Graduate, Fall-Winter 2008

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

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Dear Alumni............................................. 4

Wardlow and Halbrook named department heads ................. 4

Lalit Verma serves as Bumpers College interim dean .............. 5

Firebaugh to endow HESC scholarships.............................. 5

Scholarship donors and recipients gather for events .............. 6

Hugh and Fran Nutt designate gifts to five areas .................... 7

Lancaster endow scholarship fund ... 7

HESC dedicates Foods Lab and announces plans for child development center .............. 8

Tailgate Brunch ........................................... 9

HESC degree prepares alumna for varied career ..................... 10

Home Economics evolves into Human Environmental Sciences ...... 11

Horticulture alumni awards ..................................... 11

New faculty members join Division of Agriculture and Bumpers College .............. 12

Global Studies Program provides international perspective .......... 13

Donors fund travel scholarships and grants .......................... 13

Love for agriculture leads to corporate management career at Tyson Foods .............................. 14

Agricultural Business major leads to great careers ..................... 15

Plant Pathology head Sung Lim retires ................................. 15

Entomology honors Ronald Davey ................................... 16

Class Notes .................................................. 17

Bumpers student helps U of A win fishing championship ............. 18

Women in Agriculture Conference ................................. 18

COVER: Agricultural Business major Fendley Ragland, left, and Stanley Reed spoke on behalf of the scholarship recipients and donors at the Scholarship Luncheon on Oct. 24. (Photo by Fred Miller)

If you are interested in plants, animals, food, business, the natural environment or the human environment... we have a major for you.

bumperscollege.uark.edu
Students Come First

If you visit the home page of the Bumpers College Website, you will find the following:

“Students come first in our priorities of teaching, research and service about plants, animals, food, business, the natural environment and the human environment.”

We focused on the “Students First” theme, which is now a campus-wide slogan, at our Scholarship Luncheon this fall, where our scholarship recipients have a chance to meet the donors.

I am pleased to report that your college set a new record for enrollment at 1,680 students this fall, which is an increase of 3.7 percent over fall 2007. Undergraduate enrollment totals 1,388 for an increase of 3.4 percent over last fall.

Nearly one-third of our undergraduates receive a scholarship that helps meet the average annual cost of $18,500 for U of A students. The scholarships provided by you, our alumni and friends, help us recruit excellent students and allow many to stay in school who otherwise couldn’t.

For information on how you can help meet the need for more scholarships, visit our “Parents, Alumni and Friends” Web page or call Kellie Knight, our development officer, at 479-575-2270.

Now, here are just a few of the ways we put our students first:

- Bumpers College has a family-like atmosphere. Faculty members take a personal interest in each student.
- Faculty members, not graduate assistants, teach all Bumpers College courses.
- Our academic advisors are faculty members in each department who know the students in their major.
- Most classes are small with a student to teacher ratio of 19 to 1.
- We offer 14 diverse majors for students interested in plants, animals, food, business, the natural environment and the human environment.
- Our majors and minors are designed to prepare students for careers that match their interests.
- Our Academic Enhancement Program provides workshops and individual counseling.
- Our Peer Mentoring Program provides opportunities for freshman to have an upperclass student mentor.
- Our Honors Program, Global Studies Program and undergraduate research opportunities help students enrich their educational experiences beyond the classroom.
- With the help of your gifts, we keep our classrooms and facilities updated to provide appropriate learning technology and a comfortable environment.
- Alumni participate in class presentations and projects and take a personal interest in the success of our students.
- Student internships in each major help students apply knowledge from the classroom to the real world and meet potential future employers.
Dear Alumni

“Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.”
— Albert Einstein

Those words were spoken at a recent training for UA alumni leadership. I wanted to share them with you as it made me reflect on the importance of supporting alumni efforts and of the potential impact of our actions on students. The most important part of the quote is the action, actually doing something, “setting the example.” It challenges us to examine our actions. The quote points to the importance of being a shining example, setting a high standard, an expectation for success. So I ask you to think of how you set the example when it comes to giving back to the place that has given so much.

As a proud father, I took great joy in recently taking our 18-month-old daughter, Marlee, to her first Razorback football game. I am not sure how much she will remember as she grows older, but I look forward to re-telling the experience. I know that I will always remember her pointing at the Razorback mascot and saying, “haawwg.”

The game day events made me reminisce about my college days on campus and look forward hopefully to experiencing Marlee’s college days. I was excited taking her over to the stadium and experiencing the alumni house, band, cheerleaders and fans. However, I am more excited thinking of the days when I walk her down the hallways of the campus’ colleges and dormitories. I look forward to sharing with her my experiences — well some of them — my wisdom and the opportunities that the college experience afforded me. I know that thinking of Marlee’s college days may be an extreme, but I challenge each of you to think of ways in which you can impact potential and existing students.

Lastly, I want to thank all those that supported the DBCAFLS tailgate party, which was held prior to the Florida football game. As part of the festivities, the society conducted a silent auction to raise funds for college alumni scholarships. I am proud to announce that we raised almost $700 to award to students. I thank everyone that participated in making the event a success. It was fun seeing old faces and making new friends. Thank you!

— Ron Rainey

http://arkalum.org/dbcafls/

Wardlow and Halbrook named department heads

Two Bumpers College and Division of Agriculture leadership positions were filled with the appointment of George Wardlow as head of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and Steve Halbrook as head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and AgriBusiness.

Wardlow, who was interim head since the retirement of Donald Herring in July 2007, was a faculty member at the University of Minnesota for eight years before coming to the University of Arkansas in 1992.

