Graduate, Spring-Summer 2006

Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville)

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uark.edu/afls-graduate

Citation

This Periodical is brought to you for free and open access by the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences at ScholarWorks@UARK. It has been accepted for inclusion in Graduate by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UARK. For more information, please contact ccmiddle@uark.edu.
New Alumni Society Board members

Brian Adams — Northeast Region

Brian Adams, BSA ’97, of Marion also has an MBA degree from UA-Little Rock. He is Vice President of Erwin-Keith, Inc., in Wynne and before that was in the Monsanto marketing division for six years. In addition to serving on the Alumni Society Board, he is a member of the Friends of the College Committee. He is secretary of the Arkansas Drier and Warehousemen’s Association and a member of the Arkansas Seed Dealers and U.S. Rice Merchants Association. He and his wife, Ashleigh, have a son, Jackson. He is a member of First United Methodist Church in Marion.

Boyce Johnson — Northeast Region

Boyce Johnson, BSA ’82, of Marion operates a family farm at Jamesmill. He is Immediate Past President of the Crittenden County Farm Bureau (CCFB) and currently serves on the CCFB Board, the Arkansas Farm Bureau State Rural Health and Safety Committee, the Memphis-Metropolitan Planning Organization Air Quality Committee, the Crittenden County Extension Service Agriculture Advisory Committee, the CCFB MidSouth Community College Scholarship Committee and the Marion Chamber of Commerce Committee. He is CCFB Coordinator for Ag in the Classroom and for Medical Applications of Science for Health with Crittenden Memorial Hospital. As a UA student, Johnson was President of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He is a member of the MidSouth Chapter of the Arkansas Alumni Association and is on the Board of the Memphis-East Arkansas Razorback Club. He is a lifelong member of Marion First Assembly of God.
Who knew in September 1966 when skinny Don Ray McCaskill from a farm near Dierks in Howard County arrived at the University of Arkansas for his first semester that he would become Vice President for Research at Riceland Foods and be selected as an Outstanding Alumnus 40 years later?

As so many students do, he took advantage of opportunities to develop leadership skills. He was active in the Agricultural Students Association and Alpha Gamma Rho. He received the ASA Senior Leadership Award and was named AGR’s Outstanding Senior.

At Riceland Foods he has made a difference for Arkansas farmers and the state’s economy as a team leader and team player in developing ways to add value to crops by further processing. You can read more details in a short profile on page 10.

Don serves his alma mater often and well, as other obligations allow, including helping to organize our Alumni Society.

The Class of ’06 graduates and the freshmen who will enroll this fall all have tremendous potential as brand new and future Bumpers College alumni. We are dedicated to helping each student have a great University of Arkansas experience that will serve them as well as Don’s has served him.

As you scan the short bios of award recipients, you’ll see that we have 12 Honors Program graduates this year. Thanks to the support of dedicated faculty members and the participation of outstanding students, the Honors Program, which was started in 2000, continues to grow, with 113 students this spring.

In another story, you’ll find snapshots of our scholar athletes, including Dana McQuillin, who has been “the face of the Gym’Backs” for four years and is a finalist for the SEC’s top scholar-athlete award.

On a sad note, Dr. Charles Caviness and Ms. Marie Lavallard passed away this spring. Many alumni will recall that Dr. Caviness, one of the nation’s leading soybean breeders, was also a great teacher and mentor who followed your careers. (You know who you are.) Marie Lavallard, as director of Agricultural Publications for more than 30 years, also taught a popular scientific writing course. She “adopted” many international students and treasured her relationships with many of you over the years after you graduated.

Like Lavallard and Caviness, all of our faculty are dedicated teachers and mentors who are interested in your life and career as an alumnus. If you haven’t provided an update recently, tear out the “What’s Up?” card in this issue, fill it out and send it in. Like Mom said when you left for college, “Don’t forget to write home.”
Greetings from the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Alumni Board. I consider it such a privilege to serve as the new president of our alumni group.

I would like to thank Darrin Malone for his excellent leadership as president of our DBCAFLS alumni board these last two years. Darrin brought to our organization a new vision, a unique ability to look at the overall picture, and a deep love for his college and university. I am especially impressed with Darrin’s perseverance in organizing and continuing the Delta Golf Scholarship Classic. He is a true leader, and our society was blessed to benefit from his talents.

The alumni board hosts several important events. On March 29, we held our fourth Senior Dinner to honor 2006 graduates. This annual event was held at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House and introduced graduating seniors to the importance of becoming good alumni. It also offered them some valuable networking opportunities. Eighty people attended this event, with 30 seniors being honored.

In January, your alumni board voted to begin a $10,000 scholarship endowment to fund the Ring Scholarship. This scholarship provides a University of Arkansas class ring to a rising senior who performs well in the classroom as well as on the Hill. A jump-start donation has been given, and if you are interested in giving, please contact Mark Power, Development Director for the College, mepower@uark.edu.

The most enjoyable alumni event is our tailgate party. Watch for a postcard or e-mail with the details, and plan to attend! It will begin two hours before kickoff of the Alabama game on Sept. 23 on the patio of the Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Building. We plan to cheer our Hogs with good food, fun and fellowship. It will be a great day to reconnect with our college family and friends.

Finally, I’d like to mention several other events in which our DBCAFLS alumni board participated. In February, we hosted a reception at the Arkansas Crop Production Association meeting. Our alumni, students and faculty were well represented at the second Women in Agriculture Conference, and we hosted a booth in the trade show area. This summer, the Delta Golf Scholarship Classic again will be held in Helena. The proceeds from the golf tournament and auction provide scholarships for Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences majors.

