

THE Graduate



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Dale Bumpers College of
Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences

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Harrington Receives Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters



**Bacon Retires
After 37 Years**

**Families, Friends
& Alums Create
Scholarships**

**Meet Two New Staff Members:
Catherine Beasley
& Katie Dilley**

MESSAGE FROM DEAN DEACUE FIELDS



In 2019, the college conducted a series of town hall meetings across the state to determine what various stakeholders know and do not know to enable the college to better connect with Arkansans.

Meetings were conducted by an independent group to eliminate any bias. Invited participants were high school teachers, high school counselors, industry leaders, alumni, donors, local officials and others.

To get an accurate representation, the state was divided into vertical regions of west, central and east, and three sites were selected for each – Texarkana, Hot Springs and Clarksville in the west; Little Rock, El Dorado and Harrison in the central; and Forrest City, Helena and Paragould in the east.

Takeaways included:

- Highly thought of by those who know us
- Some thought Bumpers College is its own college, not affiliated with U of A
- Many could name some majors and careers, but overall knowledge was limited
- Majors and careers cover a wide spectrum of interests and backgrounds
- Various stakeholder groups need/want connection with the college for different reasons
- In eastern part of the state, the agriculture industry is thought, by some, to be declining
- We are thought of as the “ag” school; stereotypical view of agriculture – “plows, cows and sows”
- Some participants see value in going to college, coming back to run the family farm or work for local industry, but many are unaware of the level of opportunities (degrees/careers) offered
- Many had little or no knowledge of the School of Human Environmental Sciences and its areas of study/careers

Information from all nine meetings was used to help formulate our strategic plan (pages 10-11), along with things we learned and discovered during the pandemic, in meeting with faculty, staff and students across campus, as well as, feedback from other stakeholders.

continues on back cover >



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DALE BUMPERS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND LIFE SCIENCES



**Harrington
Receives Honorary
Doctor of Humane
Letters**



**Bacon Retires After
37 Years**



**Families, Friends
& Alums Create
Scholarships**



**Students, Alum
Build Digital Soil
Maps for Central
American Farmers**



**Bumpers College
Strategic Plan**



**College Creates
Transfer Degree
Programs**



**Meet Catherine
Beasley, Director of
Employer Relations**

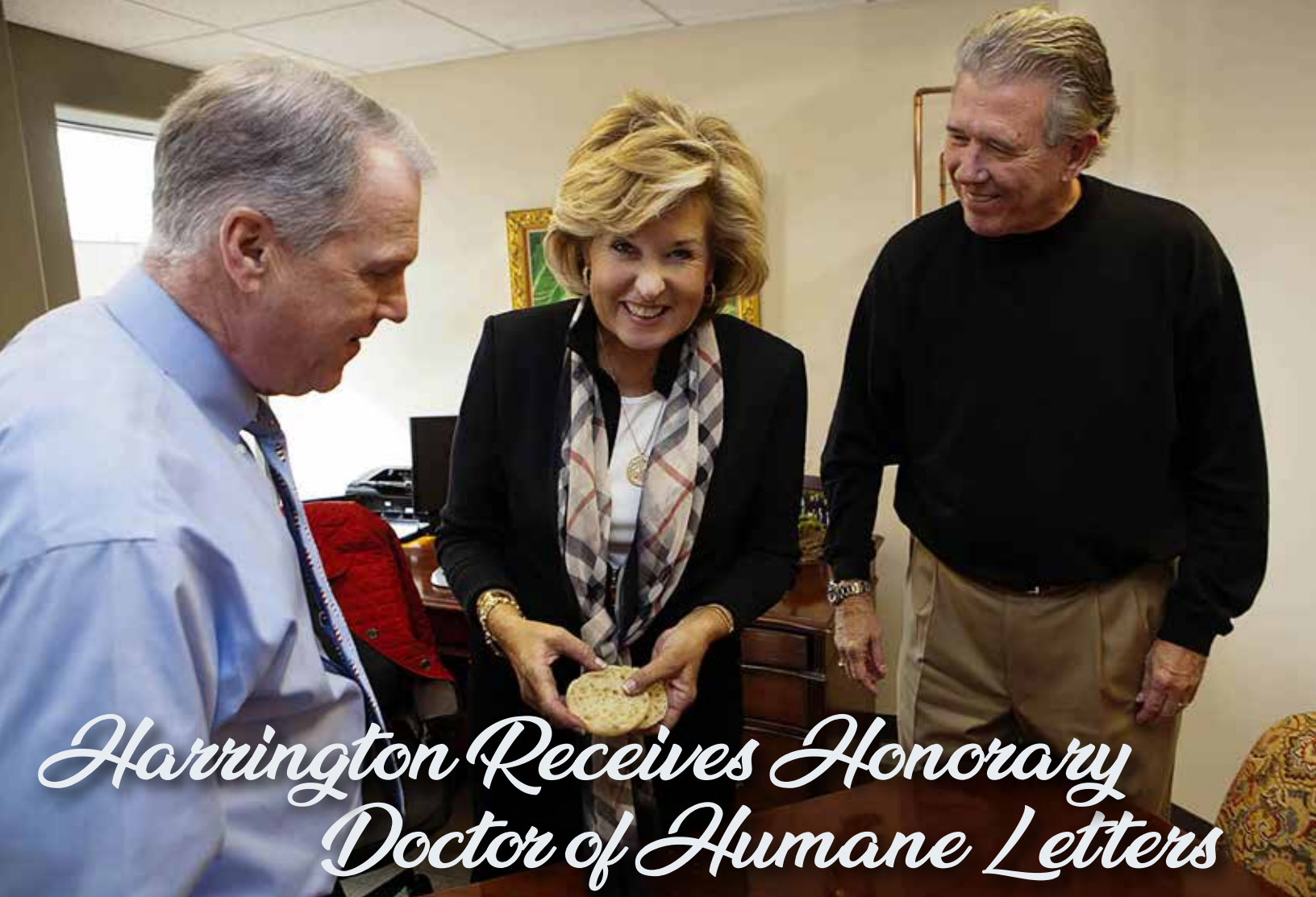


**Meet Katie Dilley,
Undergraduate
Student Recruiter**

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ON THE COVER: Cordia Harrington was the first in her family to go to college. She has found success in bakery, manufacturing, transportation, quick service restaurant, real estate and construction businesses and industries (courtesy photo).



Harrington Receives Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Cordia Harrington began her career in the real estate business, which positioned her to purchase a McDonald's franchise, which led to The Bakery Cos. McDonald's is now one of her clients.

By John Thomas

Successful entrepreneur and businesswoman Cordia Harrington received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the U of A during the All-University Commencement ceremony in December 2020.

Harrington, a U of A alumna, is well known throughout the bakery business and has made an impact in the manufacturing, transportation, quick service restaurant segment, real estate and construction industries nationwide.

As early as fifth grade when she turned her backyard into the neighborhood daycare, Harrington has always been driven to be successful. Having excelled in multiple industries, her impeccable business acumen earned her a spot on *Forbes* magazine's list of 100 wealthiest self-made women in 2020.

Harrington was born in Waco, Texas, and grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, with her parents and two siblings. She attended the University of Arkansas, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1975

from the College of Agriculture – now Bumpers College.

"At orientation in 1971, Dean Hardy, dean of agriculture and home economics, encouraged gals who wanted to work outside the home to get a home economics degree," Harrington said. "He said we would have the skills to run the home and the BSHE had more elective hours than any other major, so we could take courses that interest us. It was a perfect major for me. I took a wide variety of courses across campus, but not one business or finance class, and that was a mistake. I was well into my second business before I really learned to read a P&L (profit and loss statement). I recommend all students take accounting and finance classes—having financial savvy will be helpful in any career."

She was the first in her family to graduate from college and went on to open her own real estate business with all \$587 of her savings. That business eventually became the award-winning Concept One Realtors and Concept One Construction, based in Russellville.

Harrington's real estate business sold to Coldwell Bankers in 1989,

but her career was still in its infancy. That same year, she graduated from McDonald's Hamburger University as a registered applicant and purchased a McDonald's franchise. Proving her ability to lead and motivate, Harrington earned the opportunity to build two additional McDonald's restaurants.

To grow her sales, she purchased a Greyhound Bus franchise, bringing 88 busloads of customers each day, which eventually helped her reach the top 40 in sales among all McDonald's franchises in the United States.

That success parlayed into where she is today as the founder and chief executive officer of The Bakery Cos. The company includes six plants and 14 product lines, serving elite customers in the U.S., Caribbean and South America. The business includes Bakery Express, a trucking firm, and Cold Storage of Nashville, a freezer facility.

"As a student, I loved being involved in my sorority, Chi Omega, and I helped in the Student Affairs office, welcoming new students and even ROTC cadets," Harrington said.

"Arkansas culture was welcoming and inclusive. In addition, I was an exchange student to Kansai Gaidai in Osaka, Japan, and that was my very first plane ride. I am still in touch with the Okamura family, whose home I stayed in. My last visit to see them was November 2019. It was a treasured experience and cultivated lifelong friendships."

Harrington's focus on regulations, sustainability, employee policies and development have led the company to grow organically into a state-of-the-art business, winning numerous awards from both industry publications and customers.

Her passion for innovation, sponsorship of human resources best practices and ability to deliver on innovative strategy have earned respect in an industry based in conventional practices. Her elite customers include McDonald's, O'Charley's, Sara Lee, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, ConAgra, Pepperidge Farm, Five Guys and Tyson, among others.

