

THE Graduate



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Dale Bumpers College of
Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences

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Animal Science
Graduate
DARYNNE DAHLEM
Wins Miss Arkansas

STRICKLAND ESTABLISHES
Tanner Thompson Shuck
Memorial Scholarship

BUMPERS COLLEGE
AND THE
Chocolate Factory

POULTRY SCIENCE GRAD JOINS
African Sustainable Project
Foundation

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

(The following was written for the summer issue of Arkansas Magazine, a publication for members of the Arkansas Alumni Association)

After arriving here in May (2018), connecting with our alumni and stakeholders throughout the state was high on my list. This is an outstanding opportunity to be in a state where agriculture is the No. 1 economic engine and the land-grant university is the state's flagship. It is important our citizens understand as a land-grant, the university is obligated to serve the entire state through teaching, research and extension/service.

We want students from across the state who are interested in feeding the world and developing healthy communities. Bumpers College has a comparative advantage with our natural linkage to 4-H through Cooperative Extension and FFA. I highly value these relationships. There are over 145,000 students in 4-H and over 14,000 in FFA being exposed to agricultural, food and life sciences. Leveraging these relationships is a win for the U of A and the state's economy.

I've visited students from every region of the state. Many have the notion they will be just a face in the crowd because we have almost 30,000 students. In Bumpers College, we pride ourselves on offering a family-like environment where faculty, staff and students know you personally. We have faculty advisors and invest tremendously in student experiences. More exciting is we place students in internships, study abroad and undergraduate research, and rewarding careers. Arkansas is home to several top food companies in the world, and they need highly skilled employees who understand science, technology and agribusiness. Our close relationships with these companies foster incredible opportunities for our students. Agricultural, food and life sciences have vastly changed the last few decades.

Production agriculture accounts for \$0.16 of every dollar used to purchase food. We train students to meet needs in those areas, but also focus on the needs of businesses making up \$0.84 of every dollar spent. That portion gets products from farm to table and in your closet. It includes science, technology, logistics, marketing and merchandising required to move products from raw material to retail outlets.

We're preparing students, conducting research and transferring knowledge to industry so products are safe, healthy and convenient while protecting natural resources. Our majors and career options are really amazing, ranging from apparel merchandising and product development to hospitality management, and food science to agribusiness. When students discover their choices and our family-like atmosphere, they fall in love with us. We want students to know they have a place here and will enjoy it. We want parents to know we will serve as family for a few years and lead them to rewarding careers.



The **Arkansas Alumni Association** has been the keeper of University of Arkansas traditions for more than 135 years. The mission is simple: to serve our alumni and to promote the University of Arkansas. You don't have to be a graduate; friends of the university are welcome to join.

Your membership not only benefits you; it also benefits the university by supporting scholarships, student recruitment, Student Alumni Board, Homecoming, reunions, faculty awards and more.

Take a minute to sign up today. Call one of the numbers below or check our web site for more information on joining or renewing your membership.

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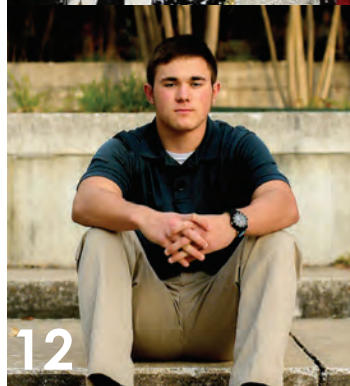
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"I saw the poultry industry as it was in the 1930s to 50s in Rwanda, then 1980s to 90s in Zimbabwe and the Southern African community, and came back home to U of A to get the most modern education. It's difficult for our Rwandan team to dream and be creative when they've had very little experience working in poultry industries outside of Rwanda. Piecing my experiences together from my internships and career help me share vision, inspire, build and grow our team to see and achieve the mission of ASAP."

— Katie McGehee,

2013 poultry science graduate, on her work with the African Sustainable Project Foundation



Bumpers College

FAMILY ALBUM



1 • The U of A poultry judging team won the national championship at the 72nd USPOULTRY Foundation Ted Cameron National Poultry Judging Contest in Baton Rouge. Teams competed in production judging, breed selection and market products judging. The team, coached by Dennis Mason and assistant coach Mackenzie Pippin, included Will Bryles, Dakota Walker, Kristen Martin, Katie Bugenhagen, Stephanie Bennett (alternate) and Elsbeth Hamilton (alternate). Bryles was first overall individually, Walker second and Bugenhagen fifth.



2 • The U of A soil judging team won the Region IV Collegiate Soil Judging Contest last fall and qualified for the national contest. Van McClane finished first individually among 28 competitors, leading Arkansas to the regional championship in Stillwater. Arkansas had three individuals in the top 10 with Ryan Greenfield finishing sixth and Machaela Morrison seventh. The rest of the team, comprised of students in our Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, includes Lourdes Gonzalez, Mackenzie Lyon, Katie Maxwell, Jordan Vansandt and Shane Ylagan. Coach Kris Brye, professor of applied soil physics and pedology, has led Arkansas into the national finals nine consecutive years.



3 • Bumpers College students claimed both top spots in last year's university-wide Three Minute Thesis competition. **Aubree Hawley** (left photo), a doctoral student in food science, won the Bumpers College contest and the overall university competition with her presentation "Age, Not Protein Source, Influences Energy Metabolism and Appetite in Response to Breakfast." Hawley earned her bachelor's degree in human nutrition and dietetics in our School of Human Environmental Sciences. In addition, **Rinalda Proko** in plant pathology was the People's Choice winner after advancing to the finals through the interdisciplinary graduate programs division. In the four years the contest has existed, Bumpers College has produced two overall winners, Hawley and Jade (Newsome) Najjar from plant pathology in 2016; and two People's Choice winners, Proko and Dan Sandor in plant science in 2017.





4 • The U of A System Division of Agriculture and Adisseo agreed to expand collaborative research in poultry health and nutrition that began in fall 2018. Adisseo is a France-based animal nutrition company. Initially, the Division provided independent testing of Adisseo feed additive products. The second agreement, signed in February, initiates a broad spectrum of poultry nutrition research that reaches from basic science in the laboratory to on-farm applications. A research steering committee allows the Division and Adisseo to jointly decide on direction of research, research methods and budgets, and to select principle investigators to conduct research. From left, Stefan Jakob, Adisseo's director of research and development for nutrition and health; Jean-François Meullenet, associate vice president for agriculture-research and director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station; and Jean-François Rous, Adisseo's executive vice president of innovation; sign the collaborative research agreement. (photo by Fred Miller)

5 • Rich Hillman (right, with retired Distinguished Professor Eric Wailes) received the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award from our Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Hillman, from Carlisle, is serving his 11th term as vice president of Arkansas Farm Bureau, has been a member of the state board of directors since 2001, is a sixth-generation farmer, is vice chairman of the Riceland Foods board of directors, chairman of the Arkansas Foundation for Agriculture, board member and past chairman of the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board, and past member of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation Board. A sixth-generation farmer, he raises rice, soybeans and corn in Lonoke and Prairie counties. (photo by Robby Edwards)



Bumpers College

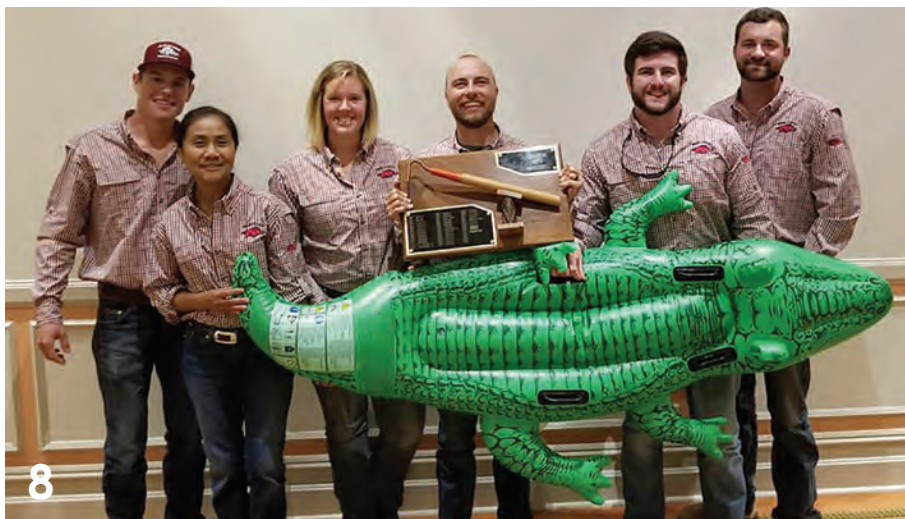
FAMILY ALBUM



6 • We hosted an **Arkansas FFA tailgate event** on Nov. 10 for the LSU football game and had students from across the state show up. Departments set up booths, and Alpha Gamma Rho and Sigma Alpha cooked and served food with support from Southern Food Company. A busload of students made the trip from Crossett and another big group from Siloam Springs participated. (photos by Kenley Bramall)



7 • Lance Cheramie, instructor in apparel merchandising and product development, is interviewed by KNWA-TV about a Fashion Industry PechaKucha he coordinated at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in conjunction with the Arkansas Arts & Fashion Forum and NWA Fashion Week. Cheramie is on a 25-person world-wide Net Impact Wear it Wise committee focused on sustainability in the apparel industry. He scheduled several events to raise awareness, including the PechaKucha, a clothing donation drive for a nonprofit thrift store and a collaboration with Walton College to screen the documentary RiverBlue, which explores the environmental impact of chemicals and toxic waste in the textile manufacturing industry. (photo by Robby Edwards)



8 • The U of A weed science team won last year's Southern Weed Science Society Southern Weed Contest in Memphis. Competitors rotated to different stations where various weed science-related scenarios were set up. From herbicide symptomology and calibration, to weed identification and crop/weed situation recommendations, students were challenged, tested and scored. The team, made up of students in our Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, includes Wyatt Coffman, Zachary Lancaster, Lawson Priess, Jacob Richburg and Hannah Wright. CSES professors Nilda Burgos and Jason Norsworthy are the coaches. Lancaster, team captain, was first overall in the SWSS contest, and the top individual in weed identification and calibration. Wright was fourth overall and first in the farmer problem category. Coffman was third overall, Priess fifth and Richburg eighth. U of A also earned the Green Alligator Award for recording a perfect score in the team sprayer calibration event.



