



# AG ECON NEWS

Department of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University

Spring 2013

## News from the Department Head

Spring is a frenzy of activity for the department. This was the year for a 5-year academic program review in which we summarized student enrollment and programs plus reflected on changes needed.

Some highlights include: progress has been made in establishing a distance education presence for the department; our assessment plans have been implemented; fourteen new scholarships have been added, 10 of which will be endowed; graduate student support has also increased, largely through grantsmanship; our publication record improved.

Over the past 5 years, the Department annually awarded 57.2 Agribusiness and 18.0 undergraduate B.S. degrees plus 13.6 M.S. and 6.2 Ph.D. degrees.

This past calendar year was a successful one for the department. Undergrad enrollment grew 15 percent. We continued to enjoy growth in scholarships thanks to departmental alumni and friends.

Our faculty produced 143 publications (about 5 per research FTE) including 31 journal articles and were visible at professional meetings. They garnered approximately \$1.3 million in 33 grants and contracts for research and Extension projects. Nearly 100 training sessions (in-service trainings, certification programs) were held and more than 250 presentations were made at various meetings.

Department Head (Continued on page 2)

## New scholarship donors announced at spring 2013 Aggie-X Awards Banquet

Donors to the OSU Department of Agricultural Economics were recognized for new and recently endowed scholarships this year.

### Jamie "Jack" and Patricia Mount Endowed Scholarship in Agricultural Economics

This new scholarship is sponsored by Jack (B.S. ag econ) and Patricia Mount and is awarded to a student enrolled full-time in CASNR, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics, participating in campus leadership activities, demonstrating a commitment to academic excellence and showing a

strong desire to pursue a career in the ag econ field.

See Mount photo with scholarship recipients on page 6.

### Elizabeth Meibergen Endowed Scholarship

This newly endowed scholarship is provided by Johnston Enterprises, Lew Meibergen, alum Butch Meibergen (B.S. ag econ) and alum Joey Meibergen (B.S. ag econ).

It is awarded to a full-time agricultural economics student at OSU in CASNR who has an emphasis

Scholarships (Continued on page 2)



Mike Woods, Interim Vice President and Dean of DASNR, thanks Dave Collins and Connie Burk Lee for the scholarships from the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, which were given initially last year. Posters showing the donors for this scholarship and the new and newly endowed scholarships in the department this year were on display at the scholarship and awards banquet.

# Ag econ students receive scholarships and award recognition at department's annual spring banquet

### **Jace White selected as OSU and CASNR outstanding senior**

Jace White (agribusiness/ Cherokee) was selected as an Outstanding OSU Senior by the OSU Alumni Association. He was also named the CASNR Outstanding Senior and received the CASNR Dean's Award of Excellence at the CASNR Scholarship and Awards Banquet.

Jace's activities include Alpha Zeta, CASNR Student Council Student Affairs Committee, Group II Student Fee Allocation Committee, Academic Integrity Panel, and GTA Professional Development Task Force.

He has volunteered for the Big Event, Hunt for Hunger, Prairie Valley Methodist Church Annual Christmas Food Basket Drives, Humane Society of Stillwater, and the Oklahoma Simmental Simbrah Association.

Jace was named a Class of 2016 Hatton W. Summer Scholar at

Oklahoma City University School of Law. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society, and the Golden

Key International Honor Society. He plans to attend Oklahoma City University School of Law and then

*Banquet (Continued on page 3)*



*Jace White, receives the All Around Senior- Campus Wide Activities and Academic Achievement - James S. Plaxico Award and the Outstanding Senior - Scholastic Achievement Citation from Dr. Cynda Clary, Associate Dean, CASNR, and Dr. Jim Plaxico, former Department Head and Professor Emeritus at the awards banquet.*

### **Scholarships (Continued from page 1)**

in farm and ranch management.

### **Willis B. Johnston Memorial Endowed Scholarship**

W. B. Johnston Grain Co. of Enid, along with Lew Meibergen, Butch Meibergen, and Joey Meibergen, sponsor this newly endowed scholarship awarded to an outstanding student interested in a career in independent agribusiness or production agriculture.

The recipient must be a full-time student at OSU who is classified as a junior or senior agricultural economics/agribusiness major.

Selection preference is given to students majoring in agribusiness, agricultural economics, marketing, or

accounting.

### **Dr. Leo Blakley Scholarship**

Dr. Richard Crowder (Ph.D. ag econ) and Margaret Crowder and Dr. Don Kloth (Ph.D. ag econ) and Mrs. Linda Kloth sponsor this newly endowed scholarship.

It is awarded to an ag econ or agribusiness student who excels in leadership and academics.

### **Department Head (Continued from page 1)**

We are looking forward to welcoming a new faculty member soon. Dr. Rodney Jones has been serving as the Ag Econ Area Specialist for northwest Oklahoma and was previously on the faculty at Kansas State. He will be the inaugural holder of the Farm Credit Services Professorship and will teach

undergraduate and graduate agricultural finance classes as well as other classes.

In April, we welcomed Jason Pace as a new Area Specialist in southwest Oklahoma. Jason joined us on completion of a M.S. degree from Texas A&M University.

Recruiting has begun in China for students to participate in a 2+2 program with China Agricultural University and our department focused on opportunities for Chinese students to earn degrees in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Sixty students are being recruited for fall enrollment in country, then transfer to OSU in fall 2015 for degree completion.

We hope that you will enjoy reading about our students and faculty, research and Extension projects, scholarship banquet and more in the newsletter.

**Dr. Damona Doye**

## Ag Econ and Aggie-X Banquet News

### Banquet (Continued from page 2)

practice law in Oklahoma while being involved with the Simmental cattle industry.

The Outstanding Senior Award recognizes students who distinguish themselves through academic achievement, campus and community activities, academic, athletic, or extracurricular honors or awards, scholarships, and work ethic.

### Seniors of Significance

Jace is one of six seniors named as Seniors of Significance by the OSU Alumni Association last fall.

Other Seniors of Significance honored at the banquet are:

- **Trindle Brueggen** (agribusiness/Okarche)
- **Samantha Geis** (agribusiness/Enid)
- **Shannon Mallory** (agribusiness/Tecumseh)
- **Shannon Watson** (ag econ/Osceola, Missouri)
- **Jonathan Wedel** (agribusiness/Stillwater)

### Scholarships

Over 100 scholarships totaling \$99,375 were awarded to 72 students at the recent 2013 Agricultural Economics Department and Aggie-X Club Scholarships and Awards Banquet.

### Special Recognitions

**Jace White** (shown on page 2) received the All-Around Senior - Campus Wide Activities and Academic Achievement - James S. Plaxico Award and the Outstanding Senior - Scholastic Achievement Citation.

**Shannon Watson** received the Outstanding Senior Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association.



*Jacy Alsup (agribusiness/Gravette, Arkansas) receives the Centennial Class of 1990 Scholarship from Brent Garvie (left) and Kyle Hughbanks at the scholarship banquet. See Garvie's and Hughbanks' bios on pages 5 and 6.*

The Oklahoma Chapter of American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Award for Outstanding Appraiser - the L.A. Parcher Award was awarded to **Kelsey Dutton** (agribusiness/Logan Utah).

**Seth Menefee** (M.S. ag econ/Lake Arthur, New Mexico) was honored for receiving the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers E.E. Huff Award for Outstanding Farm Manager.

