Scholarship and Awards Banquet
Summary and highlights

First Graduates of CAU-OSU Program
28 Chinese students graduate from new joint degree program

Alumni Spotlight: Clint Roush
OSU alum shares his story
Welcome to readers of the latest issue of Cowboy Economist published by the Department of Agricultural Economics. Our intent is to highlight key events in the life of the department over the past several months including news about students, faculty members, and staff. We also highlight accomplishments of distinguished alums and share information about research and Extension programming efforts.

Our faculty members have been recognized at multiple events regionally and nationally. Dr. Damona Doye received the Extension Career Award from the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA). Shannon Ferrell received the Outstanding Extension Program Award from WAEA. Several faculty members were award winners at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) Annual Meeting as well including Notie Lansford, Max Melstrom, Dave Shideker, and Derrell Peel. Check out the featured story on Dr. Peel who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from SAEA.

We spotlight a distinguished graduate, Dr. Clint Roush, who is a leader within the Oklahoma agricultural industry. His contributions to rural Oklahoma are impressive and his memories of OSU are fun to read.

Our students in our undergraduate and graduate program continue to excel. Placement of Ph.D. graduates to Land Grant University faculty positions has been impressive. Aggie-X is doing well and has an outstanding group of officers and members. Be sure to join us for our Aggie-X Tailgate on September 23, 2017 three hours before the OSU vs. TCU football game.

We are thankful for all the wonderful students in our program. This issue highlights several students who received special recognition at the departmental, college and university level. I continue to marvel at the abilities and dedication demonstrated by our students!

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 August 3-4, 2017 date on your calendar. Our Rural Outlook Conference is scheduled for October 20, 2017 in Stillwater.

Best regards. We hope you enjoy this issue!

About the cover:
Changing of the guard: New advisor for the Aggie-X club, Dr. John Michael Riley with recently elected 2018-2019 president, Grayson Kuehny.

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The 2017 Department of Agricultural Economics Scholarships and Awards Banquet was a great success.

On April 8, 2017, at the Wes Watkins Center, the department was able to honor 105 students with 122 scholarships totaling $131,100.

As department head, Dr. Mike Woods, welcomed everyone to the banquet he said, “Students in the Department of Agricultural Economics are the foundation for our programs. We are so pleased to hold these students up and celebrate them tonight. We have outstanding and successful students, thanks in large part to our friends and supporters.”

Three alums of the department served as readers – introducing donors, scholarships and student recipients:

Brock Taylor, Regional Vice President for CoBank’s Power, Energy and Utilities Division received his B.S. in Agricultural Economics in 1996.

Blayne Arthur, Executive Director of the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation received her B.S. in Agricultural Economics.

Dan Childs, Agricultural Economist with the Noble Foundation received his B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics.

The department prides itself in producing some of the most career-ready, successful individuals. They not only serve as great leaders to our industry, but also as impressive role models to current and future students in our program.

The department would like to once again thank all of the individuals who give their time and donate resources to support our students!

>>>
Outstanding Senior, Scholastic Achievement Citation

Caitlin Baney
Lauren Clark
Kayla Hildebrand
Ciera Houlton
Dillon Johnson
Tyler Mannering

Outstanding Senior Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association

Lauren Clark

Outstanding Appraiser, L.A. Parcher Award

Caitlin Baney
Adam Spears

Outstanding Farm Manager, E.E. Huff Award

Hannah McReynolds

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

Dillon Johnson
Megan DeVuyst

Scholarship:
Dr. John W. Goodwin Endowed Agricultural Economics Scholarship

Major:
Agribusiness, minoring in finance and economics

Year:
Junior

Hometown:
Morrison, OK

Future Plans/Goals:
I am still deciding what my future plans are. I either plan to attend graduate school and study agricultural economics or pursue a career in agricultural finance.