9 • Razorback head football coach Chad Morris was a guest speaker for assistant professor Jill Rucker's Professional Growth and Critical Career Skills class during the spring. Morris, who brought his own power point presentation, took a break from spring practice to talk to students for more than an hour on leadership, motivation and other skills that apply to any work setting and career. Morris grew up on a farm in Texas. (photo by Micayla Blair)



10 • Brandon McFadden (right, with professor Lanier Nalley, was named winner of the 2018 Young Alumnus Award by our Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. McFadden is assistant professor in the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics at the University of Delaware, was on the faculty in the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida, and his research uses experimental economic methods to study food choice and behavioral economics to better understand consumer perceptions of food labels and production methods. (photo by Robby Edwards)



11 • Amanda Ashworth is a research soil scientist with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service Poultry Product and Product Safety Research Unit in Fayetteville. She was recently awarded the Early Career Research Scientist Award for USDA-ARS. The award goes to an ARS Research Scientist who has developed an outstanding research program within the first seven years. Ashworth is a two-time Bumpers grad, earning her bachelor's degree in environmental, soil and water science in 2008 and her master's degree in crop science in 2010.

Bumpers College FAMILY ALBUM



12 • The 2019 class of inductees into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame had a definite connection to Bumpers College. The class included Bernie Daniels, retired faculty member in animal science and former associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station in Fayetteville; Ed Fryar, former professor in our Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness and founder of Ozark Mountain Poultry; Donna L. Graham, University Professor of agricultural education in our Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, who has created curriculum to train extension agents and served as associate dean of the college; and Terry Siebenmorgen, Distinguished Professor of food science, a rice expert and creator of the U of A Rice Processing Program, which he directs. They were officially inducted on March 1. Pictured (top L to R) Daniels and Fryar; and (bottom L to R) Graham and Siebenmorgen.

FAMILY ALBUM



13 • Arkansas FFA Career and Leadership Events (CDEs) were in Fayetteville last spring, and we hosted all participants and their teachers for lunch at Agri Park. Students were on campus, at the Abernathy lab, food science and poultry science departments, Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center, Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Science and the fairgrounds. We also had a "signing" ceremony for students who had already enrolled with us. (photos by Micayla Blair and Robby Edwards)



14 • The U of A System Division of Agriculture held its annual awards event on Jan. 11. Division recipients were John McCalla, Connie Stewart, Cathy Howard and Kelley Cochran. John W. White Awards went to Kris Brye, Kate Shoulders, Karen Ballard, Blair Griffin, and the Division dicamba team of Tom Barber, Jason Davis, Jason Norsworthy, Jeremy Ross, Bob Scott, Ples Spradley, Julie Robinson and Mary Hightower. Bumpers College awards went to (top photo) Jason Apple, animal science (Outstanding Honors Faculty Mentor Award) with Dean Deacue Fields and Mark Cochran, VP-agriculture for the U of A System and head of the Division; and (bottom photo, L to R) Jill Rucker, agricultural communications (Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence & the Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award), Kate Shoulders, agricultural education (John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award) and Don Johnson, agricultural systems technology management (Spitze Land Grant University Faculty Award for Excellence). Not pictured: Kathi Jogan, animal science (Outstanding International Education Award).

Bumpers College FAMILY ALBUM



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15 • Connecting Bumpers, an annual career networking event for our students and alumni, was April 16, on the Maudine Sanders Student Plaza and Garden and Hawkins Family Terrace. Current students met alumni and friends of the college, making contacts and getting tips and advice. Participants included John Paul Pendergrass, a 1977 agricultural economics and agribusiness graduate, and our 2017 Outstanding Alumnus; Suzanne Pennington, a 2006 food science graduate and active member of the Bumpers College Alumni Society; and Todd Martin, U of A graduate and member of our Campaign Arkansas campaign committee. (photos by Micayla Blair)



16

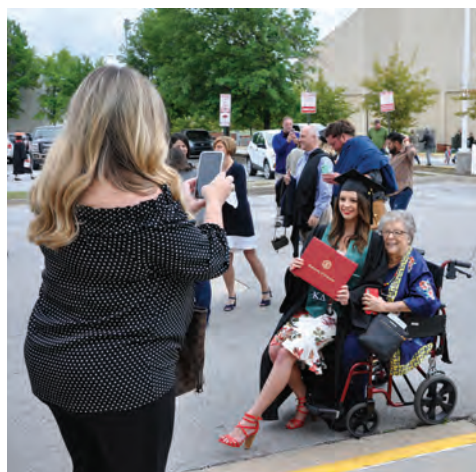
16 • Bumpers College and the School of Human Environmental Sciences swept the major awards at this year's Arkansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics meeting with Laura Wasson (left) being named the top student, and recent graduates Haley Webb (middle) the top young dietitian and Timothy Steen the top intern. Webb is the administrative training dietitian/education associate for nutrition and food services at Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock and North Little Rock. Steen is completing his internship with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock.



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17 • John Marcy, extension specialist with the U of A System Division of Agriculture and professor of poultry science, was named the 2019 Industry Leader of the Year by The Poultry Federation.

FAMILY ALBUM



Spring commencement was May 11 in Barnhill Arena. U of A Chancellor Joe Steinmetz, Dean Deacue Fields, outstanding alums Arthur Neal and Mandy Kordsmeier, and graduating senior Kelsey Johnson spoke, and Board of Trustee members Ed Fryar, Steve Cox and Mark Waldrip attended the ceremony as we added around 350 new graduates to our alumni family. (photos by Micayla Blair and Robby Edwards)

Enclothe: Universal Elements Fashion Show

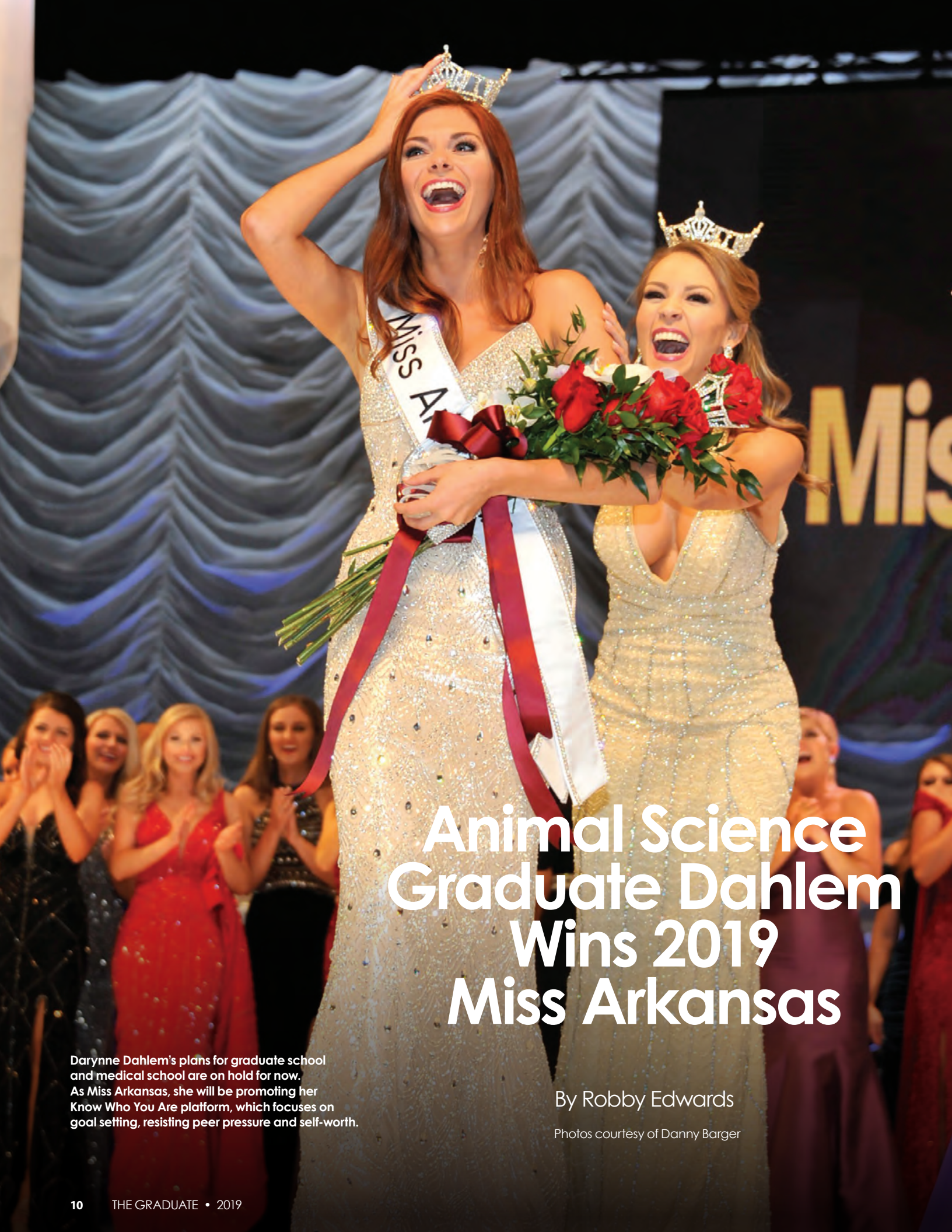


Enclothe: Universal Elements, our annual spring fashion show, was April 26. It featured garments created and designed by apparel merchandising and product development students in Stephanie Hubert's Advanced Apparel Production class. AMPD partnered with students in horticulture, agricultural communications and electrical engineering.

SMASH – Students Mastering the Art of Southern Hospitality



The SMASH dining and networking experience highlights skills of students in the hospitality management program, focusing on event planning, promotion and execution, and menu planning, food prep and service. The theme for this year's April 6 event was first-class air travel with food from around the world. Students in Dede Hamm's SMASH class and Lobatz Bayyari's Cultures and Cuisines of the World class coordinated the event.



Animal Science Graduate Dahlem Wins 2019 Miss Arkansas

Darynne Dahlem's plans for graduate school and medical school are on hold for now. As Miss Arkansas, she will be promoting her Know Who You Are platform, which focuses on goal setting, resisting peer pressure and self-worth.

By Robby Edwards

Photos courtesy of Danny Barger

You've had a little time to let it sink in, what's it like being Miss Arkansas?

It's the best job in the world. It really has been such a whirlwind, but I love every second of it.

What is your Know Who You Are platform about?

