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**New Ground**  
 The College of Agriculture and Technology Newsletter



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*Contact Information*

**Dean:**

Greg Phillips: gphillips@astate.edu 870-972-2085

**Associate Dean:**

Kim Pittcock kpittcoc@astate.edu 870-972-2087

**Faculty**

870-972-2087

**Agricultural Business Faculty**

Paul Armah: parmah@astate.edu

Lori Fenner: lfenner@astate.edu

Bert Greenwalt: bertg@astate.edu

**Agricultural Education**

David Agnew: dagnew@astate.edu

Kevin Humphrey: jhumphre@astate.edu

**Animal Science**

William Humphrey: bhumph@astate.edu

Donald Kennedy: dkennedy@astate.edu

**Food Science**

Soohyoun Ahn: sahn@astate.edu

**Plant Science**

Steve Green: sgreen@astate.edu

Kim Pittcock: kpittcoc@astate.edu

Calvin Shumway: cshumway@astate.edu

Tina Teague: tteague@astate.edu

Keith Morris: kmorris@astate.edu

**Agriculture Research**

870-972-2043

**Technology**

870-972-2502

Charles R. Coleman: ccoleman@astate.edu

Zariff Chaudhury: zchaudhury@astate.edu

**FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN**

In a recent interview, Dr. Greg Phillips, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Technology, discussed the importance of the college leading the way in preparing future agricultural scientists both for conducting research as well as for embracing new technologies, stressing the importance of preparing students to be able to thrive within the future work place.

Dr. Phillips stressed the importance of training students and faculty for upcoming technological advances. In the past ten years we have seen how new technologies such as spatial technology and biotechnology have dramatically changed the way we conduct agricultural business. Within the next 15 years, nanotechnology will play a large role in the agricultural field. "It is hard to foresee the precise form that an upcoming technology may take, so how do we prepare our students to be able to take advantage of them after they graduate?" questioned Dr. Phillips. Answers to this question will shape how the college will expand our student options for research as well as education.

The college has been fortunate to receive state funds to enhance research infrastructure this year, which they have invested in precision agriculture at the ASU Farm. Dr. Morris and Dr. Green are currently installing a state-of-the-art digital climate station on the ASU Farm, which should be up and running by summer. Since this station will be able to send the information to the ASU website, it will benefit the community as well as make the ASU farm a "fully functional precision ag farm." In the long run Dr. Phillips hopes the faculty will place several climate stations throughout Northeast Arkansas. This technology is the first all-digital station of its kind to be set up in the state of Arkansas, making ASU a leader in this kind of site-specific precision technology.

Aside from the technological standpoint, there are many new opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to participate in faculty research programs, and our graduate programs are being restructured to better support thesis research. The college has been offering distinct master's degrees in General Agriculture, Agricultural Education, and Vocational-Technical Administration. Now, all three degrees will be merged into a single master's in Agricultural Studies, but with five Concentration Areas: Agricultural Economics, Animal Science, Plant & Soil Science, Agricultural Education, and Career & Technical Education. Dr. Phillips concluded his comments by stating that since this is the centennial year, it is time to appreciate the past and prepare for the future.

Alexandria Baum, Junior Animal Science major, Wynne AR



*Greg Phillips, Dean*

**Students Visit Washington D.C. with Chamber of Commerce**

Three ASU Agribusiness students joined Dr. Bert Greenwalt and 40 members of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce for the Chamber's annual legislative relations trip to Washington D.C. on February 27-March 3. Students Tiffany Kirklin, Cameron Gean, and Blain Tarver were with the group that met with congressional leaders Senators Lincoln and Pryor, and Congressman Berry. Nicole Frey, a student in the College of Business, also participated in the trip.

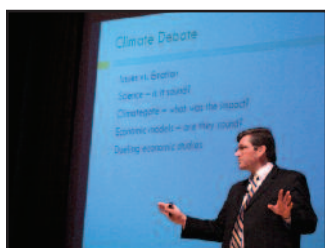
During the meetings, chamber leaders made presentations on the infrastructure needs of Northeast Arkansas – including streets associated with the new ASU overpass. The students also met ASU-Jonesboro Chancellor Robert Potts and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Research Glen Jones. The students' participation in the trip is a joint project of the Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee and the ASU College of Agriculture & Technology. With Dr. Greenwalt, the students visited the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Grange. At the American Farm Bureau Federation's national headquarters, the students met with Dr. John Anderson, Farm Bureau's livestock economist. Dr. Anderson earned his M.S. degree in agriculture at ASU. At the National Grange, the students met with Legislative Director Leroy Watkins and discussed the history of the Grange – which is the oldest general farm organization in the U.S.

