

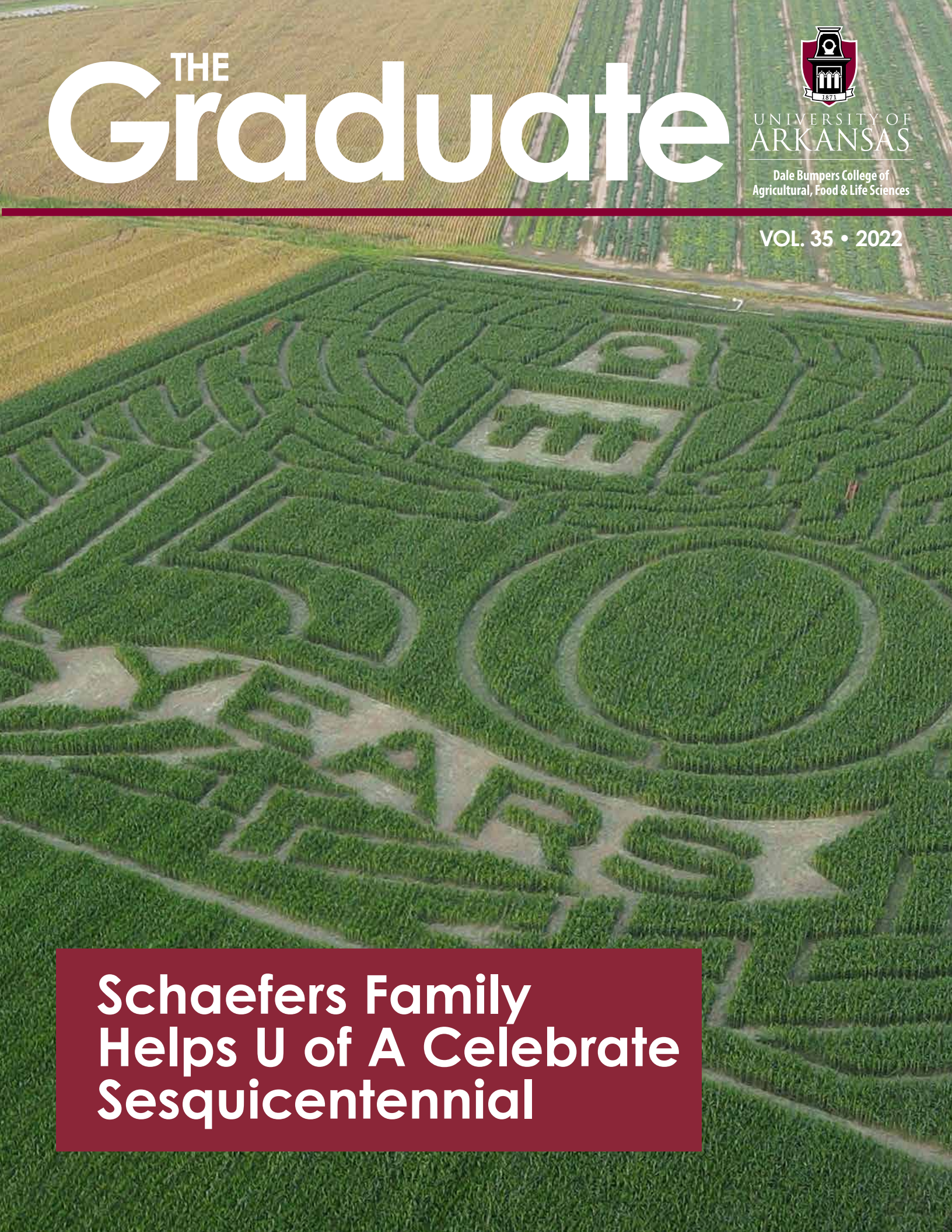
# THE Graduate



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

Dale Bumpers College of  
Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences

VOL. 35 • 2022



Schaefers Family  
Helps U of A Celebrate  
Sesquicentennial



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Photos by Robby Edwards & Dani Medina



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

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# THE Graduate

DALE BUMPERS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND LIFE SCIENCES



**Schaefers  
Family Helps  
U of A Celebrate  
Sesquicentennial**



**Goldmon, Rainey In  
Positions To Address  
Diversity Issues**



**Fields Named  
Head Of Division,  
Meullenet Interim  
Dean**



**Friends, Alumni  
Fund & Support  
Several New  
Projects**



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Outstanding  
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**ON THE COVER:** The "Corn Maze at Lollie" helped mark the U of A's sesquicentennial in 2021, generously supported by the Bot and Pat Schaefers family.





# Schaefers Family Helps U of A Celebrate Sesquicentennial

*by Mark Rushing*

Bob and Pat Schaefers had been farming for 50 years, buying a large plot of land on the Arkansas River in Mayflower in 1971 and harvesting their first crop in 1973.

The family includes four children, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandkids, but the Schaefers decided they still had enough room on their plate to add a corn maze to the mix. Pat had the idea to add a maze for about 10 years before the family decided to cut paths through its corn for the first time in 2005.

“At the time there wasn’t a corn maze in the area, so it went over big,” Bob said. “It was just something we could do and the kids wanted to do it.”

The Schaefers opened their first corn maze 17 years ago and have operated a maze every fall since, with the exception of the pandemic year of 2020.

Last year’s design — a portion of the University of Arkansas sesquicentennial logo — is special for the Schaefers, who met on campus in the 1960s while Bob completed a master’s degree in agriculture and Pat earned a bachelor’s in home economics, both from what is now Bumpers College.

They both worked for the U of A System Division of Agriculture’s Cooperative Extension Service in other parts of the state before focusing full-time on their own farm.

“We kind of fell in love with the river bottoms over here,” Bob said. “And we’re honored to have the maze this year, it looks good.”

Named for Lollie Street that leads to the Schaefers’ farm, the “Corn Maze at Lollie” portion of the farm usually covers about 10 acres. Over the years, the family added a playground, tractor-pulled carts, hay rides and other family-friendly activities. Pat had previously estimated an average of 5,000-7,000 visitors each year.

The maze is typically open in mid-September and runs through the first part of November.

“We give the kids an ear of corn when they get here to feed to the cows,” Bob said. “This is the closest to a cow that some of these kids have ever been in their life. Some get a little scared and just throw the corn down and run.”

The rest of the farm, which covers about 900 acres and is just a few miles outside Conway, includes soybeans, wheat, corn, hay and beef cattle in what was part of the original J.E. Little Plantation.





photos by U of A University Relations & Mark Rushing



The Schaefer's oldest son Daryl, and his wife Lisa, run a produce farm and pumpkin patch just next door. He also graduated from the U of A with a master's degree in agriculture, focusing on horticulture, from Bumpers College in 1992. Chris, the second-oldest, and James, the youngest son, also followed in their parents' footsteps, managing a rice, soybean, corn and milo farm together nearby. Their sister, Angela, who helps with the maze, doesn't farm, but Bob says she certainly could.

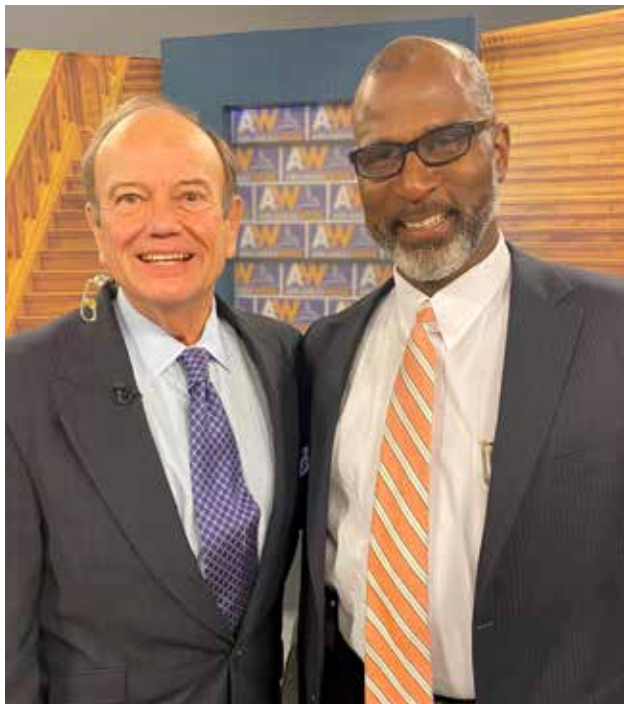
"She can drive a tractor just as good as I can," Bob said. "They've all helped us on the farm. Everybody's involved in some way."

It took the whole family being involved last year as Pat was dealing with some health issues right around the time the corn maze opened in October (of 2021). Pat passed away during the summer (of 2022).

"She has been the driving force behind the maze for years," Chris said last year. "She was always here running around, doing everything, so we all pitched in so she could rest a bit."

The Schaefer's have been honored as Faulkner County Farm Family of the Year and have also earned Arkansas Western District Farm Family of the Year recognition.





Left: Dewayne Goldman was a guest of Steve Barnes on *Arkansas Week*, a weekly PBS show covering state politics and government.

Right: Ron Rainey is the only economist and one of few land grant faculty on the USDA's Equity Commission, a 15 member commission and its subcommittee on agriculture authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act.

# Goldmon, Rainey In Positions To Address Diversity Issues *by Daniela Medina*

Dewayne Goldmon and Ron Rainey, a pair of Bumpers College graduates, both realize the important role the United States Department of Agriculture plays in economic development for farmers, counties, regions and states, and both hope to improve the impact of those investments by focusing on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility efforts in food and agricultural sectors.