Also this summer, DBCAFLS alumni will welcome Arkansas Farm Bureau officers and leaders to Fayetteville for their annual summer conference. In July, your alumni board will meet in Little Rock. We welcome your input and ideas about how your alumni board can better serve our College and the needs of our alumni.

Remember that, as alumni, we can’t do everything (like give millions), but we can do something! Consider giving your time, efforts and resources to support our College and our University.

**Welch speaks at GSD banquet**

Arkansas Farm Bureau Executive Vice President Ewell Welch was keynote speaker at the Initiation and Awards Banquet of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, April 13 at the Whitaker Animal Science Arena.

The GSD Award of Merit was presented to Associate Professor Indrajeet Chaubey for research and to Associate Professor Andrew McKenzie for teaching.

Dr. Chaubey, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, is leader of several major environmental engineering research projects to address non-point source pollution issues involving crop production and animal waste nutrient management in watersheds throughout Arkansas.

Dr. McKenzie, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, has developed a computer simulation “game” to teach grain merchandising and a grain merchandising certification program for students who complete the curriculum he has designed.
Honors students tackle research projects

Many undergraduate students in Bumpers College take advantage of opportunities to conduct original research and other creative projects with the guidance of faculty mentors. An Honors Program launched in 2000 provided new options for these imaginative students.

The Bumpers College Honors Program continues to grow, with 113 students enrolled this spring. The names and faculty mentors of 12 graduates in the Class of 2006 are listed on page 11.

Program director Dr. Duane Wolf, professor of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, said, “The program is designed for students who want to experience the satisfaction and challenge of completing independent, creative projects or research aimed at discovering new knowledge in close association with faculty mentors.”

Students and their faculty mentors can apply for research grants and travel grants awarded by Bumpers College, by the UA Honors College and by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Carroll and Sue Walls have generously provided funds to support research projects each year.

Honors Program projects include a broad range of topics. Adam McClymont of Ferndale spent a semester at the Scottish Agricultural College and was an intern at the Rocky Mountain Field Institute. His thesis project with Dr. Mary Savin is on antibiotic resistance in bacteria found in streams.

Emily Bennet of Tulsa, president of the Food Science Club, has worked as a lab assistant for three years. Her project with Dr. Navam Hettiarachy is on use of edible coatings made from soy protein to protect against bacteria that can cause food poisoning.

Tyler Davis of Ashdown, a Brandon Burlsworth Scholar, plans to attend dental school, which is one of several “pre-professional” options available in Bumpers College majors. His research with Dr. Beth Kegley is on the use of grain by-products for cattle feed.

Tory Hodges of Alpena, a Bodenhamer Fellow and Morris K. Udall Scholar, has been accepted for admission to 11 law schools, including Harvard and Yale. She spent a semester at Oxford University in England, attended a Renewable Biomaterials course in France.

Her project with Dr. Jennie Popp is on a comparison of environmental protection incentives in agriculture in the United States and Europe.

Visit the Bumpers College Honors Program webpage at www.uark.edu/depts/dcafls/honors_program.html.

CSES department head retires

Dr. Jim Barrentine, BSA ’63 MS ’65, retired in January as head of the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences. As Professor Emeritus, he continues to advise graduate students as they complete research projects.

During Dr. Barrentine’s tenure, the department name was changed from Agronomy to its current name. An advisory council of alumni and friends was organized, the Delta Classic golf tournament became an annual event, and the James L. Barrentine Endowed Scholarship was created.

The Phillips County native joined the faculty after retiring as director of North American Crop Technical Services, Development and Registration, for DowElanco. He and his wife, Doris, BSHES ’00, live in Fayetteville.

Dr. Robert Bacon, professor of plant breeding and genetics, is interim department head.
Donors provide new scholarships and building funds

Harrington to endow Global Studies fund

Cordia Harrington, BSHE ’76, has pledged $60,000 to create the Cordia Harrington “The Bun Lady” International Experience Endowed Scholarship for students participating in a Bumpers College Global Studies program.

Harrington is founder and CEO of Tennessee Bun Company, Bun Lady Transport and Cold Storage of Nashville. After graduating as a Foods and Nutrition major, she started a real estate business in Russellville, then purchased three McDonald’s restaurants in Illinois. As an active member of the McDonald’s “bun committee,” she became known as “The Bun Lady,” and in 1996 founded a unique bakery business that now supplies buns to McDonald’s and several other national restaurant chains.

Fultons endow Animal Science Award

Ann Fulton of Springdale and the late Dr. Richard “Dick” Fulton, D.V.M., provided a gift of $12,000 to establish the Dr. Richard and Ann Fulton Endowed Award to recognize outstanding academic performance by students majoring in Animal Science. The Fultons have been generous supporters of the Animal Science scholarship program. Dr. Fulton passed away in November 2005.

The Animal Science Department presented a Friend of the Department Award to Dr. Fulton in April 2004. He had a distinguished career in research to develop pharmaceutical products for animals. After retiring, he served as the Laboratory Animal Veterinarian for the University of Arkansas.

Maier endows Animal Science scholarship

Mary Trimble Maier of Fayetteville, a longtime supporter of the University, has committed $40,000 for an honors academy scholarship endowment for Animal Science students. The UA matching gift program doubled the endowment to $80,000 during the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century.

FORE! — Bobby Alford of the Helena team tees off at the Turfgrass Classic April 24. The departments of Horticulture, Poultry Science and Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences sponsor annual tournaments to raise funds for scholarships.
Bradfords to endow HESC scholarship

Eddie and Betty Bradford of Fayetteville have provided a testamentary commitment of $50,000 to endow the Betty and Eddie Bradford Scholarship with preference for a student enrolled in Human Environmental Sciences.

