Food, Farming & Bumpers College's Boling Family

DEACUE FIELDS
Named Dean

HONORS STUDENT RESEARCH DRAWS MILLER,
Others to OneEgg’s Child Nutrition Initiative

HESC TWINS MERGE EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUNDS
In Baked Donut Food Truck

AG COMMUNICATIONS & AG ECONOMICS
Graduates Publish Books
Get To Know New Dean Deacue Fields

Deacue Fields was named dean of Bumpers College on Dec. 4, 2017, and officially began in May. See pages 24-25 for more on his background, but let's get to know him here.

What have your first few months on the job been like?
It has been very exciting getting to know more about the innovative programs currently in place. I've also had the opportunity to travel around the state and learn more about the agricultural industry and employment opportunities for students in agriculture and life sciences.

What drew you to this position?
I wanted to be in a state where the land-grant is the state's flagship university and also where agriculture is a major contributor to the state's economy. Bumpers College also has several top five and top 10 nationally ranked departments. This combination makes recruiting quality students and top faculty much easier. In addition, Northwest Arkansas is an outstanding place to live and raise a family.

What is your agricultural background?
I was reared in northeast Louisiana and surrounded by agriculture. Both of my grandfathers were cotton, soybean and cattle farmers, and my father challenged me to start our club calf operation when I was 13. I also raise and show American Quarter horses, and, ironically, bought the first one I showed from a breeder in Hope, Arkansas (1984). I am academically trained as an agricultural economist, and worked as an extension economist and professor for over 20 years. I focused on horticultural crops, food marketing and agribusiness at Auburn, so I have an appreciation and keep up with market trends in almost all sectors of agriculture.

What would you like our graduates to know heading into your first year as dean?
It is my goal to develop programs in the college to enhance the student experience. I want to find the best avenues to communicate the outstanding departments and career opportunities currently in place. I've also had the opportunity to travel around the state and let students in all regions know we want them in the College, and when they get here we are invested in making sure they are successful.

The Graduate
Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences

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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, APCL Office of External Relations, E102 APCL Building, 1 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-575-7006
1-888-275-2586
http://alumni.uark.edu

“Stay connected and look for new opportunities coming soon. We are going to be getting students and new faculty off campus and learning what the state has to offer. I hope we can connect with graduates, friends, donors, supporters and industry partners as we travel around. We also hope to have opportunities on campus for them to interact with students.”

– New Dean Deacue Fields III

To all graduates, friends, donors, supporters and industry partners
1. Alumni and friends of the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences helped raise more than $22,800 for scholarships at the 2017 18th Annual Delta Scholarship Golf Classic at The Ridges at Village Creek in Wynne. Since 2000, the tournament has resulted in more than $400,000 used to fund 151 scholarships while building an endowment for future scholarships.

2. Lona Robertson, Interim Dean of the college, talks to Scotty Woodson of KWHF-FM radio in Jonesboro at the 2017 Arkansas Rice Expo in Stuttgart. (photo by Mary Hightower)

3. Jamie Baum, assistant professor of nutrition in food science, has been named chair of the Nutrition Physiology Research Interest Group for the American Physiological Society. Baum is director of the Nutrition and Metabolism Laboratory as part of the Center for Human Nutrition and Institute of Food Science and Engineering.

4. Karli Moore, a master’s degree student in agricultural economics, won the national championship in the Impromptu Public Speaking contest at the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences annual meeting. Moore, a Native American member of the Lumbee Tribe, is pictured with the U of A contingent at the MANRRS meeting along with Bumpers College dean Deacue Fields III (far left), and agricultural economics and agribusiness associate professor and graduate program coordinator Daniel Rainey (second from left).

5. Brooke Taylor, an agricultural business major, interned last summer in the office of U.S. Senator John Boozman in Washington, D.C. Taylor earned the college’s Spitze Public Policy Legislative Internship Award last year. The photo, posted by Sen. Boozman, was taken in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

6. Randall Pope, CEO and president of Westchester Group Inc., was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Pope (left in photo with former AEAB department head Steve Halbrook) earned his master’s in agricultural economics from the U of A and is also president and COO of The Prudential. (photo by Kenley Bramall)
Bumpers College
FAMILY ALBUM
Continued

7 • Glenn Kernodle, an agricultural business alum, is a territory manager and sales rep at Gowan Co., which specializes in developing, marketing and processing agricultural inputs such as crop protection products, seeds and fertilizers. Kernodle, who is active with the alumni and friends group in our Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, spoke to seven eighth-grade classes at Cabot Junior High School about careers in CSES and other agricultural areas.

8 • Katie Dobbins, a master's degree student in agricultural and extension education, was presented a USDA Student Diversity Program participation certificate by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in Washington, D.C. Dobbins, from Maumelle, was one of 10 graduate students and one of 30 students overall, selected for the program, which was part of the USDA's 94th annual Agricultural Outlook Forum.

9 • Danielle and Nate Lyman, a pair of executives at Walmart, were named co-recipients of the Young Alumni Award by our Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Danielle is senior director of private brands after previously working as director of produce at Walmart. Nate is senior director of merchandising operations after starting as a merchandise planner. Danielle (2013) and Nate (2012) both earned master's degrees in agricultural economics. They are pictured with former AEAB department head Steve Halbrook. (photo by Kenley Bramall)

10 • Kathy Smith, clinical associate professor of apparel merchandising and product development in our School of Human Environmental Sciences, received the Bumpers College Outstanding Teaching Award for 2017-18 from the U of A Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the National Honor Society of Agriculture. She is presented the award by GSD President Kris Byre, professor in crop, soil, and environmental sciences.