In addition to her recognition in *Forbes*, Harrington was named *Nashville Post's* 2020 CEO of the Year. Harrington was inducted into the American Society of Baking Hall of Fame in February 2018 and *Directors & Boards* magazine named her a "Director to Watch." She received the Most Admired CEO Lifetime Achievement Award from the *Nashville Business Journal* in 2017.



In 2016, Harrington was named Johnson Fellow by the University of Arkansas, awarded the Excellence in Entrepreneurship award by Millikin University and inducted into the YWCA's Academy of Women of Achievement. Harrington was named to the list of the 50 Fastest-Growing Women-Owned Businesses (Women President's Organization) in 2016 and was the EY Entrepreneur of the Year (Southeast Program) in 2015.

Along with her great business savvy, Harrington is also known for her strong faith, business ethics and leadership experience with community, business and civic boards. She served on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Nashville Branch from 2008-13 and as 2019-20 chair of the Chief Executives Organization Board of Directors. She is president-elect for the American Bakers Association Board of Directors and is a member of the Belmont University Board of Trustees Executive Committee.

She has also served on the Boards of Directors for Williams Food and Zoes Kitchen, and she joined the Emergent Cold Board of Directors in 2018. She currently serves on the boards of Ascend Logistics, the Factory and Sageworth.

Harrington resides in Franklin, Tennessee, with her husband Tom. They have five children and 10 grandchildren.

"I am grateful for the open and welcoming culture on campus," Harrington said. "I was given leadership opportunities and experiences that changed my life."



Bacon Retires After 37 Years

**Robert Bacon began his career
in 1984 as a wheat breeder.**

By Fred Miller

Robert Bacon joined the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station as a wheat breeder in 1984. But really, he counts his start with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture as an hourly worker while still an undergraduate student at the University of Arkansas.

Bacon retired Jan. 8, 2021, after 37 years, the last 15 years as head of the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences for the Division of Agriculture and Bumpers College.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the U of A, then earned his doctoral degree in agronomy, specializing in crop breeding, at Purdue University. With his Ph.D. in hand, Bacon came home to Arkansas.

In addition to breeding wheat, oats and canola, Bacon carried a heavy teaching load in Bumpers College, and he found his association with his students as rewarding as his research.

Bacon expresses a sense of pride on those occasions when he'd encounter former students at a conference and see how successful they'd become in their field. But he said students also became a measure of when to move on.

"When I began to see the children of my former students in class," Bacon said with a grin, "that's when I began to think about retiring."

Nathan Slaton, associate vice president for agriculture and assistant director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, is serving as interim department head.

"Robert served the department and the state during a time when Arkansas was growing a million acres of wheat," Slaton said. "And as a researcher, and later as department head, he has seen the department evolve and adapt with the changes in Arkansas agriculture over 37 years."

"I think I started my position a year before the formation of the Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board," Bacon said. "As the wheat breeder, I worked a lot with some of the early leaders of the Board – people like Robert Moery, Richard Plugge and Pat Sullivan. It was really fun being part of that."

The academic program has grown since Bacon became department head, Slaton said. "The undergraduate program is larger now," he said. "I attribute that to Robert's leadership in curriculum development and priorities in faculty hires."



Bumpers College Dean Deacue Fields presents Bacon an appreciation award at his retirement reception on July 23.

"I enjoyed teaching all the classes I taught, but I guess as far as favorites, I probably enjoyed from an academic perspective teaching Introduction to Plant Breeding – of course that was my main interest," Bacon said. "I also really liked teaching Cereal Crops because I got to interact with a lot of undergraduates."

Bacon, affectionately known as "Shake and Bake" to at least a handful of graduate students, said the department has become more diverse over the years, in more ways than one.

"It was the department of agronomy when I began," he said, "and it was all men then. Karen Moldenhauer (rice breeder at the division's Rice Research and Extension Center) was the only woman."

He said the department has changed with the times to become more diverse in gender and ethnicity.

The department of agronomy was renamed the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences to reflect more diverse research and academic programs.

"When I started, all the soil science was related to crop production," Bacon said. "Today, environmental sciences have become more important in relation to agriculture. It was always on my mind that I wanted our research and teaching programs to remain relevant."

Looking back over his 37-year career, Bacon can see dramatic changes in technology.

"One thing that strikes me now is that I can remember when no one had a computer," he said. "John Gilmore (a former faculty member) told me, 'You should really get a computer.' And I was like, why? If I need a computer there's one in the computer lab."

Bacon said his career was buoyed by great mentors, like Bobby Wells, who drove the experiment station's early rice research, and Chuck Caviness, crop breeder who developed ArkSoy, the division's first soybean variety adapted to grow in Arkansas.

Since retiring, Bacon said he has been adjusting to not living by a clock. He and his wife, Dian, intend to continue living in Fayetteville. "It's home to us," he said, but he's still involved.

He's planning to teach the Introduction to Brewing Science class this year, which is part of the Certificate of Proficiency in Brewing Science offered through the Department of Food Science.

"I would like to continue developing the study abroad program in brewing science that I was working on with the University of Ghent that was shut down because of COVID," Bacon said.

What They Said ...:

"From teacher, to employer, to colleague Robert, you have always been a part of my agronomic experience. The U of A is truly blessed to have benefited from your research and leadership. Your students learned so much from your humble attitude, kindness and training. Thank you for your friendship over the years."

Martha Zwonitzer (BSA, 1998, ESWS), conventional agronomist, Grimmway Farms (former student worker and Agronomy Club president)

"I remember meeting you for the first time in Cereal Production and through the Agronomy Club back in the day (1985). We had some good times hosting the Delta Scholarship Golf Classic, in Agronomy Club and playing softball. You always took the extra time for college students in more than just academics, but also having FUN. You finished up your career supporting the department as the department head, serving your CSES team of teachers and researchers. Your steadfast devotion to the CSES department, the U of A, Bumpers College and your students is SECOND to none. You should be extremely proud of your accomplishments at the U of A, but also the legacy you created. It's not about the brick and mortar, the department, the college or the logo, but most of all about the people who created those relationships with others. You exceeded in that department. JOB WELL DONE!"

Darrin Malone (BSA, 1988, soil science; MSA, 1990, weed science) district sales leader, Corteva Agriscience Midsouth, & co-director of the Delta Scholarship Golf Classic

"Congratulations on your retirement, you have earned it! I hope you and Dian enjoy doing some of the things and going some of the places you may have been putting off because work always seems to get in the way. Maybe Dawn (MSA, 1982, agronomy) and I can learn from you, we both seem to be staying too busy. We have been friends since we first met at the Sigma Chi house in 1974. We've been roommates, groomsmen in each other's weddings, and just good friends for almost 50 years."

Otis Howe (BSA, 1978 agronomy; MSA, 1985, weed science), retired from DuPont Pioneer in 2019 (now Corteva), co-owner of CH Crop Consulting (comments excerpted from a letter)

Families, Friends & Alums Create Scholarships

By Robby Edwards

Over the last several months, multiple donors have generously created scholarships for Bumpers College students. Here's a brief rundown: "Scholarships make a real difference in the lives of hardworking students," said Mark Wilton, director of development and external relations. "They can help lessen the financial burden of school and help students concentrate on the most important thing: their education. An investment in scholarships is an investment in our students and the university, and we're appreciative of all our friends and supporters who make them possible."

Agricultural Council of Arkansas Trust Presidents' Scholarship (multiple majors)



Last spring, the Agricultural Council of Arkansas created this scholarship with a gift of \$25,000 for an annual award of \$5,000 for five years.

The scholarship is available to students in Bumpers College with preference to students majoring in agricultural

economics and agribusiness; agricultural education, communication and technology; horticulture; or crop, soil and environmental sciences. Recipients must be from Arkansas.

Arkansas Rice Council Scholarship (multiple majors)



This summer, the Arkansas Rice Council created this scholarship with a gift of \$12,500 for an annual award of \$2,500 for five years.

Preference for this scholarship goes to Bumpers College students majoring in agricultural

economics and agribusiness; agricultural education, communication and technology; horticulture; crop, soil and environmental sciences; or food science. Recipients must be from Arkansas.

Donna Lucas Graham Endowed Student Award (agricultural education, communication and technology)



Donna L. Graham, U of A University Professor of agricultural education, created an endowed scholarship for students majoring in agricultural education, communication and technology. She has been a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology since 1985, and also serves as the graduate coordinator.

Up to three students each year will be selected for \$1,000 awards. In addition to the endowment, additional funds were provided to enable awarding of scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year.

"I received a scholarship to attend the U of A and without the scholarship, I may not have been able to finish my degree," said Graham. "I was a first-generation student struggling to pay for my education, so I want to assist students in the same situation."

Agricultural education, communication and technology includes concentrations in agricultural communications, agricultural education, agricultural leadership and agricultural systems technology management.

"I believe education pays huge dividends and holds value in today's society," said Graham. "It provides for an improved way of life with social and economic benefits. I hope this scholarship will allow students to take advantage of experiences like study abroad, internships or undergraduate research."

In 2019, Graham was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame and named the nation's Outstanding Agricultural Educator by the American Association for Agricultural Education. She has been with the U of A System since 1970, starting with the Cooperative Extension Service in Jefferson County. In 1985, she moved to the Fayetteville campus as a faculty member and served 10 years as associate dean for academic programs.

Graham has received the Spitze Land Grant Faculty Award for Excellence as well as recognition as a Distinguished Alumna from the U of A Alumni Association. She received the Educator Award from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture professional society in 2016. Graham is a past president of AAAE and also a Senior Fellow. She was elected to the U of A Teaching Academy in 2002, among other honors.