Wardlow coordinated the department’s graduate student program and has taught courses in agricultural and extension education, research methods and data analysis, vocational education and college teaching.

After receiving a B.S. degree from the University of Missouri, Wardlow was a public school agricultural science teacher for five years. He received his Master of Education degree at Missouri and a doctorate in agricultural education from The Ohio State University in 1984.

Halbrook, formerly vice president of Farm Foundation in Oak Brook, Ill., fills the vacancy left by the promotion of Mark Cochran to the position of Division of Agriculture associate vice president for research and director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station.

The son of the late Waymon Halbrook, who was a faculty member in the agricultural economics department from 1966 to 1992, he has a B.A. degree in economics from the U of A. He has a Ph.D. degree from Iowa State University in economics and a J.D. degree from Drake University School of Law. He is admitted to the practice of law in the District of Columbia.

Before joining Farm Foundation in 1992, Halbrook was a sole practitioner working primarily in regulatory matters related to the dairy industry. He has worked as an economist for two federal agencies and served as executive vice president of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

George W. Wardlow

Steve A. Halbrook
Lalit Verma, head of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, was named interim dean of Bumpers College and interim associate vice president for agriculture–academic programs in the University of Arkansas System’s Division of Agriculture.

Verma’s appointment was effective July 1, when former dean Greg Weidemann left to serve as dean and director of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut.

“Lalit Verma has shown what he can accomplish as an academic leader. He helped to build a relatively small department into a vibrant and growing program,” said Chancellor G. David Gearhart. “He will bring these same leadership skills to Bumpers College during this interim period.”

“Dr. Verma has provided outstanding leadership in his department to match his contributions to his profession. We look forward to working with him in his new role,” said Milo Shult, University System vice president for agriculture.

“I am very excited about this great opportunity,” said Verma. “I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in our exceptional Bumpers College faculty. Together we will continue to improve and promote agricultural, food and human sciences in Arkansas, the nation and the world.”

Verma came to the University of Arkansas in 2000 as head of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. He is internationally recognized for his research in rice and forage post-harvest engineering and technology. He holds a patent awarded for the “Process for Parboiling Rice” and led research on “Electrotechnology in Cereal Grains Processing.” These focused on utilizing microwave energy for rice parboiling that enabled rice and food processing operations to save energy, time and cost.

Verma received the President’s Citation from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) in 2000 for his leadership in developing accreditation criteria for educational programs that involve engineering in agricultural, food and biological systems. He was named Engineer of the Year for the Louisiana section of the ASABE in 2001, and Outstanding Engineer for the Arkansas section in 2003. He was named president of the Institute of Biological Engineering in 2004. He is an ASABE Fellow and a member of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology board of directors.

Verma has a B.S. degree in agricultural engineering from J.N. Agricultural University in India, an M.S. degree in agricultural engineering from Montana State University and a Ph.D. degree in engineering from the University of Nebraska. He served on the faculty of the biological and agricultural engineering department at Louisiana State University for 21 years, including eight years as the department head before coming to the University of Arkansas.

Francille Maloch Firebaugh, BSHE ’55, and John Firebaugh created a $150,000 charitable gift annuity that will fund a scholarship in the School of Human Environmental Sciences and provide a discretionary fund for the director of HESC.

After receiving a Ph.D. degree at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., Firebaugh joined the faculty at The Ohio State University where she specialized in family resource management. She also was vice provost for international affairs, acting vice president for agricultural administration and associate provost at Ohio State.

After 26 years at Ohio State, Firebaugh was appointed dean of the College of Human Ecology at Cornell from 1988 to 1999 and served as vice provost until her retirement in 2007. She is the author or co-author of more than 50 scholarly articles and two books: “Home Management: Context and Concepts” and “Family Resource Management.”

Firebaugh was named the Bumpers College Outstanding Alumnus in 1989 and was the 2001 Honors Convocation keynote speaker.
Bumpers College scholarship donors and students who receive scholarships had the opportunity to visit with each other at the Scholarship Luncheon in the Arkansas Union Ballroom Oct. 24 and during a reception at Butterfield Trail Village Sept. 25.

A number of retired faculty members who have established or contributed to scholarship funds live at Butterfield Trail Village.

Interim Dean Lalit Verma and Bumpers College Ambassador Jason Davis, an Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology major from Paragould, told the Butterfield Trail Village residents that the scholarships they support allow many students to stay in school.

More than 300 donors, students and faculty members attended the Scholarship Luncheon. Keynote speaker Chancellor Dave Gearhart said the U of A is renewing its commitment to putting students first and has adopted the slogan of “Students First.”

Stanley Reed, BSA ’73 JD ’76, a Lee County farmer, president of Arkansas Farm Bureau and former UA Board of Trustees chairman, spoke about the importance of need-based scholarships. The U of A has a goal of raising $15 million for the Access Arkansas need-based scholarship program.

Stanley and Charlene Reed, BSHE ’74 MS ’77, established an Access Arkansas scholarship endowment in the name of Jim Lindsey of Fayetteville, the current chairman of the UA Board of Trustees. The scholarship is for Bumpers College students with a preference for students from eastern Arkansas.

Fendley Ragland of Harrison, an Agricultural Business major who spoke on behalf of students, said, “The support and help available at the Bumpers College really helped my academic career and truly put this student first.”

“Students who could not afford the cost of a higher education, students who would have been in great debt while seeking a career, students who strive for success and do not settle for less, these students are all here with you in the room today,” Ragland said.
Hugh and Fran Nutt designate gifts to five areas

Hugh, BSA ’50, and Frances “Fran” Barton Nutt, BSHE ’50, of Ozark, Mo., have created a charitable gift annuity in the amount of $100,000 to be dispersed across five areas of campus.

