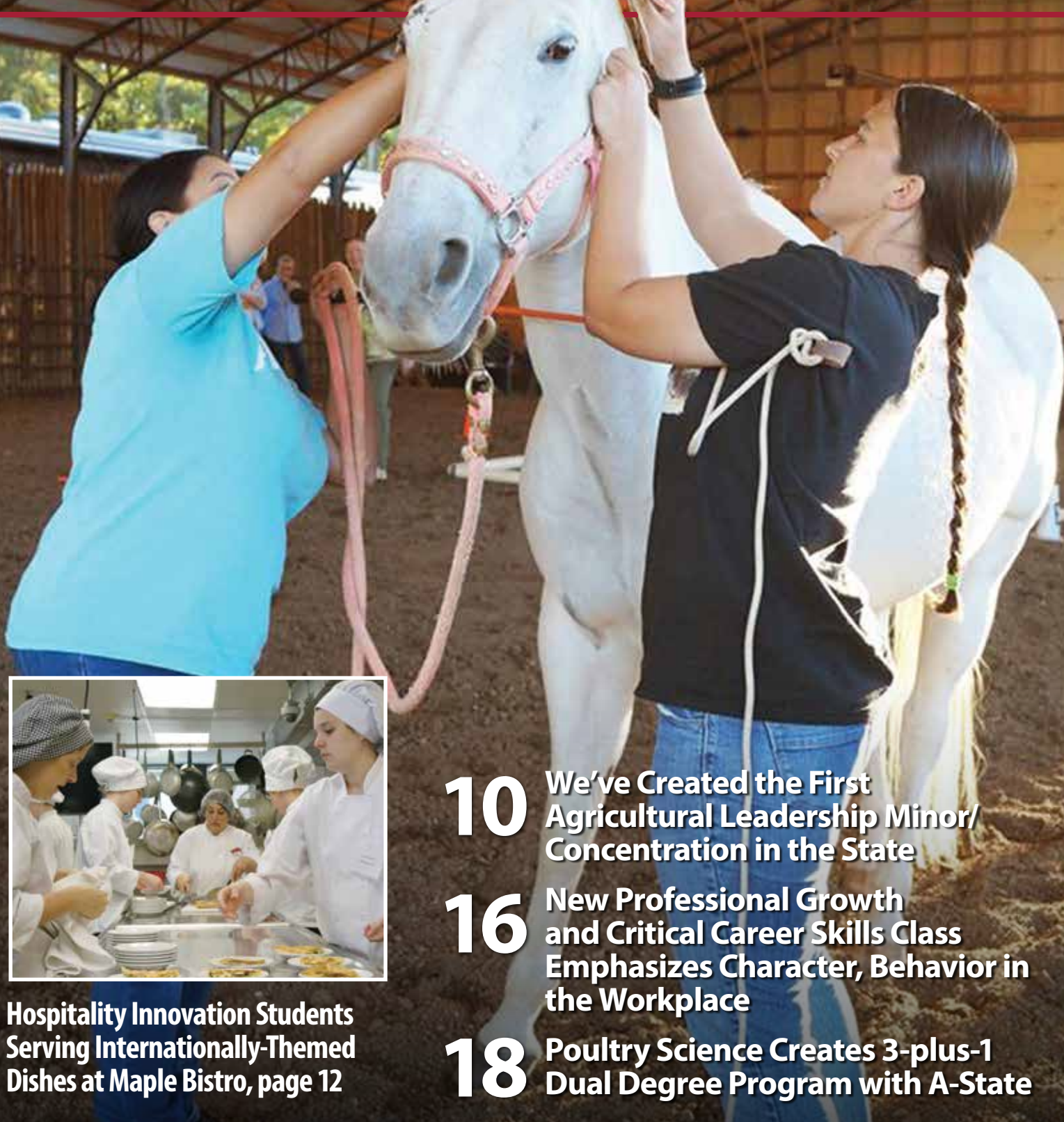


# The Bumpers College Graduate



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

Dale Bumpers College of  
Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences



**Hospitality Innovation Students  
Serving Internationally-Themed  
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**10** We've Created the First  
Agricultural Leadership Minor/  
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**16** New Professional Growth  
and Critical Career Skills Class  
Emphasizes Character, Behavior in  
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Dual Degree Program with A-State



# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



## Hi Friends, Supporters and Alumni of the Bumpers College!

As many of you know, earlier this summer marked a full year for me as interim dean of Bumpers College.

It has been challenging, exciting, fun and encouraging, but mostly, it has been an absolute pleasure to work with and visit with alumni, friends and supporters, faculty, staff and most importantly, our students.

As associate dean since 2011, I've interacted with all of those groups for several years, but this past year has put even more significance on those relationships.

I have worked with department heads, faculty and staff on strengthening and improving our academic programs and in growing our relationships across campus. We are focused on preparing our students for careers where they will make a difference in the lives of citizens locally, nationally and internationally.

I recently returned from Mozambique where I witnessed many of our students participating in a faculty-led, interdisciplinary service learning community development program. Our students and faculty truly impact the lives of others and are making a difference in the world.

We've also made it a priority to get out and share the good news of Bumpers College with alumni, friends, students, potential students, staff, high school teachers and counselors, and others throughout the state. We've created a "Bumpers On The Road" initiative where several members of the Dean's Office staff take Bumpers College off campus to make it easier for anyone interested to learn more about us and for old friends to visit. We've held events in Jonesboro and Stuttgart, and we'll be out on the road again this year. Please be watching for more information and plan to come by and say hello, and wherever you are, spread the good news and good works of our college.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Graduate. We have much to brag about and inside are just a few stories on some of the great things happening in and around your college. Thank you for supporting Bumpers College and the U of A!

Lona J. Robertson

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**The Graduate** is published for alumni and friends of Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

**Send alumni news and other correspondence to** Bumpers College Alumni Society, AFLS Office of External Relations, E108 AFLS Building, 1 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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Designer: Eric Pipkin

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*“Agriculture, in general, and the chicken industry, more specifically, is a growing and competitive industry. Everybody is under constant pressure to get better—to provide their customers with better value, their employees with better opportunities and their investors with better returns. Better doesn’t just happen. It takes current and future leaders to make ‘Better’ happen. As the old saying goes, ‘It doesn’t matter how good you are today, tomorrow somebody will be better.’ If that somebody isn’t you, then you may not be around to play the game any longer.”*

– **Ed Fryar**, president of Ozark Mountain Poultry, U of A and Bumpers College alumnus (master’s in agricultural economics) and former professor of agricultural economics in our Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

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## Class Notes

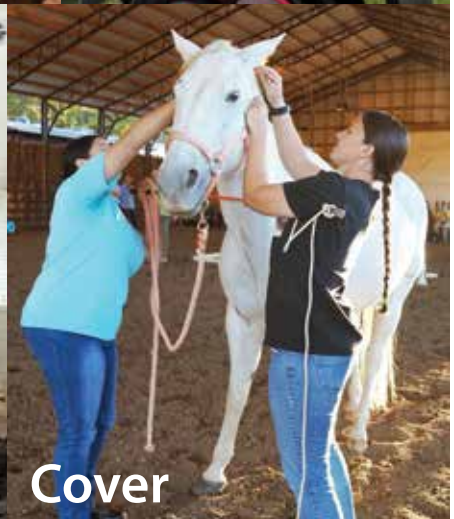
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## Back Cover

The college recently revised its mission and vision statements. You can read them here.

## On the Cover

Animal science instructor Kathi Jogan is reaching not only Bumpers College students with her Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies class, but also students in social work, education, nursing, psychology, kinesiology, public health and communication disorders, among others.



*"One of my goals in college was to study or work abroad. I had not been able to do this in my undergrad so I was determined to make it happen at the U of A. With the Bumpers College's help, I attained a summer internship with the Scottish Agricultural College in Edinburgh, Scotland. I learned so much about agriculture in that region of the world and perhaps more importantly, I learned to be brave and take chances. The prospect of traveling overseas by myself and living in a strange land was intimidating, but I am so grateful the Bumpers College provided this opportunity. I often use this story to encourage my own students to take a chance and work to reach their goals."*

– Courtney Meyers, associate professor of agricultural communications, Texas Tech University and 2017 Bumpers College Alumni Society Outstanding Young Alumna



## Bumpers College FAMILY ALBUM



**1 • Bert Greenwalt**, professor of agricultural economics at Arkansas State University and a partner in the Greenwalt Company family farm in Hazen since 1974, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Greenwalt, an ASU faculty member since 1991 and director of the Arkansas Agricultural Council, earned his master's in agricultural economics from UA in 1980. A graduate of the Arkansas Agricultural and Rural Leadership Program, and the USA Rice Leadership Program, he manages government programs, marketing and finance at his family's farm, and co-founded the A-State Agribusiness Conference.



**2 • Jeff Miller**, professor of agricultural education and advisor for Collegiate Farm Bureau, introduces Vance Crowe, director of millennial engagement for Monsanto Seed. Crowe spoke to BC students, faculty and staff in a packed Hembree Auditorium on the basic concept and history of genetically modified foods. He also fielded questions. Crowe's visit was sponsored by Collegiate Farm Bureau and Arkansas Farm Bureau. After the forum, a reception was held on the Maudine Sanders Student Plaza and Garden and Hawkins Family Terrace. (photo by Hanan Southard)



**3 • The U of A soil judging team**, made up of students from the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences and coached by professor of applied soil physics Kris Brye, finished eighth in the nation at the 57th Annual National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. The eighth-place finish is Arkansas' best in 16 years and the team's second straight top 10 finish after placing ninth last year. The team was second in the Region IV Contest in New Mexico to earn a spot in the national contest for the seventh straight year. The team included Becky Anderson, Matt Sena, Tyler Durre, Ryder Anderson and Diego Della Lunga.