**Brandon Baumgarten** (agribusiness, pre-law/Oilton), **Dalton Downing** (agribusiness, pre-law/Grove), **Kendra Rash** (ag econ/Stillwater), **Chacey Schoepfel** (agribusiness, pre-law/Fariview), **Chris Stockton** (agribusiness, marketing/Duncan), and **Ty Schoenhals** (ag econ/Kremlin) were recognized as OSU Top Ten Freshmen Men and Women for 2012-2013. (See story in Fall 2012 *Ag Econ News*.)

### Aggie-X Awards

Aggie-X scholarships for 2013-2014 went to the following students:

- **Nina Axtell** (ag econ/Stillwater)

- **Andrew Greer** (agribusiness/Tulsa)
- **Cordell Lloyd** (agribusiness/Hillsdale)
- **Kisten Taylor** (agribusiness/Big Cabin)

The Aggie-X award for Outstanding New Member for 2012-2013 was presented to **Cordell Lloyd**.

**Andrew Greer** received the Aggie-X award for Outstanding Current Member.

The following Aggie-X members received the award for Outstanding Senior Member:

- **Samantha Geis**
- **Shannon Mallory**
- **Taylor Witte**

### CASNR Awards

Several students were recognized for awards given at the CASNR awards event the evening before the banquet.

**Trindle Brueggen, Samantha Geis, and Jace White** were named as CASNR Seniors of Distinction for 2012-2013.

## Ag Econ and Aggie-X Banquet News



Clint Roush, member of the Board of Directors of CoBank (far right), congratulates recipients of the CoBank scholarships this year: (left to right) Cassandra Griffith (ag econ/Indianola), Joseph Beck (agribusiness;/Mulhall), Meagan Rhodes (agribusiness/Fairview), and Taylor Carpenter (agribusiness/Arapaho).



(Left to right) Aaron Hoerst, Marketing Analyst; Coby Smith, Distribution Analyst; and Ryan Ramseyer, Marketing Analyst with Koch Industries and alums of the ag econ department, present the Koch Industries Inc. Scholarship to Sarah Coffe (ag econ/Springer).

## Eighteen seniors achieve 3.5 GPA or higher

At the banquet, 17 graduating ag econ seniors were recognized for Outstanding Academic Achievement for achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

- Clark Bixler (ag econ/Waynoka)
- Trindle Brueggen (agribusiness/Okarche)
- Cassidey Collins (ag econ/Sapulpa)
- Curtis Dick (agribusiness/Corn)
- Samantha Geis (agribusiness/Enid)
- Kayla Grant (agribusiness/Ponca City)
- Caitlin Harris (agribusiness/Houston, Texas)
- Aaron Hoerst (ag econ/Stillwater)
- Garrett Lafleur (agribusiness/Spiro)
- Shannon Mallory (agribusiness/Tecumseh)
- Laura Padgett (ag econ/Crawfordville, Indiana)
- Justin Strate (agribusiness/Fairmont)
- Shannon Watson (agribusiness/Tecumseh)
- Jonathan Wedel (agribusiness/Stillwater)
- Jace White (agribusiness/ Cherokee)
- Kevin White (agribusiness/Oxford, Kansas)
- Tayler Witte (ag econ/Stillwater)
- Tsunahiro Yamamuro (agribusiness/Setagayu-Ku Japan)

### *Ag econ alumni assist at banquet*

Four ag econ alumni assisted with the academic scholarship presentations, reading the scholarships being presented and the recipients' names and information.

#### **Debbie Wedel**

Debbie, who was raised on a wheat



and cattle farm northeast of Cordell, graduated with an Agricultural Economics/Marketing and Business degree in 1987.

She works for the Oklahoma Wheat Commission in marketing and communications—promoting Oklahoma wheat through education. She is currently participating in Class XVI of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program.

Her favorite activities include baking, gardening, canning, playing the piano, and singing with the Singing Churchwomen of Oklahoma.

Her favorite summer vacation spots

are anywhere with mountains and cool weather. However, she loves to work the wheat harvest in southwest Oklahoma regardless of the temperature.

Debbie states that she has her dream job of working in agriculture with the wheat producers of Oklahoma and the Department of Agriculture, and she counts it a privilege to represent them.

#### **Greg Somerhalder**

Greg Somerhalder grew up in Burlington, where he was actively involved in farming. In fact, he worked for Brent Garvie's grandfather and father, and was employed by the local agricultural cooperative.

He received a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from OSU in 1982.

In July, Greg is moving from his position as Chief Risk Officer for CoBank to a new job as Chief Corporate Strategist at American AgCredit.

Greg is married to the former Elena Laham of Wichita, Kansas. They have three children: Tyler, a recent graduate of the University of Kansas; Brandon, a junior at the University of Southern California; and Alexa, who will start her freshman year at OSU this fall.

Greg is extremely proud of the fact that from the day he was born, he has always worked for (and been supported by) farmers and ranchers of Oklahoma. His father managed the local grain cooperative where Greg worked while attending college. And following graduation from OSU, he has worked with either CoBank or the Farm Credit System, which has



loaned money to, and been governed by, those same farmers and ranchers of Oklahoma.

#### **Kyle Hughbanks**

Kyle was raised in the Anthony/Kiowa, Kansas community and graduated from Chaparral High School. He was a 1990 Centennial Class graduate of OSU with a major in Agricultural Economics.



*Readers (Continued on page 6)*

## Ag Econ and Aggie-X Banquet News



Jack (far left) and Patricia (far right) congratulate the recipients of the Jamie "Jack" and Patricia Mount Endowed Scholarship in Agricultural Economics, (right to left) Jessie Lowrimore (agribusiness/Panama), Kelyn Jacques (ag econ/Stillwater, and Nicole Bayne (agribusiness/Bakersfield, California).

### **Readers (Continued from page 5)**

Kyle is the Owner/Operator of Diamond H Farms and President and CEO of BancCentral, NA with locations in Alva, Enid, and Woodward, and BancCentral Financial Services Corp.

He serves as president of the CASNR Alumni Association and as a Director of Rural Enterprises Inc. He is also a member of Leadership Oklahoma Class 26.

Kyle is thankful for the support of his family, his scholarship donors while attending OSU, his advisers, and his business mentors. All of these people served as the primary enablers of his successes.

Kyle values the time he spends with wife Trina Piper-Hughbanks, OD, and their three children. He loves attending the kids' activities, and says

his favorite vacation is going to their family cabin at the lake.

### **Brent Garvie**

Brent grew up in Burlington, where he is actively involved in farming and ranching. He graduated from OSU with a degree in Agricultural Economics in the Centennial Class of 1990.

His wife, Vanessa, teaches kindergarten for the Burlington Public Schools. They have two daughters: Sarah, a freshman in high school, and Kate, a senior, who will carry on the family tradition of majoring in Agricultural Economics when she enters Oklahoma State University this fall.

Brent takes an active role in a variety of professional and service organizations in his community. He

serves his church as a worship leader and his community as a volunteer fireman and EMT. He enjoys joining family and friends at OSU football games and attending all of his daughters' activities.



### ***Ag Econ Students to serve on Farm Credit of East Central Oklahoma Student Board of Directors for 2013-2014***

Seven ag econ students have been selected to serve on the 2013-2014 Farm Credit Services of East Central Oklahoma (FCS of ECOK) Student Board:

- **Joseph Beck** (agribusiness/ Finance/Mulhall)
- **Tori Brownlee** (agribusiness/ Crossroads, TX)
- **Brian Highfill** (agribusiness/pre-law/Enid)
- **Erin Oliver** (agribusiness/ Marketing/Savage, MT)
- **Lindsey Underwood** (agribusiness/Tecumseh)
- **Chelsie Wilson** (agribusiness/ Yukon)
- **Lane Winter** (agribusiness/ Hitchcock)

FCS of ECOK coordinates with the Agricultural Economics department at OSU to form a Student Board of Directors.