Goldmon was appointed as the USDA's first-ever senior advisor for racial justice and equity in March 2021. In September, Ron Rainey was appointed to the position of assistant vice president with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, working to enable the division to meet its diversity and inclusivity goals. In February 2022, Rainey was appointed to the USDA's inaugural Equity Commission.

Goldmon is a two-time U of A and Bumpers College graduate, earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in agronomy in 1985 and 1987, respectively, from what is now the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. A farmer in southeast Arkansas with more than 30 years of experience in agricultural industries, he has first-hand knowledge of USDA "disparities" needing to be addressed.

"My goal, and the goal of the department, is to address these barriers so our programs reach our customers equitably, and that we are able to demonstrate the positive results from our work that will make them permanent resources in maintaining equity in the future delivery of programs and services," he said.

Rainey a two-time graduate of Bumpers College with bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics, and his Ph.D. in economics from U of A's Walton College of Business, knows the importance of USDA programs, but sees a chance to improve service

and accountability.

"Since USDA's existence, its programs have been a driver of economic development and stabilizing forces for both farmers and rural communities," he said. "However, inequitable access and service to targeted producer groups and marginalized communities have greatly impacted those producers and communities over time. The commission hopes to propose recommendations to chart a path forward that removes any of those systemic biases as well as address some of those historical inequities.

"Most importantly, the Equity Commission seeks to build a culture within USDA that instills confidence and trust in the people and communities they serve," he said. "The commission is reviewing past recommendations and class action lawsuit findings to identify a collection of recommendations to enhance service and accountability of USDA programmatic goals and employee actions."

Goldmon has been involved in internal and external evaluations to identify holes in program delivery across the USDA.

"Through engagement with stakeholders and external listening sessions, we have been able to identify problems and consider recommendations for improvements," he said. "With Congressional support, we have been able to more equitably invest in supporting our producers.

"While prior efforts to achieve equity have produced some successes, a more holistic approach is needed to address the cumulative impacts of historical discrimination at USDA and implement long-term solutions," he said. "Having a person devoting full-time effort to this problem signals the importance of this position

and the need for its existence.”

Goldmon has 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.

“Not only is equity the right thing to do, it makes solid business sense as the cost of discrimination can be staggering and its hurtful impacts can be very damaging,” Goldmon said. “World population dynamics dictate that our agricultural systems be more productive and sustainable as those of us in agriculture strive to feed, clothe and fuel the rest of society. This production must occur in a world that is warmer and drier, thus requiring the development and adoption of practices that are less environmentally taxing.

“Additionally, this is being done as diet preferences are changing, consumers desire to know more about WHO is producing their food and the sustainable methods farmers use to grow healthy and nutritious agricultural products,” he added. “The combination of these factors requires us to enable all of our customers, regardless of race, size, gender or other factors, to operate at peak efficiency and make equitable contributions. Ultimately, these are the demands of equity and the reason this work is critical.”

Securing federal funding is crucial for the development of not only the agricultural landscape, but also rural America.

USDA programs and federal funding support farmers and related industries, which in turn impacts housing, infrastructure and more.

“The cumulative funding year after year solidifies a region's overall economic foundation for many agriculturally-based local economies,” Rainey said. “The absence of those programs and funding each year cripples communities and challenges the economic viability of those farms and ranches.”

Rainey sees the impact his role has not only on agriculture, but on society. The importance of federal programs influences development across industries and communities.

“I have seen first-hand the struggles many marginalized farmers complain about and the resulting inefficiencies for individual operators and wealth disparities across communities,” he said. “I can not only bring knowledge to the commission to enhance USDA operations, but also bring back enhanced knowledge to aid Arkansas in equitably serving all producers. I also think it is important to highlight that land-grants, and extension in particular, play a main role with disseminating new research findings as well as providing technical assistance to farmers and ranchers.”

Goldmon's perspective includes experiences based on previously held positions with American Cyanamid (acquired by BASF) and Monsanto (acquired by Bayer Crop Sciences) as a field researcher, and in technology development where he conducted research on all southern row crops and managed research and development trials in soybeans, rice and cotton.

“The responsibility and trust that has been placed with me in serving in this position is reflective of the training and preparation I received in life and certainly as a student in Bumpers College,” he said. “Due to similar outreach efforts, I was able to attend college at the U of A, eventually switching to agronomy where I received my B.S. and M.S. degrees.

“I recall voluntarily recruiting undergraduate students in the Arkansas Delta when I was in graduate school because I wanted other Black students to have access to the lucrative careers and exciting work for agronomy graduates,” he said. “These humble beginnings



Dewayne Goldmon has been a member of Bumpers College's Dean's Partnership Council since 2015.



Ron Rainey has served as president of the Arkansas Alumni Association National Board of Directors.

were followed by me continuing to recruit and advise agricultural students as I worked toward completing my Ph.D. (at Iowa State), which I continued in my career in the ag industry. As an Arkansan, I am hopeful my efforts and success in this position are a positive reflection on Bumpers College, my alma mater and the state I proudly call home.”

In his role with the division, Rainey, a native of the Center community in Conway County, also serves as director of the Southern Risk Management Education Center and as an extension economist. He is the only economist and one of the few land-grant faculty on the USDA's Equity Commission.

“Everyone wins when federal programs are designed and delivered equitably,” he said. “If you transform the system, you can influence economic activity in under-developed areas where there are available resources.”





From left, Mario Ferruzzi, director of the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center; Deacue Fields; JF Meullenet; U.S. Sen. John Boozman; and Chuck Culver, U of A System Division of Agriculture assistant vice president and director of external relations, at a Farm Bill hearing in Jonesboro in June. *photo by Mary Hightower*

# Fields Named Head Of Division; Meullenet Interim Dean *by Nate Hinkel & Mark Rushing*

Deacue Fields left his position as Bumpers College dean during the summer, but he didn't go far. He moved into a new role as vice president for agriculture for the UA System, as of July 1.

"Throughout our search process, Dr. Fields clearly demonstrated the background, temperament and leadership skills that we were looking for in the next vice president for agriculture," UA System President Donald Bobbitt said. "He understands the importance of the land-grant mission of the university, and I am looking forward to working with him to advance the education, research and extension efforts of the Division of Agriculture to benefit the citizens and communities across Arkansas that rely so heavily on agriculture for economic and cultural advancement."

Bobbitt led a national search for successor to Mark Cochran, who retired in September 2021. Chuck Culver, the division's assistant vice president and director for external relations, served as interim vice president.

Fields was appointed dean in 2017. He managed the budget, operations, personnel and academic programs of the college; and promoted collaboration and good relationships between the college and the division, including ensuring strong academic programs, increases in research funding and impact, and effective partnerships with Arkansas's agricultural, food and life sciences stakeholders.

He coordinated the college's strategic plan consistent with U of A's eight guiding priorities and strategic plan, and worked with the campus to recruit more students from all parts of Arkansas.

Under his leadership, the college focused on continued integration of diversity, equity and inclusion strategies; implementation of findings from teaching and learning during the pandemic; enhancing the college's reputation as an international institution; creating strategies to increase awareness of the college's academic offerings and land-grant institution status; improvement in student recruiting; improvement in student success; improvement in the breadth and depth of the college's research efforts; continuing the standard of excellence in teaching; and strengthening the partnership with the Division of Agriculture.

Highlights include reaching the \$1 million mark in scholarships offered to students on an annual basis; the creation of the Fryar Price Risk Management Center of Excellence in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness; record enrollment figures; the addition of the Waldrip Student Center where students can study, socialize or receive assistance from staff in areas of advising, changing majors, scholarships, career services or with personal issues; and the creation of poultry science dual-degree transfer programs with Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

He came to Arkansas after serving as professor and chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Auburn University from 2013-17. He also worked as an assistant professor and director of small farm outreach at Florida A&M University, and as a graduate research fellow in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University.





**Deacue Fields at the National Agricultural Alumni Development Association national conference, hosted by Bumpers College and the Division of Agriculture in Fayetteville in June.** *photo by Mary Hightower*



**JF Meullenet is serving as both senior associate vice president for agriculture research, and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station; and as interim senior associate vice president for academic programs and dean of Bumpers College.** *photo by Nick Kordsmeier*

He earned his bachelor's degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1993, his master's from the University of Missouri in 1995 and his doctorate from LSU in 2002, all in agricultural economics.

"I'm grateful for this opportunity to continue strengthening the impact of the Division of Agriculture as we embrace the land-grant mission of serving our state," Fields said. "Going through this process has reinvigorated my passion for agriculture and shed light on numerous opportunities for the division to cultivate partnerships and collaborate during this next chapter. I want to thank Dr. Bobbitt and everyone else involved for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading the division and continuing to shape its imprint on the people of Arkansas. I can't wait to continue working with the talented professionals that make up the UADA team to craft a vision for the future."

## Meullenet Interim Dean

Longtime Division of Agriculture professor and administrator J.F. Meullenet was named interim dean, effective July 1.

"We're thankful to have someone with Dr. Meullenet's experience in research, teaching and administrative leadership to fill this important role for Bumpers College," Terry Martin, U of A interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said. "His understanding of the impact of our academic mission, agricultural research and service to the state will help ensure a smooth transition."

