Scholarships and Awards Banquet
Summary of recognitions, awards and scholarships presented

Paving Her Path...Lead by his Footsteps
Brittany Krehbiel’s remarkable story to who she is today

Teaching, Research & Extension
Whitacre receives awards in all segments of the land-grant mission
We are pleased to share the latest issue of the Cowboy Economist with you. Our intent is to highlight key events in the life of the Department of Agricultural Economics over the past several months.

Our faculty members have been recognized at multiple events regionally and nationally. Dr. Brian Whitacre received a prestigious teaching award for his efforts in class. You can read about Dr. Whitacre and his commitment to the comprehensive mission of our land-grant system. Other faculty members were also honored for their outstanding contributions to our profession and service to our partners and clientele.

We spotlight two of our prominent alumni. You will enjoy reading about Haley (Baumgardner) Nabors and Brady Sidwell. Both are wonderful role models and true examples of success for our current students to follow!

Our students in our undergraduate and graduate program continue to excel. What a wonderful privilege to interact with these students and watch them grow and progress! Five of our students were recognized as seniors of significance! The Aggie-X organization is alive and doing well. Read about their activities this past semester. We highlight undergraduate student, Brittany Krehbiel, her story is inspiring!

The Oklahoma Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference continues to be a successful effort providing opportunities for enhancing the success of participants. Mark the calendar for August 6-7, 2015. The Rural Economic Outlook Conference will welcome participants from across the state and features Dr. Lowell Catlett, as well as a host of speakers, on October 30, 2015. This issue closes with stories on Dr. Norwood’s Massive Open Online Course, Farm to Fork, and our Farm Transitions Extension workshops led by Dr. Ferrell. Both efforts have been very well received.

Best regards. We hope you enjoy this issue!

About the Cover:
Brittany Krehbiel studying on campus in front of Agricultural Hall on the OSU campus. Read more about Krehbiel in her feature story, “Paving Her Path...Lead by his Footsteps,” on page 14.
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The Department of Agricultural Economics and Aggie-X Club Scholarships and Awards Banquet was held April 18, 2015, at 5 p.m. in the Wes Watkins Center in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

There were approximately 370 donors, students and guests in attendance. Koch Fertilizer LLC provided the funds to support the banquet. Through the generosity of scholarship donors, during the banquet, 106 students were presented with 134 scholarships, totaling $151,900.

“Students in the department are the foundation for our programs,” said Mike Woods, agricultural economics department head. “We were pleased to point the spotlight toward them. We have outstanding students, thanks in large part to our friends and supporters.”

**Aggie-X Club Presentations**

Derrell Peel, Aggie-X Club advisor, presented Aggie-X scholarships to Jake Kell, Caleb Kimberling, Jaclyn Shirley and Beth Theis. In the member awards category, Kell was named outstanding new member, Kimberling was named outstanding current member and Daniel Herndon received outstanding senior member.

The faculty awards were given to Nathan Thompson, Ph.D. graduate student, for outstanding teacher, and Art Stoecker, associate professor, for outstanding advisor.

**Recognitions**

The Oklahoma Chapter of American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers recognized Casey Griffith as Outstanding Appraiser, L.A. Parcher Award; and Brice Boatright with Outstanding Farm Manager, E.E. Huff Award.

The following senior awards were presented. Chacey Schoeppel received the All-Around Senior; Campus Wide Activities and Academic Achievement, James S. Plaxico Award. Molly Gardner was named Outstanding Senior; Scholastic Achievement Citation. And, Kendra Rash received the Outstanding Senior Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

The following students were honored with Outstanding Academic Achievement Recognition (graduating seniors with GPA of 3.50 or higher): Brice Boatright, Susan Brand, Dillon Burditt, Allison Burns, Colby Byrd, Sarah Coffey, Joshua Conaway, Justin Davis, Brooke Dudley, Molly Gardner, Jessica Gibson, Nathan Harp, Brian Highfill, Garrett Johns, Taylor Miller, Jacob Rapstine, Kendra Rash, Meagan Rhodes, Cameron Ross, Ty Schoenhals, Chacey Schoeppel, Nicole Swanson, Taylor Thornton, Brady Timmons, Lindsey Underwood, Kristal Williams and Lane Winter.

**Scholarships**

The recognition of scholarship recipients finished the evening. Following are photos from the event. To view more photos, please visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/OSUAgEcon, in the ‘Banquet’ album.
Meet & Greet Senior Award Recipients

Chacey Schoeppel
All-Around Senior, Campus Wide Activities and Academic Achievement, James S. Plaxico Award

Hometown: Fairview, Oklahoma
Major: Agribusiness
What is next?: Following graduation, I will move back to Durban, South Africa, to work for the Ubuntu Youth Project, a nonprofit organization I have been involved with since March 2013. Following local sustainability of Ubuntu Youth, I plan to attend law school with a focus in public interest law serving under-resourced populations.
What do you enjoy about the ag econ dept.? I believe the Department of Agricultural Economics is the most accessible department on campus. I never had a problem getting in touch with professors or faculty in regard to coursework or professional advice. Ag econ hires relatable faculty members, and I think that is incredibly important when it comes to serving the student populations.

Molly Gardner
Outstanding Senior, Scholastic Achievement Citation

Hometown: Vici, Oklahoma
Major: Agricultural Economics
What is next?: I plan to either pursue a Master of Business Administration degree at Oklahoma City University, or pursue a Juris Doctor degree at The University of Oklahoma College of Law.
What do you enjoy about the ag econ dept.? I enjoy the friendly and caring faculty and staff in the agricultural economics department. Since day one, the faculty and staff have made me feel comfortable and welcome. I think this is unique to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and I feel fortunate to have been a student here.