What does receiving this scholarship mean to you?
Receiving this scholarship was one of the biggest blessings of my junior year. This scholarship allows me to continue to strive for academic excellence, while still being involved on campus. It is inspiring to see donors and alumni of Oklahoma State give back to help students pursue their educations. I greatly enjoyed sitting and visiting with my scholarship donors at the Agricultural Economics Scholarship banquet. Their selfless attitudes and willingness to give inspires me to serve the campus and one day give back financially to OSU. This scholarship allows me to continue to pay for my education debt-free.
Bruce and Susan Neustadt Scholarship (Endowed)
Donors: Bruce and Susan Neustadt

Bruce, and his wife Susan, reside in Dallas, TX but have made regular trips to OSU for the scholarship and awards banquet to present the family scholarships that have been generously given over the years in memory of Bruce’s father, Jean Neustadt. During these trips, they noted the positive effect of the scholarships and enjoyed meeting faculty and recipients at the banquets.

Bruce and Susan have an estate gift dedicated to OSU and recently decided to establish a study abroad scholarship with this gift for a Department of Agricultural Economics student. Both of their daughters were able to experience study abroad trips at the universities they attended and the Neustadts recognized the value of visiting other countries and cultures.

This year’s recipients of the Bruce and Susan Neustadt Scholarship (Endowed) are Taylor Stephens and McKenzie Carvalho, pictured above with department head, Dr. Mike Woods.

Stephens will be traveling to China this spring and Carvalho will be visiting the Czech.
Honors & Accolades

Three agricultural economics students were named 2017 Outstanding Seniors by the OSU Alumni Association: Dillon Johnson (pictured above, left), agribusiness/plant & soil sciences, Afton; Garrett Reed (pictured above, center), agribusiness, Locust Grove; and Ricki Schroeder (pictured above, right), agribusiness and agricultural leadership, Nash.

Along with these three students, four others were named 2017 Seniors of Significance this year: Lauren Clark (pictured below), agribusiness, Eagle, Idaho; Katie Lippoldt, agribusiness, Kingfisher; Tyler Schnaithman, agricultural economics, Garber; and Carson Vinyard, agribusiness, Altus.

The Department of Agricultural Economics was also well represented at the CASNR banquet. Johnson, Reed, Schroeder, and Clark were all named Seniors of Distinction. Johnson also brought home the honor of Top Senior.

The 2017 Initiates into the Oklahoma State University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi in April included two agricultural economics students: Caitlin Baney, agribusiness, Sheldon, Missouri, and Zachery Kilgore, agricultural economics, Pilot Point, Texas.

In late March, three agricultural economics students were inducted into the Mortar Board honor society. Student initiates are Jenna Maltbie, agribusiness, Sheldon, Missouri, and Zachery Kilgore, agricultural economics, Pilot Point, Texas.

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CASNR Student Council

It is no secret that the Department of Agricultural Economics has been well represented on the CASNR student council in recent years. For 2016-2017 eight of the 11 retiring executive team members are majors or double majors within our department. This includes: Lauren Clark, president; Ethan Beebe, senator; Megan DeVuyst, secretary; Jake Fanning, senator; Jenna Maltbie, student spokesperson; Angel Molina, treasurer; Garrett Reed, vice president of business affairs; and Morgan Vance, vice president of student affairs.

As this academic year comes to a close the 2017-2018 executive team has been announced. Angel Molina, president; Megan DeVuyst, vice president of student affairs; Levi Baker, vice president of business affairs; Adrienne Blakey, reporter; Megan Silveria, secretary; and Sierra Bryant, student spokesperson. The newly elected senators include Kase Doner, Vanessa Wiebe and Ridge Hughbanks.

Photos courtesy of OSU-CASNR Kitchen Sink Archives.
Participating in the Oklahoma State University (OSU) undergraduate graduation ceremonies this spring were 28 Chinese students who graduated with a “Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness,” not only from OSU, but also from China Agricultural University (CAU). These students are the first graduates of a CAU-OSU joint program approved in 2013, which includes two years of study at CAU and two years in the Department of Agricultural Economics at OSU.

A special departmental graduation ceremony and reception to honor these students was also held on Saturday in the Student Union Starlight Terrace.