**4 • Donna L. Graham**, professor of agricultural education in our Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, was named the top educator for the Southern Region by the American Association for Agricultural Education. She was presented the Outstanding Agricultural Education Award at a meeting in Mobile, Alabama. The award is for excellence in agricultural education through involvement and experience that advances the profession, excellence in teaching, significant research and scholarly writing in the field, leadership and exemplary service to agricultural education.

**5 • Michelle LaRoche** (center), a development editor with the *Wall Street Journal*, was a guest speaker in an apparel merchandising and product development class last fall. LaRoche, based in New York City, and Rob Wells (left), assistant professor in the UA Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism, spoke to instructor Lance Cheramie's (right) Introduction to Clothing Concepts class regarding issues in fashion and retail journalism, and held a question and answer session with students. (photo by Doug Gearhart)



# Bumpers College FAMILY ALBUM

*Continued*

## 6 • The Annual Bumpers College Alumni & Friends Tailgate

pregame event was held Oct. 8 prior to the Arkansas-Alabama game on the Maudine Sanders Student Plaza and Garden and Hawkins Family Terrace. Alumni, friends, faculty and staff were invited. See anyone you know? More photos were published on the BC Alumni Society Facebook page. (photos by Brooke Clanton)

**7 • Seven Bumpers College students** were named Arkansas Alumni Association Seniors of Significance. The 71 (commemorating the 1871 founding of the U of A) were chosen from more than 400 nominations based on academics, leadership, and extracurricular campus and/or community activities. Our students included (front, L to R): Sydney Simmons of Rector (agricultural education, communication and technology), Victoria Maloch of Magnolia (agricultural business), Niya Phillips of Arlington, Texas (human nutrition and hospitality innovation) and Lauren Cheevers of Fayetteville (AECT); and (back, L to R): Austin Hamm of Elkins (AECT), Will Pohlman of Prairie Grove (animal science) and Taylor Farr of West Memphis (crop science). Of those seven, Farr, Maloch and Pohlman were named Razorback Classics (top 22 seniors [11 male and 11 female] on campus) and Maloch received the 52nd Senior Honor Citation as one of U of A's two top seniors.

**8 • Steven Ricke**, director of the U of A System Division of Agriculture's Center for Food Safety, professor and holder of the Donald "Buddy" Wray Chair in Food Safety in our Department of Food Science, received the W.C. Frazier Memorial Lecture award from the Food Research Institute at the University of Wisconsin.

**9 • Dick Oliver**, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the U of A, was named Outstanding Alumnus by the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences. Presented the award by department head Robert Bacon, Oliver was a University Professor, holder of the Elms Farming Richard S. Barnett Jr. Chair for Weed Science and spent 38 years as a member of the faculty before retiring in 2011. He advised 41 master's degree and 24 doctoral degree students, and his students earned 10 first, five second and six third-place finishes in 17 years at the Arkansas Agricultural Pesticide Association or Arkansas Crop Protection Association's annual meetings. Oliver coached the CSES weed team for 31 years with 25 Southern Weed Contest titles.





Bumpers College

## ALUMNI SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I just want to let our alumni know what an honor it is to be named president of the Bumpers College Alumni Society. I also want to thank my fellow board members for having the confidence in me to lead this great society. Last and certainly not least, I would like to thank Penny Storms, immediate past president, for all her hard work and dedication.



I am excited to announce that we have a date set for our annual tailgate. We chose the Arkansas-Auburn game on Oct 21. We would love to see you and your family two hours prior to kickoff at the Maudine Sanders Student Plaza and Garden and Hawkins Family Terrace for this fun event. Currently our board members are working on not only selecting recipients for The Alumni Society Rising Senior Award and the Greg Weidemann Alumni Society Scholarship, but also working hard to endow more scholarships. We always welcome help from our alumni in helping advance the education of deserving students within Bumpers College.

On Friday, May 12, a luncheon was held at the Springdale Country Club and I had the honor of presenting, along with interim Dean Robertson, the Bumpers College Outstanding Alumnus and the Alumni Society Outstanding Young Alumna Award winners. Congratulations to John Paul Pendergrass and Courtney Meyers.

Thanks to Jill Rucker, assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, who after spending three years developing the program and curriculum, Bumpers College recently

*Continued on page 7*



# Bumpers College FAMILY ALBUM

*Continued*

**10 • The School of Human Environmental Sciences** hosted an alumni pre-game event on Nov. 12 on the Maudine Sanders Student Garden and Plaza and Hawkins Family Terrace prior to the LSU football game. Here are a few images with a full photo album on our Facebook page (BumpersCollege). (photos by Taylor Pruitt)

**11 • Laurie Apple** (pictured), Lance Cheramie, Eunjoo Cho and Stephanie Hubert, all faculty members in the School of Human Environmental Science's apparel merchandising and product development program, made research presentations at the 2016 International Textile and Apparel Association conference in Vancouver, Canada. Apple was also the registration chair for the annual conference while Cheramie, Cho and Hubert served on the registration committee.

**12 • Anna Goff**, a Washington County Extension Agent and a 1997 Bumpers graduate in human environmental sciences, spoke to students about financial management in Walton College's Econ for Elementary Teachers class during the 2017 spring semester.

**13 • The U of A weed science team**, comprised of students from the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, and coached by professors Nilda Burgos and Jason Norsworthy, won the 37th Annual Southern Weed Science Contest held in Mississippi. Our team claimed six top 10 individual performances and has won 29 of the last 35 southern regional competitions. Team members were Christopher Meyer, Gordon Travis Jones, Zachary Lancaster and Ryan Miller. Alternates were John Godwin, Nicholas Steppig and Mason Young.

**14 • Spring commencement** was held May 13 in Barnhill Arena. Here are a few shots of our newest graduates! (photos by Micayla Scott)







14



14



14



14

*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Happy fall from Fayetteville!*  
*Continued from page 5*

introduced a new minor/concentration in Agricultural Leadership to focus on leadership skills, team building, organizational ethics and community engagement. This is the first of its kind at an institution of higher education in the state.

Bumpers College has also recently introduced two new courses. Professional Growth and Critical Career Skills created by agricultural economics and agribusiness professor H.L. Goodwin emphasizes character, soft skills, leadership, attitude, values, priorities and corporate culture. The D.E. King Equine Program recently added a course on Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies instructed by Kathi Jogan. The class allows students to study equine behavior and physiology, and the different clientele best served through EAAT.

Another exciting Bumpers College announcement is an innovative 3-plus-1 poultry science program with Arkansas State University. The program allows ASU students majoring in animal science to transfer to the U of A for their senior year and take required poultry science classes, and earn dual degrees once their curriculum is completed.

Visiting campus during the school year? Be sure and make plans to stop by Maple Bistro. This on-campus restaurant is run by students in Bumpers College's hospitality innovation program. The students plan, prepare and serve lunch on Mondays and Wednesdays. I look forward to seeing you Oct. 21.

WPS,

Taylor Adams, President



14



# Bumpers College FAMILY ALBUM

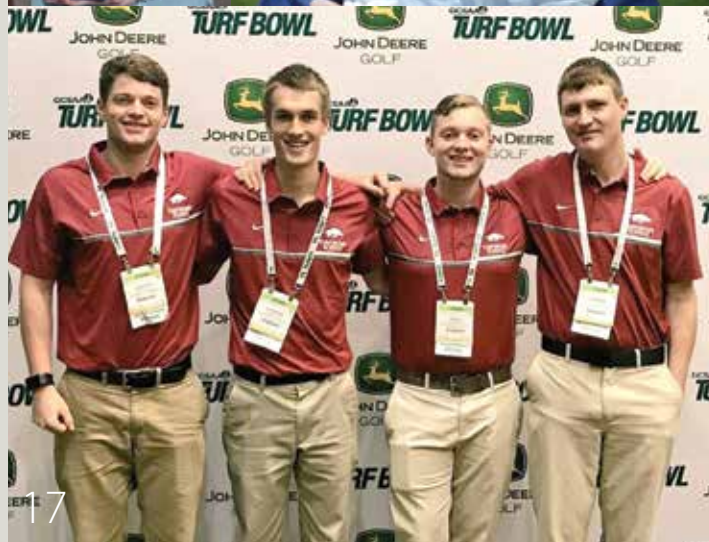
*Continued*

**15 • Mechelle Bailey**, clinical instructor and director of our Didactic Program in Dietetics in the School of Human Environmental Sciences, was named "Most Outstanding Faculty Member" at the U of A by the Student Alumni Association and the Associated Student Government. Bailey was one of just three professors on campus to receive the award, joining Michelle Kim from engineering and Ronna Turner from education. The awards were presented at a faculty appreciation banquet. Bailey, RDN and LDN, is a practicing pediatric dietitian with research focused on pediatric nutrition and community health issues.