Betty, BSHE ’54 MS ’91, is a member of the DBCAFLS Board of Directors and a former member of the AAA Board. Eddie, BSE ’55 MED ’56, was an All Conference player on the “25 Little Pigs” football team that won a conference championship in 1954. He served as a medical services administrator in the U.S. Army and retired with the rank of colonel. He retired again in 2000 as CEO of Northwest Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institution (NARTI) in Springdale. He is a member of the AAA Board of Directors and was president for 2002-04.

SoHo Clothiers to endow Apparel Studies scholarship

SoHo Clothiers, Inc., in Rogers has made a $30,000 commitment to establish an endowed scholarship for Apparel Studies students. Owners Steve and Annette Sohosky are also interested in sponsoring student internships.

Spitzes start Child Development building fund

Drs. Bob and Hazel Spitze of Urbana, Ill., have made an $80,000 gift to a building fund for the Child Development program in the School of Human Environmental Sciences.

The gift sets the stage for a continuing development program to provide for a state-of-the-art facility to house both the Infant Development Center and the Nursery School that would meet the needs of the faculty, students and children.

Bentonville Garden Club endows Horticulture scholarship

The Bentonville Garden Club and celebrity horticulturist P. Allen Smith teamed up to endow a $25,000 scholarship fund for Horticulture students.

The host of “P. Allen Smith Gardens” on network television and author of best-seller gardening books is a Little Rock native and current resident. He provided a benefit tour of his Little Rock Gardens with the proceeds going to the scholarship fund along with the club’s annual silent auction proceeds.
Student athletes listed by the UA Athletic Department as having majors in Bumpers College for 2005-06 include two in football, two men on the track team and 10 women in gymnastics, golf, softball, track, volleyball, swimming and diving.

**Gymnastics.** The Gym’Backs, in just their fourth year, advanced to the NCAA National Championships, with senior Dana McQuillin, who has a double major in Interior Design and Sociology, turning in critical performances on the balance beam, vault, uneven bars and floor exercise.

McQuillin, of West Orange, N.J., was the face of the Lady Gym’Backs as an all-around performer for four seasons.

“Dana’s fabulous. We are so proud of Dana and the things that she’s accomplished both in and out of the gym,” said co-coach Rene Cook. “She’s one of those people who do everything right, and it’s nice for her to be recognized.”

McQuillin is a finalist for the H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, the SEC’s most prestigious academic honor. The daughter of Lee and Terry McQuillin, she secured an internship with a design firm after graduation and would like to work in designing home and work space for those in need.

**Volleyball.** Christina Lawrence, an Animal Science major from Sullivan, Mo., had a great first year in volleyball after redshirting in 2004. She was SEC Freshman of the Year and was named to the SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll.

Lawrence helped Arkansas to a 21-12 overall record, the second round of the SEC Tournament and the second round of the NCAA Tournament. She hit .253 with 281 kills, a 2.44 kill-per-game average, 30 digs and 98 total blocks in 2005.

The daughter of Dave and Tina Lawrence, her brother Carl is also an Animal Science major.

**Golf.** Courtney Mahon, a senior Foods, Nutrition and Hospitality major (dietetics) from Topeka, Kan., helped the Lady’Backs to a No. 9 national ranking in April prior to the SEC Championships, with a 75.83 average and a low round of 71.

In amateur play last summer, Mahon won both the Missouri and Kansas Women’s Amateur Championships. She qualified for the U.S. Women’s Amateur Public Links and made the fifth round of match play at Swopes Memorial Golf Course in Kansas City.

The daughter of Charles and Mary Beth Mahon, she plans to finish school next year and eventually turn pro.

**Swimming and Diving.** Brieanne Kushner, a sophomore majoring in Human Development and Family Studies (child development) from Thunder Bay, Ontario, led the Lady’Backs diving crew in 2005-06. She recorded four first-place finishes in meets with Kentucky and Florida. She placed 10th in the platform event at the SEC Championships and 11th on the three-meter springboard at the NCAA Zone ‘D’ Diving Championships.

Kushner also led as a freshman and was named the SEC Freshman Diver of the Year. Her parents are Doug and Kelly Kushner.
Jamie Hyslop of Vancouver, B.C., a sophomore Foods, Nutrition and Hospitality (dietetics) major, has been a consistent scorer on the diving squad. In her first year, she qualified for the NCAA Zone ‘D’ Diving Championships and tallied season-high scores on the one-meter and platform at the zone meet.

The daughter of Rodney and Nancy Hyslop, she placed in the top 10 in platform diving at the senior nationals in Canada and was a national-level-status gymnast from 1994-2000.

Tifanie Silver, a sophomore Animal Science (pre-vet) major, is a freestyle and backstroke specialist. In the 2005-2006 season, she recorded six third-place finishes. At the 2006 SEC Competition, she broke the one-minute barrier with a personal best 59.85 in the 100-yard backstroke.

The daughter of Dale and Georgianne Silver, she is a native of Honolulu but attended J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas, where she was a first-team all-American in the 100 free.

**Track & Field.** Following a good indoor season, junior Lakeisha Martin, an Environmental, Soil, and Water Science major from Pine Bluff, got off to a great start outdoors when she qualified for the NCAA Mideast Regional Championships as a member of Arkansas’ 4x100-meter relay. She posted her best long jump when she flew over the 19-foot barrier. Indoors, Martin ran the 60 and 200 meters and long jumped at the SEC Championships.