11 • Brock Daniels in poultry science placed second in the U.S. Poultry College Student Career Program Student of the Year competition. He was recognized at the 2018 International Production and Processing Expo. Our Poultry Science Club (also pictured) was third in the IPPE Student Career Scrapbook of the Year contest.

12 • Darrin Malone, a two-time Bumpers College graduate with bachelor's (1988) and master's (1990) degrees in agronomy, was named Outstanding M.S. Alumnus of the Year by our Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences. Malone is a Certified Crop Advisor and Certified Professional Agronomist with Dow DuPont Pioneer. (photo by Holly Yeatman)

13 • India Callahan (center), a 2017 graduate and now master's degree student in apparel merchandising and product development, attended the national Women in Toys Conference last year as an invited guest and was presented a scholarship during the Toy Association Fall Toy Preview week at the Dallas World Trade Center. She received a $2,500 WIT scholarship.

14 • December 2017 Bumpers grads from the Department of Horticulture included (front, L to R) Travis Russell, Michelle Wisdom, Paige Boyle and Eric De Boer. They are pictured with (back L to R) department head Wayne Mackay and professor Doug Karcher, and (front far right) professor Mike Richardson.

15 • Shilpa Samant, a food science doctoral student, was named the 2017 Outstanding Intern of the Year by the W.K. Kellogg Co., and earned a hug from “Tony,” the Tiger, mascot for Kellogg’s Frosted Flakes. Samant was awarded the Kellogg’s 2017 Liz Gilis Intern Memorial Scholarship after completing a six-month internship at W.K. Kellogg Institute for Food and Nutrition Research at company headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan.
16 • Several graduates from crop, soil, and environmental sciences participated in professor Mary Savin’s CSES Colloquium class last fall. Alumni conducted mock interviews in her class, which focuses on spoken and written communication, group activities, professionalism, ethics, problem solving, and information retrieval in areas of agronomy, and environmental, soil, and water science. In the left photo, William Johnson (left) interviews Cole Hicks with Brinkley Isreal observing. Johnson, with Bayer Crop Science, earned his Ph.D. in CSES in 1995. In the right photo, Kevin Butzlaff (middle), along with Greg Trimble (left) interview Jordan Forbis with Savin observing. Butzlaff (B.S. ESWS, 2011) is senior manager of renewable power and energy efficiency at Walmart under Trimble, who is senior director – energy. Eric Fueslier (B.S. in ESWS, 2014), environmental scientist with Garver Engineering in Fayetteville, also participated in the interviews. (photos by Scott Mattke)

17 • The Jean Tyson Child Development Study Center was re-accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children - the highest standard of measurement for early education programs. The JTCDSC cares for children from eight weeks to five years old, serves as the lab school for students at the U of A in a variety of education programs, and serves as a place of research for university faculty, graduate students, undergraduates and educators. The center is housed in the college’s School of Human Environmental Sciences.

18 • Our ranch horse team, in the Department of Animal Science, defended its national championship - winning the American Stock Horse Association Division II title for the second year in a row. Kaley Collins won the individual national title in the novice working cow-horse category. Team members include (from left) Kyle Kennedy, Canon Freeman, Collins, Alexis Selman and Ashton Williams with coach Daniel Potter.

19 • U of A Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Jim Coleman, Interim Dean Lona Robertson, poultry science department head and director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science Mike Kidd, Universiti Putra Malaysia Vice Chancellor Ani Ideris and Loh Teak Chwen, UPM department head of animal science, signed an agreement for faculty and student exchange. Bumpers College students can participate in summer sessions and intern with area companies in Malaysia. UPM students can transfer to Arkansas for their senior year and earn a Poultry Science Certificate as Bumpers College continues addressing the need for more poultry industry professionals. (photos by Micayla Scott)

20 • Jeff Edwards, two-time Bumpers College graduate (master’s degree in weed science in 2001, doctorate in crop physiology in 2004) was named Outstanding Ph.D. Alumnus of the year by CSES. Edwards is professor and head of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Oklahoma State University. (photo by Holly Yeatman)

21 • Plant pathology students staffed a booth at the Fayetteville Farmers Market this summer, offering free plant disease diagnosis. Graduate students ran the public service booth, offering assistance by examining physical samples and photos.
26 • A U of A brother-sister duo won the Agriculture Division of the Governor’s Cup collegiate business plan competition last spring with a dog rehabilitation cart. Cara and Grant Conner, with help from professor Jeremy Powell in animal science, created the Roveround, a four-wheeled cart with adjustable frame and a durable, flexible canvas sling. The Roveround can be used for dogs with hind limb paralysis due to intervertebral disc collapse and for post-surgical rehabilitation for orthopedic leg procedures. Cara is a Bumpers College human nutrition and hospitality innovation major.

25 • Darynne Dahlem, (top photos), an animal science major from Greenwood, won the 2017 Miss University of Arkansas Scholarship Pageant and was first runner-up in the Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant. In the 2018 Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant, Dahlem, competing as Miss Northwest Arkansas, was second runner-up. Reagan Grubbs, (bottom photos), a first-year master’s degree student in agricultural and extension education, also competed in the 2018 pageant as Miss Southern Arkansas University.

24 • Han-Seok Seo, associate professor of sensory science in food science, received the Bumpers College Outstanding Research Award for 2017-18 from the U of A Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the National Honor Society of Agriculture. He is presented the award by GSD President Kris Bye, professor in crop, soil, and environmental sciences.