According to Michelle Clogston, Marketing Coordinator, "The mission

of the Student Board is to provide opportunities to students wishing to gain leadership skills by participating in an academic/corporate agricultural finance experience. This includes exposure to the function of a board of directors and the development of decision-making skills related to an agricultural cooperative."

OSU CASNR students who are sophomores or older are eligible for this program. The students should have a farm background and plan to maintain their agricultural involvement upon graduation. To apply, students are asked to submit an application, essay, resume and transcript in April. Directors may serve consecutive years by reapplying for a position each spring.

Eight monthly meetings are scheduled from September 2013 to April 2014. They will be held at the FCS of ECOK office in Stillwater. Meetings may consist of a short presentation by FCS of ECOK

staff and in some cases, student development work. Report or project preparation time may be required outside the monthly meetings.

The students elect a chairperson and vice chairperson to run the meetings. An honorarium is provided to each student following attendance at each meeting.

"We have just completed our ninth year of hosting a student board of directors," said John Poindexter, President and CEO of FCS of ECOK. "We have been very pleased with the student participants from OSU. The students get the opportunity to see how our cooperative works, and they get an inside look at the credit delivery process. We certainly view it as a win-win opportunity for the student board as well as Farm Credit of East Central Oklahoma."

FCS of ECOK is a cooperative that provides financing for rural real estate, recreational property, livestock, and operating or equipment loans.

---

### ***Department faculty, staff, and students host 2013 FFA Interscholastics Contest Career Development Events***

Ag econ faculty members, staff and students recently hosted three 2013 FFA Interscholastics Contest Career Development Events:

- Farm Business Management
- Agricultural Sales
- Marketing Plan

Dr. Notie Lansford provided advanced planning for the Farm Business Management event, Dr. Jody Campiche gave the exam, and Dr. Eric DeVuyst presented the experiential learning game.

The Farm Business Management event had 16 teams totaling 61

students

Dr. Brian Adam, along with Dr. Phil Kenkel and Dr. Dave Shideler, hosted the Agricultural Sales event.

Dr. Dan Tilley with fellow judges Dr. Chanjin Chung and Justin Anderson, ag econ graduate student led the Marketing Plan competition.

An interscholastics contest focuses on a variety of events so that participants have an option to compete in their favorite areas.

FFA members in Oklahoma in grades 8 through 12 who are

regularly enrolled in a year-long course of study in agricultural education in their schools are eligible to participate in the Career Development Events.

Dr. Brian Whitacre helped with registration for the event.

Students who provided assistance include Lisa Brown, Cortney Cowley, Kaitlyn Lacey, Jessica Neal, Kelsey Penkert, Katie Smithson, Kisten Taylor, Rosie Templeton, Amanda Weaver, Ashley Whiddon, Randi Williams, Tayler Witte plus numerous Aggie-X officers past and present.

# *Blake Wieland selected to serve as Executive Director of 2013 Homecoming Executive Team; Blayne Horn will serve as team executive for promotional design and carnival*

Ag econ student **Blake Wieland** (agribusiness/Hydro) has been selected Executive Director of the 2013 Homecoming Executive Team.

Blake says his role as the Executive Director was a very exciting one to take on given the long history and tradition of the homecoming event.

Blake explains, "My role as the Executive Director is to preside over the Executive Team as well as the Steering and Big Committee and make sure the tasks given to each are carried out properly."

"I was never hesitant or nervous," he says, "about taking on the position because the students are very fortunate to have the support and guidance of the OSU Alumni Association when we need it."

As students in the ag econ department already know, it is very rewarding to work at something and eventually reap the fruits of your labor. The College of Agriculture

is always very active in 'America's Greatest Homecoming Celebration' and we look forward to working with them again this year."

**Blayne Horn** (ag econ/Chickasha) will serve as Promotional Design Executive and Harvest Carnival Executive.

"My duties as Promotional Design Exec," Blayne explains, "consist of organizing the homecoming publication that goes out the week before Homecoming. This publication is seen by over 80,000 students, alumni, and guests who come to the OSU campus for homecoming."

"As Harvest Carnival Exec, I organize all the carnival booths and chili cook-off competitors that are set up by Greek pairings and student organizations. I also organize the can food drive for Harvest II and Eat for Pete in which local restaurants participate."

Blayne states that "Homecoming

is one of my greatest memories growing up in an OSU family. I've been to every Homecoming since I was in a stroller. Once I found out that I was named a 2013 Homecoming Exec, I was beyond excited to be able to serve the greatest tradition at Oklahoma State. I would have to say the best part of serving on Homecoming Exec is getting to serve alongside seven of my best friends as well as working with everyone associated with the Conoco Phillips Alumni Association."

"America's Greatest Homecoming Celebration" is orchestrated by the OSU Alumni Association Homecoming Executive Team.

The student volunteers are selected after a rigorous application and interview process each January.

They are responsible for planning and coordinating every Homecoming event along with the Homecoming Steering committees.

---

## *Honor societies induct ag econ students as members*

### **Gamma Sigma Delta**

Two undergraduate ag econ students were part of 23 students inducted as members of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, by OSU's Gamma Sigma Delta chapter. The society seeks to encourage high standards of scholarship and worthy achievements.

The following undergraduate students were inducted this spring:

- **Curtis Dick**
- **Shannon Mallory**

See page 10 for graduate ag econ inductees.

### **Mortar Board**

Four ag econ students were recently honored for their exceptional achievements in scholarship, leadership, and service to the community by initiation into the Achafoa chapter of Mortar Board:

**Hannah McCollom** (ag econ/Hobart); **Chacey Schoepfel**, (agribusiness, Fairview); and **Lindsey Underwood** (agribusiness/Shawnee);

Mortar Board is a national honor society for college students that recognizes qualities of superior scholastic ability, outstanding and

continual leadership, and dedicated service to the college or university community.

### **Blue Key**

**Jonathan Wedel** (agribusiness/Stillwater) was selected for membership into the Blue Key Honor Society.

Blue Key Honor Society is a premier honor society that recognizes college students at senior institutions of higher education for balanced and all-around excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.



## Aggie-X News

### President's Letter

Hello everyone, my name is Cordell Lloyd and I am currently serving as the 2013-2014 Aggie-X Club President.

Our new officer elections were held on March 5, 2013, and I am pleased to announce the 2013-2014 officer team: Kurt Gulick, Educational Vice President; Nina Axtell, Administrative Vice President; Kisten Taylor, Assistant Administrative Vice President; Daniel Herndon, Secretary/Reporter; and Logan Smith, Treasurer.

Although we are an entirely new group of officers, I am excited about the coming year and confident

that we will continue the Aggie-X Club's reputation for excellence. Our co-advisors for next year will be Dr. Derrell Peel and Dr. Brian Whitacre.

Last year Aggie-X continued to be active in CASNR as well as the community. Aggie-X participated in the CASNR week sign competition, competed in intramural softball, and collected food for the Hunt for Hunger food drive.

Through the club's fund raising efforts we were able to provide six scholarships, two that went to the officers and four that went to members.