**16 • Kent Kovacs**, assistant professor of agricultural economics, joined Jeff Miller, professor of agricultural communications, and Hannah Shear, instructor and student relations and recruitment coordinator for the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, in a Pie the Professor fundraiser for Collegiate Farm Bureau. (photo by Jacob Logsdon)

**17 • Arkansas' turf bowl team** placed 13th in the national Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition in Orlando, Florida. The team of Kyle Livesay, Austin Pettit, Patrick Smith and Thomas Walton, all turfgrass management students from the Department of Horticulture, was coached by graduate students Dan Sandor, Travis Russell and Eric DeBoer. Fifty-eight teams (204 students representing 36 different schools) competed at the annual Golf Industry Show. The competition includes a written case study as well as multiple choice, short answer and identification questions. Arkansas finished 10th in the nation in 2015, second in 2013 and fifth in 2012.

**18 • The Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Student Club** completed a community service project with the Garden Club at Holt Middle School in Fayetteville last fall, and was recognized for its efforts with a third-place finish in national poster presentation competition. Club members worked with students on pulses, and how they are healthy and cost-efficient. They helped create a farm-to-table experience for students with several recipes. In the photos (1), from left, Brooke Mosely, Patience Vaught, club president Madison Brown and Paul Wolf in front of their poster at the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America meeting in Phoenix; (2) club members help Holt Middle School Garden Club students move concrete blocks from an artificial pond to increase the height of raised beds; (3) and club members teach HMS students about macronutrients, growth stages and nitrogen fixation.







**19 • Interim Dean Lona Robertson** addresses the Dean's Executive Advisory Board at its spring meeting.



**20 • Graduate students** (from left) Janithri Wickramanayake, Krista Pike and Stephen Robertson from the Isley-Baerg Entomology Club talk to young students at the Fayetteville Library about insects and careers in entomology. (photo by Jacob Logsdon)



**21 • The U of A ranch horse team** from our Department of Animal Science won the American Stock Horse Association Division II national championship in April. The team of Kaley Collins, Carson Freeman, Ashton Williams, Lensey Watson and Whitley Vann, coached by instructor Daniel Potter, combined for eight individual top 10 finishes.



**22 • The Enclothe: Futuristic Floral AMPD Benefit Fashion Show** featured a collaboration with our Department of Horticulture and the Electrical Engineering Department at the Fayetteville Town Center. More than 700 guests saw models wearing items created and designed by apparel merchandising and product development students in instructor Stephanie Hubert's Advanced Apparel Production class. (photos by Micayla Scott)



**23 • Michelle Pribbernow**, our coordinator of undergraduate student recruitment, attended the Arkansas Rice Annual Meeting in Stuttgart. She promoted the college, our departments/schools and our majors at the expo featuring the Arkansas Rice Council and Arkansas Rice Farmers.



One of the goals is to assist students in developing people skills to pair with technical skills learned in their majors.

# Bumpers College Creates Agricultural Leadership Minor/Concentration

U of A First Institution In The State To Offer Ag Leadership Curriculum

By Taylor LaCour, Communications Intern

Bumpers College has created agricultural leadership as a new minor to focus on leadership skills, team building, organizational ethics and community engagement.

Jill Rucker, assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, spent three years developing the program and curriculum, which was approved by the department, the Bumpers College curriculum committee, the faculty council and the provost.

“The AGLE minor emphasizes interdisciplinary course work focused on leadership, communication and business principles in the food and fiber industry,” said Rucker. “Students focus on the development of personal leadership,

critical thinking, problem solving, ability to work with diverse populations, communication skills, service learning, engagement in the community and organizational leadership.”

This minor is the first of its kind at an institution of higher education in the state. Since its establishment in fall 2016, the agricultural leadership program has seen an increase in enrollment in leadership courses and students are already choosing the minor.

“When I’m out and about in the community, I receive positive feedback from working professionals who cite a strong need for leadership skills in future employees,” said Rucker.



"I chose this minor because of my interest in agricultural education and the importance of leadership in the agriculture industry," said junior Sam Harris, a Truman Scholar from Greenbrier. "Serving as an Arkansas FFA state officer, I realized the importance of developing those key components to becoming an effective leader and how vital it is students enter the workforce with those characteristics."

Rucker began working on the minor in response to suggestions from members of Bumpers College's Dean's Executive Advisory Board.

"Industry professionals cited the need for students to further develop people skills to partner with technical skills learned in major programs," said Rucker. "Through courses, seminars, service learning opportunities and internship experiences, the minor strengthens students both personally and professionally by equipping them with skills and knowledge needed to impact the food and fiber industry."

The program requires 18 hours of instruction. Required courses include Introduction to Agricultural Communications taught by instructor Casandra Cox, Leadership Development in Agriculture taught by Rucker and Cox, and Survey of Leadership Theory in Agriculture taught by Rucker.

"Leadership Development in Agriculture was really eye-opening because I learned about myself and how I interact with others through data-based personality and character assessments," said Harris, an agricultural business, pre-law and agricultural communication major. "The assessments challenged me to work through weaknesses and acknowledge my strengths in order to reach my goals. I highly recommend students take this course to learn about their leadership style and how to build effective working relationships with people of all backgrounds."

Students pick three courses to meet the nine remaining hours. Courses they choose from include:

- Agribusiness Sales
- Methods of Teaching
- Professional Development in Agriculture Communications
- Leadership Analysis Through Film
- Principles of Technological Change
- Management of Volunteer Programs

"Our leadership classes are very interactive," said Rucker. "It's not your typical lecture class because I believe leadership is never stagnate. We are constantly working through simulations, case studies and hands-on activities to develop

and reinforce leadership theories, models, concepts and practices."

During the 2016 fall semester, leadership students attended a panel discussion on integrity hosted by U of A Director of Athletics Jeff Long and the Office of Academic Initiatives and Integrity, learned about women in leadership from Bumpers College interim Dean Lona Robertson and attended several other guest lectures.

"By adding this minor, I believe AECT and Bumpers College have opened the door for many more prospective students with an interest in agricultural education and leadership development through FFA and 4-H," said Harris, who plans to work in public policy and law. "Providing students with these skills will create more well-rounded graduates who will be more competitive when entering the workforce."

In addition to the minor, beginning in Fall 2017, agricultural

leadership is also available as a concentration.

"The concentration is similar to a major," said Rucker. "We hope to see rapid growth in both the minor and the major." ■



Jill Rucker, Assistant professor Casandra Cox, Instructor



The program emphasizes interdisciplinary course work focused on leadership, communication and business principles in the food and fiber industry.

## Thank You For Your Support!

If you are interested in supporting classes or programs similar to those featured in this issue of the *Graduate*, please let us know. We also have opportunities for support of scholarships, internships, facilities, equipment and events.

You can reach us at 479-575-7096 or [extrel@uark.edu](mailto:extrel@uark.edu).

Checks should be made out to UA Foundation with the event or area of support listed in the memo section, and mailed to Bumpers College Development Office, AFLS E108, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Thank you!



# Hospitality Innovation Students Provide Campus Diners With Culinary Trip Around The World

By Robby Edwards

Every semester since the spring of 2016, students, faculty, staff and others have been taking delicious culinary trips to faraway places without leaving the Human Environmental Sciences building on campus.

Instructor Lobat Siahmakoun and students in her Food Prep and Menu Layout course have converted the Maudine Sanders Commons (rooms 108 and 109) into Maple Bistro. Hospitality innovation students execute all aspects of providing quality lunches for just \$9. Students plan the meals, and handle table setup, food prep, service, cleanup, and cooking and preparing appetizers, main courses and desserts.

"We start together and we finish together," said Siahmakoun. "In this course, students learn responsibility, time management, managing people and customer service. They will convert these experiences to their real life and professional world. I train my students to use their common sense, which is an important aspect to being successful in life. In addition, I like to introduce them to different flavors, spices and textures that they may not have experienced before."

Students choose recipes to be prepared and Siahmakoun

prepares a special salad dressing each day depending on the flavor of the main course. All salad greens are grown locally and provided with coordination through interim assistant dean and horticulture professor Michael Evans. Meals are prepared in the commercial kitchen, which was renovated in 2011 with support from the Maudine Sanders estate.

"This class is an amazing way for our students to be creative while exercising critical thinking skills they have learned in class," said hospitality innovation associate professor and HESC assistant director Kelly Way. "While the customer may only see the meal served and enjoy the final product, they don't see the teamwork, planning and organizing that goes on behind the scenes. Students learn the three most important things in the hospitality industry: hot food hot, cold food cold and phenomenal customer service."

Service begins promptly at noon on Mondays and Wednesdays, and diners are encouraged to make reservations via email because tables fill up fast.

"I have learned how to improve my communication skills and challenge myself," said Melannie Grubb, who took the



class in spring 2016. “Working in the kitchen has given me the opportunity to be hands-on and obtain knowledge on how to execute certain situations in the food industry. I love being able to take a recipe and see the final product and please our customers. I believe in the lab you’re able to grow each day from learning new cooking techniques to managing the kitchen. Learning these skills has helped me feel better prepared for my future in the hospitality industry.”

The first semester included dishes from Hawaii, Romania, Africa, France, the Caribbean, Italy, Portugal, Asia, Persia and the Mediterranean. The second semester included meals from Vietnam, Cuba, Latin America, China and Ireland.

The 2017 spring semester included menus with Italian, Mexican, German, Thai, Turkey, American, Southern and Cajun themes.

Each meal includes an appetizer, entrée and dessert. A Mediterranean lunch included: appetizer, Lentil soup; entrée, chicken gyro with tzatziki; and dessert, vasilopita-Greek New Year’s cake. The meal from Germany included: appetizer, potato salad; entrée: geschnetzeltes with a side of spatzle and a brotchen roll; and dessert, wiener apfelstrudel. The Thai menu featured: appetizer, mushroom soup; entrée, green chicken curry with noodles and roti bread; dessert, coconut and mango ice cream.