As a sophomore last season transferring from Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Martin posted a career best in the 60-meter dash at the Arkansas Invitational at 7.88. On the outdoor circuit, she ran a personal best of 24.75 in the 200-meters at the SEC Championships.

The daughter of James and Phyllis Martin, she was an honors graduate of Pine Bluff High School.

Carly Bloomfield of Clifton, Kan., the daughter of Larry and Jamie Bloomfield, is in her third year as an Animal Science major. With a career best of 143-5 in the javelin, she has shown the ability to break the Arkansas record and qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Bloomfield came from Barton County Community College where she earned All-America honors and took the NJCAA national championship in 2005. She also played basketball for the Cougars and graduated with highest honors.

Creighton Kipper, a junior Apparel Studies major from Denver, competes in the 60, 100 and 200-meter dashes and the 4x400 and 4x100 meter relays. He is on the Lon Farrell Academic Honor Roll and was named to the SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll.

At outdoor meets in 2005, he placed second in the 200 and fourth in the 100 at the McDonnell Invitational. At indoor meets, at the Arkansas Invitational, he finished fourth in the 60 and sixth in the 200.

The son of Steven Kipper and Gayle Dunn, he was the Colorado high school state champion in the 100 and the Simplit Games 200-meter champion.

Kayla Tucker, the daughter of Debbie Tucker and a freshman Food Science major from Evansville, Ind., is a Lady’Backs vertical jumper. Unfortunately, a foot injury sidelined her after only two indoor events.

Tucker’s high school career best of 5-10 gives her a chance to challenge the school record of 5-11.25. In high school, she won two state titles and finished fourth at the AAU Junior Olympics and at the USA meet.

Boris Roslov, a freshman majoring in Foods, Nutrition and Hospitality, is a decathlete and heptathlete who red-shirted this year. Roslov’s strength is jumping, with bests of 6-9¾ in the high jump and 22-10 in the long jump. He was a Nike First Team All-America high school athlete in Middletown, Md.

Creighton Kipper tallys points in sprints and relays

The son of Kim and Larisa Firestone, in addition to a rigorous training routine, he works at the Radisson Hotel, which is a good fit for the hospitality concentration he chose in the FHNH major.

**Softball.** Outfielder Meagan Harney is a junior Animal Science major with an Equine minor. Midway through her second season with the Lady’Backs, she averaged .200 at the plate and ranked fourth on the team in doubles, with a .333 slugging percentage.

The daughter of Michael and Robin Harney of Prairie Grove, she transferred to Arkansas from Neosho County Community College.

**Football.** Steven “Chris” Warhurst, an Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology major is starting his second year after playing last season on the scout team. The son of Steve and Angie Warhurst, he was a three-time all-conference selection in football and baseball at Osceola High School and came here from UA-Monticello.

Jonathan Dorchak, a freshman Razorback football scout team player from Fort Myers, Fla., and the son of Pam and Bob Dorchak, is concentrating on the hospitality emphasis in the Foods, Nutrition and Hospitality major.

— by Howell Medders
Don McCaskill, BSA ’70 MS ’73, received the 2006 Outstanding Alumnus Award at the Honors Day Convocation on April 20.

He joined Riceland Foods in Stuttgart as Manager of Rice Research and Development in 1981, became Director of Research and Development with technical responsibility for all Riceland products in 1996 and was named Vice President for Research in 2001.

He has had a major impact on enhancing the value of Arkansas crops by further processing while also creating jobs and expanding payrolls in rural Arkansas. He was instrumental in development of a patented rice parboiling process; the creation of new rice-based consumer, foodservice and food ingredient products; and development of markets for rice bran oil.

As a University of Arkansas student, Don McCaskill developed leadership skills that have served him well. He was president of the Agricultural Students Association and received the ASA Senior Leadership Award. He was inducted into Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies and was named Outstanding Senior in Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

He helped organize the Bumpers College Alumni Society as a charter member of the Board of Directors. He has been a member of the Institute of Food Science and Engineering Advisory Board since its inception, was a member of the Food Science External Review Team in 2003 and has served on the Agricultural Development Council. He has long served on the board of directors of the Ozark Food Processors Association and has been president and vice president twice.

Mr. McCaskill is a member of the Institute of Food Technologists and is active in the American Association of Cereal Chemists International, American Oil Chemists Society and the Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils.

His has been a board member for the Arkansas Biosciences Institute, Arkansas Biotechnology Association, National Food Processors Association, Riceland Foods Foundation, USA Rice Federation Technology Task Force and the Southern Governors Association Committee on Research, Development and Technology.

Born and reared in rural Howard County near Dierks, Don met his wife of 36 years, Linda King McCaskill (BSE and MEd from UA and JD from UALR), at the U of A. They have two daughters, Wynne McCaskill Waddell of Cave Springs and Ashlee McCaskill of Ithaca, NY, and one granddaughter, Emma Waddell of Cave Springs.

Commencement speaker Tory Hodges received the John W. White Outstanding Student Award and was one of four Senior Scholars as a graduating senior with the highest grade point average.

A Bodenhamer Fellow, she is the daughter of John and Cheryl Hodges of Alpena, with a major in Agricultural Business (pre-law) and minors in Global Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences and Political Science. She spent a semester at Oxford University in England and has conducted an Honors Program research project on the European Union’s common agricultural policy. She was a member of the Honors College Dean Search Committee, was president of the Agribusiness Club, national FFA officer candidate, state FFA president, and Bumpers College Ambassador.

Also receiving the Senior Scholar Award were Dana Stewart, Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology, daughter of David and Rita Martin of Judsonia; Lauren Kemp, Apparel Studies, daughter of Judge John Dan and Susan Kemp of Mountain View; and Ledia Guci, Agricultural Economics, daughter of Andrea and Mariora Guci, of Korca, Albania.