The fourth annual Aggie-X tailgate was held last fall and was a great

success. This year we are pleased to announce that the fifth annual Aggie-X tailgate will be held October 5th, 2013 prior to the OSU vs. Kansas State football game.

Aggie-X invites all alumni, faculty, and staff to the tailgate and cookout three hours before kickoff. As in past years, the tailgate will be held on the northeast side of Ag Hall.

If you have any questions about the Aggie-X Club or the annual tailgate, please feel free to contact me at (580) 542-2262 or at [cordell.lloyd@okstate.edu](mailto:cordell.lloyd@okstate.edu).

Cordell Lloyd  
Aggie-X Club President

### Aggie-X Officers for 2013-2014



Aggie-X officers for 2013-14 are introduced at the spring banquet: (left to right) Derrell Peel, co-advisor; Cordell Lloyd, President; Kurt Gulick (agribusiness/Miller, Missouri) Educational Vice President; Nina Axtell, Administrative Vice President; Kisten Taylor, Assistant Administrative Vice President; Logan Smith (ag econ/Richfield, Kansas), Treasurer; Daniel Herndon (agribusiness/McGregor, Texas, Secretary/Reporter; Brian Whitacre, co-advisor.

**Plan to join the Aggie-X Club for their  
annual Tailgate on October 5  
prior to the  
OSU-Kansas State football game.**



*Ag econ graduates following their spring hooding: (left to right) Admas Siyoum, Temesgen Helsabo, Aaron Coffey, Seth Menefee, Johnna Rushin, Jeremy Bennett, Lisa Brown, Cole Lamson, Candi Ge, Trent Milacek, Masni Pohan, Trey Malone, and Li Niu.*

### ***Ag econ student presents poster at Governor's Water Conference***

Admas Siyoum, ag econ graduate student from Ethiopia, presented a poster, "Economic Valuation of Environmental Services from a Stream Channel Restoration Project," at the 33rd Annual Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference & 10th Annual Water Resources Research Symposium in Tulsa.

The poster was based on a paper entitled "Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services in Northeastern Oklahoma," which was co-authored with Dr. Tracy Boyer, ag econ Associate Professor.

The poster was related to research done on valuing instream water used for ecosystems and recreation.

The research was done on the Upper Illinois River, Barren Fork, Tiner Creek watershed in Oklahoma.

Researchers from across the U.S. presented their findings regarding water regulation and water science and technology at the water conference.



*Admas Siyoum discusses his poster with an attendee at the Governor's Water Conference.*

## Fall 2012 Hooding ceremony features graduates



*Congratulations  
Graduates*

*Ph.D. graduate Agus Widarjono (second from left) receives congratulations from Dr. Chanjin Chung, DR. Shida Henneberry, and Dr. Damona Doye following the fall, 2012 departmental hooding held in December.*



*M.S. graduate Annie Nsafoah (second from left) is congratulated by Dr. Chung, Dr. Phil Kenkel, and Dr. Doye after receiving her hood at the fall 2012 departmental hooding ceremony.*



*Ph.D. graduate Deepayan Debnath (second from left) is congratulated by Dr. Chung, Dr. Art Stoecker and Dr. Doye after being hooded at the fall 2012 departmental hooding ceremony.*

### Graduating Students 2012-2013

A special hooding ceremony was held in Ag Hall in May to honor these students who have completed their degrees.

#### Fall 2012 PhD:

- Zakou Amadou, Niger
- Hiren Bhavsar, India
- Deepayan Debnath, India
- Maria Mejia, Mexico
- Laura Pedraza Robles, Mexico
- Agus Widarjono, Indonesia

#### Fall 2012 MS:

- Annie Nsafoah, Ghana
- Stephanie Schumacher, Texas
- Chris Baker, Oklahoma

#### Spring 2013 PhD:

- Yoonsuk Lee, South Korea
- Angelica Serrano Paez, Mexico
- Masni Pohan, Indonesia

#### Spring 2013 MS:

- Jeremy Bennett, Oklahoma
- Lisa Brown, Colorado
- Johnna Rushin, Oklahoma
- Bruk Seyoum, Ethiopia
- Admas Siyoum, Ethiopia

#### Summer 2013 PhD:

- Seongjin Park, South Korea
- Pilja Vitale, Oklahoma

#### Summer 2013 MS:

- Aaron Coffey, Oklahoma
- Suling Duan, China
- Candi Ge, China
- Temesgen Helsabo, Ethiopia
- Cole Lamson, Oklahoma
- Trey Malone, Kansas
- Seth Menefee, New Mexico
- Trent Milacek, Oklahoma
- Li Niu, China

### Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society inducts members

Four graduate ag econ students were part of 30 students inducted as members of Gamma Sigma Delta. (See related story on page 8.) The following graduate students were inducted this spring:

- **Johnna Rushin** (ag econ, Yukon)
- **Seth Menefee** (ag econ/New Mexico)
- **Stephanie Schumacher** (ag econ/Gainsville, Texas)
- **Shannon Watson** (ag econ/Osceola, Missouri)

*Congratulations  
Graduates*

### Thesis and dissertation topics

#### Spring 2013

##### Dissertations:

**Yoonsuk Lee** - Impacts of Permanent and Temporary Shocks on Optimal Length of Moving Average to Forecast a Time Series

**Angelica Serrano Paez** - Health Economics and Grain Consumption Analysis in Using Household Survey Data in Mexico

**Masni Pohan** - The Dynamics of Income Growth: An Inter-regional Study of Indonesian Households

##### Thesis:

**Jeremy Bennett** - An Examination of Native American Household Food Security in Oklahoma

**Lisa Brown** - Comprehensive Analysis of U.S. Agricultural Marketing and Supply, Farm Credit and Rural Electric Cooperatives Member-owner

##### Communications

**Johnna Rushin** - Evaluation of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act on Price Transmission within the Beef Marketing Channel

**Admas Siyoum** - Two Essays: Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services in North Eastern Oklahoma

##### Creative Component):

**Bruk Seyoum** - Cost and Feed Efficiency Benefits of a Whole Chain Beef Traceability System

#### Summer 2013

##### Thesis:

**Aaron Coffey** - Private Benefits of Eastern Red Cedar Management and the Impact of Changing Stocker Value of Gain

**Seth Menefee** - Financing Young and Beginning Beef Cattle Producers in Oklahoma

### ***Damona Doye awarded SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award***

Dr. Damona Doye (shown on page 10 with ag econ graduates) was presented the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) Lifetime Achievement Award at their annual meeting in February.

Dr. Doye has been at OSU in the ag econ department since 1986. She is currently serving as Acting Department Head for the department.

She is a Regents Professor and Extension Economist who also holds the Sarkeys Distinguished Professorship in Agricultural Science.

Dr. Doye earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics from OSU in 1980 and 1981 respectively. After earning a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Iowa State University in 1986, she began her career at OSU.

She has made significant contributions to agriculture, devoting her career to serving Oklahoma farmers and ranchers through programs designed to increase

the overall management capacity and skill set of those involved in production agriculture.

Every aspect of her work is designed to enhance farm and ranch managerial skills and, thus, the probability of success for producers. Educational products developed by Dr. Doye have been adopted in multiple states. Perhaps one of her best known components is her adaptation of Quicken for farms, ranches, and other agricultural enterprises.

Dr. Doye is both a regional and national leader in her profession because of her strong commitment to service coupled with her national reputation for program excellence.