“The students learn to put menus together, to use purchase orders, to stick to a budget, to work as a team...but more than anything else, they learn to be responsible and work under pressure,” said Siahmakoun.

These skills, said Siahmakoun, are hard to develop in the classroom alone.

Many students express how helpful this class is in development for their future career.

“I want to work in a full-service hotel,” said Jessica Brightman, a hospitality innovation student from Dallas who took the class in the fall of 2016. “In a full-service hotel, there is a restaurant, so knowing all the ins and outs of the restaurant, what is necessary from everyone and all the operational obligations will really help me be a better manager.”

“I don’t want to be a chef,” said Maddie Seaton, a senior from St. Louis who also took the class in the fall of 2016. “But this class has definitely given me more respect for chefs. If I work in front of the house or I’m managing a kitchen one day, it’s easier to respect the chef because I understand all that goes into this.”

If you’re going to be on campus on a Monday or Wednesday, make reservations at Maple Bistro by emailing [MapleBis@uark.edu](mailto:MapleBis@uark.edu). ■



Top left; Hospitality innovation students in the Food Prep and Menu Layout course plan, prepare and serve internationally-themed lunches on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Top right; Instructor Lobat Sihmakoun (left) and her students plate entrees.

Bottom left; Each meal includes an appetizer, main course and dessert, all prepared in the commercial culinary kitchen.

Opposite page; Maple Bistro is located in the Maudine Sanders Commons, rooms 108 and 109 in the Human Environmental Sciences building.

Photos by Micayla Scott



# Equine Assisted Activities And Therapies Class Contributes To Multiple Disciplines

By Robby Edwards

The D.E. King Equine Program in Bumpers College recently added an interdisciplinary course focusing in equine assisted activities and therapies, and it's been a big hit with students across campus.

According to instructor Kathi Jogan, equine assisted activities and therapies is a growing field of study with documented evidence of the benefits of human and horse interactions. The EAAT course, housed in Bumpers College's Department of Animal Science, trains and educates students from animal science, psychology, social work, education, nursing, kinesiology and criminal justice, among others.

EAAT allows special-needs individuals to experience the benefit of either horseback riding or with horses and individuals on the ground. Riders work with therapists, speech language pathologists, mental health professionals, therapeutic or adaptive riding instructors, horse handlers and volunteers to receive continued treatment while riding.

"From the first day, the students understood that this class was one like they had never experienced before and would likely change the way they thought about themselves and others," said Jogan, who has managed Thoroughbred breeding and foaling farms, and was a licensed trainer and outrider.

"This class was easily the best part of my semester," public health major Kendra Wilichowski said. "Being able to witness the healing and the joy that comes to those who go through EAAT is absolutely incredible. I would highly recommend this class. It was the best experience and I will never forget it."

The Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies course was offered during 2015 and 2016 fall semesters. Of 68 total students, 31 have been from Bumpers and 37 from other disciplines across campus. The 2016 class included majors from animal science, psychology, social work, communication disorders, public health and kinesiology.

"I think all students hoping to enter the field of social work should be exposed to the benefits of EAAT," social work major Jade Marano said. "It has been overpowering to watch the kids interact with the horses during private sessions and see first-hand the calming effects of the horses on these children."

Students study equine behavior and physiology, and the different clientele best served through EAAT. They explore different therapy types, evaluate horses and discuss characteristics making individual horses suited to therapy.

"This class was an eye-opener," psychology major Karsen Sims said. "I've been around horses my whole life, but I never



really thought of something as intuitive as this. I will always encourage EAAT and hope to become a part of it.”

The class, which meets at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center, includes hands-on demonstrations with horses and dogs, guest lectures from EAAT and post-traumatic stress disorder specialists, psychiatrists and licensed social workers, an attorney specializing in running non-profit organizations, horse trainers, dog trainers who work with service dogs and a 15-hour service learning component.

Erin Bogle-Easley, a three-star Parelli Natural Horsemanship instructor, has been one of the guest lecturers. PNH focuses on training humans in understanding the psychology, personality and nature of horses.

“EAAT opens up a whole new world into another side of horses, linking equine activities to healing opportunities, both physical and unseen,” animal science major Kayla Rhoads said. “It is remarkable the effect horses can have in a therapeutic setting.”

Jogan received support from the American Quarter Horse Foundation’s EAAT Educational Outreach grant to help create the class. Last year, facilities and instructors in the program earned national accreditation and certification, respectively, from the Certified Horsemanship Association. Jogan became the first instructor to earn Level 4 certification, earning the highest score in the 10-year history of the program. ■

## Volunteers Assisting With EAAT Class

**Elaine Wall Alexander**, volunteer coordinator, Horses for Healing

**Janis Cline**, LCSW, PTSD therapist, Heroes & Horses; lead clinician, Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks

**Kim Copps**, LCSW, owner/operator, Heroes & Horses and Corral Coaching PLLC; and **Lonnie Copps**, LPPC

**Shana Dozer**, director, Equestrian Bridges

**Erin Bogle Easley**, 3-star Parelli Instructor

**Evan Alan Eason**, Ph.D., lead psychologist, PTSD, Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks

**Susan Hartman**, service dog trainer

**Lexi Kerr**, PATH, and **Jessie Kersh**, PATH, EAGALA, owners/operators, Courage Therapeutic Riding Center

**Codi Oliver**, OTR/L, owner/operator, Hoofin’ It

**Debbie Studyvin**, PATH, advanced certified instructor, Horses for Healing

**Dr. Linda Worley**, psychiatrist

**Marsha Wyatt**, co-owner/operator, Service Dogs of Distinction; owner/operator, Unbridled Journey



Top; Attorney Lonnie Copps, an authority on non-profits, lectures the class on setting up a non-profit and insurance responsibilities in running an EAAT business.

Middle; Erin Bogle-Easley lectures the class on horse personality types, or “horsenality.” Bogle-Easley is a three-star Parelli Natural Horsemanship instructor, which focuses on training humans in understanding the psychology, personality and nature of horses.

Bottom; Kim Copps and Janice Cline, both Licensed Clinical Social Workers, lecture and provide a demonstration on how horses are used to assist Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) victims.

Opposite page clockwise; Student Catherine Cain enjoys hands on experience following a demonstration; Students practice mindfulness exercises with horses; Students receive corral coaching during a mock family counseling session.

# “Dream Class”

## Focuses Bumpers College Students On Character, Professionalism

By Robby Edwards

A class recently created in Bumpers College is preparing graduates for professional employment by examining the roles of character and behavior in the workplace.

Professional Growth and Critical Career Skills was created by agricultural economics and agribusiness professor, and poultry economist, H.L. Goodwin, in part based on a recommendation from the college’s Dean’s Executive Advisory Board.

The class emphasizes character, soft skills, leadership, attitude, values, priorities and corporate culture. The first three classes, beginning in fall 2015, were limited to 12 students, but capacity has now increased to 20.

“Members of the Dean’s Executive Advisory Board said the biggest need for new hires is training in professionalism, critical thinking and soft skills,” said Goodwin, now also a faculty member in the School of Law. “I had been injecting these topics in my courses for several years and this had always been a passion of mine - to prepare students to have a steep trajectory of success when they entered their respective career fields. So I seized the opportunity and prepared the class.”

The fall and spring semester class, which was created for Bumpers students but has included students from other colleges, uses the MERIT Profile to help students identify core values and strengths, and develop weaknesses.

“It gave me the ability to step back and look at myself,”



Professor H.L. Goodwin

said Joseph Hiltz, a poultry science master’s degree student from Woodline, Maryland, who took the class in 2015. “I feel that without some of the character assessments, it was hard to see where weaknesses are, but with this class, we were able to find those soft areas, look at them and improve, and that’s one of the most important things moving forward professionally is being able to look at your weaknesses and improve before you look at other people.”

Topics include adjusting to mistakes, casting off negatives, verifying values, scheduling priorities, building character, framing decisions/choices and personal improvement plans. The acronym MAXIMIZERS guides students toward personal leadership, strategic thinking and behavior, critical thinking and problem identification, and communication to understanding concepts for success, including:

- M – make things happen
- A – achieve personal significance
- X – x-out the negatives
- I – internalize right principles
- M – march to a mission
- I – integrate all of life
- Z – zero in on the needs of others
- E – energize internally
- R – realign rigorously
- S – stay the course





Donnie Smith, former CEO at Tyson Foods, discussed “zamura” with the class, a Kenyan/Rwandan word which means to lift up and encourage, and how it relates to life and opportunities.



Jim Moore, founder of Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) and author of “Be a Man of Standing,” a biblical guide to manhood, has served as a guest speaker.



Professor H.L. Goodwin, who created the class based on suggestions from members of the Dean’s Executive Advisory Board, introduces speaker Mandy Kordsmeier, a former holiday buyer at Sam’s Club and now a national account executive with Mohawk Industries.

Photos by Fawn Kurtzo

“Students have the opportunity to really develop themselves for successful career advancement by focusing on internal character and presenting themselves based on their strengths and passions,” said Goodwin. “They develop life mission statements and six-month personal improvement plans. In addition, they have the opportunity to learn about themselves based on both the Birkman and DiSC assessment, standards in industry for evaluating and placing new hires and appropriate advancement candidates.”

Birkman and DiSC assessments are given by Goodwin and assistant course instructor Sandra Martini. Both are trained Birkman associates.

