



*Division
of
Agriculture*
Awards Luncheon

January 11, 2013

UofA
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

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Division of Agriculture Awards Luncheon

January 11, 2013
11:30 A.M.
Embassy Suites
Rogers, Arkansas



ADMINISTRATION

Vice President for Agriculture	Mark J. Cochran
Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Extension & Director, CES	Tony E. Windham
Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research & Director, AAES	Clarence E. Watson
Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Academic Programs & Dean, Bumpers College	Michael E. Vayda
Assistant Vice President for Special Programs	Lanny Ashlock
Assistant Vice President for Technology Commercialization	Lisa Childs
Affirmative Action/Civil Rights Compliance Officer	Barbara Batiste
Associate Director, AAES	Richard A. Roeder
Assistant Director, AAES	Nathan McKinney
Associate Director, Finance & Administration, AAES	Elizabeth Dombek
Financial Officer, Agricultural Development Council	Patty K. Siebenmorgen
Associate Director-Family & Consumer Sciences & 4-H Youth Development	Anne Sortor
Associate Director-Agriculture & Natural Resources	Rick Cartwright
Interim Assistant Director-Community & Economic Development & Director of the Public Policy Center	Tom Riley
Chief Financial Officer, CES	Kyleen Prewett
Director of Development, AAES	Chuck Culver
Director of Development, CES	Merritt Royal
Associate Dean, Bumpers College	Lona J. Robertson
Director of Development, Bumpers College	Mitchell Spearman

AWARDS LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

Carmen Alessi
Amy Hedges
Karen Love
Christina Miller

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Fred Miller, Photographer
Dave Edmark
Judy Howard

WelcomeMark J. Cochran
Vice President for Agriculture

DBCAFLS Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award Boyce Johnson
DBCAFLS Alumni Society Board President
Bruce Ahrendsen, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence.....Michael E. Vayda
Charles Rosenkrans, Department of Animal Science

■ **Cooperative Extension Service
Classified Support Personnel Award**

Mona Norris, Administrative Support Supervisor in Family and Consumer Sciences at the CES offices in Little Rock, has worked for FCS for nearly 15 years. Known to be a self-starter, she received the Classified Employee of the Quarter in both 2004 and 2009. She is an integral part of the success of the Best Care program by outlining presentations and editing lessons with little supervision. She uses her creativity to enhance the quality of Best Care curriculum materials, ensuring that all lesson materials are uniform with great attention to detail. With the departure of two secretaries from the FCS unit, Norris has taken on the added responsibility of supporting three additional faculty, including support of the Best Care Connected and Guiding Children Successfully programs.



Mona Norris

■ **Spitze Land Grant University
Faculty Award for Excellence**

Professor Yanbin Li is known internationally for his development of a world-class research program pioneering in biosensor technology for rapid detection of pathogens and as one of a handful of recognized experts in biosensing engineering. He has conducted critically important research in food safety through models for microbial prediction and quantitative risk assessment, and antimicrobial technologies for food processing. His laboratory has adapted biosensors for detection of avian influenza. Li has established a program of eminence in biosensors and bioinstrumentation, risk analysis for biological systems and food safety engineering. Li has been awarded more than \$5.9 million in competitive grants and is a leader among the faculty in securing external grants and research productivity. Li joined the University of Arkansas in 1994, serving on the faculty of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science. He holds a B.S. degree from Shenyang Agricultural University, an M.S. degree from the University of Nebraska and a Ph.D. degree from Pennsylvania State University.



Yanbin Li

John W. White Awards

Outstanding Teaching Award.....Michael E. Vayda
Leslie Edgar, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education

Outstanding Research AwardClarence E. Watson
Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research
and Director, AAES
Pengyin Chen, Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences

Outstanding Extension State Faculty AwardTony E. Windham
Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Extension
and Director, CES
Mike Daniels, Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences

Outstanding County Extension Educator AwardTony E. Windham
Iris Phifer, Ashley County

Outstanding Team Award.....Mark J. Cochran
300 Days of Grazing Program Team: John Jennings, Kenny Simon,
Tom Troxel, Shane Gadberry, Don Hubbell, Steve Jones, Paul Beck and
Mary Hightower

Professional Support Awards.....Mark J. Cochran

Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award
Mary Hightower, Cooperative Extension Service Communications Office

Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award (AES)
David Gilmore, Fruit Research Station

Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award (CES)
Mona Norris, Family and Consumer Sciences

Spitze Land Grant University
Faculty Award for ExcellenceMichael E. Vayda

Yanbin Li, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Recognition of Issued Patents.....Mark J. Cochran

- Identification of Cattle Productivity
Charles Rosenkrans, Department of Animal Science
- Non-toxic Endophytes, Plants Injected Therewith and Methods for Injecting Plants
Charles West, Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences
(now at Texas Tech University)
Edgar Piper, Department of Animal Science, Retired
- Value-Added Granulated Organic Fertilizer and Process for Producing the Same
Tommy Daniel, Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, Retired
Mark Reiter, Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences
(now at Virginia Tech University)
- Prime-Ark® 45 Blackberry
John R. Clark, Department of Horticulture
- White Diamond Peach
John R. Clark, Department of Horticulture
James Moore, Department of Horticulture, Retired
- Taggart Rice
Karen A. K. Moldenhauer, Rice Research and Extension Center

■ Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award

Mary Hightower, CES Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing, has developed numerous initiatives to improve the Cooperative Extension Service's communications effectiveness during her years with the organization. In the past two years, she has created and implemented a media campaign to promote the annual Rice Expo field day that resulted in substantial news coverage and contributed to increased attendance. Hightower has also reorganized the procedures for collecting and disseminating news by cultivating a "news network" of county agents and specialists who regularly offer insights into conditions on the ground and are willing to be interviewed frequently by news media. She also developed CES sources to articulate economic challenges facing producers in Arkansas and to offer market insights for business news coverage. Her efforts have been recognized with the Arkansas Press Women's 2010 Best Continuing News Coverage award and several other awards for writing and publications from professional communications organizations. She holds a B.A. degree from Boston College.



Mary Hightower

■ Agricultural Experiment Station Classified Support Personnel Award

David Gilmore, who serves as a Research Technologist at the Fruit Research Station, first worked there as a summer hourly worker in 1976. He has been on its full-time staff since 1986 after graduating from Arkansas Tech University with a math degree. In his current position he has been in charge of breeding activities under the direction of the resident director and principal investigators, serving as their eyes and ears when they are unable to be at the station. He has performed a substantial amount of laboratory work and has been proficient in the daily management of fruit breeding activities involving detailed field work and record keeping. Gilmore works from researchers' complex breeding plans and then collects and processes seed, a series of tasks requiring significant organization and skill.



David Gilmore



John Jennings



Kenny Simon



Tom Troxel



Shane Gadberry



Don Hubbell



Steve Jones



Paul Beck



Mary Hightower

300 Days of Grazing Program Team

■ John W. White Outstanding Team Award

The 300 Days of Grazing Program is a strategic livestock and forage management system designed to educate producers and agents in ways to reduce livestock production expenses, help mitigate the impact of drought and improve the sustainability of livestock farm operations. Educational programs were combined with on-farm demonstrations of eight key management practices. The demonstrations were offered statewide to collect data on each practice across different environments. Three farms were nominated by county agents to incorporate these practices to achieve a grazing season of 300 days. To date, 146 demonstrations have been conducted on farms in 50 counties in Arkansas. Direct savings to those producers totaled \$283,352. Demonstrations in the 300 Days of Grazing Program included as few as five head and as many as 500 head for a single farm, showing that the program fits small and large operations. Team members are John Jennings, Professor, Animal Science; Kenny Simon, Program Associate, Animal Science; Tom Troxel, Professor, Animal Science; Shane Gadberry, Associate Professor, Animal Science; Don Hubbell, Resident Director, Livestock and Forestry Research Station; Steve Jones, Associate Professor, Animal Science; Paul Beck, Professor, Animal Science; and Mary Hightower, Assistant Director, CES Communications and Marketing.

■ DBCAFLS Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award

Professor Bruce Ahrendsen is known for maintaining an open-door policy and for encouraging the students he advises in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, where he has initiated several innovations as an adviser. He developed the Agribusiness Management and Marketing concentrations and its eight-semester plan that has enabled students to structure their programs to pursue double majors or minors. He has also developed a network of employers to assist students in job placement. He assisted students in creating the Agricultural Economics Graduate Student Association and has worked with graduate students to develop research projects beyond their thesis. Ahrendsen has also served as adviser to the Agricultural Business Club and as an interim head of the department. He holds a B.S. degree from Iowa State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from North Carolina State University.