Enclothe: Timeless Fashion Show on April 12 featured clothing items created by students in apparel merchandising and product development. AMPD students partnered with students in electrical engineering, horticulture, computer science, computer engineering, business, marketing and the Tesseract Center for Immersive Environments and Game Design to showcase fashion, technology and design. Students from Elkins High School also participated. (photos by Robby Edwards and Micayla Scott)

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The SMASH fine dining fundraiser showcases talents and skills of students in the hospitality innovation program. The April 14 event in the Arkansas Union featured five food stations with food prepared by students in the Cultures and Cuisines of the World class, and the event was planned and executed by students from event planning classes. (photos by Claire Valentine and Sydney Marsh)
Three sisters have taken the term “family tradition” to a new level.

Kerri, Kendra and Kayla Boling grew up on a family farm in Gravette, Arkansas, where their family has been operating since the 1950s. Cecil and Carrie Boling, their grandparents, started farming in the Gravette area by raising registered Angus and Limousine cattle, operating a dairy, and broiler and turkey production houses.

Their father, Danny, purchased his first poultry production and beef cattle farm in the late 70s while he was a student in the Department of Poultry Science in Bumpers College. Since then, the family farm has grown to include more than 500 acres of farmland in Benton County. Each year, the family raises over 500,000 chickens for Tyson.

Farming and 4-H shaped the sisters into who they are today. “Growing up, all three of us played a major role on the farm,” said Kerri. “We got up extremely early with our parents every morning before school to work on the farm, continued our farm chores after school and throughout the weekends and summer. For all of us, being raised farm kids was the greatest gift we ever could have received.”

She continued to say the lessons learned about work ethic, teamwork, self-discipline and perseverance on the farm are values they still carry with them in their careers and life.

4-H was more than a club to the Boling family, it was an opportunity to have quality family time. The family traveled nation-wide for cattle shows and other 4-H events. They like to joke that their family vacations were spent showing livestock at fairs. Their mother, Rebecca, taught the girls how to sew and they all entered sewing competitions growing up – a skill Kendra now gets to pass on through her career. All three sisters served as 4-H state officers.

The sisters said choosing Bumpers College for their education and career path was an obvious choice. Being involved in 4-H gave them all an opportunity to be around Bumpers College faculty, staff and facilities. They could easily tell Bumpers College is more than a school, it is a family.

“We are all three honored that we got the opportunity to be a part of the [Bumpers College] family and believe that choosing Bumpers College was the best decision that we could have made for our careers,” said Kerri.

Continues »
Kerri Boling

Kerri Boling, the eldest of the sisters, obtained her bachelor’s degree in agricultural business in 2007. She then went on to the University of Arkansas School of Law to receive her Juris Doctor degree in 2010 and her Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) in food and agricultural law in 2014. She is currently a student at Michigan State University pursuing a second LL.M. in global food law. She said Bumpers College faculty and advisors were the most influential part of her undergraduate career. They all pushed her toward success. Through their advising, Boling received the Spitze Public Policy Legislative Internship award and worked for U.S. Sen. Blanche Lincoln in Washington, D.C., during her undergraduate years. The internship pushed her toward a legal career and to apply to law school.

During her undergraduate career, she held many internships and traveled abroad multiple times. Her internships included Arkansas Farm Bureau and Tyson, and travel abroad experiences included a service learning project in Dangriga, Belize. While in law school, she clerked for the United States Department of Agriculture Office of the General Counsel, the Arkansas Supreme Court and was a general assistant for the National Agricultural Law Center.

Since graduating, she has served as a food and agricultural litigation attorney for the law firm Faegre Baker Daniels in Iowa and now serves as a litigation and regulatory attorney for Tyson Foods Inc. where she focuses on food and agricultural related matters.

Kayla Willim

Kayla (Boling) Willim, the youngest sister, graduated from Bumpers College in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural business with a concentration in management and marketing, and a minor in global agricultural, foods and life sciences. She received her Master of Science degree in agricultural economics in 2013.

Willim had many influential moments during her undergraduate career, but one stands out above all others. “During my junior year, I had the opportunity to meet with Senator Dale Bumpers with a small group of agribusiness students,” said Willim. “I still remember the stories he shared and advice he imparted on students, such as ‘never back down from a challenge if it is something you believe in.’ It was an honor and privilege to meet the man behind the Bumpers Legacy.”

Willim began interning with Tyson Foods Inc. her senior year and continued throughout her graduate school years. The internship transitioned into a full-time career. Willim has served in many marketing positions at Tyson and is currently serving as the food service innovation manager supporting schools and commercial chains. She is able to conduct consumer and patron research, and learn about any unmet needs, then create and develop products to satisfy those needs.

Willim said her deep roots in the agriculture industry led her to seek opportunities within the food industry, as she has always had a passion for feeding people. “For me, working in food innovation is fascinating,” said Willim. “I get to make a connection between the livestock at the farm and the finished product on the consumers table. It is personally rewarding to see the end result of the hard work of farmers, like my parents and grandparents.”

Meredith said the most influential part of her time as an undergraduate was the internship she was required to complete. In the apparel merchandising and product development program, students are required to complete an industry internship before they graduate. The summer before her senior year, Meredith completed an internship at Nordstrom in Plano, Texas. As an intern, she was faced with all aspects of working in a department store, and even got to meet Blake Nordstrom, the CEO.

