New Board Members

The CAFLS Alumni Society was founded in 1995 to promote communication and friendship among alumni and friends of the College. Society board members provide leadership in supporting and promoting Bumpers College, and they represent alumni and serve as their voices to the College.

Six new members joined the CAFLS Alumni Society board in 2001–02. Feel free to contact board members through Debbie Clark in the Janell Y. Hembree Alumni House, 479-575-2801, declark@uark.edu.

Southeast District

■ Valton Dean Bell, MS ’77, is vice president and senior trust officer at DeWitt Bank and Trust Co., where his primary function is farm management and overall supervision of the trust department. He is past president and director of Arkansas Agricultural Pesticide Association. Bell served on the University of Arkansas Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences recruiting committee for the past two years. He has been a board member and treasurer for the past nine years of the Arkansas County Fair Association.

Southwest District

■ Mike Phillips, MS ’82 PhD ’85, is director of the University of Arkansas Southwest Research and Extension Center at Hope and professor of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences. He is a board member and secretary of the American Forage and Grassland Council and president of the Southern Pasture and Forage Crop Improvement Conference. He and his wife, Tammy, have two children, Amanda, 18, and Chris, 13.

At Large

■ T. Lionel Barton, BSA ’58 MS ’60, of Fayetteville, a retired UA extension poultryman, is president of the Poultry Science Alumni organized in 2001. He was for many years the primary contact person for poultry producers to access information from University programs. The alumni group was organized to promote communication and friendship among alumni, friends and faculty by providing a forum for information exchange and organized events.

■ Betty Bradford, BSHE ’54 MS’91, returned to Arkansas in 1982, after 26 years as an army wife. She was an At Large member of Arkansas Alumni Association 1980-83 and continues to be active in the AAA. While working on her master’s degree she was a graduate research assistant and a graduate teaching assistant. She resides in Fayetteville.

■ James E. Mitchell, BSA ’74, runs a family ranching operation and tree farm in Yell County. He is a Vietnam Veteran and member of the Yell County Farm Bureau Board, Yell County Conservation District Board and Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts Board. He is a member of the U of A Alumni Association.

■ Susan Young Bradberry, BSHE ’77 MS ‘81, is a part-time advocate for abused children for the Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence and also a victim assistance coordinator in the Arkansas County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. She’s a former extension home economist and 4-H Agent in Texarkana. She and her husband, Bobby, have two daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah Grace.
From the Dean

A great day for Arkansas

Just before our annual Scholarship Luncheon in the Arkansas Union on April 11, Chancellor John White announced the gift of $300 million from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation to the University of Arkansas. I was thrilled that many friends and alumni who had come for the Scholarship Luncheon were on hand for that historic day for our university, our college and our state.

As you know by now, this is the largest gift in the history of American public higher education. Only four private universities have received larger donations.

This gift, along with the continuing support of alumni and friends and the state of Arkansas, will enable us to provide for the people of Arkansas a student-centered research university that combines the affordability of a public university and the academic excellence associated with some of the most prestigious institutions in the nation.

Many details remain to be worked out, but the basic plan for creating a campus-wide Honors College and providing a large endowment for the Graduate School is good for Bumpers College and for our research programs in the statewide Division of Agriculture. A nationally competitive honors program and graduate school will greatly enhance both our undergraduate degree programs and our graduate education and research.

The Honors College will include endowments for faculty chairs and professorships, student scholarships and research grants, and funds for student international travel. Library resources and technology infrastructure will be improved. The results for Bumpers College will be a stronger faculty and more students with excellent academic qualifications. Our honors students will enjoy the benefits of the family-like atmosphere for which Bumpers College is famous and will also be part of the campus-wide Honors College.

The Graduate School endowment will allow us to double enrollment in master’s and doctoral degree programs by 2010. Prestigious fellowship awards will attract top students and provide resources for innovative graduate research projects. All graduate students will have greater access to research grants, and they will receive more generous assistantship stipends.

Help us spread the word to Arkansas high school students with an interest in agricultural, food and life sciences: A university education of the highest caliber is within your reach — in the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

Visit Bumpers College on the web...  
http://www.uark.edu/depts/dbcafls
Three key Bumpers College leadership positions were filled in January and February.

**Gregory J. Weidemann** was appointed dean of Bumpers College and associate vice president–research for the Division of Agriculture. He is the 15th chief operations officer for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, established in 1888, and the 12th dean of the College, which was established in 1905 from the Agriculture Department that first offered courses in 1888.

Dr. Weidemann joined the UA department of plant pathology in 1983. He was named Experiment Station associate director and associate dean in 1995 and interim dean last January. He has a bachelor’s degree in zoology and a doctorate in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Weidemann worked closely with plant pathologists David TeBeest and the late George Templeton in a research program that provided international leadership on use of fungal pathogens of weeds as bioherbicides.

**Donna L. Graham** is the new associate dean for academic programs. Dr. Graham served as interim associate dean for academic programs since February 2001 and is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education.

Since joining the UA faculty in 1985, Dr. Graham has received local, regional and national awards for excellence in teaching and advising students. She was instrumental in developing the extension education major and the agricultural education master’s degree program.

A native of Damascus in Faulkner County, Dr. Graham has B.S. and M.Ed. degrees from the U of A and a Ph.D. in agricultural and extension education from the University of Maryland.

**Ronald W. Buescher** is the new head of the Department of Food Science. He served as interim head of the department during 1997–99 and since January 2001.