The Phillip O. Carruth Sr. Family Endowed Scholarship (*poultry science*)

A \$200,000-plus gift by the Phillip O. and Phyllis K. Carruth Foundation created an endowed scholarship for students majoring in poultry science. The Phillip O. and Phyllis K. Carruth Foundation, which includes their children – Phillip Owen, Phylisa Diane, Phylana Kathleen and James David, established the Phillip O. Carruth Sr. Family Endowed Scholarship with a gift of \$205,346.16. Preference is given to students from Arkansas.

"The financial support we are able to provide our students through scholarships is absolutely critical to our effort to recruit, retain and graduate outstanding young people seeking careers in the commercial poultry industry," said Dave Caldwell, director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, and professor and department head for the Department of Poultry Science. "We are all tremendously grateful for the Carruth family's decision to create this endowment to support our poultry science students in honor of Mr. Carruth."

Phillip Carruth worked for Ralston Purina in several states and at Valmac Industries in Dardanelle before moving to Lane Poultry Industries in De Queen. In 1978, he started Poultry Specialties Inc. with his partner, Ted Kengla, and was owner-operator. He opened a chicken plant in Van Buren and was an innovator in developing the fast food chicken sandwich patty.



Carruth was elected mayor of Russellville in 1995, serving through 1999, and also served as an alderman. He was a member of the Arkansas Poultry Federation, vice president of the Sara Lee Corporation Meat Division, and member of the Russellville City Council, Rotary Club, Airport Commission, Center for the Arts Board of Directors and Country Club Board, among others.

Carruth passed away in 2016 at age 75.

Jenee T. Dill Memorial Endowed Scholarship (*food, nutrition and health, or human nutrition and dietetics*)

Joe and Kim Dill, parents of Jenée Torng Dill, established the Jenée T. Dill Memorial Endowed Scholarship for students in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. Jenée was only 22 years old and a senior in HESC when her life was cut short in an automobile collision.

She was described as a loving, kind-hearted person and a devoted volunteer for many causes, including senior assisted living centers, kids with Down Syndrome, the Boys and Girls Club of America, homeless shelters, food banks and her church.

The Dills said they created the scholarship because they would like to be able to help someone else get their degree, "to pick up where she left off."

"Jenée loved to help people and rescue animals," Kim Dill said. "We

trust she would want to offer this for others." Joe Dill stressed that the scholarship "is about her, not about us."

The endowment was founded from gifts totaling \$80,000 and provide annual support. An additional gift of \$3,000 was contributed to ensure awarding for the 2020-21 academic year.

The scholarship benefits students in good academic standing majoring in food, nutrition and health, or human nutrition and dietetics. Preference is also given to students who graduated from The Covenant School in Dallas and active in community service.



Robert Frans Memorial Endowed Scholarship Award (*crop, soil and environmental sciences*)

Robert "Bob" Frans was an emeritus faculty member in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. He passed away Jan. 11, 2021, at the age of 93.

He joined the faculty in 1955 and retired in 1994 as Emeritus Distinguished Professor of agronomy. Frans is credited with founding U of A's weed science program and was one of the first in the discipline to develop innovative research in chemical weed control in cotton. Through his relationship with the Elms Farming Company and the Alzheimer Foundation, the department received funding for endowed chair positions in cotton, soybean and weed science.

Frans was the major professor for 46 master's degree and Ph.D.

students, and published more than 200 scientific articles. Frans was named Fellow of the Weed Science Society of America in 1979 and won WSSA's Outstanding Teacher Award in 1980.

His gift of \$25,000 established the Robert Frans Memorial Endowed Scholarship Award. Preference is given to students studying weed science who have participated in study abroad through Bumpers College's International Programs Office.

For more on Frans, see our Class Notes section.



Mark and Angela Waldrip Advance Arkansas Scholarship (*any major*)

Mark and Angela Waldrip, both graduates of Bumpers College, created an Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship with a gift of \$50,000. The donation was part of a larger gift being used for other initiatives in the college. Mark graduated in 1977 in agricultural economics and agribusiness, and Angela in 1979 in home economics.

Advance Arkansas scholarships are matched by the U of A, which dedicated \$2.5 million to match earnings generated by donations to the

program. The goal is to raise \$10 million for Arkansas students.

The Waldrip scholarship is for new, returning or transfer students from Arkansas. Preference is toward first generation students who are active in state FFA and/or 4-H leadership positions and community service programs, and from eastern Arkansas.





Minerva Dorantes (center right) conducts training workshops on constructing digital soil maps.

Photos courtesy of Phillip Owens

Students, Alum Build Digital Soil Maps for Central American Farmers

By Kenley Bramall

Two Bumpers College students in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences worked with their supervisor, a U of A CSES graduate and USDA scientist, on a unique project to provide training to Central American scientists for the development of useful soil information which can improve the quality of life of smallholder farmers.

Minerva Dorantes, Ph.D. candidate of Chicago, Illinois, and Bryan Fuentes, a recent master's degree graduate of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, worked with Phillip Owens on a project coordinated by the Catholic Relief Services and funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The program, Water-Smart Agriculture in Central America, had the goal to revitalize dryland agriculture in a region known as the Dry Corridor. The digital soil mapping project was a component of the Water-Smart Agriculture program which aims to train scientists and technicians in the development of continuous soil property and interpretation maps, which are useful for decision-making. The maps were created collectively with scientists from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Dorantes and Fuentes led workshops to train these scientists in the development of the maps. The maps produced inform farmers on sustainable practices to help them generate higher overall yields for their crops. It is beneficial for them to know if the soil in their region is suitable for the specific crops they plan to cultivate.

Owens is the Research Leader at the USDA Agricultural Research Center's Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center. He is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. Owens received his bachelor's and master's degree in soil science from the U of A, and his Ph.D. at Texas A&M.

"The graduate students working on this project developed world class tools for training and novel methods for digital soil mapping with limited data which will change the lives of smallholder farmers in Central America," Owens said. "This project utilized technology to help these farmers in Central America realize the production potential of their land. Not only did they increase production, the focus on water provided tools to hedge the effects of climate change by keeping more water in the soil when rain occurred and minimized soil erosion due to decreased runoff."

Dorantes, Fuentes and Owens developed a unique way to create new soil information from existing soil and environmental data and freely available satellite data using open source software. Their goal was to train multidisciplinary teams of scientists and technicians in Central America in the framework they developed. With these skills, the Central American teams are able to generate soil information by themselves and transfer that information to extension agents and producers so that they can advise their farming practices and produce



Phillip Owens conducts in-field exercises to develop competencies in soil descriptions, soil sampling, and soil and landscape interactions.



Bryan Fuentes teaches about the construction and validation of digital soil property maps.



The team conducts in-field exercises studying soil profiles.

higher yields while saving soil.

The students continually improved their methods to create a living map for scientists to use – they even built an app for scientists to download for ease of use. Both Dorantes and Fuentes are native Spanish speakers, easing the communication barrier in the teaching and application of this methodology in Central America.

The project was started in 2015 at Purdue University, but moved to the University of Arkansas along with Owens. It saw excellent success in its five years, ending in June 2020.

“I was an associate professor in the Agronomy Department at Purdue University when the original grant was received,” Owens said. “I saw an opportunity to return to Arkansas and focus my efforts to help my home state. Once I took the job with the USDA-ARS, I found collaborators at the University of Arkansas to help complete the grant goals. We recruited the best graduate students for the project because not only do the students need to be proficient with tools for digital soil mapping, they must also be fluent in Spanish.”

Dorantes served as the project manager with the Central American teams. There were over 100 scientists trained to create their own digital soil maps and share the information with agricultural extension agents. The teams saw great improvement in the development of their property maps. The goal of the teams was to train the members to be trainers themselves and expand their reach.

“Our achievement was constructing useful information about soils to help bridge the gap between scientists and farmers,” Dorantes said.

Fuentes was the tech lead for the project. He said the project was a dynamic approach to soil sciences and they constantly improved their computational methods.

“We used open source software to create our data without cost and no software license was necessary,” Fuentes said. “By taking advantage of the universe of resources available and improving our methods daily, the scientists we trained can access the data smoothly and effectively. It is very user-friendly with low cost and people can have constant access to it.”

Many graduate student projects are all data and no application. This project was different.

“Our project was different from many projects because it was applied,” Dorantes said. “We worked closely with our teams to find out what they need in terms of soil information so that the training we provide is useful to them. We really focused on training them on the soil mapping framework.”

Owens emphasized this project was helping Central American farmers produce higher overall yields and ultimately saving soil composition.

“It’s all based on technology and using existing data to create a product that is worth implementing,” Owens said. “It’s not just taking numbers and creating the product, it’s teaching people.”

The digital soil mapping project generated interest in soil science research throughout Central America. A regional master’s degree program with a focus on soils and the environment has recently been created and there are multiple institutions assisting in teaching and science research.

The group’s training efforts in digital soil mapping for the Water Smart Agriculture program was nominated for the Glinka World Soil Prize presented by the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Dorantes and Fuentes were both advised by David Miller, a professor in CSES.



Bumpers College Strategic Plan

MISSION

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

OVERVIEW

The work to create a strategic plan for Bumpers College began in 2019 with a series of nine town halls held in communities throughout the state. These events provided Bumpers College leaders and staff the opportunity to hear firsthand from external stakeholders – educators, industry and business leaders, trade association representatives, student groups from FFA and 4H, parents and legislators – about their perception of the college, its areas of academic focus and their personal experiences, if any, with the college. In 2020, internal Bumpers College stakeholders were interviewed using focus groups and online surveys to gain their perspective on issues that should be included in the strategic plan.

RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVES FOR STRATEGIC PLAN

OBJECTIVE 1: Continue to integrate diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives into everything we do.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Support newly created DEI Coordinator role to elevate DEI efforts within Bumpers College.
- Collaborate with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and leverage its resources, including training, curriculum, research and partnerships.
- Position Bumpers College as an academic destination where prospective and current students and faculty will feel included and welcome, with equal access to services and facilities.
- Provide ongoing development and training opportunities for faculty and staff to increase understanding and sensitivity to issues related to student interaction and curriculum.

OBJECTIVE 2: Implement findings from teaching and learning during the pandemic.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Recognize the need for flexibility in learning styles and that the college can serve students in different ways.
- Assess how content is being delivered to students, to recruits and to stakeholders and determine if there are opportunities to improve delivery by continuing to use virtual channels (i.e. virtual recruiting events and awards ceremonies).
- Continue to invest in the technology and instructor training needed to deliver content in a professional way for a positive student experience.

OBJECTIVE 3: Enhance Bumpers College's reputation as an international institution.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Elevate the work that Bumpers College students and graduates do that benefits the state, the country and the world, especially as they relate to food and agriculture.
- Improve communication around global learning opportunities, including internships, service learnings, faculty exchanges and semesters abroad.
- Strengthen messaging and communication regarding the importance of international experience as a benefit for graduates as they pursue their careers.

OBJECTIVE 4: Create communications strategy that will increase awareness of academic offerings and land-grant institution status.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Create consistency in messaging across all channels.
- Reaffirm the university's mission as a land-grant institution and clearly communicate what that means for students, for faculty and for the State of Arkansas.
- Increase awareness of academic programs, especially around human environmental services and life sciences. STEM and agriculture go hand in hand.

OBJECTIVE 5: Improve student recruitment.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Diversity, equity and inclusion will continue to be a hallmark of recruiting students, as well as faculty members.
- Develop a feeder program or pipeline to reach Arkansas students as early as 8th grade, concentrating on underserved areas such as the Delta. Students see others like them and can be exposed to areas of study of which they were unaware.
- Continue focus on recruiting in eastern and southern Arkansas to build on recent recruiting success in these areas of the state.
- Continue to leverage alumni in targeted markets, both in and out of state, as brand ambassadors, recognizing their importance as a recruiting tool.
- Strengthen relationships in rural parts of the state and continue partnerships with local industry as part of the college's land-grant mission.
- Provide non-traditional ways for students to get an education, whether through a two-year program or a non-credit, yet free, internship or job shadow program.

OBJECTIVE 6: Improve student success.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Evaluate onboarding program(s) for new students to assess and improve how students experience the college from the beginning of their university career.
- Update onboarding for new faculty and staff members.
- Create affinity group program that matches new students with other students with shared interests; these groups provide built-in community and mentoring that can benefit retention.
- Implement career planning early in a student's career to make them aware of trends in their field, skills needed and available career opportunities. This will be especially important in fields of study that are rapidly changing such as food science, equine studies and farm management/mechanization.
- Wherever possible, provide opportunities for real-life application of learning.
- Proactively address students' skills gaps, including written and oral communications and critical thinking, and life skills such as time management.
- Collaborate with other university departments/entities to provide timely support to students who are struggling academically or with personal issues such as finances, or mental or physical health concerns.
- Create a system for students to directly ask for assistance.

OBJECTIVE 7: Improve breadth and depth of Bumpers College research efforts.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Position the importance of research as a catalyst to accomplish other goals such as retention, funding, recognition and prestige.
- Communicate clear expectations to faculty regarding the quantity of research that they produce and that research is a point on which they will be evaluated.
- Identify incentives that will encourage faculty to engage in meaningful research that supports the university's goal of being a top-level research institution.
- Create new tools and leverage existing resources to simplify and streamline the research and grant application processes.

OBJECTIVE 8: Strengthen partnership with Division of Agriculture.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Promote the key role the Division of Agriculture plays in teaching, research and recruiting.
- Continue to prioritize communication between Bumpers College, the Division of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service as a way to clarify roles and responsibilities, reporting structure, staffing and funding.
- Recognize the value that the Cooperative Extension Service staff brings in terms of recruiting students while in the field, and make sure their staff is equipped with the proper tools to effectively communicate about Bumpers College.

OBJECTIVE 9: Continue to uphold standards of excellence in teaching.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Nurture the Bumpers College culture that faculty members create by being knowledgeable and passionate about their subject area, providing engaging learning experiences and demonstrating genuine interest in their students' success.
- Provide faculty with state-of-the-art tools and technology to maximize student learning.
- Support ongoing learning for faculty and instructors by encouraging participation in teaching academies.

College Creates Transfer Degree Programs

By Robby Edwards



At the signing in April were (from left) MSU Provost Frank Einhellig, U of A's Patrice Sims, MSU Dean of the William H. Darr College of Agriculture Ronald Del Vecchio, MSU head of the Department of Animal Science Gary Webb and U of A's David Caldwell, head of the Department of Poultry Science and director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

BUMPERS COLLEGE COLLABORATED WITH TWO OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO CREATE DEGREE PATH PROGRAMS THROUGH THREE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS.

3-PLUS-1 DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM WITH MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Poultry Science signed a memorandum of understanding with Missouri State University's William H. Darr College of Agriculture in Springfield to create a dual-degree transfer program with an emphasis on poultry science.

The 3-plus-1 course curriculum allows animal science majors at MSU to complete their senior year at the U of A in poultry science and earn degrees from both universities. Graduates earn bachelor's degrees from MSU in animal science and from the U of A in poultry science.

"We offer one of the premier poultry science programs in the nation," said Dean Deacue Fields. "The industry is demanding more degreed professionals, and our graduates are highly sought after. Poultry is obviously a huge part of the agricultural industry and economy in Arkansas, but also in Missouri and other surrounding areas. We are excited to be able to partner with Missouri State and its students and faculty on addressing an industry demand in our region and beyond. Along with other existing agreements, we are now able to

work with students at other institutions to the south, east and north of us.”

The purpose of the MSU/U of A 3-plus-1 poultry science transfer degree program is to give more students access and preparation for poultry industry careers.

Transferring students can choose a poultry science industry or a pre-professional concentration. The poultry science industry concentration requires 34 hours, while the pre-professional option requires 30 hours. Both include an internship, along with classes such as Poultry Production, Avian Anatomy, Egg & Meat Technology, Poultry Breeder, Poultry Diseases and Poultry Nutrition, among others.

“We are very excited to begin the implementation of this 3-plus-1 transfer degree program with the Darr College of Agriculture,” said David Caldwell, head of the Department of Poultry Science.

Caldwell is also director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science and a researcher and scientist with the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the U of A System Division of Agriculture.

“Throughout the years, our department has been fortunate to enroll some exceptional students from the state of Missouri, many of whom have gone on to important positions in the commercial poultry industry,” Caldwell said. We look forward to guiding participating students toward rewarding careers in poultry science within the commercial poultry industry.”

MSU’s animal science program prepares graduates for careers in agricultural fields that focus on the care, treatment and use of animals. Programs focus on both the business and technical aspects of animal care, nutrition and breeding.

Patrice Sims, project program specialist in the Department of Poultry Science and with the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, is the program coordinator.

The dual-degree transfer program is similar to a 3-plus-1 agreement Bumpers College created with Arkansas State University in 2017. A 3-plus-1 poultry science certificate program was established with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 2013 and revised to a dual-degree program in 2018.

2-PLUS-2 TRANSFER DEGREE PROGRAMS WITH UA-COSSATOT

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, and the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology created 2-plus-2 transfer degree programs with UA-Cossatot in southwest Arkansas.

The programs allow UA-Cossatot students who earn an associate degree in agricultural business to complete their junior and senior years in Fayetteville while working toward a bachelor’s degree in agricultural business or agricultural education, communication and technology with concentrations in agricultural business management and marketing or agricultural education.

The purpose is to provide opportunities for students using the Arkansas Transfer Achievement Scholarship with greater access and preparation for careers in those academic areas.

“One of our roles and goals is to do what we can to make it as easy and welcoming for students from all areas of the state to transition to



Mia Martin (left), the first dual-degree graduate of the U of A and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff through the poultry science 3-plus-1 program, and her adviser Patrice Sims, project program specialist in Bumpers College's Department of Poultry Science.

the U of A and find their passion in one of our majors,” said Fields. “These agreements with UA-Cossatot are hopefully an indication to Southwest Arkansas, and the entire state, that we are committed to partnering with you and helping students find their career path and passion with us. These are both Bumpers College degrees and agriculturally based, but in two very different areas that hopefully appeal to a wide range of students.”

The agreements call for students to complete their first two years at UA-Cossatot, follow the course curriculum, have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 and earn an associate of science degree.

“We are excited to have a 2-plus-2 agreement in place with UA-Cossatot,” said John Anderson, professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. “This program will make a U of A bachelor’s degree more accessible than ever for our students from Southwest Arkansas. That is a great opportunity for those students, but also for our department. We are here to serve the entire state. The more we can do to make our programs available to a diverse set of students from every region of the state, the better it is for all of us.”

“We are extremely fortunate to have such excellent partners in UA-Cossatot to help bring these two bachelor’s programs to this part of the state of Arkansas,” said George Wardlow, professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology. “Allowing more students access to U of A bachelor’s degrees can only continue to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life for all Arkansans.”