The graduates began their studies as freshmen at CAU in 2013. They took two years of English-speaking classes at CAU, and they arrived at OSU for the fall 2015 semester. An additional 32 students began studying at OSU in the fall of 2016, and a third group of 35 students are expected this fall.

According to Mike Woods, Agricultural Economics Department Head, “Almost 80% of these students are now pursuing graduate degrees as their next endeavor. Students are considering several universities in the United States, including OSU, University of California Davis, University of Miami, Cornell University, and others, plus universities in Australia and Japan.”

The CAU-OSU joint program began when OSU President Burns Hargis traveled to China and signed a general MOU with CAU in December, 2011. Hargis’ visit generated a strong interest from CAU to partner with OSU in the general area of agribusiness. After further negotiations, the two universities signed an Educational Affiliation Agreement in 2013.
Congrats Graduates!

The success of this program has pleased us greatly and we look forward to the increase in participation. Good luck to these students in their future graduate studies and careers!
From the Retiring President...

The Aggie-X club has had a great spring semester! Club attendance has grown exponentially this year and we continue to see rising numbers at each meeting. This spring we have been able to bring in many speakers who serve as great networking opportunities for our members. Jeff Jaronek from Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and Debbie Wedel from National Livestock Commission Corp., both Aggie-X alumni, have paid us a visit during our business meetings.

Aside from our meetings, we continue to be active in the agricultural economics department and CASNR student council. At a full council meeting for student council, we took part in the CASNR club spotlight. We were able to share information about our club with other students beyond our department and tell them about Aggie-X. CASNR Week is a time for us to stay busy. We participated in the sign competition in front of Ag Hall. We had a great committee of students and officers who created and put up the sign for the week. We also were involved in Ag Day on The Lawn. As a college, CASNR clubs took shifts promoting agriculture to students and professors of OSU.

At our last business meeting, we elected new Aggie-X officers and inducted a new faculty adviser. By nomination and popular vote, our new 2017-2018 Aggie-X officer team is as follows: Grayson Kuehny, president; Amanda Higgins, educational vice president; Rio Mohrmann, administrative vice president; Ty Rope Smith, treasurer; and Meghan Neumann, Secretary / Reporter.

Our banquet was April 8, 2017 where the newly elected officers were placed in office and we were able to award many deserving students scholarships for their accomplishments. Our Aggie-X tailgate has been set for Sept. 23, 2017.

I have been so thankful to serve this past year as Aggie-X president. It has been an incredible year and I am confident in the five individuals elected to represent our organization over the next year.

Sincerely and Go Pokes,
Jaclyn Shirley
2016-2017 Aggie-X President

Pictured Right: (L-R) Meghan Neumann, Grayson Kuehny, Amanda Higgins, Ty Rope Smith and Rio Mohrmann
Thus far, graduate students in the Agricultural Economics Department at Oklahoma State University have been extremely productive and involved. The Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) 2017 meeting was held in Mobile, AL. At this conference, six graduate students presented research papers. Many graduate students have applied to present research at the 2017 AAEA meetings which will be held in Chicago, IL this summer. Presenters will be announced in the coming weeks. Not only is it our hope that many graduate students are selected to present research at this meeting, but that OSU also successfully defends our graduate student case study competition title. At these meetings Clint Neill will step down as the Graduate Student Section (GSS) chair, and Aaron Ates will serve as GSS chair for the 2017-2018 year. Trey Malone, Clint Neill, and Eunchun Park, have accepted jobs as Assistant Professors at Michigan State University, Virginia Tech University, and Mississippi State University, respectively. Seonwoong Kim finished his post doctorate work and has begun work at Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI).

Thus far, the 2016-2017 year has been busy for the department. This fall, faculty members hosted the annual AGEC Fall Picnic at the end of September, and graduate students hosted the annual International Dinner at the beginning of October. These are wonderful traditions that allow graduate students and faculty to interact outside of the classroom and Ag Hall, all while learning more about one another and enjoying some delicious food.

