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Back to School Bash
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New Alumni Society Board member

Shannon Burasco
Northwest Region

Shannon Burasco, BSA ’93, is the western regional business manager for Aviagen North America and currently serves as president of the Poultry Science Alumni Group and a member of the DBCAFLS Alumni Board.

Burasco was raised on a broiler farm in Farmington. He attended Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan., for one year, then returned to Northwest Arkansas and joined the United States Air Force. He served three years in England and another three years as an instructor for the USAF Air Base Ground Defense Academy, Fort Dix, N.J. He returned home in 1990 and enrolled at the University of Arkansas as a Poultry Science major. As a student, he worked at the University Poultry Farm in the environmental and genetics houses. He served as the Poultry Science Club president and National Poultry Science Club vice president and president. He also was the chancellor of Alpha Zeta, a national agriculture fraternity.

In 1993, Burasco joined a primary breeder company where he was flock manager, pedigree complex manager and territory sales manager. He then worked in the animal health Industry for one year. He joined Aviagen North America in May 2000 as Western Sales Manager and is currently Western Regional Business Manager. He has served as chairman of the Allied Industries Board, which supports The Poultry Federation.

He and his wife, Carmen, and daughter, Sophia, reside in Springdale.

Outstanding alumnus nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Outstanding Alumnus Award to be presented at Commencement in May. The deadline is January 15, 2007. Additional information and nomination guidelines are available at http://bumperscollege.uark.edu/197.htm or by phone (479-575-2034) or e-mail (scaster@uark.edu).
As our Fall 2006 semester draws to a close, alumni and friends of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences have much to be proud of. Once again, your College led the pack in enrollment growth for our campus. Both our undergraduate and graduate enrollment increased about 7 percent from the previous fall. New freshman enrollment also increased 7 percent. Total enrollment in the College now stands at 1,633, which is an increase of more than 60 percent since Chancellor White set ambitious goals for enrollment growth and student quality.

The quality of our student body continues to increase and our entering students are brighter and better prepared than ever before. More than 88 percent of last year’s freshman class returned to our College this fall, which leads all colleges.

The continued increases in enrollment and continual improvement in student retention gives us much to be proud of and is a testament to our exciting degree programs and the dedication of our faculty and staff who are there to ensure that our students receive the best possible educational experience. As dean, I am truly excited about the dedication to students that I see each and every day.

While we have much to be proud of, we do have areas that require our continued attention. While our freshman retention is outstanding, too few of our students complete their studies within six years. This past year, our six year graduation rate slipped slightly. As a college, we need to rededicate ourselves to stewarding each and every student to completion. Often a sympathetic ear from an advisor or a helping hand at a critical point is all that is needed to refocus a student on his or her ultimate goal. While our minority enrollment increased 6 percent, we are not yet where we need to be as a college. We live in an increasingly diverse society and our College needs to reflect that diversity and the richness it brings to our campus.

Recently, the Alumni Association held their annual awards event where a number of alumni and faculty were recognized for their achievements. Two of the three faculty awards were presented to faculty members in our college. Dr. Gisela Erf in the Department of Poultry Science was recognized for excellence in research and teaching and Dr. Don Johnson in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education was recognized for excellence in teaching and service. These two faculty members stand out among their peers for their total commitment to teaching and academic excellence that exemplify the dedication of our College faculty.
A meeting, a party and a victory — these were important events during the Arkansas vs. Alabama game day. Greetings from your DBCAFLS Alumni Board.

Our day began with a short meeting. The best news is that our College is growing and leads all University of Arkansas colleges in percentage growth! Bumpers College increased enrollment 7 percent this semester, with the hospitality program showing the largest growth at 31 percent. This represents 1,316 undergraduate and 317 graduate students in our College.

Most important for the day, our board unanimously voted to support the Higher Education Bond Issue on the general election ballot in November. The bond issue will finance infrastructure improvements at all Arkansas institutions of higher learning, will require no new taxes and will have significant impact on the future of our state. Our campus-wide Alumni Board also unanimously endorsed this issue.

Committee reports confirmed that recent events and activities have been successful. The Delta Golf Scholarship Classic raised $33,000. The ring scholarship is on its way with donations from our board totaling $1,010. We welcome your donations to this scholarship fund.

The Poultry Science Alumni Group is represented on our board by their new president, Shannon Burasco. Their society hosts a fall barbecue for Poultry Science and provides scholarships to their students.

The Alumni Board reported welcoming more than 300 officers and leaders of Arkansas Farm Bureau to our campus at their annual summer conference. College faculty manned booths to relate the latest updates on college research activities. The highlight was a performance by the University of Arkansas cheerleaders and Hog-calling contest among several Farm Bureau leaders.

Several positions will be open for our Alumni Board. Ron Rainey, DBCAFLS vice-president, chairs our nominations committee and would welcome names of anyone interested in serving in the future. Contact him at rrainey@uaex.edu or 501-671-2175 if you are interested.

Following the meeting, board members, along with other alumni, students, faculty, family and friends, enjoyed a lunch at our annual tailgate event. More than 100 feasted on food from the Flying Burrito and reconnected with each other before cheering the Razorbacks on to a very exciting victory!

In its fall newsletter, the Arkansas Alumni Association tells of the membership advantages and highlights membership benefits and privileges. It lists 20 ways you can get involved and stay connected to your alma mater. Most of the suggestions require little or no money. The number one way to make a difference: Become and then stay a member of the Arkansas Alumni Association. This membership automatically joins you to our DBCAFLS Alumni Society. Our University and our College need your support. So join today!
Class of ‘06 off to a good start

The average starting salary of jobs reported by members of the Class of 2006 in a survey at the May commencement program was $35,532. The range of salaries reported was $24,960 to $52,000.