“The University of Arkansas has been the love of our lives,” said Fran Nutt. “We have made so many good friends, and this is a very special opportunity for us to give to a university we dearly admire.”

Fran has worked tirelessly to connect Carnall Hall alumnae — the women who lived in the historic campus landmark when it served as a dormitory. She planned three reunions and led efforts to endow a scholarship fund for the School of Human Environmental Sciences in Bumpers College. Part of the gift will go to that endowment.

One fourth of the gift will go to the school to benefit the apparel studies program, whose faculty and students have assisted Fran with the Carnall Hall reunions.

Another part of the gift is designated for Agricultural Communication Services, a unit of the U of A System’s Division of Agriculture that produces The Graduate and provides other support for Bumpers College.

One fourth is for Arkansas Razorback Band scholarships. The band meant a lot to Fran as a student, and she became an active member of the Alumni Razorback Band shortly after its creation. Two scholarships will be awarded annually, one of which is specifically to benefit a member of Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority, for which Fran served as the inaugural president.

The Arkansas Alumni Association scholarship program will also be supported by the Nutts’ gift. The couple holds an A+ life membership in the association, and they are charter members of the Tri-State Chapter. Last year, Fran was awarded the Andrew J. Lucas Alumni Service Award that acknowledges significant contributions of time and energy on behalf of the university and the association.

“Everything I do for the university, I have not done alone,” Fran said. “My husband is as much a part of every experience, and he is by my side every step of the way. The Carnall Hall successes are the result of teamwork, too. I had an idea, and I had some extra time, but we put it all together, together.”

Hugh and Fran Nutt met at the university, and they were married in 1951. He worked for the University of Missouri extension service for 35 years, and she is a retired home economist and teacher.

Lancasters endow scholarship fund

J.L., BSA ’47, and Virginia P. Lancaster, BSHE ’47, of Fayetteville established the J.L. and Virginia P. Lancaster Endowed Scholarship with a gift of $25,000. This scholarship will provide financial assistance to upperclass undergraduates in the School of Human Environmental Sciences or to upperclass undergraduates with an interest in entomology. Dr. Lancaster served on the faculty in the Department of Entomology from 1951-94.

IN MEMORY — A planned gift from Kyle (BSE ’81) and Sharon Walker (BA ’76, MA ’78) will establish the Vivian and Woodrow Wilson Scholarship in Animal Science in memory of Kyle’s aunt and uncle who had a dairy farm in Washington County. Kyle says he has great memories of summers on the Wilson’s farm. The Walkers, who live in Springfield, Mo., are pictured at the Bumpers College Scholarship Luncheon with Holly Minard, top left, and Tiffany Killian. Kyle is a financial services professional with New York Life.
HESC dedicates Foods Lab and announces plans for child development center

The Donald “Buddy” and Linda Wray Foods Laboratory in the School of Human Environmental Sciences was dedicated Nov. 1 during the school’s Homecoming Breakfast in the Home Economics Building.

A gift from the Wrays, of Springdale, who were unable to attend the event, made possible renovation of the laboratory used by students in the foods, human nutrition and hospitality major and the food science major.

HESC Director Mary Warnock said the renovation included installation of vent hoods, the lack of which has caused excessive heat during lab periods when several or all ranges were in use. New flooring and other equipment were also provided. Ranges are provided and periodically updated, at no charge, by Arkansas Western Gas.

Wray is a 1959 graduate with a degree in animal science. He was working on a master’s degree when he accepted a job at Tyson Foods in 1961 as a field representative and retired in 2000 as president and chief operating officer. He was named Outstanding Alumnus by Bumpers College in 2000.

Warnock announced that a new development campaign is underway for a Child Development Center, which would include childcare services for the campus community. She said architectural plans have been developed, and a possible site is being discussed. The development campaign goal is $5 million for construction and an additional endowment to help fund operations, she said.

Warnock unveiled a watercolor of the Home Economics Building by Judy Howard, graphic designer for The Graduate and other Bumpers College and Division of Agriculture publications. Framed prints are being sold for $125 to raise funds for scholarships, Warnock said.

The prints are framed identically to watercolor prints by Howard of the Agriculture Building, so that they can be displayed as a set. To purchase a framed print of the Home Economics Building, contact the HESC department office at 479-575-4307. To purchase a framed print of the Agriculture Building, contact the Bumpers College dean’s office at 479-575-2034.

— Artist Judy Howard, left, and Mary Warnock, director of the School of Human Environmental Sciences, show a framed watercolor print of the Home Economics Building painted by Howard. Framed prints are being sold for $125, and can be ordered by calling the school office at 479-575-4307.
Tailgate Brunch

Bumpers College alums enjoyed a tailgate brunch at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House before the Arkansas vs. Florida game Oct. 4.

Tailgate party regulars included Alumni Society board members Betty Bradford, left, of Fayetteville and David and Lolah Daniel of Springdale.

Board members Scott Mason, Betty Bradford, David Daniel, Charlene Reed, Ron Rainey, Susan Kemp and Brian Adams joined the pre-game festivities.

Brunchers included Melissa, BSA ’08, and Jeremy Cole, BSA ’05, of Fayetteville with Diane and Roy Osburn of Mountainburg.

Anna Kate Davis poses with her aunt, Anna Reed of Little Rock, and board members Susan Kemp of Mountain View, Scott Mason of Jonesboro and Charlene Reed (Anna Kate’s grandmother) of Marianna.