Bruce Ahrendsen

■ Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence

Professor Charles F. Rosenkrans has long strived to implement improvements to his teaching presentations in Animal Science. He has attended numerous teaching conferences and has included several new technologies in his teaching style to further stimulate student learning. He has been a frequent participant and organizer of teaching and advising workshops both locally and at professional meetings. In 2000, Rosenkrans was selected to become a member of the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy. He has also served as co-director of the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center. Rosenkrans has previously received the Division of Agriculture's John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award and the Bumpers College Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award. He has mentored more than two dozen undergraduate research projects and special problems and has served as major adviser for 25 M.S. and 12 Ph.D. students. Rosenkrans holds a Ph.D. degree from Kansas State University.



Charles Rosenkrans

■ John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award

Associate Professor Leslie Edgar has developed 12 courses in the five years she has served on the Agricultural Communications faculty. She also redesigned two courses and developed an agricultural communications minor and developed curriculum for four graduate courses. Edgar also spearheaded the development of a study tour and internship program in Belgium that served 11 students in the past year. Twenty-six of her students have received awards for materials created in coursework and 28 students published research manuscripts or abstracts. Edgar serves as co-editor of *AR Culture*, a student-produced magazine that supports the college. She has developed three curriculum units in visual communications for agricultural science teachers in Arkansas and an experiential mobile classroom for high school students. With the support of USDA-NIFA grants, she has created interactive crisis communications instruction for postsecondary and industry instruction and is currently creating an agricultural communications curriculum for high schools. Edgar holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Utah State University and a Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University.



Leslie Edgar

■ John W. White Outstanding Research Award

In the past decade, Professor Pengyin Chen of the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences has implemented one of the nation's top soybean breeding programs as part of a comprehensive research program encompassing soybean cultivar breeding, germplasm enhancement and molecular marker development. During that time, he released 12 new soybean cultivars and six germplasm lines. He has developed and identified edamame types and provided the basis for a new industry for the state. Chen has remained a prolific writer amid his research, publishing six book chapters and 113 refereed journal articles while securing grants totaling \$6.2 million in research funding. He has also served as a mentor to six visiting scholars, six postdoctoral associates and 39 graduate students and as an adviser to 19 undergraduate students. He has served on the editorial board for two prestigious journals and two national committees on soybean varieties and germplasm. In 2009, he received the Gamma Sigma Delta Arkansas Chapter research award. Chen holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Northwestern University of Agriculture in China and a Ph.D. degree in plant breeding and genetics from Virginia Tech University.



Pengyin Chen

■ John W. White Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award

Professor Michael Daniels of the Water Quality and Nutrient Management program has served as Extension faculty during the past 16 years focusing on reducing agriculture's impact on the environment, gaining trust from farmers and environmental groups to implement effective and innovative efforts such as the Arkansas Discovery Farm program. He has also helped livestock operations adopt nutrient management planning as a strategy to reduce environmental impact, comply with new state and federal regulations and lessen individual legal liability. Beginning in 1998, Daniels began developing Extension programming to assist poultry producers with nutrient management issues and the concept of nutrient management planning. Through his leadership, the Cooperative Extension Service is now recognized by its peers as experts for training plan writers and nutrient applicators and for educating poultry producers. He received the 2010 Outstanding Conservation Professional of the Year Award from the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts. Daniels holds a B.S. degree in soil science and an M.S. degree in agronomy, both from the University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. degree in soil science from Pennsylvania State University.



Mike Daniels

■ John W. White Outstanding County Extension Educator Award

Iris Phifer, County Extension Agent-Staff Chair in Ashley County, has served 38 years in Ashley and Desha counties as a county agent. She has taught many Health and Nutrition Education classes which include two of her specialties, diabetic workshops and the Strong Women and Men classes. Through these programs, she has reached over 4,000 individuals. She has been recognized for having one of the most successful Walk Across Arkansas programs. Last year, 483 Ashley County residents participated. She annually conducts well-attended programs in financial management, parenting, child care, 4-H youth development and leadership. She is sought by numerous organizations in Ashley County to provide educational programs. Under her leadership, 95 percent of 4-H participants from Ashley County have won first or placed in the top three at all district and state events. She holds a B.S. degree from Tennessee State University and an M.S. degree from the University of Arkansas, both in home economics.



Iris Phifer