Dr. Buescher joined the UA faculty after earning a Ph.D. degree from Purdue University in 1973. His areas of research and teaching are post-harvest physiology and quality of vegetable crops with emphasis on acidified and fermented (pickled) products.

Innovations developed by Dr. Buescher are widely used in the food industry to reduce waste and improve product quality, market-life and processing efficiency.

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**FAMILY TRADITION** — Jennifer Coleman, BSHE ’01, center, who is working on a master’s degree in Human Environmental Sciences, is joined by her sister, Shari Moxley, BSHE ’91 MS ’92, father, Bruce Coleman, BSA ’64 MS ’66, and mother Mabel Rogers Coleman, BSHE ’64 MS ’66, during the School of Human Environmental Sciences Homecoming Nov. 10. Also on hand were Shari’s husband, Mike Moxley, and their children, Hannah and Coleman.

**HESC SUCCESS STORY** — Denise Henderson, BSHE ’79, group manager for Kraft Kitchens, discusses careers in dietetics with Bumpers College students Erin Langbein, center, and Wendy Wood, right, following a presentation she made Feb. 28 in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. Henderson spoke about her career with Kraft Foods. She also offered advice to students on how to prepare for starting a career after college.
Dear Alumni

In assuming the helm of the CAFLS Alumni Society, it is overwhelming to reflect on the shoes to be filled. The Society was born with a vision about the contributions that alumni could make in helping the College fulfill its mission. This vision was nurtured by individuals who dedicated their time and energy to see that a solid foundation was laid. Although many individuals had a hand in laying this foundation, probably none had more influence than our immediate past president, Glenyce Feeney — the only founding member still serving on the board.

I am also saddened to report another change that represents a significant loss to the Society. Dr. Melissa Lester has served as the CAFLS Alumni Society director since 1999. Melissa has been the mainstay of the Society, taking care of the day-to-day business and serving as the driving force behind the success of the Society to date. Melissa is leaving the college for a position in private industry. She will be dearly missed by the Society board, and we all wish her the best in her new endeavors.

Since the last edition of The Graduate, Dr. Greg Weidemann has been appointed dean of the College and associate vice president—research of the Division of Agriculture. Dr. Weidemann has been with the College since 1983 and has served as associate dean since 1995. With that experience, he is very familiar with the Society and has given his strong endorsement to our activities. I look forward to working even more closely with him.

I am extremely pleased that Darrin Malone has accepted the position of president-elect on our board. Darrin has been very active as an alumnus of the Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Department, serving as head of the department’s annual scholarship golf tournament. Society board members have all stepped forward to assume active roles on board committees. The Scholarship Committee named Jacob Hudson as the recipient of the CAFLS Alumni Society Scholarship. They also implemented a new CAFLS Alumni Ring Scholarship to annually award a male and female rising senior in the College a class ring. This program originated after the Arkansas Alumni Association developed a Single Ring program for the University, and it has generated much interest among the student body. Other committees are similarly active. The Events Committee planned and conducted an event on April 20 that included a reception for alumni at a Razorback baseball game. The Membership Committee is actively working to recruit new members and to retain existing members, and the Departmental Relations Committee is working diligently to build bridges between departments and the Society.

Yes, there are very large shoes to fill in assuming the position as your new president. However, given the dedicated and active board that is in place, my job will be much easier. All CAFLS Alumni should want to share this excitement and be active participants in supporting their alma mater. You can do so by becoming a member today.

Ewell Welch
President, CAFLS Alumni Society

Departing director wins national award

CAFLS Alumni Society Director Melissa Lester resigned in April to accept a position as a regional marketing representative with Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Dean Greg Weidemann said, “We are very grateful to Dr. Lester for the leadership and energy she has provided for the Alumni Society. We hope to fill the position soon with someone who will provide the same level of support for the directors to continue to build the Society as a unit of the Arkansas Alumni Association.

Dr. Lester received the 2002 Professional Achievement Award from the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association.

She has B.S.A. and M.S. degrees from the U of A and a Ph.D. in agricultural education from Texas A&M University. She was the College’s first director of student relations from 1993–99. She developed a course in leadership and professional development, which she has taught as an assistant professor since 1996.

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Walton gift largest ever to a public university

Chancellor John A. White on April 11 announced that the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation is providing a challenge gift of $300 million to the University of Arkansas, which is the largest gift ever to an American public university.

The Campaign for the Twenty-First Century, as of April 11, had raised a total of $607 million, and the goal was revised from $500 million to $900 million. White said another $300 million must be raised to ensure receipt of the full amount of the Walton gift.

The Walton gift will mostly be used to create endowment funds, according to plans announced April 11. The principal of an endowment is kept intact, and only earnings from investments are spent for the intended purpose.

Announced plans include:
- $200 million for an Honors College will include endowments for faculty chairs and professorships, student scholarships and fellowships, student research grants and student international experience grants. Funds are also earmarked for Mullins Library and information technology improvements. Honors College students will also be enrolled in one of the six “home” undergraduate schools and colleges of the University.
- A $100 million endowment is planned for the Graduate School. The intent is to increase graduate enrollment from 2,936 at present to 5,500 by 2010 in the University’s 34 doctoral and 96 master’s programs. Endowments will include doctoral fellowships, graduate assistantships, faculty chairs, a graduate student research fund and library services.

Campaign Update

Bumpers College and the Division of Agriculture, as of April 30, had received $40 million in gifts and pledges toward our Campaign for the Twenty-First Century goal of $69.3 million.