Kendra Rash
Outstanding Senior Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association

Hometown: Stillwater, Oklahoma
Major: Agricultural Economics
What is next?: In the fall, I will be attending Columbia University in New York, New York, to pursue a master’s degree in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences.
What do you enjoy about the ag econ dept.? Our department is very unique. I always felt like I was cared for by our faculty. Maybe that means a professor holding the door open for me or taking an extra ten minutes to ask how I am doing when all I was asking about was our recent homework assignment. The department truly cares about all of their students and wants to see us succeed. They will do anything they can in order to help us pursue our dreams.
New Scholarship Donors

Montie and Betty Box Endowed Scholarship

Montie and Betty Box
Awarded to an agricultural economics sophomore student in good academic standing.

Jo Lyhene Franzmann Endowed Scholarship in Agricultural Economics

Dr. John R. Franzmann
Awarded to a full-time agricultural economics student with documented financial need and a GPA of at least 3.0. Preference given to students planning to double major in agricultural economics and accounting.

Bunny Franzmann Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Agricultural Economics

Dr. John R. Franzmann
Awarded to a full-time agricultural economics student with documented financial need. Recipient must demonstrate excellence in academics and leadership activities.

The department continues to grow our commitment to student success through numerous funds established to support educational programs and scholarship efforts. We are grateful to all of our donors, alumni and friends who provide assistance to our department. We appreciate those who, not only donate monetarily, but those who give their time for interviews, internships, class projects and mentoring in many ways.

“Scholarships really make a difference in attracting and retaining the best and the brightest students,” said Mike Woods, agricultural economics department head. “We work very hard to be good stewards of any contribution made to the department. Our supporters have a positive effect on the lives of our students and the people of Oklahoma. Their support really makes a significant difference and all gifts count. We appreciate all of their efforts.”

If you would like to make a donation to our departmental scholarship fund, please visit the agricultural economics website, www.agecon.okstate.edu, and click on “Opportunities to Give” in the left column. Click on “Scholarship History Booklet” to see information about our scholarship opportunities and read about other donors’ motivations. Then, click on “Give Now” to link to the OSU Foundation website for instructions on how to support the agricultural economics department. And remember, all contributions are tax deductible.
The admiration for her late husband beamed through the phone. As Betty Jo read his resume and obituary, she paused to comment, “I don’t know how he did it, he was so involved.”

The Betty Jo and Daniel D. Badger Scholarship is in honor of Daniel D. Badger Sr.’s outstanding service to the OSU agricultural economics department from 1964 to 1990.

Dan’s list of accomplishments ranges from Valedictorian in high school to serving in the Army Reserve.

He received his bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics in 1954 with the highest grade point average in the College of Agriculture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He then earned his master’s in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University in 1958 and his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Michigan State University in 1960.

Dan accepted his first faculty position in 1960 with the agricultural economics department at Virginia Tech. In January 1964, he accepted a faculty position in agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University where he taught until retiring in 1990.

“During Dan’s time in the department, he advised more than 100 graduate and undergraduate students each year,” Betty Jo said. “He received many awards for his outstanding advising and teaching.”

Betty Jo said, Dan was loved by his students and advisees, and he continued to correspond with many of them until he passed away in 2008.

The scholarship is funded by his family and friends. It is awarded to students who have demonstrated academic excellence and leadership ability.

“I very much enjoyed meeting this year’s scholarship recipients at the banquet,” Betty Jo said. “It also was a pleasure to visit with former students and faculty members at that time.”

Betty Jo Badger and Jane Badger presenting the 2015 scholarships to students at the banquet.

Betty Jo Badger and Jane Badger presenting the 2015 scholarships to students at the banquet.
It was the week before finals, he had a major final project due in an hour, but he lent a few minutes of his busy schedule for a quick interview. His eyes were tired, his posture relaxed, but his entire appearance brightened up as he began to speak of his education and future.

“Connor maintained an emphasis on scholarship while being involved, as evidenced by his high grade point average” said Damona Doye, Regents Professor and Rainbolt Chair in Agricultural Finance.

Connor Jackson will receive his bachelor’s degree in agribusiness in December 2015. His story is unique as he is a transfer student.

Originating from Waco, Texas, and growing up on a dairy, milking 600 head, along with an active beef cattle operation, Jackson has been involved his entire life.

“Connor has been an active leader and participant in work and volunteering prior to and during his time at OSU,” Doye said. “He built on his high school record of involvement by becoming active at OSU through our Aggie-X Club, Block and Bridle, Dairy Science, Oklahoma State Secular Organization, the Collegiate Entrepreneur Organization and served as a College Student Success Leader. His commitment to both work and service while going to school is admirable.”

Although he has only been at OSU for two years, he has received departmental scholarships both years.

“Receiving scholarships is a very rewarding incentive for success,” Jackson said. “I consider these scholarships as an additional motivator, as it is mandatory to maintain a high grade point average to keep the scholarship. In addition, it is a confidence booster as I am being rewarded for my efforts...Plus it definitely helps me with my out-of-state tuition burden.”

When asked why he chose OSU when transferring he said it was because of the focus the faculty put on students.