There are currently 49 graduate students in the Agricultural Economics Department, including 33 Ph.D. students, 13 M.S. students, and three Master of Agriculture students. Each year more and more quality students from across the country apply for graduate school at Oklahoma State in our department. As a matter of fact, all students who were admitted to the graduate program to begin in fall 2016 decided to pursue their degrees at OSU after their visits. This speaks volumes about the faculty members that comprise our department. They are wonderful mentors to our graduate students, ensuring students receive the best education that allows them to successfully pursue their professional goals.

Go Pokes!

Aaron M. Ates
“Life is really about challenges, opportunities and relationships. God is in control. God has given us challenges with opportunities and He placed us with great people in the best places at the right time. We try to live by His word in Proverbs 3:5 and 6.”

- Dr. Clint Roush
fourth generation farmer, professor in agricultural economics, and industry leader; to say that Clint Roush is a successful alum would be a major understatement. In 1965, Roush came to Oklahoma State University (OSU) with the goal of attaining a bachelor’s degree in agriculture before returning home to farm. He had an initial interest in production courses in animal science like livestock nutrition and meat science. His high school vo-ag teacher had sparked this interest. “Tuffy Howell, who graduated from OSU, was the reason I decided to select OSU. He shared with us about his experiences and coursework at OSU… He got our class started on a meats judging team and encouraged me to try out for the OSU meats team,” said Roush. Business management and the marketing side of agriculture was also an interest held by Roush.

During his freshman year he met Dr. John Goodwin, the advisor for the Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity where Roush lived. The next year he took Goodwin’s introductory agricultural economics class. It was not until after Roush finished the final for the class that he decided to change his major. Goodwin soon became his advisor.

“My years at OSU and in the agricultural economics department as both a student and faculty member definitely affected my career and life. Coming from a small, rural Oklahoma school, belonging to AGR provided mentorship to help build study habits and the motivation to become a leader within the fraternity and student organizations like Aggie-X and Ag Student Council, as well as to build many lifelong relationships,” said Roush. Dr. Lowell Walters, an animal science meat science professor provided the training and opportunity for Roush to be on the OSU Meats Judging Team. In 1968, Roush and his teammates won the International in Chicago. Walters also helped Roush obtain a summer internship and later his first full time job, after his six months of active duty with the U.S. Army Reserves, with Wilson Certified Foods in Oklahoma City.

Wilson began phasing out beef processing in Oklahoma City, so Roush and his new wife, formerly Pam Steiner, moved to Pawnee where Pam took a teaching job and Roush returned to OSU to begin his graduate studies in agricultural economics. “My advisor was Dr. Mike Boehlje, a new professor who had graduated from Iowa State University. My research and thesis was evaluating the impact of credit policies used by fertilizer dealers. I finished my M.S. degree and started working on a Ph.D. in 1972. My Ph.D. research was estate planning and strategies for transferring family farms between generations,” said Roush. Once his Ph.D. coursework was complete and the computer model for his research was built, Dr. Jim Plaxico, agricultural economics department head, asked Roush to join the faculty to teach agricultural finance and run the Farm Financial Management extension program. Roush and his family then moved to Stillwater, and Pam was able to attain another teaching position at the grade school. A few challenges arose and Roush’s research and dissertation were put on hold when two of his advisors took positions at different universities, and then the Tax Reform Act of 1976 changed the estate tax laws that were built into his computer model. Dr. Harry Mapp was his new advisor, and with the help of Meg Kletke and other people in the agricultural economics computer lab, his computer model was modified and Roush was able to evaluate the impact of the new law on farm estate planning strategies. Roush said, “Working with extension economists Cecil Maynard and Ted Nelson, we were able to apply the computer model in estate planning workshops for farmers in Oklahoma.” With their family growing, Roush and his wife decided to move back toward their roots in Custer County.

“I took a teaching position in the School of Business at Southwestern...
Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford and Pam taught at the Arapaho grade school. I taught Business Management and Statistics courses as well as directed the Small Business Development Center. I also developed a short course for Custer County oil and gas royalty owners,” said Roush.

