkel, and Holcomb's work for the center focuses primarily on the economic challenges of

biofuel production, including the sustainability of establishing biorefineries. The three have completed economic and systems analyses and energy balances, and created integrated financial-based models to determine the environmental and economic impact of land conversion for biofuel development.

Epplin's work has concentrated on the economic analysis of bioenergy and alternative crop production systems.

Holcomb has worked on agribusiness development and value-added commodities processing.

Kenkel has dealt with producer-owned bioenergy projects and feasibility analysis.

FARRM Game taught at Grandparents University Session

Dr. Kim Anderson, Dr. Eric DeVuyst, and J. C. Hobbs, assisted by Gracie Teague, once again taught the FARRM Game to a class of young students and their grandparents as part of the OSU Alumni Grandparent University agribusiness degree program this past summer.

For the fourth year, the grandchildren and their grandparents used the computer game to virtually manage a 1, 280-acre wheat, sorghum, cotton, and stocker farm and ranch. They made decisions about planting crops, and buying livestock and insurance to make the greatest profits.

Grandparent University provides an opportunity for young people to experience life on a college campus from staying in dorm rooms to attending classes in their "major."



Eric DeVuyst presents certificates to Gatlin Wilson and his grandfather James Carley from Stillwater for completing the FAARM game class of Grandparent University. Also pictured are Kim Anderson, left, and J.C. Hobbs, right.



Ag Econ graduate students pose together at the annual departmental fall picnic at Lake Carl Blackwell.

New graduate students enjoy events

The following 16 new graduate students bring the total in the ag econ graduate program to 65:

- Lisa Brown, Colorado, MS
- Aaron Coffey, Oklahoma, MS
- Cortney Cowley, Oklahoma, PhD
- Candi Ge, China, MS
- Brette Gollihare, Oklahoma, MS
- Choolwe Haankuku, Zambia, PhD
- Temesgen Helsabo, Ethiopia, MS
- Trey Malone, Kansas, MS
- Seth Menefee, New Mexico, MS
- Annie Nsafoah, Ghana, MS
- Masni Pohan, Indonesia, PhD
- Johnna Rushin, Oklahoma, MS
- Ben Turner, Texas, PhD

- Erin White, Oklahoma MAg
- Phoebe Wiles, Missouri, PhD
- Lisa Zumstein, Oklahoma, MAg

The annual fall graduate student reception was held in August in Ag Hall to welcome new graduate students to the department.

According to Anna Whitney, Student Services Specialist, "This event also helps the departmental faculty, staff and current graduate students to meet and become acquainted with the new students."

The new students also got a chance to experience departmental and OSU traditions at the fall picnic and the 25th Annual GSA International Dinner.

Everyone enjoyed many food and dessert dishes and had fun with the ag econ Trivia game designed by Kristen Kovalsky, MS student, that relates to graduate students' countries and states. Dr. Mike Dick's table won the trivia prize.

Thesis topics

Summer 2011

Matt Padgett - Water Use and Conservation Adoption by Residential Users in Oklahoma: Motivations, Attitudes, and Perceptions

Michael Reilley - Essays on Recreational Demand for Trout Fishing on the Lower Mountain Fork River and Municipal Water Conservation

Vonesili Saysana - Promoting Organic and Fair Trade Certification in the Lao PDR Coffee Sector: Benefits and Challenges for Farmers and Local Economics

Folakemi Sobowale - Impact of United Corn Based Ethanol Production on Land Use in Brazil

JoDee Schmidt - Determinants of Water Conservation Irrigation Practices: A Study of Park and Golf Turfgrass



Brian Williams, Angelica Serrano Paez, Maria Mejia and daughter, Dakota Moss, and Trey Malone at the departmental picnic.

Graduate students receive scholarships and fellowships

Fifteen ag econ graduate students were awarded scholarships and fellowships from the department for Fall 2011 and Spring 2012.



Amanda Simpson is presented the Spielman Scholarship by Dr. Chung.