“When I came to visit, I sat down with Dr. Norwood and he walked me through everything that needed to be done,” Jackson said. “It was easy to trust the CASNR faculty and staff because they are continuously involved, and making themselves a familiar and friendly face.”

Last summer, Jackson was involved in a student exchange program for five weeks in Northwest Poland on a 8,700 acre cropland farm. The trip was sponsored by the Texas Association of Dairy Farmers and organized by Jim Mazurkiewicz, Texas A&M professor and leadership program director.

“Poland was the best experience of my life,” Jackson said. “The financial and macroeconomic knowledge I gained, plus what I learned on EU subsidies, bettered my knowledge of international government policy.”

Jackson will be interning this summer at InterBank. When asked about his future plans, if he will go back home, he said he will be keeping his options open and focus on his career right now.
THE

STUDENT

Section
Letter from the President...

The Aggie-X Club enjoyed a great spring semester this year. In February, the quiz bowl team traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, to compete in the Southern Agricultural Economics Association’s annual meeting with two of our members making it into the final rounds. Team members will be travelling to San Francisco, California, this summer to compete in the national competition.

Club members had a unique opportunity to network with the largest private company in America, when Cargill gave us a visit. Students learned about career and internship opportunities and learned valuable information about the job search and interview process. In April, club members toured the Port of Catoosa and met with distinguished alumnus and former Aggie-X President, Montie Box. Students also helped out with the 2015 FFA State Competition. It was great for us to meet so many future Cowboys!

As always the Aggie-X Club has a concession stand at OSU Men’s Basketball games – so come visit us when the Cowboys take the court this fall!

We are looking forward to kicking off the fall semester with our Back To School Bash on September 8, followed by our annual tailgate on October 3, before we watch our Cowboys take on the Kansas State Wildcats – Go Pokes! We hope to see everyone there!

–Matt Fletcher
Aggie-X Club President
Aggie-X Club officers and members met Montie Box, agricultural economics alumnus and former Aggie-X President, in Tulsa for dinner after the Port of Catoosa tour.

Aggie-X Club members take a photo while working the concession stand at an OSU Men’s Basketball game.

Aggie-X Club officers and members on their trip to Port of Catoosa.

The 2015-2016 Aggie-X Club officer team. (L-R) Jake Kell, Secretary/Reporter; Beth Theis, Assistant Administrative Vice President; Jaclyn Shirley, Administrative Vice President; Naomi Lemon, Treasurer; Matt Fletcher, President; Caleb Kimberling, Educational Vice President; and Dr. Derrell Peel, Advisor.
The students of the Department of Agricultural Economics have "brought it home" once again. The seniors of significance award recognizes students who have excelled in scholarship, leadership and service to campus and community, and have brought distinction to Oklahoma State University.

For 2014-2015, Oklahoma State University selected 44 students. These individuals represent all six OSU undergraduate colleges, six states and two countries. Five, out of 44 selected, hold majors in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Below are the recipients.

- Joshua Joe Conaway, Ringwood, Oklahoma, agribusiness
- M. Dalton Downing, Grove, Oklahoma, agribusiness
- Brian James Highfill, Enid, Oklahoma, agricultural economics
- Ty Schoenhals, Kermlin, Oklahoma, agricultural economics
- Chacey Schoeppe, Fairview, Oklahoma, agribusiness.

Then, in the spring 2015 semester, these honorees updated their credentials and interviewed for selection as an OSU Outstanding Senior. The Outstanding Senior award recognizes seniors who excel through academic achievement; campus and community activities; academic, athletic or extracurricular honors or awards; scholarships and work ethic during their time at OSU.

The OSU Alumni Association Student Awards and Selection Committee selected 12 winners after meeting with the 44 Seniors of Significance, and reviewing their applications.

Two of the 12 selected for the Outstanding Senior award hold majors in the Department of Agricultural Economics. The honorees are Conaway and Schoeppe.
Student Selected for USDA Student Diversity Program

Oklahoma State University’s Nicole Bayne, a junior agribusiness, pre-law student from Bakersfield, California, was recently selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Outlook Forum Student Diversity Program in Arlington, Virginia.

Bayne was nominated for this elite program by the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. As part of the application process, she was required to submit an essay about agriculture as a career.

In Bayne’s essay, she explained how growing up in 4-H and as part of a family heavily involved in the sheep industry persuaded her to work in agriculture for the rest of her life.

“I talked about how I still hold on to two of the things I learned growing up,” Bayne said. “Those two things being: agriculture affects everyone, and agriculture as a career is how I can change the world.”

Twenty undergraduate students and 10 graduate students throughout the nation were chosen by the USDA and honored in front of all attendees during the opening ceremony. In addition, Bayne said the USDA’s program sponsors covered all travel, lodging, meal and registration expenses.

Bayne described the forum as unforgettable and rewarding, saying she learned an enormous amount and grew as an individual and young professional as a result of the week.

Her career ambition is to go into water law. Since her junior year of high school, when she did a social justice project on water rights, Bayne has been drawn to water conservation and solutions.


Mortar Board • Seven Students Selected

Mortar Board is a national honor society of college and university seniors. The honor society recognizes in its membership the qualities of superior scholastic ability, outstanding and continual leadership, and dedicated service to the college or university community. The Achafoa Chapter of Mortar Board at Oklahoma State University, requires a 3.2 overall grade point average and junior status (60 hours) for membership.

The purpose of Mortar Board is to promote equal opportunities among all people, to support the ideals of the university, to advance a spirit of scholarship, to recognize and encourage leadership, and to establish the opportunity for meaningful exchange of ideas as individuals and as a group.