The survey, conducted by Alice Griffin, Bumpers College coordinator for advising and retention, provided insight into the immediate plans of 179 students surveyed out of the 187 who participated in commencement.

Of those surveyed, 153 (85%) either planned to start jobs (94) or attend graduate school (59), and seven of those planning to pursue advanced degrees also said they had jobs lined up, Griffin says.

The 59 students planning to pursue advanced degrees included four enrolled in schools of veterinary medicine, seven accepted to medical or dental schools, and four going to law school.

The Class of 2006 is one of the largest in recent years, with 245 graduates who completed bachelor’s degree requirements in May 2006 and in August and December of 2005. Some of the students who participated in the May 13 commencement the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center still had courses to complete before receiving their degrees.

In addition to bachelor’s degrees awarded, 99 students received M.S. degrees and 33 received Ph.D. degrees after completing a course of study and research under the direction of Bumpers College faculty members.

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<th>Class of 2006 Jobs Survey Results</th>
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<td><strong>Respondents:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>With jobs after graduation:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Attending graduate school:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Average starting salary:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Starting salary range:</strong></td>
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Weed Team wins again

The U of A Weed Team took top honors at the Southern Weed Science Society’s annual contest held on August 1 at the Division of Agriculture’s Lonoke Agricultural Center. The Arkansas team has placed first 20 times in the 26 years since the contest’s inception, with 11 of those wins being in the last 13 years.

Vinod Shivrain and Chad Brewer, doctoral students in weed science, had the highest individual scores. Other members were Franklin Lyons and Chad Brewer. Drs. Nilda Burgos and Mohammad Bararpour were the coaches.

Poultry Science Youth Conference

Thirty-seven high school students participated in the 10th annual Poultry Science Youth Conference sponsored by the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science July 11-14.

With a theme of “CSI: Chicken Scene Investigation,” the students developed original chicken and turkey products for a target market. They learned how a product goes from raw meat to market through hands-on learning, tours and presentations.

For information on the 2007 conference, contact Poultry Science recruiter Gary Davis, gDavis@uark.edu. Students completing grades 10 and 11 are eligible.

The Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Harold E. Ford Foundation supported the conference.

**HANDS-ON** — High school senior Kerri Mulford, left, of Aurora, Mo., uses a marinade injector on chicken breasts as doctoral student Sunil Perumalla assists during the Poultry Science Youth Conference.
Alumnus helped shelter children at risk

The day of her interview for this article, Jane Oliver, MSHe '92, was handling a fraud case in her job as an ARVEST Bank vice president in Bentonville. It was tough, she said, but nothing like the cases she handled almost daily in her former job as the first executive director of the Northwest Arkansas Children’s Shelter.

“I used a lot from my (Human Development and Family Sciences) classes, but nothing could have prepared me for what I saw on a daily basis. The abuse and neglect is unbelievable,” Oliver says.

Eyes and body language reveal the mix of pain, compassion and purpose she still feels as she tells about a child with burns from a fireplace poker or a baby whose head was flat from being left in one position for weeks.

Oliver was the shelter’s only employee from June to December 1993, when the first six teenage girls in need of a safe, loving, temporary home walked through the door. She shepherded it through the licensing process, solicited donations, set up the facility, and hired and trained a staff before the shelter opened. She later supervised an expansion to accommodate 12 girls and six boys of all ages.

After three years as shelter director, “The emotional toll became too much,” Oliver admits. She returned to a position with ARVEST, her former employer, and later became a member of the shelter’s board of directors, on which she served a term as president.

Jack Eaton, who was hired by Oliver as a child care worker at the shelter and now has an M.S. degree in Leadership and Ethics from John Brown University, is the current director. The shelter is located in Vaughn, west of Bentonville. It now has 32 beds and is planning an expansion to 72 beds for emergency shelter, plus long-term group homes to be added in phases. The shelter helps more than 300 children a year, but turns away another 800, Eaton says. Community support provides 75 percent of the budget.

A Fort Smith native, Oliver is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas, where she and her husband, Les, attended. They both taught school in Florida, Houston and Russellville. They moved to Bentonville in 1985 when Les enrolled as a graduate student at the University of Arkansas for a master’s degree in Music. When their second child graduated from high school, Jane enrolled at the University of Arkansas in Human Development and Family Sciences. Les is now minister of music and worship at Central United Methodist Church in Rogers.

The HDFS major covers the entire lifespan. Oliver focused on young people; her master’s research thesis was on the expectations of older adolescent boys and girls toward marriage.

“My parenting class, where we studied all types of parenting styles, helped me understand where the children were coming from,” Oliver says.

“It’s surprising how many children in our area live in cars or have parents who are unemployed or homeless. I learned a lot about what people go through and could see their frustrations. It’s easy to judge, but they are just trying to exist.”

Early childhood courses were very useful, Oliver says, which included working with kids in the UA Preschool operated by the School of Human Environmental Sciences.

Her adolescent psychology courses, along with years of teaching school, also helped, she says.

“Really, most of what I learned in my classes also helps me with the job I have now,” Oliver says. “It’s all about understanding people and their needs and why we do some of the things we do.”