Bumpers College graduate Celise Weems, right, BSA ’08, Agricultural Business, now an ag econ graduate student, joined in the festivities with Traci Roper, a graduate student in public administration. Both are from North Little Rock.
HESC degree prepares alumna for varied career

When Jane Rogers, BSHE ’68, graduated with a degree in home economics, she knew she was well prepared to teach. As it turns out, her education prepared her to do much, much more.

Rogers taught fifth grade science for four years, off and on, at Our Lady of Holy Souls in Little Rock. “I didn’t have a specialty in science,” Rogers says, “but so many science courses were required in the home economics program that I was able to teach it.”

After her children, Betty and James, finished school at Holy Souls, Rogers worked as an event organizer. From 1986 to 1996, she served as executive director of the Riverfest music, arts and food festival in Little Rock and North Little Rock.

Rogers was one of Gov. Mike Huckabee’s first department head appointments as director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage during his first year in office. The governor became one of her clients when Rogers returned to her freelance organizational work. Among other events, she organized meetings of the National Governor’s Association and the Southern Governor’s Association. She served as liaison with the Legislature and was finance director in his re-election campaign.

“Gov. Huckabee was fabulous to work for,” Rogers says. “He has the best sense of humor that just puts you at ease when you’re around him.”

Rogers was appointed to the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees in 2003. “I take the job very seriously. It’s really the future of our state when you think about how important a college education is to our young people.”

As a trustee, Rogers has developed great respect for the university leadership.

“From President Sugg to the chancellors of each campus, they are skilled at facilitating the programs that help prepare our students to compete in a changing world,” Rogers says. “If you look at (UA Chancellor) Dave Gearhart, his ability to hire the right people for the job filters down through the deans to the faculty and, ultimately, to the students to prepare them for graduation and successful careers.”

An alumna of the Chi Omega Sorority, Rogers chairs the board of directors for the national Chi Omega Foundation. She chaired the Chi Omega centennial in 1995 and led a campaign to raise money for scholarships, technology, leadership training and upkeep of the organization’s headquarters in Memphis. She also helped raise money to refurbish the Chi Omega Greek Theater on the UA campus. Her service earned her the sorority’s President’s Award in 2002.

Rogers serves on the board of directors of the Delta Trust and Bank and the Junior League of Little Rock, is treasurer of the Little Rock Garden Club and was coordinator of the Curran Hall Project to restore the 1842 residence used as the Little Rock Visitor’s Center, among other organizations and projects.

Rogers credits her education with providing the academic foundation for her varied career. She still admires Mary Cotton, one of her teachers, who developed the curriculum and taught fashion design and marketing in the 1960s and ’70s.

“What sticks in my mind,” Rogers says, “is her genuine love for her students and her concern for our education.”

Rogers says her whole college experience has had continuing importance in her life. “I feel like, if you look at a college education, there’s more to it than just the classroom,” she says. “What you learn out of class is almost as important as what you learn in class. It helps you grow as a complete person, ready to step out into the real world. My experiences in and out of the classroom, with superb faculty, taught me to learn.”

In recalling her years at the U of A, Rogers’ mind turns first to her home economics courses, she says. But she also thinks about all the science courses she was required to take.

“They challenged me,” Rogers says. “It’s those challenges you’ve already faced that help prepare you for the next challenge in the world.”

“I feel hugely indebted to the University of Arkansas for the education and experiences I got there,” Rogers says. “And I’m grateful for the opportunity to give something back.”

—Fred Miller
Home Economics evolves into Human Environmental Sciences

The School of Human Environmental Sciences in Bumpers College has expanded upon its roots in home economics to offer five majors today that greatly broaden academic and career opportunities for students. Taken together, the disciplines relate to human life, health and surroundings. Director Mary Warnock says, “Our programs teach the life-building skills that everybody needs.”

The Apparel Studies major prepares students for careers in fashion merchandising and promotion, product development, brand management, quality assurance and visual merchandising. The program includes courses in science, marketing, social science and liberal arts.

Students majoring in Food, Human Nutrition and Hospitality learn the science and application of nutrition and food preparation. Graduates are prepared for careers as clinical and community nutritionists, food service managers, hotel or restaurant managers or a range of related careers in the health care, food, sales and marketing or tourism industries.

The Human Development, Family Sciences and Rural Sociology program prepares students for a wide range of careers or graduate studies in human development and family sciences, marriage and family therapy, education, social work, psychology, gerontology and law. Graduates find jobs in such fields as adoption and foster care family planning centers, child or adult day care centers, Headstart and Homestart programs, alcohol and drug treatment centers, child development and parent education programs plus many others.

The Infant Development Center and Nursery School are educational laboratories that provide hands-on experience for students interested in early childhood development.

The Interior Design program is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. The curriculum prepares students for professional careers in designing interior spaces for function and quality. Courses enhance skills and understanding of life sciences, materials and resources, architecture, art and business.

The General Human Environmental Sciences major surveys the four other majors and permits flexible selection of electives in order to tailor a degree program to the interests of each student. Career paths for General Human Environmental Sciences graduates include working in the Cooperative Extension Service, teaching family and consumer sciences, social services or a host of industries.

Outside of the classroom, students in the School of Human Environmental Sciences participate in career-oriented student associations and take advantage of internships and study abroad opportunities.

HONORED ALUMNI — Horticulture 2008 awards recipients are, from left, Carlos Fear, 2008 Distinguished Alumnus; Dennis Motes, 2008 Distinguished Service; and Pat Berger, 2008 Distinguished Friend.

Horticulture alumni awards

The Department of Horticulture named Carlos Fear, MS ’77, Distinguished Alumnus during its annual awards reception Nov. 14. Pat Berger was named Distinguished Friend and Dennis Motes, MS ’78, received the Distinguished Service Award.