Students also met Mr. Tate Heuer, a 1997 ASU Agribusiness graduate and Senior Legislative Assistant for Senator Mark Pryor and Ms. Dana Brooks, an agribusiness student in the college in the 1990s and currently Vice President for Government Relations at the National Milk Producers Federation. During free time, students toured Arlington National Cemetery, Ford's Theater, the Washington monument, and participated in a nighttime tour of the Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt Memorials organized by Dr. Len Frey, Dean of the College of Business. According to the students, the relationships they built with Jonesboro business people were a valuable benefit of the trip. Students recommended other students consider a Washington internship as part of their college education.

### 16th Annual Agribusiness Conference

The 2010 ASU Agribusiness Conference was held Wednesday, February 10, following a snow and ice storm which caused classes to be cancelled for two days. The annual conference is sponsored by the ASU College of Agriculture and Technology and thirteen corporate sponsors. The conference presents information on trends and issues which are impacting agriculture. According to conference director, Dr. Bert Greenwalt, the event provides information not available at other events in the region. Topics addressed this year included the 2007 Census of Agriculture, commodity markets, risk management, financial markets and macroeconomics, and the economics and politics of climate change. The morning general session in the Fowler Center ended with a panel of general session speakers who addressed questions from the audience. Mr. Greg Cole, President and CEO of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services and an alumnus of the College of Agriculture and Technology, delivered the luncheon address in the Convocation Center. Mr. Cole predicted that the average farm size will continue to increase and that mastering new technology will be critical to success in agriculture. Optimistic about the future of agribusiness in Eastern Arkansas, Mr. Cole stated, "Long term, we are in the right business and in the right location." Speakers in the afternoon sessions tackled issues involving rice, cotton, soybean markets, livestock markets, and the demand for locally grown foods. Conference attendees came from Arkansas and neighboring states, and some earned continuing education credits in accordance with the guidelines for Certified Public Accountants, Arkansas Certified Crop Advisors, and the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Jessica Fears, Plant Science major, Paragould, AR



Mr. Bruce Knight former USDA Under Secretary for Marketing & Regulatory Programs discusses climate change

### Alternative Fuels Conference

Stakeholders representing more than 40 organizations throughout the state gathered to discuss the future of renewable energy and its impact on the economy of the state. The one-day conference, held on April 19th at ASU, drew leaders from the academic community, industry, and public agencies to deliberate on a vision of renewable energy for Arkansas. The conference, "Renewable Energy in Arkansas: Opportunities for economic development," was organized by the Renewable Energy Technology program at the College of Agriculture and Technology at ASU. More than 140 delegates from Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Washington DC participated in this conference. Dr. Dan Howard, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of ASU, welcomed the conference participants. The opening remarks came from Mr. Harold Perrin, Mayor of Jonesboro. Dr. Jim Purcell, Director of Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was also present and made the argument about the readiness of the state for renewable energy education. Chris Benson, Director of Arkansas Energy Office, presented various steps taken by the state government to promote renewable energy. Reinhard Sander, Vice President of Engineering of Nordex USA, talked about developments in wind energy manufacturing activities in Jonesboro. A new baccalaureate program, along with other Renewable Energy Technology educational opportunities at ASU, was introduced. Researchers shared about ongoing research ranging from biofuels to smart grid. Also, USDA renewable energy initiatives and outreach activities were discussed. A consensus of those in attendance was that tremendous opportunities exist in the renewable energy sector and it is explicitly linked to the economic development of the state.



Arkansas energy outlook by Chris Benson, Director of Arkansas Energy Office

### Soil and Water Conference

On January 11th ASU hosted the 11th Annual Arkansas Soil and Water Education Conference at the Convocation Center Auditorium on the Jonesboro Campus. Speakers came from all around to promote proper designation of natural resources. Topics such as organic and commercial soil amendments and groundwater were just a few of the issues discussed. Speakers included Ms. Lisa Ellington, Manager of Environmental Services, Paragould Light Water and Cable; Mr. Patrick Fisk, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC), Little Rock; Mr. Mike Sullivan, State Conservationist, ANRC; Dr. John Czarnecki, U.S. Geological Survey, Little Rock; Mr. Todd Fugitt, ANRC; Mr. Dennis Carmen, Chief Engineer, White River Irrigation District, Stuttgart; Dr. David Beasley, Dean, College of Engineering ASU-Jonesboro; Dr. Greg Phillips, Dean, College of Agriculture and Technology, ASU- Jonesboro; and Mr. Stanley Reed, Past President of AR Farm Bureau. It was estimated that roughly two hundred people attended the conference. This program was supported by grants for the East Arkansas RC& D. Special thanks to Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Northeast Arkansas Area Conservation Districts.