I focus on teaching children and young adults about goal setting, standing up to peer-pressure, and understanding self-worth. Those three topics are essential when it comes to giving people tools to avoid addiction. I hope to bring awareness to addiction across the state of Arkansas by creating an open dialog around the subject and giving children the strength to avoid it.

What do you want to accomplish as Miss Arkansas?

I want to visit all 75 counties in the state. I want to be a Miss Arkansas that serves the entire state and makes a difference using my platform and brightening the lives of children at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

What will your schedule be like for the year?

My job is to travel all over the state and serve as the goodwill ambassador for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, be the ambassador for the state and promote my personal platform of addiction awareness.

What's it like backstage?

Being backstage with all of the other contestants is so much fun. The week of Miss Arkansas is a lot like being at an all-girls summer camp. I have a blast every year and I have made some of the best friendships from this organization.

What is something people would be surprised to know about pageant competition?

It's not at all what you think it would be. It doesn't feel like a competition. We don't go into the week thinking "I'm here to win." Obviously, we all want to be Miss Arkansas, but we also know that at the end of the week only one out of the

44 of us will be her, so we all just have fun and see how everything turns out.

As Miss Arkansas, what is it like knowing you'll be competing at Miss America?

It's unreal!! I grew up watching Miss America and knowing that I will get to be on that stage is so exciting.

How do you prepare for Miss America?

It will be a lot like preparing for Miss Arkansas. Going in to Miss America, I want to be the best version of myself. That's all I can ask of myself! And if I know that I did the best I could then I know that I've represented Arkansas to the best of my abilities.

You're an animal science grad - what are your top three favorite animals?

Cats, horses and dolphins!

What is your background with agriculture and/or animals?

I grew up riding horses and I have lived in a rural area my whole life. I've always had a love of animals and agriculture.

Any favorite professors, classes or memories from your time as an undergraduate in Bumpers College?

I loved all my animal sciences courses! I really enjoyed Diseases of Livestock with Dr. Jeremy Powell, Intro to Animal Behavior with Dr. Jason Apple, and both Physiology I and II with Dr. Charles Rosenkrans and Dr. Walter Bottje, respectively. They were all amazing professors and I felt like I learned a lot from them.

What should high school students thinking about majors and careers know about Bumpers College?

Bumpers College fosters an amazing learning experience. Professors and advisors are always on hand to talk about anything a student needs help with or has concerns about. It allows for graduates to go

on to medical school, dental school, graduate schools or other professional schools! We are more than just an agricultural college.

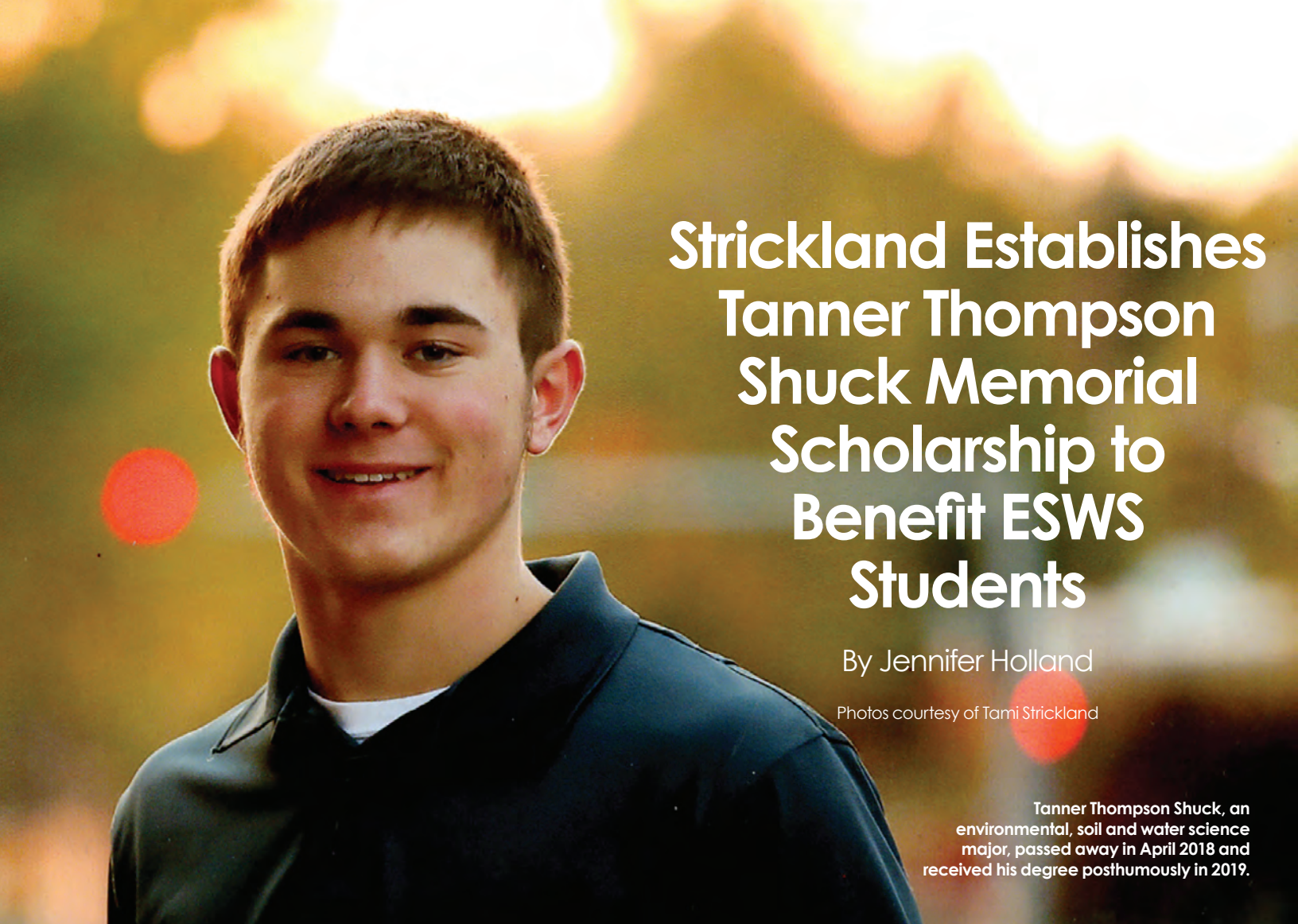


Darynne Dahlem, a 2019 Bumpers College honors graduate, was crowned Miss Arkansas in Little Rock on June 15.



For the talent portion of the contest, Dahlem sang "Somewhere (There's a Place for Us)" from the 1957 Broadway musical West Side Story and recorded by several artists, including Barbara Streisand.

Continues on page 28 »

A portrait of a young man, Tanner Thompson Shuck, smiling. He has short brown hair and is wearing a dark blue polo shirt. The background is a warm, out-of-focus sunset or sunrise scene with orange and yellow light.

Strickland Establishes Tanner Thompson Shuck Memorial Scholarship to Benefit ESWS Students

By Jennifer Holland

Photos courtesy of Tami Strickland

Tanner Thompson Shuck, an environmental, soil and water science major, passed away in April 2018 and received his degree posthumously in 2019.

Former student Tanner Thompson Shuck loved environmental sciences and felt a responsibility to preserve the environment for the future. Described by friends as caring and big-hearted, Shuck passed away unexpectedly in April 2018, but his passion will continue thanks to a \$400,000 gift to Bumpers College to create a scholarship in his memory.

The contribution from Tami Thompson Strickland, Charles Strickland and Georgia Thompson, on behalf of the Gene and Georgia Thompson Family, will support student success.

Tami Strickland, his mother, earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and a master's degree in agricultural and extension education from Bumpers College.

Shuck's interest in environmental science was inspired by Lynn Nokes, a teacher at Har-Ber High School in Springdale, and was reinforced after meeting with Lisa Wood, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. Shuck became a third-generation Razorback, following in the footsteps of

his late grandfather, Gene H. Thompson, and Tami. Wood became his adviser and as a student, Shuck received the Dr. James L. Barrentine Endowed Scholarship from Bumpers College.

"Tanner was an exceptional student and an extraordinary young man," Wood said. "He was enthusiastic about learning all he could in his classes and applying that knowledge to new situations outside the classroom, especially at Tyson Foods where he interned. He was highly respected by his peers for his leadership skills and thirst for knowledge. Tanner was mild mannered, would do anything for anybody and was never seen without a big smile on his face. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to know him and to have had him in my life for even a short time. Tanner's legacy will live on through the recipients of this scholarship so generously provided by his family in his memory."

In 2017, Shuck applied for an internship with the environmental auditing and data analytics department at Tyson Foods and was accepted as an intern for the 2017 summer program. He was mentored by Kevin Igli, senior

vice president and chief environmental officer, and John Couch, senior manager, and encouraged to “think big” and pursue his dreams of protecting the planet. Shuck was so inspired by the experience, he applied again for a year-long internship in 2018 and had just been accepted prior to his passing.

Shuck was interested in graduate school, specifically a master's degree in agricultural and extension education. He and his mother planned to complete research in Haiti involving the One Egg Haiti farm, in which both Tyson Foods and the U of A are involved.

“Education was truly important to Tanner,” Strickland said. “He was grateful for the planning that was done by his family for his educational funding and was concerned that other students were not as fortunate.”

The Tanner Thompson Shuck Memorial Endowed Scholarship will benefit sophomore, junior or senior students majoring in environmental, soil and water science. First preference will be given to students who have graduated from high schools in Arkansas.

Strickland is senior director of regulatory and data management at Tyson Foods, which means she helps ensure Tyson provides great food to the world. Her path in continuing her education, which Tyson supports, is to help find ways for people in developing countries to have food security.

“This scholarship will ensure that students in need will have an opportunity to accomplish their dreams of protecting the environment,” Strickland said. “I always knew my child would accomplish great things and would someday change the world in the process, but now it may be through other environmental science students in the years to come.”

Strickland is currently pursuing her doctorate in public policy with a specialization in agriculture.



Tami Thompson Strickland, senior director of regulatory and data management at Tyson Foods, is a two-time Bumpers College graduate with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and a master's degree in agricultural and extension education.

eat. Through my connection with Tyson and the One Egg organization, I told him it was going to be my mission to do work in other countries, either through consulting or the U of A, and the hope was Tanner would do that along with me. It just didn't work out that way.”

Strickland started as a forestry major at UA-Monticello, but decided to change majors and transfer to the U of A at Fayetteville.