She is a past president of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) and a past chair of both the Southern and North Central Extension Farm Management Committees.

Her leadership extends beyond the southern region. She currently chairs the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE), and she is a past Director on the Board of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). She also serves as the U.S. Vice-President of the International Farm Management Association.

In 2012, Dr. Doye received the SAEA Distinguished Extension Program Award with OSU's drought response team. In 2009, both the SAEA and the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) awarded her their respective association's Distinguished Extension Program award for her work with the Master Cattleman project.

She earlier earned two additional SAEA Extension Awards for teamwork in integrated resource management and Quicken educational programming.

---

### ***Ag Econ faculty and students attend SAEA meeting***

Ag econ faculty members and students were well represented at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) annual meeting in February. According to department head Mike Woods, "The officers of this professional association expressed appreciation for the strong OSU participation by our graduate students. Our colleagues notice when we have a good showing, and this is very good exposure for our students." Mike expressed his thanks to Derrell Peel and Dave Shideler for "wrangling" students and driving vans to the meetings.

- Dr. Damona Doye received the SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. (See story above.)
- Dr. Jody Campiche received the Assistant Professor Leadership Award (See story on page 14.)
- Dr.'s Damona Doye, Eric DeVuyst, Jody Campiche, Derrell Peel, David Shideler, and ag econ extension staff J.C. Hobbs, Rodney Jones, J.J. Jones, and Roger Sahs received the SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Team Award for their work in responding to the drought. (See story on page 17.)
- Six Selected Papers were presented by faculty members or graduate students.
- One Organized Symposium was led by an organizer/moderator.
- Two Posters were selected for presentation from our department.
- Dr. Derrell Peel coached three students during the Quiz Bowl competition. Quiz Bowl participants were Caroline Bremer (ag econ/Metropolis, Illinois), Kurt Gulick, and Trindle Brueggen.

### ***Dr. Jody Campiche presented SAEA leadership award***

Dr. Jody Campiche, ag econ assistant professor, received the Assistant Professor Leadership Award at the SAEA annual meeting.

The award is designed to identify and recognize high potential emerging scholars in the ag econ profession.

Dr. Campiche holds a joint research/extension appointment specializing in agricultural and food policy. She maintains an active research program, with major efforts currently focused on developing a farm bill decision tool for all U.S. commodities.

She plays a lead role both in research on impacts of government policies on production agriculture and outreach efforts to inform farmers and ranchers of changes in policy.

She provided leadership in the 2008 Farm Bill Education Program and was a key to its success. She has also been part of a team planning efforts to monitor and respond to drought.

In 2012, farm bill information was the focus for presentations across the state, and the education program evolved as new ideas were introduced and debated at the national level. (See story in the Department of Agricultural Economics *Research Update* newsletter, Spring 2011.)

She also advises graduate students and serves on graduate committees, has served as an advisor for the AAEA Graduate Student Section, and was an organizer of the 2012 AAEA case study competition.

Because she has a good working relationship with state and federal legislators, she is frequently asked to analyze proposed policies as state/federal legislators deliberate provisions of the farm bill and other policies impacting producers and agriculture, including biofuels, food, nutrition, conservation, and land use.

Dr. Campiche is an active participant in grant-seeking to support research and Extension efforts.

Dr. Campiche received several prestigious awards in 2012 including the WAEA and SAEA Distinguished Extension Program awards for the 2008 Farm Bill Program.

---

### ***Dr. Kim Anderson receives Oklahoma Wheat Commission's Staff of Life Career Achievement Award for 2013***

Dr. Kim Anderson, ag econ professor emeritus, recently received the Oklahoma Wheat Commission's "Staff of Life" Career Achievement Award at the 2013 Oklahoma Crop Improvement Banquet.

The "Staff of Life" award is the highest award honor given by the Oklahoma Wheat Commission to an individual who meets the criteria of dedicating many hours of service to the wheat industry to help make the Oklahoma wheat producer more profitable.

According to the commission's press release, Dr. Anderson's career has focused "on projects to help make the Oklahoma wheat producer and elevator owner/manager more profitable when selling grain into both the domestic and export markets."

The wheat commission states that



*Dr. Kim Anderson receives the Oklahoma Wheat Commission's "Staff of Life" award at the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Banquet. Shown above (left to right) are Kathryn Anderson; Dr. Anderson; Mike Schulte, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Wheat Commission (OWC); and Tom Stephens, OWC Board Member—District 2, Guymon.*

his contributions include "helping the wheat producer and elevator owner/managers market grain, teaching grain grading schools, managing the

statewide Oklahoma Junior/Wheat Show competition for 4-H and FFA students, and teaching the ag econ Agricultural Sales class."

### Jayson Lusk publishes fifth book from his ongoing research

Ag econ professor and Willard E. Sparks Endowed Chair in Agriculture Dr. Jayson Lusk published his fifth book this spring entitled *The Food Police: A Well-Fed Manifesto About the Politics of Your Plate*, based on research done on the government's growing intrusion into Americans' eating habits.

Following the publication of this book, Dr. Lusk spent a couple of weeks giving television, radio, and other interviews on his book tour covering several states.

Dr. Lusk says that research is important to him because he wants to help people who depend on it make better decisions, like farmers, for example. He also says that he "loves to get paid to think."

His research over the years has resulted in five books and 120 articles, many in peer-reviewed journals. He has also served on

the editorial councils of seven top academic journals.

Dr. Lusk says on his "Food and Agricultural Economics" online blog that because "food preferences and technologies are constantly evolving, much of my research has focused on providing economic analysis and insight into consumer preferences for emerging food issues such as animal welfare, biotechnology, cloning, nanotechnology, growth promotants, local foods, vegetarianism, and foods with various health claims."

His other books include *Compassion By the Pound: The Economics of Farm Animal Welfare* and *Agricultural Marketing and Price Analysis* (both co-written with Dr. Bailey Norwood, ag econ associate professor); *Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Food Consumption and Policy*; and *Experimental Auctions: Methods and Applications in Economic and*

*Marketing Research*.

Dr. Lusk also serves as "an important tutor of young researchers and a mentor for students," according to Dr. Damona Doye, acting ag econ department head.

He says that he plans to continue his mentoring and research, including a monthly survey about food. "I want to have a timely and consistent source of information in the changes of consumer demand and preference."

Dr. Lusk has a bachelor's degree in food technology from Texas Tech University and a Ph.D. from Kansas State University in agricultural economics. He has been a faculty member in ag econ since 2005.

Last year, he completed a six-month sabbatical to France where he and his family lived while he broadened his research.

### Three faculty members honored at ag spring events

#### Scholarship Banquet

At the scholarships and awards banquet, the Aggie-X Club announced the outstanding teacher and adviser recipients.

**Dr. Phil Kenkel** received the outstanding teacher award, and **Dr. Shannon Ferrell** received the outstanding advisor award.

#### MIAP Hooding Ceremony

At the recent Master of International Agriculture Program (MIAP) Hooding Ceremony, **Dr. Joe Schatzer** was presented with the Outstanding Faculty Award in Support of the Master of International Agriculture Program.

Dr. Schatzer is the first recipient

of this award, given for outstanding service to the MIAP program. Among Dr. Chatzer's contributions were serving as an advisor to students and helping with curriculum development.

The MIAP is a multidisciplinary degree that prepares students for a successful career in global agriculture using theory, practical knowledge, and hands-on experience. Students choose an academic focus area and country of their choice.



