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

Bumpers College Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award... Boyce Johnson
Bumpers College Alumni Society Board President
G. Scott Osborn, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence.................................Michael E. Vayda
Dean, Bumpers College & Associate Vice President
for Agriculture–Academic Programs

Leslie Edgar, Department of Agricultural Education, Communication
and Technology

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& Director, CES
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Associate Dean, Bumpers College
Lona J. Robertson

AWARDS LUNCHEON COMMITTEE
Carmen Alessi
Amy Hedges
Karen Love
Christina Miller

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Janet Carson and PLANtation Services
Lisa Childs
Dave Edmark
Judy Howard
Kevin Quinn
Rita Watson
Cooperative Extension Service
Classified Support Personnel Award

Sherry Funderburg, Administrative Support Supervisor for the Ozark District of the Cooperative Extension Service, assists with operations in 25 counties by providing support to county agents. She maintains records, budgets, travel requests, reimbursements and performance evaluations. She also communicates with the staff in the counties to solve problems and answer questions. Her other tasks include completing internal hiring documents, tracking and arranging district displays and educational kits, supporting and assisting in the planning of district conferences and completing purchase requisitions. She has worked for Extension since beginning as a high school student employee in 1976. After becoming a full-time employee upon graduation the next year, she was promoted through the ranks of the business office and went on to hold several positions in payroll, purchasing and accounting. Her work ethic is well known to colleagues who describe her as professional, well respected, attentive to detail, one who sets high standards and always ready to learn new tasks.

Spitze Land Grant University
Faculty Award for Excellence

University Professor Navam Hettiarachchy of the Department of Food Science has made significant contributions in the advancement of research, education and service programs at the university. Along with supervising a highly productive research program, she has demonstrated extraordinary merit through her contributions to student education and service to the university and professional organizations. Her research program has been multi-faceted with a central focus on developing fundamental knowledge and applied technologies associated with specific food proteins.

Her service to the profession along with research and teaching contributions were nationally recognized by her induction as an Institute of Food Technologist Fellow in 2003. She effectively and innovatively uses her research findings and her experiences from industry (Nestle Foods) in developing creativity and problem solving skills in students and provides ample food industry interaction and learning opportunities in the classroom. She was recognized by her peers in Bumpers College as the recipient of the 2006 John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award.

Hettiarachchy holds a B.Sc. degree from Madras University (India), an M.Sc. degree from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) Medical School and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Hull (England).

John W. White Awards
Outstanding Teaching Award.................................Michael E. Vayda
  Kristofor Brye, Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences
Outstanding Research Award ..............................Clarence E. Watson
  Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research and Director, AAES
  Jin-Woo Kim, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award ............Tony E. Windham
  Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Extension and Director, CES
  Dharmendra Saraswat, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Outstanding County Extension Educator Award ..........Tony E. Windham
  Shirlye Hopkins, Columbia County
Outstanding Team Award........................................Mark J. Cochran
  Modeling Ag Team: Kristofor Brye, Lanier Nalley and Michael Popp

Professional Support Awards.....................................Mark J. Cochran
  Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award
  Judy Robison, Cooperative Extension Service Office of Sponsored Programs
  Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award (AES)
  Chris Pruitt, Lon Mann Cotton Research Station, Marianna
  Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award (CES)
  Sherry Funderburg, Ozark District Office

Spitze Land Grant University
Faculty Award for Excellence ....................................Michael E. Vayda
  Navam Hettiarachchy, Department of Food Science
Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award

Judy Robison, Grants Officer in the Cooperative Extension Service State Office, helps Extension employees at all levels through the grant writing process and provides a high level of customer service. She developed tools for employees and a Grants.gov application guide that she is converting to an online course. She has developed more than 850 fact sheets, publications and other support materials for topics related to grants and to her previous responsibilities as a 4-H faculty member. She also developed the Internal Innovative Competitive Grants Program, which provided seed money for innovative projects and aided personnel in being more competitive in external competition. Robison has worked for Extension as a grants officer since 1994, but her career with the Division of Agriculture dates back to 1974. Her previous positions include service as a county agent in Washington and Scott counties, state 4-H agent, program leader and 4-H program specialist, in which she led district and state 4-H O-Ramas and several other programs. Robison holds a B.S.E. degree from the University of Central Arkansas, an M.S. degree from Southern Illinois University and a Ph.D. degree from Texas Woman’s University.

Agricultural Experiment Station Classified Support Personnel Award

Chris Pruitt, a Skilled Tradesman at the Lon Mann Cotton Research Station, is known as a valuable and highly versatile employee. He uses his carpentry and trades skills to maintain all station structures and to meet specialized construction needs as well as to supply skilled work in research plots. In the past five years, he has taken over a program technician’s responsibilities by assisting with planting, applications of pesticides and operating the plot picker. He also takes notes on research plots and monitors plots beyond what he has been assigned. He is the primary plot picker operator at the station and has generated data that has been accurate and produced in less time than required. The Division faculty members with whom he works report that he has efficiently expedited their projects through his hard work, enthusiasm, conscientiousness, dedication to the job and high character. He has helped establish and maintain a work environment that improves the functioning of the entire station.
DBCAFLS Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award

Associate Professor G. Scott Osborn has been both effective and productive in student mentoring, advising, classroom teaching and curriculum-wide education in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. He has provided leadership in developing the department’s honors requirements. He mentors undergraduates, advises Honors College thesis projects, supervises funded undergraduate research projects and advises senior design projects. He was the co-adviser for the design team that was awarded first place in national ASABE student design competition and has twice been awarded Outstanding Mentor by the UA. Osborn established a mentoring program within the department, which significantly increased the retention of female freshman students to sophomore year. He helped revise advising procedures to equally distribute advisees to appropriate advisers during freshman year. In Osborn’s view, advising and mentoring college students is about helping adults get to where they have decided to go. Osborn holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. degree from North Carolina State University.

Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence

Associate Professor Leslie Edgar has received recognition numerous times for her accomplishments in teaching in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, including last year’s John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award from Bumpers College. As a member of the agricultural communications faculty since 2007, she has developed an industry internship program and provided leadership that led to the creation of a minor in agricultural communications. She has developed exchange programs with government and academic institutions in Belgium to accommodate summer experiential learning opportunities. She has developed 13 courses and taught 16 courses in the department. She is leading a multiyear grant to create a mobile classroom to teach high school students about agricultural communications skills and opportunities. She was recently appointed as director of International Programs for Bumpers College. She believes that educators must stay in constant contact with industry to adjust curriculum while utilizing technology to educate students and provide opportunities to create job-related experiences in the classroom. Edgar holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Utah State University and a Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University.

John W. White Outstanding Team Award

The Modeling Agriculture for Spatial Implications of Adoption of Dedicated Bioenergy Crops, Greenhouse Gas Policies and Reduced Irrigation Capacity project is a county-level crop production model that provides an approach for analysis and integration of carbon emission and sequestration into standard economic models of farm cropping decisions. It estimates the inputs required, profitability, irrigation water use and greenhouse gas footprint of the six largest row crops, biofuel crops, hay, pasture and pine in Arkansas. The model is being accepted as a benchmark for understanding carbon management in agriculture. The project researchers worked with agronomists, engineers, ecologists, policymakers, farmers and economists to develop the model. The team has published 11 articles in top tier agronomy and economics journals and six internal Division of Agriculture publications, made nine presentations to professional and industry audiences and presented an additional 31 posters and seminars to professional and industry audiences. As evidenced by the supporting letters, this work is valued by industry because it gives them a factual basis for making policy decisions. Team members are Kristofor Brye, Professor, Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences; Lanier Nalley, Associate Professor, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness; and Michael Popp, Professor, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

Modeling Ag Team

G. Scott Osborn

Leslie Edgar

Kristofor Brye

Lanier Nalley

Michael Popp
■ John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award

Professor Kristofor Brye has a well-deserved reputation among students and faculty colleagues as an outstanding teacher and mentor to students in his classes in the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences. He has taught eight courses since joining the faculty in 2001. Three of those courses were additional loads he volunteered to teach to fill gaps left by retiring professors. Outside the classroom, he works with the Soil Judging Team, which has finished in first place in regional competition for each of the past two years and has proceeded to national competition. He provides leadership to the department’s internship program to help students find appropriate placements. He advises numerous undergraduates and serves as a mentor to graduate students. He was inducted into the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy in 2012 and received the Teaching Award of Merit from the Arkansas Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta in 2008. Brye holds a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin.

■ John W. White Outstanding Research Award

Research by Professor Jin-Woo Kim of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering has made significant contributions in nano-biotechnology for device development, molecular computation and molecular biological engineering. He has established an internationally recognized research program in bio/nano-technology engineering. His work has been recognized externally by various magazines as one of the most innovative research programs in the field of bio/nano technology and was recently featured on covers of two top-quality journals in the fields. He has established a multi- and inter-disciplinary research program engaging engineers, biologists, medical scientists, chemists, physicists and mathematicians. His research has received international recognition based on his highly noteworthy publications, including those in Nature Nanotechnology about his pioneering work to develop nanotechnology-based diagnostic and therapeutic technology in collaboration with researchers at UAMS. He holds B.S. degrees from Seoul National University and the University of Iowa, an M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University.

■ John W. White Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award

Associate Professor Dharmendra Saraswat manages an extension program in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering focused on developing geospatial technologies for managing natural resources. His applied research enables him to investigate and share engineering solutions with policymakers, state and federal agencies, farmers and agricultural consultants. These applications have been designed for a variety of stakeholders such as extension educators, industry and technical agency personnel, farmers, crop consultants and business leaders. More than 200,000 users have accessed tools and information from the two websites that he supports with more than 2,000 downloads of mobile apps in recent months. His watershed modeling has served as the foundation for the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission’s effort in developing the state’s nonpoint source water quality plan. He has also developed a cloud-based streambank delineator and conservation practice mapping tool that allows users to assess the riparian corridors utilizing a desktop computer program with publicly available data. Saraswat holds a B.S. degree from Allahabad University, an M.S. degree from Indian Agricultural Research Institute and a Ph.D. degree from The Ohio State University.

■ John W. White Outstanding County Extension Educator Award

Columbia County Extension Agent Shirlye Hopkins has served the Division of Agriculture for 36 years. Her educational programs are focused on Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H such as nutrition, resource management, health and youth development. Her efforts in recent years have included diabetes education, healthy meal preparation classes and displays, Fit in Ten exercise curriculum, Best Care program for child care providers and Guiding Children Successfully certification. Shirlye’s collaboration with the Area Agency on Aging and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences resulted in implementation of a Healthy Cooking School targeted to diabetics. Her financial education classes for junior high students have been extremely popular with the students and local businesses alike. According to her colleagues, Shirlye is always looking for ways to improve the daily lives of the county’s residents. Hopkins holds a B.S.H.E. degree from Henderson State University.