Meullenet, who joined the division as assistant professor of food science in 1996, continues to serve as senior associate vice president for agriculture research, and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Meullenet previously served as an interim assistant director of

the experiment station, head of the Department of Food Science, and director of the Institute of Food Science and Engineering.

"Dr. Meullenet is the ideal fit for interim dean at this time as we will be able to maintain the momentum we have gained to strengthen the relationship between the University of Arkansas and the Division of Agriculture," Fields said. "He brings a strong understanding and appreciation for both academic and research programs on campus and within UADA."

As interim dean, Meullenet handles all day-to-day functions of the dean's position. His current day-to-day responsibilities as AES director are partially covered by Nathan Slaton, who was elevated to senior associate director, while Mary Savin, assistant AES director, assists with special initiatives.

"I am delighted to have been called to lead Bumpers College as its interim dean," Meullenet said. "The college has been on a very positive trajectory under Dean Fields' leadership, and I plan to ensure that continues in this interim period. I am thankful to Provost Martin for the confidence he has placed in me and to UADA interim VP Chuck Culver and VP Fields for valuing the partnership between the division and Bumpers College."

A native of France, Meullenet earned a Master of Science in food engineering from the National Superior School of Agronomy and Food Science in Nancy, and a Ph.D. in food science and technology from the University of Georgia. He has published 117 articles in refereed journals and has made more than 150 presentations, in addition to advising numerous master's and doctoral students.

Since 2006, Meullenet has held the Tyson Foods Endowed Distinguished Professorship in Sensory Science and is a 2013 graduate of LEAD21, a national leadership program.



# Friends, Alumni Fund & Support Several New Projects

by Robby Edwards

Gifts from alumni and friends have allowed the college to do many wonderful things over the last several months. Here's a roundup of a few highlights donors made possible.

## Bumpers College Student Assistance Fund

Members of the college's Dean's Partnership Council created a student assistance fund with gifts of \$5,500, with the anticipation of additional gifts. The fund provides need-based assistance to students with an unforeseen financial emergency which hinders their ability to remain in school.

The council is an advisory group created as part of a mission to engage Bumpers College students in high-impact learning activities to better equip them to enrich their lives and excel in careers. The DPC's three-part purpose is to serve as a sounding board regarding current initiatives, to advocate on behalf of the college and provide networking opportunities to prospective partners.

## Navam Hettiarachchy Endowed Graduate Research Award



Retired University Professor of food science Navam Hettiarachchy and Jayadeva Hettiarachchy created an endowed graduate student award with a donation of \$25,000.

The Dr. Navam Hettiarachchy Endowed Graduate Research Award will benefit graduate students pursuing a degree in the area of food chemistry with priority to food proteins research, teaching and peer mentoring.

Hettiarachchy retired last spring after nearly 30 years with the Department of Food Science. The National American Oil Chemists' Society in 2022, the International Union of Food Science and Technology in 2020 and the National Institute of Food Technologists in 2003 all inducted Hettiarachchy as a Fellow.

Her contributions to research include six patents and more than 125 funded grants totaling more than \$5.5 million, over 80 percent of which she was the primary investigator.

## Kyung Soo and Sung Boon Kim Endowed Graduate Fellowship

U of A alumnus and retired professor Kyung Soo Kim and his wife Sung Boon Kim established a graduate student fellowship with a

***"Support from donors make a huge difference in the lives of our students," said Mark Wilton, director of development and external relations. "Whether it's in the form of scholarships just so some of them are able to remain in school, or in the form of learning opportunities or other means of support we are able to provide while they are here, we greatly appreciate every one of our friends and supporters."***



\$150,000 gift.

The Dr. Kyung Soo & Sung Boon Kim Endowed Graduate Fellowship is awarded to a graduate student in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology who is pursuing a

master's degree or Ph.D. with a demonstrated dedication to enhancing the science and field of plant virology.

Kim joined the Department of Plant Pathology faculty in 1974, was appointed University Professor in 1993 and retired in 2002. He received the U of A Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Research in 1989, is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and The American Phytopathological Society, and a member of the American Society for Cell Biology and Gamma Sigma Delta.

He was responsible for administration of the university-wide electron microscope facility and taught a course in electron microscopy in biology. His research, primarily in plant cell ultrastructure regarding reactions of plant cells to virus infection, was recognized in national and international circles.



## Play-Based Kindergarten Learning Initiative Fund

A \$30,000 gift from Denton and Cathy Seilhan has established the Play-Based Kindergarten Learning Initiative Fund in the college's School of Human Environmental Sciences.

HESC houses the Jean Tyson Child Development Study Center, as well as the birth through kindergarten, and human development and family sciences programs.

Research indicates the importance of quality attachment, and young children benefit from open-ended, exploratory and active play, enabling development of self-regulation, social-emotional, language and creative problem-solving skills.

The intent is for the fund to support the program through supplies, travel, training, data collection and other program expenses.

## Tanner Thompson Shuck and Robert W. George Fund for Excellence Endowment



Tami and Charles Strickland are making it possible for students to benefit from international experiences with a \$35,000 gift to establish the Tanner Thompson Shuck and Robert W. George International Fund for Excellence Endowment.

The fund is dedicated to supporting the college's international programs office and may be used for student awards/travel assistance, arrival/welcome services and study abroad projects.

Robert W. George is an attorney with George's Inc., where he is senior vice president of legal, human resources, and environmental, health and safety.

Shuck was interested in research and study abroad. He loved environmental sciences and felt a responsibility to preserve the environment for the future before he passed away unexpectedly in April 2018.

The Strickland's gift is to make it possible for students to participate in international experiences.

Contributions of \$400,000 from Tami and Charles Strickland, and Georgia Thompson, on behalf of the Gene and Georgia Thompson Family, established The Tanner Thompson Shuck Memorial Endowed Scholarship in 2018.

## Jean Tyson Child Development Study Center's Studio Area Support Fund

In addition to the gift for the Play-Based Kindergarten Learning Initiative Fund (above), Denton and Cathy Seilhan also made a gift



to establish a studio area in the nationally accredited childcare facility on campus for children ages eight weeks to five years old.

The Seilhan's donation of \$50,000 created the Jean Tyson Child Development

Study Center's Studio Area Support Fund. The gift will be used to enhance the studio area, including but not limited to staff support, program support and supplies.

## Sarah Barrett Watkins Memorial Endowed Graduate Award



Robert and Victoria Dunn established an endowed graduate award for the School of Human Environmental Sciences in the name of Sarah Barret Watkins.

With a gift of \$25,000, the Watkins estate created the Sarah Barrett Watkins Memorial Endowed Graduate Award. It will be awarded to a student pursuing a graduate degree in HESC.

Watkins, who rode a train from Jonesboro to Fayetteville to enroll at the U of A in 1939, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in home economics. She taught home economics at Gillam, Keiser and Tuckerman, and retired from the Tuckerman School System in 1984 where the Sarah M. Barrett Home Economics Building was named in her honor.

## Thank You For Your Support!

If you are interested in making a gift for scholarships, graduate fellowships/assistantships, faculty, programmatic support or facilities, please contact the Bumpers College Development Office at 479-575-2534 or [extrel@uark.edu](mailto:extrel@uark.edu).

Checks should be made out to UA Foundation with the event or area of support listed on the memo line, and mailed to Bumpers College, Development Office, AFLS E213, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

**Thank you!**





Randy Woodson became chancellor at North Carolina State University in 2010, and has seen the graduation rate improve from 71 to 86 percent.

# RANDY WOODSON

Raleigh, N.C.

B.S. in horticulture, University of Arkansas, 1979; M.S., 1981, and Ph.D., 1983, plant physiology, Cornell University

Chancellor, North Carolina State University

## 2021-22 Bumpers College Outstanding Alumnus Q&A *by Robby Edwards*

### How does it feel to be named outstanding alumnus?

I am very proud to be recognized by Bumpers College and my university. The education I received at the University of Arkansas has served me exceptionally well.

### What was it like growing up in Fordyce, Arkansas?

A great small town to come of age in. Like many small towns, Fordyce has gone through many economic cycles. I grew up in a time

when downtown was a fun and energetic place to be. Sterling Five and Dime, Western Auto, Benton hardware store: these were places that a kid could dream of buying a new bike, get fish for your fish tank or filling your pockets with candy. Summer baseball, riding bikes, fishing, gardening with my grandmother, it was a great experience.

I got my start in Fordyce Moseley's Greenhouses. This high school job turned into a passion for plants and horticulture. Roy Wayne Moseley had a B.S. and M.S. in horticulture from Mississippi State University and taught me a great deal about growing flowering plants.

**Coming from a small town and in your current position, what would you say to high school students to encourage them and make them feel comfortable at a larger university in a bigger city?**

The key to success is to make a large university a small community as quickly as possible. Find your niche. Join or build a community of people that inspire you and lift you up. Mine was in the Department of Horticulture.

**How did you end up at the University of Arkansas?**

I wanted to study horticulture and the University of Arkansas was the place. Also, my girlfriend (now wife) was already enrolled at Arkansas, so I had additional motivation to attend.

**Any professors who made a major impact on your life and in what way?**

There are so many. I participated in research efforts with many horticulture professors. I worked for Teddy Morlock, Al Einert, Jim Moore and Joe McFeran. Roy Rom's class in pomology stands out as did plant propagation with Gerald Klingaman. I also had a passion for chemistry and took both the undergraduate and graduate courses in biochemistry. Dr. Lane's classes in plant physiology and seed physiology stand out as well.