Fear is director of plant breeding and variety development for Berry Gardens Plants in East Malling, United Kingdom. Before moving to the U.K., Fear was director of raspberry and blackberry research and development for parent company Driscoll Strawberry Associates and vice president of research and development for Sweetbriar Development, Inc., both in Watsonville, Calif.

Fear has developed 13 raspberry varieties and seven blackberries. He corroborated with UA fruit breeder John Clark to develop primocane fruiting blackberries, resulting in the U of A release of Prime-Jim and Prime-Jan blackberries.

Berger is sports turf manager for men’s athletics at the U of A. Since coming to the U of A in 2001, he oversees athletic fields for football, baseball, cross country, soccer, track and softball.

Berger’s association with the horticulture department goes back to 1998 when, as golf course superintendent at the Texarkana Country Club, he donated a reel mower to the turfgrass program. He continues to help the program obtain donated turf management equipment and frequently loans equipment from the men’s athletics department. He was instrumental in securing a fully funded graduate assistantship in sports turf management for men’s athletics.

Motes is resident director of the Division of Agriculture’s Vegetable Research Station at Kibler. After earning a bachelor’s degree in horticulture at Kansas State University, he began at the U of A as a research assistant in 1973. He earned a master’s degree in horticulture and was named resident director of the station in 1978.

Motes is a recipient of the John W. White Team Research Award from the Division of Agriculture and is a member of Pi Alpha Xi, the Research Center Administrators Society and the Arkansas State Horticulture Society. He is currently president of the board of directors of Abilities Unlimited of Fort Smith and Western Arkansas.
New faculty members join Division of Agriculture and Bumpers College

New faculty members in seven departments and the School of Human Environmental Sciences have joined the Division of Agriculture and Bumpers College in recent months.

Burt Bluhm, assistant professor, Plant Pathology, specializes in molecular plant pathology with a focus on fungal pathogens of crop plants. He has Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in plant pathology from Purdue and a B.S. degree from Oklahoma. A native of Starkville, Miss., he was a research plant pathologist for the USDA-ARS in West Lafayette, where he received a Certificate of Merit in 2008 for research accomplishments.

Lartha Devareddy, assistant professor, Food Science, researches the role of functional foods in improving human health. A native of Chennai, India, she joins the Food Science faculty from Florida State where she was a research associate. She received her Ph.D. degree in nutrition from Oklahoma State.

Ashley Dowling, assistant professor, Entomology, specializes in systematics, the study of biodiversity and the evolutionary relationships between groups of organisms. He has a Ph.D. degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from Michigan and a B.S. degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from Arizona. He was previously a post-doctoral research associate at Kentucky.

Don Edgar, assistant professor, Agricultural and Extension Education, teaches fundamentals of teaching and principles of learning. His research interests include effects of field experience on student teachers and student learning process methodologies. He comes from South Dakota State, where he was an assistant professor of agricultural education and extension. He has a Ph.D. in agricultural education from Texas A&M. His M.S. and B.S. degrees are from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. He is a native of Early, Texas.

Sun-Ok Lee, assistant professor, Food Science, is focusing on the role of dietary phytochemicals and natural extracts in health and disease. She comes from a post-doctoral research position in food science and human nutrition at Iowa State. She received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in nutrition from Iowa State. She has a B.S. degree in food science and nutrition and another M.S. degree in food science from Dongduk Women’s University in Korea.

Garry McDonald, assistant professor, Horticulture, specializes in sustainable landscape design and management. He comes from the horticulture department at Texas A&M. A native of Henderson, Texas, he has Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. degrees from Texas A&M.

L. Lanier Nalley, assistant professor, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, focuses on international policy, trade and production and international development. He has a Ph.D. degree from Kansas State, an M.S. degree from Mississippi, and a B.S. degree from Ohio State. He is a native of Dunwoody, Ga.

Thad Scott, assistant professor, Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, specializes in ecological response to water quality impairment and is currently researching blue-green algae in Beaver Lake. He has a Ph.D. degree from Baylor, an M.S. degree from Tarleton State and a B.S. degree from Howard Payne University in his hometown of Brownwood, Texas. He comes to the U of A from a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Minnesota.

Leigh Southward, associate professor, Human Environmental Sciences, specializes in human ecology in apparel studies with a current focus on perceptions based on clothing styles. She has Ph.D., M.S. and B.S. degrees from Tennessee. A native of Tishomingo, Miss., Southward came to the U of A from Tennessee Tech University where she was an associate professor of fashion merchandising.

Ioannis Tzanetakis, assistant professor, Plant Pathology, specializes in molecular and cellular biology from Oregon State and M.S. and B.S. degrees in soil science and agriculture from Agricultural University of Athens, Greece. A native of Athens, he is coming from a post-doctoral position at Oregon State.
Global Studies Program provides international perspective

Bumpers College students have traveled to at least 24 countries over the past 10 years for study-abroad experiences tailored to their interests in the Bumpers College Global Studies Program, directed by Raymond Barclay.

Stories about recent experiences are posted on the Global Studies Web site at http://www.uark.edu/depts/intagpro/studyabroad/ or, from the Bumpers College home page, http://bumperscollege.uark.edu, click on “Academics” and then “Global Studies Program.”

Click on “Archived Stories” to find letters from students about recent experiences, including a series of “Letters from Belize” about the ongoing service project by a team of students at a rural school in that country.

You can also read about two exciting graduate study opportunities in Europe. One is a dual master’s degree program in agricultural economics and rural development. The other is for undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in biorenewables and alternative energy sources.