Julie Perkins, Senior Ag. Ed. Major, Wynne AR

### Industrial Materials Workshop

Dr. Zariff (Zac) Chaudhury, Associate Professor of Technology in the College of Agriculture & Technology organized a one-day workshop on the Jonesboro campus in the New Center for Economic Development. The workshop, which was held on April 8, was sponsored by the ASU College of Agriculture & Technology and the ASU Delta Center for Economic Development. The workshop titled "Industrial Materials" was designed for manufacturing personnel from the various industries in the region. More than 40 participants from various industries paid a registration fee to attend the workshop. Dr. Glen Jones, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research, and Dr. Gregory Phillips, Dean of the college, welcomed participants. Two outside experts gave lectures; one professor came from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, and the other came from Oregon State University. Dr. Chaudhury also presented at the conference. This was an introductory basic materials workshop that addressed common materials used in industry. This workshop was designed to give the participants an overview of industrial materials. The workshop discussed the fundamentals of industrial materials, their selection, properties, performance, important characterization techniques and basic heat treatment processes and material selection. Mr. Alan McVey, Director of the Delta Center, spoke about the role of the Delta Center during lunch. Workshop participants were presented with a certificate at the end of the day.

## Outstanding Alumnus: Burthel Thomas

Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations)  
Natural Resources Conservations Service (NRCS)

Mr. Burthel Thomas, originally from Dumas, Arkansas, has 31 years of service in the NRCS. He has served in several locations and positions including, Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, and Area Resource Conservationist. On April 20, 1994, he was selected Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. In this position, he is responsible for providing overall direction to NRCS personnel, and management of Farm Bill Programs in Southeast and Southwest Arkansas. In addition, Mr. Thomas provides leadership in a partnership effort to help Arkansas' private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources.

In addition to his civil service duties with the NRC, Mr. Thomas has served four years active duty in the U.S. Army at Ft. Benning, Georgia and 26 years in the Arkansas National Guard serving as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Battalion Commander, Brigade Civil and Military Affairs Officer, Deputy Post Commander at Camp Robinson and Inspector General. He received two Army Accommodation Medals, an Army Achievement Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit Medal. In 2004, he retired from the Arkansas National Guard as Colonel. In 1974 he received a master's degree in Agriculture from ASU and was Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant through the ASU ROTC Program.

## Distinguished Service: Jeremy Wesson

Mr. Jeremy Wesson of Searcy is the Northeast Area Coordinator for the Arkansas Farm Bureau. His primary responsibilities include providing vision and training for volunteer leaders in the 12 county Farm Bureaus he serves. He also assists in the effective coordination and implementation of all Farm Bureau programs such as membership acquisition, policy development, commodity programs and leadership development and training. Wesson has been with the nonprofit agricultural advocacy organization for 10 years. He is a graduate of LeadAR, the premier leadership development program offered by the Cooperative Extension Service.

Wesson was employed by Eastman Chemical Company in Batesville before joining Arkansas Farm Bureau. He holds a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from ASU. He is active in his church with his family at Valley Baptist in Searcy. A strong faith in Jesus Christ and his family are the things held most dear to him. A native of Newport, Arkansas, he and his wife Sandra live in Searcy with their children.



Top left: Greg Cole  
Top Right: Burthel Thomas  
Bottom: Jeremy Wesson



Not Pictured Mr. John Anderson

## Outstanding Alumnus Greg Cole

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Ag. Heritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

Mr. Greg Cole joined the Farm Credit System more than 25 years ago as a student intern with what was then known as the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis. During his tenure, Greg has served in various roles and was named President and Chief Executive Officer of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services by the Board of Directors in April 2008. Prior to being named CEO, Greg was the Chief Operating Officer for AgHeritage.

Greg earned a Bachelor of Science of Agricultural Business and Economics at ASU and is a graduate of the LSU Graduate School of Banking. Greg successfully completed the Dale Carnegie Sales Program, the Executive Development Program with the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis, Future Leadership Development Program with Agribank, FCB, and the Executive Leadership Development Program with the Wright Group. In 2009, Greg was added to the Power List by "Arkansas Business" recognizing him as one of 192 top company leaders in Arkansas Businesses. Greg is a native of Harrisburg and his wife, Lisa, is from Prairie County. They have two children and currently reside in Cabot.

## Outstanding Young Alumnus: John Anderson

Dr. John D. Anderson has been the Livestock Economist for the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) since January, 2010. In that role, he delivers information and educational programs to AFBF members, conducts applied research on commodity markets and prices, and develops policy analysis in support of AFBF's public policy team. Prior to joining AFBF, John worked as an Extension Professor in the Agricultural Economics department at Mississippi State University, where he had been since 2001. His research and extension program there focused on risk management for livestock and grain producers.