Spielman Scholarship (Jan and Hank Spielman)

Brenna Ellison PhD
Brian Williams PhD
Amanda Simpson MS
Lance Weaver MS

Leo and Betty Blakley Graduate Fellowship

Andrew Griffith PhD
Mallory Vestal MS
Kristen Kovalsky MS
Kalyn Neal MS



Dr. Chung presents Kalyn Neal with the Leo and Betty Blakley Graduate Fellowship

The Leonard F. Miller Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in International Rural Development

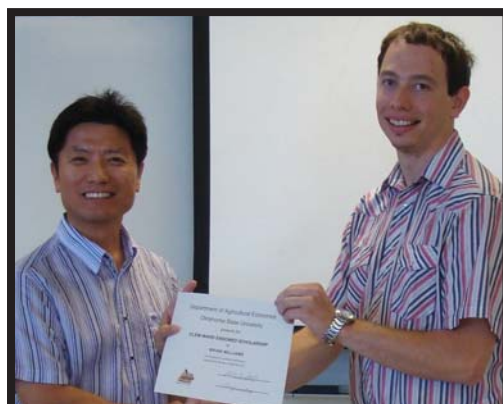
Angelica Serrao Paez PhD
Monika Ghimire MS
Tesfaye Woldesenbet MS



Angelica Serrano Paez is presented the Leonard F. Miller Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in International Rural Development by Dr. Chung

Clem Ward Endowed Scholarship

Mallory Vestal PhD
Brian Williams PhD
Andrew Griffith PhD



Dr. Chung presents the Clem Ward Endowed Scholarship to Brian Williams.

Endowed International Agricultural Economics Fellowship Fund

Deepayan Debnath PhD



Deepayan Debnath is presented with the Endowed International Agricultural Economics Fellowship by Dr. Chung.

Ag econ graduate team wins AAEA Case Study award

A team of ag econ graduate students won the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's (AAEA) Graduate Student Section Case Study Competition at the AAEA/NAREA conference this summer.

The team, consisting of Lance Weaver, Amanda Simpson, and Kalyn Neal, competed against similar teams from other universities across the country. The national competition revolved around the real-world case study, "Excel Co-op: Responding to Biofuels." Each team was given two weeks to put together its presentation prior to the competition.

Amanda Simpson says "winning the competition was rewarding and further instilled confidence in myself and my abilities to perform well in this field as I continue onto a doctoral

program." Weaver agrees that the team received valuable advice and consultation.

"I have had incredible instruction and I feel that placing first in the competition is a direct reflection on those experiences," he said. "Learning in the classroom is one thing; application in the real world is another."

Amanda credits part of the team's



Thomas W. Hertel, AAEA President (center) presents (left to right) Amanda Simpson, Kalyn Neal, Lance Weaver and Dr. Campiche with the AAEA case study award.

success to the mentorship of advisers from the OSU Department of Agricultural Economics, Dr. Jody Campiche, Dr. Brandon McFadden, Dr. Phil Kenkel, and Dr. Rodney Holcomb.

Graduate Student Reception



Ag Econ graduate students, faculty, and staff listen to a speaker at the Graduate Student Reception.

OSU Seniors of Significance include six ag econ students

Six of the 40 students named by the OSU Alumni Association as OSU Seniors of Significance for 2011-2012 are students in the department of agricultural economics.

The Seniors of Significance include the following ag econ students;

Jamie Andrews (agribusiness, Edmond); Haley Baumgardner (agribusiness, Carrier); Randy Gordon (agribusiness/pre law, Seiling); Garrett "Blake" Jackson (agribusiness/pre law, Hartshorne); Carly Schnaithman (agribusiness, Garber); Alice White (agribusiness and ag communications, Belvue, Kansas).

The Outstanding Senior award recognizes seniors who excel through academic achievement; campus and community activities; academic, athletic, or extra-curricular honors or awards; scholarships; and work ethic during their time at OSU.