**What did you do professionally with your horticulture and plant physiology degrees?**

I was a professor of horticulture, first at LSU (1983-85) and then Purdue (1985-2010). I taught and conducted research. I taught plant physiology, floriculture, tropical plants, and plant growth and development. My research was on the basic mechanisms surrounding flower senescence (death) and fruit ripening.

**Why the interest in plant physiology?**

I enjoyed learning about and researching how plants use their biochemical pathways to control their development, their resistance to pests and their ability to withstand a wide range of environments.

**Any favorite memories about your time as a student in Fayetteville?**

I loved working with professors and graduate students on the hort farm. I enjoyed a good bit of time on Dickson Street with friends with our favorite hangouts being the Swinging Door, the Delux Restaurant and Rathskellar (downstairs), and On the Corner. I heard great music at the Rink and played music with my friends (mostly hort majors).

**At what point did you decide to go into higher education administration and why?**

It was a slow progression. Mainly, I wanted to have a bigger impact and found that I had an ability to lead. I started by leading a multi-departmental initiative at Purdue called the Plant Biology Program.



Woodson says, "generally, people want to be led by folks who have been successful in the roles that they occupy."

This was an effort to develop an inter-departmental graduate program. Apparently the dean and others were watching, and the next thing I knew I was asked to be head of the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department. I continued teaching and doing research while serving as department head. From there, I moved into roles as a college-level administrator before being named provost at Purdue. I was in deep at that point and opted for a career in higher education administration. I've been chancellor at NC State for 12 years now.

**What is your biggest challenge professionally and what is the biggest challenge for a university chancellor/president?**

Managing a large university (37,000 students and 10,000 employees) through a global pandemic! I didn't read the chapter in the chancellor's handbook on pandemics.

**What are two or three accomplishments at NC State you are especially proud of?**

Student success would be No. 1. We have worked hard to support our students in their educational journey and in the last decade our graduation rate has improved from 71 to 86 percent.

Second, we have worked to create a strong culture of philanthropy

...continued on page 16





Michael Pate is president of the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health, which helps professionals meet health and safety needs of people working in agriculture. ISASH provides opportunities for sharing information about research and intervention programs.

# MICHAEL PATE

Logan, Utah

B.S. in agricultural education, communication and technology (ag education), University of Arkansas, 2003; M.S. in agricultural and extension education, U of A, 2005; Ph.D. in agricultural education, Iowa State University, 2009

Associate professor, Utah State University

## 2021-22 Bumpers College Alumni Society Outstanding Young Alumnus Q&A *by Robby Edwards*

### How does it feel to be named the college's outstanding young alumnus?

Very surprising, there are so many amazing alumni who excel in their fields. I'm very fortunate to be able to call myself an alumnus from this college.

### Why agricultural education?

For me, it was about helping people. I chose this major because I had a passion for learning and agriculture. My high school agriculture teacher, Mr. Jim Frisby, was influential in my decision to be an agricultural teacher. He said if I wanted to help people there was a real

need for agriculture teachers. That was it. He invested in me by taking me to a CDE for poultry judging and I was like “this is amazing.” “Chickens, Chickens, Chickens” was my chant. I learned so much and I wanted to help people understand agriculture and pursue a career in the industry. Mr. Frisby took me on a tour of the U of A and I got to meet the late Dr. Nolan Arthur. Dr. Arthur looked at my transcript. He said he wasn’t so sure about my “C” in accelerated chemistry and the “D” in Spanish III, but somehow I got accepted into the U of A.

### What is your background in agriculture?

I thought I wanted to be a large animal veterinarian. I took jobs to learn different aspects of the industry, from meat processing to laboratory work examining livestock response to grazing endophyte infected tall fescue. Currently, I stay active in small scale production with our family’s small garden that produces enough for canning to share with friends and family. I continue to support our local producers by purchasing beef and honey.

### You went to Fayetteville High School, what was it like going to high school next to the U of A?

It was great! I was fortunate to get to meet professors and tour the campus early on. I think being able to visit and see the campus regularly was helpful in getting me prepared for the college experience.

### Were there any classes and/or professors in AECT who especially inspired you?

Drs. (George) Wardlow and (Don) Johnson are two professors who I credit as starting me out on my career path. I have a note that Dr. Johnson wrote on one of my assignments from electricity class that said, “neatness is a virtue.” I’ve been working on it, but I still have messy handwriting. I remember stopping by Dr. Wardlow’s office and asking about research. He kind of looked at me funny. I got a book titled Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research by Campbell and Stanley. I asked him the differences between experimental and quasi-experimental designs. That led to an undergraduate research project that led to conference presentations then to a journal article, which won an award. The trajectory was set, and those experiences introduced me to Dr. Greg Miller at Iowa State where I received my Ph.D.

### You minored in agricultural systems technology management, and agricultural safety and health is one of your focus areas – why the interest in that area?

I had taken a lot of science and was confident in the areas of plants and livestock, but had very little hands-on mechanical skills. As a senior in high school, I sought out an adult welding class that my agriculture teachers, Mr. Laney and Mr. Frisby, were offering at Fayetteville High School. They called me a “sponge.” I wanted to improve and knew that I should challenge myself to develop in other areas. When I was recruited for my Ph.D. at Iowa State University, Dr. Greg Miller shared that teacher preparation in agricultural technology and mechanics needed to be addressed. Dr. Miller noted that many



Pate says “automation and robotics are the next emerging trend that we will need to look at addressing workforce issues in agriculture. I think there is growth to provide educational programming to implement these technologies to improve safety, sustainability and efficiency of our farms.

teachers need help with laboratory management and general safety. That led to a small project with another Iowa State faculty mentor, Dr. Anne VanDerZanden, using background knowledge probes to determine student knowledge about safety in the mechanics laboratory. My research interests are in cognition and metacognition specifically. I was fortunate to land a job at Utah State University focusing on agricultural systems technology where I have applied these interests in safety training of teachers, students and agricultural employees. Things just lined up.

### After graduating, you taught at Westside, Springdale Har-Ber and Farmington high schools. What is something you learned that stands out from your time as a high school teacher?

People matter. I learned that beyond the classroom students are faced with tremendous challenges and that not everyone comes ready to learn. Students may often be facing homelessness, addictions, family struggles or hunger. I learned that it is important to stay calm and have high expectations, but to be flexible. I have worked to look at the challenges as opportunities and seek positive outcomes rather than focus on the negative. It is hard to be a teacher because you are not only responsible for the content but the care and nurturing of bright young people who need support.

### What advice would you give recent college graduates who are starting their careers?

Be flexible and see the possibilities. I would challenge the graduates to ask hard questions and then go find the answers.

...continued on page 17





# Food Science Seniors Create Dishes for Simmons Foods *by Robby Edwards*

Students in U of A's Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences recently presented chicken products they developed in a senior capstone class to representatives from Simmons Foods Inc.

The students, all food science majors, created dishes as part of the Product Innovation for Food Scientists class, which is being taught by Philip Crandall, professor of retail food safety in the Department of Food Science.

In this class, students integrate knowledge gained from all their undergraduate courses in their degree program to develop a novel food product.

"I was very impressed with the professional way our students made the most of this wonderful opportunity to work alongside professionals in new product development," said Crandall. "Food science provides great opportunities for students interested in science, engineering and math to have an exciting career in the food industry while making consumers' lives better."

Three three-member teams were formed. In developing their dishes, many factors were taken into consideration, including several from the article "The Top 10 Food Trends of 2021" published in the Institute of Food Technologists Food Technology magazine:

- In 2020, new food and drink line extensions declined 29 percent;
- One-third of restaurant operators said they planned to reduce the number of items on their menus;
- Product developers should innovate around macro trends of self-care, disease prevention, home-centered living and creative ways of celebrating special occasions;
- Consumers have turned to food to help manage and treat conditions; foods and beverages that help control hypertension (11 percent), weight gain (13 percent) and diabetes (14 percent) all increased;

- One-third of adults were likely to buy food or drink with multiple health benefits;
- Fermented foods topped the list of trendy superfoods, and turmeric was in a group of botanicals leading the sales market;
- Sales of foods with low-carbohydrate, ketogenic, paleo, Whole30 Diet or low-glycemic properties soared;
- Six in 10 consumers were looking for minimally processed foods; only nine percent were looking for more lab-grown proteins;
- One-third of consumers were looking forward to trying new global foods or flavors with 42 percent seeking spicy foods;
- Seven in 10 adults want more frozen meal options with fruit and/or vegetables; and
- Frozen sandwiches were fast-emerging lunch solutions; and there was greater demand for more premium/specialty foods for restaurant-style meals.

Brian Davis, vice president of research and development at Simmons, worked with Crandall to develop the projects for the class.

"It's all about connecting the dots," said Davis. "It's not about the product, it's about the journey of learning the product development process."

Team 1 consisted of Jacob Acuna of Allen, Texas; Aryn Blumenberg from Conway, Arkansas; and Mallory Hordyke from Frankfort, Illinois. Team 2 was Bailey Bland of Phoenix, Arizona; Christopher Stuckey of Marion, Arkansas; and Kierra Weber of Anderson, Missouri. Team 3 was Chris Akel of Charlotte, Arkansas; Alana Patterson of Austin, Texas; and Danika Nottiage, a laboratory teaching assistant.