“My grandfather was in agriculture, and my dad was a banker and started his career processing loans for farmers,” Strickland said. “We didn't live on a farm, but had close ties to agriculture. My dad had close ties to Don Tyson and Gene George, and understood the importance of agriculture in northwest Arkansas, the state and eventually the global importance of agriculture. When I decided to switch educational paths, my dad said, ‘why don't you go into agriculture, you can get a job anywhere and help change the world.’ I have enjoyed a long career in agriculture and have had many opportunities to make a difference in many spaces.”

Tami and her husband, Charles, are life members of the Arkansas Alumni Association, the Chancellor's Society and are counted as Thoroughbreds for 10 years of consecutive giving to the university.

“He was grateful for the planning that was done by his family for his educational funding and was concerned that other students were not as fortunate.”

“My motivation is because of Tanner, honestly,” Strickland said. “Tanner was so appreciative of having the life he had. He didn't have to worry about school. When he was born, I planned how I was going to pay for school. He worried about other kids domestically, and that's why we established the scholarship. He knew there were kids who couldn't afford to go to school. When I traveled to Haiti, I told him about kids there not having enough to

Bumpers College and the Chocolate Factory

Food Science Graduate **Utkarsh Shah** is using his Ph.D. at The Hershey Company

By Kenley Bramall

Utkarsh Shah graduated from Bumpers College with his doctorate in food science in 2013 and has been using his degree in a unique capacity.

Shah is the manager of transformation innovation research and development at the Hershey Technical Center, where food scientists and other food experts lead product development efforts to create delicious new products, in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The company appealed to him because of its culture, brands and legacy.

Shah said he has always been a “foodie” and very curious about science.

“Science always fascinated me,” Shah said. “What’s better than being able to learn the science of food? It’s something that nourishes human civilization. Science is great, but food science is amazing. It is one of the unique multi-disciplinary fields that encompasses principles from chemistry, biology, physics and engineering.”

“Utkarsh has had an excellent academic and professional record,” former University Professor of food science Andy Proctor, who retired in the spring, said. “He distinguished himself as a student by being fast-tracked into the doctoral program shortly after arriving as a master’s degree student from Mumbai, India. He had a remarkable university research record in both basic and applied research by developing a novel method for producing conjugated linoleic rich oil, a new mass spectrometric analytical method for distinguishing lipid isomers of conjugated linoleic acid, and created new



Utkarsh Shah has been with The Hershey Company since 2013.

conjugated linoleic acid rich margarine products with desirable consumer properties.”

In his position, Shah works with a team to discover, invent and apply cutting-edge food technologies to solve challenges in the food and chocolate industry.

Chocolate comes from the plant called “Theobroma Cacao.” The word Theobroma comes from the ancient Greek language and translates to “Food of the Gods.” Historically, chocolate was consumed as a foamy beverage, but modern-day civilizations invented its solid form and added a few ingredients to improve the taste. This transformation and chocolate making takes a surprising amount of science.

Shah is continually on the front line of trends and technologies, something he says is very fun. As part of

staying up-to-date and ahead of the curve in his industry, Shah consumes a large amount of chocolate.

"It's difficult to keep a count of the amount of chocolate I eat with all the tasting sessions and candy bowls throughout our facilities," Shah said. "When in Hershey, you are never away from the goodness of chocolate. My favorite is Reese's."

"Science always fascinated me. What's better than being able to learn the science of food? It's something that nourishes human civilization. Science is great, but food science is amazing. It is one of the unique multi-disciplinary fields that encompasses principles from chemistry, biology, physics and engineering."

There are many projects Hershey supports, and one of Shah's favorites is "Partners in Food Solution." In this initiative, Shah's team works to improve food security, nutrition and economic development in Africa and supports African food industry entrepreneurs.

"One such African client was 'Royal Danamec,'" Shah said. "Our team provided consulting to establish a soybean oil processing equipment and oil quality analysis measurement lab. I was able to apply my fats/oils educational background from the U of A by working for a good cause while at Hershey."

Shah has many fond memories of studying food science in Fayetteville. He said the holiday season was his favorite time in the department.

"I remember we had a door decorating contest in the Department of Food Science," he said. "There was an excellent display of creativity!"

In his free time, Shah is an avid sports fan, specifically cricket. He was one of the founding members and the first captain of the University of Arkansas Razorback Cricket Club. The club won a trophy in its debut Northwest Arkansas cricket tournament and it was displayed at the University Fitness Center.

The Hershey Company has many brands and products, including Reese's, Almond Joy, Jolly Rancher, Icebreakers, Payday and more. The company is committed to consumers and community by providing

high-quality products, and conducting business in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner.

Since graduating, Shah has participated in career development SKYPE seminars with students coordinated by Proctor.

"Dr. Shah has an appreciation for the importance of business and marketing of food products," Proctor said. "He has worked hard to develop a wide network of colleagues and while at Hershey has also participated in service work to aid the food industry in developing countries. Utkarsh has always had a strong work ethic and insight into problem solving in the technical and business context, and has excellent communication skills which has proved invaluable."

Shah was at the U of A from 2009 to 2013. While working on his doctorate, he managed labs, taught lipid analysis, and trained undergraduate and graduate students.

He started his career with Hershey as a senior scientist and worked in that capacity until 2017 when he moved into his current role.

"Our food science graduates all do well, but Dr. Shah has had a remarkably successful graduate experience, which was followed by an outstanding industrial professional performance with a dynamic, demanding international food company," Proctor said. "In this position, he has distinguished himself as a great leader and innovator."



In his role as manager of transformation innovation research and development, Utkarsh Shah says it is "difficult to keep a count of the amount of chocolate I eat."

Katie McGehee, a 2013 poultry science graduate, and Donnie Smith, former CEO at Tyson Foods.

Katie McGehee, a Bumpers College poultry science alumna, recently joined the African Sustainable Project Foundation (ASAP) to help with its sustainability efforts.

McGehee graduated from the U of A in 2013. She serves with ASAP to ensure profitability and sustainability within their endeavors. She joined the team in 2018 and moved to Rwanda.

"I was asked to ensure the current entities are profitable and sustainable, and help develop new entities to lower cost of production

— namely a hatchery to guarantee a consistent, quality, low-cost chick for our broiler farmers and egg farm,"

McGehee says. "Hopefully I'll build a small, modern processing plant as well, suitable for supplying international brands."

ASAP was established in 2013 by Donnie Smith, who was CEO of Tyson Foods Inc. at the time. Smith was looking to work in Africa in hunger alleviation. The mission of ASAP is to develop agriculture systems from mostly subsistence farming to modern production value chains, that increase the wealth of small-holder farmers and commerce of communities all over sub-Saharan.

In 2014, ASAP built Rwanda's first feedmill, Zamura Feeds, to maximize the genetic potential of the livestock and increase yields of poultry, dairy and pork. A couple years later, ASAP acquired Rwanda's first commercial egg farm. ASAP has partnered with many organizations throughout the years for several projects, but the most recent partnership is with Bridge2Rwanda to

establish Seed4Africa, a seed company focusing primarily on soya and maize. This company was established to increase yields and income of all farmers of Rwanda. Bridge2Rwanda is managing the company to develop jobs for their students and achieve the goal of building African-led companies.

McGehee said her goal is to transition all ASAP entities from African-led to African-owned.

"In Rwanda, some of our entities are profitable, some are in the infant stages of sustainability and some are still working toward that goal," McGehee says. "Our dream would be to someday sell a well-run company to Rwandan investors and take that money to build similar models in another sub-Saharan country until they all have access to sustainable, protein supply chains. All African-led, African-owned."

She says her connections at the university helped her excel in her position with ASAP.

"Were it not for the University of Arkansas, I wouldn't have met the people that got me connected, I wouldn't

Poultry Science Grad Joins African Sustainable Project Foundation

Katie McGehee Develops New Programs at Lower Cost

By Kenley Bramall

have had the technical expertise to get me in the door, and I wouldn't be as lucky as I was to find my purpose in life at 20 years old," McGehee says.

Between her sophomore and junior years, McGehee spent her summer as an intern working on an egg farm, One Egg, advised by Tyson and Cobb-Vantress in Rwanda. The internship pushed her to pursue her current career.

"Katie was an exceptional student in poultry science," Mike Kidd, head of the Department of Poultry Science, says. "From the time she returned to Fayetteville after spending a summer in Rwanda, I knew she was destined for a career somewhere in Africa. I vividly remember her presentation in my problem solving seminar class on designing a poultry integration in Sub-Sahara Africa. She knocked it out of the park. Her career goals and success are no surprise to me."

Jeff Miller, a Bumpers College agricultural communications professor, worked with McGehee during her time as a student. Miller advised McGehee's honors research focused on employment opportunities at the One Egg farm in Rwanda impacting the lives of women who worked on the location.

"From the day I first met Katie, she has had this burning passion for helping people in Rwanda," Miller says. "She always knew she belonged there, but she also knew she needed to gain some experience and be patient. I was so happy for her when I heard she had taken a job over there. Rwanda is just her happy place. I think it's where she knows she can make the most impact in the world."

McGehee says her courses, specifically her Bumpers College courses, adequately helped her succeed in this position.

"I actually use a surprising percentage of my classes, especially Bumpers College courses, in my daily work," McGehee says. "If I had to choose one, it would be my internship credits. Nothing beats real life experience. My first internship was in Rwanda for three months. My

second was a mix; six weeks in Zimbabwe primarily with visits to Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa; then six weeks in Rwanda, again doing qualitative research of the impact on the women of the egg farm I'd worked at the previous summer.

"I saw the poultry industry as it was in the 1930s to 50s in Rwanda, then 1980s to 90s in Zimbabwe and the Southern

African community, and came back home to U of A to get the most modern education," McGehee says. "It's difficult for our Rwandan team to dream and be creative when they've had very little experience working in poultry industries outside of Rwanda. Piecing my experiences together from my internships and career help me share vision, inspire, build and grow our team to see and

achieve the mission of ASAP. And our team is building an entire value chain, a huge chunk of the agriculture sector for the country."

Her internships helped develop her heart for Africa. She plans to spend the rest of her career fighting for the people of sub-Sahara to have access to quality, affordable protein, as well as livelihoods that give their families a better life.