The following Department of Agricultural Economics students were initiated as 2015-2016 Mortar Board members.

- Madison Andersen, agricultural communications and agribusiness, Limon, Colorado
- Nicole Bayne, agribusiness pre-law and legal studies, Bakersfield, California
- Luke Chapman, agribusiness, Madill, Oklahoma
- Zadie Cook, agricultural business and agricultural communications, Kingston, Oklahoma
- Aidan Justice, agribusiness and agricultural communications, Frisco, Texas
- Kaitlyn Sanson, agribusiness and agricultural communications, Flager Beach, Florida
- Alexis Wiebe, agribusiness pre-law, Hooker, Oklahoma
Loyal and true – her father was loyal and true to his family, agriculture and friends. He was loyal and true to the man he was. Now she is following her dreams, as a loyal and true OSU Cowboy.

Brittany Krehbiel was 13 years old when her father, Jeff, was diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer. He passed away when she was 15.

“She grew up fast,” said Karen Krehbiel, Brittany’s mother. “It wasn’t ideal, but at 13, Brittany stepped into her father’s role. It was a natural progression. She knew we needed someone to help when he wasn’t there. She stepped up, and she thrived.”

Brittany had done everything he did, along his side, as he taught her the works of the farm, Karen said.

“I was an only child, it was my time to shine,” Brittany said. “I had always helped my dad with harvest, I had started driving combines when I was 8 years old.”

Present
She is now an owner in their family’s farm operation of 2,500 acres in Hydro, Oklahoma. Their main crop is wheat; they also have a commercial sheep operation of 200 ewes.

Brittany is the fifth generation of her family to be involved in agriculture. She has every intention of going back home after she completes college, she said.

“She has always been interested in the farm and agriculture,” Karen said. “She holds a sense of pride and attachment to the land. Brittany also grew up in an environment focused around entrepreneurship.”

Brittany is in her first year of college, but holds enough credit hours to be considered a sophomore. She is majoring in agricultural economics.

“I didn’t have to come to college, but I want to take the knowledge I gain here back to the farm and implement it to better our operation,” Brittany said.

Business
Brittany’s grandpa, Wayne, and Karen, take care of the operation while she is away at school. Wayne is also a Cowboy, he met his wife, Fern, at OSU and they married in 1952.

Brittany said she enjoys everyday she gets to spend with Wayne.
isn’t forced, it is second nature,” Brittany said. Karen said they took Brittany along to most events and meetings when she was a child. She said Brittany learned at an early age to sit still and stay quiet from going to church that did not have a nursery.

“She loved going to events,” Karen said, “whether it was baking bread to take to the capital with the Farm Bureau women’s committee, or to attending county meetings. She grew up with the mindset of, it is not all about yourself, and you have to give back.”

Karen said, today, Brittany’s favorite segment of conventions are the resolutions. It has always been Karen and Jeff’s favorite too, they are interested in the workings of the organization, she said.

Book

If you are interested in reading more about the Krehbiel family’s story, Karen published a book of all their blog posts while Jeff was sick. The book, “And the Rain Came Tumbling Down, Through Cancer’s Flood on Solid Ground,” is available on Amazon.

Brittany said the book has had a powerful impact, “it touches a lot of people – you just have to substitute a few names and it relates to anyone’s family. But it also shook others, those who were reading it who still had their family around them or were friends with my dad, it made them realize how fast life can change.”

Brittany said when she was proofreading the book, although she knew the ending, it felt as if she was “losing pages,” or days with her dad, with every page turn.

“He didn’t leave any bad relationships,” Brittany said. “When my dad was getting the worst in his health, we asked him if he needed to see anyone, if he needed to fix anything, and he said he didn’t. This means a lot to me and is very powerful to explain the man he was, the man’s footsteps I follow everyday.”
Alumni SPOTLIGHTS
Profile
Name: Haley (Baumgardner) Nabors
Hometown: Carrier, Oklahoma
Degree: Agribusiness, Marketing option
Year Received: 2012

Interview
Q: Where are you now?
A: Upon receiving my degree I accepted a job as a Sales Representative with Dow AgroSciences, where I began in Des Moines, Iowa. I have since relocated and am living in Austin, Texas. My role today is specialized in sales of our range and pasture, as well as crop protection portfolios. Today I am active in the Texas Society for Range Management Association, Texas Ag Industry Association, local Farm Bureau and Texas Cattleraisers groups.

Q: While in college, what scholarships did you receive while in college?
A: Joseph Fleming, P&K Scholarship and Women for OSU Scholarship

Q: How did the scholarships you received from the ag econ department help you succeed?
A: My education and the success I experienced while at Oklahoma State would not have been possible without the financial support I received. As a result of those scholarships I was able to focus on my grades and involvement throughout the campus and community without having the financial burden so many students have. I am truly grateful for the donors who are constantly investing in the continued success of the students within the agricultural economics department.

Q: What extra curricular activities were you involved in during college?
A: While I was in college I was extremely active in CASNR Student Council serving as a freshman representative, Vice President of Student Affairs and President. I also had the opportunity to serve as an Ag Ambassador and participate in the Oklahoma Ag Leadership Encounter.

Q: What/Who do you owe your success in college and career to?
A: I have Dr. Shannon and Cara Ferrell, as well as Dr. Cheryl DeVuyst, to thank for my success during my collegiate career. Their kind words, encouragement and belief in me helped allow for my success while at Oklahoma State. Shannon Ferrell believed in me, even when I doubted myself. He was constantly motivating me and pushing me. He set a great example of what being exceptional truly meant. I cannot put into words how much these three people mean to me. I will forever appreciate their leadership, mentorship, friendship and selflessness.