During her undergraduate years, Meredith was honored to be a part of the Bumpers College Ambassador team. “This program taught me the importance of networking and leadership,” said Meredith. “This was by far one of my most cherished memories of college, and I still keep in touch with many of my fellow ambassadors today.”

Upon graduation, she decided to continue her education and become a teacher. After receiving her master’s degree, she began teaching family and consumer science courses at Siloam Springs High School.

After teaching seven years at SSHS, she moved to Oakdale Middle School in Rogers, Arkansas, where she still teaches family and consumer science courses along with English to speakers of other languages. She also coaches cheer. Meredith said she hopes to inspire students to seek opportunities to learn new skills that will better equip them for their future careers.

Kendra Meredith

Kendra (Boling) Meredith graduated in the fall of 2009 after majoring in what was then apparel studies and minor in merchandising. She received her master’s degree in secondary education with a concentration in family and consumer sciences in 2011.

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A pair of Bumpers College graduates wrote books that were published last fall. The books – one about a historical murder trial, the other a personal look at rural farm families – are as different as the people who wrote them.

Mac Campbell is a two-time U of A graduate with degrees in agricultural economics (1996) and law (1998). Brittany Coffee Parker is a 2016 agricultural communications graduate. Campbell, from Harrison, is senior vice president of the Lincoln Policy Group, a public policy consulting and lobbying firm in Washington, D.C. Coffee, who is from Gentry, runs Brittany Coffee Photography, a rural photography business serving Northwest Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Campbell wrote *The Great Magness Trial: The Killing of Patton Anderson, the Trial of the Magness Family, & the Pursuit of Justice on the Tennessee Frontier*, published by BrayBree Publishing, which focuses on books related to Southern history.

Parker self-published *Tales & Traditions* using words and pictures to show readers that farmers care as much about the food they produce as everyone else because they eat the same food.

Both books are very personal for the authors.

**THE GREAT MAGNESS TRIAL**

Campbell’s interest began while looking into his family history.

“I was searching for documents that might confirm dates of my family’s migration to Arkansas,” said Campbell. “I found original notes in the Library of Congress related to a trial involving my ancestors, and it turned out there were several important historical figures involved.”

The Magness trial was one of the most celebrated murder cases in early Tennessee history. David Magness shot and killed Major Patton Anderson in Shelbyville in 1810. His father, Jonathan Magness, and brother Perrygreen Magness were arrested as accomplices. The dead man was considered a violent drunkard, but he was also a personal friend of Andrew Jackson, who exerted his considerable influence to avenge Anderson’s death. The involvement of prominent figures such as Jackson, Felix Grundy and Thomas Hart Benton created intense public interest, and tested the ability of jurors to carry out their duties in the face of pressure from powerful men in the community.

David and Perrygreen Magness are Campbell’s third-great uncles, and Jonathan Magness is his fourth-great grandfather. Another relative moved the family to Arkansas while both men were in jail.

“Because the notes had been misfiled for decades, they had not been deeply researched or incorporated into studies of American luminaries who were involved,” said Campbell. “I was inspired to write the story when I discovered the long-lost notes related to some of the legendary figures of our history.”

Campbell admitted his book is something of a departure for him, but said growing up around agriculture, working on small farms and studying agricultural economics provided a strong foundation for his career, which led to insight on how attorneys and the legal system operated on the frontier in the 19th Century.

More information on Campbell’s book, including ordering details, is available at BrayBreePublishing.com.

**TALES AND TRADITIONS**

For Parker, her photography work – and the support and praise she got from her clients – inspired her to do more to tell their story.

“This project has truly been a labor of love, a passion project,” said Parker. “It started from an idea I had last winter and evolved to something tangible that I can hold in my hands right now. The outpouring of support and love I received from day one is incredible and so humbling. The families I featured in the book gave me their time and their stories, two very valuable things.”

Parker said that Tales & Traditions gave her a way to use her Bumpers College education to preserve history and tell stories about the agriculture industry.

More on Parker’s book is at her site, BrittanyCoffeePhotography.com.
HESC Twins Merge Educational Backgrounds
In Baked Donut Food Truck

By Kenley Bramall

Twin sister Bumpers College alumnuae have opened a food truck in Fayetteville with a twist on donuts. Carol and Linda Baker graduated in 2012 and 2013 with degrees in hospitality innovation and human nutrition, respectively, from Bumpers College’s School of Human Environmental Sciences. They own and operate Baker’s Wakery, a truck with the slogan “wake up baked, not fried.”

Baker’s Wakery specializes in nutritious baked donuts. The food truck idea was simple, it came down to margins. The food truck idea was simple, it came down to margins. “I took a class in hospitality innovation all about alternative ways to work in the food industry,” said Carol. “(Former professor Allen) Powell talked about having a friend who took a food trailer to different fairs six months a year. How great! Getting to travel and have control over where you go and what you do, but also be mobile. So I filed that away.” Finding a truck was hard, but very rewarding. The Bakers hope to one day move into a retail spot, or something similar, saying there are a few avenues they hope to explore. Baker’s Wakery had its grand opening Jan. 1, 2017, with an amazing turnout. They sold out within one hour and spent the rest of the time making as many donuts as they could. They said opening day was a beautiful day for January, which started the year off on an exciting note.

The truck was originally located off North Street on “Food Truck Trail” before moving to its current location on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in October 2017. Baker’s Wakery caters for events, parties and weddings. A lot of customers come to the truck to try donuts before placing a special order. They participated in this summer’s BITE NW Arkansas festival and have worked events with the Arkansas Alumni Association, including Pints and Pastries for graduates. According to the sisters, hospitality and nutrition go hand in hand.