— by Howell Medders

A SAFE PLACE — Jane Oliver, first director of the Northwest Arkansas Children’s Shelter, and current director Jack Eaton pose in a play room at the shelter, which provides a safe, loving temporary home for abused and neglected children.
**Human Development and Family Sciences**

**Family is the core of major’s two concentrations**

“The family is our core,” says Dr. Bill Bailey, associate professor of Human Development and Family Sciences. He is talking about the curriculum in the HDFS major and about American society. In both cases, the definition of family is broad; it could be just one person or several generations of family members.

Students who major in HDFS in the School of Human Environmental Sciences study individual and family development issues from cradle to grave with a focus on family in its many forms. The major offers two concentrations: Child Development and Life Span.

The **Life Span** option has similarities to the study of psychology and social work, and it includes courses in those disciplines. One of the differences, Bailey says, is that the Life Span option focuses on couples and families “from the inside.” Psychology focuses primarily on the individual, and social work has more of a community focus.

**Child Development** has an education component, but focuses on children from birth to school age. It includes study of parent, child and society relationships and the methodology of early childhood development and education. The School of Human Environmental Sciences operates an Infant Development Center and a Nursery School, which provide hands-on experience for students in early childhood education.

The HDFS major has a close-knit, family-like atmosphere. Each student has a faculty adviser or mentor. Among other things, mentors help arrange student internships, and they help students prepare for landing a job after graduation or entering graduate school.

U of A graduates from the HDFS major are in demand for jobs in the helping professions. It is also a good foundation for pursuing advanced professional or academic degrees.

The Life Span option leads to careers in fields such as family therapy, human services, financial planning and even family law.

The Child Development option leads to careers in public and private preschools and child care centers, as child life specialists in hospitals, child development specialists, parent trainers, Cooperative Extension Service personnel and Department of Human Services licensing specialists and foster care case workers.

The school also offers master of science degree plans in HDFS and in Rural Sociology.

**AAA honors Erf and Johnson**

The Arkansas Alumni Association presented Distinguished Achievement Awards to two Bumpers College faculty members at its annual awards ceremony Oct. 13 at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House.

Awards for research and teaching and for service and teaching, respectively, were presented to Professor Gisela Erf, Poultry Science, and Professor Donald Johnson, Agricultural and Extension Education.

Erf, a native of Germany, has degrees in Animal Science and Poultry Reproductive Physiology from the University of Guelph and a Ph.D. degree in Immunology from Cornell. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses and conducts the leading U.S. research program in poultry immunology, with a focus on cell-mediated immunology, immunopathology and autoimmune disease. Her experiential teaching methods include a mock-professional immunology symposium staged by her students.

Johnson, a native of Kentucky, has a B.S.A. degree from Western Kentucky University and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Missouri in Agricultural Education. His courses range from fundamentals of agricultural systems technology to interpreting social data in agriculture. His research on agricultural education is widely published and often relates directly to experiential learning principles that he uses in class.
**College honors organizer**

**Carnall Hall alumna add to scholarship endowment**

Carnall Hall alumna, including many with Home Economics degrees, gathered Aug. 25-26 at the Inn at Carnall Hall for the final events of the Carnall Hall centennial. Francis Barton Nutt, BSHE ’50, organized the reunion.

Additional donations and an auction increased the endowment for the Carnall Hall Alumni Scholarship to nearly $75,000. The scholarships are for Hospitality students in the Food, Human Nutrition and Hospitality major.

Mrs. Nutt was guest of honor at the School of Human Environmental Sciences Homecoming Breakfast Oct. 14.

HESC director Dr. Mary Warnock presented a program on “The Spirit of Giving,” which honored Mrs. Nutt for her leadership of the Carnall Hall Alumni Society, coordinating reunions and spearheading the campaign for the scholarship endowment.

Mrs. Nutt, of Lamar, Mo., was joined by her husband, Hugh, sister, Sarah Barton Crosby, and brother, Nelson Barton.

Frances was a kindergarten and elementary school teacher in Lamar for 30 years. Hugh, BSA ’50 (Ag Ed), is a retired county extension youth specialist and auctioneer.


**Allied Poultry Industries donate to Poultry Science scholarship fund**

The Allied Poultry Industries made an $18,000 scholarship donation to the Department of Poultry Science after raising funds at an auction held during the Poultry Festival in Little Rock. Each year, industry representatives bid on items to raise money for poultry students throughout the Arkansas. Several students at the U of A serve as workers during the auction and assist allied industry members in their fundraising efforts. The annual scholarship auction is just one event coordinated by the allied industries to raise money, another comes from sales at the “Chicken Kitchen,” which is held during the Arkansas State Fair.

THEIR SONG — Frances Barton Nutt, left, her sister, Sarah Barton Crosby; brother, Nelson Barton; and Dr. Mary Warnock join in the Razorback Fight Song in observance of the Nutt sisters’ status as Razorback Marching Band alumni. Hugh Nutt, holding a plaque displayed in the HESC Building, watches. Mrs. Nutt donated her wedding dress to the Apparel Studies program.

GOING ONCE — University of Arkansas poultry science students (from left), Micah Delozier, a freshman from Farmington, and Darla Hancock, a freshman from Western Grove, display items for bidding during the annual Allied Industries Scholarship Auction held in conjunction with the Poultry Festival in Little Rock.
Cochran named Division associate vice president

Dr. Mark J. Cochran, former head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, was named associate vice president for agriculture-research and director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Division of Agriculture, as of Nov. 1.

“There is an ever-increasing number of issues that require direct administrative attention,” said Vice President for Agriculture Milo J. Shult. “The creation of this post and Dr. Cochran’s appointment will put us in an even better position to create innovative answers and efficiencies for the agriculture industry that depends on us.

