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COVER: Apparel studies senior Lelia Newton of Eudora models a dress designed by fellow student Zach Ridenour of Springdale. His design, described as “wearable art,” was inspired by the colors of the monarch butterfly and was featured on stage in a Fashion Group International-sponsored Career Day competition in Dallas in April. (Photo by Fred Miller)

New DBCAFLS Alumni Society Board Member

Matthew Mason, BSA ’91 MS ’93, started his career after receiving his master’s degree in agricultural economics as an economist with the Division of Agriculture’s Cooperative Extension Service. He became a grain merchandiser with Bayou Grain and Chemical Co. in 1994, and in 1996 he joined Simmons Bank in Dumas as an agricultural lender.

Mason started making small business loans and discovered that he enjoyed helping entrepreneurs realize success in their businesses. Seven years and three banks later, Mason is now with The Bank of Fayetteville as a vice president of commercial loans.

Matt’s father, Ed Mason, and brothers, Scott and David, are also Bumpers College alumni.

Mason recently served on the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce small business committee. He spends much of his time after work coaching area soccer and baseball teams. He is a recreational runner and would one day like to finish a triathlon. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Fayetteville with their three children.

Institutes elect Verma as Fellow

The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the Institute of Biological Engineering have elected Lalit R. Verma, interim dean of Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, to the rank of Fellow in each institute.

Verma, serving as interim dean of Bumpers College since July 2008, is head of the UA Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

Verma presided over a reorganization of the UA department and curriculum changes to create the biological engineering major. Enrollment in the major since he became department head in 2000 has increased from in the 20s to about 100 in the fall of 2008.

The major, jointly offered by Bumpers College and the College of Engineering, includes concentrations in biomedical, biotechnology and ecological engineering.

“In biological engineers create solutions to problems by coupling living systems with the tools of engineering and biotechnology,” Verma said.

In fall 2004, Verma also led the creation of the new College of Engineering interdisciplinary Master of Science program in biomedical engineering, which is the only one of its kind in Arkansas. Earlier in his career, he was internationally recognized for his research in rice and forage post-harvest engineering and technology.

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

THE GRADUATE
From the Dean

Going off to college is A Big Deal!

Moving away from home and attending a university may be the biggest changes that a young person has experienced up to that point. It’s exciting, but it is also stressful. Simply stated, it’s a big deal!

We are well aware that first-year students must deal with multiple areas of major change in their lives. It is no accident that Bumpers College is considered one of the friendliest colleges on campus. Our commitment to the campus-wide “Students First” emphasis includes a long-standing support system of close and frequent contact among students, faculty and staff in our academic departments. Students tell us they enjoy the close-knit, family-like atmosphere in their major.

It helps that students can choose a major that relates directly to their interests in plants, animals, food, business, the natural environment or the human environment. They quickly make friends with other students who share their interests.

Our new Peer Mentoring Program is another way we are helping freshmen adjust. The program was designed and is managed by John Kelly, peer mentoring coordinator, and Alice Griffin, coordinator of advising and retention. It provides an opportunity for new students to have one-on-one interaction with a current student. The mentors receive training that equips them to provide the help needed, including “reality checks” to help freshmen stay on track academically.

We appreciate the current students who are willing to serve as mentors, and we are pleased to be able to reward those selected with a $500 scholarship for each semester that they serve.

This issue of “The Graduate” includes recognition of students, faculty and staff receiving awards for outstanding scholarship and professional accomplishments. Of course, the most important award is the degree that our graduates receive. It represents four or more years of preparation for a lifelong career journey.

As our alumni know, we don’t offer a one-size-fits-all education. We do offer an excellent, student-centered, career-focused university education for anyone with an interest in agricultural, food and life sciences. We are different — and proud of it!
Dear Alumni

“Knowledge is like a garden; if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.”

— African proverb

This African proverb continually came to my mind as I started the new year. I usually start the year out by making both personal and professional goals, so the proverb highlighted to me the requirement of any successful undertaking: preparation and planning. It reminds me of one of the reasons that I eagerly participate in alumni activities. That reason is to give back to a place that has given me so much and hopefully to assist in some way to inspire the pursuit or give the opportunity of a college education to someone else. If we were to view the University of Arkansas as a garden, what role would we play in cultivating and/or nurturing a successful harvest? As alums, we must be intentional in sharing our experiences and encouraging others if we want to continue enjoying the fruits of our labor.

The University plays an important role in our state’s social and economic fabric. This was never more evident than in some recent alumni events held in February: the Pride of Arkansas Tour and Razorback Day in Little Rock. Both events signaled to our communities and stakeholders, not only the commitment of the University to the state, but also the role that the University currently plays. The events also highlighted the potential impact of UA research, teaching and outreach on enhancing our state’s economy and quality of life. Those potential impacts start in our local communities.