Two gifts of computer software, hardware and training valued at more than $4 million will provide access to state-of-the-art product development technology for apparel studies students in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. Lectra, Inc., with world headquarters in Paris and North American headquarters in Atlanta, is providing computer-assisted design (CAD) software and hardware, installation of the software on 50 student computer lab workstations, and training for faculty, for a total value of $3,749,000. Gerber Technology, based in Tolland, Conn., is donating software for 25 computer lab workstations, plus training, for a total value of $397,500.

Tyson Foods chairman and CEO John Tyson presented a $500,000 check at a Dec. 14 press conference from the Tyson Foundation to the Randal Tyson Memorial Scholarship/Fellowship Fund. The gift increased the fund, established by the Tyson family in 1993, to $709,000. Interest earned on endowment provides about $48,000 yearly for poultry science scholarships.

Zero Mountain, Inc., is giving $250,000 to endow the Joseph F. Rumsey III Scholarship fund to provide need-based grants to agricultural, food and life science students. Joseph Rumsey is founder of Zero Mountain, based in Fort Smith, which is one of the largest independent suppliers of cold storage and distribution services.

Ben and Nancy Israel of Fayetteville are providing $108,000 to establish a scholarship in the Dorothy E. King Equine Program. The Jasper Springs Stable Equine Scholarship will be awarded to students working toward either an undergraduate or graduate degree in animal science, with emphasis in the equine program. The scholarship will provide $4,000 annually.

Stanley and Charlene Reed of Marianna are donating $30,000 toward renovation of the Cotton Branch Station Headquarters at Marianna.

Bob and Marilyn Bogle of Bentonville are contributing $25,000 for Department of Horticulture programs to benefit students and the horticulture industry.

A gift of $23,000 from Ned Ray Purtle of Hope will provide funds for travel and other expenses of the U of A Livestock Judging Team.

Clifford and Doris Jacobs are increasing the Clifford Bruce Jacobs Scholarship Endowment with a gift of $11,000. The endowment was established in 2000 by the Jacobs family in
MORE SCHOLARSHIPS — Tyson Foods CEO John Tyson presents a check to increase the Randal Tyson Memorial Scholarship/Fellowship endowment for Poultry Science majors.

honor of Clifford Bruce Jacobs, BSA ’81, of DeWitt, who died in a May 1999 farm accident. Scholarships are for Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences majors from DeWitt or Gillett high schools.

The Bumpers College Global Studies scholarship program is getting a boost from two recent gifts.

Fran Sabbe of Fayetteville is providing $10,000 for the Wayne Sabbe Endowed Scholarship in International Agronomic Study. Dr. Wayne Sabbe, who died in March 2000, was a professor in the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences and director of the Arkansas Soil Testing and Research Program.

Carol Jean Locke, BSHE ’59, of Fort Myers, Fla., added $10,000 to the Richard D. Locke International Agriculture Scholarship fund that she established in memory of her late husband, also a 1959 graduate who had a distinguished career in international agribusiness.

Veteran faculty take early retirement

Ten Bumpers College faculty members are participating in an early retirement incentive program, including former Dean Jerry Musick and former Experiment Station Associate Director Bernie Daniels, BS ’62 MS ’63.

Gerald J. Musick was dean of the College and director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station from 1987 to 1993. He is retiring from the Entomology Department, which he headed before being named dean.

L.B. Daniels was Experiment Station associate director from 1987 to 1996. He is retiring from the Animal Science Department.

James H. Denton, the first director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science and head of the Poultry Science Department from 1992 to 2002, moved from administration to a faculty assignment.

William C. Yearian Jr., BS ’60 MS ’61, is retiring as Entomology Department head since 1989.

Other retiring faculty members are:

■ Professor Mary Alice Kenney, foods and nutrition.

■ University Professor K.S. Kim, PhD ’71, plant virology and electron microscopy.

■ Professor Harriett McCoy, foods and nutrition.

■ University Professor H. Don Scott, soil physics.

■ Professor N. Philip Tugwell, BSA ’58, entomology.

■ Professor Donald E. Voth, rural sociology.

THANKS! — Josh Walker, left, an animal science major from Ben Lomond, chats with Carl Yeckel, president of the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, during the Bumpers College Scholarship Luncheon April 11. Walker spoke on behalf of students to thank scholarship donors. Yeckel responded on behalf of the donors. The College provided scholarships totaling over $670,000 to 322 students in the 2001–02 school year. That’s $64,000 (11%) more than the previous year.
William E. Barksdale, BSA ’59, heads off to work in the fields an hour before sunrise most mornings, not as a farmer but to tell the story of farming in the Delta. Bill Barksdale is nationally known as a writer and photographer on his favorite topic — Mississippi Delta agriculture.

“I had that dream as an agri student of combining journalism with my love of agriculture and the people who produce food and fiber,” Barksdale said. “I got a great, broad education as a general agriculture major.” He learned journalism in the family business — “Dad was editor of the newspaper in Fort Smith.” — and he honed his journalist skills working on The Agriculturist student magazine, serving as editor his senior year.

“I had never been to the Delta. When I came, mechanization and chemicals were just beginning to have a big impact. I had a chance to help interpret the significance of those changes. Now we’re moving into transgenics,” Barksdale said.

“In 1959 I graduated, got married (to Sandra Ramsey, BAE) and went to work in the Delta as an assistant editor with Progressive Farmer. That was a big year.”