The Presidential Scholar for 2006, the junior with the highest grade point average, is Brittany Adams, daughter of Jeff and Jeannie Bonds of Jonesboro. A Food Science major, she was a summer intern at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, Scotland. Her research poster won first place in the Gamma Sigma Delta undergraduate student research competition. She is secretary of the Food Science Club and a member of the College Bowl Team.
The Dale Bumpers Distinguished Scholar awards are presented to an outstanding undergraduate transfer student and outstanding masters and doctoral students.

The transfer student award recipient is Dilynn Dodd, a senior majoring in Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology. She received an Associate Degree in Applied Science at the University of Arkansas in Monticello. The daughter of David and Debbie Dodd of Springdale, she was the Arkansas High School Rodeo Association All-Around Champion Cowgirl and remains active in state and national rodeo organizations.

Peter Tomlinson, son of William and Carol Tomlinson of West Hartford, Conn., is pursuing an M.S. degree in Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences. He is a degree-track research specialist. His leadership roles include serving as president of the CSES Graduate Student Club and National Recruitment Coordinator for Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. He received the AGR Brothers of the Century Award in 2004.

Robert Ty Baublits already has an impressive record while pursuing his graduate degrees in Animal Science. His M.S. thesis project resulted in two professional journal articles. He has published five more articles and three are in press from his Ph.D. work. He has been a teaching assistant in six courses. Service and leadership roles include president of the Animal Science Graduate Student Association and managing the Beef Quiz Bowl contest at the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association convention.

The Spitze Public Policy Legislative Intern Scholarship recipients are Laura Sossamon and Kerri Boling, both rising juniors with majors in Agricultural Business. This award provides for a summer internship in the Washington office of an Arkansas senator or congressman.

Laura Sossamon, daughter of Bill and Liz Sossamon of Ozark, has a concentration in agricultural law. She received an Honors College grant to study in Scotland for a project comparing attitudes of farmers in the U.S. and Europe regarding environmental policy. She is active in several organizations, including the Agribusiness Club and the Humphreys Hall Senate.

Kerri Boling, daughter of Danny and Rebecca Boling of Gravette, was an intern with Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association and is currently a market analyst intern at Tyson Foods. She is an Arkansas 4-H Hall of Fame nominee, a Bumpers College Ambassador, Arkansas Beef Princess and representative to the National 4-H Council.

Honors Program Distinguished Graduates are Clayton Bell, Animal Science, son of Richard and Lee Bell of El Paso, Ark.; Tyler Davis, Animal Science, the son of Chuck Davis and Sandra Davis of Ashdown; Melanie Doyal, Apparel Studies, the daughter of Mary Doyal Brown and Billy Doyal of Rose Bud; Dawn Elkins, Animal Science, the daughter of Tommy and Patricia Elkins of Jonesboro; Matthew Fryar, Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology, the son of Jim and Sandy Fryar of Royal; Tory Hodges, Agricultural Business, the daughter of John and Cheryl Hodges of Alpena; Jeremy Huff, Animal Science, the son of Jerry and Brenda Huff of Mena; Sarah Knox, Agricultural Business, the daughter of Dr. Thomas Knox and Deborah Knox of Mountain Home; Adam McClymont, Environmental, Soil, and Water Sciences, the son of Dave and Jean McClymont of Ferndale; Lindy L. Medlock, Animal Science, the daughter of Dan and Rita Medlock of Little Rock; C. Grace Pendergrass, Apparel Studies, the daughter of John Paul and Catherine Pendergrass of Peter Pender; and Creenna Sheely, Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology, the daughter of David and Cindi Sheely of Clarksville.
The Bumpers College Alumni Society sponsors an annual scholarship and names two Ring Scholars, who each receive a class ring when they graduate.

The Alumni Society Scholarship recipient is John Christopher Looney, a senior with a double major in Animal Science and Agricultural Business and a Brandon Burlsworth Scholar. Also known as “Ribby,” the Razorbacks baseball team mascot, he is the son of Dr. Charles Looney of Camden and Cathryn Looney of Monroe, La. He has been an officer in Alpha Gamma Rho, a Bumpers College Ambassador and a member of Gamma Sigma Delta and the Pre-Vet Club.

Ring Scholars are Frances Ellen Elder, daughter of Franklin and Roberta Elder of Ozark, and Emerson Conner McNair, son of Malcolm and Martha McNair of Fayetteville.

Frances Elder is completing her third year as an Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology major with a concentration in Agricultural Education. She is an officer in Alpha Zeta and Alpha Tau Alpha and is involved in the Chi Alpha campus ministries program and softball team.

Connor McNair, a senior majoring in Agricultural Business (pre-law), was president of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the campus chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. He has served as a Bumpers College Ambassador and on the U of A Student Alumni Board. He received the Kappa Sigma Scholarship-Leadership Award and was a Spitze Legislative Intern in 2005.

The Spitz Land Grant University Faculty Award for Excellence recipient is Dr. Sung Man Lim. He has had a distinguished career at the University of Illinois and USDA/ARS (1967-91) and at the University of Arkansas since 1991 as head of the Department of Plant Pathology. His research on corn and soybean plant diseases was recognized as some of the most important plant pathology research of the 20th century. As Plant Pathology Department Head, his leadership and support of faculty, students and staff led to many departmental accomplishments. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees in agriculture from Korea, another M.S degree from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. from Michigan State.