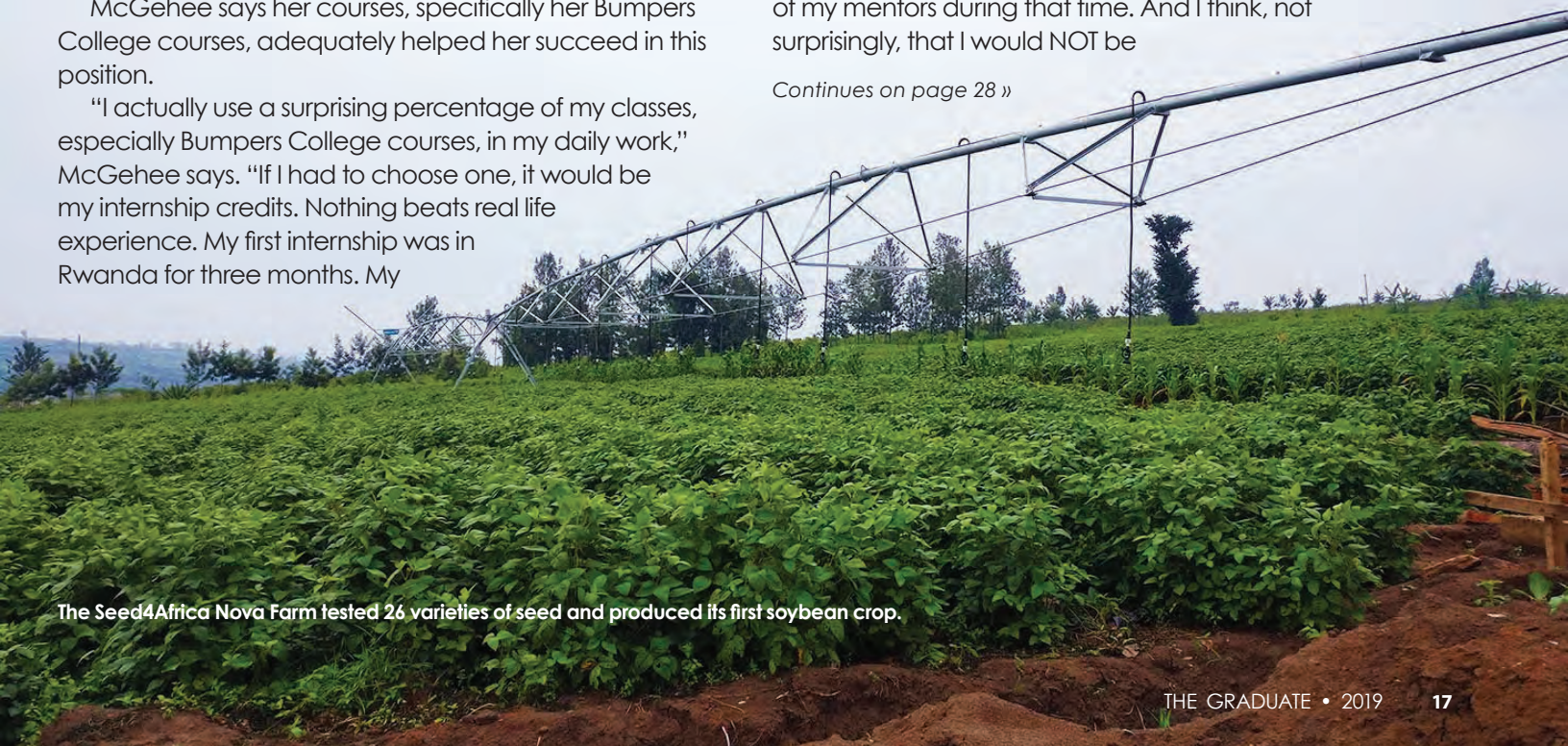
McGehee also says Bumpers College left a lifelong impression on her.

"The people of Bumpers College are hands-down the best," she says. "The greatest staff, professors, alumni, community. I met my best friends in the world in Bumpers College. The university connected me with people I'm still working alongside nine and 10 years later. I met so many of my mentors during that time. And I think, not surprisingly, that I would NOT be

Continues on page 28 »



The goal of Zamura Feeds is to maximize genetic potential of livestock and increase yields of poultry, dairy and pork.



The Seed4Africa Nova Farm tested 26 varieties of seed and produced its first soybean crop.



Arthur Neal is deputy administrator for the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Federal Grain Inspection Service.

Neal and his wife Angelia.



ARTHUR NEAL

Washington, D.C.

M.S. in Agricultural Economics, 1999

Deputy Administrator, Federal Grain Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service

2018-19 BUMPERS COLLEGE Outstanding Alumnus Q&A

By Robby Edwards

Why agricultural economics?

I grew up farming with my father. Around age 15, I decided I did not want to make farming my career. I had an amazing ag teacher in high school (Randy Walters), who opened my eyes to numerous career paths outside of farming, but involving agriculture. One area that piqued my interest was agricultural economics. I learned people who have a background in economics often influence many policies and programs that affect rural America. Having a passion to improve opportunities for rural America, I chose to pursue agricultural economics and focus on the business aspect in graduate school.

From Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, how did you end up at UA?

It's an interesting story. A U of A graduate student, LaDerrek Lee, spoke to our agricultural economics class my senior year. He promoted the school in a very

intriguing manner. He recognized that Arkansas was not a typical place for Louisianans to consider attending, but encouraged us to consider stepping out of our comfort zones and visit to see what it had to offer.

I had already applied to LSU for graduate school and been promised a full ride by the dean. LSU mistakenly sent me a rejection letter. I thought about LaDerrek and called Bumpers College to schedule a visit with Dr. Mark Cochran. Dr. Cochran created time to meet with me the very next weekend. He made sure we (me and classmate Michael Ware) had an opportunity to see the campus and meet some of the faculty and students. He told us about the TransAtlantic Master's Program. Dr. Cochran decided to take a risk on two young men he just met and granted us acceptance into Bumpers College.

I believe it was divine intervention that led me to UA, coupled with grace that flowed from the heart of others, especially, Dr. Cochran.

Any fond memories of a favorite professor?

Too many to choose one!

Dr. Lucas Parsch – his reputation of being one of the toughest professors preceded him; I believe he found humor watching us suffer through homework and exams. He always smiled about it.

Dr. Bruce Ahrendsen – I'm still trying to figure out where he pulled content for Corporate Finance exams. I went to class, but it felt like I was never there when I saw the material on his tests!

Dr. Bruce Dixon – he went out of his way to embrace me and two other classmates from Southern University. He took time on the weekend to orient us to the city, invited us to his home and gave

us great history lessons about the evolution of Fayetteville based on economic opportunities through agriculture. He bedazzled us with his knowledge of ag policy issues. He made being in Fayetteville special.

Dr. Garth Entwistle (Scottish Ag College) – he was on exchange at UA and served as a surrogate father to the TransAtlantic students while in Arkansas and Scotland. His heart was made of gold. He loaned us an old Volkswagon to drive in Scotland. The car was so old the muffler fell off while we were driving. We tied it up with a t-shirt just to get to a repair shop.

Dr. JoAnne Brannigan (Scottish Ag College) – she was tough as nails, but extremely thorough and knowledgeable. She took us behind the scenes of European businesses to help us understand their approaches to successful food marketing.

What do you enjoy about working for the USDA?

Everything! I love the opportunity to impact every aspect of the food value chain to enhance opportunities for farmers and ranchers, while at the same time, ensure consumers have access to quality food products. I love interacting with diverse industries and people at all levels, often with an opportunity to have a positive impact through a meaningful encounter.

What is one program you've assisted the USDA in supporting you're most pleased about?

Providing leadership to USDA's Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program has been a labor of love. The program supports food system development projects

at the community level and helps farmers and ranchers gain access to domestic marketing opportunities through direct-marketing and intermediated marketing models. Some of these projects deliver returns on USDA's investment in the realm of 4:1. As consumers demand more locally-grown products, FMLFPP helps communities develop capacity to meet this demand. This is one of the few federal programs that exists to support such growth.



What professional advice would you give young college graduates?

Let no assignment be beneath you. Show yourself hungry (motivated) and willing to assist with anything that needs to be done. Always be in a posture to

learn. Don't let your pride keep you from entering doors of opportunity; your ego may be too big to fit. Show humility every day, and be sure to help others along your way. Latch on and learn from mentors in every season in life, they will help you grow. Be resilient and learn from every challenge in life; all things happen for a reason.

If you have out of town guests in D.C., what are the top tourist sites you show them?

The African American Museum of Culture and Art, the Washington Monument, the Capitol, the White House, the Museum of American History, the District Wharf, the National Harbor, and the Lincoln, Jefferson and Martin Luther King memorials.

Thoughts on being named Bumpers College Outstanding Alumnus?

It is an honor I was not expecting, yet hold in high regard. The U of A produces some of the top agricultural professionals in this country. To be an outstanding alumnus for the public service I lead through USDA is beyond humbling. I have done nothing on my own to deserve this recognition. There are many people who have supported and encouraged me along this journey. I thank them all, especially my wife, my father and my mother. I also thank the University of Arkansas for allowing me to be part of this great Razorback family. I am forever grateful for every experience and encounter my studies offered me. It is by grace, mercy and favor I have been able to accomplish what I've accomplished. I remain committed to walking in a manner that represents this great university well.



Mandy Kordsmeier is vice president of business development for national accounts with Orian Rugs.

MANDY KORDSMEIER

Cave Springs, Ark.

B.S. in Apparel Studies, 2008

Vice President of Business Development for National Accounts, Orian Rugs



Kordsmeier with two of her favorite things – family and Razorback games.

2018-19 BUMPERS COLLEGE Alumni Society Outstanding Young Alumna Q&A

By Robby Edwards

Why apparel studies?

I originally went to college thinking I would go to law school, but then I had a friend taking a textiles class and I was immediately drawn to the idea of combining creative interests with business-minded interests. It really was the perfect mix for me.

Any fond memories of a favorite professor?

There are so many! Dr. (Lona, associate dean) Robertson made retail math fun. It was easily one of the hardest classes I took, but rewarding and the only book

from college I think I kept. I even took it to my desk at my first buying job. Dr. (Kathy) Smith had great merchandising classes, but my favorite was creating a store with a plan and a vision! Dr. (Laurie) Apple always treated us like adults and I loved that - going on the study tour with her was definitely a highlight.

How does your current position relate to apparel?