“The science of baking and food is helpful to creating a superior product,” said Linda. “Hospitality helps us find the perfect pair by taking the science to ideas that make the product fit within the brand.”

She said learning how to calculate taxes and make a business plan helps them stay prepared and professional in the world of small business. “They said working together has only improved through the years. They love being sisters and business partners to make their dream become reality. “I can’t imagine having a business partner that’s not Linda,” said Carol. “I can be honest and let her know when I need help so that she can support me and vice versa. We take turns being chef and sous chef. It’s important for your partner to have your back.”

The menu changes seasonally, but the hit item for the grand opening was the “Chocolate Spice,” which has a sweet potato base and a chocolate drizzle, with a cinnamon and sugar topping. A spring favorite was “Blueberry Fields,” a coconut and chocolate donut. They tempt customers with traditional flavors combined with some flavors just outside their comfort zone. “Chocolate Covered Strawberry” was another spring hit. Fall favorites include the “S’mores” and the “Coconut Macaroon,” which is a gluten-free donut inspired by Carol’s time in Italy walking around open-air piazzas. It is said to pair perfectly with coffee and is very filling. They even offer special flavors for holidays and events.

Carol chose hospitality because she always loved food and cooking. “It is amazing how food can make people feel happy,” said Carol. “A donut is delicious but can also brighten your day!”

She always wanted to open a bakery and thought she would become a restaurant manager. After college, she wanted varied experiences outside the hospitality industry and worked at Johnson & Johnson as a CPFR intern. After her internship, she worked at Anheuser-Busch, but after a few years working on the Walmart team, she wanted to return to something she was more passionate about. Linda chose nutrition because she was more interested in the science of diet and your body after taking Anatomy and Physiology. As a then-biology major, she found a great mentor who encouraged her to explore her interests, nutrition being one of them. She liked the nutrition program because she met many like-minded and passionate people. “As I began experimenting with food and cooking, I was more and more interested in the science behind the food I was eating,” said Linda. “Nutrition gave me a new perspective.”

Carol and Linda grew up in Fort Smith and went to Southside High School. They graduated from Bumpers College within a year of each other. When not in their truck, they enjoy taking classes at the Fayetteville Public Library, hiking, floating, reading and gardening. “We’ve been open for a year and a half and are so excited for what is to come,” said Carol. “Northwest Arkansas has been so supportive and we can’t wait to be a part of other events. Thanks to everyone for helping make our dreams a reality.”
Why did you choose that major?
I love plants and being outside, so I found a major that would allow me to explore those passions.

Any fond memories of a favorite professor?
One was Dr. (Teddy) Mondeock, who also graduated from Greenland High School like I did. We were both fond of local history, including old homestead sites, long abandoned canneries and native plants.

As a horticulturist, what are the most common questions you get asked?
“What plant is this?” is the most common, and answers vary as does my knowledge, and is followed by the second most common question, “What should I plant there?”

What do you enjoy most about working with plants?
Plants don’t talk back! Every day, I am still amazed by the life cycle and variety contained in every seed. I am like a small child at Christmas when seedlings begin to sprout. I find an almost spiritual experience in the changing of the season plants create for us. Nature is the coolest!

What is your favorite dish/meal to eat and/or prepare?
I love to bake and I’m well known for my apple pie, which is a family favorite, but my Pawpaw bunt cake is amazing, too!

What do you do to relax or have fun?
My husband and I love to camp and float – especially the Buffalo River, or spending time exploring our property in the Boston Mountains. We also love cooking for friends and family, opening a great bottle of wine and enjoying the conversation.

What is a favorite memory from when you were younger playing in your grandfather’s apple orchard?
I loved sitting under the apple trees when they were in full bloom. We would talk and watch the trees come alive with bees. I loved when someone would visit because Pawpaw would take them on a tour of the orchard! I would get to hear him talk about each tree and describe the apple it would produce. It was especially amazing when they were in fruit because he would take his pocket knife out and cut slices off for all of us to taste.

What have you put in your yard and why?
Like the cobbler’s children, I must admit my yard has come second to my career. Recently however, I have planted woodland violets because the flowers are edible, and I even made violet sugar this year. They are also a host plant for the Diana Fritillary, the Arkansas state butterfly.

What is the toughest part of working with plants and how do you deal with it?
They don’t talk back, so sometimes it’s hard to figure out what’s going on with them. To deal with that, it is like solving any mystery; it takes a lot of research. It’s good to ask others who may know about specific plants. It turns out plant people are really helpful, good people.

If you weren’t in horticulture, what would you be doing?
I’d probably be teaching botany in high school or in the Peace Corps teaching planting methods.

What plants have you put in your yard and why?
A major reason for me to be a horticulturist was the Pawpaw. I learned about gardening from him. Pawpaw inspired him to pursue a career in horticulture.

Thoughts on being named Bumpers College Outstanding Alumna of the Year?
I am thrilled and humbled. I was a scholarship recipient and have been grateful to be able to now be on the committee to give back to others who may be considering or currently attending Bumpers College.

“Never stop learning,” was something he often said.

You worked as horticulturalist, site manager and executive director at the Peel Compton Foundation. What are one or two things you accomplished there you are most proud of?
I am most proud of the native plant educational programs I designed for adults and children. It was amazing to watch opinions and perspectives change because of a visit to Compton Gardens. The progression of “native plants are weeds” to “these are beautiful, what a peaceful garden” to “how can I grow native plants in my landscape” would sometimes happen during one tour through the garden.