“Dr. Cochran has provided outstanding leadership for our department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness over the past 10 years,” Shult said. “He is well-prepared to take this next step within the Division.”

Golf tournaments add to scholarship funds

Sponsors and participants in golf tournaments for the departments of Horticulture, Poultry Science and Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences chip in $70,000 to $80,000 yearly for scholarships and teaching and research programs. Students and faculty sincerely appreciate the support and interest shown by alumni, friends and companies who participate in the tournaments.

The Delta Classic is a summer tournament hosted by CSES alumni at the Helena Country Club each year. The Turfgrass Classic and the Poultry Science Scholarship Golf Tournament are spring events, both in Northwest Arkansas.

Due to a busy spring schedule, the Poultry Science Scholarship Golf Tournament was held this year on Oct. 3 at Valley View Golf and Country Club in Farmington. Major sponsor was Cobb-Vantress, and FPEC (Food Processing Equipment Company) provided additional funding through a hole sponsorship. Arkansas Farm Bureau donated balls, towels and tees for each participant. Teams were sponsored by Aerotech, Alpharma, Aviagen, Barnhill Poultry, Biomune, Cobb-Vantress, CTB (Chore-Time), Degussa, FPEC, Farm Bureau, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas, Hubbard Farms, Intervet, International Paper Co., Multi-Craft Contractors and Roxell, Inc.

Delta Classic major sponsors at the July 21 event this year were Allen Canning Company, Arkansas Farm Bureau and Isle of Capri. Holes were sponsored by Ag Spectrum, Bayer Crop Science, Cheminova, Coco Distributors, DuPont Crop Protection & Pioneer Hibred, Fuller Seed, Gillett Grain Services, Inc., Graves Enterprises Inc., Griffin Gin, Helena Chemical Company, Hickory Hills Pharmacy, Hornbeck Seed, Mary Louise Demoret and V. Poindexter Fiser, Mid-South Ag, Monsanto, Producers Rice Mill, Progeny Ag Products, Riceland Foods Foundation, Syngenta Crop Protection and UAP Midsouth.


Alumnus Warren Barham endows scholarship fund

Dr. Warren Barham, CEO and chairman of the board of Barham Seeds, Inc./Kyle College in Gilroy, Calif., has contributed $10,000 to establish the “Margaret and Warren Barham Endowed Award in Horticulture.”

A native of Prescott, Ark., he received a B.S.A. degree in Horticulture at the University of Arkansas in 1941 and a Ph.D. at Cornell University in 1950. He was a research associate and acting resident director in 1945-46 at the Fruit and Truck Branch Experiment Station, now the Southwest Research and Extension Center at Hope.

Barham was named an Outstanding Alumnus by the UA Department of Horticulture in 2002.

From 1950 to 1958, Barham was an associate professor at North Carolina State University where he established a breeding program on cucumbers and was the first watermelon breeder. From 1958-1976, he was research and development director for Basic Vegetable Products, Inc., in Vacaville, Calif. From 1976-1982, he was professor and department head at Texas A&M.
Alumni tailgaters help Hogs beat ‘Bama

The annual tailgate party for Bumpers College alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff started two hours before kickoff for the Alabama football game Sept. 3 on the AFLS Building patio.

Alumni Paul and Rosalie Revis of Conway visit with Bumpers College Alumni Society president Charlene Reed of Marianna at the Tailgate Party Sept. 23.

Carmen and Shannon Burasco of Springdale, left, and Carl and Amy Jones of Siloam Springs enjoy the Flying Burrito catered lunch.
Web site redesigned

The redesigned Bumpers College Web site provides easy access to information by prospective and current students, faculty, staff, alumni and other audiences.

It now uses the RedDot content management system, which allows each person responsible for a page to easily update and revise content as needed.

If you have pages bookmarked from the old site, the old address will go to the new home page. You will then need to navigate to the desired page and bookmark it again.

Departmental Web sites are being redesigned to provide a consistent look and navigation scheme. However, they remain as separate sites and are not yet part of the content management system.

The redesign was an Agricultural Communication Services project by Priya Kulkarni, David Edmark, Judy Howard and Howell Medders, with the assistance of Associate Dean Donna Graham and UA Webmaster Chris Nixon.

www.bumperscollege.uark.edu

FALL SCENES — The beauty of the campus and Northwest Arkansas was highlighted in an 8 ft. x 3 ft. collage by graphic designer Judy Howard and photographer Fred Miller. The collage was displayed at the University of Arkansas booth at the National FFA Convention Oct. 25-28 in Indianapolis. Prospective students from all over the United States visited the booth.
Graduates from the Food Science program at the University of Arkansas find a lot of doors open to them for career fields that help keep the world’s food supply safe and healthy, develop new food products and a myriad of other areas engaged in the science, technology and business of food.

More than 450 students have graduated with degrees in Food Science and have achieved successful professional careers throughout the world.

The Food Science bachelor’s degree program in Bumpers College is one of only 5 in the U.S. and the only one in Arkansas that meets the high national educational standards established by the profession. The educational requirements of the Food Science degree concentrations (Food Science and Food Technology) provide students with competencies through courses and practical experience that assure graduates many rewarding professional career opportunities with nationally competitive salaries.

Students majoring in Food Science benefit from a nationally recognized faculty dedicated to teaching, research and service in areas of food chemistry and quality, microbial food safety, food processing, food packaging, sensory analysis, food engineering, functionality and health benefits of foods.