"This group represents one percent of the senior class and OSU's best with their involvement in numerous service and leadership organizations,"

Phi Kappa Phi accepts two ag econ students

Ag econ students Mary Catherine Connolly (agribusiness, Stillwater) and Jace Tyler White (agribusiness-prelaw, Cherokee) have been accepted to be inducted and initiated into the OSU Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Invitation to membership is based on academic achievements and exemplary character.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 and is the oldest and most selective honor society for top-ranking students from all academic disciplines.

says Larry Shell, OSU Alumni Association president.

Shannon Ferrell, advisor to five of the six students, states, "I have been extremely blessed to work with outstanding students, and I am exceptionally proud of my advisees. Our department's Seniors of Significance demonstrate that

Two ag econ students selected as top freshmen

Jacy Alsup (agribusiness and ag communications, Gravette, Arkansas) and Caroline Bremer (agribusiness, Metropolis, Illinois) have been selected by OSU's Mortar Board as two of the top ten freshmen women.

Selection of students, who are now sophomores, is based on scholarship, community service, campus involvement, and outstanding leadership. The honor is to recognize and encourage leadership among Freshmen.

The Top Ten Freshmen men and women were honored at a special ceremony at Willard Hall and at the OSU- Kansas football game.

Wedel on OSU Student Alumni Board

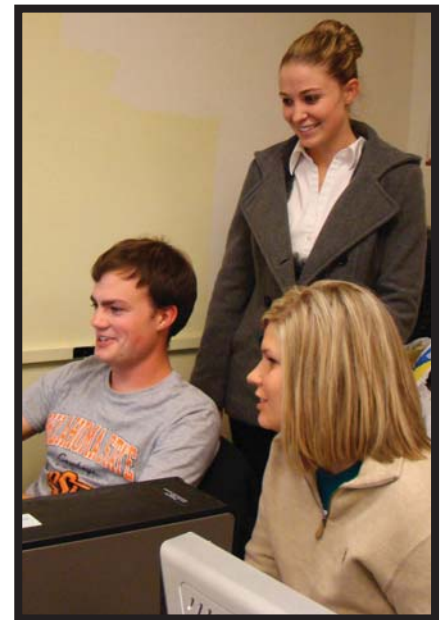
Jonathan Wedel, agribusiness/pre-law senior from Stillwater, is now serving as membership executive on the OSU Student Alumni Board for 2011-2012.

The board is a leadership development organization sponsored by the Alumni Association. Students are chosen for their excellence in scholarship and leadership and for genuine interest in assisting the Alumni Association in its activities.

Jonathan says, "Being a member

of the Student Alumni Board has been one of my most rewarding experiences. My favorite opportunity is getting to work alongside with fellow students, faculty, and alumni who all possess a common passion for our university."

The Student Alumni Board is known as one of OSU's premier campus leadership organization and is responsible for passing along OSU tradition to students while serving as ambassadors at alumni and campus events.



Cyrena Neill (agribusiness, Hudson, CO), computer lab monitor, looks on as Caleb Davis (agribusiness, Fairview) and (Hollie Detrick (agribusiness, Ames) use the third floor computer lab for an assignment.

Agribusiness student receives Low Wentz Scholarship

Ag Econ student Jamie Andrews (agribusiness/pre-law, Edmond) has been selected as a Wentz Scholar recipient for the 2011-2012 school year.

She receives a \$2,750 Low Wentz Scholarship. These scholarships are given to continuing undergraduate students who have not only shown outstanding academic progress, but have been leaders on campus and provided valuable public service.

Administered by the Office of Scholar Development at OSU, the awards are used to showcase students whose concern for others might eventually lead to graduate work and careers in service.

Applicants must submit a 400-500 word essay on how academic and extracurricular activities at OSU are preparing them for professional and

personal success, along with a summary of activities and honors.