Jack Justus Award for Teaching Excellence recipient Dr. David Longer was instrumental in developing the minor in Wildlife Habitat. He is Co-Director of the Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center and has received the U of A Teaching Academy Award of Excellence. His many leadership roles include founding chairman of the Harvey and Bernice Jones Center for Families in Springdale. He has a bachelor’s degree with a history major and biology and chemistry minors from Ball State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agronomy from Purdue University.

Dr. Nancy Jack, recipient of the Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award, has built the Dorothy E. King Equine Program to national prominence and led the effort to create the Equine Science Minor. She has about 150 students, including many with other majors. The Animal Science Department has received many testimonials from students about how Dr. Jack has motivated them to stay in school when they were otherwise discouraged. She has a Ph.D. degree in Animal Science from New Mexico State University.

The John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award recipient, Dr. Navam Hettiarachchy, has developed the protein chemistry teaching and research program and coaches the College Bowl team. She was lead author for an Institute of Food Technologists grant to foster participation by minority students in food science as a career. Dr. Hettiarachchy is a native of Sri Lanka with degrees from universities in India, Scotland and England, including a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Hull in England.

The John W. White Outstanding Research Award recipient is Dr. John R. Clark, former director of the Fruit Substation at Clarksville, who joined the Horticulture Department faculty in 1991 and transferred to Fayetteville in 1994. He worked closely with Dr. James N. Moore in the fruit-breeding program and in 1997 was given responsibility for the program, which has since produced 16 varieties of blackberries, peaches, grapes and nectarines. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Arkansas.

The John W. White Extension Excellence Award is presented to state and county faculty members.

Dr. Rosemary Rodibaugh, a Nutrition Specialist since 1989, is also an adjunct faculty member in the School of Human Environmental Sciences and the UA-Medical Sciences Depart-
ment of Dietetics and Nutrition. She chairs the Nutrition Initiative Team and is director of several state and regional programs. She chairs the Arkansas Child Health Advisory panel that developed nutrition standards for public schools. She received the Arkansas Public Health Association’s Nutrition Advocacy Award in 2005 and was named the Arkansas Dietetic Association’s Dietitian of the Year in 2006. She has B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University.

Two county staff chairs chosen for the John W. White Extension Excellence Award were Mike McCarter of Murfreesboro and Rick L. Thompson of Harrisburg.

Rick Thompson was first employed in 1978 as an Extension Agricultural Agent in Greene County and has served as Staff Chair in three counties, including Poinsett since 1995. He has a B.S. degree from Arkansas State University and an M.S. degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Mike McCarter began his extension career in Nevada County in 1979 as an Agriculture/4-H Agent and was promoted to Staff Chair in Pike County in 1989. He has a B.S. degree in Animal Science and an M.S. degree in General Agriculture, both from the University of Arkansas.

Charles F. Whitaker, recipient of the Non-Classified Outstanding Professional Support Award, has been with the Cooperative Extension Service for 30 years, including the last eight as Director of the Physical Plant. In 1996, he accepted responsibility for the Division’s Cammack campus grounds of some 40 acres. In 2004, he took charge of maintenance for facilities at Lonoke. He has served as a member of the School Board for the Arkansas School for the Blind and Deaf in Little Rock and as president of the school’s parent/teacher organization.

The Classified Outstanding Professional Support Award, Experiment Station, recipient is Connie Stewart, Accountant for the Department of Animal Science since 1997. She also manages the department’s inventory system and assists with department activities involving students, faculty and staff. Ms. Stewart has a B.S. degree in business administration from UA-Monticello. She was previously a corporate accountant with a Fayetteville law firm and a staff accountant with a CPA firm in Magnolia.

Johnny Woodley Jr., recipient of the Classified Outstanding Professional Support Award, Extension, is a Shipping and Receiving Clerk in the state office warehouse. He is an Army National Guard staff sergeant and, while working full-time, recently received a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Mr. Woodley is a Sunday school teacher, a member of the Chi Epsilon Sigma Extension fraternity, and a member of ACORN.

The University of Arkansas Turfgrass Program received the John W. White Team Award. Experiment Station and Extension faculty work as partners to provide new technology to turfgrass industry professionals. The team also has developed undergraduate and graduate teaching programs.

Team members are Dr. Michael Richardson, Horticulture, editor of the journal, *Applied Turfgrass Science*; Dr. Douglas Karcher, Horticulture, who focuses on innovative turf cultural practices with minimal environmental impacts; Dr. Eugene Milus, Plant Pathology, a member of the American Phytopathological Society Turfgrass Committee; Dr. John Boyd, Extension Pest Management, president of the Arkansas Turfgrass Association; and Dr. James A. Robbins, Horticulture, whose expertise includes landscape installation and maintenance.
Animal Science degree leads to family farm by way of banking and business

Lawson Hembree IV, BSA ’82, likes to say that he earned an Animal Science degree and became a banker.

The statement is true, but it’s not the whole story.

Hembree said he decided on an Animal Science major at the University of Arkansas because of his interest in agriculture. He is in the fifth generation of the Hembree family that has owned and operated Sugar Hill Farm, located between Ozark and Paris.

When he earned his bachelor’s degree in Animal Science, Hembree worked in a management training program at Arkansas Best Corp. in his hometown of Fort Smith. He went back to school to earn an M.B.A. degree from Southern Methodist University in 1984, and that’s when his banking career began, first at Citicorp (USA), Inc., in Dallas. In 1991, he moved back to Fort Smith where he was assistant treasurer and president of Merchants National Bank.

That same year, Hembree and his brother, Scott, founded Trans-American Tire, which has become the largest independent tire dealer in Arkansas. The company has 10 stores and three retread plants that can produce 900 tires per day.