Dr. Joe Schatzer receives the MIAP outstanding faculty award from Dr. Shida Henneberry, MIAP Director.

### ***Faculty members will participate in NSF grant research***

Ag Econ faculty members Dr. Dave Shideler, Dr. Jody Campiche, and Dr. Tracy Boyer plus alumnus Jon Biermacher, Ph.D. of the Noble Foundation will be involved in research for a \$20 million grant recently awarded to Oklahoma by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).

The purpose of the five-year grant project is to advance understanding of how socio-ecological systems can adapt sustainably to climate change.

The NSF award is a multi-institutional collaborative project that includes researchers from Oklahoma State University, the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, the University of Oklahoma, and The University of Tulsa.

"This award will strengthen Oklahoma's capacity to perform cutting-edge research that will benefit the state," said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. "Through EPSCoR, we will be able to broaden participation in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, resulting in a more educated and diverse scientific workforce for our state's economy."

"The new program will continue our

efforts to develop the capacity and capability to conduct nationally and internationally competitive research in the state of Oklahoma," said Dr. Jerry Malayer, Oklahoma EPSCoR state program director. "In addition, the program integrates research and education, offering research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and educational outreach initiatives for K-12 public schools."

Oklahoma EPSCoR is a partnership among colleges and universities, industry, and research institutions. Its mission is to make Oklahoma researchers more successful in competing for research funding. The program is also funded through an award from the State Regents.

Drs. Shideler, Campiche, and Boyer will be dealing primarily with economic risk for consumers, rural and urban; businesses; households, and communities.

They will be assisting the research team to determine how climate change creates risk for farmers and ranchers, businesses and government agencies while also understanding how these groups respond to such risks and what impact their behavior

may have on the environment. According to Dr. Shideler, "This project is an exciting opportunity for our department, as it will help establish working relationships with climatological resources at OU, the Noble Foundation and University of Tulsa. These relationships will enhance our research program, resource economics curricula and enable us to seek additional sources of funding."

---

### ***Gerald Doeksen receives award***

Dr. Gerald Doeksen, ag econ Regents Professor, was presented the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Oklahoma Ambulance Association at their annual meeting held at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City on April 24, 2013.

Doeksen began working with EMS providers in the 70s and continues to work with them today. Over his career, he has worked with almost every EMS system in the state. His work mainly consists of budgeting for system development and training EMS boards.

---

### ***Mike Dicks retires from ag econ department***

One of ag econ's professors, Dr. Mike Dicks, who also held the Wes and Lou Watkins Endowed Chair in International Trade and Development from 2010 to 2012, has retired to take on new challenges as an economist with the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Damona Doye, acting ag econ department head, states that Dr. Dicks has made "many contributions in research, Extension, teaching, advising and mentoring. Whether analyzing the Conservation Reserve Program or Farm Bill proposals or coaching prospective Truman

Scholars, he has been passionate about what he does.

While his work in agricultural policy is most notable," she continues, "he has also contributed significantly to international projects, providing a variety of new opportunities for students.

Dr. Dicks has been an important contributor to our agricultural policy team in bridging the gap between academia and Congress and helping ensure that producers can make informed decisions for decades.

In addition, he has also been an involved community citizen through

the local school board, Rotary, and other venues.

We want to thank him for all he has done to further OSU's land grant mission and to build the Agricultural Economics department. We wish him all the best in his new position."

Dr. Dicks started in the OSU ag econ department in 1989. He received his B.S. from California Polytechnical State University and his M.S. and Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri. During his career, he has served in the Peace Corps and worked in several divisions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



# *Drought Team receives the SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Team Award at annual meeting*

OSU's Drought Response Team received the SAEA's Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Group Award at the SAEA annual meeting in February.

The drought team members include ag econ faculty members Dr. Damona Doye, Dr. Eric DeVuyst, Dr. Jody Campiche, Dr. Derrell Peel, Dr. David Shideler, and extension personnel J.C. Hobbs, Rodney Jones, J.J. Jones, and Roger Sahs.

This team put together relevant programming for cow-calf producers and for lenders to address the many ramifications of the continuing drought in the Oklahoma region.

During the drought, team members participated with livestock and forage production specialists in numerous meetings with producers to discuss the cash flow and income implications of weaning calves early, selling cows immediately versus later, and tax strategies.

As costs of production varied widely and market conditions were changing rapidly, sensitivity tables were shown to demonstrate the results under different cost and cow/calf price scenarios. At sites such as Woodward, Enid and Stillwater, approximately 200 people participated in each meeting.

The team developed new spreadsheet tools, and existing spreadsheet tools were updated to allow producers and educators to evaluate personal situations.

Contributions were (and continue to be) made to a variety of newsletters that reach many producers in Oklahoma and beyond. Many of these newsletters and/or articles are also reused by county educators in programming, extending the reach and impact of the articles.

In addition to producer education and outreach, team members were and continue to be involved in a

wide range of ongoing program efforts for Extension educators, policy makers, agricultural lenders, media, and the general public.

According to Mike Woods, Interim Vice President and Dean of CASNR, "The team acted quickly to address critical needs at a critical time for the Oklahoma livestock industry. Program evaluations were very favorable in terms of providing useful information that would be beneficial to the livestock industry. Extension educators and their producers said that the negative impacts of the drought were definitely mitigated by the efforts of the drought team."



# *County Training Program presents certificates to County Clerks and County Treasurers at spring schools*

## **County Treasurers**

Ag Econ staff members Dr. Notie Lansford, Program Leader for the County Training Program (CTP) and Ann Embree, Local Government Specialist for the CTP, presented 38 certificates to County Treasurers and deputies in Oklahoma this spring. These County Treasurers had achieved certification through the County Treasurer Certification Program conducted through the CTP. Certification levels include Basic, Advanced I, and Advanced II.

## **County Clerks**

Sherri Schiefer, CTP Local

Government Specialist, presented certificates to County Clerks and deputies in Oklahoma who had achieved certification through the County Clerk Certification Program.

Eight County Clerks and deputies had achieved Basic Certification, six had achieved Advanced I, and three had achieved Advanced II Certification.

County officers and deputies achieve certification by taking a required number of job-related courses at each level. These courses include such subjects as purchasing, duties and responsibilities, management, and statute reference.



*Eugina Loudermilk, Coal County Clerk, receives her certificate from Gary Jones, Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector.*

### Anna Whitney

In her job as Student Services Specialist, ag econ staff member Anna Whitney plays multiple roles. She is accountant, organizer, planner, marketer, mentor, and counselor, just to name a few. But in all of her roles, she has a consistent focus; she is very student oriented.

She says, "I love working with students. Working with students is very rewarding. It is wonderful to watch them grow and reach their goals. My background is accounting, but I would rather work with students. It is great to get to know the undergraduate students through Aggie-X. It is neat to get to know the undergraduate students and a few parents at the banquet."

Anna's primary work areas include the graduate program, student payroll, the departmental undergraduate scholarship banquet, and work with the Aggie-X Club.

Dr. Joe Schatzer, ag econ professor, who says that he works most closely with Anna currently in his role as Chairman of the ag econ departmental scholarship allocation committee for undergraduates states, "We count on Anna to help determine how much money is available to allocate, especially from donors who donate on an annual basis. Once we determine the scholarship receivers, Anna makes sure each student receives notice of the scholarships they are to receive, they complete the paperwork we require for receiving the scholarship, and she prepares the seating chart and distribution order for the scholarship banquet. She also works closely with a committee of our undergraduate club, Aggie-X, to organize the banquet."