So I encourage each of you to assist in cultivating the future harvest by getting involved with alumni activities in your area. Currently, there is an Arkansas Alumni Association membership campaign — “Drive for 35” — to increase the alumni memberships and support scholarships. The campaign’s motto is “Show Your Pride, Feel the Passion, Live the Promise!”

— Ron Rainey

http://arkalum.org/dbcafls/

Rainey elected Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation vice chair

Daniel Rainey, BSA ’90, was elected vice chair of the board of directors for the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation in December. He is serving his second three-year term on the board.

“We are working to move the needle on economic opportunity,” said Rainey, an associate professor of agricultural economics and agribusiness. The Conway County native, who majored in agricultural economics at the U of A for his B.S. degree, has M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University.

The foundation promotes increased opportunity for Arkansans through education, economic development and economic, racial and social justice, Rainey said. The long-term goal is to move the state from the bottom 10 percent to the top 10 percent in major indicators of economic well-being, he said.

Matlock chairs committee developing sustainability standards

Marty Matlock, director of the Center of Agricultural and Rural Sustainability in the University of Arkansas System’s Division of Agriculture, was elected in November to chair the committee that is spearheading development of a national standard for sustainable agriculture.

The Leonardo Academy, an American National Standards Institute-accredited organization that facilitates the development process for the Scientific Certification System’s sustainable agriculture standard, appointed the standards committee. The standard will provide benchmarks for research and extension efforts to improve agricultural sustainability.

“Sustainable production of agricultural products is one of the most challenging issues our generation faces. There will be 9.5 million people coming to dinner by 2050. The decisions we make today will determine how we feed them and their children, how we eat tomorrow and how future generations eat,” said Matlock, associate professor of biological and agricultural engineering.
Students serve as ‘peer mentors’ to freshmen

Students serve as ‘peer mentors’ to freshmen

Freshmen enrolling in Bumpers College who participate in the college’s Peer Mentoring Program will have a current student who has been trained as a peer mentor help them adjust to student life.

John Kelly, coordinator of the Peer Mentoring Program, said the student mentor and freshman student will have one-on-one sessions, and they may participate in group meetings with other mentors and freshmen.

“Moving away from home and taking university courses are big changes in a person’s life. It can be quite stressful, as well as exciting. Having someone who has been down the same path recently as a mentor can make a big difference,” Kelly said.

Alice Griffin, coordinator of advising and retention, said mentors and freshmen will be matched to assure that they have common interests and are compatible.

Current students selected as mentors receive a $500 scholarship for each semester they serve.

“Our mentors worked hard this year, and we will have a great group this fall. They are highly motivated and each have a strong desire to help new students adjust to the College and University life.” Griffin said.

Mentor profiles online

To request a mentor and view mentor profiles online, visit http://bumperscollege.uark.edu/3084.htm. The profiles include Kristen Byrne, who will be serving her second year as a mentor in 2009-2010.

Grant funds dual Arkansas-EU master’s degree program

The department of agricultural economics and agribusiness has received a U.S. Department of Education Atlantis program grant to develop a dual master of science degree program. Students can earn an M.S. degree in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas and an M.S. degree in rural development from a consortium of six universities in Europe. More information is available online at http://arkansasagnews.uark.edu/2729.htm.

HORSEPOWER — The Express Clydesdales demonstrated the power and precision draft skills of Clydesdales during the 10th annual University of Arkansas Horse Festival March 28. The festival featured entertainment, horse shows, demonstrations and clinics related to all things equine. The event is organized and run by animal science students, faculty and staff and raises money for the Dorothy E. King Equine Program in Bumpers College.

StUDENT JOURNAL — Students published the Arkansas Agriculturist from 1922 through 1976. All 24 pages of this copy of a 1926 issue of the Agriculturist can be viewed online as a PDF file at http://bumperscollege.uark.edu/42.htm. Or, to navigate from http://bumperscollege.uark.edu, click on “News and Publications” in the menu on the left, and then “The Graduate Alumni Magazine.” This copy was provided by Matt and Tracy Milholland of Little Rock.

Kristen Byrne

kbyrne@uark.edu

Sophomore
Major: Poultry Science
Member of R.E.A.L., Razorbacks and Poultry Science Club

“Hey! My name is Kristen Byrne; I was born and raised in the small town of Dierks, Ark. Currently I’m a sophomore poultry science major with a global agriculture minor. I absolutely love my major; the people are amazing and the classes are challenging, but very interesting. I love to read and listen to music, mainly country, but I’ll listen to just about anything. One of my favorite things to do is to volunteer at the Fayetteville Animal Shelter; I love to help the dogs and cats find good homes.