Dr. Shannon Ferrell, Jamie's advisor states, "The Wentz Scholarships are a tremendous opportunity for our undergraduate students to engage in real and meaningful research that makes a difference in the lives of Oklahomans while also distinguishing themselves as true scholars. Jamie's research has already turned heads on campus, and I am confident it will get the attention of our state policy-makers as well."

On receiving the scholarship,



Jamie Andrews, with her advisor, Dr. Shannon Ferrell

Jamie says, "Receiving the Wentz Scholarship has been a great honor. I am so happy to be part of a university that genuinely wants to help its students succeed and provides scholarship programs such as this to help with educational costs."

Two ag econ students receive Matthew 25:40 scholarships

Richard Moore (agribusiness, Mounds) and Shannon Watson (agribusiness, Osceola, Missouri) recently received Matthew 25:40 scholarships, which provide additional incentives for students to travel abroad to participate in community improvement projects in developing countries.

The scholarship was set up by Wes and Lou Watkins because of their belief in the virtues of helping under-served communities in other countries, as a means to improve their quality of life, and to allow students to serve as positive representatives

of Oklahoma and the U.S.

Shannon says that it has been a true blessing to receive the Matthew

25:40 scholarship. "It enabled me to travel to Sierra Leone and use my knowledge and skills to serve

others. While working with the orphans there, I was inspired; the children were so full of hope, love, and faith. Even though I had traveled across the world to make a difference in a war-torn community, the children truly made a difference in my life, and I will be forever changed."



Shown above with Wes Watkins are (left to right) Richard Moore, Ashley Hesser, Shannon Watson, Patrick Bell and Dr. Mike Dicks, ag econ professor and Wes and Lou Watkins Chair of International Trade and Development.

Aggie-X News

Aggie-X has been off to a busy start this year! On September 6, 2011, the club met and enjoyed the break in the hot weather for another successful Back to School Bash. Dr. Peel and Dr. Schatzer cooked hot dogs and hamburgers for the students, faculty, and staff.

The officer team represented Aggie-X at the annual CASNR Round-up for freshmen and transfer students, and achieved what has shown to be very successful recruiting. We had 13 new members attend our first meeting on October 4, 2011.

Our first meeting was sponsored by the Oklahoma Ag Cooperative Council. We were given a few

encouraging words as well as real world experience that surely made each student think about paying attention a little more in class.



Aggie-X officers pose with the pig at the Annual Alumni Tailgate.

Aggie-X also kept the members busy with the homecoming harvest carnival, the chili cook-off, and CASNR window painting. The Annual Alumni Tailgate on November 5, 2011 was another successful event. We

would like to thank everyone that came out.

Aggie-X is keeping members busy planning for a club ski trip in early January, and getting things in gear for the annual banquet to be held March 31, 2012.

Lastly, Aggie-X would like to invite you to save April 14, 2012 for the Aggie-X Golf Tournament to be held at the Cimarron Golf Course in Perkins, Oklahoma. Be looking for more information as we will be sending out registration information as

well as more information about the golf tournament itself in the coming months.

Makayla Krick
Aggie-X President



Aggie-X officers for 2011-2012 are left to right, front, Andrew Greer, Secretary/Reporter; Laura Padgett, Educational Vice President; Jady Lollis, Treasurer; and Dr. Brian Whitacre, Junior Advisor; back, Dr. Derrell Peel, Senior Advisor; Makayla Krick, President; Trindle Brueggen, Assistant Administrative Vice President; and Robert Parrish, Administrative Vice President.

Ag Econ students/alums in Homecoming activities

Randy Gordon reigns as King



Randy Gordon, agribusiness senior from Seiling, was named Homecoming King for 2011. Randy is the third ag econ student in as many years to reign over OSU's homecoming festivities. He was crowned during halftime at the OSU-Baylor football game by last years king, ag alum Wyatt Swinford.

The Homecoming King and Queen are official ambassadors for the OSU Alumni Association and may be called on to represent OSU and the association at a variety of OSU and alumni events throughout the year of their reign. They are also asked to return to OSU the following year to participate in the Sea of Orange Parade and crown their successors at the Homecoming football game.