As an independent consultant, what are some of the problems and issues you help clients with?
There are two popular trends: incorporating native plants or edibles into the landscape while still maintaining certain esthetics. I like to do both and sometimes you can by using the same plant. Most of the time the problem is picking the right plant for the right location; this is the part I enjoy. My education and experience in public gardens give me the ability to help clients. There is always a plant that will work and add beauty to any landscape.

References
For a list of references please see the Bumpers College Bursary and Scholarship Committee www.bursaryand scholarships.com.

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Thoughts on being named Bumpers College Outstanding Alumna of the Year?
I am thrilled and humbled. I was a scholarship recipient and have been grateful to be able to now be on the committee to raise those scholarships, and this honor is beyond my wildest dreams. I hope receiving this honor will also give me the opportunity to give back to others who may be considering or currently attending Bumpers College.
You grew up in Macedonia. How did you end up at the U of A?
After high school, I was awarded a scholarship to Perrotis College. On graduation day I delivered the Valedictorian speech.

Any fond memories of a favorite professor?
My favorite professor was my academic advisor, Dr. Lucas Parsch. All of us from Perrotis College had complicated advising requirements, financial aid struggles and adjustments to life as internationals. He cared for us unfailingly. There was no question he did not offer advice for, even if the problem required going out of his way and coming up with an unorthodox solution. He and his wife opened their home to us during holidays. Today, he is my life mentor and I proudly call him and his wife my American parents.

You were inspired to serve others after undergoing hardships as a child. What were some of the struggles for you and your family?
Difficulties in my childhood taught me what perseverance, discipline and struggle for survival really mean. A few years after Macedonia’s independence, the post-communist political system had collapsed, economic growth was negative and privatization reforms were a failure, resulting in most people, including my father, losing their jobs. His $3-a-day salary was the only stable income we had. The food our small farm produced was the only resource we had. At age seven, I had learned to bail hay, plow fields, milk goats, weave wool and acquired sales skills since I was in charge of selling the milk. For 10 years, through these conditions, I became passionate about making the developing world work better than when I was a child.

A Peace Corps volunteer guided you toward scholarship opportunities, which led to your involvement with UNICEF and allowed you to put your younger brother and sister through college. What has that meant to you and your family?
Growing up in a small-town, I did not have access to higher education until I connected with Mr. Matthew Orefice, a Peace Corps volunteer who opened my eyes to scholarship opportunities abroad. He provided countless hours of tutoring for standardized tests, utilized personal connections to help navigate and seek college resources, and most importantly, shared his super expensive dial-up internet to check online information regarding applications.

Of the humanitarian and service organizations to choose from, why UNICEF?
UNICEF provided school supplies to underprivileged children like myself. Those experiences turned into my passion to make the lives of children in the developing world better than when I was a child.

Oliveira Jankovska

Kriva Palanka, Macadenio (Currently Houston, Texas)
B.S. in Agricultural Business, 2009
Global Citizenship Fellow with UNICEF USA/Non-Resident Scholar at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy/Manager at Essentia Advisory Partners

2017-18 BUMPERS COLLEGE
Alumni Society Outstanding Young Alumna Q&A

You are active with the Houston Arkansas Alumni Chapter. What does your chapter do?
It is very active and organizes socials, happy hours, football watch parties, career advice days, etc. My favorite time is when I participate in “Helping Like a Hog” community service events. For our last project we helped the Houston Food Bank.

What do you enjoy about living in Houston and what should visitors do and see?
Houston is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse cities in America. It is great for college graduates, offering various job opportunities and affordable cost of living. Houston includes numerous cultural, educational and business organizations, and opportunities for everyone. My personal favorites are the museums and art centers.

You were named to the United Macedonian Diaspora “40 Under 40” in 2015. What did that mean to you?
It means so much as a role model for young girls in my country who may be constrained by financial difficulties or patriarch culture. Being a small-town girl with slim to no chances of pursuing higher education, especially abroad, I encourage others to seek ways to achieve big dreams. No matter how great the obstacles may seem, if one has a strong will, there is always a way. I have proven this multiple times as I guided several other students from my town to study in the U.S.

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Honors Student Research Draws Miller, Others To OneEgg's Child Nutrition Initiative

By Robby Edwards

A student research project and creating study abroad opportunities led to collaboration on food security and nutrition, and ultimately Jeff Miller’s appointment to the board of directors for OneEgg, a non-profit organization delivering eggs to children in developing countries.

Miller, professor of agricultural communications, involved students and fellow experts from food science and dietetics in his research efforts. He now advises OneEgg on research and academic activities around the world.

“A poultry science honors student, Katie McGehee, wanted to examine the personal development of women employed on the Rwanda OneEgg farm,” said Miller. “I’m a qualitative researcher, so she wanted me to guide her through the field interview process. Then I became involved in helping Cobb-Vantress establish a permanent summer internship in Rwanda. Soon after, I was asked to assemble a team to conduct a nutritional study on children receiving OneEgg eggs in Uganda.”

The Uganda team included food science assistant professor of nutrition Jamie Baum and two graduate students who collected data and published an article on egg supplementation in Ugandan school feeding programs.

Two years later, Tyson Foods Inc. and Cobb-Vantress partnered with OneEgg to construct an egg-producing farm in Haiti to provide animal protein to undernourished children and establish an economically sustainable business model from egg sales. The farm produces eggs for children and sold in local markets, and provides jobs for local residents. As of May, the farm was producing more than 26,000 eggs per week with two of three layer houses in operation (4,300 layers). The final flock was placed in the third house this summer.