Q: What short-term and long-term goals do you have?
A: Looking at my goals, I really hope to continue to have the opportunity to work in the agricultural industry and have the opportunity to make a lasting impact.
He has traveled to 92 countries, lived and worked in Hong Kong and Shanghai, China; Bangkok, Thailand; and Seoul, South Korea. But he is also an OSU Cowboy and grew up on a family farm outside of Goltry, Oklahoma, a town with a population of less than 250.

Brady Sidwell received his bachelor’s in agricultural economics with an option in international marketing from OSU in 2004. In 2005, he earned his Master of Economics degree from the University of Hong Kong, where he studied as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

**Education**

“I traveled on my first, individual international experience to Mexico at the end of my freshman year,” Sidwell said. “That was where it all began.”

When asked who in the department influenced him the most, he said there are two. Shida Henneberry, Regents Professor, Humphreys Chair in International Studies, & Director of Master of International Ag Program, as she lead that first Mexico trip as well as a trip to China, and he had classes with her focused on international trade and development. And his academic advisor, Dan Tilley, Professor and Pollard/P&K Equipment Professor, for his encouraging instruction to think “beyond our borders.” Tilley also led a trip to England and Scotland that Sidwell joined.

“He took the extra mile” Tilley said. “I think he completed about every Chinese course offered at OSU. He was very interested and passionate about international work, and he made a career from it.”

Sidwell said, during his education, he enjoyed learning the business side of the food and agriculture industry, its global-ness and the importance of fair and open trade.

“The inner workings of international trade, in particular,” he said, “brought an entirely new perspective to the importance and impact of production agriculture on the global food system.”

Sidwell said he is grateful for the scholarships he received while in college.

“Scholarships afforded me the opportunity to focus on my academics during the semester while pursuing career seeking opportunities in between semesters,” he said. “It also helped to instill personal confidence, that hard work was yielding progress, and further helped me to communicate such achievements to potential employers.”
He said his family now offers three scholarships to OSU students, two of which help students pursue international careers. He also plans on expanding his involvement at OSU with scholarships, internships and alumni connections, especially on the international side.

Sidwell said he owes his success in college and in his career to his mother, Brenda, and his late father, Raymond.

“My energy, drive, ambition and vision to try new and different things really all comes from my upbringing on our small family farm,” Sidwell said. “My mom and dad are both successful entrepreneurs, beginning with next to nothing and having to overcome uncertainty and risk while also raising a family, and I am thankful to have at least some of these genes.

“Although I am convinced they thought I had lost my mind when I told them I wanted to move to Asia, they didn’t hold me back and for that, and for my upbringing – which served as a guide throughout my travels – I’m forever grateful,” he said.

Sidwell interned for Senator Don Nickles during his first summer in college. At that time, he witnessed U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador, Robert Zoellick, testify to the U.S. Senate on the importance of Trade Promotion Authority and the Accession of China to the World Trade Organization. He said this brief encounter with Zoellick made a lasting impact and became one of his most pivotal influences while in college.

“From that moment on, and after subsequent experiences that summer, I believed China and Asia would be important drivers of global growth in the economy and in agriculture, and probably a place I should know something about – starting of course from a zero base, knowing nothing about, nor anyone, in the region and had never traveled there.”

The following December, Sidwell made his first trip in Asia to Vietnam. He then pursued internships at the US Embassy in South Korea and then Thailand during the following summers.

**Present**

Sidwell is now the Vice President of Strategy, Mergers and Acquisitions for the OSI Group. He lives in Chicago, Illinois, and travels to India every quarter, as well as regularly to China and Europe.

“I enjoy working in the global arena of the food and agriculture industry, especially in the private sector where we truly connect the farm to the fork,” Sidwell said. “Although we are a sizeable organization, OSI Group has an entrepreneurial and family-oriented culture, which I very much identify with.”

When asked about his short-term goals, Sidwell said he plans to continue his global pursuits, but will also remain involved in growing his family’s farm, ranch and seed wheat operations.

“I just started a cow/calf operation last year which has been a dream of mine for several years,” he said. “I do enjoy the risks and rewards of being an entrepreneur and intend for that component to start developing in a larger way in the years ahead.

“Over the long-term, I plan to have well-established entrepreneurial businesses internationally as well as domestically, including an expanded seed wheat business and cow/calf operation, among other ventures,” he said.

He said at some point in the coming years he hopes to settle down, have a family and raise them on the farm, for at least part of the time. However, he commented, for those who know him, it may be difficult for him to completely settle down.

“Having lived and traveled all around the world, I’ve never been more passionate about our industry and our state,” Sidwell said. “While I will continue to be on the move, I look forward to spending more time investing and promoting the significant value of our country’s rural communities, that I will forever call home.”

**CAU**

Sidwell will be hosting the China Agricultural University group in the fall, when they come to study at OSU in the agricultural economics department.

“I intend to show them what a modern, family farm looks like in the U.S.,” he said. “And how we can combine our highly productive and efficient production capabilities, with Asia’s huge and growing appetite. There are many areas where we can collaborate, potentially direct from our farms in Oklahoma to their ports.”
Faculty and students of the Oklahoma State University Department of Agricultural Economics were honored for their achievements at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

"The SAEA is one of our leading professional organizations," said Mike Woods, agricultural economics department head. "The participation by our students and faculty was outstanding. Recognition by peers in our profession is particularly important and impressive, and helps showcase the excellence of our teaching, research and Extension programs."