In 1965, the family moved to Cincinnati where Bill was an editor with the Farm Quarterly magazine. He returned to Memphis in 1973 as a communication specialist for Cook Industries, a leading corporation in the cotton and grain merchandising business.

“I realized I was farther away from the nuts and bolts of agriculture than I really wanted to be. I knew I wanted to work with farmers,” which led him to launch his own company, Barksdale Agri-Communications, in 1975.

Barksdale’s writing and photography appear in many farm publications as well as on billboards and in ads and corporate publications. He sells “stock photography” from his Memphis office and through a national agency, Agstock USA.

Bill’s son, William A. Barksdale, BSA ’92, was an agricultural business major and is now with Cargill in Minneapolis.

**Agriculturist editor true to his calling**

**Telling the story of Delta agriculture**

Bill Barksdale was writer and photographer for an article on UA classmate Bill Teeter that appeared in the May 2000 issue of Progressive Farmer magazine.

The article was about Teeter’s experience with no-till cotton. Here’s an excerpt:

A flat-lander’s spin on no-till

Bill Teeter came home to the family farm in 1959 after graduating from the University of Arkansas and serving in the military. He farmed in partnership with his brother and father.

“It wasn’t unusual for us to make 20 or more trips over the field during a cotton production season,” he recalls.

After a series of transitions, including the death of his father in 1966 and his brother’s untimely death in 1983, Teeter wound up with his own operation, Bill Teeter Farms, Inc., in 1992. Two years ago he established a position for his son-in-law, Ken Holt, who now handles day-to-day farm operations.

Teeter planted his first no-till cotton in 1992. He wanted to reduce expenses, but intellectual curiosity must have had something to do with it, as well. Teeter, who contributes generous amounts of time to county, state, and national soil conservation organizations, had been following no-till trends in other regions.

“I figured if they could do it and stay in business, the concept might have something to offer in our kind of operation,” he states.

The article goes on to detail how Teeter has reduced costs, increased yield and improved the condition of his soil using no-till methods.
A Havana High School student in Yell County in the late 1960s, Ewell Welch could not have imagined that he would someday dine at the Presidential Palace in Havana, Cuba, with Fidel Castro.

As director of commodity and public policy programs for the Arkansas Farm Bureau, Welch was one of 16 Arkansans visiting Cuba in May 2000 to study issues involving United States policies on the sale of rice, poultry, soybeans, wheat and other farm commodities to that country.

The delegation was headed by U.S. Sen. Blanche Lincoln, U.S. Rep. Marion Berry and Arkansas Farm Bureau President David Hillman of Almyra.

The Arkansans were told after 7 p.m. one evening that they were expected at 10 p.m. for dinner at the Presidential Palace. The visit lasted until after 4 a.m the next morning. Most of the time was spent at a lavishly decorated table where a multi-course dinner was served. Conversation was dominated by Castro through an interpreter.

Welch said the 73-year-old Cuban president told stories, talked about improvements he wanted to make in the country, and mostly avoided political topics that might have made his guests uncomfortable.

As the group was leaving, Castro appeared surprised by the lateness of the hour. “This is how I relax,” he said. “This is my recreation.”

Welch, the 2001–02 president of the CAFLS Alumni Society, joined the Farm Bureau staff in 1977 after receiving a master’s degree in agricultural economics to go with his bachelor’s degree in plant pathology.

“The U of A was the right place for me,” Welch said. “My background with the University and close ties with people in the Division of Agriculture have been great assets.”

Welches are all over Senior Walk. His father, Ewell F. Welch, has a B.S.A. degree and was a vocational agriculture teacher. Other alums include his wife, Deanna; son, Wesley; sister and uncle. Daughter Natalie is a current student.

As Alumni Society president, Welch said he will work on increasing membership in the Society.

“We need strong support of alumni for the College and a strong link of the College to the Division of Agriculture.”

As director for commodity and public policy programs with the Farm Bureau, Welch said he sees a bright future for agriculture, but, he added, “We have challenges.”

The trip to Cuba was to help open markets for commodities — one of the challenges.

Legislation supported by Farm Bureau lifted the embargo on food and medicine sales to Cuba. The first shiploads of rice, corn and wheat sold by American companies directly to Cuba arrived in Havana in December and January. Farm Bureau continues to work on easing trade barriers that remain in place.

Other challenges include burdensome environmental regulations, government farm support legislation, and funding for agricultural research and extension programs.

Welch has been a leader in developing and managing producer checkoff programs for the soybean and rice commodity boards. The checkoff programs have provided millions of dollars of support for U of A Division of Agriculture research. Thanks to efficient Farm Bureau management, administrative costs are almost non-existent.

“These programs have paid big dividends back to the producers,” Welch said. “I don’t think we would be nearly as effective without producer funding for research.”

Welch said he is excited about the opportunity to help the CAFLS Alumni Society grow.

“We have a great board of directors and, of course, the best alumni of any college,” he said. “We can accomplish great things by working together on behalf of current and future students in our College. They are our future.”
Commencement 2002

Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences alumni, student, faculty and staff awards were presented at Commencement May 11 at the Randal Tyson Track Center and at Honors Convocation April 11.

Dr. Ortus W. “O.W.” Barnett Jr., head of the Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, is the 2002 Outstanding Alumnus of Bumpers College. A native of Pine Bluff, he has B.S.A. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas in plant pathology and a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Barnett’s distinguished career of research specializing in virus diseases of legume crops began as an Arkansas graduate student (1963–64) working with Dr. H.J. Walters on pea and bean viruses transmitted by beetles.