Each class meeting includes interactive discussion with the lecturer or guest speaker, small group (three people) sessions expanding on the week’s focus topic and written observations in the form of exercises or journaling. Students meet with assigned career coaches, present themselves to industry professionals in mock interviews and prepare six-month written personal improvement plans.

“Students have the unique opportunity to have four one-on-one career coaching sessions with industry and community stakeholders,” said Goodwin. “These sessions are about two-hours in length and focus on life success, stress management, conflict resolution and developing their ‘personal brand.’”

Guest lecturers, either in person or through video conferencing, have included Donnie Smith, former CEO, and Russell Tooley, head of continuous improvement, Tyson Foods; Mandy Kordsmeier, national account executive,

Mohawk Industries; Steve Clark, executive director, Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce; Dan Ferritor, chancellor emeritus, U of A; Cosette Dixon, professional life coach; Jim Moore, founder of Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) and author of “Be a Man of Standing,” a biblical guide to manhood; Doug Sprouse, mayor of Springdale; and Monty Henderson, COO emeritus, George’s poultry company.

Smith discussed “zamura” with the class, a Kenyan/Rwandan word which means to lift up and encourage.

“That’s got nothing to do with being the CEO of a food company,” said Smith. “Or does it? That’s the real question. What is your life about? When you get out of here, you’re going to get an opportunity to make an impact. So what is your life going to be about?”

“It teaches you foundational principles you need throughout life,” said Bri Neumann, a 2016 master’s degree food science graduate from Eureka, Missouri, who took the class in 2015. “It’s about how you treat people, and that’s what gets you far in life.”

Recent Bumpers College graduates who took the class are now employed at Tyson Foods, Walmart, J.B. Hunt and Koch Industries, among others.

“This is my dream class,” said Goodwin. “There is a high level of interest by industry stakeholders and community leaders. Every semester, every group of students, every set of speakers bring new thinking and energy. I love doing this course, so much so that I almost feel guilty that I get paid to do it...almost.” ■

# Bumpers College Establishes Second 3-Plus-1 Poultry Science Program With In-State Institution

## Ozark Mountain Poultry, Peco Foods Support Program With Scholarships

By Robby Edwards

Bumpers College and Arkansas State University signed a memorandum of understanding to form a partnership to help fill an industry need for more graduates in poultry science, and two poultry companies immediately supported the move by creating scholarships.

The dual transfer bachelor's degree 3-plus-1 course curriculum is for animal science majors in A-State's College of Agriculture and Technology and Bumpers College's Department of Poultry Science.

A-State students will take poultry science classes as seniors in Fayetteville, earning bachelor's degrees in animal science from A-State and in poultry science from the U of A. A course guide contains course curriculum requirements for all four years with the first three years at A-State and a minimum of 30 hours in poultry science in the final year at the U of A.

Ozark Mountain Poultry and Peco Foods established scholarships to support the 3-plus-1 program. The Ozark Mountain Poultry Transfer Scholarship and the Peco Foods Transfer Scholarship provide financial support for Arkansas State University students seeking animal science and U of A poultry science dual transfer degrees. Recipients will be selected by the U of A and chosen from a field of rising A-State seniors enrolled in a minimum of 15 hours at the U of A.

Ed Fryar, who earned his bachelor's degree in economics and his master's degree in agricultural economics from the U of A, is president of Ozark Mountain Poultry. He earned his doctorate in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Minnesota and was a professor of agricultural economics in the Bumpers College for 13 years. His areas of research were grain and poultry marketing, and price risk management.



Ed Fryar, a Bumpers College graduate and former professor, is president of Ozark Mountain Poultry.



Mark Hickman is president and CEO of Peco Foods.

In 2000, Fryar co-founded Ozark Mountain Poultry in Rogers. OMP is a vertically integrated poultry company specializing in producing chickens raised without antibiotics or animal by-products. The company, which has more than 1,500 employees at facilities in Rogers, Batesville, Warren, Bay and Newport, also raises Heritage chickens fed non-GMO grains.

"My grandmother, Ma, didn't have a lot of money but she was very big on, 'helping those who are trying to help themselves,'" said Fryar. "That is something I have tried to continue. Higher education is important to the future growth of the chicken industry and the U.S. economy. Unfortunately, for many students it can be prohibitively expensive. Scholarships are a way of 'helping those that are trying to help themselves.' We have locations in both Northwest Arkansas and Northeast Arkansas. It is important to work with both the U of A and Arkansas State to help increase the number of students majoring in agriculture and poultry science. These students are important to the future of OMP and the chicken industry."

Mark Hickman is president and CEO at Peco Foods, headquartered in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Peco Foods is the eighth-largest poultry producer in the U.S. with processing plants, live operations offices, feed mills and hatcheries in Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi.

"My grandfather, who founded Peco in the 1930s, believed deeply in the value of education and we proudly continue his legacy," said Hickman. "The John Herman Hickman Foundation Scholarship Program, which serves the children of our employees and our grower partners, is one of the most rewarding initiatives our company undertakes. In 2011 our company was fortunate to acquire the Townsends complex



in Batesville. From Day One, the state of Arkansas welcomed and supported us, so it was a natural decision to expand our presence by building a state-of-the-art complex in Clay and Randolph counties. Our Pocahontas complex went on line in 2016. By helping support this program, we have an opportunity to say “thank you” to the people of Arkansas. It is a win-win for all. When we met with Michael Kidd and learned about the program, we knew it was the perfect fit for us.”

Fryar and Hickman signed gift agreements for the Ozark Mountain Poultry Transfer Scholarship and the Peco Foods Transfer Scholarship, respectively. Each is for a total of \$50,000 and for up to five awards of \$5,000 each beginning in 2017-18.

The memorandum of understanding was finalized on Feb. 15, 2017. Both universities will review the agreement every three years and make necessary revisions. The agreement was signed by U of A Chancellor Joseph Steinmetz, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Jim Coleman, Bumpers College interim Dean Lona Robertson and Mike Kidd, poultry science department head and director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

“With only six remaining universities offering bachelor’s degrees in poultry science in the U.S., we must do everything possible to recruit students into our program so the Arkansas poultry industry has a pipeline of future leaders,” said Kidd. “This agreement is a testament to the joint collaborative efforts that created a program to support our largest agricultural commodity — the Arkansas poultry industry and its family farmers.”

“The chicken industry is growing in northeast Arkansas and will need a pool of well-educated young people to draw from for its future leaders,” said Fryar. “I think this cooperative effort between the U of A and ASU is important because there are a lot of students who grow up in eastern and northeastern Arkansas that want to stay in that area for college and their career. This program will allow them to take advantage of the best of ASU and the U of A. They can then return to northeast Arkansas better prepared to enter that pool of potential future leaders of the chicken industry.”

Students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or a 3.0 over their last 30 hours at A-State. The curriculum includes an eight-semester degree proposal at Arkansas State and a two-semester senior year proposal for the U of A.

“I believe this scholarship program is precisely what is needed to develop tomorrow’s industry leaders in Northeast Arkansas and beyond,” said Hickman. “Competition among colleges and universities to recruit the best and brightest students is intense, and rising costs of higher education are daunting. This innovative program will provide much-needed financial support while, at the same time, strengthening Bumpers College’s reputation as the destination of choice for excellent and highly motivated students.”

Bumpers College provides academic advising, scholarship



Above; Bumpers College interim Dean Lona Robertson (right) signs the MOU along with A-State Provost Lynita Cooksey at the announcement ceremony on Feb. 15. Below; Paula Johnson became the first student to complete the 3-plus-1 Certificate of Poultry Science (in a partnership with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) and is now working on a master’s degree in poultry science at the U of A.

opportunities and faculty mentoring, advises students about internship opportunities in the poultry industry, and sends representatives to visit A-State each fall and spring semester to help recruit students into the program.

“The poultry industry is very important to the agricultural community in Arkansas and beyond, and this program meets an industry need,” said Robertson. “We are pleased to work with ASU and its students. When they complete the 3-plus-1 POSC program, they will be prepared to assume important positions in this industry.”

In 2013, Bumpers College and the Department of Poultry Science signed a similar 3-plus-1 memorandum of understanding with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Students earn bachelor’s degrees in agriculture from UAPB’s School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences while earning a Poultry Science Undergraduate Certificate of Excellence from the U of A.

In spring 2016, Paula Johnson became the first student presented the 3-plus-1 Certificate of Poultry Science. She graduated from UAPB with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture-animal science, and is now working on a master’s degree in poultry science at the U of A. The partnership with UAPB was recently approved as a dual transfer degree program and is scheduled to begin in Fall 2018. ■

# Outstanding Alumnus Q&A

By Robby Edwards

## John Paul Pendergrass

Charleston, Arkansas

B.S. in Agriculture, 1977

Co-Owner of Pendergrass Cattle Co.

Interim Dean Lona Robertson presents the Outstanding Alumnus award to John Paul Pendergrass.



### Why did you major in agriculture?

Early on, I knew the cattle business was what I wanted to do. I also knew that growing our family business would have to happen.

### What is something significant you learned while in college?

Building long-term friendships and business relationships started for me during college.

### Do you have any fond memories of a favorite professor?

Dr. Martin Redfern, ag econ, was one of my favorite professors. He played a pivotal role in getting our son, Eric, in the agricultural business program. We sat together at Baum Stadium and they visited. From that conversation, Eric was convinced the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness was where he needed to be.

### Other than the obvious, what are the major differences in crop and animal agriculture?

Caring for animals that serve us comes with a moral obligation. Their well-being is an obligation of the owner. That is the big difference.