Before going to Mississippi State, John was on the faculty at the University of Kentucky. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University in 1998, an MS in Agriculture from Arkansas State University in 1994, and a BS in Agribusiness from College of the Ozarks in 1992. John grew up on a beef/poultry farm near Mt. View, Arkansas. He and his wife, Alfi (whom he met while attending ASU) have four children.

## Student Award Winners:

**Chancellor's Scholar:** Casey Flemon

**Outstanding Graduating Seniors:**

- Ag Education – Josh Pippenger
- AgriBusiness – Tiffany Kirklin
- An Science – Jessica Smith
- PI Science – Horticulture -- Jeremy MacCallister
- PI Science – Agronomy -- Charles Andrew Knight
- Technology -- Stacey Walker

**Outstanding Student Ambassadors:**

Marcus Orf & Lane Lenderman  
(both Ag Education Majors)



At the Top: Outstanding Student organization:  
The Agribusiness Club, Dr. Bert Greenwalt,  
advisor to the Agribusiness club & Tiffany  
Kirklin, President of the club.  
At the Bottom: O. P. Nail Award Recipient:  
Zach Harber of Salem

## PART II: HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE FROM 1950S TO PRESENT

Carl R. Reng was appointed president of ASU, then known as Arkansas State College, in 1951. The first graduate programs were started in the mid 1950's. Reng sought university status for the institution in 1959, but the proposal failed. After 10 years of work, lobbying, and much effort on the part of administration, faculty, students, and alumni the quest for university status was achieved in 1967. When Dr. Olen P. Nail first arrived on campus in 1955 the department had around 115 students with only five and a half faculty members, including himself. The teaching load then was 18 hours a semester, unless the faculty had more than 20 advisees, then it was 15 hours. During Nail's years, the college was forced to manufacture a lot of its own equipment, plus it received some surplus army equipment. The college sold commodities such as milk, eggs, and meat produced on the farm to the cafeteria. When ASU achieved university status in 1967 and colleges were formed Dr. Nail became the first dean of the College of Agriculture.

Dr. Nail retired in 1975 and just at the time the college was moving into our current building. President Ross Pritchard requested that Dr. George Berger become dean. With Berger as dean, the College expanded its role in research. Experimentation with soybeans continued to grow and produce important results. During this period the college was divided into two departments; Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Studies. Al Mink became department head of Engineering and Lew Brinkley became head of the Agriculture Department. In 1978 Berger led ASU into an historical agreement with U of A that proved to be positive for both institutions. Both universities signed an agreement to unify the agriculture research and Extension Service programs. The two schools had competed for years for state financial support and for academic programs and now they would be working together. Both schools had their own responsibilities. ASU benefited because additional agricultural research scientists were hired to work in and around Jonesboro. The agreement gave ASU faculty members and students a much better first-hand look at agriculture research and extension work. Dr. Berger worked hard for ASU graduates to be accepted into county extension jobs around the state. Before Berger became dean, no ASU graduate had worked for a county extension office. However, he lobbied hard and persuaded counties to hire ASU graduates. Berger remained as dean until 1981 when he left ASU to form his own seed company, Eagle Seed Co. in Weiner.

Dr. Floyd Wright, who was already on faculty, became dean. During this time President Thornton wanted to expand the engineering program and make agriculture engineering into a general engineering program. President Ray Thornton also wanted the name of the college changed to the College of Agriculture, Engineering, and Applied Science. Thornton believed to give the new college more credit, the dean of the college needed to be one who had a background in engineering. Dr. Wright was no longer the dean but continued to work as an instructor for the college. He was diagnosed with cancer and encouraged, by his doctors, to go home to spend his last days near his parents and other family members. But that was not the last of Dr. Wright. He made a recovery and later enrolled in ASU and even took some vocational education courses in the College of Agriculture as a student while working on his Masters degree in Counseling. He is still living in Missouri but recently retired.

So Dr. Donald P. Kedzie was hired in 1984 to be dean of the new College of Engineering, Agriculture and Applied Science. Dr. Howard Keene served as interim head of the Department of Agriculture for one year, 1984-85. Then in 1986 Dr. Keith Rogers was hired from Western Illinois to be the head of the Department of Agriculture. During this time many unresolved issues persisted, which finally resulted in Agriculture again becoming a college out from under Engineering and Applied Science in 1989. Engineering moved to the new sciences building next to Agriculture and Al Mink became head of the independent Department of Engineering. Rogers retired in December of 2000. The position was filled in 2002 by Dr. Gregory Phillips, who still serves as Dean of the College. In 2007 the College of Agriculture expanded to include the Technology program that was formerly part of the Engineering Department.