According to Dr. Schatzer, Anna attends most Aggie-X functions, "not

because she is required to do so, but because she enjoys working with the students. The advisors of the club and the officers count on Anna to help keep things moving smoothly throughout the year."

Dr. Schatzer also says that "Anna approaches her position with a team attitude. She embraces the Oklahoma State University spirit. She always has a positive attitude towards the students, her co-workers, and the faculty. She goes out of her way to help make the Department of Agricultural Economics a fun and exciting place to be."

Dr. Chanjin Chung, ag econ professor and graduate supervisor, says, "Anna has been always hard-working and dependable for our graduate program. She is also a consistent performer and a great task scheduler while helping our graduate students."

Anna works very closely with representatives from the Graduate College, International Student Services, and many other university offices to help serve the students.

According to Dr. Damona Doye, acting department head, "she is involved in virtually every aspect of our student's graduate education: responding to e-mail inquiries about admission, coordinating

recruiting efforts, managing records on assistantship funding, planning receptions/orientation sessions for new students, and even planning a departmental hooding ceremony each semester. She is an indispensable staff member in our department."



*Anna Whitney displays some of the materials available to current and prospective students in the Student Services Center in Room 417 ag hall.*

Anna was born and raised in Perry. "We lived in town" she says, "but our family farmed and raised wheat and cattle. Being on the farm was a big part of my life."

She graduated from NOC and OSU and began working on campus in 1987 and in ag econ in 1989.

She states that she has worked for many department heads beginning with Dr. Osborn.

Anna's daughter, Taylor just graduated in May from OSU from the College of Education.

Her hobbies are working in her flower beds, bible study, and listening to music. She is active in Sunday School at Sunnybrook Christian Church in Stillwater.

### *Two County Training Program staff members retire*

Two ag econ staff members retired earlier this year.

**Gloria Cook**, Unit Assistant for the County Training Program, part of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES), retired for the second time in February. She retired for the first time in 2003 and returned to work in 2005.

Gloria started work at OSU in ag econ in 1980 working in the Statistical lab, which is now called the Data Center. She then moved to the third floor where she worked for Dr. Kletke and Dr. Ray.

When she returned from her first retirement, she worked for all of the professors on the third floor. In 2007, she began working for the County Training Program.

Gloria says she is "having fun" in her second retirement. She states, "I work when I want to and be lazy when I want to." She has been gardening

(both flowers and vegetables) when the weather allows and working on her family tree to share with family members.

Gloria also plans to watch her grandson Dustin play baseball in Woodward this summer. Dustin received a baseball scholarship to Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa.

The other staff member to retire this year is your newsletter editor **Judy Rudin**. As such, I'm going to take some editorial liberties and talk about myself in the first person.

I actually had two jobs to retire from. I was a Local Government (Media) Specialist with the County Training Program in OCES and a Communications Specialist for the Department of Agricultural Economics.

I started my career at OSU in 1993 as a graduate student and a graduate

teaching assistant in the English (technical writing) department.

After work in temporary status for a few years, I joined OSU as a full-time employee in 1997. I worked in the County Training Program at the Center for Local Government Technology until 2006, when the program was relocated in the ag econ department.

As you can see, I am back working on this issue of the newsletter. I have returned on a part-time, temporary basis to continue working on county officers' handbooks, editing the three ag econ departmental newsletters, and provide editing for faculty members.

In addition, I hope to have more time to take care of my "farmlet" just northwest of Stillwater, work on my art projects, read, and visit with my family.

---

### *New staff member joins ag econ in County Training Program*

Jendi Mapitigama has joined the County Training Program as the new Unit Assistant.

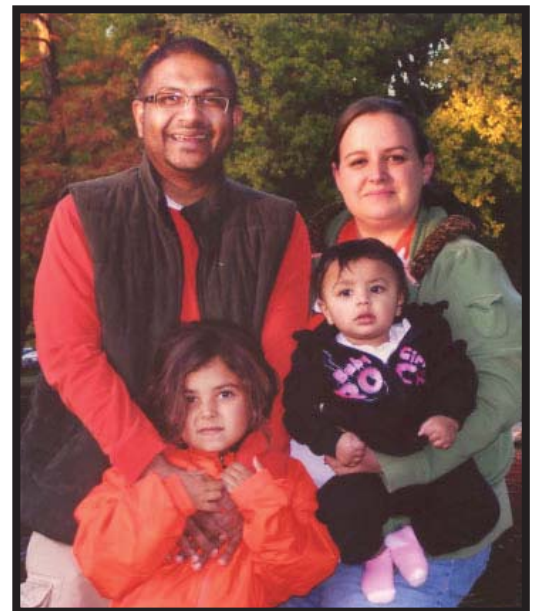
Prior to working in the ag econ department, Jendi worked as an independent Medical Coding Specialist.

Originally from Oilton, she has lived in Stillwater most of her adult life. She is married and has two great daughters, Nilukshi, six-years old, and Anisha, two years old. Her husband Suminda works for the Physical Plant

at OSU as a Server Administrator.

Jendi loves anything and everything to do with college sports, and she is looking forward to cowboy and cowgirl sports events starting this fall.

Jendi says that she is excited for the opportunity to work for the ag econ department at OSU. She is anxious to learn more about the County Training Program and experience new job responsibilities.



*Jendi with her family at Theta Pond: husband Suminda and daughters Nilukshi and Anisha.*

### Alum Gary O'Neill to serve as State Conservationist

Gary O'Neill, agricultural economics alumnus, has been named Oklahoma State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"As the NRCS State Conservationist in Oklahoma," Gary explains, "I have responsibility for leading all NRCS activities and responsibilities in the state.

We currently have approximately 300 employees located in Oklahoma. The state office is located in Stillwater and NRCS maintains 77 Field Offices throughout the state that provide assistance to Oklahoma private landowners to address natural resource and conservation needs.

NRCS also has the responsibility for administering conservation programs that are included in the Farm Bill. Farm Bill funds help offset the cost of applying conservation measures that provide both off-site and on-site environmental benefits to all Oklahomans."

Gary graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in agricultural economics in 1987, and he has worked for NRCS in several positions since 1983.

Gary states that he enjoyed his time at OSU and appreciated all of the excellent guidance he received from his instructors. "My advisor was James Trapp, who provided me with good advice."

While getting his bachelor of science

in Agricultural Economics, he says he was fortunate enough to take several soils, plants, and natural resources courses. These courses helped him qualify for a soil conservationist position with NRCS. "I was hired as a conservationist but would become an ag economist after spending a couple of years in a field office learning how NRCS assisted local farmers.



*Gary O'Neill, ag econ alum, serves as the State Conservationist in Oklahoma.*

After spending more than 10 years as an ag economist, both in Oklahoma and New Mexico," Gary continues, "I was selected to be an operations specialist in our regional office in Madison, Wisconsin. I held several other positions in Madison and then came back to Oklahoma as Assistant State Conservationist for Operations. I also served as Acting State

Conservationist in Michigan before being selected in April as the State Conservationist in Oklahoma.

I still rely on my economics training more than ever and it helps me to be more effective in managing the NRCS operations in an agriculturally diverse state like Oklahoma."

Gary was raised on a dairy farm in Osage County, and he says that

agriculture was always very important to him. "I wanted a career that had some connection to agriculture or ag- production. I attended Oklahoma State University and majored in Agricultural Economics with the anticipation of possibly returning to the farm after graduation."