Each team was assigned an executive advisor from Simmons with Devon Cameron-Nubbie working with Team 1, Brad Cheatham with Team 2 and Micca Brown with Team 3. All three are senior managers



photos by Micayla Blair

**Left: Team 1 included (from left) Jacob Acuna, Devon Cameron-Nubbie of Simmons Foods, Mallory Hordyke and Aryn Blumenberg.**

**Middle: Team 2 was (from left) Christopher Stuckey, Bailey Bland, Brad Cheatham of Simmons Foods and Kierra Weber.**

**Above: Team 3 members were (from left) Chris Akel, Micca Brown with Simmons Foods and Alana Patterson (not pictured Danika Nottlage).**

for research and development.

Davis, Cameron-Nubbie and Cheatham are all U of A food science graduates.

"I learned how many trials it takes to come up with a minimum viable product," said Patterson, about her biggest takeaway from the project. "We solved problems - from getting breading to stick or if your product is done on the outside, but raw inside, or something else."

Team 1 created a frozen, microwaveable Thai chicken satay dish with rice and peanut sauce. Research showed there are few frozen Thai options, many microwaveable meals have long cook times, no chicken satay dishes were found in grocery stores, and consumers are interested in healthy, and frozen microwaveable meals with a short cook time, which the team feels is a potential pain point for consumers.

"The most difficult part of the process was targeting specifically what product we wanted to make," said Blumenberg. "Going to Simmons and using their kitchen, and seeing how products are made was the most fun."

Team 2 focused on creating a healthier option for Slim Chickens. Research revealed consumers are interested in healthier options following the Covid-19 pandemic, Slim Chickens offered 15 items with no grilled or boneless wing options, and grilled chicken menu choices are typically only for salads and sandwiches, which the group feels was a potential pain point that may have a substantial demand.

The group created air-fried, breaded (instead of battered) boneless chicken wings air-fried for five minutes then fried a second time (to order), which takes four minutes. The team also created a teriyaki sauce, a flavor not currently available at this restaurant.

"If compared to their bone-in wings, ours have about a 20 percent reduction in calories per wing," said Weber. "If you include the sauce, we estimated the sauce adds about 70 calories per wing."

Team 3 also focused on Slim Chickens and created fully cooked, fried chicken thigh portions. The group settled on this item because it would be a new menu option (current offerings are tenders, wings and sandwiches), a current shortage of wings and lower demand for thighs. The team



**Brian Davis, vice president of research and development at Simmons Foods and a U of A food science alumnus, worked with professor Philip Crandall to develop the projects for the class.**

developed a specially-cut thigh which resembles a boneless wing, and can be par-fried then oven-baked with two thighs having 350 calories. Their product could be competitively priced compared to wings.

"The biggest issue was the cooking method," said Akel. "When we fried them, since thighs are fattier, the fat melted, got in the oil and made them too dark, so we switched up our method. I really enjoyed this class and am grateful to be able to receive hands-on training from the professionals at Simmons Foods."



**Left to Right: Thai chicken satay (Team 1)  
air-fried breaded boneless wing (Team 2)  
cooked fried chicken thigh portion (Team 3)**



# RANDY WOODSON *cont...*



Randy and Susan Woodson grew up in Fordyce, Arkansas, and he followed her to the U of A.

***"Do your job very well. People are watching and when you perform at a high level, opportunities will come your way."***

***-Randy Woodson, advice to young graduates***



In college, Woodson was "fascinated by how plants work, and the idea that plants have to cope with their environment without the ability to run away and hide."

at NC State. We just completed our "Think and Do the Extraordinary" campaign and raised over \$2.1 billion since launching the campaign in 2016. We've grown our endowment from \$500 million to over \$2 billion.

Third would be improvements to our infrastructure. We have completed over \$1 billion in new construction during my tenure, including a new \$180 million building for plant sciences.

## **What are the biggest challenges for higher education in general?**

We have lost some of the public trust. Since the second world war, it has been a widely held view that higher education was essential for improving your circumstances. While there is a good deal of evidence this remains the case, the cost of higher ed and the perception that many universities have lost touch with their public has eroded some of the public trust. The good news is that is not typically the case for the land-grant universities that are built on a model of meeting the needs of our states, but we all get painted with the same brush.

## **What advice would you give anyone looking to move into an administrative leadership position?**

Observe leaders you admire and learn from leaders that you don't admire. Listen and understand the issues the organization you are looking to lead faces and finally, be successful in the job you are assigned. In higher education, you can experience administration and many levels.

## **What is something about your position as chancellor people would be surprised to know?**

How much time is devoted to working with state policy makers and politicians. As a public university, we enjoy strong support from our General Assembly. These relationships have to be nurtured.

## **What is something interesting about NC State and/or Raleigh readers may not know?**

We are the largest university in N.C. and located in one of the fastest growing counties in the United States.

## **What do you do for fun and to relax?**

Play the guitar

## **Do you garden and use your horticultural skills today? Any favorite plants or vegetables you like to grow?**

Absolutely! I like to plant flowering perennials and tend to focus on the unusual.

# MICHAEL PATE *cont...*

## What is something we would be surprised to know about Utah State and/or Logan, Utah?

The valley where Utah State is located is called Cache Valley. It was used by the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Indians. The valley is said to get its name “Cache” from the activity of trappers who would store their furs in caches (French word that means to hide or store one’s treasure). We have the best ice cream, “Aggie Ice Cream,” which celebrated 100 years this year.

## Now that you are a college professor, what is something about that role you wish you had a better understanding of when you were a student?

That professors make mistakes and are human. We are approachable and most of the time reasonable.

## What are your tips for getting students engaged in class and/or extracurricular activities?

Look for opportunities to stretch yourself. You don’t know where the next opportunity will lead you.

## What is something in the ag tech area you feel is most needed?

I feel the area of energy and sustainability is the most needed right now. Air quality, soil health and water availability have shown we are needing to re-examine our approach. Another area is addressing production on limited land mass. Research in vertical farming among urban areas is gaining traction.

## Growing up in Fayetteville, you’re probably a life-long Razorback fan. Any favorite Razorback memories from your time in Fayetteville?

Most people don’t know that I was in the Razorback Marching Band my freshman year. I played the euphonium. The best part was pre-game and forming the “A” on the football field. I loved the cheers and the music we played. The fight song is forever seared into my brain. I can sing it, but probably can’t play it anymore.

## Other than family, what do you miss most about Fayetteville?

Rick’s Bakery.



Pate’s grandparents had farms and he spent a lot of time there working and exploring. He grew up riding tractors, moving cows and mending fences.

***“It found me. I never had experience in this area and knew that it was one area where I needed to improve on to be a successful teacher.”***

***-Michael Pate, on agricultural systems technology management, and agricultural safety and health***



For fun, Pate enjoys “gardening, fishing, hunting, hiking and going to the beach.



# Bumpers College YEAR IN PICS



she published the "My Homeland" children's book series, written to celebrate multicultural children, and help them appreciate and share their heritage and culture.

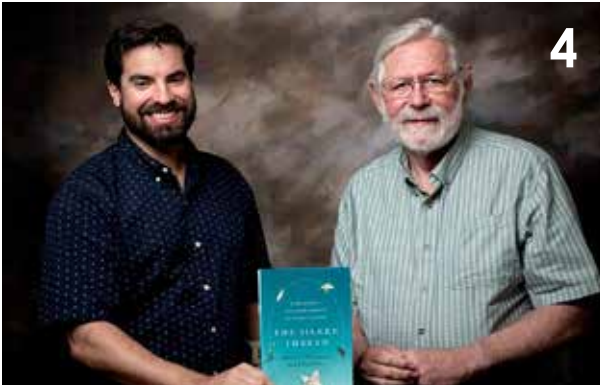
**1.** The Arkansas Alumni Association held its 76th annual Alumni Awards Celebration in October and a Bumpers College graduate was honored. Twelve alumni, faculty and friends were recognized, including Olivera Jankovska, who received the U of A Young Alumni Award, which recognizes exceptional achievements in career, public service and/or volunteer activities. Jankovska is director of the Mayor's Office of Education for the city of Houston. A 2009 agricultural business graduate, she was named to the United Macedonian Diaspora "40 Under 40" list in 2015, and has worked as a UNICEF USA Global Citizenship Fellow traveling the world supporting children in developing countries. She was our Alumni Society Outstanding Young Alumna in 2018. In 2020,



**2.** Former Dean Deacue Fields was lead co-chair of last year's U of A United Way Campaign. The campaign raised \$96,494. Under his leadership, the campaign included a Dean's Challenge Award and a Department Challenge Award with winners based on the highest percentage of donors, and gifts for early renewals. The U of A Global Campus claimed the Dean's Challenge Award while the U of A Police Department won the departmental award. All donations go to the United Way of Northwest Arkansas with 98 percent going directly to local programs which help children, families and individuals in areas of education, housing, healthy food access, childhood development, and physical and mental well-being. (photos by Robby Edwards & Karli Yarber)



**3.** Cordia Harrington, CEO of Crown Bakeries, made a \$6 million commitment to support the new U of A Student Success Center. The commitment, and future gifts, will grow the center's initiatives, offering a comprehensive approach to student-focused programming and resources. The center will be renamed The CORD (Create Opportunities, Reach Dreams) Cordia Harrington Center for Excellence. "As a first in my family to attend and graduate college, and as a study abroad recipient (Japan), my University of Arkansas experience was life changing," said Harrington. "This endowment is to pay it forward for the amazing blessings I received at the U of A. I am very grateful." Harrington, a 1976 graduate of the then-College of Agriculture was the first in her family to earn a bachelor's degree. She went on to be named by Forbes Magazine as one of the most successful self-made women in America, Nashville Business Journal CEO of the Year and is the first female international president of the Chief Executives Organization (CEO) as well as the Chair of the American Bakers Association.