Commencement speakers Tenethrea Thompson, Gentian Kostandini and Michelle Thomas represented the diverse makeup of the Class of 2002.

Tenethrea Thompson is the first graduate to complete the revitalized Bumpers College Honors Program. The 1994 Bearden High School graduate has an outstanding record of campus leadership and community service. She is the daughter of Willie and Sandra Graham of Bearden.

Gentian Kostandini is an agricultural business major who transferred to the U of A in 2000 from the American Farm School in Thessalonica, Greece. A native of Albania, he also is fluent in Italian, English and Greek. He will begin graduate school in the fall and hopes to eventually return to his home country as an agricultural economist.

Senior Scholar Michelle Thomas, a 1981 graduate of Southside High School in Fort Smith, received a degree in dental hygiene in 1984 and practiced that profession for 16 years. She and husband David, a police officer, have two children and operate a small cattle farm in the Fort Smith area. She transferred previous course credits to the U of A as an animal science major in 2000. She credits parents Don and Linda Rubottom and parents-in-law Pat and Larry Kincannon with making it possible to commute from Fort Smith and earn the degree.

The John W. White Outstanding Student Award was presented to Jill Andrea Townsend, the daughter of Jupe and Jan Townsend of Malvern. She was senior College Ambassador, a leader in the Student Alumni Board and the 2000 Poultry Science Club Member of the Year. She conducted a research project on poultry nutrition and gave award-winning presentations on the results in local and regional competitions. Her article on the study was published in the Discovery undergraduate journal.

An outstanding graduate student and an outstanding undergraduate transfer student are named each year as Dale Bumpers Distinguished Scholars.
The 2002 Bumpers Scholar graduate student is Stacy E. Higgins of Lyttle, Texas, who is pursuing a master’s degree in poultry science with an emphasis in poultry health. She received her B.S. degree from Texas A&M University, with magna cum laude honors. She has presented her research at three national meetings, served as author or coauthor of seven abstracts, and has one manuscript in press. She is on schedule to receive the M.S. degree in December and plans to pursue a Ph.D. degree.

The 2002 Bumpers Scholar undergraduate transfer student is Allison L. Galloway, a general foods and nutrition major with a pre-med concentration. A transfer student from Northwest Arkansas Community College, she is the daughter of Thomas and Karen Pittman of Springdale and is married to Scott Galloway.

The Presidential Scholar award recognizes outstanding academic performance and leadership by a student in the junior class. The 2002 recipient is Rupali B. Ugrankar, an environmental science major with a 4.0 grade point average. She graduated from high school in Bombay, India.

The CAFLS Alumni Society presents a scholarship and names two Ring Scholars (see page 13) based on academic performance and leadership. Jacob Hudson, an agricultural business major, will receive the CAFLS Alumni Society Scholarship. He is a 1999 graduate of Jasper High School and the son of Richard and Anita Hudson of Mount Judea.

The Spitze Land Grant University Faculty Award for Excellence recipient for 2002 is Lawrence R. “Dick” Oliver, the Elms Farming Chair for Weed Science in the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences. His program is one of the most productive and respected teaching and research programs in the United States in the discipline of weed science. He coached the UA Weed Science Team to 15 wins in the last 19 years of intercollegiate competition. A native of Stuttgart, he has B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. degree from Purdue University.

The Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence was presented to Donald M. Johnson, professor of agricultural and extension education. He teaches courses in the area of agricultural systems technology. Dr. Johnson was lead author of a textbook, Mechanical Technology in Agriculture, and is nationally one of the most widely published authors of scholarly articles on agricultural education.

The CAFLS Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award winner is Nolan Arthur, associate professor of agricultural and extension education. His relationship with many students and their families begins while they are in high school through his participation in FFA and other local activities. It extends beyond graduation with job placement and career counseling. It is rare to find Dr. Arthur in his office without one or more students present. He has served as faculty advisor for many years.
advisor to Farm House Fraternity, Collegiate FFA, Alpha Tau Alpha, Alpha Zeta and the Agriculture and Home Economics Student Association. Dr. Arthur came to the U of A as an assistant dean and was head of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education before devoting full time to teaching and advising in 1995.

Jason Emmert, assistant professor of poultry science, received the John W. White Teaching Excellence Award. He is a leader in providing research and teaching opportunities for undergraduate students, which requires one-on-one mentoring in special problems courses. His judging and selection course includes coaching a team of students to compete in intercollegiate poultry judging contests. He also is advisor to the Poultry Science Club.

The John W. White Research Excellence Award went to Robert F. Wideman Jr., distinguished professor of poultry science, and an international authority on avian physiology, with a current focus on pulmonary hypertension syndrome (ascites) in chickens. He has served on the board of directors of the Poultry Science Association and Federation of Animal Scientists and was FAS president in 2001.

The John W. White Extension Award (State) recipient was Donald R. Johnson, Cooperative Extension Service section leader for pest management. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees from the U of A and a Ph.D. degree from North Carolina State University.

The John W. White Extension Award (County) recipient was Kaye P. Shrout, staff chair of the Montgomery County office of the Cooperative Extension Service in Mt. Ida. She has a B.S. degree from Henderson State College and an M.S. degree from the U of A.