Both Roush and his wife Pam are fourth generation Custer County farmers. “We are privileged to get to work on the same farms that our parents and grandparents farmed,” said Roush. Roush did not start farming full-time until 1987, after fourteen years of teaching and consulting in agricultural finance, farm financial planning, business management, and strategic planning. They now grow wheat and alfalfa hay, and run stocker cattle on farms located around the Arapaho, Weatherford, Custer City and Stafford area. All three of Roush’s children attended OSU. “We are now blessed to have our son, Rusty and his family farming with us. Rusty is an OSU ag econ accounting graduate with a master’s degree and CPA,” said Roush. “I think one of the main contributions I have made to our family farming operation has been applications of the computer to our farm record keeping, financial management and estate planning… now [we are enjoying] watching Rusty make decisions to bring new technologies to improve crop and pasture management practices on the family farming operation.”

Since returning to Custer County to live and farm, Roush has enjoyed the opportunity to be elected to the boards of several cooperatives who really benefit agricultural producers and the rural communities where he lives and works. “We obtain our financing from Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and I was elected to serve on their board in 1988,” said Roush. “I served there until I was elected to the US AgBank board in 2009.” US AgBank was the funding bank for Farm Credit Associations located in the western United States including Oklahoma and Kansas, as well as all the way west to California. After strategic analysis and planning, the board decided to merge with CoBank in 2012. At that time, Roush was elected to serve on the CoBank board. “CoBank serves as a wholesale provider of financing to 23 Farm Credit associations that, in turn, deliver credit to approximately 70,000 farmers and ranchers in 23 states across the country,” said Roush. “A cornerstone of CoBank’s business for decades has been meeting the lending needs of cooperatives throughout rural America. Our agribusiness customers supply the world with high-quality grain, fruit, nuts, vegetables, cotton, livestock, dairy products and other items. They are involved in the growing, processing, marketing, transporting and exporting of farm products of all kinds. CoBank also supports rural America infrastructure by providing loans and other financial services to rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states.”

On the local level Roush serves as a director for Farmers Cooperative Association of Clinton and Butler, the Custer County Rural Water District and the Custer County Cattlemen’s Association. “The highlight of my career was to receive the Oklahoma Governors Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture and being inducted into the 2016 Oklahoma Agriculture Hall of Fame,” said Roush.

Roush and his wife enjoy traveling together, spending time with their children and their families and attending OSU events. They have season tickets for football, basketball and baseball. They love taking their grandchildren to the homecoming parade!

As far as advice for current and future students, Roush said, “Get to know and build relationships with your professors, especially your advisor. They will give you good advice to help you choose courses to study that fit your interests and prepare you for your job placement or graduate school. If you need to work while in school, try to get a part-time job in the Ag Econ department. The experience you will have working with professors will be helpful in your studies and in your future career. Get involved in organizations like Aggie-X and other agricultural student groups. This will provide opportunities to build lifetime relationships and develop your leadership skills.”

Pictured on page 14 are Clint and Pam Roush at their home in Arapaho, OK.
Rural Economic Outlook Conference

October 20, 2017

Keynote speakers:

Luis Ribera
How Increased Dependence on Trade Impacts the Farm Economy

Patrick Westhoff
U.S. Farm Policy: 'Weak or Trash?'

mark your calendar!

learn more

AgEcon.okstate.edu/Extension/RuralConference.asp
Mobile, Alabama – Several members of the agricultural economics department received accolades at the recent SAEA Annual Meeting held in Mobile, Alabama in February. Regarding the honors at the meeting, department head Mike Woods stated, “I had several comments regarding the very high visibility of OSU at the meetings. Dr. Peel and Dr. Melstrom made presentations related to their respective awards and both did excellent jobs.”

Derrell Peel received the Lifetime Achievement Award (see story on page 20).

Max Melstrom was named the 2017 Emerging Scholar.

Dave Shideler was awarded the Extension Individual Program Award.

Notie Lansford, County Training Program lead and staff members Ann Embree, Sherri Schieffer, Suzanne Spears and Jendi Mapitigama received the Extension Group Award for the County Training Program.

Department faculty members had three invited papers, six selected papers, and two posters, and chaired one session.

Jackie Chen, a CAU-OSU program, undergraduate student (mentored by Derrell Peel) also presented a poster on beef demand.