In 1998, Hembree left Merchants Bank and joined his brother at Trans-American Tire. He is president of the company.

Hembree also returned to Sugar Hill Farm when he returned to Arkansas and became president in 1992. In 1996, the family operation converted their cow-calf operation to the registered Angus business.

Today, the farm has about 3,000 acres with corn, soybeans and other row crops on about 1,300 acres, timber on 160 acres, pecans on 10 acres and the remainder in registered Angus and hay.

“We supply bulls and replacement females to Arkansas and Oklahoma, mostly,” Hembree said. “We supplied cattle to 13 states last year and have sold to states as far away as Wisconsin and North Dakota.”

Hembree said his Animal Science education has been useful to him in every facet of his varied career.

“It’s such a well-rounded education, it’s helped me in all the professional endeavors I’ve pursued,” he said. “It’s similar in some ways to a liberal arts degree.”

He has remained involved in the University. Among other activities, he was a committee member of the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century and a member of the National Development Council. But Hembree said his most rewarding activity has been with the Arkansas Alumni Association and the Alumni Society of Bumpers College.

Hembree served six years as director, two years as president and one year as past president of the Alumni Association. He served on the committee to build the new Alumni House, which is named for his mother, Janelle Y. Hembree.

“When I was on the AAA board, we formed the DBCAFLS Alumni Society,” Hembree said.

Hembree said the Alumni Association and the DBCAFLS Alumni Society serve as vital links, providing means by which alumni and the University maintain contact with each other.

“It helps alumni maintain association with the University and feel good about their alma mater,” he said. “It’s also an avenue for meeting new people.

“The Alumni Association and the DBCAFLS Alumni Society have helped me meet a lot of people from all over the country and the world,” Hembree said. “I have made good acquaintances through both organizations.”

Hembree and his wife, Debbie, live in Fort Smith with their two sons, Lawson V and Christopher. ■

— by Fred Miller
**STUDENT RESEARCH** — Animal Science major Dawn Elkins records observations of dominant and submissive behavior in a dairy herd and correlates its influence on fertility for her honors thesis research with mentor Dr. Rick Rorie.
FOOD SCIENCE ADDITION — An addition to the Food Science Building will provide for an expanded sensory evaluation program.

Food Science Building expanded

A 10,000-square-foot addition to the Food Science Building at the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center will provide for expanded teaching, research and extension programs in the Food Science Department and the Institute of Food Science and Engineering.

Food science department head Dr. Ron Buescher said the addition will provide laboratory and office space for an expanded sensory evaluation program and other uses.

Associate Professor Jean-François Meullenet teaches and conducts research on the science of food sensory analysis and provides analytical services for the food industry.

The program includes trained sensory panelists and a database of 1,500 consumers who participate in taste tests.

The addition doubled the number of blind tasting stations and added other laboratory space.

GroGreen club members garden organically

GroGreen, a new University of Arkansas club for students, staff and faculty, is providing organic garden plots for members, Sarah Moore said at a recent garden workday. She is a program technician in the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences.

“Our goal is to learn about organic production techniques and practice those in order to produce crops to sell to help finance club activities,” Moore said. “We hope to have an on-campus farmer’s market and market vegetables to campus food service establishments.”

The garden is in an area for organic research, extension and teaching programs north of the Horticulture Shop at the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Faculty sponsors are Drs. Curt Rom and Elena Garcia, Horticulture; Donn Johnson, Entomology; and Larry Purcell, CSES.

A member or a team of members can have a 20 ft. x 20 ft. plot to plant and maintain or they can pitch in to help with a larger communal garden, Moore said.

WORKDAY — GroGreen club members Sarah Moore and Brock Pruett till the garden and apply mulch during a workday.

WOMEN IN AG — Jolene Brown, a farmer and professional speaker from Iowa, leads a session titled “Stand Up! Step Up! Lead!” during the Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference, hosted by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture March 6-7 in Hot Springs. About 300 participants gathered in search of information and skills needed as women take on changing roles in agriculture.
More than 700 alumni, students, faculty and staff attended the “Party of the Century” Dec. 3 at the Northwest Arkansas Convention Center in Springdale. The gala event marked the end of a yearlong celebration of the Bumpers College Centennial.

Former governor and U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers was keynote speaker. The U of A Board of Trustees named the College for Sen. Bumpers in 1995 to honor him for his service to the nation, the state and university. The senator said in his keynote address that naming the college for him was “the greatest honor that I have ever received.”

John Philpot, humorist and co-host of “Arkansas Outdoors” on the Arkansas Educational Television Network, was master of ceremonies. Philpot, of Little Rock, is an alumnus with a B.S. degree in Agriculture and a master’s degree in Educational Media. He was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2005.

The gala atmosphere was enhanced by College Ambassadors modeling clothing from each decade of the College’s history, a video presentation featuring comments by retired faculty members, music by the Claudia Burson Quartet, video highlights of the history of the College in two minutes and a PowerPoint slide show on the history of the College.

More details are available in a Vision article on the Bumpers College Website at: www.uark.edu/depts/agripub/Publications/Vision/janfeb06/1.html.

Animal Science honors alumni and friends

The Department of Animal Science presented outstanding alumni and friend awards April 6.

Advanced Graduate of Distinction awards went to Dr. Tim Ross, BSA ’73 MS ’78, of Las Cruces, N.M., professor of Animal Science at New Mexico State University, and Dr. Ahmad Aman, MS ’76 PhD ’79, an assistant professor of Biomedical Science at International Islamic University in Malaysia.