The ATA Scholarship provides discounted tuition to students who earn an associate of arts, associate of science or associate of arts in teaching degree at a UA-System institution and transfer to the U of A.



MEET CATHERINE BEASLEY

DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYER RELATIONS

By Robby Edwards

Catherine Beasley earned her bachelor's degree in Journalism from the U of A in 2011.

Catherine Beasley joined the staff in August as director of employer relations. She was already on campus, working as manager for corporate programs in the Sam M. Walton College of Business. Beasley has close to 10 years of experience in career services and industry partnerships. In her role, she will develop and implement strategies to increase employment opportunities for students and recent graduates; coordinate employer recruiting on campus, speakers in classes and employer information sessions; and facilitate seminars, industry tours and trainings for faculty and students. She is part of the college's Student Services team in the Waldrup Student Center, which is housed in the Agriculture Building.

What drew you to this position?

I started off my career at the University of Arkansas in employer relations, and always wanted to get back into that realm of work. Most students come to school in hopes of starting a career post-graduation, and I love helping connect them to those opportunities.

Why should employers hire Bumpers College graduates?

They are uniquely qualified for the workforce in their respective fields. Bumpers College not only graduates the highest percentage of graduates on campus, but they are taught by experts in their fields and complete experiential learning during their time here.



Anything you want employers, large or small, to know about our students and programs?

All of our majors are vocational in nature. We probably have a fit for your role within Bumpers somewhere.

Any goals you might have?

I would really like to create a four-year roadmap for students while I'm here. Many students think they shouldn't think about finding a job or internship until the year they are looking for one. However, there are steps they can take early in their academic career to help prepare themselves for that process.

What is your favorite aspect of working with students and employers?

Working in employer relations is very fulfilling work. It's a win-win situation of helping employers find future employees for their positions and helping students launch their careers.

How can our alumni, friends and supporters assist in employer relations?

Contact me, seriously! Reach out to me at ccnorman@uark.edu if you know of any job openings, and tell people in your respective industries how great Bumpers students are.

If you weren't doing this, what would you be doing?

I would probably still be in consumer packaged goods marketing. I'm happy I found my way to higher education, though.

What do you do for fun?

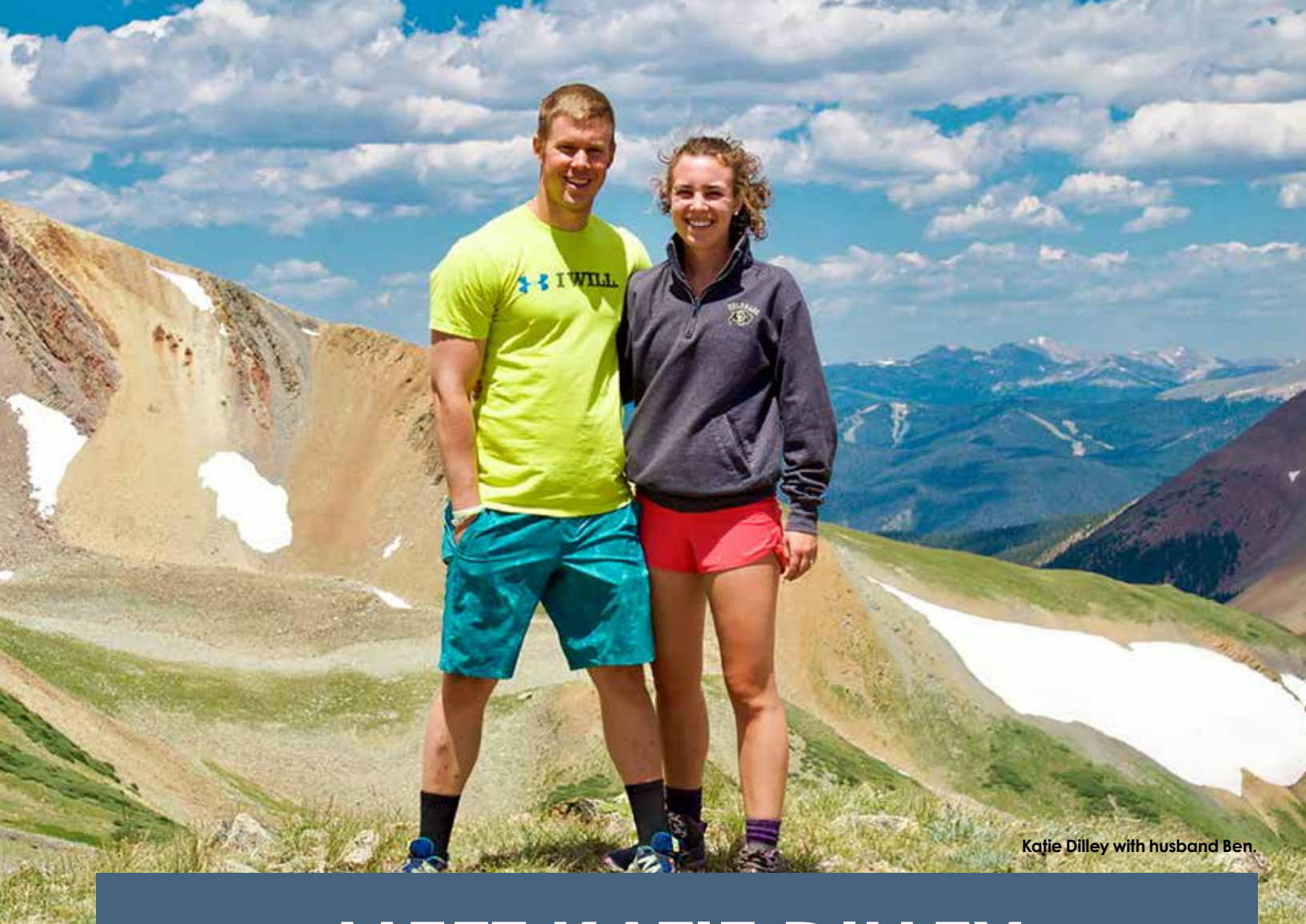
I love to be outside (swimming, hiking, etc.), cooking, and spending time with friends and family.

If you were going to pick one of our majors, what would it be and why?

As an undergrad, I probably would have chosen agricultural education, communication and technology. I took an ag communications class as one of my electives when I was a journalism major, so that would have aligned with my interests at the time. If I were picking now, I would choose food science or human nutrition and dietetics. I'm very passionate about food.

Beasley (right) worked in U of A's Sam M. Walton College of Business since 2018 as first associate director for student success and then as manager for corporate programs. Before that, she was a project manager with Triad Retail Media (now part of Sam's Club) from 2015-18; an account coordinator with Ivie and Associates (now Quad) from 2014-15; and a marketing manager with Lindsey Management from 2011-14.





Katie Dilley with husband Ben.

MEET KATIE DILLEY

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RECRUITER

By Robby Edwards

Katie Dilley joined the staff in August as coordinator of undergraduate student recruitment.

She moved to Fayetteville after previously serving as academic programs initiatives recruitment and outreach coordinator in the College of Agriculture at Purdue University. She was also an instructor with the Agriculture Technology and Innovation Learning Community, director of the Pre-College Molecular Science Summer Institute and a curriculum co-director of the college's Racial Justice Education Workshop.

What drew you to this position?

The University of Arkansas was actually my dream school as a kid. My grandfather went to school here and he encouraged a love for the school, but being an out-of-state student made it difficult. I'm stoked to finally be able to call myself an Arkansas Razorback! I applied for this position because I've loved the

opportunities I've had at Purdue's College of Agriculture and saw this position as a chance to take those opportunities and everything I've learned to the next level with the bonus of it being at a school I'm very excited about. I'm passionate about helping students see the value in higher education, especially Arkansas students who the land-grant university is designed to serve. My



grandfather spent his life in education with the vision of serving Arkansas and southern Missouri students by giving them an excellent higher education experience, and I'm proud to say I share his belief in the power of education and excited to work in many of the same areas he worked.

Anything you want students, teachers, parents, counselors, etc., to know about you?

I want to help every student find their best fit and see the value in an excellent higher education experience. I'm very individualized and want to make sure needs are met, whether you are the student coming to college, and the support system who is working to get your student into a great college or have a great experience. I'm here as a direct resource and will make sure you or your student has the best possible experience during the college decision-making process and during their time at Bumpers College!

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

Talk up Bumpers College, your experience and the opportunities available! Take time to get to know what Bumpers

has available now and current resources for students to be able to help them see a fit for themselves in Bumpers College. If you connect with any students who are interested in heading to college, no matter their interests, connect them with us and we would love to set up a one-on-one meeting with the student and their support system. I'd be thrilled to share the opportunities available at Bumpers College and why they should choose the University of Arkansas!

What stands out to you about Bumpers College?

The two biggest things that stuck out to me right away were 1) the familial atmosphere everywhere you go and 2) Dean (Deacue) Fields, along with all of the leadership and desire to continue to develop outstanding programs for students. From initial interactions with faculty, staff and students, you can tell that Bumpers College is a place where individuals are valued and great care is taken to provide the best possible experience for students. I was especially impressed with the leadership's desire to bring DEI initiatives to every aspect of the college experience and choosing to do the hard work to better the college as a whole. I believe this intentionality will only continue to set apart Bumpers College not just at the university level but nationally as well.

How do you plan on connecting Bumpers College to potential students and families throughout the state?

I plan to take time, especially within the first year, to really learn the demographics and needs throughout the state. Every region has different needs that can be catered toward to develop best systems of connection for students and families. I plan to be intentional with these interactions, listen to the different needs, and work to develop our plans and initiatives that will continue to connect potential students and families to Bumpers in the years to come.