The John W. White Outstanding Team Award recognized accomplishments of interdisciplinary research and extension programs that support grape growers and winery operators in the state and region. Six U of A Division of Agriculture faculty members coordinate the program. Justin Morris, university professor of food science, developed a patented system for vineyard mechanization. He is also an authority on pre- and post-harvest quality, and development and evaluation of juice and wine products.

James N. Moore, distinguished professor emeritus of horticulture, established one of the nation’s most successful fruit breeding programs in Arkansas, which produced several widely grown grape cultivars.

John R. Clark, professor of horticulture, currently directs the Arkansas program on breeding, genetics and culture of fruit crops. R. Keith Striegler, horticulture specialist, conducts extension education programs and applied research on production and marketing of grapes and other fruit crops.

Ronald E. Talbert, university professor of crop, soil, and environmental sciences, is an authority on weed management in grape vineyards and other crops.

Donn T. Johnson, professor of entomology, is an integrated pest management specialist for fruit crops.

The Division of Agriculture’s Outstanding Professional Support (Non-Classified) Award winner was Donald S. Hubbell III, research associate II, who manages field research with stocker cattle at the Livestock and Forestry Branch Experiment Station at Batesville. He joined the Livestock and Forestry Branch Station staff in 1982 after receiving a B.S. degree in animal science from the U of A.

The Division of Agriculture presents two annual awards for outstanding performance by Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service staff members in the state classified employee system. The 2002 awardees are Eloise Cole, accounting technician II in the Communication Services Unit of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, and Ken Leopard, plant maintenance supervisor for the State Headquarters of the Cooperative Extension Service.
FAMILY AFFAIR — Gail Sullivan and sons, left to right, Tim, BSA ’86; Scott, BSA ’89; and Mike, BSA ’83, participated in the March 8 dedication of the James Patrick Sullivan Memorial Classroom (AGRI 115). Contributions in honor of Pat Sullivan, BSA ’61, were used to renovate the room and provide interactive computer-assisted teaching tools. The sons are partners in management of the Sullivan farm at Burdette, where Tim serves as mayor.

Ring designed to touch Hog hearts

Chancellor John A. White unveiled the newly designed University ring Feb. 22 at a ceremony in the Arkansas Union.

“Never before has there been a tangible, lasting symbol of the common bond that graduates of the University of Arkansas share, and that will go with them everywhere,” White said.

“Each aspect of this ring symbolizes the uniqueness of experiences shared only by those students who studied beneath the towers of old main, who walked on senior walk and who, with uplifted hands, called the Hogs. No other ring will have these symbols,” White added.

The Official Ring will also be a source of scholarship funding with a minimum of $10,000 to be contributed annually to the University by the ring company, Jostens, plus $10 per additional ring sold over 1,000.

Alumni may buy a ring by contacting the Arkansas Alumni Association at 479-575-2801 or alumni@uark.edu.

The First Ring Scholars

Board member Darlene Baker began a new tradition with the naming of CAFLS Alumni Society Ring Scholars at Honors Convocation April 11 in the Arkansas Union Theatre.

A male and female student, selected on the basis of academic performance and leadership, will receive an official UA ring each year at graduation.

The first Ring Scholars (cover photo) are Todd Ray Franklin, an agricultural education, communication and technology major from Huntsville, and Mary Jill Ibison, an interior design major from Fort Smith.
Merchandising students learn to manage risk

Donald White, founder of White Commercial, and associates Sherry Lorton and Scott Hardy, BSA ’82, led a workshop on the art and science of price risk management sponsored by Bumpers College on March 5.

White and Lorton are co-authors of The Merchant’s Edge, a book on grain merchandising.

Hardy, of Tumblin Shoals in Cleburne County, has a UA degree in Agricultural Economics. He works with country elevator companies to develop merchandising programs, a service provided throughout the South, West and Midwest by White Commercial. Scott is the son of former Dean Glenn Hardy.

Dr. Andrew McKenzie and Steven Nichols developed the Basis Trader computer game that McKenzie uses in his grain merchandising course.

UA students are learning valuable risk management skills much in demand by companies that buy and sell grain and other commodities, White said.

The Department of Horticulture wishes to thank the following donors for their support for the Golf and Turf Sports Classic at Stonebridge Meadows Golf Club, April 2002

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CLASSIC PUTT — John Boyd, extension weed specialist, aims for the hole while teammates Bud Busken, standing, and Dustin Hamm gauge his putt during the Department of Horticulture’s annual Golf and Turf Sports Classic at Stonebridge Meadows Golf Club April 22. The tournament raised about $13,000 for turfgrass management and landscape horticulture scholarships and for research.

TRADING GAME — Andrew McKenzie, second from right, discusses the Basis Trader computer game he and Steven Nichols, second from left, created to help teach grain merchandising principles and skills in the UA Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Also looking on are, from left, Don White, Sherry Lorton and Scott Hardy, BSA ’82, of White Commercial, and student Roger Gattis of Ozark.
Marilyn Ligon, BSA '84, was featured in a *Memphis Commercial-Appeal* article by Christine Arpe Gang about Ligon’s accomplishments as director of the Memphis Botanic Garden since July 2001.

The garden, with 96 acres in the heart of Memphis, “is beautiful now, but it can become world-class,” says Ligon, whose bachelor’s degree from the U of A is in landscape design and urban horticulture. After working as an Extension Service 4-H specialist, she received a master’s degree at UA–Little Rock in interpersonal and organizational communication.

Dr. C.E. “Chuck” Caviness, a native of Hazen, after receiving a Ph.D. degree at the University of Missouri in 1956, joined the UA faculty as soybean breeder. The inter-disciplinary plant breeding program directed by Dr. Caviness developed a number of widely grown soybean varieties.