**4.** Robert Wiedenmann and Ray Fisher wrote a book, “The Silken Thread: Five Insects and Their Impacts on Human History,” examining significant impacts on human history by domestic silk moths, human body lice, oriental rat fleas, yellow fever mosquitos and western honeybees. The silk moth and honeybee spread economic benefits to civilizations. The others spread devastating diseases interrupting the course of western civilization. “We’re not historians,” Wiedenmann said. “We’re just entomologists who have a love for history.” Their book includes stories such as: “In 1802, Napoleon Bonaparte was trying to expand in the Americas when he was stopped short in Haiti. At least 30,000 troops fell to yellow fever and malaria, but mostly yellow fever, delivered by mosquitos. Faced with such devastating loss, the French decided to get out of the New World. Napoleon and the French sold the Louisiana Purchase to then-President Thomas Jefferson to recoup their investment.” Wiedenmann is professor emeritus of

entomology and a former department head. Fisher is a post-doctoral research scientist in entomology for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the Division of Agriculture. *(photo by Fred Miller)*



**5.** We hosted a Career Fair for Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences in October in the Arkansas Union. Many companies and businesses participated, and many students made connections. *(photos by Robby Edwards)*

**6.** The U of A chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences visited the Arkansas Department of Agriculture last fall where they were given an overview of the department by Wes Ward (photo), Arkansas secretary of agriculture and an alumnus with a master's degree in agricultural economics. The group also visited with Joe Fox, director of the Forestry Division; Patrick Fisk, director of the Livestock and Poultry Division; Chris Colclasure, director of the Natural Resources Division; Scott Bray, director of the Plant Industries Division; Cynthia Edwards, deputy secretary of Shared Services; and William Summers, director of Laboratory Services. "The purpose of the visit was for our students to meet with the leadership team and to gain better understanding of the workings of the department, and hopefully develop some great networking relationships," said Jacquelyn Wiersma-Mosley, professor of human development and family sciences, and club advisor.





## Bumpers College YEAR IN PICS



**7.** Don Johnson, a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology since 1993, was appointed University Professor last summer. UP faculty must show at least 10 years of exemplary accomplishments as professor and be recognized in areas of service, teaching and research/creative contributions. Since 1999, Johnson, who is coordinator of the agricultural systems technology management program, led efforts to transition the agricultural mechanization minor to the ASTM concentration; co-authored (with department head George Wardlow) a funding proposal leading to the construction of the Abernathy AgriScience and Technology Education Center; authored or co-authored 72 refereed journal articles and 130 refereed conference papers; served as program director or principal investigator for grants totaling \$1.025 million; taught 135 course sections; and received 13 college, university or national teaching honors. He served as co-director of U of A's Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center (2018-22); co-chaired (2020) U of A's Teaching Academy; served multiple terms on U of A's Faculty Senate; and has served on the All-University Academic Integrity Board since 2014, among other highlights. *(photo by Nick Kordsmeier)*



**8.** Our annual scholarship luncheon, where scholarship providers and donors have the chance to meet student recipients of their scholarships, was canceled due to the pandemic last year and postponed from the fall until Feb. 18 this year, but we were able to get together in person at the Fayetteville Town Center. *(photos by Micayla Blair & Karli Yarber)*



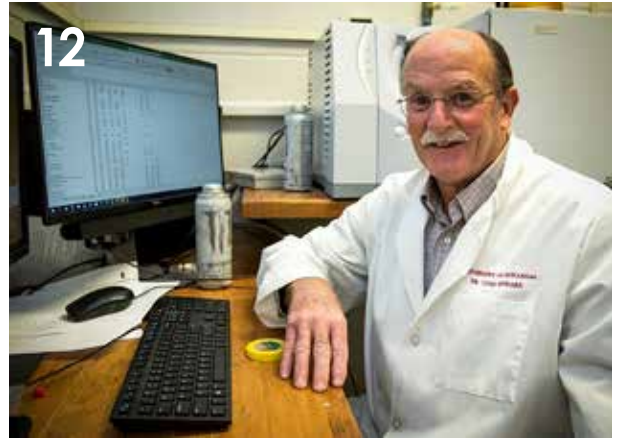
**9.** Ashton Julian, a graduate of our human nutrition and dietetics program, then human nutrition and hospitality, in the School of Human Environmental Sciences, was named U of A's campus registered dietitian and nutritionist last fall. Working for Chartwells, she oversees individual dietary accommodations for students, particularly those with food allergies and intolerances, diseases and conditions, vegetarian and vegan options, balanced meals, wellness and healthy dining on campus. A registered and licensed dietitian, she completed her undergraduate internship with Morrison Healthcare in Northwest Arkansas. *(photo courtesy of Chartwells Higher Ed)*



**10.** U of A's equine judging team defended its title and won the National Cutting Horse Association Judging Contest in Fort Worth. The team, made up of animal science students and coached by Jordan Shore and Sidney Dunkel, placed five individuals in the top 10 and six in the top 12.



**11.** The U of A soil judging team, made up of students in our Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, won the Region IV Collegiate Soil Judging Contest last fall at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, qualified for nationals for the 10th time in 12 years, and finished 16th in the country. Lauren Gwaltney won the overall individual title at regionals, Jonathan Brye was second, Katie Jansson fourth and Lily Stults fifth. The team is coached by Kris Brye, University Professor of applied soil physics and pedology.



**12.** Luke Howard, professor of food science, retired Feb. 28 after 24 years of research and teaching. He investigated the isolation and use of naturally occurring phytochemicals that can turn ordinary foods into health-boosting "functional foods." A researcher and scientist for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the U of A System Division of Agriculture, his research focused on identifying and quantifying bioactive compounds in plant-based foods and finding ways to use them to improve human nutrition. His research contributions for the AAES include two patents and more than 37 grants totaling more than \$7 million, 89 percent of which he was the primary investigator. Howard was elected a Fellow of the Agricultural and Food Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society. (photo by Fred Miller)

**13.** The Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Food Pantry is a U of A student-led emergency food program providing students, staff, faculty, temporary and hourly employees with groceries and personal care items, but it's sometimes hard to find, which gave Kylanna Hardaway an idea for her honors research project. A food, nutrition and health major working with assistant professor Sabrina Trudo, Hardaway designed and created a mural to help raise awareness about the pantry and its location. "I got the idea to create a mural after I signed up to volunteer at the food pantry last semester and realized I had no idea where it was located," said Hardaway. "After I referenced some directional photos on Google, I was shocked to find out that I had walked past it nearly every day on my way to the HPER and never even noticed it." Public art can passively increase awareness, empower viewers to action and initiate social change. Hardaway's project takes an innovative approach on using passive art to help improve perception. (photo by Micayla Blair)



**14.** After nearly 30 years with the college, Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the U of A System Division of Agriculture, associate professor of food Science Navam Hettiarachchy retired last spring as University Professor Emeritus. She is a Fellow of the National American Oil Chemists' Society, the International Union of Food Science and Technology, and the National Institute of Food Technologists; published 137 refereed publications generating more than 12,500 citations and made 382 scientific presentations; taught five undergraduate courses and coached/advised student teams to 12 straight regional championships and two national championships in IFT College Bowl competitions; was inducted into the National Academy of Inventors in 2015, and received the Bumpers College Outstanding International Education Award in 2016 and the Spitzer Land Grant University Faculty Award of Excellence in 2014, among other awards.



## Bumpers College YEAR IN PICS



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**15.** Our friends with Arkansas Farm Bureau held their 87th Annual Convention in Little Rock last year and the college was present. We were represented by Katie Dilley (R), our coordinator of undergraduate student recruitment, and Catherine Beasley (L), our director of employer relations. They visited with Wendell Scales, deputy director of innovation at Arkansas Lighthouse Academies, and Jennifer Cook, executive director of the Arkansas FFA Foundation, among others. Cook, the first female to be elected state FFA president (in 1987), is a Bumpers College alumna, earning her B.S. in agricultural education in 1992.



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**16.** With combined service of more than 100 years, Kim Neyman (departmental operations manager), Nancy Simkins (departmental administrative manager) and Kathleen Smith (associate professor) retired from our School of Human Environmental Sciences last fall. The trio worked at the U of A a combined 103 years with much of that time in HESC. Smith started as a graduate assistant in 1991, teaching in the apparel program. In 1999, she came back and in 2008 completed her doctorate in higher education and was promoted to assistant professor. From 2014-19, she served as assistant director in apparel merchandising and product development. She completed 22 years of consecutive service in August. Neyman started at the U of A Department of Home Economics in 1976 and retired on July 31. She received her bachelor's degree in geography from the U of A in 2006. Simkins attended the U of A for two years before transferring to John Brown University where she graduated with a degree in

office administration. She served roles such as special events, human resources, the dean of students office, women's athletics, engineering and admissions. Her last 15 years were in HESC. (photo by Micayla Blair)



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**17.** After going remote in 2021, we were back in person for our annual student Honors and Awards Reception for 2022. Held April 21 at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences, we recognized first-ranked and senior scholars, college-wide award winners, our ambassadors, this year's honors graduates, and our departmental outstanding seniors and graduate students. (photo by Robby Edwards)



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**18.** The U of A poultry judging team, coached by Dennis Mason and Amanda Brumley, placed third in the National Poultry Judging Contest at LSU. Judging allows competitors to show how well they execute the USDA rules and regulations covering the grading of eggs and poultry carcasses.