Distinguished Graduate Robert S. Honea of Tontitown, BSA ’48, coordinated construction of the Savoy Beef Cattle Research Unit in 1951 and managed the unit until 1986.

Friend of the Department Dr. Jack Perkins of Fayetteville, a professor emeritus of Animal Science, taught and conducted research in reproductive efficiency in beef cattle from 1965 to 1995 and served as interim department head in 1994-95. He coached livestock judging teams for 30 years.
Mary Katherine Henderson, BSHE ’57, says Katrina totally wiped her out. She is retired and living at a retirement apartment house, Southwind Heights, in Jonesboro.

Loran Johnson, BSA ’50, lives in Warren and is the founder of the famous Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival. An endowed scholarship in his name was established in the UA-Monticello Foundation by his former agriculture students.

Colleen Foster, BSA ’83 (currently in EDAD program), was selected the Arkansas High School Counselor of the Year for 2005. She is the head of the Counseling Department at Springdale Har-Ber High School.

Helen Denniston, BSA ’84, is the State Agronomist in Alaska with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and lives in Palmer, Alaska. She previously served as the State Agronomist in Arkansas.

Jawanda Mast, BS ’83 MS ’89, lives in Bartlett, Tenn., and has taken a new job as Parent Support Coordinator for Special Kids & Families, Inc. She is also serving as President of the Down Syndrome Association of Memphis and the Mid-South.

Dana Brown Shaffer, BSA ’87, of Nashville, Tenn., has been appointed Deputy Bureau Chief for Wireline Competition by Chairman Kevin Martin of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C.

Heather Vance McCarty, ASID, BS ’94, opened her own interior design business, Heather’s Interiors in Cabot.

Madden Fain Waits, BSA ’95, is President of MW Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., in Farmington and Gentry.

Kimberly E. Taylor, BSA ’98, was promoted to Relocation Director at Harris McHaney Realtors in Rogers.

Kenneth Taylor Adams, BSA ’02 MS ’03, has taken a job with Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor in their Global Private Client Group in Little Rock.

Kimberly E. Traylor, BSA ’02 MS ’03, says Katrina totally wiped her out. She is retired and living at a retirement apartment house, Southwind Heights, in Jonesboro.

Loran Johnson, BSA ’50, lives in Warren and is the founder of the famous Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival. An endowed scholarship in his name was established in the UA-Monticello Foundation by his former agriculture students.

Colleen Foster, BSA ’83 (currently in EDAD program), was selected the Arkansas High School Counselor of the Year for 2005. She is the head of the Counseling Department at Springdale Har-Ber High School.

Helen Denniston, BSA ’84, is the State Agronomist in Alaska with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and lives in Palmer, Alaska. She previously served as the State Agronomist in Arkansas.

Jawanda Mast, BS ’83 MS ’89, lives in Bartlett, Tenn., and has taken a new job as Parent Support Coordinator for Special Kids & Families, Inc. She is also serving as President of the Down Syndrome Association of Memphis and the Mid-South.

Dana Brown Shaffer, BSA ’87, of Nashville, Tenn., has been appointed Deputy Bureau Chief for Wireline Competition by Chairman Kevin Martin of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C.

Heather Vance McCarty, ASID, BS ’94, opened her own interior design business, Heather’s Interiors in Cabot.

Madden Fain Waits, BSA ’95, is President of MW Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., in Farmington and Gentry.

Kimberly E. Taylor, BSA ’98, was promoted to Relocation Director at Harris McHaney Realtors in Rogers.

Kenneth Taylor Adams, BSA ’02 MS ’03, has taken a job with Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor in their Global Private Client Group in Little Rock.
Thanks for your support!

Arkansas Farm Bureau is helping to pay for printing of this issue of The Graduate. The Farm Bureau has a long tradition of supporting Bumpers College students and alumni and the research and extension programs of the Division of Agriculture.

COLLEGE HOSTS ‘FUTURE STUDENTS’
— Scott Garcia of Hampton High School assembles an electrical circuit during the electrical competition of the FFA Career Development Events April 14. Bumpers College hosted some 1,200 high school students who are potential future alumni. Our guests participated in 12 events that tested their skills in activities directly related to Bumpers College majors.
HORSE FESTIVAL — Gaited Horse Club riders perform at the 7th annual University of Arkansas Horse Festival March 31 and April 1 at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center. Proceeds support the D.E. King Equine Program directed by Dr. Nancy Jack. Nationally known equine clinicians, vendors, riding exhibitions, a parade of breeds and a silent auction were featured at the festival.

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON — Betty Swope of Fayetteville spoke on behalf of donors, and Erin Turrentine, a junior Animal Science major from Bentonville, spoke on behalf of students during the Scholarship Luncheon April 20 in the Arkansas Union Ballroom. The College and departments are providing 470 scholarships valued at about $640,000 for the 2005-06 academic year.

BAEG shares in environmental design award

Faculty and students in Biological and Agricultural Engineering were members of a team that received the prestigious EDRA/Places Award (for planning) that recognizes professional and scholarly excellence in environmental design for the “Habitat Trails” project in Rogers. The award is sponsored by the journal, Places, Forum for Environmental Design, and the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA).

The project was a collaboration between UA Community Design Center, the Department of Architecture, the Ecological Engineering Group in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, and the Department of Landscape Architecture.

Participants from BAEG were faculty members Dr. Marty Matlock and Dr. Tom Costello; senior design students Leslie Bartsch, Jennifer Raible, Britt Hill and Adam Jokerst; and graduate student Vicky Zelidon.

Habitat Trails is a 5-acre green neighborhood development consisting of 17 dwelling units for Habitat for Humanity of Benton County,