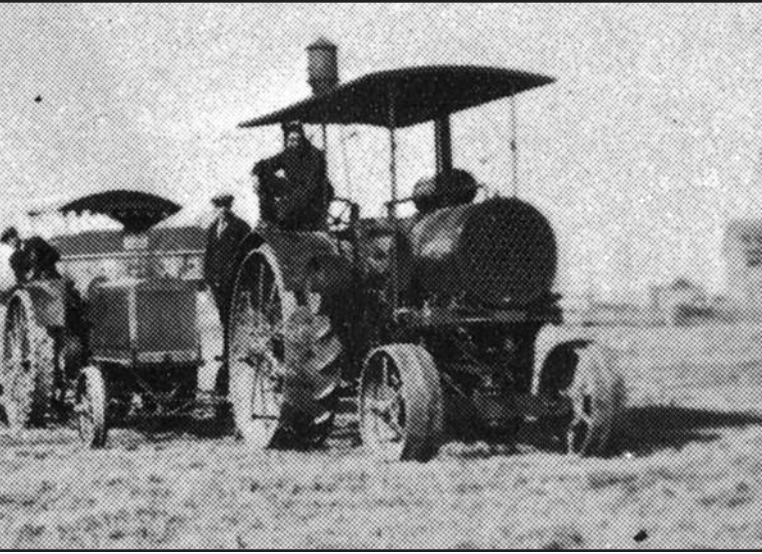
### Events in the last half century:

- 1959**- 497 acres were deeded to the department by the federal government for pasture improvement, cattle raising, and a fish farm. The department now owned 1,800 acres in Greene County.
- 1962**- Fire destroyed wooded part of dairy barn housing milk processing equipment. The equipment was never replaced.
- 1965**- Department of Agriculture became known as the School of Agriculture. Berta Ann Elphingstone of Forrest City became the first female graduate with an agriculture degree, earning a degree in Animal Husbandry.
- 1967**- Arkansas State College became Arkansas State University. School of Agriculture became the College of Agriculture.
- 1975**- College of Agriculture moved into the building it occupies today.
- 1977**- Deborah Beuarman --1st female professor for College.
- 1982**- Dr. Marjorie Bradford -- 1st female Ph.D. faculty
- 1984**- Name of College changed to College of Engineering, Agriculture, and Applied Sciences.
- 1986**- Original dairy barn torn down and a new barn built.
- 1988**- Dr. Jasper Hayles retires
- 1989**- Agriculture became a College independent of Engineering
- 1992**- Dr. Amos B. Rougeau retires
- 1993**- Dr. Howard Keene retires
- 1995**- 33% of new enrollment at ASU was in College of Ag.
- 1997**- Dr. Al Langois retires
- 1998**- Equine Center construction began.
- 2000**- Dr. Keith Rogers retires
- 2005**- Drs. Lew Brinkley and John Muir retire



ASU representatives at the re-enactment of the signing of ACT 100. From left to right: Markham Howe (an ASU Ag graduate-currently working at ASU as Director University Communications), Dr. Bert Greenwalt (also a graduate of this college and a current faculty here in Agribusiness) and Dr. Robert Potts, Chancellor of ASU

## HISTORY: PART II



Top left: Dairy Barn  
 Top Right: Original Barn  
 Bottom Left: Wild cow milking contest  
 Bottom Right: 1957 Ag Club



## COLLEGE FACULTY NOMINEES FOR CENTENNIAL RECOGNITION: PART II

In the last issue we introduced you to the first four of the eight Agriculture faculty that had been nominated by the college committee for Centennial recognition. This issue will reveal the remaining four nominees.



Clarence C. Cravens,  
 Agronomy 1947-1957

Clarence C. Cravens, Agronomy 1947-1957, B.S. Mid-Tennessee Teachers College 1920, B.S.A University of Wisconsin 1923, M.S.A University of Wisconsin 1924. Mr. Cravens was a native of West Tennessee and loved to spend spare time at Reelfoot lake. Before coming to ASU he was at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was very active in tree planting and the beautification on campus. Currently on campus stands an oak tree that was planted by Cravens which came as a sprout from a farm in Alabama of an historical figure. He was often referred to as Pop Cravens.



James L. Davenport,  
 Professor of Agricultural  
 Economics 1954-1985

James L. Davenport, Agricultural Economics 1954-1985, B.S.A. University of Arkansas 1950, M.S. University of Arkansas 1952. Mr. Davenport was a Navy veteran of World War II and Korea. He taught farm management and agricultural finance as his specialty areas. He enjoyed fishing, camping and being outdoors. Mr. Davenport came out of retirement in the mid 1990s to present an award at the annual honors banquet to one of his former students Dr. J. B. Penn, who later became Undersecretary of Agriculture. In retirement Mr. Davenport and Dr. Langois both enjoyed going to yard sales together on Saturday mornings.