“I decided to become a mentor after joining the program as a mentee my freshman year. The mentors helped me answer any questions I had about the university or college life in general. The mentors were so helpful that it made me want to become one and hopefully make someone else’s freshman experience as amazing as mine was. I really hope you join the program!”
Tyson endows UA chair in Food Policy Economics

Research on economic factors related to nutrition, obesity, health and other consumer and food policy issues is the focus of a new faculty chair endowed by Tyson Foods at the University of Arkansas.

Lalit Verma, interim dean of Bumpers College, and Mark Cochran, associate vice president for research in the U of A System’s Division of Agriculture, recently announced that Rodolfo “Rudy” M. Nayga Jr. was appointed to the Tyson Endowed Chair in Food Policy Economics.

As a professor and chair holder in the department of agricultural economics and agribusiness, Nayga’s appointment is for research in the statewide Division of Agriculture and teaching in Bumpers College.

A $2 million endowment for the chair includes $1 million pledged by Tyson Foods in June 2005 and matching funds from the university’s matching fund program. Interest from the endowment will help support Nayga’s research.

Nayga is widely recognized for his research over the past 15 years at Texas A & M University and at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

“The economics of food demand and nutrient consumption and demand are highly relevant to consumer concerns and public policy on obesity, genetically modified crops, nutritional labeling, product health claims, food safety and other issues,” Nayga said.

“We’ve learned, for example, that a myriad of factors are really important in the study of obesity,” he said. The types of stores where consumers buy food may affect food consumption and obesity, he said. And preliminary research suggests that children who spend more time with their parents are less likely to be obese.

Nayga has a doctorate in agricultural economics from Texas A & M, an M.S. degree from the University of Delaware and a B.S. degree from the University of The Philippines.

Redferns establish new agribusiness scholarship

The Martin and Carole Redfern Scholarship in Agribusiness has been established by gifts totaling $20,000 from the couple, who were members of the faculty and staff, respectively, of the department of agricultural economics and agribusiness.

Professor Redfern joined the faculty in 1968 and retired in November 2007. He taught and conducted research in resource economics, economic development and the economics of food safety. He coordinated student internships for a number of years and received an Outstanding Mentor award.

Carole Redfern retired as a clinical audiologist in 1995 and was a recruiter in the department of agricultural economics and agribusiness from 2000 to November 2007. Her job included helping to review scholarship applications, and she developed a great awareness of the need for scholarships. “We are happy to provide a small part of the scholarship picture,” she said.

Charlie Wieland Memorial Scholarship funded

A donor who wishes to remain anonymous has given $1,000 for the Charlie Wieland Memorial Scholarship to help “a student from a farm family” attend Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences.

The donor intends to provide $1,000 per year for the scholarship, as long as they are financially able. Recipients will be selected on the basis of their interest in an agricultural major and financial need rather than academic record.

Charlie Wieland owned and operated Wieland Farms in Springdale, which specialized in hauling hay and straw to farmers and construction sites in a six-state area. He also hauled farm products for fruit and vegetable growers in Northwest Arkansas.

The donor said Wieland was “Springdale born and raised” and dropped out of school in the 11th grade to help support his family. He worked for Embre Enterprises, Skelton Brothers and American Milk Producers, Inc. (hauling bulk milk), while developing his own business. He suffered a fatal heart attack while loading hay July 17, 2007.

Scholarship Donors

— Martin and Carole Redfern, who established a new scholarship in agribusiness, are pictured at “A Class Act,” a February fundraiser for the hospitality and restaurant management program held at the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs.

Rudolfo “Rudy” M. Nayga Jr.
The department of animal science honored Bill Clower, BSA ’52 MS ’53; Bill Dorough, BSA ’53; and Gary Golden BSA ’74, during the department’s annual Awards and Scholarship Luncheon April 15.

Clower, of Fayetteville, was named an Advanced Graduate of Distinction. He began his career as a nutritionist for Swanson and Sons Feed and Hatchery Division, which became Campbell Soup Co. He advanced to manager of the mill and farm operation and retired in 1996 as senior poultry research manager. He was president of the Arkansas Feed Manufacturers Association and was co-founder and president of the Arkansas Poultry Nutrition Council. Since retiring, he works with the cattle operation he started in 1964.

Dorough, of Little Rock, was named a Graduate of Distinction. He served for 30 years as livestock director at the Arkansas State Fair and also worked with young people in the Farm and Ranch Club of Arkansas. He continues to work with the State Fair Junior Livestock Program. For many years, he operated a dairy cattle operation in Sweet Home, which is now an Angus cow/calf operation. He has served on a number of agricultural boards and is now vice president of the Pulaski County 4-H Foundation.

