Division of Agriculture

Awards Luncheon

January 7, 2011
Division of Agriculture
Awards Luncheon

January 7, 2011
11:30 A.M.
John Q. Hammons Convention Center
Rogers, Arkansas

Welcome ..............................................................................................................Mark J. Cochran
Vice President for Agriculture

DBCAFLS Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award ............Michael E. Vayda
Associate Vice President for Agriculture–Academic Programs and
Dean, Bumpers College

Cynthia K. Moore, School of Human Environmental Sciences

Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence .........................Michael E. Vayda

Jennie S. Popp, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

John W. White Awards

Outstanding Teaching Award .........................................................Michael E. Vayda

Thomas A. Costello, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Outstanding Research Award ............................................ Mark J. Cochran
Billy M. Hargis, Department of Poultry Science

Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award .................. Tony E. Windham
Associate Vice President for Agriculture–Extension
Ronald L. Rainey, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

Outstanding County Extension Educator Award .......... Tony E. Windham
Lisa Washburn, Garland County

Outstanding Team Award .................................................. Mark J. Cochran
Herbicide Resistant Weed Management Team: Nilda R. Burgos,
Jason K. Norsworthy, Bob Reynolds, Robert C. Scott
and Kenneth L. Smith

Professional Support Awards .................................................. Mark J. Cochran
Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award (AES)
Randy N. Cingolani, Rohwer Research Station

Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award (CES)
Ronnie J. Bateman, Southwest Research and Extension Center

Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award (AES)
Larry A. Fowler, Northeast Research and Extension Center

Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award (CES)
Eva Johnson, Ouachita District Office

Spitze Land Grant University
Faculty Award of Excellence .......................................... Michael E. Vayda
John R. Clark, Department of Horticulture
DBCAFLS Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award

Assistant Professor Cynthia K. Moore provides academic advising for 50 to 60 students in the general foods and nutrition and dietetics concentrations in the Food, Human Nutrition and Hospitality major, directs honors theses, and has served on several graduate committees. She mentors dietetics students to help secure highly competitive post-baccalaureate dietetic internships leading to the Registered Dietitian credential. She also assists students applying to medical school, physician assistant school, pharmacy school and other graduate programs. She has developed advising innovations to better assist students with academic needs. She has been faculty adviser to a very active Student Dietetic Association. She encourages professional development of students by participating with them in regional, state and national Dietetic Association meetings. Moore is a Registered Dietitian who was in clinical practice for several years. She completed the Dietetic Internship and M.S. in clinical nutrition at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a Ph.D. in health education and health promotion with emphasis in nutrition at the University of Alabama.

Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence

Professor Jennie S. Popp exemplifies the commitment of the Bumpers College faculty to educating students through rich learning experiences in and out of the classroom. The bulk of her courses are introductory and intermediate level plus upper level courses on the economics of sustainability and natural resource stewardship. Her students learn basic principles and explore current issues using economic theory with games, presentations and team contests. She is co-leader of the St. Matthews Sustainable School Garden service learning project in Belize. She developed a curriculum to help prepare students who travel with her and Professor Nilda Burgos each summer to Belize to work with the school’s students, staff and families. She plans to use the Justus Award funding for an academic expert to help her create new modules for her graduate level environmental economics course and to purchase equipment that will enhance preparation of students in the Belize project and their work on site. After receiving a B.S. degree in economics and finance from the University of Scranton, Popp spent 30 months in West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. She later received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural and resource economics from Colorado State University.
**John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award**

Associate Professor **Thomas A. Costello** is a leader of the senior design capstone experience in Biological Engineering, which includes hands-on prototyping, mentoring, working with real clients and outreach to meet community needs. His students have won numerous national design competitions. He plays a lead role in curriculum development, including help in organizing retreats and workshops. He acquired a grant to support senior design projects as part of the Arkansas AgrAbility Project and additional gifts to support student projects. He participated in a program with the NASA Advanced Life Support group, which led to his development of a sophomore course in which students produced a working system to grow food plants in a space environment. He has a doctorate from Louisiana State University and B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural engineering from the University of Missouri.

**John W. White Outstanding Research Award**

Professor **Billy M. Hargis**, D.V.M., Ph.D., Diplomate of A.C.P.V., is director of the Division of Agriculture’s J.K. Skeeles Poultry Health Laboratory. He was instrumental in developing a series of patented or patent-pending bacterial vectored vaccines to help control several economically important pathogens, including the Avian influenza virus. His research has enabled poultry producers to reduce foodborne pathogens pre-slaughter by introducing a pro-biotic culture, called FloraMax B11, that decreases certain pathogens. The Early Bird product developed in his lab provides water and nutrients to chicks and poults during transport. Graduate students covet assistantships on his projects. His many publications include an article in the influential journal, *Science*. His degrees include a B.S., D.V.M and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and an M.S. from the University of Georgia.
John W. White Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award

Associate Professor Ronald L. Rainey has developed innovative extension programs on the economics of specialty crops and alternative agriculture, which include organic and direct marketing enterprises. Products of his work range from crop enterprise budgets, to the MarketMaker electronic program that helps match producers with produce buyers, to the Horticulture Business Resources Website. He helped secure a grant that resulted in Arkansas being the lead institution for the Southern Risk Management Education Center and is co-director of the center. He was instrumental in organizing the Arkansas Farmers Market Association and initiated the first-ever economic analysis of the state’s horticultural sector. His degrees, all from the University of Arkansas, include a B.S. in agricultural business, an M.S. in agricultural economics and a Ph.D. in economics.