The Food Science facilities including classrooms, laboratories and a food processing pilot plant are modern and well equipped for effective education and research.

The Department of Food Science at the University of Arkansas offers two concentrations in the undergraduate program. The Food Science and Food Technology concentrations apply many scientific disciplines, including chemistry, engineering, microbiology, nutrition and molecular biology to the study of food to improve the safety, nutrition, wholesomeness and availability of food. The Food Technology concentration also offers the option of minoring in Business or Agricultural Business.

Students can also earn master’s and doctoral degrees in Food Science at the U of A. Original research is a major component of graduate studies; students work closely with faculty advisors on grant funded projects in specific areas of specialization.

Food Science students at the University of Arkansas receive jobs in industry, government and academia. Industrial food scientists are needed in food quality management, processing, research and development, marketing and distribution. Employment can be found with companies that manufacture retail food products as well as companies supporting food manufacturers by supplying food ingredients, processing equipment and packaging materials, or providing services related to institutional feeding. Technical and administrative positions are also available in various government agencies and with independent testing laboratories.

Food scientists with an interest in teaching and research may find rewarding careers in education. An academic career usually requires an advanced degree and research specialization in a particular area, such as food chemistry, microbiology, toxicology, engineering or nutrition.

The Food Science major also prepares students for entry into medical, pharmacy and dental schools.
The summer before Suzanne Elser of Fayetteville graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Food Science, while interviewing for an internship with Simmons Foods of Siloam Springs, she was asked, “What do you want to do when you graduate?”

“I said I wanted to go to culinary school, but it was pretty expensive,” Elser said. “So I said I’d probably go to graduate school.”

She was hired as a food technologist intern in Simmons’ research and development department. She worked with Noy Phoumi-vong, a graduate of the Food Science program in Bumpers College, to develop products and present them to Simmons clients, which include some of the top 100 restaurants and retailers in the nation. She also toured the production facilities of some of the company’s vendors.

“If there was something I wanted to do, I just had to speak up and they made it happen,” Elser said.

About a month and a half into her internship, Kenny Raney, Simmons’ vice president of research and development and quality assurance, asked Elser again what she wanted to do when she graduated.

She had the same answer. Raney suggested that Simmons might sponsor her to attend a culinary school and asked her to find a school she wanted and find out what it would cost.

“The company is really supportive of employees who want to further their education,” Elser said.

After some research, Elser settled on the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago. The school offered a 15-month Le Cordon Bleu program that originated in Paris and focuses on French technique.

By the time Elser graduated from Bumpers College last May, she had an agreement with Simmons Foods. They will pay her way through the culinary program in Chicago, and she will work for the company at least four years after completing it.

Elser said she takes only one class at a time with most classes lasting three weeks.

“There’s a class for everything you would need to start your own restaurant,” Elser said. “They cover different culinary styles, wines and beverages, sanitation, menu development, presentation and other topics.”

Each day, class begins with a lecture that explains what the students are working on. “There’s a lot of science involved in what happens to the food during the process, so you can problem solve things that don’t turn out right,” she said.

The students work with recipes perfected by the faculty. Elser said the baking recipes have to be followed exactly, but there’s room for finessing other recipes.

“It’s a fun class,” Elser said. “You just go out and play with food all day.”

As Elser learns the art and science of fine cooking, she translates it through the eyes of a food technologist. For example, she tries to figure out how these recipes can be mass-produced for Simmons’ clients.

“In research and development, we do a lot of work with chefs from client companies,” she said. “It’s a way for two companies to communicate with each other and develop better products.

“Combining the disciplines of chef and food technologist permits development of products that are tasty and appealing, and also scientifically stable and marketable,” Elser said. “Chefs come up with food ideas and technologists determine what’s possible, safe and practical.”

— by Fred Miller
Children swarm Insect Festival

An estimated 2,500 visitors, mostly elementary and junior high students, swarmed the 9th annual Insect Festival of Arkansas Oct. 12 at the Whitaker Animal Sciences Center. Festival coordinator Dr. Don Steinkraus, Entomology, says the goal is to educate and entertain visitors about the beauty, value and interest of insects and other arthropods.

Entomology students, staff and faculty provided an Arthropod Zoo, with displays of live insects, spiders, scorpions, millipedes, centipedes and others. The Arthropod Museum of Arkansas displayed butterflies, beetles, and other dramatic-looking bugs. The Cotton Patch displayed ripe cotton on plants, cotton insects and a ginning demonstration. The observation Bee Hive had live bees making honey.

Games, Crafts, and Cockroach Races were a hit. Cultural Exhibits presented the role of insects in history, the arts and popular culture.

STARTING EARLY — Kristian McPherson, 14, and Kiersten Andregg, 2, inspect insects up close during the ninth annual University of Arkansas Insect Festival. The graduate students, faculty and staff of the department of entomology sponsored the festival Oct. 12. Kristian is the daughter of Pam and Kevin McPherson of West Fork. Kiersten Andregg is the daughter of Melanie and Dwayne Andregg of Pea Ridge.

Clubs host ‘Back to School Bash’

Student clubs sponsored booths and games at this year’s “Back to School Bash,” sponsored by the College Ambassadors, Sept. 14, at Agri Park. Twenty clubs and organizations participated.