Warren A. North,  
 Animal Science  
 1966-1988

Warren A. North, Animal Husbandry 1966-1988, B.S. Washington State University, M.S. Washington State University, Ph.D. Oregon State University. Dr. North's specialty was animal breeding. He was known for his work in genetics related to mice. He operated a laboratory for use in his research with mice. Dr. North was instrumental in landing some major international, middle eastern projects and traveled to Turkey several times where he met his future wife. In the summers he would work at Glacier National Park in Montana. As a result of a boating accident his wife died when they were staying at the park. They had two children, Neshe and Chester, now both doctors living out west.



George A. Berger,  
 Agronomy & Plant  
 Breeding 1971-1981

George A. Berger, B.S.A. Agronomy and Plant Breeding 1971-1981, Dean of Agriculture 1976-1981, University of Arkansas, M.S. University of Arkansas, Ph.D. University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Berger was instrumental in beginning a working relationship with the U of A Division of Agriculture. Dr. Berger died suddenly of a heart attack in 2002. More details of his career can be found at the web address below. [http://www.clt.astate.edu/dagnew/Ag\\_ASU\\_history/aghis\\_bio\\_Berger.htm](http://www.clt.astate.edu/dagnew/Ag_ASU_history/aghis_bio_Berger.htm)

### AG GRADUATE WAYNE BAKER RECOGNIZED AS A 2009 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



At the ASU Homecoming game last October several alumni were recognized and honored. This year's honorees included one College of Ag Alumnus, Mr. Wayne Baker, a 1955 graduate, is now a business and community leader here in of Jonesboro. Both upon being selected as a Distinguished Alumni Mr. and Mrs. Baker expressed, "We're quite honored and real proud." Wayne was originally from Batesville and grew up on a farm in Searcy before enrolling A-State. At the time, ROTC was mandatory for male students at A-State, but Wayne was one of the very few who was not in the program. "I weighed 300 pounds back then and wore a size 14 shoe," says Wayne. "They didn't have any ROTC uniforms or shoes that would fit me!" He spent a year and a half at A-State before returning home to help his father on the family farm. "I always said that if I got on the GI Bill, I would finish school," he says. But he managed to pack a lot of good experiences into the time he spent at A-State the first time around. "In 1944, I lived at Barnhart. There was one fellow who had a car. He pledged our fraternity and might have been the only one on campus at that time who had one. It was a Plymouth coupe from the early '40s. He was an older fellow who taught school in Missouri and came back to finish his degree.

Having the only car, he became very popular."

When that form of transportation wasn't available, Wayne says we had a backup plan. "We'd figure out what we wanted for dinner and would call the Parker Inn. We'd walk up Caraway Road, which was at that time a narrow, gravel road, and that gave them about 30 minutes to get it ready. We'd have our dinner there and if we had 15 or 20 cents left over, we'd take the streetcar which took a big loop through town back to campus. It was a good group of guys, and we all got to know each other," he says. While Wayne was in school, he met Virginia Robinson a student working in the library as assistant librarian. "Wayne and his buddies would come in to visit," Virginia recalls. "I started looking forward to those visits."

Their romance was not entirely smooth: "Some of our friends said it would never work, what with us being a farm boy and a city girl," says Virginia. "Well, we proved them wrong. Wayne's fraternity advisor was biology professor Warren Nedrow. Virginia was a member of a sorority with Lu Nedrow, Warren's wife, as advisor. "The Nedrows constantly tried to match up their girls and boys," says Virginia. "It worked for us!" Virginia graduated in 1945. They married on Valentine's Day in 1947 and lived in Leachville as Wayne farmed while Virginia taught high school English. As a full-time farmer, Wayne lost 65 pounds. The future looked bright for the newlyweds until a letter from the Draft Board arrived in 1950. "I was drafted 14 days before I would have been too old to be drafted. It was two weeks before my 27th birthday," says Wayne. "I was devastated," recalls Virginia. "I moved back home to Jonesboro with my mother and father, and taught at Annie Camp."