"However, after graduation I was able to secure a position with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to become an Ag-Economist in their watershed program."

Gary's wife Darla also attended OSU. They have three children who have all attended OSU. Two have graduated with PR/ Journalism degrees, and their son will be getting his Master's degree in accounting. Gary says they bleed orange and enjoy attending lots of OSU athletic events.

Gary explains that when he talks to prospective employees or students regarding career development and NRCS, he tells them "of the great opportunities with NRCS which allows you to work directly with farmers and ranchers in addressing conservation needs. NRCS has a critical mission in assisting private

*O'Neill(Continued on page 22)*

# Alum Jerry Stritzke inducted into OSU Alumni Hall of Fame

Ag econ alumnus Jerry Stritzke was inducted into the OSU Alumni Hall of Fame during a February ceremony at the ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center.

Jerry graduated from OSU in 1982 with a degree in agricultural economics.

He grew up in Stillwater and now lives in New York City, where he is the president and chief operating officer of Coach Inc.

While at OSU, Jerry was a member of FarmHouse fraternity, Alpha Zeta honorary fraternity, Blue Key Honor Society, and Phi Eta Sigma honor society. He served as president and treasurer of the Ag Council, received the Dean LeCrone Outstanding Graduating Senior Award and was among the Who's Who at OSU. Following his graduating from OSU, he received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

In his career, Jerry has been an attorney for a law firm in Tulsa, a

consultant for Webb & Shirley KPMG Retail Consulting, a senior vice president for Limited Brands, the CEO of MAST Industries (a global apparel production and sourcing organization), and chief operating officer and co-leader of Victoria's Secret. He joined Coach in 2006.

He was also recently elected to serve on the board of directors of Lululemon Athletica, a company focusing on athletic and yoga apparel.

In December, 2010, Jerry Stritzke was the featured speaker for the OSU Commencement Ceremony. At that time, OSU President Burns Hargis stated, "OSU prepares students for leadership and success, and Jerry is a shining example."

Mike Woods, interim vice president and Dean of DASNR states, "Jerry has demonstrated the versatility offered with a degree in Agricultural Economics with his success in the corporate world. His advice offered to students to take risks and be willing to try new endeavors makes him a great role model. Our department is extremely proud to celebrate his induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame!"



*Jerry Stritzke at the 2010 OSU Commencement Ceremony.*

### **O'Neill (Continued from page 19)**

landowners, who manage more than 70 percent of the land in the United States. This assistance will help ensure that our resources such as soils will be able to support the production needed to feed the world's population in the future.

NRCS has a new initiative to help farmers and ranchers improve our nation's soil health. By educating our customers and the public about their positive impact healthy soils can have on productivity and conservation, we can help our Nation's farmers and ranchers feed the world more profitably and sustainably now and

for generations to come.

As I talk to students or our new employees, I encourage them to set career goals, however always have the flexibility that if something changes or another door opens you can adjust accordingly and move a different direction. My five points of wisdom are:

1. Set goals for what you want to be or do.
2. Always honor or follow up on commitments (take care of customers).
3. Always look and act as a professional and represent yourself and employer well.

4. Develop a good network of mentors and career coaches.
5. When an opportunity arises or presents itself, don't be afraid to go for it."

Gary's appointment has brought praise and support from many sectors in the state. Ron Hilliard, who retired as State Conservationist in January says that "Gary O'Neill is uniquely qualified to serve as State Conservationist. He has great leadership ability and understands the importance of the Oklahoma Conservation Partnership working together to put conservation on the land."

## In Memoriam

### Dr. Leo V. Blakley

Members of the ag econ department mourn the death of Dr. Leo Blakley, alumnus and professor emeritus of the department. Surrounded by his family, he passed away March 11, 2013 in Stillwater.

Leo V. Blakley was born Dec. 14, 1920 in Chandler, Okla. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University in 1942 before serving in World War II with the United States Navy Reserve.

After returning to OSU to earn his Master of Science degree in 1947, Dr. Blakley joined OSU's Department of Agricultural Economics as an assistant economist. He briefly left OSU to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1961.

Members of his Ph.D. committee in Chicago included Milton Friedman (1976 Nobel Prize winner), T.W. Schultz (1979 Nobel Prize winner), Frank Knight (a founder of the "Old Chicago" school of economics), and D. Gale Johnson (an agricultural economics pioneer). One of his classmates, Gary Becker received the 1992 Nobel Prize.

Dr. Blakley returned to the OSU faculty as an associate professor. His fingerprints are all over OSU's Department of Agricultural Economics. He is best known professionally for his extensive research in marketing and price analysis, especially for dairy products, wheat, and cotton.

He had a national reputation in dairy marketing and had a major impact on federal milk

marketing orders and pricing plans. Blakley conducted much work on the organization and structure of the dairy industry, dairy demand, dairy pricing under the complicated government pricing policies, and costs of dairy procurement, processing, and distribution.



Dr. Blakley was recognized in many ways for his contributions. He was elected President of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association and was honored by the Association with its Honorary Lifetime Membership award, which recognizes a long, distinguished career and enduring service to the Association.

The largest dairy marketing cooperative in the United States, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., recognized him with the Distinguished Service Award, and the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at OSU named him the Elmo Baumann Distinguished Professor award winner.

After retiring from OSU in 1985, Dr. Blakley was recognized with the Distinguished Agricultural Alumni Award in 1988. In his retirement, he was a member of the OSU Emeriti Association and the OSU Health Care Committee.

Dr. Francis Epplin states, "Dr. Blakley was a student-centered professor. His lasting legacy is the success of his students and of the success of the students of those students. He lived his life to improve the lives of others."

According to Dr. Damona Doye, "Dr. Blakley was also an active member of the Academic Investment Club throughout its existence. As a young faculty member, I valued his insights in analyzing a stock's potential. While I never invested time in charting as he did, I enjoyed learning from him. We both enjoyed a laugh a few years ago when I reported that a financial adviser had encouraged me to switch all my investments to bonds. I told Leo that I'd declined the advice as I didn't think I was old enough to do that; Leo agreed saying that he wasn't old enough to put all his investments in bonds either."

This editor will particularly miss his always smiling face and friendly cordial manner, especially on his birthday every year when he came to share his birthday with his friends, bearing a delicious birthday cake.

For more about Dr. Blakley, see "A Conversation with Dr. Leo Blakley" in the Spring 2008 *Ag Econ News* in the newsletter archives on the website, <http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/files/Spring%202008%20Newsletter.pdf>.

**Mark your calendars to attend this year's  
Ag Econ Rural Economic  
Conference  
scheduled for  
Friday, November 1, 2013  
in Stillwater**



**OSU Homecoming, October 19, 2013- OSU vs TCU**

### *Visit us online*

Visit our website at <http://www.agecon.okstate.edu>.

The agricultural economics department has a Facebook site. Go to <http://www.facebook.com#!/pages/Oklahoma-State-University-Department-of-Agricultural-Economics/155458387839281>, click "like" to add this new site to your Facebook favorites.

Also follow the department on twitter@OSUAgEcon (<http://twitter.com/OSUAgEcon#>).

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service website can be accessed at <http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/extension/>.

#### *Ag Econ News*

Published by the Department of Agricultural Economics at  
Oklahoma State University

Editor: Judy Rudin (Communications Specialist, Retired)

Contributor: Anna Whitney (Student Services Specialist)

Web Developer: Senthilrajan Moorthy