- Poultry Science Club — Turkey bowling
- Hospitality and Restaurant Management Club — Kissing booth
- Collegiate Farm Bureau — Bobbing for apples
- Pre-vet Club — Pin the tail on the donkey
- Collegiate 4-H/FFA, Alpha Tau Alpha and AEED — Dunking booth
- Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow — Party pics
- American Society of Interior Design — Pie in the face
- Block and Bridle — Mini horse relays and popcorn
- FarmHouse Fraternity — Information booth
- Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity — Information booth
- Sigma Alpha — Water balloon toss
- Fashion Merchandising Club — Information booth
- MANRRS — Needle in the haystack
- NWAr Family and Children Organization — Information booth
- Alpha Zeta — Dart toss
- Phi Upsilon Omicron — Information booth
- CSES Club — Information booth
- Ag Mech Club — Farm machinery display

The dunking booth sponsored by Collegiate 4-H/FFA, Alpha Tau Alpha and AEED Reps raised funds to help members of an Army Reserves unit with travel expenses to come home prior to deployment to Iraq. Instructors Cassandra Cox, Dr. George Wardlow and Dr. Don Johnson volunteered for the dunk tank.

Photos from the ACT “Party Pics” activity can be ordered at http://www.uark.edu/depts/aeedhp/aeed/actweb/photos.htm.

— by Dustin Wardlow, AGCS intern
Horticulture honors four

The Department of Horticulture presented Outstanding Alumni, Outstanding Friend and Distinguished Service awards during a reception Oct. 6 at Ella’s Restaurant in the Inn at Carnall Hall on the University of Arkansas campus.

Dr. E. Van Wann, BSA ’59, MS ’60, of Baytown, Texas, and Ken Scott, BSA ’59, MS ’67, of Little Rock received the 2006 Outstanding Alumni Awards. Betty J. Swope of Fayetteville received the 2006 Outstanding Friend Award and Jack Young, MS ’79, of Hope received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Wann was a research geneticist for the USDA Agricultural Research Service and served in Charleston, S.C., and Lane, Okla., before retiring in 1997. After earning his bachelor’s degree in agriculture and master’s degree in horticulture at the University of Arkansas, he completed his doctorate at Purdue University. Before going to work for USDA/ARS, Wann was a research associate in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

After beginning his career in the greenhouse industry, Scott joined the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service in the mid-1960s as an assistant agent in Lawrence County. After completing his master’s degree at the U of A in 1967, he rejoined the Extension Service as an area horticulturist, covering four central Arkansas counties, and was promoted to state specialist in 1974, serving in that position for 20 years. He was instrumental in establishing the Arkansas Greenhouse Growers Association, now known as the Arkansas Green Industry, and helped begin the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show.

Swope went to work for John W. White, first vice president for agriculture at the U of A, in 1958. She worked in the vice president’s office for 40 years, advancing to the position of associate for administration. In 1997, after her friend, Francis Dickinson, BSA ’72, passed away, the Dickinson-Swope Endowed Scholarship was established for students majoring in Horticulture at the U of A. A total of 15 students have received this scholarship, so far.

Young began his career in forestry with the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry. In 1967, he joined the staff at the Southwest Research and Extension Center at Hope. He earned his master’s degree in Horticulture/Forestry in 1979, transferred to horticulture research projects in 1989 and continued in that position until he retired in 1998. During his career at SWREC, Young implemented research projects designed by Division of Agriculture scientists in forestry and horticulture and assisted in the care and management of the campus grounds.

INTERIOR DESIGN SHELTER — Mary Karsten of Fort Smith and Josh Jones of Bentonville make sketches of their shelter constructed in the Horticulture Display Garden north of the Home Economics Building. First-year design students in the Interior Design Program designed and built shelters over the weekend of Oct. 20-22. Each team was given two words that served as design themes and each had a $5 budget. Jones and Karsten designed their shelter around the words “earthy” and “glowing.” The project is a design exercise and is also intended to raise awareness of sustainability.
International programs cap La Ferney’s career

Preston La Ferney, BS ’58 MS ’60, who retired in July as director of International Agricultural Programs for Bumpers College and the Division of Agriculture, said a recent highlight of his career was a graduation ceremony he attended in June at a two-year college in Greece.

La Ferney was associate director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station from 1980 to 1983 and director from 1983 to 1986. He was the U of A system-wide vice president for agriculture from 1986 to 1992, when he was appointed university professor of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness and director of International Agricultural Programs.

International programs include study-abroad and exchange programs and a minor in International Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences.

La Ferney was a guest of honor at the 10th anniversary graduation ceremony at Dimitris Perrotis College of Agricultural Sciences in Thessaloniki, Greece. He was honored for establishing a program that enables graduates of the two-year college to transfer credits and obtain a bachelor’s degree in two years at the University of Arkansas.

A native of Griffithville in White County, La Ferney has a B.S. degree in Vocational Agriculture and M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State.

He became deputy director of the commodity economics division of the USDA Economics Research Service in 1977 and returned to Arkansas as a Division of Agriculture administrator in 1980.

HRM coordinator Janet Noble retires

Associate Professor Janet Noble, the first coordinator of the Hospitality and Restaurant Management (HRM) program in the School of Human Environmental Sciences retired in May.

Noble came to the University of Arkansas in 1992 from the University of Maryland. She taught undergraduate and graduate students and was coordinator for the Foods, Human Nutrition and Hospitality major for over 10 years. She started the HRM program and provided leadership for its expansion to include courses in hotel operations and tourism.

Noble has a B.S. degree in Home Economics and M.A. degree in Nutrition, both from Kent State University in Ohio, and a Ph.D. degree from Virginia Tech in Food Service Administration.