Wayne went from an Arkansas farm to the other side of the world. "I served with an ordnance outfit in Korea, on the Sea of Japan," he says. "It was a very different experience, to see how people farmed and what people were like in that part of the world, even meeting guys in our own outfit who were different from what I was used to." When Wayne returned 1953 from three years in the service, he went back to A-State as he had promised himself, majoring in agriculture. Dr. Olen P. Nail, who was then the Head of Agriculture Department proved to be almost as significant to the young couple as the Nedrows had been in their matchmaking. Wayne graduated in 1955, but it was not the end of their association: "Even after graduation, Dr. Nail stayed in touch. There was a company looking for someone to help manage their farms and do farm financing. Dr. Nail told them he had a fellow he'd recommend. The fellow was me and the company was E. Ritter and Company of Marked Tree."

They moved to Marked Tree in 1955, where Virginia taught school. After several years, Virginia wanted to go back home to Jonesboro. Wayne made her an interesting offer: If she would give up teaching and join him in starting their own business, they would move back to Jonesboro to get it started. So in 1959, they became entrepreneurs. They took their savings of \$2,500 and sold their Oldsmobile for an equal amount to invest in a swimming pool franchise. Unfortunately, that venture did not pan out, but they later established W. F. and V. R. Baker Enterprises, that included Baker Rentals and Sales (the first business of its kind in this area), Baker Health Care Specialties (also the first of its kind in the area), and Northeast Arkansas Fence Company, many of whose fences are still standing strong after 50 years.

Wayne serves on the ASU Campaign Leadership Council, the Chancellor's Cabinet, ASU College of Nursing and Health Professions advisory board, and the Pi Kappa Alpha alumni group. Their service, both individually and as a couple, made them cherished members of the community, the ASU family, and their own extended family of nieces and nephews.

Adapted from an ASU press release with permission by author Nancy Hendricks

### YOUNG ALUMNUS -- MS. ELISABETH (HOWELL) GRISHAM

Ms. Elisabeth (Howell) Grisham graduated from ASU in 2005 with BS degrees (double major) in Agricultural Business and Accounting. She and her husband Blake, who earned a BS in Wildlife Management at ASU, then went to graduate school at Louisiana State University where Elisabeth earned her MS in Agricultural Economics and Blake earned a MS in Wildlife Management. Elisabeth and Blake currently live in Lubbock, Texas where Blake is a PhD candidate at Texas Tech University and Elisabeth, who recently passed the CPA exam in Texas, is an auditor with the regional accounting firm Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss LLP where she specializes in work for agribusinesses and rural electric cooperatives.



### ALUMNUS RECOGNIZED AS MISSOURI'S TOP PRODUCER FOR 2010

Donny Deline, a 1999 graduate from ASU, who is now farming in Charleston, Missouri, was selected as Missouri's Top Producer for 2010. Donny's transition to farming is very interesting. He grew up in Arkansas but not on a farm. He did spend summers on a Missouri farm that was in his family for four generations. He always felt called back there each summer. After graduating, he and Christi settled in Missouri to begin farming with Donny's uncle on about 2,000 acres. Shortly after arriving, Donny's uncle saw the potential he had and they began a transition for Donny to take over the full operation. Today the farm that mostly grows corn, soybeans and small grains, with some cotton and the occasional rice crop, has grown to nearly 20,000 acres in four states, including an island in the Mississippi River just outside of Memphis, Tenn. Family is extremely important to both Donny and Christi. Their 5-year old son is planning his own farming operation on a smaller scale under the dining room table. To learn more about their operation see the website below.



[http://www.agweb.com/Get\\_Article.aspx?pageid=155702](http://www.agweb.com/Get_Article.aspx?pageid=155702)

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# UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

## SPRING SEMESTER 2010

- Farmers' Market opens for Saturday business, May 15
- Summer I classes begin -- June 2
- Beginners Horse Camp (Ages 9-16) June 7-10
- Intermediate Horse Camp (Ages 9-16) June 14-17
- Adult Horse Camp (Beginner/Intermediate) June 21-24
- Summer II classes begin -- July 6
- Fall Classes begin -- August 23
- Petting Zoo -- TBA on the College website
- Homecoming game & college tailgate event -- October 2

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

### BSA Degrees in:

Agricultural Business  
Agricultural Education  
Agricultural Science  
Animal Science/Pre-Vet/Equine  
Food Science  
Plant Science  
Technology, with emphasis in:  
Technical Studies  
Technology Management,  
Computer Aided Drafting & Design  
Computer Systems  
Manufacturing-Industrial Technology  
Metallurgical Technology