Selection is based on scholastic excellence, campus activities, and a genuine desire to represent OSU and the OSU Alumni Association as an ambassador.

Another ag econ student, Carly Schnaithman, agribusiness senior from Garber, also served as a member of the 2011 homecoming court.



Cody Cramer serves on executive team

Cody Cramer, agribusiness alum, who is now a graduate student in ag communications, was a member of the homecoming executive team again this year, responsible for the walkaround event and for getting high school bands to attend the "Sea of Orange" homecoming parade.



Cody says, "my main focus is Walkaround. Walkaround brings over 60,000 alumni back to this University. Viewing the greek house decorations, the residential halls floats, and the orange glow throughout campus is an experience not to miss."

According to Cody, one of the most exciting pre-game homecoming events is the homecoming and hoops pep rally, when "Gallagher-Iba Arena is packed with students and alumni alike, all wearing orange and truly living up to the name, 'The Rowdiest Arena in the Country!'"

Aggie-X Tailgate

The OSU agricultural economics undergraduate club Aggie-X sponsored their annual tailgate event on November 5 before the OSU-Kansas State game. Dr. Derrell Peel once again served up his now infamous roasted pig while Aggie-X members supplied the fixings.

Aggie-X Window



Aggie-X members painted the side door windows in Ag Hall for Homecoming following the theme "Where Your Story Begins."



Alumni, students, faculty, and staff enjoy the Aggie-X tailgate event before the OSU-Kansas State game.

RHAO Program of the Year Award received by ag econ OCES staff

The Rural Health Association of Oklahoma awarded the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) and the Oklahoma Office of Rural Health the Rural Program of the Year award at their annual awards luncheon in September.

The award, presented for the Community Health Assessment program developed at OSU, was accepted by Cheryl St. Clair, OCES extension associate, and Lara Brooks, former assistant extension state specialist.

St. Clair and ag econ regents professor Dr. Gerald Doeksen initiated the Community Health Assessment process in 1996 with pilot studies in McCurtain and Dewey Counties.

Since then, community health studies and/or health economic



(left to right) Val Schott, Director, Oklahoma Office of Rural Health; Shelly Dunham, RHAO President and CEO of Okeene Municipal Hospital of Okeene; Corie Kaiser, Assistant Director, Oklahoma Office of Rural Health; Cheryl St. Clair; and Lara Brooks at the RHAO awards luncheon after presentation of the Program of the Year award.

impact studies have been completed for all rural hospitals in Oklahoma. Many communities are repeating the process every five years.

Cheryl, Dr. Doeksen, and ag econ associate professor Dr. Brian Whitacre have provided leadership for these projects.

The OCES program has become a national model. Workshops sharing the community health engagement process and other tools have been presented in over 45 states, and professionals in over 30 states have adopted and are using these tools in their states.



Helen Maynor joins ag econ staff

The ag econ department's newest staff member is Helen Maynor, who joined us in June as an administrative support assistant.

Helen moved to Stillwater from Huntsville, Texas, where she lived for six years. She and her family are originally from North Carolina. She is married to Rex, publisher of the *Stillwater NewsPress*, and has 2 "great kids". Brittany is a student at Meridian Technology in Stillwater, and Allen attends Stillwater High School.

Helen is responsible for handling travel paperwork for the department's third floor residents, providing administrative assistance to seven ag econ professors, and assisting the County Training Program.

About her new job, Helen says,

"I have worked in Elementary Education for the past 10 years, so college has been an adjustment for me."

She and her family are quickly becoming acclimated to Stillwater and OSU. "My family and I," she states, "are enjoying Stillwater and all that the area has to offer. We are really getting into OSU Football. GO POKES!"



Congratulations Cowboys!

State Representative Lee Denney has ag econ roots

Oklahoma State Representative Lee Denney is a 1976 ag econ graduate and a 1978 graduate from the OSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

Currently she is serving in the Oklahoma House of Representatives in her fourth term. She represents District 33, which is most of Payne County and part of Logan County.