If you had told me I would be selling rugs 10 years later, I wouldn't have believed you, but it absolutely makes sense from a retail standpoint. Retail math, textiles,

understanding the consumer and merchandising are all key parts of my role.

How does your education tie in to your job with Orian Rugs?

The actual designing of a garment was not my strength, but managing a P&L (profit and loss) and running a business while incorporating strategies of trends and merchandising are most definitely the fundamentals of my job today.

You're still active in the college, serving on the AMPD board and the Dean's Executive Advisory Board. How would you describe your involvement and why is that important to you?

Serving on the boards has been such a great way to give back to the university. It has allowed me to speak to students who share similar interests, but might not know of the great opportunities that are here in Northwest Arkansas. I feel like I have really grown in my career while serving and have developed a great network.

You've spoken to classes on campus. What are one or two key points you share with students?

I always tell students to be able to define Bumpers College and their degree in an interview - know your brand. Everyone's story and experience is different and it's important that you can articulate your own. And secondly, I tell them do not dismiss the opportunities that are here in NWA - there are so many great companies looking to provide experiences to new graduates. I literally traveled the world while working for Sam's Club, but was able to live in this beautiful area.

What do you do for fun?

I love to be with my family. We love to go to Razorback games. I like to work out, read, shop and vacation anywhere there is a beach.

What inspires and motivates you?

My girls are definitely a motivator. I have always been a hard worker, but my daughters are motivation to always be the best version of myself.

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

One of the biggest things I learned is the confidence to not be afraid to ask - to ask your professors for help, to ask your advisors for the best routes, to ask other students what works for them, to ask alumni about internship opportunities. Ask until you find the answers. Asking creates a network that creates opportunities.

What advice do you have for current students?

I would tell current students to get involved on campus and expand your network as much as possible. Put yourself out there to build friendships, networks and potentially career opportunities.

What advice do you have for young college graduates?

I think it is really important for new graduates to be able to describe and explain their experiences. I think it is critical to highlight successes and achievements. Do not apologize in an interview. Do not apologize for not having experience, but tell the employer how the experiences you do have make you a strong candidate.

You've traveled a lot for work, especially for Sam's Club. What are some of your favorite places to visit?

Europe is easily a favorite. Trade shows in London and Germany will always stand out. I am very thankful for the experience to travel internally, especially to China and Taiwan to see manufacturing first hand. I have seen a lot of country with domestic travel.

As an apparel graduate, does that automatically mean you enjoy shopping for clothes and shoes? Any favorite brands, stores, etc.?

I think I have been shopping all my life and really do enjoy it. But having the background really allows an understanding of construction, quality and versatility. I really enjoy shopping at boutiques - the smaller space with special pieces, but then I love a good deal at T.J. Maxx or a department store sale. I am a big H&M and Zara fan for trendy seasonal pieces. Shoes are a weakness - I admit it, and you can never have too many accessories.

Some students, and maybe even graduates, may be surprised to learn apparel and the School of Human Environmental Sciences are part of Bumpers College. How would you explain the connection?

This actually does come up a lot. I tell people that it is a mix of science, technology and business classes, and that all of the programs in Bumpers are that well-rounded.

Why should other Bumpers College graduates be active with our alumni society and U of A chapters?

It is really exciting to be part of something that continues to improve and strengthen year over year. Giving back is helpful to both the staff and the students, and everyone benefits from the relationships.

Ag Education's Shoulders Lends Survey Expertise to U of A Unifying Theme Initiative

By Robby Edwards

Photos by Tabitha Hudspeth

Kate Shoulders, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, spent a year developing, disseminating and analyzing a survey used to help create the U of A's unifying themes.

University of Arkansas Chancellor Joe Steinmetz wants communications about the university to do more than just provide useful news and information. He believes messages about the U of A should convey the institution's true identity, purpose and value at the same time.

With that in mind, Steinmetz asked University Relations to lead an effort to develop a unified messaging strategy for the university. The first step: better understanding what Arkansans, U of A graduates and others know and think about the university.

University Relations conducted exhaustive research before developing and unveiling the U of A's "Unifying Themes" last spring. The effort included nearly 90 in-depth interviews with representatives from 16 constituent areas, multiple campus working group sessions with faculty, staff and student members, and coordination managed by a core team of communicators and faculty experts.

"We wanted to take the pulse not just of those currently on campus and our alumni and friends, but also of those who have never visited — we wanted to find out what they know and think about the university," Mark Rushing, assistant vice chancellor for University Relations, said. "The feedback allowed us to see some of the differences between how we think the university is doing in certain areas and the perceptions that people have about how we're doing in those areas."

The process included a large survey of internal and external stakeholders for quantitative data to compare with interview and group feedback.

That's how Kate Shoulders, associate professor of agricultural education in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, got involved.

"I was part of one of the campus working groups," Shoulders said. "During the planning overview, there were a lot of questions asked about the survey that was being developed, and I provided some insight on how it could be altered to collect information that more accurately represented people's perceptions."

Rushing later contacted Shoulders to see if she would assist in developing the questionnaire.

"Survey questions are deceptively difficult to write," Shoulders said. "Many times, the questions we develop initially don't allow people to respond in a way that represents their true perceptions. Sometimes the thing a person wants to respond with isn't an option in the question's list of responses or the question is double-barreled, meaning a person is really responding to two things at once and we don't know which they're actually responding to. Additionally, question format makes a big difference in how the data are able to be analyzed down the road. These were the sorts of things that I noticed about the draft survey questions, and I just wanted to help the team's ability to collect accurate, usable data."

Working closely with University Relations, Shoulders spent the next year developing the survey, disseminating it and analyzing the data.

"We altered a number of the questions' formats and content, as well as options people could select," Shoulders



This word cloud shows the most common responses to the survey by higher education influencers (administrators at sister land-grant, flagship institutions).

said. "We made sure every question was aligned to an objective so we weren't wasting people's time with items we wouldn't analyze later. I conducted cognitive interviews with a variety of people and then conducted a pilot test to make sure the instrument was both valid and reliable."

The survey generated more than 8,000 responses from connected Arkansans (current students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, other), unconnected Arkansans (no affiliation at all with the U of A) and higher education influencers (administrators at other higher education institutions).

University Relations looked at the feedback from all stakeholder groups from many perspectives, and found most everything could be grouped in the following major categories:

- Very positive feedback about the university and the education provided at a good value
- Beautiful campus and region, opportunities and resources, the supporting culture of the U of A campus feels like "home"
- Experiences and connections made at the U of A have had a tremendous positive impact on people's lives
- Very few interviewed could define what a land-grant or flagship institution is, but almost everyone said the university should be impacting Arkansas in positive ways
- There is misalignment between the university's actual identity and its image in some areas

"Overall, I was most surprised about the way some perceptions of the university were slightly lower among people who were connected to the university than among those who had no connection," Shoulders said. "I think this shows we have some work to do in how we go about building the campus culture. I really think the U of A is a fantastic place to work and learn, and I would like to see us build a culture that only increases these perceptions once people are on campus."

Building, distributing and analyzing results of surveys and questionnaires are part of the agricultural education curriculum. Constructing tests to motivate respondents in

providing accurate data helps educators improve how people learn.

"Many of our graduates end up wanting to know why people behave the way they do in their future careers," Shoulders said. "Every time someone wants to ask people what they think about 'X,' how they liked 'X,' whether they've ever considered 'X' or how much they learned from 'X,' a questionnaire needs to be developed. It's really easy to think that simply having access to Survey Monkey is all that's needed to create a good questionnaire. But I can't walk in to a scientist's lab and know how to use a fancy piece of equipment without training, right? If I tried to use it without training, I would likely get inaccurate data. The same principle applies to questionnaires."

"We were lucky to find someone with Dr. Shoulders' expertise on campus at the beginning of this process," Rushing said. "Her guidance was instrumental to the overall success of the effort, especially in terms of designing the survey and analyzing the feedback we received. The end result is that we can now communicate about the university in a consistent and unified manner,

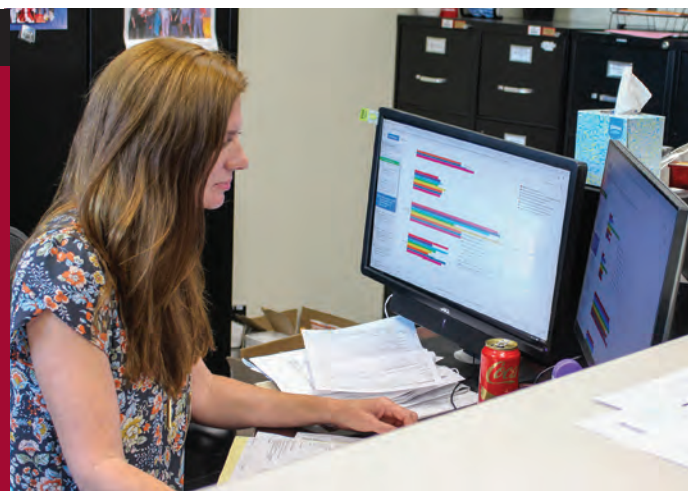
U of A Unifying Themes

Dedicated to Arkansas

We're Home

Life-Changing Opportunities

Determined to Build a Better World



Shoulders compiled and examined data from 8,000 completed surveys.

allowing us to tell our story with one voice, let people know what makes this place special and create better understanding of the value and positive impact the U of A provides."

Detailed information about the themes is available online at brand.uark.edu.

Meet Dausen Duncan, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RECRUITER

By Kenley Bramall



Dausen Duncan joined the staff as coordinator of undergraduate student recruitment on Dec. 19.

He moved to the U of A after holding recruiting and admissions positions at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. Duncan, who is from Bee Branch in Van Buren County, earned his bachelor's degree from ATU in 2016 and his master's degree in 2018.

What is your educational background?

Bachelor of Arts in communications and Master of Science in college student personnel.

What motivated you toward this position?

This position is perfect for me during this time of my life. It combines three of my greatest passions: helping people achieve their goals, the agricultural, food and life sciences industry, and higher education. I also love traveling, so having the ability and support to go and meet students where they are is so important and I'm thankful this position allows me to do that.

Favorite part of the job so far?

The people! So far I have been overwhelmed at the number of new faces I've been able to see and connections I've been able to make. Having the ability to communicate with others is vital to the success of this position, which is great because I enjoy meeting new people and connecting with them. This job has enabled me to make so many new friends and work alongside incredible colleagues.

How do you see the recruitment tactics of Bumpers changing in the next few years?