A few examples of Global Studies projects this summer include the following:

- Hospitality and restaurant management student Amy Davis took classes on trends in Italian cuisine, food and wine in Florence, Italy.
- Horticulture students John Gardner and Andrew Swayne had summer internships at the Royal Botanic Garden (RBG) in Edinburgh, UK. The RBG has provided a number of internships for our students.
- Horticulture student Atsuko Akabane was a summer intern at the Scottish Plant Hunters Garden in Pitlochry, UK. She also worked at Pitcairn Alpines, a plant nursery specializing in the production of unusual bulbs and ornamental flower seed, and at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh.
- Fashion marketing major Katie Crawford attended summer classes at Florence University of the Arts in Italy.
- Dietetics students Sarah Douglas and Carolyn Treloar completed research internships at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. Their projects included the use of mobile phone technology to analyze diets of people on the go and school feeding in developing countries.
- Waylon Abernathy, a foods, human nutrition and hospitality major, completed courses in Spanish Gender Studies and Outdoor Travel Writing at a university in Spain.
- Jacob Irwin, who recently graduated with a double major in biological engineering and business administration, studied Spanish language and culture in Spain.

Donors fund travel scholarships and grants

Global Study scholarships are available, and more are needed, to help students with travel and other expenses. To establish or contribute to a scholarship endowment or grant, contact Kellie Knight, Bumpers College director of development, at 479-575-2270 or knight@uark.edu.

- Richard D. Locke International Agriculture Endowed Scholarship
- Wayne E. Sabbe Endowed Scholarship in International Agronomic Study
- Cordia Harrington “The Bun Lady” International Experience Endowed Scholarship
- Preston E. La Ferney International Endowed Scholarship
- Travel Grant (one time) provided by Mr. and Mrs. William Millager of Rogers
Randy Smith, BS ’85 MS ’88, came to the University of Arkansas as an animal science major with plans to become a veterinarian and return to his home town of Melbourne to practice.

“All I knew was the production agriculture side, and once I understood the possibilities and began to see and understand opportunities existed right here in our state for the “go to market” business side of agriculture, I changed to agriculture economics,” he says. “The only thing I was determined not to do was work in the chicken business. I had cleaned my last house and caught my last chicken.”

Now a senior vice president at Tyson Foods, Inc., Smith says, “I am now proud to be working at the premier protein company with its core beginnings in the poultry business and to also be a part of the tradition of people who have come from Arkansas agriculture, gone to the University of Arkansas and remained in Arkansas to try to make a difference.”

Like many Arkansans, Smith’s father, Eudell, moved from Izard County to California as a young man, where he prospered and started a family. When Randy was seven, Eudell and Shirley Smith moved the family back to the Izard County family farm, where Randy grew up helping with chores and the constant labor of their cattle, hog and poultry operation.

Randy’s love for agriculture was nurtured in the Melbourne High School FFA chapter; he became state FFA president in 1980 and is now a member of the national FFA foundation board. “The leadership skills developed in FFA have made a tremendous difference in my life just as they have for young men and women all over this country. I am very proud to be able to serve and give back just a portion of what was given me,” he says.

When Smith received his bachelor’s degree, “I felt I wasn’t finished with my education,” he says, so he went on to earn a master’s degree in agricultural economics. “It provided a lot of clarity about what I had been studying.” His master’s thesis was on rice production in the United States, and he took a job with Riceland Foods in Stuttgart as the co-op’s first market analyst in 1988 and became industrial sales manager in 1990.

In 1993, Smith became an industrial sales manager at Tyson Foods and advanced through the positions of national sales manager, vice president of McDonald’s sales, senior vice president and general manager of the McDonald’s business unit, and his current position of senior vice president of food service distribution sales.

Smith and Miriam Flippo, BSHE ’85, who had met at the university, were married in 1999. As a UA student, Miriam was state president of the American Home Economics Association. She earned an MBA degree at Arkansas State University and was with the Blackwood Martin Advertising agency in Fayetteville when she and Randy were married. They have two sons, Luke, 4, and Isaac, 2.

Smith says many of his UA courses and experiences have helped him in his career. “Going to graduate school was one of the best decisions I have made,” he says. “Working with the professors on real world agriculture problems brought a real clarity to my studies and how to use my education to help solve problems.”

Smith is responsible for a direct sales staff and the broker network for the foodservice distribution business and says he gets great satisfaction from seeing the team and individuals grow and excel. Managing a mix of Generation X and Y and baby boomers can be challenging, he says, “but with all the differences, people are basically the same. They want to be heard, know someone cares about them as individuals, and see they are making an impact with what they do every day.”

The current economic climate is tough for the poultry industry and food service sales in particular, Smith says. Many people are watching their budgets and eating out less, and production costs are high.

“It is a trying time,” he says, “but it’s going to make us stronger because we will gain a better understanding of what the customer values, giving us solid direction on how we invest our money and resources in the future.”

— Howell Medders
Agricultural Business major leads to great careers

With agriculture and the food system accounting for 20 percent or more of the U.S. economy, the agricultural business major in Bumpers College is an excellent choice for students with interests in business, agriculture and the food system.

A farm background is not required. The agricultural business major prepares students for careers in agribusiness management, marketing, finance, environmental management, law and other professions.

Agricultural business majors can choose one of three areas of concentration:

- agribusiness management and marketing,
- agricultural economics or
- pre-law.

A graduate program leads to a Master of Science degree in agricultural economics. Graduate students can choose the business management and marketing non-thesis concentration or the research focused thesis concentration.

The graduate program also provides opportunities for students to study internationally at the University of Ghent and take courses at the University of Arkansas School of Law. Students who are admitted to the Law School can participate in a joint degree program earning an M.S. degree in agricultural economics and a Master of Law (J.L.M.) degree in agricultural law.