She says, "I am fortunate to represent Oklahoma State University, Langston University, and the Stillwater campus of Northern Oklahoma College. I serve as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Education Appropriations and Budget, as well as serving on the Higher Education and Career Technology Committee, Energy Committee, Appropriations and Budget Committee, and the Economic Development and Tourism Committee."

"In my time at the legislature," she states, "I have concentrated mainly on education issues and some veterinary issues. I have co-owned a veterinary practice in Drumright since 1979. We have a mixed animal practice that is about 50% large animals and 50% small animals depending on the season. Most of my time, however, is spent working at the capitol or in my district on legislative issues."

Regarding her time in ag econ, she says, "I chose to major in AgEcon because I felt it would give me insight into the business of running a veterinary practice. Owning a practice was always a primary goal."

"I felt like the seventies were a period of growth for the AgEcon department at OSU. I had classes under some outstanding professors. Dr. Paul

Hummer was my undergraduate advisor. I took classes with Dr. John Goodwin, Dr. Franzmann, Dr. Oertman, as well as Dr. Dan Badger and Dr. Odell Walker. Of course I had to take some animal science courses too."

"One memory from those days was the intense rivalry between the Aggie-X Club and the Block and Bridle Club. We competed against each other in intramural sports, fundraising, and for honors from the college. The students in the AgEcon department were very close, and many of those individuals continue to cross my path across the state."

Denney came to OSU from a small town, but not really from a farming background. She says, "It was by good fortune I ended up in the College of Agriculture. I have always felt like this college provided an atmosphere of caring, student growth, and student success."

"The College was very concerned with supporting students with financial resources as well giving thousands of dollars (at that time) in student support as scholarships. One of the most fantastic opportunities I received was when Dr. Goodwin asked me to apply for a summer internship at Farmland Industries in Kansas City, Missouri. I worked for Farmland

in the summers of 1973, 1974, and 1975. That internship was a great experience and opened the door to lifelong friendships and networking opportunities."

Denney has two grown children, both of whom (unfortunately, she states) attended the University of Oklahoma. Her son Will, 28, has a B.A. in Letters and an M.B.A. from Oklahoma City University. He is currently teaching English in Tianjin, China.

Her daughter Kate, 25, graduated from OU with a Pharmacy degree and is currently doing a post graduate year one residency in clinical pharmacy at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC.



Lee Denney, Oklahoma State Representative and Alumni of the Department of Agricultural Economics at OSU.

Department faculty host annual fall picnic

Graduate students, staff, and emeriti faculty and staff and their families were guests of the ag econ faculty at the annual fall picnic at Lake Carl Blackwell in September. Dr. Eric DeVuyst and Dr. Shannon Ferrell served up the traditional main course of roast pig that was accompanied by side dishes and desserts provided by faculty members. Emeriti faculty and families attending the picnic were Dr. Leo and Betty Blakley, Dr. Clem and Mimi Ward, Dr. Kim and Kathryn Anderson, and Dr. Joe Williams. Former department head Jim Trapp and his wife Carol and retired staff member Pat Schaefer and her husband Sam were also present.



Emeriti, staff, graduate students, faculty and family members at the departmental picnic.

left to right, Carol Trapp, Dr. Joe Williams, Dr. Wade Brorsen, Adele Tongco, and Dr. Francis Epplin with Cole Campiche wait for the food line to open at the departmental picnic.

Aggie-X Back-2-School Bash



Kelsey James, Dr. Brian Adam, Katelyn Parsons, and Suzanne Brooner enjoy the Aggie-X Back-2-School Bash



Dr. Joe Schatzer and Dr. Derrell Peel prepare the meat for the Aggie-X Back-2-School Bash at Boomer Lake in Stillwater.

Mark your calendars for
March 31, 2012
for the annual
Scholarship and Awards
Banquet in Stillwater.

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