Golden, of DeQueen, was named a Graduate of Distinction. He was a farmer and cattlemen when he began a career in banking as a loan officer for the Bank of Prescott. In 2001, he was named president and CEO of the First State Bank of DeQueen. He has served in many organizations and is a member of the Agriculture Oversight Committee of the Arkansas Bankers Association. He has served as president of cattlemen’s associations in Pike and Nevada counties and as president of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce Board. He is a regular guest lecturer in the animal science department’s career development class.

The Academy of Biological and Agricultural Engineering inducts two

Kevin Henry, BS ’99, and Carl Peters, BS ’59 MS ’62, were inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Biological and Agricultural Engineering during a ceremony April 17 in Fayetteville.

Henry, of New York, N.Y., is director of Global Business Planning for Estée Lauder Companies. He designed the global business planning consensus demand plan documents for all of the Estee Lauder Companies, as well as for L’Oréal USA. Earlier in his career, Henry designed a labor budget model for the Chicago plant of Mars, Inc., that brought the variance of the annual $40 million budget within 1 percent. He forecasted, with more than 95 percent accuracy, $1.5 billion in annual sales for the company.

Peters, of Jacksonville, Ark., worked 30 years for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service followed by 10 years for the Arkansas Department of Health, Division of Engineering, as a district engineer. Peters worked with reservoir flood routing and hydraulic systems and supervised construction of dams. Later, he was a project engineer responsible for organizing, training and directing engineering survey crews that were gathering topographic data for the design, layout and construction of 19 flood control dams and river channel improvements.

The Arkansas Academy of Biological and Agricultural Engineering was founded in 2002 by the department of biological and agricultural engineering. Members are eminent graduates or supporters of the Biological and Agricultural Engineering program of the University of Arkansas.
Plant pathology alumnus speaks at Templeton Lecture Series

Douglas Gubler, MS ’74, professor and extension plant pathologist at the University of California, Davis, was the 2009 Templeton Lecture Series speaker March 10-11. The series, sponsored by the George E. Templeton Jr. Memorial Endowment and the department of plant pathology, is made possible by a gift from the Templeton family.

Gubler joined UA research and extension faculty to conduct a crop disease workshop for fruit growers March 11 in the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center in Fayetteville.

Raised on a farm near Santa Clara, Utah, Gubler earned a B.S. degree at Southern Utah University where he developed an interest in plant pathology. He came to the U of A because of Templeton’s reputation as one of the leading scientists working with fungal diseases of plants. Templeton was on the faculty from 1958 to 1996.

After earning his master’s degree at Arkansas, Gubler obtained a doctorate in plant pathology at the University of California and joined the faculty in Davis. He has become a leading authority on plant diseases of grapes and small fruit crops, which are huge industries in California.

Gubler recalled Templeton as “a great teacher and a good friend and colleague. George got excited about science. He got excited about plant pathology. He got excited about learning,” Gubler said.

“Working with fungi is fun for me,” Gubler said. “I love the fact that we get to do detective work in solving problems.”

Gubler and his research team recently solved a 3,000-year-old mystery by identifying the causes of the disease known as esca, or black measles, in grapes. The disease symptoms were described by the ancient Greeks and are mentioned in the Bible. The detective work by Gubler and his team has saved millions of dollars for growers worldwide.

“By focusing on the biology and epidemiology of plant diseases, we have developed strategies that allow growers to reduce fungicide applications,” Gubler said.

Gubler found that removing leaves to increase sun and wind exposure of grapes greatly reduced damage by the botrytis bunch rot fungus, which saved three or more fungicide treatments and provided other benefits.

He developed a “powdery mildew model” that can save from two to eight fungicide applications by basing spraying on environmental conditions in the vineyard rather than a calendar schedule.

FAMILY — Members of the “plant pathology family” at a reception after Doug Gubler’s Templeton Lecture presentation were retired department head Sung Lim, Beth Templeton, Gubler, Catherine Templeton, Bobbie Nell Templeton and interim department head Rick Cartwright.

WORKSHOP — Michael Post of Mount Bethel Winery at Altus, left, visits with Doug Gubler and Professor Terry Kirkpatrick during a fruit crops disease workshop.
Former ARS national program leader to head Plant Pathology

On March 30, A. Rick Bennett joined the Bumpers College and Division of Agriculture faculty as professor and head of the department of plant pathology. For the past seven years he was national program leader for plant health in the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sung Lim retired in August 2008 after 17 years as department head.

Bennett was based at Beltsville, Md., and provided leadership for a national ARS plant health program of more than 65 research projects, 147 scientists and an annual budget of more than $68 million.

Previous assignments during his 21 years with USDA-ARS included international program leader, director of the office of international programs, international program coordinator, plant health advisor for USAID and research associate for the Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit.

The move to an academic position “is an opportunity to do something I’ve always wanted to do,” Bennett said. “I have great respect for USDA, and they have been very supportive of this career change. The department head position and the opportunity presented itself at the right time.”