What do you do for fun?

I love to hike and do any outdoor activities with my husband, Ben. He is a big mountain and road cyclist, so I'm working on getting better at cycling, especially living in such a hub here in Arkansas. I'm excited to explore the outdoor activities in NW Arkansas, especially the rivers and lakes since growing up in Colorado, you never wanted to swim in the freezing waters. We have family in Hollister, Missouri, and I love to spend weekends there fishing on the dock and spending time with family.

If you were going to pick one of our majors, what would it be and why?

This is a hard question, I would want to customize with different minor options! If I had to choose, I would go with human nutrition and dietetics. I geek out over nutrition and learning how to best serve our bodies, especially on how to make healthy meals delicious. I make it a personal challenge to find ways to love eating vegetables. I love cooking overall and think it would be fun to turn that into a career through private practice or maybe opening a bakery with treats that better serve athletes - could be a good niche with the cycling community in NW Arkansas!

Bumpers College YEAR IN PICS

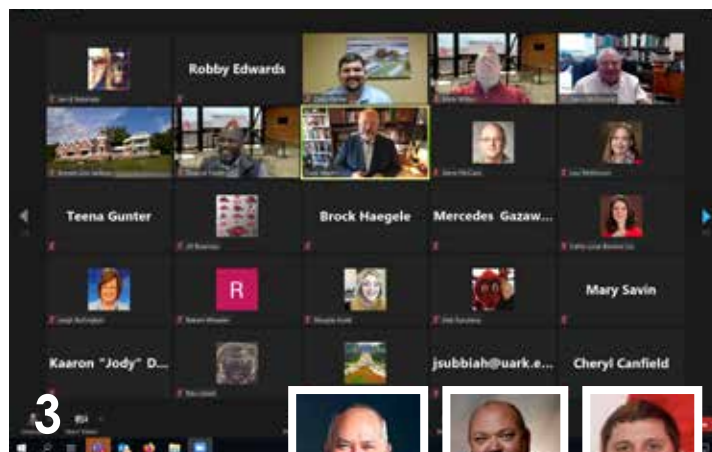
NOTE: due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our events were canceled last spring; as a result, we do not have as many photos as usual, but we still have many highlights to share with you.



1. Our Department of Poultry Science hosted a career summit in June with students from Arkansas, Missouri and Texas participating. They heard from admissions, learned about scholarships and housing, met representatives from The Poultry Federation, toured various labs and participated in workshops on avian anatomy, egg residue breakout, food technology and DNA bitter tasting. (photos by Micayla Blair)



2. The U of A soil judging team won the Region IV Collegiate Soil Judging Contest and qualified for the national contest. U of A has qualified for nationals 10 consecutive years. Machaela Morrison, Jonathan Brye and Shane Ylagan finished first, second and third, respectively, and Katie Maxwell was sixth among 35 individuals in a virtual competition. The team, students from the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science, is coached by Kris Brye, University Professor of applied soil physics and pedology.



3. Bumpers College partnered with the Arkansas Alumni

Association to host a Lunch and Learn panel discussion in November on "The Ripple Effect of a Pandemic on the Food Supply Chain." Panelists included Todd Martin, Bumpers College graduate, member of the alumni society's board of directors, restaurant owner, consultant and agricultural economist; Garry McDonald, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture, and an expert in plant nutrition and nursery production; and Drew Parker, Bumpers College graduate in poultry science and senior technical service veterinarian.





4. The U of A System Division of Agriculture appointed Ken Korth head of our Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology in July. Korth had served as interim head since 2018 and oversaw the merger of the department of entomology and the department of plant pathology into one. He oversees the department's mission areas of research, teaching and extension through the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Bumpers College and the Cooperative Extension Service. Dean Deacue Fields said, "Ken has been leading our faculty and serving our students in the department for almost three years on an interim basis, and I appreciate his leadership. I'm happy for students, faculty and staff in entomology and plant pathology, and in the college as a whole, that this is now official. He's definitely the person for this role. Ken managed the merger of our previous separate departments, is dedicated to teaching, research and extension, and committed to attracting students into his master's degree and doctoral programs. I look forward to continuing our relationship and strengthening our programs."

5. 2020 may have been a virtual climate, but that didn't stop our Living Learning Community from getting students engaged. "The focus of the LLC is to engage and encourage students to be their best by connecting them to resources and opportunities across the campus," said Lucas Simmons, senior academic adviser and student experience coordinator. Simmons led LLC events such as carving pumpkins, a scavenger hunt, meeting with professionals from the National Agricultural Law Center and meeting the Keith Stokes Family, caretakers of Tusk V, the official live mascot of Razorback athletics. *(photos by Lucas Simmons)*



6. U of Arkansas researchers developed a surgical spoon to make a common veterinary procedure safer and more effective. The group's novel spoon allows veterinarians to more effectively remove bladder stones from companion animals. Lauren Thomas (bottom right), doctor of veterinary medicine and clinical assistant professor of animal science; Davina D'Angelo (top left), her student; Morten Jensen (bottom left), associate professor of biomedical engineering; and Sam Stephens (top right), a research engineer and graduate student in Jensen's lab, created a series of 3-D printed spoons optimized with computational simulations and mechanical testing. D'Angelo, an animal science honors student in the pre-professional concentration, approached Thomas with the idea after shadowing at a local veterinary hospital. "These spoons will give veterinarians a customized tool that has been made with veterinary patient safety, stone removal efficacy and anesthetic efficiency in mind," Thomas said. "If we can decrease the amount of time that veterinary surgeons spend performing this procedure, that decreases the amount of time the animal spends under anesthesia, which is safer for the animal, saves the client money and improves the odds of getting all of the unwanted stones out of the urinary bladder. It's a win on all fronts."

Bumpers College YEAR IN PICS



7. Rulli Torres, a fashion designer and entrepreneur in Dallas, hosted a Facebook Live event from campus in March with associate professor Laurie Apple. Torres earned his bachelor's degree in 2011 and launched his own brand in 2013. He was approached by Red de Talentos Mexicanos (Talented Mexicans Network) and the Mexican Consulate to be part of its Arts & Sciences webinar series lineup. Torres and Apple co-hosted a "DesignTech" episode, and discussed how fashion is an art and also a science, and talked about the apparel program. Torres specializes in women's gowns, but also works with ready-to-wear custom orders, costumes, bridal and anything related to apparel or designing. He opened a modeling school and agency in Dallas in 2019 and participated in New York Fashion Week in 2013. His ready-to-wear collection can be found at rullitorres.com. Apple is part of the AMPD faculty and was one of Torres's professors. Her focus is on product development and apparel fit using innovative digital technologies, including 3-D body scanning.



8. Jody Davis (left) and Rhonda Harton were named winners of inaugural staff awards presented by the college in January. Davis received the Excellence in Service Award for Non-Classified Support Personnel and Harton the Excellence in Service Award for Classified Support Personnel. Davis is a member of the Dean's Office staff, serving as director of student records and part of the Student Services team. Harton is the primary office support specialist for faculty and receptionist for the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology.

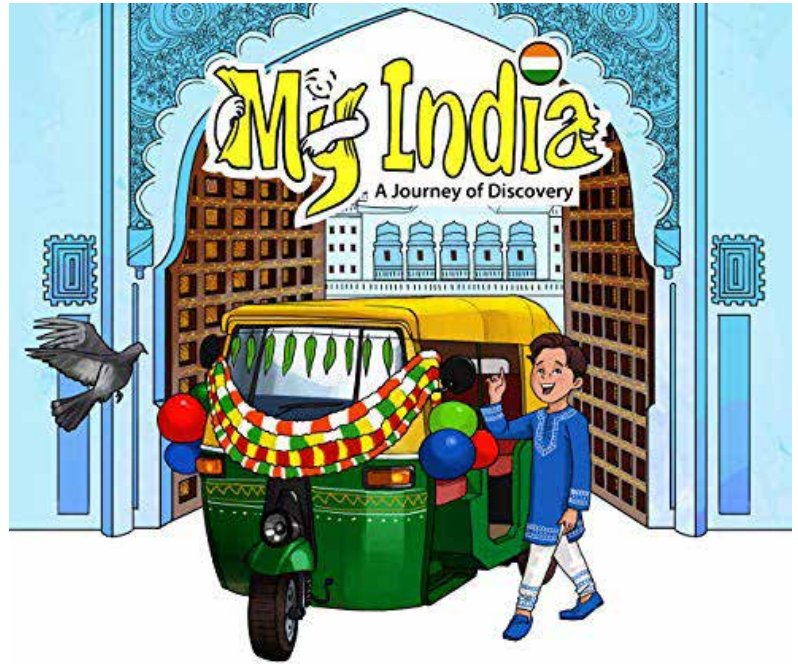


9. Our Honors and Awards Ceremony was held virtually on April 15 as the college recognized outstanding students, including first-ranked and senior scholars, college wide awardees, outstanding students from each department, honors graduates and student ambassadors.

10. Olivera Jankovska, a 2009 agricultural business graduate, published the first “My Homeland” children’s books series in November. The series celebrates multicultural children, and helps them appreciate and share their heritage and culture. The first two books, “My India: A Journey of Discovery,” one for boys and one for girls, are written for children of Indian descent. Jankovska has already written “My Macedonia” and “My Estonia,” scheduled to have been released this summer. “I have been polishing my stories for over three years before publication as I intended to make each book a personalized journey of heritage discovery.” The first two books of the “My Homeland” series are available on Amazon. More information on the series is available at atlasink.org.