### Why should young people consider careers in agriculture?

Producing something can be fun and personally rewarding. The need is always present.

### What are your major responsibilities at Pendergrass Cattle Company?

A great deal of my time is spent buying cattle. They come from sales barns, video auctions and private treaty. I am also responsible for selling the cattle and managing the market risk. Sometimes it is all about the work that goes with the stocker cattle operation.

### What do you enjoy most about being a cattle rancher?

It is really a challenge to get the stars to align. Weather, cattle and grain markets, and animal health all factor into the equation. The fun starts when it all comes together.

### What is the toughest part of running your own company?

I can't complain. I have had a great support group and it is a group effort.



## What's it like running the family business with your dad, John Frank?

He has always been, and still is, very supportive and progressive. That has made it easy. We don't row in different directions.

## Why are you involved with the Farm Journal Foundation's Farm Team for Farmers Feeding the World program?

I was asked by Dr. Steve Halbrook, agricultural economics and agribusiness department head, to consider the position of Lead Farmer for Arkansas. The Farm Journal Foundation's agenda is about how agriculture can play a role in making this world a safer and better place. It is a privilege to be involved.

## What do you remember about your days with the U of A's Alpha Iota Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho, the professional and social agriculture fraternity?

I will always be thankful to the upperclassmen for the guidance. They mentored us and it worked for me.

## In the late 1970's, what was Fayetteville like?

A lot smaller than today.

## Both of your children (Eric and Grace) are Bumpers College graduates. How does it feel to have a Pendergrass legacy in college?

Their time at and graduation from the Bumpers College gives us a certain connection. From a family standpoint, it runs deeper. Their mother Cissie graduated from the College of Education and is now a retired middle school teacher. Eric graduated from the U of A School of Law and has a master's in agricultural law. Grace graduated with honors in apparel studies (now apparel merchandising and product development). She has since returned for a master's in teaching. She has also obtained a Master's in Library Science from Texas Women's University. Our daughter-in-law Meighan has an under graduate and a master's degree in kinesiology. Our

son-in-law, Major Chris Morrison, has a post-graduate degree in engineering from the U of A. Our connection with the University of Arkansas runs deep.

## You live in Charleston, hometown of our college's namesake, Dale Bumpers. How is he regarded and remembered in his hometown?

When Dale Bumpers filed for Governor, I will never forget how exciting it was. Most of the town became engaged in the election. He is regarded as smart, well-spoken and someone that truly wanted government to work for all the people.

## What is your best tip for farming/gardening?

Be prepared for Plan B... meaning there is always a moving target.

## If you weren't a cattle rancher, what would you be doing?

Something easier that makes more money.

## Working on a ranch, do you feel like a cowboy? If so, how would you describe the cowboy lifestyle?

Yes! Every cowboy knows it will be hot and dusty in summer, and wet and cold in the winter. That's part of the deal. The best cowboys are real caregivers to cattle, horses and all that surround them.

## What is your favorite dish/meal to eat and/or prepare?

A New York Strip cooked medium over charcoal.

## What do you do to relax or have fun?

Be a Razorback fan and enjoy all that goes with it!

## What professional advice would you give young college graduates?

Study your lessons on how to develop successful long-term relationships. Ask these questions, does this person trust me, do I trust this person, do we really care about one another's future and will this person keep me informed. ■



John Paul Pendergrass and wife Cissie visited with Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness department head Steve Halbrook at the Outstanding Alumni Luncheon.



John Paul Pendergrass poses with former members of Alpha Gamma Rho, a professional and social agriculture fraternity. U of A's Alpha Iota chapter named Pendergrass its Man of the Year in 2000.

# Alumni Society Outstanding Young Alumna Q&A

By Robby Edwards

## Courtney Meyers

Lubbock, Texas

M.S. in Agricultural and Extension  
Education, 2005

Associate Professor of Agricultural  
Communications, Texas Tech University

In 2004, Meyers interned with the Scottish Agricultural College in Edinburgh, Scotland, and visited Glencoe in the Scottish Highlands.



### **You grew up in Kansas and went to Kansas State, so how did you end up at the U of A for graduate school?**

Before my senior year at Kansas State, I attended the 2002 National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Conference in Reno, Nevada, and met Dr. Jeff Miller. I was just beginning to contemplate the idea of graduate school. Dr. Miller visited with me about what a master's degree program would entail and encouraged me to consider the University of Arkansas. I was intrigued about attending another land grant university, and after I visited campus, I knew it would be an amazing experience! It was the only place I applied for my master's degree, and my family supported my choice – maybe because it was even closer to my hometown in southeast Kansas than K-State was.

### **Did you have any professors at the U of A who inspired you to become a teacher?**

Beyond a doubt, Dr. Jeff Miller has had a tremendous impact on my life. One of the primary reasons I went to the U of A was to work as his teaching assistant. Dr. Miller was

extremely patient and supportive as I made the transition from an undergraduate mindset to that of a graduate teaching assistant. As my confidence grew and skills improved, he allowed me to gradually gain more responsibility and autonomy with teaching responsibilities. I so appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the teaching mission of the university, and it was through this role I developed a love for college teaching that persists today.

As my master's program was nearing the end, Dr. Miller encouraged me to pursue a doctoral degree. Although I loved the academic environment, I had not considered this career path. His gentle nudge for me to earn a Ph.D. led to an academic fellowship at the University of Florida and eventually an assistant professor position at Texas Tech University. I am fortunate Dr. Miller saw something in me that I did not see in myself and encouraged me to dream bigger. Now I strive to do the same for my students.

### **Are there any fond memories of, with or about a favorite professor?**

I have many wonderful memories of my time at the U of A.



One of my favorite things was going to lunch in the Union with Dr. Jeff Miller, Dr. George Wardlow and Dr. Don Johnson. They would tell the most hilarious stories, and I appreciated them spending time with students outside of the classroom.

### **What is something significant you learned while in the Bumpers College?**

One of my goals in college was to study or work abroad. I had not been able to do this in my undergrad so I was determined to make it happen at the U of A. With the Bumpers College's help, I attained a summer internship with the Scottish Agricultural College in Edinburgh, Scotland. I learned so much about agriculture in that region of the world and perhaps more importantly, I learned to be brave and take chances. The prospect of traveling overseas by myself and living in a strange land was intimidating, but I am so grateful the Bumpers College provided this opportunity. I often use this story to encourage my own students to take a chance and work to reach their goals.

### **Did anything interesting happen to you while living in Fayetteville?**

I moved to Fayetteville in August 2003. At that point, I had been dating someone for two years, and he was not going to move to Arkansas because he was gainfully employed in Platte City, Missouri. A few months later, he drove four hours to visit me in Fayetteville and proposed to me on the doorstep of my apartment. I promptly said "yes" but made him wait almost two more years for the wedding. Daniel and I celebrated our 12th wedding anniversary this summer, and we're the proud parents of two smart and beautiful daughters.

### **Are you involved in any research?**

I conduct a variety of studies under the broad umbrella of agricultural communications. I'm interested in what messages are most effective to influence attitudes and behaviors

regarding agricultural topics and how to communicate those through a variety of communication channels. One current project is to develop and evaluate multimedia case studies about controversial agriculture topics with the goal of improving college students' knowledge of these issues and their ability to communicate about them. This has been an exciting effort to combine my passion for teaching with my desire to develop skilled agricultural communicators.

### **What do you do for fun?**

I enjoy spending time with my family, which might involve going to the park, playing board games or watching movies. When I can find time, I also enjoy reading books that aren't required reading for a class.

### **If you weren't teaching, what would you be doing?**

I would likely be working in some aspect of agricultural communications as a practitioner. As the world continues to grow in population and the proportion of those directly engaged in agriculture decreases, it is vital we have effective communicators to help bridge the gap and encourage understanding and acceptance.

### **What advice do you have for young college graduates?**

Never stop learning. Always be curious and inquisitive.

### **What do you miss most about Fayetteville?**

Reminiscing about what I miss makes me realize my time in Fayetteville is like a time capsule in the story of me. I miss laughing with friends during Taco Tuesday, listening to live music at George's, singing along at Willy D's and eating Greek food at my favorite restaurant. I miss writing papers in a quiet room at the public library and I miss rambunctious parties in the AGR house. While I miss many things about Fayetteville, I'm grateful for the time I spent there and all the many wonderful memories I have. ■



Courtney Meyers with husband Daniel, and daughters Isabel and Amelia.



For a week in May 2013, Meyers collaborated with a professor at Montana State University to take a group of students to Washington, D.C., to meet with representatives of several agricultural organizations.



**AgScience building** The Tyson Family and Tyson Foods made a \$5 million gift to the U of A System Division of Agriculture for the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences. The 54,000 square-foot building will feature high-tech agriculture research laboratories that will advance plant and animal sustainability, along with water quality research. (photo by Fred Miller)

# Campaign Arkansas Launches; College And Division Initiatives Identified

By Robby Edwards

The U of A officially launched its multi-year fundraising effort, Campaign Arkansas, in September 2016 with a goal of raising \$1 billion to support the university's academic mission and other key priorities.

"One of the top priorities of the campaign is to increase need-based scholarships for Arkansans, but that's just the beginning," said Chancellor Joe Steinmetz. "Our commitment to Campaign Arkansas is critical to the future of the University of Arkansas and our efforts to keep tuition affordable while enhancing academic opportunities for our faculty and students. Without increases in state funding, private fundraising is the mechanism that allows us to support student scholarships, research and innovation, study abroad opportunities, the creation of new interdisciplinary programs and the renovation of our existing facilities."

## ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

Campaign Arkansas is raising funds for scholarships and fellowships, endowed chairs, capital projects, interdisciplinary academic programs and other priority areas that advance the university's goals and objectives. Funding is needed to provide the level of education, experience and environment that ensures the U of A remains a top-tier research institution for students and the state. The capital campaign is scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2020.

Campaign Arkansas is building off the success of the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century, which ended in 2005 and raised \$1.046 billion. Reasons for the new campaign include:

- The U of A is a growing institution with more than 27,000 students to support
- State appropriations are allocated to the university, but ongoing economic challenges make these funds less certain
- Private gift support is a critical component in the overall landscape of support for higher education in Arkansas
- The U of A continues to work to keep tuition as low as possible, but private gift support is needed to provide the level of education, experience and environment that ensures we remain a top-tier research institution for our students and our state
- Campaign Arkansas is raising funds for scholarships and fellowships, endowed chairs, capital projects, interdisciplinary academic programs and other priority areas that will advance the university's goals and objectives
- Campaign Arkansas benefits the entire state, generating economic impact and research productivity
- The campaign helps the campus recruit and retain students and faculty, elevating the university to the next level
- With Campaign Arkansas, we acknowledge our heritage, aspire to new heights, advance our campus and achieve greatness





**Scholarship luncheon** Bumpers College recognizes and honors donors and recipients of scholarships with an event each fall. (photos by Micayla Scott)



Campaign Arkansas helps the university recruit and retain students through graduation and leading faculty, elevating the U of A to the highest level.

## ADVANCE ARKANSAS

One important initiative to develop through Campaign Arkansas is the Advance Arkansas scholarship program. Advance Arkansas scholarships will support new, returning and transfer students from Arkansas who exhibit strong academic ability, impressive leadership skills, some financial need, extraordinary determination and a deep sense of connection to the state and its regions. Recipients will also exhibit a strong desire to attend and graduate from the University of Arkansas. Preference will be given to students who are the first in their families to pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree.

The university is setting aside \$2.5 million to match the earnings in the spending accounts generated by the scholarship endowments to double the impact. Therefore, an endowment generating \$2,000 in scholarship spending will be matched with another \$2,000 by the university for a total scholarship award of \$4,000. The amount of the scholarships will range from \$4,000 to full tuition awards.

The minimum endowment required for Advance Arkansas scholarships is \$50,000. The scholarships will be "portable," meaning they will follow their student recipients regardless of changes in major, as long as other renewal criteria are maintained.

## CAMPAIGN ARKANSAS GOAL AND PROGRESS

Alumni and friends who make up the campaign's volunteer leadership committee voted to set the initial goal of \$1 billion. As of June 2017, 62 percent of the overall goal had been raised.

Each college, school and unit is represented by volunteers who serve on the Campaign Arkansas Steering Committee, and each unit also has its own committee of volunteers, specifically dedicated to unit-level success.

## BUMPERS COLLEGE AND DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE GOALS AND INITIATIVES

The Bumpers College and U of A System Division of Agriculture had a combined goal of \$57,360,000. By the end of April, more than \$64,000,000 had been raised. Under the guidance of co-chairs Angela and Mark Waldrip, a new goal of \$85,000,000 was established.

To meet the goal, Bumpers College identified four areas as key strategic objectives: student access, faculty support, program support and transformational.

Student access includes increasing the number and size of endowed, need-based scholarships to enhance recruiting and retention, and a diverse student population. Faculty support is focused on creating new endowments to support faculty chairs and fellowships. Program support includes opportunities for student experiences such as study abroad, internships and service learning opportunities. Transformational targets naming endowments for academic programs and technology innovation.

Division of Agriculture priorities are focused on county-based Cooperative Extension programs, including 4-H; endowed research and extension programs; and facility improvement and expansion at the Division's five research and extension centers, six research stations and two extension centers.

## CAMPAIGN *Arkansas*

### BUMPERS COLLEGE COMMITTEE

Angela Waldrip, Co-Chair  
Mark Waldrip, Co-Chair  
Patrick Cameron  
Marvin Childers  
Ginger Graham  
Bill Hawkins

Suzanne Hawkins  
Ben Hyneman  
Todd Martin  
Charlene Reed  
Archie Schaffer  
Mark Simmons

Terry Bumgardner, Bumpers College Development Lead  
Chuck Culver, Division Development Lead

To learn more or to make a gift, please contact Director of Development Terry Bumgardner at [tbumgar@uark.edu](mailto:tbumgar@uark.edu) or 479-575-2270, or Division Director of External Relations Chuck Culver at [cculver@uark.edu](mailto:cculver@uark.edu) or 479-575-2250.

# CLASS NOTES

## 1970s

**John Paul Pendergrass, BSA '77**, was recently recognized as the 2016-17 Outstanding Alumnus for the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. Pendergrass is co-owner of Pendergrass Cattle Co. in Charleston.

**Mike McCarter, BSA '79 MS '85**, received the 2017 Graduate of Distinction Award from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Department of Animal Science during an April 26 banquet. He had a 36-year career as a County Extension Agent. Since retiring from the U of A Division of Agriculture Extension Service, McCarter began a second career in beef cattle feed sales.

## 1980s



**Bert Greenwalt, MS '80**, was named the 2016-17 Distinguished Alumnus by the

Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness in the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences.

**Stephen R. Malone, BSA '82 MS '83**, agronomy and crop science, respectively, is the U.S. program manager with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes in the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service Seed Regulatory and Testing Division in Gastonia, N.C. Malone, who grew up in Harrison, earned his Ph.D. from Iowa State in crop production and physiology in 1989.

**Bryan Clark Oetting, BSA '86 MS '88**, received the 2017 Advanced Graduate of Distinction Award from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Department of Animal Science during an April 26 banquet. He teaches as an adjunct professor at the College of the Ozarks and operates a cow/calf operation in Omaha.

## 2000s



**Russell Martin, BSA '01, MS '04**, agricultural economics and agribusiness, is senior vice president

of commercial lending for the Little Rock market with Relyance Bank in Little Rock. He is among 164 bankers who graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University in June. The three-year program covers all aspects of banking, economics and related subjects. Martin, a Certified Commercial Investment Member, has more than 14 years of banking experience. He has served as a board member and chairman of Little Rock's Housing Advisory Board, on the Board of Directors for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Arkansas, and treasurer for the Little Rock Branch of Quality Deer Management Association. He has also served as president, treasurer and board member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club.

**Elisabeth Megan LauHertel, D.V.M., BSA '03**, and her husband welcomed their daughter, Hazel Elisabeth, in June 2016.



**Ulanda Terry, MS '03**, agricultural economics, received the Young Alumna Award from

the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Terry is owner of the events and design company All Things POSH, which focuses on upscale and memorable events, design services and products. Her Fayetteville business hosts parties, bridal/baby showers and intimate events. Terry has worked at Tyson Foods and Walmart, and was named to the NWA Business Journal's 40 Under 40 in 2010.

**Troy Joseph Wistuba, Ph.D. '03**, received the 2017 Advanced Graduate of Distinction Award from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Department of Animal Science during an April 26 banquet. He is the director of Dairy Technical Solutions for Purina Animal Nutrition LLC.

**Courtney Alyssa Meyers, MS '05**, was recently named the 2016-17 Bumpers College Alumni Society's Outstanding Young Alumna. She has been an associate professor of agricultural communications at Texas Tech University since 2014 after joining the faculty as assistant professor in 2008.



**Jeffrey Hignight, MS '07**, agricultural economics, with Glaub Farm Management

in Jonesboro, has been awarded the esteemed Accredited Land Consultant (ALC) designation

of the REALTORS® Land Institute. As an ALC, Hignight, who has been with GFM since 2010, joins an elite group of land specialists who have attained the highest level of knowledge and experience in their profession. As a professional farm manager/real estate broker and partner with Glaub Farm Management, he specializes in agricultural asset management, real estate sales and farmland consultation throughout the Mississippi Delta Region. The REALTORS® Land Institute is an affiliate organization of the National Association of REALTORS®.

## 2010s



**Brittany Short Allen, BSHES '11**, apparel merchandising and product development, was the

featured guest designer for this year's Enclothe: Futuristic Floral AMPD Benefit Fashion Show. Allen is a pattern maker and computer-aided designer for Understated Leather, which sells to Free People, Urban Outfitters and Revolve, and a fashion and CAD designer for a womenswear brand based in Los Angeles. She also created her own brand, Brittany Nicole, teaches fashion design at the Art Institute in Austin, Texas, and has been featured in *Women's Wear Daily*.



**James Duncan, BSHES '12 MS '14**, human development and family sciences, was named

runner-up for the Issues in



Aging Focus Group Award in competition sponsored by the National Council on Family Relations. Duncan's paper, "Leisure, Relatedness, and Ill-being Among Older Adults in Long-Term Care," was based on research and data collected at long-term care facilities in Northwest Arkansas. A native of Sacramento, Calif., Duncan was advised by associate professor Tim Killian and Mallory Lucier-Greer, his major professor at Florida State University where he is now pursuing his doctorate.