Bennett grew up on a small farm in western Maryland where his family raised dairy cattle, pigs and chickens. They grew corn as silage for the livestock and wheat for grain and straw. He has a bachelor’s degree in biology from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, a master’s degree in forest pathology from Colorado State University and a doctorate in plant pathology from West Virginia University. He and his wife, Melissa, have a seven-year-old son and twin five-year-old daughters.

“We’re in a period for some major scientific breakthroughs,” Bennett said. “The department is positioned well, thanks to Dr. Lim, and we need to be ready to take advantage of opportunities. We have a great blend of young and senior faculty with new skill sets in applied and basic sciences.”

“My professional goal is to build a diverse, leading-edge program in interdisciplinary fields of plant pathology, plant ecology, plant disease resistance, biological and cultural strategies for sustainable disease management, cellular/molecular pathology and pathogen-vector relationships.”

Plant pathology focuses on solving plant disease puzzles

The department of plant pathology in Bumpers College provides the curriculum for master’s and doctoral degrees in plant pathology through the U of A Graduate School. Graduates pursue careers in agriculture-related industries, agencies and academia.

Graduate students conduct thesis or dissertation projects with faculty mentors. Most students have paid assistantships in research and extension programs in plant disease management and the biology of plant pathogens and plant/host interactions. Research is conducted at the molecular and cellular levels as well as the plant and field environment levels.

The department’s mission is to conduct teaching, research and extension programs to help Arkansas farmers and others minimize crop losses, ensure sustainable agricultural productivity and enhance the stewardship of natural resources and the environment.

Faculty members specialize in disease management in crops, fungal plant pathogen biology, host/pathogen genetics, molecular host-pathogen interactions, nematology, virology, plant bacterial pathogens and biological control.

The department sponsors the C. Roy Adair Undergraduate Research Internship Program, which provides summer research internships for students who are considering graduate study in plant pathology or a related field. The department also offers the Katharina Bollenbacher Memorial Scholarship for undergraduate students to work on a graduate-level research project.

The department operates the Plant Health Clinic, located at the Lonoke Agricultural Center. The clinic serves farmers, homeowners and nursery operators who have plant disease problems or other plant health issues.

Senior Dinner
— Alumnus Boyce Johnson of Marion visits with Mary Dudley Hodges of Forrest City and Jason Davis of Paragould. The Bumpers College Alumni Society held its annual Senior Celebration Dinner April 8 at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House.
Commencement for the Class of 2009 was held at the Randal Tyson Indoor Track Center on May 9. Continuing the Bumpers College custom of recent years, Commencement speakers were students Brittany Peyrot and Kaci L. Schack, who each received the First Ranked Senior Scholar award. Outstanding Alumna Ginger L. Graham also gave a short address.

A total of 237 students “walked” at Commencement, and the Class of 2009 may be the largest ever, pending a review of academic records for degree candidates. The location was moved this year from the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center to the Randal Tyson Indoor Track Center to better accommodate the larger number of graduates and their family members.

The 2009 Outstanding Alumna of Bumpers College is Ginger L. Graham, RSA ’79, president and CEO of Two Trees Consulting, a public speaker and healthcare consultant specializing in executive leadership development and strategy. She is the former president and chief executive officer of Amylin Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company in San Diego, Calif., with two first-class medicines for people with diabetes.

Graham is also the former group chairman, office of the president for Guidant Corporation, a world-leading cardiovascular medical technology company. She started her career at Elanco Products Company, a leading agricultural chemical company, and in her diverse career has worked in agriculture, cosmetics, investment banking, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and biotechnology.

The former Ginger Lu Howard of Springdale received a B.S. degree in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas. She also holds an M.B.A. degree from Harvard University and recently served as Entrepreneur in Residence at Harvard.


Graham is a member of the Harvard Business School Board of Dean’s Advisors, the Harvard Business School Health Industry Alumni Advisory Board, the University of Arkansas Board of Advisors, the University of Arkansas Alumni Association Board of Directors and the University of California, San Diego Health Sciences Advisory Board. She serves on the editorial advisory board for the Journal of Life Sciences, frequently speaks at business schools and has written for Harvard Business Review.

Graham has received numerous awards and honors including the American Diabetes Association’s Woman of Valor award in 2006. She was included in Pharma VOICE’s “100 of the Most Inspiring People” list in 2006. World Pharmaceuticals magazine named her number 10 on a list of 40 most influential people in the industry in 2007.

Two human development and family science majors, Brittany Peyrot and Kaci L. Schack, received the First Ranked Senior Scholar award, which signifies a 4.0 grade point average during four years as a Bumpers College student.

Brittany Peyrot of Kingston conducted an undergraduate research project for which she received a Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship grant from the Arkansas Department of Education and presented her findings at the National Council on Family Relations. Other undergraduate activities include an internship with a local afterschool program and two study abroad experiences in Italy.