Brian Whitacre, associate professor and OSU Cooperative Extension economist, received the SAEA Teaching Award for his AGEC 4723 rural economic development class.

"AGEC 4723 is a junior- and senior-level course focusing on topics of interest to many students who come from small towns across the state and country," Whitacre said. "These include outmigration, trends in agriculture, recent impacts of the Great Recession and how community services are funded."

Cynda Clary, associate dean of the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, said Whitacre’s course is an excellent example of how the land-grant university creates linkages between teaching, research and Extension in order to provide students with relevant and timely educational experiences.

"Our historic land-grant focus is on adding value," she said. "Brian uses his community Extension and research partnerships to add value to the student’s awareness, knowledge and expertise, and ultimately through the student back to his or her family, profession, community and beyond."

The Oklahoma Quality Beef Network received the SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award. Agricultural economics department team members included Damona Doye, OSU Cooperative Extension farm management specialist and holder of the Rainbolt chair in agricultural finance; Eric DeVuyst, OSU Cooperative Extension farm and production management specialist; Derrell Peel, OSU Cooperative Extension livestock management specialist and holder of the Charles Breedlove professorship in agribusiness; and Kellie Raper, OSU Cooperative Extension livestock economist.

Other team members included OSU animal scientists Gant Mourer, David Lalman, Chris Richards, Megan Rolf and Daniel Stein; OSU entomologist Justin Talley; and Dr. D.L. Step, OSU Cooperative Extension veterinarian, all of the university’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Woods was honored with the SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. A member of the DASNR faculty since 1986, he is nationally recognized as an expert in rural economic development and has spoken before Congress about how rural communities and rural regions can achieve development goals through effective use of available resources.

"Throughout his career, Dr. Woods has provided outstanding contributions to his profession, the university and the people of Oklahoma, particularly in the field of rural economic development," said Thomas Coon, DASNR vice president, dean and director. "He is a great champion of the land-grant mission of developing and disseminating science-proven information to enhance the quality of life for individuals, their families and their communities."

Woods was named head of the OSU Department of Agricultural Economics in January 2007. He served as DASNR interim vice president, dean and director from July 2012 through June 2014.

In addition to the SAEA awards and honors received, 13 presentations were made in selected paper sessions by faculty and graduate students, five posters were accepted and presented, four faculty members presented in an organized symposium and six faculty members or graduate students chaired sessions.

Six undergraduate students competed in the quiz bowl. Participants included Hollee Koester, Jordan Langan, Brady Mayfield, Vance Sharp, Matt Fletcher and Logan Smith. Josh Maples, graduate student, coached the team.
Faculty Awards and Recognition

Faculty members in the department are constantly achieving excellence, as demonstrated by the countless awards and recognition they receive. Below is a list of awards and recognition faculty have recently received through the University and on the local, regional and national levels.

Kim Anderson
2014 SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award

Wade Brorsen
2014 AAEA Fellow
OSU Eminent Faculty Award

Eric DeVuyst
SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award
(Oklahoma Quality Beef Network)
WAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award for Project (Oklahoma Quality Beef Network)

Damona Doye
AAEA Honorable Mention, Outstanding Choices Article
SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award
(Oklahoma Quality Beef Network)
WAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award for Project (Oklahoma Quality Beef Network)
Title changed to Regents Professor and Rainbolt Chair in Agricultural Finance

Francis Epplin
WAEA Distinguished Scholar
Promoted to the honorary title of Regents Professor
Recognized for 35 years of service

Shannon Ferrell
OSU CASNR Student Success Leaders, Outstanding Adviser

Shida Henneberry
USDA NIFA National Excellence in Teaching Award

Notie Lansford
Honorary State FFA Degree

Jayson Lusk
2015 AAEA Fellow

Derrell Peel
Sarkeys Distinguished Professorship in Honor of Elmo Baumann
AAEA Honorable Mention, Outstanding Choices Article
SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award
(Oklahoma Quality Beef Network)
WAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award for Project (Oklahoma Quality Beef Network)

Kellie Raper
SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award
(Oklahoma Quality Beef Network)
WAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award for Project (Oklahoma Quality Beef Network)

Larry Sanders
Community Hero/Humanitarian for the American Red Cross Central & Western Oklahoma Region

David Shideler
Young Professionals of Stillwater, Top 10 Stillwater Emerging Leaders Under 40
Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure

Jeff Vitale
OSU International Education Faculty Excellence Award

Brian Whitacre
2015 SAEA Teaching Award
Stronger Economies Together, Excellence in Economic Development Work Award for Western OK I-40 Corridor Team

Mike Woods
2015 SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award
Whitacre receives awards in all segments of the land-grant mission


When asked for his highest professional accomplishment, he said, “I am very proud of the fact that I have won awards in each of the three legs of the land-grant mission: teaching, research, and extension. I take pride in working in all three areas and do my best to incorporate my research and extension efforts into my teaching, and vice versa.”

At the 2015 Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, Whitacre received the SAEA Teaching Award for his AGEC 4723 rural economic development course.

Whitacre teaches AGEC 4723 every spring, in addition, he teaches graduate-level AGEC 6300, Spatial Econometrics, every other spring.