Multiple graduate students presented papers.

The department was well represented in the quiz bowl contest. Undergraduate students, Hollee Koester, Hanna Parker and Lauren Silva, all participated in the competitions, they were coached by Derrell Peel, Will Maples and Amy Biedenbach.
Faculty Awards & Recognition

Wade Brorsen - 2016 WAEA President-Elect
Chanjin Chung - Agribusiness: An International Journal 2014 Outstanding Article
Damona Doye - 2016 WAEA Extension Career Award
Cheryl DeVuyst - 2017 Aggie-X Club Outstanding Advisor Award
Francis Epplin - Regents Distinguished Research Award
Shannon Ferrell - 2016 WAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award
Shannon Ferrell - 2016 WAEA Councilor
Notie Lansford - 2017 SAEA Extension Group Program Award
Max Melstrom - 2017 SAEA Emerging Scholar Award
Bailey Norwood - 2016 USDA Food and Agricultural Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award
Derrell Peel - 2017 SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award
Joe Schatzer: 2017 Aggie-X Club Outstanding Teacher Award
Dave Shideler - 2017 SAEA Extension Individual Program Award, President’s Cup for Creative Interdisciplinary “Sovereign Tribal Nations’ Seeds, Food Systems and Nutrition” Award Second Place Team
Brian Whitacre - Merrick Foundation Teaching Award
Some professors may believe that everything a student needs to learn can be taught from a classroom. However, this belief does not hold true for Dr. Derrell Peel, the livestock marketing specialist for the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. Since 1989, Peel has played a key role in shaping the minds of students who make their way through the college of agriculture and natural resources. His philosophy is simple: go see things, go meet people, and go beyond the classroom!

In college, Peel did not know what economics was until he took his first class in the subject. He soon realized the field resonated well with his mindset, so he changed his major from pre-vet to agricultural economics and agribusiness. “I’m an economist inherently because of the way I think,” said Peel. “At the time I didn’t know where it would lead me.”

After realizing it would not be lucrative to return home to the farm, Peel decided to continue his path in academia. After completing his master’s, he accepted a position as the superintendent of a range research station for Colorado State University. This opportunity exposed Peel to the stocker aspect of the cattle industry and allowed him to gain a clear understanding of how an operation functions.

With three and a half years of work experience, Peel decided he was ready to head back to academia again. He worked on his Ph.D at the University of Illinois and then completed his research at Auburn University in Alabama. “Being around the various cultural and regional impacts of agriculture really played into how I look at the cattle industry,” Peel told Drovers, in an interview in 2016. “It exposed me to how complex the entire industry is, and why we don’t always understand each other because of the way certain issues impact different areas.” The different experiences and opportunities Peel encountered over the years added depth to his knowledge and allowed him to apply it elsewhere.
Peel has worked hard over the years to create opportunities outside of the classroom for his students. He feels it’s important to expose students to history, culture, and agriculture so they have the experience they need to think outside of the box and realize the world is far bigger than the rural community they grew up in.

Peel said his strong, genuine interest in history goes hand in hand with his job. His favorite aspect of his career has been the integrated extension travel, personal travel, and international travel with his students. Recently, Peel started the domestic agribusiness tour, a class in which students are able to go on shorter field trips throughout the semester. In the past he has also taken students to Mexico, Canada and longer agribusiness trips within the U.S. In 2016 alone, Peel traveled to 13 states and went to Mexico three times!

The combination of Peel’s outstanding beef marketing program and his ability to instill the same passion he has for the industry into his students makes him a valuable asset to the Department of Agricultural Economics and a deserving recipient of the SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations Dr. Peel!
Oklahoma’s Statewide

Women in Agriculture & Small Business Conference

August 3-4, 2017
Moore Norman Technology Center
South Penn Campus
13301 S. Penn Avenue, OKC

Mark your calendar!

• Networking opportunities and concurrent breakout sessions offered from several tracks - agricultural, alternative enterprises, business and finance, and beginning farmer

• Vendors and mini-mall showcasing Oklahoma businesses and products