Leading nematologist Bob Riggs retires

University Professor Robert “Bob” Riggs concluded a distinguished career of 48 years at the University of Arkansas when he moved to the emeritus ranks on June 30.

A native of Pocahontas, he received B.S.A. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. in plant pathology with an emphasis in nematology from North Carolina State University in 1958. He joined the UA Department of Plant Pathology in 1958.

Riggs became the principal expert on race and host characterization and management of soybean cyst nematode (SCN) and identified SCN as a major pest of soybeans in Arkansas and other southern states.

Riggs is a Fellow of the Society of Nematologists, of which he was a charter member and president. He has received many awards, including the Arkansas Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Service in research in 1993 and the USDA Superior Service Award for Scientific Research in 1994.

Ag Stats coordinator Ron McNew retires

Dr. Ronald W. McNew retired in July as professor and coordinator of the Agricultural Statistics Laboratory since 1989.

McNew is a native of Kokomo, Ind., and has M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University. He was a member of the Oklahoma State University statistics department from 1970 to 1989.

McNew taught and advised students and faculty in the design of experiments to obtain statistically valid data.
Dr. Nolan Arthur
1944-2006

Dr. Nolan Arthur associate professor emeritus of Agricultural and Extension Education, died Sept. 28 near Stillwater, Okla., at the home of his mother. He was 62.

After four years as a high school agriculture teacher and two years at Murray State Junior College, Arthur earned a doctorate in Agricultural Education from Oklahoma State University in 1975. He joined the University of Arkansas faculty that year as associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. He retired in July 2006.

In 1984, Arthur oversaw the move of the vocational agriculture program from the College of Education into Bumpers College. It became the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and he served as the first department head.

Arthur supported high school FFA and youth livestock programs and was an advisor and sponsor to student groups, including FarmHouse Fraternity, College FFA/4-H, and the Agriculture and Home Economics Student Association. He was announcer for the State Sheep Show for many years and was often a judge for livestock shows throughout the state and region.

Survivors include his mother, Katherine Arthur of Stillwater; his wife, Bobbi, of Fayetteville; and two daughters, Kimberly Jones of Bentonville and Terri Lane of Fayetteville. Memorials may be made to the Nolan Arthur Scholarship Fund, Agricultural and Extension Education Department, University of Arkansas, AGRI-205, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Make checks to U of A Foundation, with memo designating Nolan Arthur Scholarship.

Former student tells of Arthur’s impact

Joe C. Moore, BSA ’93, Agricultural Education Instructor in the junior and senior high school at Verona, Mo., wrote in an e-mail to friends and colleagues that Dr. Nolan Arthur “had a profound effect on my life, which, until now, I didn’t fully realize. I feel that I can say that those of us who had the opportunity to attend the University of Arkansas under his guidance had the pleasure of his wit, humor and charm as well as the helping hand that he generously gave on many occasions to students and colleagues alike, many times without the direct knowledge of his workings behind the scenes. His contributions to helping so many agriculture instructors and other agriculture professionals begin their careers are truly immeasurable. We have lost a mentor and a friend, and he will be missed.”

Dr. Hubert Donovan
“Don” Scott
1944-2006

Dr. Hubert Donovan “Don” Scott, former professor of Crops, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, died July 28 at his home in Goldsboro, N.C. He was 62.

Scott taught and conducted research in soil science at the University of Arkansas from 1971 to 2002, and then became director of the Agricultural Center at Mt. Olive College, N.C.

At the U of A, he was major professor for 19 M.S. graduates and 10 who received Ph.D. degrees. In 2000, he authored a textbook, “Soil Physics: Agricultural and Environmental Applications.”

He was a fellow in the Soil Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy and received several awards and honorary positions in recognition of his research contributions. He was a native of North Carolina with degrees from North Carolina State University and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Kentucky.

Survivors include his wife, Janice Sanford Scott, and sons, Michael Donovan Scott of Durham and Mark Fitzgerald Scott of Raleigh. Contributions may be made to the H. Don Scott Agribusiness Scholarship Fund at Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson St., Mount Olive, N.C. 28365.
1950s

Marvin B. Stendel, BSA ’52, has retired and moved to Mountain View from Clendale, Mo. He was also recently inducted into the Major League Baseball Scouts Hall of Fame. While at the University, he lettered in football and basketball.

John R. Stipe, BSA ’53, has retired after four years with the Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service, 48 years with Forrest City Production Credit Association, and 19 years with Forrest City Bank. He and his wife, Mary Ann Cato Stipe, BSHE’55, have opened a travel agency. They invite everyone to visit them at www.stipetravel.com.

1970s

Patricia Keeling Shipman Turner, BSHE ’70 MS ’72, is proud to announce that her son, Dr. Grover Shipman, M.D. BSEE ’97 MS EE ’99, was honored in Klamath Falls, Ore., on June 23, to recognize his completion of a three-year family practice residency through Oregon Health Sciences University.

Michael Haley, BSA ’71, is the new Landscape and Arboretum Manager at Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska.

1990s

Matt, BSA ’96 MS ’99, and Jennifer Kirkpatrick, BS ’98 MS ’05, report that Matt received his Ph.D. in Weed Science from Mississippi State University in May 2006. He accepted a position as a research scientist with Valant USA Corporation in Greeneville, S.C. Jennifer is now staying at home with their two children, Amelise (2 1/2) and Coda, born Feb. 8, 2006.

Ron Reed, BSHE ’96 MS ’98, will be joining the University of North Texas School of Visual Arts Interior Design Department as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Design.