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**19.** Our birth through kindergarten program hosted a Defending Childhood event last spring at the Jean Tyson Child Development Study Center. The inaugural Janis Hawkins Shipley Early Childhood Lecture and Workshop featured a keynote address by Jennifer Kesselring, preschool division head of Riverfield Country Day School in Tulsa, along with an open house of the JTCDSC, and sessions on Reggio Emilia-inspired teaching practices and other interactive workshops. *(photos by Dani Medina)*

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**20.** Jennifer Acuff, assistant professor of food safety and microbiology in the Department of Food Science, and a researcher and scientist with the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the U of A System Division of Agriculture, was awarded a \$200,000 USDA-NIFA grant. She is studying how much moisture is required in low-moisture foods to allow for bacterial survival. Results will allow her to make recommendations to processors for improving low-moisture food safety. *(photo by Fred Miller)*

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**21.** U of A's ranch horse team, made up of students in animal science and coached by instructor Jordan Shore and Sidney Dunkel, won the Division 2 collegiate championships at the National Intercollegiate Ranch and Stock Horse Alliance Championships in Amarillo, Texas; the American Stock Horse Association National Show in Sweetwater, Texas; and the Stock Horse of Texas World Show in Fort Worth.

22



**22.** Our development office, led by Director Mark Wilton and Coordinator Jill Bowman, worked with Brian Helms, Stephanie Neipling and others with the U of A System Division of Agriculture to host the National Agricultural Alumni Development Association conference this past summer. NAADA, held in Arkansas for the first time, provides enhancement opportunities for professionals and volunteers in institutions of higher education and organizations associated with agricultural and related sciences. Featured speakers included Mark Power, U of A vice chancellor for university advancement; and Ed Fryar, an alumnus, member of the U of A System Board of Trustees, founder of Ozark Mountain Poultry and former professor of agricultural economics. *(photos by Robby Edwards & Karli Yarber)*





# Bumpers College YEAR IN PICS



**Enclothe: Embody Fashion Show**  
(March 31, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art; garments created and designed by students, show planned and managed by students)



(photos by Russell Cothren, Robby Edwards & Dani Medina)



**SMASH: Boardwalk Bash**  
(April 9, Arkansas Union Verizon Ballroom; food planned, prepared and served by students; event planned and managed by students)



(photos by Dani Medina & Karli Yarber)



# Bumpers College

## CLASS NOTES

### 1980s



**Curt Rom, MS '80** in horticulture was named interim dean of U of A's Graduate School and International Education beginning

Jan. 1, 2022. Rom previously served as interim dean of the Honors College from 2014-15 before starting his current role to support international education. He is a past Fulbright Fellow, and served as a Presidential Fellow for the Association of International Education Administrators. He is affiliated with the Association of International Education Administrators, the Council of Graduate Schools and the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools. Rom is a native of Fayetteville and a lifelong Razorback, and was previously a member of the faculty in our Department of Horticulture. He is a member of the U of A Teaching Academy and served as the organization's president from 2004-06. He has received more than 20 awards for his research, service and teaching, including the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award presented by the University Office of Nationally Competitive Awards for five consecutive years 2012-16.

### 2000s

**Natalie Bartholomew, BS '04, MS '06** in agricultural business and agricultural economics, has been named Community president for First community Bank in Rogers and Northwest Arkansas. Her banking career in NWA dates back more than 20 years. She's worked in the market for Grand Savings Bank, First National Bank of NWA and Arvest Bank. In 2017, she launched The Girl Banker blog, advocating for women in banking, working moms and community banking. Numerous industry publications have featured the platform, including American Banker and the Northwest Arkansas Business Journal. The NWA Business Journal recognized Bartholomew as a Forty Under 40 honoree in 2015 and a Women in Business honoree in 2018. Bartholomew, a member of our alumni society board of directors, lives in Prairie Grove with her family.



**Jeff Edwards, MS '01, PhD '04** in crop, soil and environmental sciences was named head of the Department of Crop,

Soil and Environmental Sciences. Edwards goals are to focus on the U of A's three land-grant missions, research through the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, extension through the Cooperative Extension Service

and teaching through Bumpers College. "I'm extremely excited to have Jeff joining our team," said former Dean Deacue Fields. "I met Jeff in the Food Systems Leadership Institute a few years ago, and I was impressed with his accomplishments at Oklahoma State. You don't often get a chance to hire someone with his reputation and proven track record for leadership success as a department head. Jeff has the vision to continue building the national prominence of our Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, and it is a bonus that he completed his graduate work here at the U of A." Edwards had been head of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Oklahoma State University since 2015. He was named CSES Outstanding Ph.D. Alumnus of the Year in 2018. "I just have such a connection with Arkansas," Edwards said. "I'm originally from Kentucky, but Arkansas is home in my book. It's like playing college athletics somewhere and getting to come back and coach."



**Nathan Kemper, MS '05, PhD '16** in agricultural economics was named assistant department head for

undergraduate programs and online instruction in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. He

chairs the undergraduate program committee, schedules courses and advises department head John Anderson on teaching assignments, works with the administrative staff in reporting to the dean's office, represents AEAB on the college curriculum committee, and identifies strategy for improving undergraduate program content, and student recruitment and retention efforts. He's also assisting in the development and implementation of additional online offerings for undergraduate and graduate students. Kemper is working with the Walton College of Business in coordinating online offerings, overseeing and promoting programs, and working with the Global Campus on course development and management. .



**Conner McNair, BSA '06** in agricultural business, was named the Northwest Arkansas Business

Journal's Forty Under 40 Class for 2021. After earning his bachelor's degree, McNair, who is from Fayetteville, earned his law degree from the U of A in 2009 and has been with the Friday, Eldredge & Clark firm in NWA since 2010. He focuses his practice on advising clients through mergers, acquisitions and real estate transactions. He also specializes in tax matters for small- and mid-sized businesses. McNair was named a partner in 2017. McNair has also served on the Fayetteville

*m* – annual member

*lm* – life member

*fs* – former student



# CLASS NOTES

Public Education Foundation board of directors since 2017, where he is a past president.

## 2010s



**Shawna Weimer, PhD '17** in poultry science, was named director of the Center for Food Animal Well-Being,

which is part of the U of A System Division of Agriculture. The center provides applied research results to producers and the public on animal health and well-being. She also teaches a graduate-level animal welfare course. Consumers have increasingly demanded that growers consider animal welfare. Applied animal welfare research aims to add more science-based criteria to the standards of how animals are raised. Weimer earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Iowa State University before completing at Ph.D. at the U of A under Yvonne Vizzier Thaxton and Karen Christensen with research focused on noninvasive measures of lameness and stress in broiler chickens. Weimer was previously an assistant professor and poultry welfare extension specialist in the Department of Animal and Avian Science at the University of Maryland.

## IN MEMORIAM

(July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

### 1940s

**Margaret Emmalou Alexander BSHE'41 MS'65**, Little Rock, May 3.  
**Kathleen Stone McDonald BSHE'45**, McGehee, Dec. 29, 2021.  
**Mary Mac Price Im BSHE'46**, Keller, Texas, Jan. 26.  
**Cleoh Smith BSA'47**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Dec. 21, 2021.

### 1950s

**Robert L. Box BSA'50**, Pocahontas, Nov. 30, 2021.  
**William S. Ferguson BSA'50**, Clinton, Jan. 4, 2014.  
**Fran Barton Nutt Im BSHE'50**, Ozark, Missouri, Aug. 16, 2021.  
**Curtis Ray Powell BSA'50 MS'52**, Fayetteville, March 15.  
**Claude H. Clement Jr. BS'51 MS'66**, Jonesboro, Jan. 14.  
**Donna H. Demuth BSHE'51**, Memphis, Tennessee, Jan. 10.  
**Howard C. Forrest BSA'51**, McGehee, July 9, 2021.  
**Marquerite Margo Low BSHE'51**, Brinkley, Aug. 29, 2021.  
**Melva D. O'Neal m BSHE'51**, Arlington, Texas, Oct. 30, 2021.  
**Jack M. Sloan BSA'51**, Powhatan, June 18, 2021.  
**Nathan Earl Gairhan BSA'52**, Jonesboro, March 3.  
**Dolores Durnil Bean BSHE'53**, Wichita, Kansas, July 9, 2021.  
**Billie Flippo Lassiter m BSHE'53**, Searcy, Sept. 25, 2021.  
**Don Shelton BSA'53**, Diaz, March 28, 2022.  
**Virginia Hudlow Thurman BSHE'53**, Farmington, Missouri, Feb. 8.