I see the recruiting efforts being more intentional and genuine with prospective students and their families. When a student is deciding where to attend college, they're not just deciding on the program they want to pursue, they are choosing a new place to call home. I believe our recruitment efforts should reflect the dynamics of Bumpers College, which is a family-like, genuine and welcoming environment – perfect for students to call “home.”

How can alumni, friends and supporters assist in student recruiting?

Alumni, friends and supporters of the college can assist by getting involved with some of our recruitment events hosted on campus for prospective students. Also, keeping us in the loop with where they are and what they're doing is extremely important so our recruitment efforts can include real-life stories of what careers our alumni and friends are currently practicing.

How are you utilizing the student ambassador team for recruitment efforts?

When I learned I would be working with the ambassadors, I was thrilled. Having the ambassadors included in recruiting efforts is absolutely important because prospective students and their families want to hear about experiences a current student is having. My vision is for ambassadors to truly become the face of the college in order to paint the most real picture of what it means to be a Bumpers College student.

What is your favorite part of the University of Arkansas?

The U of A brings with it a sense of pride, tradition and comradery. I love being part of such a fun, passionate and intelligent community! I also love the location – the Northwest Arkansas area quickly became my new home and I could not love my new home more. There is something for everyone!

What is your favorite part of Bumpers College?

The down-to-earth atmosphere the faculty and staff create. I love the fact that a student can attend the University of Arkansas (the largest institution of higher education in the state with more than 27,000 students) and still receive one-on-one attention from their instructors and advisors within Bumpers College. Since the college only makes up roughly 2,000 of the 27,000-plus students at the U of A, the students have the opportunity to truly design what their college experience will be by taking advantage of more than \$760,000 worth of scholarships, countless study abroad and research opportunities, and small class sizes.

How do you plan on setting Bumpers College apart from other programs across the state?

Simply by communicating our stories and the incredible opportunities that only Bumpers College students can experience. Since I have been in this position, I have been in a current state of awe at the accomplishments and experiences of our students – everyone needs to know what our students and alumni are doing because they are truly amazing.

What are your opinions of building relationships with prospective students?

Building relationships with prospective students and their families is so important. If we don't build relationships with people all across the state, how are we expected to earn trust and provide them with resources to answer their questions? I hope prospective students can confidently reach out to us and know they will be taken care of.

When you aren't recruiting, what do you enjoy doing most?

When I'm not recruiting, I enjoy planning events for current Bumpers students and prospective students. The student experience is more than attending class, and excelling academically and professionally – the student experience also includes taking time to enjoy being a student.

When I'm not working, I try to dedicate some time to spend with friends and family. Concerts, pool days, floating the river, binging Netflix movies and shows – these are a few of my favorite things.



Meet Mark Wilton, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

By Kenley Bramall

Mark Wilton joined the staff as director of development and external relations on April 1. He worked 19 years in fundraising in various positions with the College of Agriculture at Auburn University. He planned, led and participated in two successful strategic campaigns, topping set goals by 109 percent and 108 percent, generating more than \$85 million in gifts. Wilton also secured three of the largest gifts ever to the college, \$8.4 million, \$6.2 million and \$2.0 million for student and program support.

As director of development, what will you be doing?

The simple answer is I will be managing the fundraising endeavors of Bumpers College, but development is more than just fundraising. It is the building, over time, of continuous, powerful and life-long relationships between our stakeholders and the college; stakeholders being alumni, friends, donors, faculty, staff and students. The process includes extended cultivation, thorough education and attentive stewardship, as well as appropriate solicitation. Development also includes aligning fund-raising goals with college planning and growth.

What drew you to the field of development and fundraising?

I've always believed you have to leave the world in a better place than what you found it. In development and fundraising, I feel I am contributing to something larger than myself. I thrive on the knowledge that I am helping donors realize their philanthropic goals. I get up in the mornings thinking about the students going to college on scholarships, and the faculty that impact our student's lives and conduct groundbreaking research thanks to one of my donor's gifts.

Why higher education?

I see higher education as critical to sustainable human development through its contributions to economic growth and long-term benefits to society. More important to me is working at a land-grant university. I believe in the land-grant mission of teaching, research and extension programs, and that these universities have influence on the growth of higher education in the United States, especially in agriculture and mechanics.

What is your main goal for Bumpers College?

My goal is to build on the strong legacy of support to Bumpers College and help grow funding to provide the financial resources necessary for the college to fulfill its mission of serving the citizens of Arkansas, the United States and world.

You haven't been here long, but what have you been most impressed with or surprised to learn about our college?

The faculty and staff here are incredibly passionate about the college – and everyone has been so generous with their time in teaching me so many things. The one thing I can say that has been my biggest takeaway to date is that there are a lot of similarities between my previous college and Bumpers College. I have felt at home and part of the team from the day I started in my new role.

What is your favorite thing about the University of Arkansas?

I really like Senior Walk. Memorializing the graduates on the campus is a great way to say thank you for attending the University of Arkansas.

What is your favorite thing about Bumpers?

As with most land-grant agricultural colleges, Bumpers College has a rich history and tradition. I have enjoyed learning the history of the college as well as learning the accomplishments of alumni and research programs.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The people that I meet and work with both internally and externally. My position allows me to collaborate with students, award-winning scientists, deans and presidents of educational institutions. I learn something new from these people every day, as well as from my colleagues in advancement. I find it extremely interesting to have a seat at the table when academics are discussing their life's work. It is rewarding to know that I help them build relationships with the philanthropists who will support their work. I have the opportunity to work with a diverse group of well-meaning donors and stakeholders. They never seem to disappoint. Even if they cannot help with as much support as I may seek, more often than not, they do what they can. I get to connect people who have a passion about making a difference with a cause they care about. I see development and fundraising as being able to give a gift from a philanthropist to the people that need their support. That belief really keeps me motivated.

How can our alumni, and friends and supporters assist in development?

The simplest way to assist with Bumpers College's development activities is to make a gift. There is no gift too small. They could also get involved by donating their time to champion and network for the college. This could be accomplished by thanking donors for their financial support, opening doors by introducing others to the college, bringing guests to college events and/or hosting events for the college.

When you aren't working, what is your favorite way to spend time in NWA?

I have enjoyed exploring the area. My wife and I have visited several attractions in the area, some state parks and museums, as well as enjoyed some great food and drink. I also enjoy playing golf and have had the opportunity to play at a few courses in the vicinity.

CLASS NOTES

1980s



David Branscum, BSA '82 in agricultural business, is Arkansas state director for the USDA Office of Rural

Development. He was a guest speaker last spring in instructor Shari Moxley's Rural Families and Communities class, which is part of the human development and family sciences curriculum in our School of Human Environmental Sciences. He spoke on e-Connectivity, housing loans, rural business development grants, the opioid crisis and other topics. He has served in the Arkansas House of Representatives as state representative, serving on the agriculture and health committees, and as chairman of the Legislative Counsel. He has more than 40 years of experience in matters related to rural Arkansas and rural America. His position with USDA Rural Development is a presidential appointment.

Jean M. Curtis BSHE '84, Arlington, Texas, retired in June 2017 from Arlington ISD after 26 years of teaching.

1990s



Jody Davis, BSA '91 in animal science, Farmington, was named Bachelor's of Science

Graduate of Distinction by our Department of Animal Science. Davis is a member of Bumpers College's Dean's Office staff, serving as director of advising and student records in our Student Services area.

John C. Easley BSA '92 has accepted the position of branch chief, Joint Operational Intelligence, National Guard Bureau at Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia. In this position, Easley leads a team of intelligence professionals in incident awareness and assessment assisting the 54 states and territories during times of disaster as a member of the National Guard Coordination Center.



Scott Senseman, BSA '90, MS '94 in agronomy, Knoxville, Tennessee, was named winner of the 2019

Outstanding Alumnus Award by our Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. Senseman is head of the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Tennessee. From 1994-2013, he was a weed scientist and professor at Texas A&M University, focusing on pesticide fate and transport, and researching reducing off-site movement of pesticides.

Catherine Irene Williams BSA '91 MS '93, Fayetteville, was awarded the 2018 Arkansas Veterinarian of the Year award while attending the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association Winter Meeting on Feb. 2.

2000s



Paula Agudelo, PhD '04 in plant science, was named associate dean of research and Experiment Station director

at Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. A nematologist and professor of plant

pathology in Clemson's plant and environmental sciences department, she leads a statewide research enterprise that secured \$13.6 million in grants in 2018 for conduct research in animal production, plant science, food safety and packaging science, global food security, agribusiness, forestry and conservation of natural resources. Agudelo has been at Clemson since 2004. She has served as interim associate dean for research and graduate studies, leading the effort to merge the office with the Experiment Station.

Leon Weaver BSA '02, Byrdstown, Tennessee, has successfully mastered the language of Spanish and is offering help to others in reaching their goals through interpretation.

2010s

Sangeeta Mukhopadhyay PhD '17 in food science, Fayetteville, was named the winner of the student paper competition at the American Association of Cereal Chemists International annual meeting in San Diego, California, in October 2017.



Kelsey Smith, BSA '17 in agricultural business, was named to the Northwest Arkansas

Business Journal's annual Fast 15 class for 2019. The Fast 15 recognizes the accomplishments of a group just now beginning to make its mark on Northwest Arkansas' business and community scene. Smith, who is from Pea Ridge, founded and owns NWA Brand, a boutique influencer marketing agency based in Bentonville.

FRIENDS



Irma Boyer may be the oldest living donor to support U of A's Campaign Arkansas.

One of our annual scholarship providers, she funds the Paul and Irma Boyer Scholarship, preferably for students interested in pest management, in our Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, where her husband, the late William P. Boyer, was associated. "I give to the University of Arkansas, because I want to help students who otherwise might not be able to go to school," Boyer said. Campaign Arkansas is the \$1.25 billion capital campaign to advance academic opportunities at the U of A.

IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Eddie Louise Baker BSHE '43, New Franklin, Ohio, Nov. 2017. She was retired from teaching home economics.

Avanell Watson Conner BSHE '44, Helena, Arkansas, Oct. 18, 2017. She taught elementary and junior high school for over 40 years.

Vivian Horton BSHE '40, Yukon, Oklahoma, Dec. 23, 2017. She was a bookkeeper for the Springdale News until retirement in 1985.