Another M.S. option is the new Atlantis program. Students in this grant-funded exchange program earn a master’s degree in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas and a master’s degree in rural development from a consortium of six universities in Europe. Students in this program will spend up to a year in Europe studying at two EU universities.

The Department of Agricultural Economics and AgriBusiness provides a caring, family-like environment. Faculty members are among the nation’s leaders in their fields, and they take a personal interest in each student to help them achieve their educational goals.

Alumni with companies and agencies throughout Arkansas and the United States and abroad help students secure meaningful paid internships and find good jobs after graduation.

Some of the extras for agricultural business majors include an active student club, opportunities to study in other countries or have internships abroad, and opportunities to work with a faculty mentor on a student research project.

Prospective students who would like more information can visit the department’s Web site at http://www.uark.edu/depts/agriecon/ or call 479-575-2258 to request a visit.

Plant Pathology head
Sung Lim retires

Plant Pathology Department Head Sung Lim retired Aug. 22 as the Bumpers College and Division of Agriculture department head with the longest tenure, having served in that capacity since 1991. His career in the land-grant university system has spanned 42 years.

Richard “Rick” Cartwright, professor and extension plant pathologist, is interim department head. He is director of the Plant Health Clinic, provides statewide leadership in crop biosecurity efforts and conducts research and extension programs on disease management in rice and other crops.

Lim received the Distinguished Service Award at the Southern Soybean Disease Workers annual meeting in March at Pensacola Beach, Fla. He graduated from Seoul National University with a bachelor’s degree in agronomy in 1957 and a master’s degree in 1959.

After receiving a doctorate at Michigan State, Lim joined the plant pathology faculty at the University of Illinois and was appointed assistant professor in 1971. His research on the causal agent of corn leaf blight was instrumental in ending the southern corn leaf blight epidemic of the early 1970s.

Lim has provided leadership for a number of advances in plant pathology. The 2004 merger of Division of Agriculture extension and research faculty has led to beneficial interactions. The department has also restructured curricula and strengthened its molecular biology programs and overall efforts in support of producers of agronomic and horticultural crops.
Entomology honors Ronald Davey

The 2008 recipient of the Department of Entomology’s Distinguished Alumnus Award is Ronald B. Davey, Ph.D. He is the Laboratory Leader at the USDA-ARS Cattle Fever Tick Research Laboratory in Edinburg, Texas.

Davey received a doctoral degree from the entomology department in 1977, under the direction of Professor Max Meisch. His was one of the first two doctoral degrees awarded by the U of A in entomology.

Davey is a nationally respected expert on ticks as vectors of diseases of cattle, as well as methods to control tick populations. His research at the USDA laboratory over the past 30 years has included the use of sterile-male hybrid ticks to manage ticks, as well as the role of deer and exotic antelope as reservoirs for cattle-fever ticks.

Distinguished Alumnus — Ronald B. Davey, right, and his wife, Carolyn, pose with Max Meisch and the Distinguished Alumnus plaque presented by the Department of Entomology Sept. 12 during a reception at University House.

Legislative Tailgaters — The Poultry Federation and the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association hosted a tailgate party for legislators before the Arkansas vs. Florida game Oct. 4 at the John W. Tyson Poultry Center. Pictured are, from left, James Barton, D.V.M., director of the Poultry Federation’s Fayetteville Laboratory, State Representative Jim House of the 89th District and Billy Hargis, professor of poultry science.

Donor Display — Katherine Rowlett, left, of Russellville, the first recipient of the Mary T. and John L. Maier Honors College Scholarship, and Mary Maier were at the Nov. 7 unveiling of a display that will hang with those of other animal science scholarship donors in the foyer of the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center. The display was designed by Laurie Harris.

Savory Muffins — A team of food science Ph.D. students won second place and a $5,000 prize in the national Danisco Knowledge Award Competition. Their entry was a savory muffin mix. Pictured are, from left, Brittany White, Jeana Monrad, Ashley Espinoza and Department Head Ron Buescher. Team member Fernanda Onofre was unable to attend the award presentation Sept. 21 in Scottsdale, Ariz.
1940s

Drs. Robert, BSA ’47, and Hazel Spitze, BSHE ’43, celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in March. Both are professors emeritus from the University of Illinois, Urbana, and return annually to the University of Arkansas campus for awards programs.

1950s

Ann Wiggins Sugg, BSHE ’52, was recognized for her personal and professional contributions to the history of Washington County during the 10th annual Women’s History Month banquet in April. Sugg was honored for founding the Friends of Lake Wedington organization.

Dr. Jerry Rakes, BSA ’55 MS ’56, University of Arkansas professor emeritus (ANSC 1958-93), has published the book My Benton County Hero. He writes to express his appreciation for his award of Advanced Distinction from the Animal Science Department. He says he is so proud and inspired by girls and boys of Arkansas who may be third and fourth generation students and expresses his thanks to everyone for the opportunity for 55 years of teaching and research. Dr. Rakes also received recognition from Iowa State University for his research on calcium. He and his wife, Teresa, reside in Edmond and participate in many community activities.

Dr. James Tollett, BSA ’57 MSA ’58, has taken a second retirement as chair and professor of agriculture at Southern Illinois University in Magnolia. He and his wife, Joann, BSHE ’58, have moved to Pittsburgh, Texas, on beautiful Lake Bob Sandlin.