Kaci L. Schack of Edmond, Okla., contributed to two research projects, one with the psychology department at the University of Arkansas, and one with the human development and family sciences department at Oklahoma State University. She has worked as a volunteer at Loving Choices Pregnancy Center and The Gardens at Arkanshire retirement community.

Holly Minard of Shreveport, La., received the Senior Scholar award, which signifies a 4.0 grade point average with some credit hours from other colleges. She is an animal science major in the pre-veterinary medicine program and was a summer intern at the Royal School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Jason A. Davis and Ashley Jones both received the John W. White Outstanding Student award.

Jason Davis of Paragould is an agricultural education, communication and technology major. He is a Bumpers College Ambassador and has
participated in many other leadership activities. Davis has served as a state FFA officer and works for the national FFA presenting conferences. He will begin this fall on a master’s degree program in agricultural systems and technology.

Ashley Jones of Lincoln is an agricultural business major with a minor in global agricultural, food and life sciences. She is president of the Agricultural Business Club and participated in a summer service project to develop a garden for St. Matthew’s School in Pomona, Belize, for two years. She will begin graduate studies in agricultural economics this fall at Kansas State University.

The Dale Bumpers Distinguished Scholars awards are presented to an outstanding undergraduate transfer student and outstanding master’s and doctoral students. The undergraduate transfer scholar award recipient was Levi Hudson of Mount Judea and a graduate of Jasper High School. Hudson transferred from North Arkansas College in Harrison and is a food, human nutrition and hospitality major with a concentration in dietetics.

Two students were selected for the master’s scholar award, Vivian Ferraroni Aguiar and Garris Taylor Whiteside Hudson.

Vivian Aguiar is pursuing a master’s degree in poultry science. Her thesis research is on the use of probiotics against pathogens that cause food safety concerns in poultry. Aguiar has

Holly Minard, Shreveport, La., animal science, Charles Rosenkrans.

Christopher Peluso, Fort Smith, food science, Ya-Jane Wang.

Brittany Peyrot, Kingston, human development, family sciences and rural sociology, Jean Turner.

Jennifer Schneider, Coal Hill, food, human nutrition and hospitality, Marjorie Fitch-Hilgenberg.

Twelve members of the Class of 2009 who successfully completed the Bumpers College Honors Program and are Honors Program Distinguished Graduates are listed with their hometown, major and faculty mentor.

- Allison Ausley, Batesville, animal science, Jason Apple. (photo unavailable)
- Jordan Fisher, Tulsa, Okla., apparel studies, Lorna Harding.
- Erin Grantz, Watson, Okla., environmental, soil, and water science, Thad Scott.
- Amy Guernsey, Joplin, Mo., animal science, Beth Kegley.
- Emily Howland, Tulsa, Okla., animal science, Rick Rorie.
- Ashley Jones, Lincoln, agricultural business, Jennie Popp.
- Keshia Koehn, Omaha, Ark., environmental, soil, and water science, Kristofer Brye.
a bachelor’s degree as a food engineer from the State University of Campina –UNICAMP in Brazil. She came to the University of Arkansas from McGill University in Canada where she was a molecular biology research assistant.

Garris Hudson of Siloam Springs received a B.S. degree in agricultural education, communication and technology and he is pursuing a master’s degree in the same area. His thesis project is a study of biodiesel effects on engine performance and emissions. He plans to pursue a career as a high school agriculture teacher.

The doctoral scholar award went to Lakshmi Kannan of Chennai, India. Her B.S. degree in chemistry and M.S. degree in biotechnology are from the University of Madras in Chennai. Her doctoral research in poultry science is in the area of cell and molecular biology with a focus on the immunoregulatory role of certain peptides. Her career goal is to develop biomedical applications through research in immunology, biotechnology and proteomics.

The Spizete Public Policy Legislative Internship Award recipient was G. Fendley Ragland of Harrison and a graduate of Harrison High School. His major is agricultural business with a concentration in marketing and management and a minor in finance. Ragland participates in a number of leadership activities including the Bumpers College Ambassadors.

The Presidential Scholar award is presented to Betsy Barnard of Wichita Falls, Texas. A junior majoring in human development, family sciences and rural sociology, she has been named to the Chancellor’s List for five semesters and maintains a 4.0 grade point average. She is a member of R.E.A.L. Razorbacks, Hot Pink Ribbon, Pi Beta Phi sorority and Golden Key International Honour Society.

The Bumpers College Alumni Society sponsors the Greg Weidemann Scholarship and names two Ring Scholars who each receive a class ring when they graduate.