Whitacre said receiving the teaching award meant a lot to him, especially as he recalled “the many previous students whose comments and suggestions helped to improve the course over the years.” He said it, “also served as validation and encouragement for the time spent developing the different components of the class.”

His vita includes many other awards including Excellence in Regional Economic Development Work Award in 2015 from the Stronger Economies Together National Program for his work with the Western Oklahoma I-40 Corridor Team; New Research Scientist Award in 2014 from the OSU Gamma Sigma Delta; and Early Career Professional Administrative Leadership Award in 2014 from the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators.

In addition, Whitacre served on a panel at the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics’ 2nd Annual Brandt Public Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. “Dr. Whitacre is nationally recognized for his research and Extension efforts related to e-commerce and technology adoption in rural areas,” said Mike Woods, agricultural economics department. “He takes this expertise into the classroom to share with our students.”

Whitacre said he hopes to continue to develop extension and research programs that solve real-world problems for Oklahoma citizens. In addition, he looks...
Q: Tell us about yourself, outside of the classroom.
A: I grew up in the town of Winchester, Virginia, which touts itself as the “apple capital” of the state. My wife Jill and I have three girls: 3-year-old Sidney and 1-year-old twins, Paige and Remy. On the side, I am a competitive natural bodybuilder, so I very much enjoy weight training (and even the dieting that goes along with competing). I have been competing as a professional natural bodybuilder since 2006 and have won five world titles in the lightweight class. Hopefully I will still have a little muscle left when my girls start dating!

Q: What is your favorite class you have ever taught?
A: While I have really enjoyed shaping the AGEC 4723 course over the past five years, my best teaching experience was probably the first semester I taught AGEC 6300. It was so rewarding to introduce the power of GIS (a mapping tool) to graduate students who hadn’t used it before, and see it “click” when they recognized how the techniques we learned meshed with their other training in econometrics.

Q: What/Who do you accredit your success to?
A: Certainly my parents instilled me with a strong worth ethic, which to me is the most important predictor of success in our society. I felt I received strong training as both an undergraduate and graduate student, and have benefitted from the mentoring of world-class colleagues in our agricultural economics department. And of course my wife for being very supportive and doing such an awesome job with our kids when I am traveling for work!
Spring 2015 was the start of a new technology being used on campus. Bailey Norwood, agricultural economics department professor, began the first Massive Open Online Course to be used at OSU, with his course, AGEC 4990, Farm to Fork: A Panoramic View of Agriculture.

Course Details
This course was open for enrollment to OSU students for class credit, enrollment by non-OSU students for class credit, and free open enrollment. Those who were enrolled for credit paid for the course.

“The term “farm to fork” is thrown around a lot, and that is why we chose it,” Norwood said. “The term has come to mean an interest in both how food is produced and the many ways agriculture affects society.”

Enrolled students were able to go on a virtual tour of dairy, swine and beef farms; study how farm practices impact the environment; learn how modern livestock techniques impact the well-being of farm animals; visit the DNA analysis labs that help keep food safe; think critically about the impact of local food on the local economy; plus more, Norwood said. They were able to accomplish all of this in one online course to gain a panoramic view of agriculture—from the farm, to the fork, he said.

“The course assumes no background in agriculture,” Norwood said. “Though we do not shy away from the controversial issues, it is receptive to everyone, regardless of their opinion.”

Summary
For spring 2015, there are 73 students enrolled for course credit—a few of these are non-OSU students taking it as a correspondence course. There are another 785 enrolled as “open” students, not receiving credit.

“Over a hundred of the open students were very active in the beginning but only about 10 have remained active throughout the course,” Norwood said. “Those 10 have a keen interest though, and are a joy to have in the class.”

Norwood said one thing he learned the most by instructing this course is there is a clear demand for a basic agriculture class.

“Even our farm kids have much to learn, for example they may come from a cattle farm but know little about broiler production,” Norwood said. “And, many of our students do not come from farms, and they learn little about basic agriculture in college classrooms.”

Future
Norwood said he was thankful for the administration who were understanding of his desire to create the MOOC, and viewed it as a scholarly activity in addition to a teaching activity.

“The department is proud of Dr. Norwood’s successful endeavor with this MOOC,” said Mike Woods, agricultural economics department head. “He is an outstanding teacher and it comes as no surprise that Farm to Fork turned out so well.”

When asked if he saw himself teaching a different MOOC, Norwood said he thinks it is time for someone in a different field to do a MOOC.

“I would like OSU to be a leader in MOOCs not only in agriculture but every field here on campus,” Norwood said. “I know many would like to offer a MOOC, if they can acquire the funding for it. It requires a different business model. You put a lot of money into filming a few really good lectures, but then you can play that lecture for years. So it will require us to think differently, but we have already started to do so.”
Q: What have you enjoyed the most from instructing a MOOC?

A: I most enjoyed filming the virtual tours. I have felt for some time that public universities were falling behind technology-wise, so it was nice producing the kind of high quality videos I enjoy watching on YouTube. The virtual tours taught me a lot. Before this class I had no idea how laboratories determine the nitrogen content of a soil, or exactly how modern wheat breeding was performed. This class allowed me to be both a student and a teacher, and pleased me. I also enjoyed finally being able to discuss some of the controversial agricultural topics like the industrialization of agriculture and animal welfare, and this class allowed me to address most all of them.

Q: What has been your favorite memory of the course?