10



Olivera Jankovska

illustrated by - Sreejith

10



11

11. Bumpers College partnered with the Arkansas Alumni Association to host a Coffee Break panel discussion in November on “The Impact of COVID-19 on Early Childhood Education.” The conversation coincided with World Children’s Day (Nov. 20) and American Education Week (Nov. 16-20). Panelists included Jean Tyson Child Development Study Center lead teacher Ella Claire Covington (left), a graduate in birth through kindergarten; Geania Dickey (center), Bumpers College graduate, consultant for Arkansas State University Childhood Services and principal of dot2dot consulting; Jennifer Kesselring, an early childhood educator for 28 years with the last 22 at Riverfield Country Day School in Tulsa; and Robyn Smith (right), Bumpers College graduate certified in early childhood and pre-kindergarten, and a pre-K teacher and program director at Prairie Grove Elementary School.

12. A chance meeting at a conference between Dede Hamm and country artist Jason Aldean’s production manager and security consultant led to a summer tour and case study on stakeholder and risk management. Hamm is a hospitality management instructor in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. Aldean was on stage in Las Vegas for the Route 91 Harvest Festival in 2017 when gunman Stephen Paddock opened fire from his Mandalay Bay hotel room, killing 58 people and injuring hundreds. After discussing the tragedy with Aldean’s staff, Hamm was invited to go on the road for several concert dates. Hamm completed the case study and incorporated it into her Event Safety and Venue Management class. “The Importance of Event Stakeholders: A case study of the Route 91 Harvest Festival Shooting,” was published in the *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases* by the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education. Hamm hopes students better understand the importance of identifying event stakeholders, improvements to the event planning process by involving stakeholders, and investigating and identifying community resources for emergency planning.



12

Bumpers College YEAR IN PICS



13. The college hosted 70-plus students, teachers and administrators from Lighthouse Academies in June for an introduction to the college's majors and potential careers. The eighth-through-12th graders had lunch, heard from Dean Deacue Fields, then saw demonstrations, participated in activities, took tours and interacted with representatives from most of our departments. Lighthouse Academies has schools in Jacksonville (K-12), Pine Bluff (K-8) and North Little Rock (K-5), and they follow arts-infused programs with an emphasis on social development.



14. A trip to a local grocery store turned into a rescue mission for Neel Joshi, entomologist and associate professor in the college and for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. He noticed an area around a tree roped off to keep people away. Onlookers gathered to see what was up and Joshi joined them. Honeybees had constructed a hive on a branch, which was cracked. A parking lot, with cars, shopping carts and pedestrians is not a good place for bees, and the bees were swarming for mating. The manager told Joshi the store called someone to remove them, but the attempt failed, likely resulting in the cracked branch. Joshi had a bee suit and gear in his car, and offered to remove the colony. After the store closed and the lot cleared, and decked in protective gear, he clipped the branch, placed the bees in a cardboard box and placed them in a reusable shopping bag. He drove them to the Milo J. Shult Agricultural Research and Extension Center and placed the bees in a hive box in the center's entomology area



15. Food science students developed recipes for gummy treats to promote healthier snacking. The students took on the project in Product Innovation for Food Scientists, the capstone class for seniors taught by Navam Hettiarachchy, University Professor, and a food scientist for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the U of A System Division of Agriculture. "Most children's snacks are mostly dense in calories and deficient in nutrients," Hettiarachchy said. "Replacing unhealthy snacks with more nutritious choices is of utmost priority for reducing childhood obesity. Creative food product development efforts can be a key strategy for controlling the current problem. Since kids love gummies that are colorful, chewy, small and compact, with fun shapes and sizes, gummies can be made as a healthier snack option." The seniors were divided into teams and told: develop a creative gummy gel product low in calories, dense in dietary fiber and protein, and with functional food ingredients to provide healthy and functional nutrition snacks as an alternative to calorie-rich temptations. Final products included "Smart Gummies" with grape seed extract and organic turmeric; "Gummies with Benefits" and "Pineapple Punch Gummies" with turmeric powder, green tea extract and pineapple flavor. *(photos by Fred Miller)*



16. Plants come with pretty good security alert systems against pests and maladies, but entomologist Fiona Goggin wants to give them an upgrade for faster defenses against diseases and nematodes attacking through the soil. Goggin, professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, studies the interactions of plants and insects with an eye toward developing safe biological pest control. The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded a \$499,936 grant to Goggin and co-investigators John Rupe, University Professor of plant pathology, and Alejandro Rojas, assistant professor of plant pathology. All three are members of the faculty, and researchers and scientists with the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's research arm. They are investigating methods of boosting the defense response of soybeans against nematodes and soilborne pathogens. Soybeans are the second-largest crop in the U.S. and Arkansas is 11th in the country in production. Goggin said soybean growers suffer billions of dollars in yield losses to nematodes and other soilborne pathogens. *(photo by Fred Miller)*

Bumpers College YEAR IN PICS



17. Enclothe, the annual fashion show for our apparel merchandising and product development program, was limited to only students last year, and held outside for social distancing. Here are a few of their outstanding designs and creations. *(photos by Micayla Blair)*

Bumpers College YEAR IN PICS

We like to recognize our most recent #BUMPERSGRADS every year with a few pictures from commencement. Due to the pandemic, the U of A canceled spring 2020 events. There were Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 ceremonies, but with social distancing. Those graduates still walked across the stage and are now part of the family forever.

photos by Micayla Blair and Robby Edwards



CLASS NOTES

1980s



Dewayne Goldman, BS '85 & MS '87 in agronomy, has been named senior adviser

for racial equity to the Secretary of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced. Goldman is a farmer in southeast Arkansas who has more than 30 years of experience in the agricultural sector. He has been a member of Bumpers College's Dean's Partnership Council since 2015. Goldman served as executive director of the National Black Growers Council, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that advocates to improve the efficiency, productivity and sustainability of Black row crop farmers, for a year before this appointment. "We need to accelerate a transformation of our food system, and that begins with embracing a call for racial justice and equity across food, agriculture and rural America," said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in a USDA release. "With Dewayne's guidance, we will build a USDA that represents and serves all Americans—a USDA that is committed to ensuring equity across the department, removing barriers to access and rooting out systemic discrimination, and building a workforce that reflects all of America." "I am proud that Dr. Goldman has earned this opportunity, and I know he will do an excellent job," said Bumpers College Dean Deacue Fields. "He has been consistently engaged with Bumpers College and a champion for diversity, inclusion and equity. I look forward to our

continued partnership." After four years as a field researcher with American Cyanamid (acquired by BASF), Goldman joined Monsanto Company (acquired by Bayer Crop Sciences) in 1995. He held various positions in technology development, where he conducted research on all southern row crops and managed research and development trials in soybeans, rice and cotton. He has also worked on Monsanto's government affairs team and in human resources, retiring as the outreach lead for Bayer Crop Sciences in 2019.

2010s



Amie Alexander, BSA '15 in agricultural education, communication and technology,

was named one of the winners of the 2021 Outstanding Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year by the Legal Aid of Arkansas. Alexander is with the firm Friday, Eldredge & Clark in Little Rock. She was recognized after donating more than 45 pro bono hours to low-income communities which otherwise would not have had access to legal services. Alexander focuses on healthcare where she works primarily on various corporate and compliance matters. She drafts and reviews policies to ensure compliance with federal healthcare regulations such as HIPAA, Stark I and Stark II, Anti-Kickback and Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement. Her clients include hospitals, physician groups and other medical service providers. Prior to joining the firm, Alexander developed a

professional policy background while working with organizations such as the National Agricultural Law Center, the Association of Arkansas Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service.



Matthew Allen, BSA '18 in agricultural economics, was named to the Northwest

Arkansas Business Journal's 13th annual Fast 15 class, which spotlights the best and brightest emerging leaders in the area. Allen is an associate with Cushman & Wakefield/Sage Partners, where his projects included negotiating 45,000 square feet of lease space for Activision, She Said Yes, Raymond James, Eason Counseling, Snap Fitness and Northwest Physicians. He's also expanded into the sales and capital markets by helping a healthcare real estate investment trust. His goal is to be recognized as an expert in investment sales. Allen is active in a young adults ministry at Cross Church and Tommy's Nite Out, a fundraiser for co-worker Tommy Van Zandt.



Karli Moore, MSA '19 in agricultural economics and rural development,

was named a Knight-Hennessy Scholar at Stanford University. Moore, from Red Springs, North Carolina, and a member of the Lumbee Tribe, is a December 2019 double master's degree graduate of the Atlantis Program. The scholarship is designed to develop

leaders in government, business and nonprofits who can address society's issues with opportunities for leadership training, mentorship and experiential learning across multiple disciplines. "The University of Arkansas was the perfect place for me to expand my agricultural economics knowledge," Moore, a program officer with the Native American Agriculture Fund, said. "The Atlantis program provided a unique opportunity to study agriculture in an international context and my experiences in Nitra, Slovakia, and Berlin, Germany, are key to how I think about global food systems." The Atlantis Program offers a double-degree in agricultural economics and rural development. It trains specialists in comparative analysis of United States and European Union policies through a two-year program. Graduates earn an M.S. in agricultural economics from the U of A and an international M.S. in rural development from the European consortium.



Isabel Whitehead, MSA '18 in agricultural and extension education, was named

international and honors programs coordinator for the college in January. Reporting to Lisa Wood, assistant dean for international and honors programs, Whitehead's responsibilities include teaching and advising, honors student programming and recruiting, advising honors student leadership groups, researching, and honors administrative and service duties. Whitehead is also coordinating

international program promotion and recruitment. Whitehead, who had been a member of the Dean's Office staff as a graduate assistant and in other roles, was already working as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology. "I attended a small university with a close-knit agricultural college, so I value the family atmosphere that Bumpers provides," she said.

IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Virginia P. Lancaster BSHE '47, Fayetteville, Aug. 27, 2020.

Ruth Lynch BSHE '47, Hot Springs, March 25, 2018.

L. Frances Higginbottom BSHE '48, Jonesboro, April 25, 2020.

Francis McCain BSA '42, Widener, June 4, 2020.

1950s

Donald Adams BSA '53 MS'54, Russellville, May 18.

Mildred Bullington Allen BSHE '53, Webster Groves, Missouri, July 9, 2020.

Esther Sharon Belindo BSHE '51, Arlington, Texas, Aug. 31, 2016.

Libby Campbell BSHE '52, Harrison, July 13.

George A. Carruth BSA '56 MS'57, Anniston, Alabama, 2020.

Rodger H. Click BSA '55, Winthrop, April 10.

Betty Jo Cross BSHE '54, Denton, Texas, Sept. 12.

Charley B. Davis BSA '59, Berryville, May 23, 2019.

Thomas A. Epperson BSA '56, Mulberry, Feb. 4.

Howard C. Forrest BSA '51, McGehee, July 9.

Roy Grimsley BSA '51, Springdale, March 23.

Mary Lookingbill Humphries BSHE '55, Denton, Texas, June 18.

Carl D. Koone BSA '51 MS '52, Little Rock, Feb. 18.

Martha Kelly Lambert BSHE '51, Helena, April 18.

Bill E. Lassiter BSA '53, Searcy, April 26.

Kathryn McCormick BSHE '52, Dardanelle, Dec. 9, 2020.

J. C. Merritt BSA '50 MS '54, Greenbrier, Oct. 11, 2020.

James L. Mills BSA '59, Brownsville, Texas, July 1, 2020.

Sarah Parish Morrison BSHE '57, Tallahassee, Florida, March 11, 2020.

Mary Bess Mulhollan BSHE '56, Fayetteville, Sept. 30, 2019.

Larry H. Pitman BSA '58 MS '65, Brookland, Feb. 8.

Alda J. Ramsey BSHE '58, Jonesboro, July 7.

Milton B. Scott BSA '51, Benton, July 22.

Powell A. Shockley Jr. BSA '56, Stuttgart, July 31.

Alice Shofner BSHE '51, Fayetteville, April 18.

Alton E. Shumate BSA '52 MS '55 MS '65, Webster Groves, Missouri, March 15, 2010.

Jack M. Sloan BSA '51, Powhatan, June 18.

Barbara Cotton Stephens BSHE '57, Rogers, 2015.

Bill Teeter BSA '59, Tillar, Aug. 6.

Forrest M. Tennant BSA '52, Fayetteville, Dec. 5, 2020.

William T. Wallace BSA '58 MS '61, Gillett, April 21.

Elbert V. Wann BSA '59 MS '60, Baytown, Texas, July 2.

Joyce Williams BSHE '58, Fort Wayne, Indiana, May 22.

Audrey Clever Wright BSHE '51, Newnan, Georgia, May 25, 2020.

1960s

Don O. Dickey BSA '65, Fort Smith, May 20, 2020.

Nathan Dodd MS '69, Texarkana, Texas, Sept. 25, 2020.

Carolyn R. Formby BSHE '67, De Queen, April 13, 2019.

Winfred Don Harris BSA '60 MS '62, Springdale, March 6.

Jana Kelley BSHE '61, San Diego, California, May 24, 2021.

Fleet N. Lee BSA '69 MS '72, Little Rock, Aug. 26.

Rita Leslie MS '69, Conway, Sept. 22.

James Willis Martin BSA '64 MS '67, Macks, Aug. 26.

Carlos N. Mitchell BSA '64, Dardanelle, July 19, 2020.

Carl E. Pace BSCE '61 PhD '76, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Dec. 18, 2020.

Roxy A. Pike BSHE '62, Villa Rica, Georgia, Oct. 22, 2020.

Robert E. Pianalto BSA '63, Tontitown, Feb. 23.

Alicia Russell BSHE '67, Lewisville, Texas, Aug. 16, 2020.

Earlton Sanders Jr. BSA '60, Huntsville, Dec. 11, 2020.

1970s

Ellen T. Brack BA '75 MS '78, Santa Margarita, California, Jan. 19, 2020.

Thomas Lee Cloninger MS '70, Sherwood, Feb. 16.

Darrel Bruce Cook BSA '74, West Fork, July 8, 2020.

Douglas E. Florer BSA '77, Siloam Springs, Sept. 18, 2020.

Richard Gillham BSA '77, Huntsville, June 16.

Gary L. Golden BSA '74, De Queen, Sept. 4, 2020.

Vick D. Goodner BSA '71, Benton, April 7.

Donald R. Goodwin Jr. BSA '76, Chidester, Aug. 2.

James E. Grigg BSA '71, Hindsville, Oct. 12.

Patricia Simmons Jeffries BSHE '79, Little Rock, Aug. 17.

Joseph Boyd McBride BSA '70, Steubenville, Ohio, Feb. 24, 2017.

David R. O'Brien BSA '74, Pineville, Missouri, May 11, 2020.

Dennis Welch MS '73, Little Rock, Feb. 25.

1980s

Melinda Emmerling BSHE '86,

Maumelle, Aug. 3, 2020.

Deanna Lynn Jordan BSHE '88,
Lincoln, Dec. 19, 2020.

Tami Laris Marugg BSHE '89,
Sarasota, Florida, Jan. 27, 2014.

Robert Wallace Turner MS '86,
Marianna, July 9, 2020.

1990s

James Randy Holiman BSA '93,
Springdale, May 22, 2020.

June Pritchard Sebring, West
Bloomfield, July 25, 2020.

2000s

Matthew D. Clark BSA '00,
Fayetteville, June 26.

James C. Murphy BSA '01,
Fayetteville, July 8, 2020.

Lucas Scott Parker FS '00,
Conway, Nov. 30, 2020.

Jennifer A. Swinney, Augusta,
Sept. 7, 2020.

2020s

Riley Stout Estes FS '20,
Wilmington, North Carolina, Feb.
7.

FRIENDS



Robert "Bob" Frans, emeritus faculty member
in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental

Sciences, Fayetteville, Jan. 11. He was 93. Frans joined the faculty in 1955 as assistant professor of agronomy, now CSES. A highly effective researcher, teacher and spokesman for agriculture and weed science, he retired in 1994 as Emeritus Distinguished Professor of agronomy. Frans is credited with founding U of A's weed science program and was one of the first in the discipline to develop innovative research in chemical weed control in cotton. Through his relationship with the Elms Farming Company and the Alzheimer Foundation, the department received funding for endowed chair positions in cotton, soybean and weed science. He established the annual publication "Recommended Chemicals for Weed and Brush Control," and was a leader in the Integrated Pest Management movement. He was the major professor for 46 master's degree and Ph.D. students, and published more than 200 scientific articles. Frans was named Fellow of the Weed Science Society of America in 1979 and won WSSA's Outstanding Teacher Award in 1980. He served as Southern

Weed Science Society president from 1964-65, earned the SWSS Distinguished Service Award in 1978 and was SWSS Weed Scientist of the Year in 1987. He also served as president of the Arkansas Agricultural Pesticide Association (now the Crop Protection Association), was on the WSSA board of directors and received the U of A Alumni Association Distinguished Award in Research in 1983.



Terry Siebenmorgen, Distinguished Professor of food science,
Fayetteville,

Nov. 22. He was 63. Known around the world for his work in rice processing, he was treasured by co-workers and friends alike for his optimism, unflinching support and kindness. A native of Scranton in Logan County, he earned his undergraduate degree from the U of A, his master's degree from Purdue and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska, all in agricultural engineering. Siebenmorgen began his faculty career with the U of A System in 1984 as a food engineer, working in several areas of food processing. Starting in the late 1980s, he focused on rice processing in response to the substantial need for research from the food industry.

He founded the world-renowned Rice Processing Program in 1994. It was an industry-interactive, multidisciplinary effort focusing on rice processing operations and has sponsors from across the United States, South America, Europe and Japan. In 2019, Siebenmorgen was inducted into Class XXXII of the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. He was also inducted as a Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in 2005 and the American Association of Cereal Chemists International in 2014. He earned many industry awards, including Riceland Foods' Friend of the Farmer in 2012 and the Distinguished Service Award from the Rice Technical Working Group in 2016 and 2018. He also received the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Distinguished Food Engineer Award in 2007. He was twice selected for the Texas Instruments Outstanding Research Award. He earned the Spitze Land Grant University Faculty Award for Excellence and John W. White Team Award, the highest award of its type given by the Division of Agriculture. He is survived by his wife, Patty, sons Justin and Ryan, and preceded in death by his son Matthew.

Ruthie M. Smith FS '18,
Fayetteville, Oct. 24, 2018.

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.



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THE Graduate

Crafting a strategic plan requires a look backward as well as forward. We embrace the future that is to come, but we remain true to the core values that brought us this far: our friendly, family-like environment; our relationships with our students, and our heritage and mission as a land-grant institution. These values have guided our thinking about the next five years and what we want them to be.

As a graduate, friend and supporter of the college, I want to share our plan with you. You are part of our college, and you are part of our mission and vision, and together, we will build on the successes of Bumpers College and our people, and be better and stronger than ever!

Thank you for your support!