The Greg Weidemann DBCA-FLS Alumni Society Scholarship recipient is Amanda Simpson of Cave Springs. She is a junior agricultural business major with a minor in global agricultural, food and life sciences. She is president of Collegiate Farm Bureau, a Bumpers College Ambassador and a delegate to the Dean’s Student Advisory Board among other activities. She was the 2008 Arkansas 4-H Governor’s Award winner after serving as Arkansas 4-H president from 2006-07. She participated in a summer service program in 2008 to create a garden for St. Matthew’s School in Pomona, Belize.

The two Ring Scholars are Julie Reavis and Christopher L. Hunt.

Julie Reavis of Texarkana is a food, human nutrition and hospitality major with a concentration in dietetics. She is chair of the publicity committee in the Sigma Phi Lambda service organization and a member of the Dietetics Student Association and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries.

Christopher L. Hunt of Paragould is an agricultural education, communication and technology major. He was instrumental in organizing the Collegiate FFA/4-H High School Livestock Judging Contest and has been active in the Agricultural Mechanization Club, Arkansas FFA, Collegiate FFA/4-H, AEED REPS, and the UA Livestock Judging Team.
The University of Arkansas System’s Division of Agriculture recognized outstanding performance by faculty and staff members at an awards luncheon January 9 at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center in Rogers.

Vice President for Agriculture Milo Shult said, “Our research and extension faculty and staff provide outstanding service to our stakeholders in agriculture, forestry, community development, environmental sustainability and family and youth development. These awards signify the excellence of our entire faculty and staff throughout Arkansas.”

The Division of Agriculture includes the Cooperative Extension Service, which provides public education and service programs statewide, and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, which conducts research to assist producers and processors of food and fiber, other agribusinesses, families and communities.

Many Division of Agriculture research and extension faculty members are also instructors on University of Arkansas campuses in Fayetteville, Monticello, Pine Bluff and Little Rock and at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

The Robert G. F. and Hazel Taylor Spitze Land Grant University Faculty Award for Excellence was presented to Park Waldroup, university professor of poultry science at UA Fayetteville. Waldroup is regarded in academia and industry as a leading national and international authority on poultry nutrition. He joined the faculty in 1966. The award carries a $3,000 stipend provided by the Spitzes, who graduated from the university in the 1940s and have had distinguished academic careers.

A. Hayden Brown, professor of animal science at UA Fayetteville, received the Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence. Brown teaches animal science courses related to breeding and genetics, including a popular animal behavior course that he developed.

The Alumni Society Advising Award was presented to Michael R. Thomsen, associate professor of agricultural economics and agribusiness at UA Fayetteville. Thomsen devotes considerable time, energy and enthusiasm to advising and mentoring students and provides leadership to help other faculty members develop their advising skills.

John W. White awards for outstanding teaching, research, extension service and teamwork are named for the U of A System’s first vice president for agriculture when the Division of Agriculture was created in 1959.

The John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award went to Mary Savin, associate professor of crop, soil and environmental sciences at UA Fayetteville. Savin helped structure the crop, soil and environmental sciences curriculum and teaches six courses including several related to environmental and ecosystem issues.

Navam Hettiarachchy, university professor of food science, received the John W. White Outstanding Research Award for her contributions to the rice and soy industries through research to develop value-added uses for rice and soy products. She has documented benefits of several plant extracts as antimicrobials and antioxidants.

The John W. White Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award went to Gus M. Lorenz, professor and extension entomologist and associate department head for extension entomology. Lorenz develops and implements educational and applied research programs on insect pest management for cotton, soybeans and other crops.

Andy Vangilder, county agent and staff chair in Clay County, received the John W. White Outstanding County Extension Educator Award. Vangilder leads a multi-faceted program in a large and diverse county that is split by Crowley’s Ridge. He supervises a staff based in Piggott east of the ridge, where cotton and corn are primary crops, and a staff at Corning west of the ridge, where the main crops are rice, soybeans and corn.

The John W. White Non-Classified Support Personnel Award was presented to farm manager Howard Lester of Farmington. At the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Fayetteville, Lester is manager of the Poultry Feed Mill, joint supervisor of the Poultry Research Farm and assists with maintenance and operation of the John K. Skeele Poultry Health Laboratory.

The John W. White Classified Sup-
The John W. White Classified Support Personnel Award, Agricultural Experiment Station, went to Clayton Treat, farm foreman at the Lon Mann Cotton Research Station at Marianna, which is a unit of the Northeast Research and Extension Center. Treat supervises a staff that manages field research operations on the 650-acre station.

The John W. White Outstanding Team Award for 2008 recognizes the Arkansas Soybean Rust Working Group, which was established in 2004 and has helped farmers avoid overuse of fungicides by providing accurate information about the risk of rust infection each year. Currently led by extension plant pathologist Scott Monfort, other team members are Jeremy Ross, extension soybean agronomist; Cliff Coker, extension plant pathologist; John Rupe, professor of plant pathology; Sherrie Smith, state plant diagnostian; and program associates Amy Carroll, Amanda Greer and Michael Emerson.