### Associate Degrees in:

Technical & Vocational Ed  
Food Technology

### Endorsements in:

Adult Education  
Career Education

## TIDBITS

- Mrs. Jean Fisher, as many of you may remember as the Secretary for the College of Agriculture and also for Agricultural Education, was one who experienced the unexpected acceleration of her Toyota at the mall in Jonesboro. An article appeared in the Jonesboro Sun describing the incident. The good news is that she was not seriously injured.
- Dr. Jasper Hayles donated his antique truck to the ATA to use as a fund raiser for the scholarship established in his name.
- The Agribusiness club took a field trip to Stuttgart to visit Riceland Foods & the U of A Rice Research & Extension Center.
- EMERSON Electric Company from Paragould, AR donated \$1000 towards the Metallurgy Program last February.
- American Society of Quality Student Section at ASU has been approved at the board of directors recent meeting. This is the first student section in this region and Dr. Chaudhury is the advisor of this chapter. Any ASU student can be a member of the organization.
- Bridget Duncan-Shemwell, working with Dr. Agnew, finished her doctorate this semester and will graduate in May.
- Mr. L. K. Holt, who was featured last month as our oldest living college alumni, passed away on May 25th.

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## PERSPECTIVES

### DR. JULIE GRADY: HISTORY, SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

The FFA is the largest student organization in the United States, reaching from the state of Alaska to Puerto Rico and from the state of Maine to Hawaii. How did such an organization begin? What kind of men pioneered programs that would initially change the face of Agriculture across the globe? This past spring semester word was floating around the College of Agriculture that Dr. Julie Grady, a faculty in Secondary School Curriculum here at ASU, had a direct connection to one of the founding fathers of the FFA, though her great uncle.

Dr. Grady described her uncle, Mr. Harry Sanders as "honest, gentle, kind and thoughtful." All of which are attributes for which most of us would like to be remembered. Mr. Sanders was born in 1895 at Blacksburg, Virginia and raised on a dairy farm. He received his education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and later studied at Harvard University. After graduating with his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education, he began his career at Manassas, Virginia where he taught vocational agriculture in high school from 1917 to 1924. In 1924-25 Mr. Sanders was appointed the first state advisor of the Future Farmers of Virginia. In 1925, he was hired as an assistant professor of Agriculture Education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. In these positions he was actively involved in working with youth and in the formation of the Future Farmers of Virginia. Most references on the history of the FFA include Mr. Sanders as one of the four (sometimes five) founders of the FFA. Mr. Sanders went to Puerto Rico to assist in establishing a Department of Agricultural Education there from 1932 to 1933. Harry Sanders was well-known for his commitment to young men pursuing agriculture education as a career. He and his wife, Julia, would open their home and provide direct financial assistance for several young men who needed housing and help to meet the cost of tuition.

With her science teaching experience and interest and connections to agriculture, Dr. Julie Grady has visited several local agriculture programs in North Central Arkansas, one of which is Highland (Instructor: Jerrod Johnson). The intent is to look at how ag teachers apply science in their classrooms and laboratories. Her research in agriculture will soon be published in the Journal of Agricultural Education. Her focus on science in the agricultural classroom has been a topic of much recent interest in the secondary agricultural curriculum. She is concerned with issues such as "what makes assignments a scientific process," and she wants to emphasize that teachers and students must stop "just going through the motions" in the science/agriculture classroom, and develop a deeper understanding of the topic.

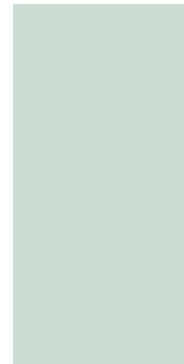
After a very enjoyable interview with Dr. Grady, I asked her to give me a conclusion; something to tie everything together as to what exactly she wanted to accomplish. She quickly told me that one of her uncle's driving statements that changed the face of agriculture and developed the FFA was "we're not getting the support we need." Sadly this statement has inevitably become true again today. Dr. Julie Grady's simple solution is that "we must work together," to apply a real understanding of science in an agricultural setting.

Zach Harber, Senior Ag Ed major, Salem, AR

### AG STUDENT WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Zach Harber a student here in the College of Agriculture and Technology took a very interesting week-long trip to Washington D.C. in February. Zach is in his junior year as an Agriculture Education major at ASU and is very involved in many different activities. Zach has served as an ambassador for the College of Agriculture and Technology, was president of the Alpha Tau Alpha in 2009-10, vice president of CFFA, a member of Red Wolves for Christ Campus Ministry, and a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He was awarded this opportunity from an essay he wrote entitled "Agriculture as a Career;" the essay can be found online at [http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/diversity/diversity\\_program.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/diversity/diversity_program.htm). While in Washington D.C. Zach attended many conferences mainly focusing on rural community development and how cooperatives are one of the solutions to success in a small town environment.

Lane Lenderman, Senior Ag Ed major, Brookland, AR



*Do you have a story, idea, announcement, or up-date on a promotion or award you or someone else has received? If so send it to the newsletter! Email us at [agri@astate.edu](mailto:agri@astate.edu)*

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