John W. White Outstanding County Extension Educator Award

Lisa Washburn, County Extension Agent–Family and Consumer Sciences in Garland County, provides local and statewide leadership for health promotion programs. She initiated the Strong Women fitness program as a county extension activity in Cross County in 2003. She developed and conducted a “train the trainer” program, and Strong Women is now a popular activity in most Arkansas counties. She is also active in Extension Homemakers Club volunteer development, youth development in 4-H and other programs, and communication/marketing activities for FCS programs. Washburn has a B.S. degree in family and consumer science from Henderson State University and an M.A. degree in health studies from the University of Alabama. She expects to soon complete requirements for a Doctor of Public Health degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.
John W. White Outstanding Team Award

The Herbicide Resistant Weed Management Team is addressing one of the most economically important issues in Arkansas agriculture. The team includes weed scientists who were working well before the emergence of glyphosate-resistant weed populations to develop and promote the use of practices to avoid or delay the selection of resistant weed populations in crops fields where the same herbicide is applied year after year. As glyphosate resistance has increased in crop fields, team members have intensified their efforts on many research and extension fronts. Extension communications pushed to producers, consultants and the agriculture industry through traditional and new media timely and continuous updates about new control techniques determined by weed scientists on the team. Team members are Nilda R. Burgos, Professor of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences (CSES); Jason K. Norsworthy, Associate Professor, CSES; Bob Reynolds, Director of Extension Communications and Marketing; Robert C. Scott, Professor of Weed Science, CSES; and Kenneth L. Smith, Professor of Weed Science, CSES.
Division of Agriculture (AES) Non-Classified Support Personnel Award

Randy N. Cingolani, Program Technician at the Rohwer Research Station, started as a research specialist at the station in 1989. His duties include working with project leaders, graduate students and staff to conduct field experiments from the planning stage through data collection. He supervises other staff members to provide effective management of research plots and provides training for new staff and part-time workers. He has fabricated farm equipment with unique modifications to meet specialized needs in research plots. He provides leadership in assisting with planning and implementing projects for improvement of station facilities and operations, and he is instrumental in implementing safety standards and various other administrative duties such as inventory control.

Division of Agriculture (CES) Non-Classified Support Personnel Award

Ronnie J. Bateman, Program Associate, has been supervisor of the Division’s Nematode Diagnostic Laboratory at Southwest Research and Extension Center at Hope since 2003. He has been on the center staff since 1979. He is responsible for nematode diagnostic procedures from the initial assay through record keeping and advising Division personnel on possible responses to nematode infestation. He performs similar tasks on various plant materials for phytosanitary certification by state and federal agencies. He collaborates with research and extension project leaders, produces educational material and conducts workshops on nematodes and nematode sampling, with particular expertise on nematode control on golf greens. He resides on the station, providing security for facilities and performing many other after-hours tasks. He has a B.S. degree in agricultural business from Southern Arkansas University.
Larry A. Fowler, Farm Foreman at the Judd Hill Cooperative Research Station (JHCRS) near Marked Tree since 2004, has been employed by the Agricultural Experiment Station since 1967. He was foreman at the Delta Branch Station at Clarksdale when that unit was closed in 2004. Fowler was instrumental in transitioning field research projects from the Delta Branch Station to JHCRS where he is in charge of all activities with support from the Northeast Research and Extension Center and Division personnel at Arkansas State University. His duties include managing crop research plots, maintaining equipment, administration and coordination among personnel at the Judd Hill Foundation, several Division of Agriculture units and agribusinesses. He provides leadership for the popular Judd Hill Field Day attended annually by many producers and agribusiness personnel.

Eva Johnson, Administrative Assistant in the Ouachita District office in Little Rock, assists Division of Agriculture faculty and staff in 25 counties with a variety of administrative and organizational activities. Her responsibilities include hiring and termination paperwork and researching and preparing reports on personnel, budgets, salaries, travel, grant funds, performance evaluations, position descriptions, 4-H enrollment, civil rights compliance and more. She assists administrators and others with interpretations and advice on policies, procedures, programs and services. She also handles routine actions in the absence of the district director. Johnson began her career with the Division of Agriculture in 1988 as a secretary in the CES word processing center.
University Professor **John R. Clark**, director of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture’s fruit breeding program, is a world authority on fruit breeding and genetics. He has developed and co-developed with his predecessor, James N. Moore, 36 fruit cultivars including 26 patented or patent-pending. His “Arkansas blackberry varieties,” grown coast-to-coast and in many other countries, include thornless varieties that now dominate production and the first primocane-fruiting varieties that have the potential to revolutionize blackberry production. Other fruits in the program include peaches, grapes, nectarines, blueberries and muscadines. Royalties from variety releases along with fees from testing and breeding partnerships provide significant funds for the program. Clark was director of the Division of Agriculture’s Fruit Substation at Clarksville from 1983 to 1994. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees in horticulture from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in plant science from the University of Arkansas.
ADMINISTRATION

Vice President for Agriculture
Mark J. Cochran

Associate Vice President for Agriculture–Extension
Tony E. Windham

Interim Associate Vice President for Agriculture–Research
Mark J. Cochran

and Director, AAES

Associate Vice President for Agriculture
Michael E. Vayda

–Academic Programs and Dean, Bumpers College

Assistant Vice President for Special Programs
Lanny Ashlock

Associate Director, AAES
Richard A. Roeder

Associate Director, Finance and Administration, AAES
Patty K. Siebenmorgen

Chief Financial Officer, CES
Kyleen Whitehead

Associate Director–Agriculture and Natural Resources
Rick Cartwright

Associate Director–Family and Consumer Sciences
Anne Sortor

and 4-H Youth Development

Director of Development, AAES
Chuck Culver

Director of Development, CES
Merritt Royal