2000s

Jason Miller, BSA ’00, has been named the golf course superintendent at Aspen Glen Country Club in Carbondale, Colo.

Sasha Kay, BSA ’02 MS ’06, took a temporary job with the USDA APHIS PPQ, regulating XNA. Her job is to see that airplanes who fly to protected states comply with regulations designed to quarantine Japanese beetles at the airport.

Dr. Mengmeng Gu, PhD ’06, will begin a job at Mississippi State University this fall as an extension specialist in Ornamental Horticulture. Her assignment is both extension and teaching in the area of greenhouse management.

Bradley Shaver, MS ’06, has been named the new regional salesman for the Turf and Ornamental Division of Helena Chemical in Spartanburg, S.C.

Births

Mark Hall, BSA ’91, and Holly Patrick Hall, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Mabry Jane Hall, on April 25, 2006.


Liana Wilkinson, BS ’92, celebrated the arrival of baby girl Marissa on April 6, 2006.

Alvin Reynold Meyer, BSA ’96, celebrated the arrival of his third daughter, Mary Patton Meyer, on March 24, 2006, in Vicksburg, Miss. She weighed 7 lbs, 7 oz, and was 18 1/2 inches long. Mary Patton joins sisters Caroline and Catherine, aged 2 1/2.

Deaths

Keith J. Dampf, BSA ’34, of Visalia, Calif., died March 30, 2006, after a 17-year battle with cancer. His daughter, Sarah Dampf Corum, thanks the University for making it possible for a poor boy from Marshall, Ark., to get an education while working through college.

Helen Appleby Young, BSHE ’35, of Fayetteville died on May 26, 2006.

Marvin Robinson Carter, BSA ’36 of Fayetteville died on August 20, 2006.

Dr. Helen E. Meahl, BSHE ’36 MA ’55, of College, Penn., died on April 23, 2006.

Ewell F. Welch, BSA ’47, of Havana, Ark., father of past DBCAFLS Alumni Board President Ewell Welch, died on August 20, 2006.

James L. Mason, BSA ’50, of Little Rock passed away on May 21, 2006. He worked for the Agricultural Extension Service and the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation. He also was vice president and general manager of Riceland Foods. He was appointed State Prison Commissioner by Gov. Bill Clinton and served as chairman of the board of Keep Arkansas Beautiful for Gov. Dale Bumpers.

Dr. George Burnett Meyer Jr., BSA ’50, of Fayetteville, died on March 24, 2006.


J.C. Tackett, BSA ’52, of Winter Haven, Fla., died on April 30, 2006.

John O. Kumpe Jr., BSA ’57, of Bentonville passed away on April 15, 2006.

Dr. Jacob R. Phillips
1930-2006

Dr. Jake Phillips, BSA ’52 MS ’61, professor emeritus of Entomology who helped pioneer the community-wide approach to controlling insect pests in cotton, died April 25 in Fayetteville. He was 76.

Phillips retired from the University in 1991 and began a second career as the leader of a care ministry at Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas in Lowell.

Survivors include his wife, Carol; a daughter, Carol Louise Phillips Burdette of Des Moines; a son, Drew Phillips of Tulsa; and a brother, William S. “Bill” Phillips of Newport. Memorials be sent to the Jake Phillips Scholarship Fund, University of Arkansas Foundation, c/o Department of Entomology, Attn: Janet Funk, 319 Agri Building, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Dr. Hilliard Jackson
1917-2006

Dr. Hilliard Jackson, BSA ’39, a native of Mulberry and a long-time University of Arkansas agricultural economics professor, died Sept. 28 in Fayetteville at age 89.

Jackson started his career with the Farmers Security Administration and then the Agricultural Extension Service as a fruits and vegetables marketing specialist. After completing his doctorate in agricultural economics at North Carolina State University, he joined the UA Department of Agricultural Economics faculty to teach and conduct research on marketing of beef, poultry, fruits and vegetables.

He and his wife established two Bumpers College scholarships and contributed to the Carnall Hall Alumni Scholarship Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Eloise, BSHE ’46, and son, Randolph Charles Jackson of Fort Smith.
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.

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• Food Science
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School of Human Environmental Sciences
• Apparel Studies
• Food, Human Nutrition, & Hospitality
• General Human Environmental Sciences
• Human Development & Family Sciences
• Interior Design

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Vice President for Agriculture Milo Shult unveiled plans at a September 2 press conference for a Watershed Research and Education Center.

The center will encompass 235 acres of the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center currently used as pasture for cattle and horses west of Garland Avenue, across from Agri Park.

Shult introduced Dr. Andrew Sharpley, who is joining the team of U of A faculty members who conduct water quality research.

Sharpley, a well-known scientist in the area of phosphorus management for water quality, joined the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences in November. He is coming from the USDA Agricultural Research Service Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit in Pennsylvania and is an adjunct faculty member at Pennsylvania State University.

The Watershed Research and Education Center will include a stream and wetlands within an area subject to both urban storm water and agricultural runoff. Students are working at the site to restore a streambed and prepare research and demonstration plots.

Facilities at the center will include an education pavilion and a walking trail through the property’s water management research and demonstration areas. Educational signs along the trail will describe forage varieties, best management practices, wetlands and restored stream channels and riparian zones.

Future plans include construction of an education building to house laboratories, indoor educational facilities and offices.

Joining Dr. Shult for the announcement were University of Arkansas President B. Alan Sugg, chairman Stanley Reed and other members of the U of A Board of Trustees, staff members representing each member of Arkansas’ congressional delegation, and representatives of state government, USDA and the poultry industry.