**Anita Noel m BSHE'54**, Lamar Heights, Missouri, July 21, 2021.

**George L. Dortch II BSA'55**, Batesville, Jan. 23.

**Mary Lookingbill Humphries BSHE'55**, Denton, Texas, June 18, 2021.

**Gaylon Waters BSA'55**, Willisville, April 30.

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

**Rev. Ed G. Matthews BSA'56**, Little Rock, Oct. 23, 2021.

**Olen Thomas BSA'56**, North Little Rock, July 24, 2021.

**Barbara Cotton Stephens BSHE'57**, Rogers, 2015.

**Bernal L. Green BSA'58 MS'61**, Harrison, Aug. 29, 2021.

**Lucile Horton BSHE'58**, Marshall, Oct. 23, 2021.

**Murell D. Kennedy Im BSA'58**, White Hall, Sept. 21, 2021.

**Armando A. Rosales BSA'58 MS'60**, Panama City, Florida, Feb. 28.

**Robert Steiner Im BSA'58**, Marvell, Sept. 22, 2021.

**Paula K. Taylor BSHE'58**, Sherwood, Oct. 14, 2021.



**Phil Tugwell, BSA'58 MS'60**, professor in what was then the Department of Entomology, and researcher and scientist

with the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the Division of Agriculture, Fayetteville, Oct. 20. He was 88. A

native of Levelland, Texas, "Tug" was an Air Force veteran and worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska before completing a master's degree at the U of A and a doctorate at Louisiana State University. He joined the Division of Agriculture in 1966 and retired in 2002, having served 36 years. A native of Levelland, Texas, Tugwell was the motivating force behind the COTMAN project, a cotton management system that times everything from irrigation and fertilizer to pest control and harvest preparation to the physiological development of the plant. It is widely used in cotton production in Arkansas and other states. The research team included Mark Cochran, Fred Bourland, Derrick Oosterhuis and Diana Danforth. "He was unselfish with his expertise, his time, and shared knowledge and help without expecting anything in return," professor Don Steinkraus said. "When I first arrived in Arkansas, he told me, 'Don, something is killing aphids in cotton. No one knows what it is. Maybe you can find out.' He gave me this idea with no expectation of anything but helping growers. And, in fact, I did find out and mined that vein of knowledge for years. I still put Tug's photo in my talks and thank him for his generosity and kindness." **Garlen T. Willis BSA'58 MED'76**, Gravelly, Feb. 13.

## 1960s

**Doyle L. Cook BSA'60 MS'63**, Atkins, March 21.

**Phyllis Judkins Holleman BSHE'60**, Tyler, Texas, Sept. 8, 2021.

**Lydia Lincoln Kingsborough m BSHE'60**, Brentwood, Tennessee, Oct. 10, 2021.  
**K. Pippin BSA'60 MS'61 PHD'75**, Russellville, Nov. 16, 2021.  
**William P. Boyer Jr. BSA'62**, Dodgeville, Wisconsin, Jan. 7.  
**Ray Coston BA'62 MS'64 PHD'69**, Springdale, Nov. 21, 2021.  
**Donald L. Oglesby BSA'64**, Rogers, Sept. 30, 2021.  
**Paul A. Bariola BSA'65**, Madison, Wisconsin, March 16.  
**Karen Plumlee m BSHE'65**, Salem, Oct. 1, 2021.  
**Orville E. Wright BSA'65 MS'69**, Sparkman, Jan. 14.  
**Wilda Sharon McMurry BSHE'66**, Prairie Grove, Feb. 7.  
**Callie Ann King Shull MS'67**, Maumelle, Jan. 15.  
**Sally Trammell Burnett BSHE'68**, Little Rock, April 23.  
**Billy J. Moore BSA'68 MS'73**, Lincoln, Jan. 9.  
**Loy Roger Cassady m BSA'69**, Nashville, Sept. 29, 2021.

## 1970s

**Gay Lacy III BSA'70**, Newport, Jan. 3.  
**Marion Lee Correll MS'71**, Brookville, Ohio, Sept. 25, 2021.  
**Ronnie McGhee BSA'71**, Decatur, Oct. 12, 2021.  
**William G. Brown Jr. PHD'73**, Columbia, South Carolina, Feb. 22.  
**E. Dave Lee BSA'73**, Fayetteville, May 28.  
**Kenneth Ray Williams MS'73**, Little Rock, May 2.  
**Randle W. Churchill BSA'74**, El Dorado, Feb. 10.  
**Terry C. Cole BSA'74 MS'77**, Dardanelle, Oct. 20, 2021.  
**Danny H. Dorman BSA'74**, Prairie

Grove, Dec. 9, 2021.  
**David Yocum IV Im BSA'74**, Lake Village, May 7.  
**Audrey Gateley BA'75 MS'88**, Fayetteville, March 8.  
**Ann G. Warren BSHE'76**, Sherwood, Oct. 21, 2021.  
**Richard Gillham BSA'77**, Huntsville, June 16, 2021.  
**Henry J. Layes BSA'78 MS'83**, Fayetteville, May 22.

## 1980s

**John M. Mills BSA'80 MED'94**, Farmington, Oct. 5, 2021.  
**Thomas Collier Lee III BSA'81**, Altheimer, Feb. 21.  
**Donald Houldcroft MS'82**, Newington, Connecticut, Oct. 7, 2019.  
**Julie A. Griffin Trimble m BSHE'82**, El Dorado, Feb. 9.  
**Dennis Lichti Im BSA'87**, Dry Fork, July 30, 2021.  
**Clinton Ray Copeland BSA'88**, Colcord, Oklahoma, April 19, 2022.

**Lona L. Clark MS'89**, Athens, Georgia, Jan. 16.  
**Michael Andrew English BSA'89**, West Memphis, April 24.

## 1990s

**Leslie Morelock Roye BSA'91 MS'93**, Fayetteville, Jan. 28.  
**David Franklin Ruff PHD'93**, Travelers Rest, South Carolina, Oct. 6, 2021.  
**Vince R. Shirley BSA'94**, Elkins, Oct. 2, 2021.  
**Rebecca Salome Chavez PHD'96**, Springdale, Oct. 14, 2021.  
**Jerick Payefon Hutchinson BSA'99 BSA'02 MAT'03**, Fayetteville, Jan. 9.

## 2000s

**Matthew D. Clark BSA'00**, Fayetteville, June 26, 2021.  
**Matthew Paul Hardy BSHE'08**, Texarkana, Jan. 19.

## 2010s



**Chad Coleman, BS '10 MS '12** in agricultural business and agricultural economics,

respectively, April 20. He was 34. He lived in Stuttgart, was employed by Progeny Ag Products and an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Stuttgart.

## FRIENDS



**Pengyin Chen**, a former professor in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, Fayetteville,

Aug. 1. Born in Jinyang, China, he earned his Ph.D. in soybean agronomy from Virginia Tech University, and taught at several universities, including Iowa State, Virginia Tech, Missouri and then the U of A for 16 years. He was a soybean breeder, researcher and scientist with the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station,

the research arm of the U of A System Division of Agriculture. Chen was named a Fellow of both the Crop Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy.



**James Martin Redfern**, retired faculty member from the Department of Agricultural Economics

and Agribusiness, Fayetteville, March 19. He was 82. Born in London, he was a senior naval cadet at Whitgift School. As a child he spent holidays at a farm in Kent where he and his brother would explore the countryside, row boats and help on the farm, the inspiration for his later studies. He went to Canada to attend McGill University, and then Iowa State University and Oklahoma State University for his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees, respectively, in agricultural economics. Maintaining his British accent, his first and last academic job was at the U of A. Hired as an assistant professor in 1968, promoted to associate professor and then professor, he retired as emeritus professor in 2007. He served on the Arkansas Economic Advisory Council, was a longtime advisor to the Agricultural Business Club, contributed research to multiple publications, launched a successful internship program, advised many students and created

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# Bumpers College

## CLASS NOTES

a scholarship for agribusiness students. His research focused on resource economics, rural economic development and the economics of food safety. As an economist, Redfern enjoyed arcane business theory discussions. He met his wife Carole, known as Cookie, when she joined Bumpers College as a recruiter.

**W.C. "Bill" Yearian**, former head of our Department of Entomology, and researcher and scientist with the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the Division of Agriculture, Fayetteville, Dec. 7. He was 84.



A native of Lake Village, he was known for his work on nuclear polyhedrosis viruses, which had an impact on non-chemical agricultural pest management.

The method was widely adopted in Central and South America, and

is still used in many locations in those regions as a key component of sustainable farming. When U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers pushed for the U of A to develop a cohesive research effort for environmentally friendly approaches to pest control, Yearian helped build support for what became the Rosen Alternative Pest Control Center. "He was the real thing," Gus Lorenz, U of A Distinguished Professor, extension entomologist and former student of Yearian, said. "You always looked up to Dr. Yearian. He was a mentor to me...He made learning fun. We would cook grasshoppers and bollworms to eat in class, but he

expected you to learn. All that I learned from him really helped me in my career. Whatever success I've had was due to his influence." Yearian served the U of A as an instructor, and a cotton, soybean and bark beetle researcher for 37 years. He also served on the Arkansas Plant Board, Boll Weevil Eradication Board and as state chapter president of Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society of agriculture, from 1979-80. He became head of the entomology department in 1989 and stayed in that position until his retirement in 2002 as professor emeritus.

*m – annual member*

*lm – life member*

*fs – former student*

### E-mail Your Class Notes

Send updates to the Office of External Relations, [extrel@uark.edu](mailto:extrel@uark.edu), fax to 479-575-6890 or mail to Bumpers College Alumni Society, Office of External Relations, 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](mailto:records@arkansasalumni.org).



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# THE Graduate

## BUMPERS COLLEGE ALUMNI SOCIETY TAILGATE

Nov. 5

*Razorbacks vs. Liberty*