“Among animal protein sources, eggs appear to lead the way in terms of adding protein and nutrients to children’s diets,” said Miller. “Eggs are the least expensive, most accessible form of animal protein.”

In Haiti, U of A researchers, including students, conducted a nutrition and cognitive growth study based on previous research on egg nutrition. Tami Strickland, a two-time graduate with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural business and a master’s degree in agricultural and extension education, conducted an independent study as a graduate student, which led to the idea for the initial grant from Tyson Foods.

“She put together a draft of the grant proposal for the farm and nutrition study,” said Miller “I took it from there, and a team affiliated with OneEgg refined the proposal and plan for building the farm, which was ultimately presented to Tyson Foods. Following Tami’s efforts, Monica Stewart, a nutritionist at Tyson finishing her master’s degree in agricultural and extension education this summer, began working on the nutrition study for her thesis. She and Mechelle Bailey (director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics in the School of Human Environmental Sciences), led the nutrition study in Haiti.”

Miller, Bailey, Strickland and Stewart traveled to Haiti five times in 12 months to plan and conduct the study. Results showed no change in growth or cognitive patterns of orphans receiving two eggs per day for six months, and a number of children lost weight and scored lower on cognitive evaluations. These results were unexpected, as previous studies had shown eggs to be beneficial to undernourished children in developing countries.

“On the final data collection visit, we realized there was a problem quickly,” said Miller. “The children were sluggish and thin, and didn’t have much energy. It didn’t take long to recognize what happened. Monica conducted her interview with the orphanage director, part of the research protocol, and the explanation came out. It was a big disappointment. We knew our data wouldn’t confirm our hypothesis that egg supplementation is beneficial for physical and cognitive growth. We decided to focus on what we learned methodologically.”

The orphanage experienced inadequate food access during the testing period. The last three months of the study, the two eggs per day replaced a morning meal, sometimes the only meal for children. The two eggs were to supplement, not be the sole source of children’s diets. During the study, the replacement of carbohydrates with egg protein, due to lack of funding for other food, likely caused children to lose weight.

As a result, researchers recommended daily or every-other-day on-site supervision of feeding studies in food insecure settings to control “environmental variables.”

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Deacue Fields Named Dean

By Robby Edwards

Deacue Fields III was named Bumpers College dean on Dec. 4, 2017, and began his appointment in May. Fields was professor and chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Auburn University. He held that position since August 2013. Before that, he was associate professor and coordinator of the Alabama Farm Analysis Program with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the AU’s Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology for almost two years.

Following an extensive search and interview process, we are excited to welcome Dr. Deacue Fields to the University of Arkansas and Bumpers College,” said Jim Coleman, provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, in announcing the hiring. “His vision for the college’s role in recruiting and educating students in agricultural, food and life sciences from across Arkansas, and for the partnerships that Bumpers College can form in facilitating the success of Arkansas’ agricultural industry really stood out.

“I also want to thank Lona Robertson for her outstanding leadership, dedication and hard work as interim dean over the past 17 months,” Coleman added. “She led the Dean’s Office and 11 academic areas, and her efforts during this transitional period are evident. I especially appreciate her work managing the college’s budget, leading the college in collaborations across campus, and her engagement with students, potential students, faculty, alumni and donors.”

The dean also works closely with the U of A System Division of Agriculture.

“We are eager to have Dr. Deacue Fields join us as dean of Bumpers College and as associate vice president for the Division of Agriculture,” said Mark Cochran, who as vice president-agriculture heads the Division of Agriculture. “His energy, vision and depth of preparation made Dr. Fields very impressive during the search process, and those of us involved with the search process received many positive comments from alumni, agricultural leadership and other stakeholders. We look forward to seeing his leadership at work with the teaching programs of the college as well as his efforts to recruit more Arkansans to become the next generation of scientists, managers and specialists in careers in the critical areas of agriculture, food and life sciences.

“We also wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Lona Robertson for her service as interim dean,” Cochran added. “Her steadfastness during a transition helped keep the college moving forward.”

Fields manages the college’s budget, operations, personnel and academic programs. He promotes collaboration and good relationships between the college and the Division of Agriculture, including working with the division to ensure strong extramural funding, effective research funding and impact, and effective partnerships with Arkansas’ agricultural, food and life sciences stakeholders.

He also develops and implements a strategic plan for Bumpers College consistent with the U of A’s eight guiding priorities and strategic plan, works with the campus to recruit more students from all parts of Arkansas; and meet goals set for the college in the Campaign Arkansas fundraising efforts, in collaboration with the Division of Agriculture.

“I’m grateful for this opportunity, and want to thank Provost Coleman, Dr. Cochran with the Division of Agriculture, and Dean Waller and everyone on the search committee for having confidence in me to lead Bumpers College,” said Fields. “I’ve been preparing for a leadership position like this my whole career, and I’m excited to work with our award winning faculty and staff Bumpers College has an exceptional foundation and I am anxious to continue building on that foundation through an inclusive shared vision. I’m also excited to meet and work with our students and assist them with cultivating their passion in Bumpers College. I’m looking forward to developing relationships with our alumni, state agencies, industry stakeholders and other supporters.”

His first week on the job, Fields was part of Chancellor Joe Steinmetz’s Third Annual State Bus Tour (May 15-17). He met graduates, friends and supporters, and potential students in areas in and around Hot Springs, Monticello, McGehee, Rohwer, Dumas, Pine Bluff, Little Rock and Clarksville.