James A. Strang BSA '48 MS '52, Lavaca, Arkansas, Jan. 8, 2017. He was a U.S. Navy veteran. He was a community and state leader, and taught agriculture at Lavaca. He also served in the

Sebastian County Farm Bureau for over 40 years.

Emily Gaughan Swift BSHE '43, Birmingham, Alabama, Oct. 17, 2017.

Lavon V. Watson BSA '43, Wesley, Arkansas, Nov. 6, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force and was a farmer.

1950s

Mary Rowe Abbott, BSHE '51, Prairieville, Louisiana, July 30, 2017. She taught home economics in several Arkansas schools.

Henry L. Bowden BSA '57, Springdale, Jan. 6, 2018. He retired as an area agent for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture after more than four decades.

Arlen Martin Crass BSA '51, Pine Bluff, Dec. 22, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. After graduating from the university, he worked for the Army Corp of Engineers until his retirement in 1984.

Kenneth Davis BSA '56, Texarkana, Oct. 10, 2017. He managed and operated Davis Farms until his death.

Gerald L. Dill BSA '53, Tualatin, Oregon, Aug. 19, 2017. Retired in 1982 after working for the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner for around 30 years.

Mona Crawley Ford BSHE '54, Road Grove, Oklahoma, Aug. 24, 2017. She retired with her husband in 1986. Survivors include husband James W. Ford Jr. BSA '53.

Roy C. Hicks BSA '56, Rockport, Texas, Oct. 8, 2017. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War and went on to be the accountant for Key Allegro Real Estate.

Fremont Ellis Johnston MS '51, North Little Rock, Nov. 8, 2017. He was a United States Navy veteran, proudly serving in World War II. He went on to become a businessman who worked selling chicken eggs and jewelry.

Rogers Johnston BSA '57, McAlester, Oklahoma, Oct. 22, 2017. He owned and operated the Lehnhard Johnston Ranch and Timbers Rentals.

J. G. Jones BSA '53, Bentonville, Jan. 11, 2018. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He retired after 23 years as district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Benton County.

Greg Pinkston BSA '58, Weslaco, Texas, Jan. 20, 2017.

Betty Hamilton Pool BSHE '56, Houston, Texas, Jan. 8, 2018. She had a career as a secretary for Texas Medical Center, retiring from UT School of Public Health.

Dot Reeves BSHE '50, Texarkana, Texas, July 6, 2017.



Clyde Sites BSA '57, Sheridan, Arkansas, July 25, 2017. He was a proud veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He then embarked on a 45 year agricultural career.

William D. Yarbrough BSA '59, Camden, Arkansas, Aug. 17, 2017. He was the owner and operator of Harrel's Pharmacy for 26 years.

1960s



Janive Segraves Blanchard BSHE '44 MED '67, Russellville, Aug. 22, 2017. She spent her career as an educator and her passion was for home economics.

Roger C. Crum Jr. BSA '60, Rogers, Nov. 1, 2017. He worked in the animal health industry.



Carole Helm Culp BSHE '62 MS '68, Little Rock, Sept. 9, 2017. She was an associate professor in the College of Pure and Applied Sciences at the University of Louisiana-Monroe for 16 years. Survivors include husband Harold L. Culp BSME '62.

Jane Davidson BSHE '60, North Little Rock, Jan. 20, 2018.

Ronald S. Maxwell BSA '64, Oppelo, Arkansas, July 1, 2017. He worked in the oil and gas industry, and as a landsman through his own company.

Jerry T. McDonald BSA '66 MED '68, Charleston, Arkansas, June 15, 2017. He was a full-time cattle rancher and poultry farmer.

1970s

Edmond Ray Brewer BSA '63 MED '72, Elm Park, Arkansas, May 2, 2017. He was superintendent of Mansfield Schools for over 15 years.



John H. Duke II BSA '73 MS '77, Rogers, Aug. 29, 2017. He enjoyed a long career in the poultry industry before owning his own poultry related business. Survivors include wife, June Duke BSE '72.

Minor Gregory BSA '79, Sept. 20, 2017, Little Rock. He was a partner in Radiology Associates, P.A. Survivors include wife, Emily D. Gregory BSBA '79.

Edward M. Hahn BSA '71, Fort Smith, Oct. 14, 2017. He served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He later went on to own and operate Smith Mortuary and Arkansas Wilbert Vault for almost 35 years.

Joe Murphy BSA '77, North Little Rock, July 15, 2017. He was in the nursery, lawn and shrub health care business for over 50 years.

David Gerald Tanner BSA '70, Russellville, Sept. 5, 2017. He was the owner of Tanner Veterinary Hospital and Veterinary Supply Company until September 2016. He was also a United States military veteran, serving faithfully in the Army.

1980s

Ronald M. Grunwald MS '82, Pineville, Missouri, Aug. 5, 2017.

Andrew Cecil Oliver III MS '82, Proctor, Arkansas, Sept. 15, 2017. He was a farmer in Proctor for 34 years.

James Thomas Scott Jr. BSA '80, Hot Springs, Oct. 4, 2017. He was a veteran and worked for ADEQ for 28 years.

1990s

Kimberly Ann McCourt BSA '94, Morrow, Arkansas, Aug. 30, 2017. She was a dive master.

Renata F. Ray BSHE '92, Fayetteville, July 4, 2017. She was an educator of family and consumer science for more than 20 years at Farmington Middle School.

Randy R. Treat BSA '92 MS '97, Kingston, Arkansas, Aug. 26, 2017. He was a retired battalion chief for the Springdale Fire Department and agriculture teacher. He previously served in the Arkansas Army National Guard and was a member of American Legion Post #230 in Kingston.

2000s



Mitch Petrus, BSA '09 in agricultural business, Lonoke, Arkansas, July 18, 2019. A former Razorback football walk-on,

Petrus earned All-Southeastern Conference honors as an offensive guard. A fifth-round NFL Draft pick by New York, he helped the Giants win Super Bowl XLVI in 2011 over New England. He worked at his family's business and also covered high school football for KLRT-TV in Little Rock. He was 32.

2010s

Ashley Nicole Lane BSHE '12, Texarkana, Texas, Aug. 4, 2017. She was a musician.

FRIENDS



Glenn Hardy, dean, Bumpers College, Fayetteville, July 18, 2019. Hardy was a faculty

member for 38 years, retiring as dean and university professor emeritus. He was 95. He was with the Department of Agronomy nine years, became dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics and served from 1965-87, then moved to the faculty in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education until retiring in 1994. He earned bachelor's (chemistry) and master's degrees (education) from Pittsburg State, and his Ph.D. in agronomy from Kansas State in 1957, and served three years in the U.S. Navy. Hardy served on boards for the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County, United Way for Washington County and U of A Retirement Association. He was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1997 and later was on the National Advisory Committee for Rocky Mountain College in Montana. Of his career, he said, "The most important work I did can't be documented. I got to work with Arkansas's most important crop, the children. Many of the leaders of the state are our graduates."



Milo Shult, vice president for agriculture, U of A System Division of Agriculture, McKinney, Texas, July

19, 2019. Shult was the longest-serving head of the U of A System Division of Agriculture (1992-2010). He was 75. Shult was devoted to the land-grant system and serving through research, extension and education. When he took over the reins of the Division of Agriculture, he coined the motto: "Arkansas is our Campus." In 2011, he was elected to the Arkansas Agricultural Hall of Fame. He served as chairman of the Board of Agriculture and Farm Bill Committee for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and on APLU's CREATE 21 Committee. He was past president of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists and served on the National Agricultural Library Board of Directors, 4-H Natural Resources Program Steering Committee and U. S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource National Initiative Task Force.

DAHLEM *continued*

What do you do to relax and have fun?

I am an avid reader! I love mystery novels. I also love exercise and yoga, and horseback riding. I love being active and being outdoors.

Any favorite foods, meals and/or recipes?

I am an equal opportunity snacker! I love Thai food, especially green curry. I love making a spinach and chicken pasta bake. It's super simple and delicious. I also love anything involving ice cream!

ASAP *continued*

where I am in my career and industry if Bumpers College didn't have the industry connections it does. We're nestled in the poultry capital of the world. We should produce the best students for this industry, and I'm proud to wave the Razorback flag wherever I go."

McGehee has had a few setbacks, but also many successes throughout her career, and she says without these she would not be where she is doing what she loves. She encourages everyone to continue pursuing what they love, even through hard times.

"There's never going to be a point you have all the answers," McGehee says. "There's never going to be a point you don't blow it every once in a while. The good news is you're never alone. I wasn't the only person who's ever crashed and burned in their career, so I had people help me get back up. I have great mentors and champions, which I think everyone should seek out and develop when they start a career. Don't get discouraged if where you want to be doesn't happen when you want it."

For more information on bridge2rwanda, visit bridge2rwanda.org. For more information on ASAP, visit sustainableagafrica.org.

E-mail Your Class Notes

Send updates to the Office of External Relations, extrel@uark.edu, fax to 479-575-6890 or mail to Bumpers College Alumni Society, Office of External Relations, E202 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.



Representing Farm Families
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



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Advance Arkansas gives the state's rising student leaders resources to succeed academically and allows donors to help Arkansans make the U of A their school of choice.

Advance Arkansas emphasizes student support of: **(1) First Generation**, new freshmen who aspire to be first in their families to earn a four-year college degree; **(2) Community Leader**, new freshmen who demonstrate significant acts of service within their communities; **(3) Resilient Razorback**, students who have persisted in maintaining a compelling academic record; and **(4) Talented Transfer**, incoming transfers with a strong academic record and commitment to U of A degree completion.

The U of A is setting aside \$2.5 million to match spending account earnings generated by Advance Arkansas scholarship endowments, doubling contributions. An endowment generating \$2,000 in scholarship spending will be matched with another \$2,000 for a total scholarship award of \$4,000. Scholarship amounts will be awarded at a minimum of \$4,000, depending on student need or strength of application.

The minimum endowment required is \$50,000. Contributions may be given over a five-year period. Once the minimum funding level is reached and sufficient earnings established, scholarships will be awarded. To secure the match immediately while the endowment is building, donors can make additional gifts of \$2,000 per year to the spending account to establish the scholarship and receive the match, doubling scholarship impact immediately.

For more information, contact **Charles Robinson**, vice chancellor for student affairs ([479-575-5007](tel:479-575-5007), cfrobins@uark.edu) or **Ben Carter**, senior director of development ([479-575-4663](tel:479-575-4663), bcarter@uark.edu).