Dr. Caviness is a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. He joined the emeritus professor ranks in 1992. He and his wife, Maxine, have a son, Ron.

Clyde Sites spent his summers as a U of A student scouting cotton for the Elms Planting Company at Altheimer and joined the farm’s management team. He became general manager when his boss, R.S. Barnett, retired. When the farming operation was liquidated, the land was made available for farmers to rent.

“Four of my sons, my brother, his three sons, and I rented and farmed 9,000 acres,” Sites said. “In 1990, I purchased the Altheimer Gin and Rice Dryer and learned another phase of farming.” He recently retired and lives in Sheridan where he raises cattle and manages rental houses. He and his wife, Joyce, have one daughter, five sons, 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

J. Noal Lawhon II is manager of Lawhon Farm Services at McCrory, which was started by his father, who was inducted this year into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. (Story on back cover)

Under Noal’s management since 1970, Lawhon Farm Services, Inc., has become a major supplier and exporter of crop seed. He has served as president of the Arkansas Seed Dealers and Southern Seedsmen Association. He and his wife, Joanna, have a daughter, Sheree, who is employed by the Arkansas State Plant Board, and a son, T.J., a 1998 U of A graduate with a degree in agronomy, who works in the family business.

The Third Annual Delta Scholarship Classic will be July 12, 2002, at the Helena Country Club.

Funds generated by the tournament will provide scholarships for students majoring in Crop Management or Environmental, Soil, and Water Science.

To participate in the Delta Classic, contact Darrin Malone, 7208 Walden Road, Paragould, AR 72450-8546, 870-239-9890 or J-Darrin.Malone@USA.dupont.com.

To request a new CSES Department brochure or apply for a Delta Classic Scholarship, contact Holly Yeatman, 888-343-7838 or hyeatman@uark.edu.
Thank you for your support!

The alumni, students and faculty extend sincere thanks to the sponsors for this issue. Proceeds of your “logo ads” help pay for color printing and, most importantly, show support for the graduates and students in our 17 major degree programs.

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- Crop Management
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- Food Science
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Four generations of McNeils have attended the University of Arkansas: grandfather, John E. McNeil one year in 1918; father, John E. McNeil, BSA ’46; daughter, Marsha McNeil, BSBA ’77; Marsha’s husband, Jim Allbritton, BSBA ’75; and their sons, John Allbritton, a junior, and Drew Allbritton, a freshman.

Oscar McCoy, MS ’53 BSA ’49, and Helen McCoy, BSHE ’44, were selected the Co-Grand Marshals for the 56th Annual Turkey Trot Parade in October in Yellville. They were both teachers at Yellville-Summit High School from fall 1955 through spring 1983. Their 28-year spans are among the longest uninterrupted teaching careers of any teachers at Yellville-Summit.

Perry L. Adkisson, MS ’54 BSA ’50, LLD ’97, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters by Texas A & M University at May 2001 commencement.

Gary L. Golden, BSA ‘74, has recently moved to DeQueen, where he was named president of First State Bank of DeQueen June 4, 2001.

Bert Greenwalt, MS ’80, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis for a three-year term ending Dec. 31, 2004. Greenwalt farms with his family at Hazen and is a professor of agricultural economics at Arkansas State University.

Janan Jackson, BSHE ’82, poultry products specialist for the Egg Council, Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission in Little Rock, received the Professional of the Year Award from the Arkansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) during its annual meeting at Harding University in Searcy.

Marilyn Ligon, BSA ’84, was named executive director of the Memphis Botanic Garden July 1, 2001.

Chuck Farr, BSA ’87, is co-chairman of the NAICC annual meeting coordination committee. He is past president and current committee member of the Arkansas Agricultural Consulting Association. He also serves on the board of directors of the Crittenden County Farm Bureau, Memphis-East Arkansas Razorback Club, University of Arkansas Pest Management Advisory Committee, and is a member of numerous industry committees.

Matthew James Jansen, BSA ’89, is president of South America operations for Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), the world’s largest company that procures, transports, stores, processes and markets agricultural commodities and products. Matt, his wife Piper and their two children, Ben and Julia Ann, are living in Brazil.

Mark Fiely, MS ’91, is employed as plant pathologist at Ernst Conservation Seeds near Meadville, Penn.

Kimberly Blevins Kearney, MS ’00, has been named lecturer/lead teacher at the University of Arkansas Infant Development Center in Fayetteville.

Weddings

Jim E. Bidlack, MS ’86, and Amy Sherri Bidlack were married June 29, 2001.

Lori Anne Rhodes, BA ’95 and Larry Franklin Myers, BSA ’98, were married Oct. 6, 2001. They reside in Siloam Springs.

Lalinda G. Page, BSHE ’96, and Marshall H. Page were married Sept. 22, 2001. The couple resides in McKinney, Texas, where she is store manager of Chico’s Ladies Fashions.

Lori Hutton Thurman, BSA ’97, and Phillip Cody Long were married Aug. 18, 2001. They reside in Little Rock where she is working on a master’s degree in business at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Barry L. Noblin, BSA ’00, and Sarah Elizabeth Walker, BSBA ’01, were married Dec. 1, 2001.

Wendy Schlegel, BSA ’01, and Eric Judy, BSA ’01, were married July 28, 2001.