A: My favorite memory was filming part of a lecture in the Boone Pickens Football Stadium here at OSU. I had a complete printout of the DNA of a bacterium, and to illustrate how large it was, OSU allowed me to unroll it on the field. With a camera crew I filmed a brief description of the enormity of an organisms’ DNA, and OSU even allowed us to borrow one of their place-kickers. It was the closest I will ever come to mimicking a Neil deGrasse Tyson lecture, and it was a thrill.

Bailey Norwood filming a portion of his MOOC.
Many faculty and staff of the Department of Agricultural Economics focus on a range of Extension programs. Below is a small list of programs and workshops offered by the department through the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

**Annie’s Project** – 6 week course to empower farm women to be better business partners. Contact Damona Doye, http://agecon.okstate.edu/annie/

**County Clerk Building Your Budget Workshop** – Contact: Notie Lansford, http://agecon.okstate.edu/ctp/

**Disaster Recovery Workshop** – 3 hour workshop will provide you with the procedures and tools to be a “survivor.” The objectives of this workshop is Mitigation, Plan, and Recovery. Contact: Notie Lansford

**Employment Applications** – Contact: Notie Lansford

**Farm Transitions** – Resources to assist with transitions. The transition could be to transfer management partially or completely to a second generation or to an unrelated party or to retire partially or completely from farming. Contact: Shannon Ferrell, http://agecon.okstate.edu/farmtransitions/

**Grading School** – Corn, Grain, Soybean, Wheat or Canola options. Workshops teach grain elevator personnel how to grade grain and obtain warehouse grain grading license. The workshops include a combination of lectures that provide USDA/GPIS grading provisions and hands-on grading experiences. Full grading stations for Carder Day and Kicker dockage machines are set up for use by the participants. Contact: Kim Anderson

**Legislative Process Workshop** – 3 hour workshop will focus on how a bill becomes a law and how to track the process. Contact: Notie Lansford

**Open Records Workshop** – Contact: Notie Lansford

**PRIDE** – A Workshop to Spread Good Hospitality Throughout Your Community. Contact: Notie Lansford, http://rd.okstate.edu/pride.asp

**Purchasing Workshop** – Health Department or Firefighters options. 3 hour workshop to include role and responsibility, Forms 1116 & 1-4030, Emergency purchases, Title 19, Title 61, and Declaring Surplus. Contact: Notie Lansford

**Purchasing Workshop with SA&I** – Bidding Procedures. 5 hour workshop to cover Public Competitive Bidding Act, Title 19 - 6 month bids, and Lease Purchasing. Contact: Notie Lansford

**Specialty Crops Workshop** – Contact: Sara Siems

**Supervisory Skills Workshop** – Contact: Notie Lansford

**Tax Roll Correction Workshop** – 1 hour workshop to include statutes updates and the process of doing tax roll corrections. Contact: Notie Lansford

**Time Management** – Contact: Notie Lansford

**Website Building 101** – Contact: Brian Whitacre

### Upcoming Events

**Annie’s Project** – May 28 and continuing every Thursday until July 2. Hosted by Lincoln and Okfuskee Co.; location TBA. Fee is $40. Contact Wendie Powell at 918-623-0641 for more information.

**Rural Economic Outlook Conference** – October 30. Info: agecon.okstate.edu/extension/ruralconference.asp

**Specialty Crops Food Safety** – May 18, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., hosted by Tulsa Co. Extension. No fee to attend. Contact Kenda Woodburn for details or to register at 918-746-3716.

**Statewide Women in Ag Conference** – August 6-7, Moore Norman Tech Center on South Penn Ave. in OKC, OK. Info: http://www.okwomeninagandsmallbusiness.com/

**Website Building 101** – September 23, Idabel, OK, Kiamichi Technology Center, 9 am – noon.
Are you planning a transition from one phase of your farm or ranch management to another? The transition could be to transfer management partially or completely to a second generation, or to an unrelated party, or to retire partially or completely from farming. Changes like these are more likely to be successful if groundwork is carefully laid through planning and analysis, plus clear communications with others impacted by the decisions.

Farm Transitions is a workshop series hosted by Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service with funding from the USDA Risk Management Agency through the Southern Risk Management Education Center.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide information, resources and assistance with successfully transitioning a farm.

“Transition is different than estate planning,” said Shannon Ferrell, agricultural economics associate professor.

Ferrell said estate planning is thought by most as “only being when someone passes, the person gets everything.” He said research shows it is less likely for an operation to stay successful, when solely using estate planning.

“A transition overtime, and using these tools, helps ensure the transition will occur the way desired,” Ferrell said.

Farm Transitions offers one- and two-day workshops. For more information visit, http://agecon.okstate.edu/farmtransitions/.

In addition to the workshops, the team is working on producing a workbook for participants to take home with them and work through at their own pace. The workbook will include all the information presented at trainings, plus more.

Video tutorials and instructions are also in the works for the future.

“Everyone needs a plan – especially young families,” Ferrell said. “They face a large degree of risk. There has been an increase in multigenerational families attending the workshops.”
Oklahoma’s Statewide Women in Agriculture & Small Business Conference

Mark your calendar!
August 6-7, 2015
Moore Norman Technology Center
13301 S. Penn Ave. in OKC

- Concurrent breakout sessions offered from three tracks: agricultural, alternative enterprises, & business and finance
- Mini mall showcasing made-in-Oklahoma products
- Networking opportunities with Oklahoma Agriculture & Small Business vendors

Rural Economic Outlook Conference Oct. 30
Keynote Speaker: Lowell Catlett, Ph.D., a futurist with positive and upbeat predictions
Agecon.OKState.edu

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