As department chair at Auburn, Fields completed a comprehensive academic program review, facilitated a 31.5 percent increase in departmental extramural funding, secured the department’s first equipment grant, developed a strategic plan, facilitated a process to revise and adopt bylaws, and supervised an undergraduate enrollment increase of 9 percent.

“Agribusiness is the No. 1 industry in Arkansas and we, as a land-grant institution, have a duty to support the state and those in agricultural careers, and we will do that,” said Fields. “We are the state’s flagship university and we want to attract students from every corner of the state and expose them to all Bumpers College has to offer. We have opportunities for students who want successful careers in agriculture and life sciences, and we’re going to support and encourage them as they graduate and become professionals in their field in Arkansas, across the country or around the world.”

He joined the Auburn faculty as assistant professor and extension economist in 2002. He has also worked as assistant professor and director of small farm outreach at Florida A&M University, and as a graduate research fellow in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1993, his master’s degree from the University of Missouri in 1995 and his doctorate from LSU in 2002, all in agricultural economics.
Melinda Petersen, BSA '02, agricultural communications, Missouri, Idaho, is now producer and community relations manager at Dairy West, supporting farm family and partner outreach, community events and communications. Petersen grew up on a dairy farm in Oregon and worked with the Oregon Dairy and Nutrition Council in Portland. She has worked in communications and alumni donor relations at Oregon State, Portland State and Washington State Dairy West promotes the Idaho dairy industry and farm families.

Shannon Muris, BSA '94, in agricultural business, Prairie Grove, was named to the Northwest Arkansas Business Journal’s Forty Under 40 for 2017. At age 30, she became the first female general counsel for Arkansas Gas Corp. She oversaw legal and regulatory matters with the Arkansas Public Service Commission, Oklahoma Corp. Commission and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Muris helped found the nonprofit Arkansas Women in Agriculture. She also worked at the National Agricultural Law Center.

Amie Alexander, BSA '15 in agricultural education, communications and technology, was selected to attend the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' Next Generation Delegation for Global Food Security Symposium in Washington D.C. in March. She is now student at the UA Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law and the U of A Clinton School of Public Service.

Sara Belminer, BSHE '17, in San Antonio and two other women hit the open road from Seattle to San Diego to raise awareness for sex trafficking.

Virginia Maloch, BSA '17 in agricultural business, Magnolia, was named a Marshall Scholar and is pursuing a master’s degree in evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation at the University of Oxford. She was one of just 43 students nationally to earn the Marshall Scholarship. Maloch has been a Truman Scholar, was National FFA’s secretary and received Bumpers College’s John W. White Outstanding Student Award.

Connell Brown, BSA '48, was named to the Arkansas Alumni Association National Board of Directors, serving three years (2017 to 2020). Walker is a regional executive with Arvest Bank Group in Fayetteville, and was president and CEO of Arvest Bank, Tulsa. He is a member of the Campaign Arkansas Alumni Association Unit Committee.

Suzy Hollingsworth Higgins, BSA ’80, MS ’83, retired from the State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources in December 2017.

Susan McChristian Haney, BSA '82, livestock nutrition, Romance, is now producer at a USDA Food Safety Inspector on Feb. 4.

Mary P. S. Conner, BSA '42, in poultry science, Malta, MT, has worked as a consultant with the USDA.

J. C. Penney Co.

Betty Hamilton Pool, BSA '56, Conway, Arkansas, Jan. 8, 2018. She was the owner of Betty’s Drug Store.

Jewell Kermit Jamison, BSA '51, Springdale, Arkansas, April 19, 2018. He served in the U.S. Air Force during WWII and joined the U.S. Department of Animal Science as assistant professor in 1950. Brown became University Professor in 1986, served as livestock section leader from 1978 to 1981 and was granted emeritus status in 1993. His career was devoted to the genetics of livestock improvement. He taught more than 2,800 undergraduate students, was elected to the Arkansas Agricultural Hall of Fame and wrote Cattle on a Thousand Hills, the history of the cattle industry in Arkansas from 1600 to 1990.

Jane Choute, BSHE '47, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, May 24, 2018. She worked as a teacher.


James Straug, BSA '48, MS '52, Lavaca, Arkansas, Jan. 8, 2018. He worked for the U.S. Government in social security administration.

Emily Gaughan Swift, BSHE '55, Silverware, Virginia, July 10, 2017. She served as a dietician with the USDA.

Earl Adkins, BSA '48, in poultry science, Malta, MT, has worked as a consultant with the USDA.
Representing Farm Families Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
Get To Know New Dean Deacue Fields

*Having been in Fayetteville a few months, and with stops in Clarksville, Hot Springs, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Monticello, McGehee and Dumas as part of Chancellor Joe Steinmetz’s Third Annual State Bus Tour, what is your impression of Arkansas?*

Agriculture in Arkansas is huge and diverse. There are several large companies that support agricultural, food and life sciences. The state is very diverse in terms of topography and enterprises in each region. The citizens are very friendly and welcoming, and there are a lot of outdoor activities to take advantage of.

*What about our college stands out to you?*

Pride! Every current student, alum, faculty and staff member I have interacted with is extremely proud of the university. The importance of pride is immeasurable.

*Is there anything you want to ask our graduates, friends, donors, supporters and industry partners to do as we move forward?*

Stay connected and look for new opportunities coming soon. We are going to be getting students and new faculty off campus and learning what the state has to offer. I hope we can connect with graduates, friends, donors, supporters and industry partners as we travel around. We also hope to have opportunities on campus for them to interact with students.