Dr. Justin Morris, BSA ’58, MS ’61, was honored during the Arkansas Alumni Association’s annual Awards Celebration Oct. 31 at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House. For the past 20 years, Morris has conducted research and educational programs on vineyard mechanization, leading to an international patent in 2002 for a total mechanization system. He is a distinguished professor of food science and director of the Division of Agriculture’s Institute of Food Science and Engineering.

1960s

Dr. Shirley Stauber Friend McAllister, BSHE ’62, EDD ’69, was elected as a delegate for Senator Obama to the Democratic National Convention held in Denver in August.

Jan Godfrey Struebing, BSHE ’65, retired in June from the Springdale school system after 32 years. She was the career and technical coordinator for the district.

Gerald Don Freeman, BSA ’68, retired in June from 39 years of teaching vocational agriculture. He taught five years at Scranton High School (1968-73) and 34 years at Wonderview High School in Hattieville. (1974-2008).

1970s

David Moll, BSA ’78, was awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the president’s office and Campus Life and Leadership recognition program for outstanding services to the Oklahoma State University Polo Club.

1980s

Sandra Bennett, BSA ’83, has been promoted to facilities manager at the Fayetteville Town Center. She is in charge of overall operations, sales and personnel.

2000s

David Stuart Walker, BSA ’00 MBA ’02, is now the technical service project leader for National Starch Food Innovation. He and his wife, Teresa, reside in Clovis, Calif.

David Erstine, BSA ’01, was chosen Big Brother of the Year 2008 for Northwest Arkansas. David has volunteered with the organization since January 2005. He currently chairs the agency’s Big Fundraising Committee and regularly attends match activities.

Dr. Josh Payne, MS ’01, is adjunct assistant professor and area animal waste management specialist in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at Oklahoma State University.

Matt Hillis, BSA ’02, recently received a “Million Dollar Ring” in recognition of his outstanding life insurance production in 2007 as a Washington County Farm Bureau insurance agent.

Dr. Cindy Cravens, BSA ’03, graduated in May from the University of Missouri with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and is working in a private practice in Las Vegas, Nev.

Births

Amber Pugh Ham, BSHE ’03, and Justin Ham, BSCE ’02, proudly announce the birth of a daughter, Kaylee Shea Ham, on May 16. She joins big brother Austin Kevin Ham.


Clint, BSA ’05, and Tanya Bell, BSA ’06, announce the birth of their son, Gabriel Patrick, on April 16. He joins big sister Hannah Elaine and big brother Justin Hilton.

Bryan, BSBA ’07, and Cecili Olcott Cormier, BSA ’04 MAT ’06, of Elkins, announce the birth of their son, Brayden Lee, on Feb. 5, 2008.

(Continued on Page 18)
John W. Goodwin
1935–2008

John W. Goodwin of Fayetteville, the University of Arkansas System’s vice president for agriculture from 1981 to 1986, died Oct. 25 at the age of 73.

Goodwin was also a UA University Professor of agricultural economics from 1986 until 1995, when he became president of Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Okla., until he retired in 2002. He had B.S. and M.S. degrees from Panhandle State and a doctorate from Oklahoma State University.

Survivors include his wife, Phoebe Jane Goodwin, four children and four grandchildren.

Deaths

George Roy Hayes Jr., MS ENTO ’51, of Shreveport, La., died May 26. He was a retired administrator of Insect and Rodent Control and Solid and Hazardous Water Management with the Louisiana State Department of Health.

Rev. George H. Raley, BSA ’65, of Calmer (Cleveland County), died April 7 in Little Rock. He earned a master’s in Bible Languages from the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock and served as a pastor and campus minister for more than 50 years.

Lucy McGill Cummings Webster, BSHE ’34, of Monroe, La., died May 29.

May Ferguson, BSHE ’41, died March 25. She was a retired teacher and restaurant operator. She and her late husband, Ralph, owned Ferguson’s Cafeterias in Phoenix, Ariz.


John D. McMaster Jr., BSA ’68 MS ’70, of Ripley, Miss., died from leukemia in July 2007.

Bumpers student helps U of A win fishing championship

The UA bass fishing team of Bodie Drake, BSA ’08, a graduate student in crop, soil and environmental sciences, and Kazuki Kitajima, a marketing major, secured its first national title Sept. 20 in Lewisville, Texas.

Drake and Kitajima claimed the National Collegiate Bass Fishing championship for the Razorbacks with five bass, weighing 17.37 pounds.

“We have a strong fishing club at the university, and this win is great for our school and the club,” said Drake. “It’s been a great experience for both of us.”

The Arkansas team was awarded a $14,000 scholarship check and $1,500 in merchandise.

Women in Agriculture Conference

The 4th annual Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference is set for Feb. 25–26, 2009, at the Wyndham Riverfront in North Little Rock. Interim CEO Carrie Hirmer says the conference will include in-depth risk management topics. See details at www.arkansaswomeningag.com.
Arkansas Farm Bureau has a long tradition of supporting Bumpers College students and alumni and the research and extension programs of the University of Arkansas System’s statewide Division of Agriculture.

Thanks for your support!
Arkansas Farm Bureau is helping to pay for printing of this issue of The Graduate.
INSECT FESTIVAL — Alexa Rigsby, left, and Alexis Coble, first graders at Tucker Elementary School in Rogers, count butterflies in a display of live Monarchs. Thousands of school children looked at, counted, touched and learned about insects during the 2008 Insect Festival Oct. 9, sponsored by the entomology department of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences.

APPLE DAY — Heather Friedrich and Ryan Craig showed students how to sort apples during a field day for elementary students participating in an Apples in the Classroom healthy eating program. Friedrich is a program technician in the Horticulture Department, and Craig is with Apple Seeds, a volunteer group sponsoring the program.