Christina Marie Spears, BSA ’01, and Brian Kenneth Leach were married Nov. 17, 2001. The couple resides in Memphis.

New Arrivals


June 6, 2001, to Katie Osburn, BSHE ’90, and Craig Osburn, a son, Joshua Reed Osburn.


Deceased


Aileen J. Boyd, BSHE ’38, died July 26, 2001, at the age of 89.


Will M. Rogers, BSA ’42, died July 17, 2001.


Lucien Abraham Jr., BSA ’50, died Oct. 27, 2001, in Eufaula, Okla.
Lost Alumni

1996
- Ms. Ida Marie Johnson
- Ms. Jodye Marie Pool
- Ms. Jayasree Ravi
- Mr. John Mark Reddish
- Ms. Jing-Rong Tan
- Mr. Yanming Yang

1997
- Mr. Hassane Daou
- Ms. Jolyne C. Hodges
- Mr. Andrew Mackay
- Mr. Robert David McCall
- Mr. William George McGlynn
- Ms. Metin Yildirim
- Ms. Zeliha Yildirim

1998
- Ms. Jennifer Lynn Attak
- Mr. Hortense Atta Diallo
- Ms. Christine Hess
- Ms. Salvator Kabonka
- Mr. Mosotho Lazarus Kutumela
- Mr. Alexandre Lima Nepomuceno
- Mr. Samuel Chase Smiley
- Ms. Sandra Kay Walker

1999
- Mr. Matias Recerra-Lopez
- Ms. Theresa Lee Haddan
- Mr. John Paul Odell
- Mr. Micah C. Ross
- Mr. Donald Marcus West
- Ms. Jennifer Le Young

Can you help?

Some of the CAFLS graduates from the 1990s for whom we don’t have addresses are listed below. If you have a phone number or address for any of these alumni, please call the Arkansas Alumni Association at 479-575-2801, e-mail declark@uark.edu, or write to CAFLS Alumni Society, P.O. Box 1070, Fayetteville, AR 72702.

Former Riceland Foods president L. Clyde Carter, BSA ’31 (agronomy) and LLD ’69, of Stuttgart died April 15 at age 92. Survivors include Vera, his wife of 68 years.

Carter joined the Cooperative Extension Service in 1934 as an agent in Mt. Ida, then Nashville and at state headquarters in Little Rock. In 1937, Carter was named director of the University of Arkansas’ Rice Branch Experiment Station at Stuttgart. He experimented with processing ideas that would become the modern grain drier, a major advance in agricultural technology.

In 1944, Carter became general manager of The Arkansas Rice Growers Cooperative Association — forerunner of Riceland Foods, Inc. When he retired in 1977, Riceland had grown into a major international rice and soybean marketing complex.

Carter served 11 years on the U of A Board of Trustees, including four years as chairman. He was appointed by President Eisenhower to a six-year term on the Federal Farm Credit Board.

The Riceland Foods Foundation endowed the L.C. Carter Chair for Rice and Soybean Marketing in Bumpers College.


Ruel O. Nester, BSA ’53 MS ’54, died May 19, 2001, in Houston at the age of 79.


Mary Jo (Evans) Stewart, MS ’67, died July 15, 2001, at the age of 70 in Tulsa.

John M. Porta, BA ’75 MS ’80, died in May 2001.

Laura Marie Raub, BSHE ’85, died Dec. 12, 2001, in an automobile accident.
Five alumni and friends of Bumpers College and the U of A were inducted March 26 into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame sponsored by the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Ned Ray Purtle, who owns Ned Purtle and Son Ranch in Hope, has served on the U of A Board of Trustees and as president of the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association. He is chairman of the Arkansas State Fair Board of Governors and a Campaign for the Twenty-First Century volunteer. He was the Progressive Farmer Man of the Year in Service to Arkansas Agriculture in 1997 and was presented an honorary Arkansas Farmer degree at Bumpers College Commencement in May 2001.

Jay Noal Lawhon Sr., BSA ’43, is founder of Lawhon Farm Supply Company in McCrory and the World Christian Relief Fund, a humanitarian organization. He was an agriculture teacher at Desha High School and principal of McCrory High School before beginning his career in the seed industry. He and his wife, Lillian, as owners of Lawhon Farm Supply, received the Arkansas Business Association’s Business of the Year Award in 1989.

Richard Bransford, BSA ’51, is a longtime Lonoke County farmer and cotton ginner. Bransfords have been involved in ginning since the early 1900s. His family’s gin is now owned by Pettus Gin Company, where Mr. Bransford served as president. He is a leader in state, regional and national farm organizations, and the family was 1995 State Farm Family of the Year.

Thomas E. “Ted” Darragh of Vilonia has been involved in beef, dairy and poultry production since 1945. He is chairman of the board of Darragh Company, based in Little Rock, which employs more than 200 people. He has served as president of the Arkansas Poultry Federation and the Arkansas Feed Manufacturing Association. His many honors include being named Arkansas Poultry Federation Man of the Year and the Richard H. Stein Memorial Award for service to the Cerebral Palsy Program.

Roy Ritter, who died in 2001, founded the Arkansas Quality poultry company in 1947 and the AQ Chicken House restaurant in Springdale. He was a member of the U of A Board of Trustees from 1955 to 1974. His many local, state and national leadership roles included service as mayor of Springdale, the first president of the Arkansas Poultry Federation, and president of the Arkansas Turkey Federation, National Turkey Federation and National Broiler Council. He received state and national poultry industry Man of the Year awards. ■

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