**Ashley Rodman, BS '14 MS '16**, environmental, soil and water science, and crop science, respectively,

is a hydrologic technician at the Buffalo National River with the National Park Service in Harrison where she works with the park's aquatic ecologists to collect, process and analyze water quality data, and participates in outreach events such as ecology camps. From May 2016 to February 2017, she was a hydrologic technician at Hot Springs National Park where she monitored water quality of the park's thermal springs, and assisted in invasive species management, soil moisture monitoring and acoustic bat monitoring. Rodman, who is from Viola, was also named a finalist for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management Presidential Management Fellows program. Of more than 6,300 applicants, she was selected as one of 417 finalists. The PMF program is part of the Pathways Program, in which young people gain experience and employment in federal agencies.

## FRIENDS



**Connell J. Brown**, former University Professor of animal science and a 1994 inductee into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame, recently published his fifth book, *Some Thoughts for Millennials*. Following a



2011 stroke, Brown used his "second chance" to compile a collection of personal insights into how to acquire tools necessary for cultivating a set of strategies for living a flexible, relevant life. Associated with the cattle industry in Arkansas for more than 75 years and the U of A for 40, Brown is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association and the Southern Association of Animal Science. He has also written *Cattle on a Thousand Hills*, a history of the cattle industry in Arkansas; *In the Shadow of Boat Mountain*, an autobiography; *Hard Times in God's Country*, a memoir of the Great Depression era in small-town Arkansas; and *Tragedy on the Buffalo*, a fictionalized chronicle of the colorful history of his family in Arkansas from the early 1700s.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Frances Edington House, BSHE '42**, Perryville, July 12, 2016. She was a social worker

with the state of Arkansas, and worked with her husband and son in their Shelter Insurance Agency.

**John E. Kerr Jr., BSA '42**, Seminole, Fla., Jun. 23, 2014. He was a board certified urologist and practiced medicine in Chicago, Illinois, Michigan City, Indiana, and Seminole.

**Eva A. Shideler BSHE'45**, Wichita, Kan., July 20, 2016



**Mary Jordon Carlson, BSHE '46**, Glenview, Illinois, Sept. 11, 2016. The foods and nutrition

graduate established the American Association of University Women Mary Jordan Carlson International Fellowship in 2000 that inspires girls to make a difference in their countries by providing the opportunity to study in the United States.

**Iva Hicks, BSHE '47**, Paragould, Dec. 2, 2016. He taught high school for 32 years.

**Robbie Partain, BSHE '47**, Tiffin, Ohio, Oct. 23, 2016.

**Emily Mallory Hamilton, BSHE '48**, Greenbrier, Nov. 21, 2016. She was a kindergarten teacher and also served on the board of the Panhellenic Children's Library.

**Theodore R. Pfrimmer, BSA '48**, Sugar Hill, Georgia, Nov. 25, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force. He was an airplane mechanic then an electrical systems instructor based at Kessler Field in Biloxi, Miss.

**Herbert Huneycutt Sr., BSA '48 MS '69**, Fayetteville, Aug. 22, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII in the Philippines. He ushered at Razorback football, basketball and baseball games for over 40 years. Survivors include Betty Huneycutt.

## 1950s

**Hugh Nutt, BSA '50**, Rogers, Nov. 12, 2016. He was a WWII U.S. Army veteran. Survivors include **Fran Barton Nutt, BSHE '50**.

**Alton McCartney, BSA '52 MED '55**, Fort Smith, Nov. 15, 2016. He was a retired postal clerk for the United States Post Office.

**Dayton Thomason, BSA '52 MS '64**, Amity, Aug. 1, 2016. He served in the U. S. Army Reserves and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Survivors include Wanda Thomason.

**Alise Shook Wilkinson, BSHE '52**, Denton, Texas, Sept. 17, 2016. She was a high school home economics teacher for many years. Survivors include **Mitch M. Wilkinson, BSEE '52**.

**Thomas M. Wilkinson, BSA '52**, Eufaula, Alabama, Nov. 15, 2016. He worked for Proctor & Gamble.



**William H. Hestir, BSA '52**, Jacksonville, Nov. 23, 2016. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 30

years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Survivors include Lorete Hestir.

# Bumpers College CLASS NOTES

*Continued*

**H. Werner Essig, BSA '53 MS '56**, Starkville, Mississippi, Aug. 6, 2015. Survivors include **Alice Hudson Essig, BSHE '53**.

**R. H. Harms, BSA '53 MS '54**, Gainesville, Florida, Nov. 23, 2016. He was a professor and later became a department chairman. He was also elected to the Arkansas Tech Hall of Fame, the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame and the Poultry Science Hall of Fame. Harms developed a feeding program for the commercial laying hen now used internationally.

**Robert L. Elkins, BSA '54**, Searcy, Aug. 27, 2016. He was a sales representative and sales supervisor with Armour Agri Chemical Company.

**Lloyd T. Westbrook, BSA '55 MS '64**, Conway, Aug. 5, 2016. He served for two years in the U.S. Army. Survivors include Connie Westbrook.



**Jim Moore, BSA '56 MS '57**, Arlington, Texas, Jan. 22. A U of A Distinguished Professor of horticulture,

he established the university's fruit breeding program. A two-time graduate with degrees in horticulture, he earned his doctorate in 1961 from Rutgers University. He returned to the U of A in 1963 and began his faculty appointment in 1964. He developed a breeding program encompassing blackberries, strawberries, peaches, grapes and blueberries. More than 50 varieties were released from his efforts, including Cardinal strawberry, Navaho and Shawnee blackberries, Reliance and Mars grapes, Bonfire peach and Ozarkblue blueberry. He

retired in 1996, but his genetic contributions led to new varieties, including several in his name – Prime-Jim blackberry, Norman blueberry, Golf Jim peach and Amooore Sweet nectarine. He had more than 300 professional publications to his credit, was co-editor of a series of reference books on fruit breeding, and served as president of the American Society for Horticultural Science and American Pomological Society. Moore earned the U of A Alumni Association Outstanding Faculty Award, was a Fellow of ASHS, and inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture and ASHS halls of fame.

**Jimmy V. Parr, BSA '57 MS '65**, Little Rock, Oct. 3, 2016. He was a farm broadcaster for the Arkansas Radio Network and later owned and operated the Blue Plate Special Restaurant with his wife.

**William Perry Nelson, BSA '58 MS '61**, Maumelle, July 14, 2016.

**Michael B. Hightower, BSA '59 MS '64**, Fort Smith, Oct. 17, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army and was also a junior high science teacher. He later took a high school principal job at Lavaca.

**Bryan G. Collins, BSAGE '62**, Forrest City, Aug. 7, 2016.

**Max Howard Rowland, BSA '62**, Junction City, Feb. 25, 2015. He worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 27 years.

**Carreather F. Banks Perry, MS '63**, Forrest City, July 24, 2016.

**Tommy Craig, BSA '67**, Little Rock, Sep. 5, 2016. He was a school teacher for 35 years.

**Billy D. O'Bar, BSA '68**, Ozark, Sep. 8, 2016. He served as an Air Force ROTC cadet at the University of Arkansas. He also worked as a pilot for FedEx Express.

**Cheryl Ellis Fox, BSHE '69**, Pine Bluff, Nov. 19, 2016. She was a teacher at Pine Bluff High School, Southeast, and Robey Junior High, and worked for Volunteers in Public Schools for many years. Survivors include **William Harris Fox Jr., BSBA '69**.

**Doyle Morrow Jr., BSA '71 MS '76**, Waco, Texas, July 5, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves. Morrow proudly worked for Cargill's Poultry Products Division. Survivors include Debbie Morrow.

**Stuart Lynn Chaney, BSA '74**, Chewey, Oklahoma, Oct. 18, 2016. He was the manager of the Gardens Alive Nursery in Hulbert, Oklahoma.

**Jim D. Hendricks, BSA '77**, Board Camp, Oct. 9, 2016. He was a cattle farmer and welder.

## 1980s

**Alice E. Beetz, MS '88**, Fayetteville, Oct. 20, 2016. She was an agricultural consultant for ATTRA.

## 2000s



**Aaron Dale Newman, BSA '01 MS '05**, Fayetteville, Aug. 5, 2016. He was the regional sales director for

Carlson Software in Maysville, Kentucky, and coowner of A.R. Firearms Training. Survivors include Renee Newman. ■

## 1970s

## E-mail Your Class Notes

Send updates to the Office of External Relations, [extrel@uark.edu](mailto:extrel@uark.edu), fax to 479-575-6890 or mail to Bumpers College Alumni Society, Office of External Relations, E11A AFLS Building, 1 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701-1207. You can also email notes to the U of A Alumni Association at [records@arkansasalumni.org](mailto:records@arkansasalumni.org).





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# The Bumpers College Graduate

## College Revises Mission And Vision Statements

In October, the university released the campus' eight planning priorities. This prompted the college to begin a strategic planning process. One result has been the revision of our mission and vision statements.

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences is to improve the quality of life for Arkansans by preparing students for successful careers, conducting impactful research, and sharing knowledge to promote viable food and agricultural systems, sustainable environments, healthy families and vibrant communities.

### **Vision Statement:**

The vision of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences is to lead Arkansas and the world by delivering pre-eminent programs in agricultural, food and life sciences that produce leaders through education, research and outreach.

"Our mission and vision continue to focus on improving the lives of Arkansans, people in our region and the rest of the country, and to share the benefits of our research, innovation, technology, outreach and leadership capabilities globally. Our graduates, faculty, staff and students are qualified and positioned to improve the lives of everyone, and we will continue doing so as we honor the land grant mission of the university. Our revised mission and vision statements reflect our history and tradition while continuing to grow and meet the needs of the future."

Lona Robertson, Interim Dean