Hillman elected Farm Bureau vice president

Rich Hillman, BSA ’86, of Carlisle was elected vice president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau at the organization’s annual convention in Hot Springs in December.

Randy Veach of Manilla, who had served as vice president for five years, was elected president. Stanley Reed, BSA ’73 JD ’76, of Marianna is the immediate past president.

Hillman farms 4,500 acres in Lonoke County. He is a third-generation farmer and was an agricultural economics major at the University. His main crops are rice, soybeans and wheat. He and his wife, Tina, have two children, Collin and Caroline.

Arkansas’ only 4-year horticulture degree program

Bumpers College provides the only four-year horticulture degree program in Arkansas. The horticulture, landscape and turf sciences major prepares students for diverse and dynamic career opportunities in two main areas of concentration.

One concentration provides a solid grounding in the biology and physiology of producing fruit, vegetable and ornamental plants. Students learn the science of horticulture, from DNA and fertility requirements to the flavor, nutrients and color of flowers and fruits. A complex of greenhouses, research plots and labs provide ample opportunity for hands-on, practical application of knowledge gained in the classroom.

Another concentration focuses on turf and landscape plants and includes training in the maintenance and management of golf courses, sports fields and landscapes. The department has the largest putting green in Arkansas, which is used for research and teaching.

Many students also gain valuable experience through internships in the United States and abroad. Horticulture majors have interned at the Royal Botanic Gardens in England and at top golf courses in Augusta, Ga., and St. Andrews in Scotland.

Dedicated professors back their teaching with research and extension programs that help support the state’s horticultural industry. Students receive the benefits of knowledge gained from leading research scientists and extension experts.

Research and extension programs — including a new focus on organic fruit production — provide many paid graduate assistantships for students who pursue M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant science.

Students also benefit from the support and involvement of horticultural industries that recognize the quality and value of the education students receive as horticulture, landscape and turf sciences majors at the University of Arkansas.
For ‘real peach flavor’ visit Suzanne’s Fruit Farm

Suzanne’s Fruit Farm near Hampton in Calhoun County is a favorite of fruit lovers throughout South Arkansas and has fans from many other states, as well. “If you have forgotten what a real peach tastes like, bite into one from Suzanne’s Fruit Farm, and you’ll remember — and smile,” Randall Wright of Edmond, Okla., says in a testimonial on www.suzannesfruitfarm.com.

The U-pick farm was started in 1975 by Hampton natives David and Sylvia Stringfellow Reddin on land farmed by Reddins for about 110 years.

David was drafted after graduating with a B.S.A. degree in 1970 as a horticulture major and became an F-4 Phantom jet pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps. Sylvia was a business major at the U of A and completed her degree in Cherry Point, N.C., where David was first stationed.

Following his active duty in the Marines, David returned to the University for a master’s degree in horticulture and was a research assistant in Professor Joe McFerran’s tomato breeding program. “The knowledge I gained (as a student) and knowing where to go for information has been very important over the years,” David said.

While working on his master’s degree, the Reddins planted 400 Cresthaven peach trees in 1975. After the first few U-Pick crops, a Hampton banker offered to finance an expansion, and the Reddins took him up on it. They planted 1,200 more peach trees, bought a sprayer and other equipment, and installed an irrigation system.

As they built the fruit farm business, David and Sylvia had other careers. He taught agriculture for a year at Hampton High School, was commanding officer of the Marine Corp Reserve Unit at Texarkana, Texas, and was a rural mail carrier. Sylvia worked for the Farmers Home Administration and U.S. Postal Service. She retired as postmaster at Kingsland.

“In 1977, our fruit farm took on its official name after the birth of our first child, Suzanne, and has been known as Suzanne’s Fruit Farm ever since,” Sylvia said. Their other daughter, Allison, was born four years later, and her name and image are also featured, as are those of granddaughters Autumn and Emmalou.

The farm now has 45 acres of peaches at three locations. The 10 varieties include two white peaches, White River and White County, developed in the U of A System’s Division of Agriculture fruit breeding program, along with blackberry varieties and the Ozark Blue blueberry, also from the Arkansas breeding program directed by Professor John R. Clark.

They also have black muscadines and scuppernongs (bronze muscadines), plums, strawberries and pumpkins. The pumpkins are a recent addition to go with “Fall Fun in the Country” events that have become very popular with local schools and other youth groups. They are renovating a vintage barn, which could accommodate small groups overnight.

Suzanne’s Fruit Farm is four miles northeast of Hampton on Hwy. 274 and is within 20 minutes of Fordyce and 30 minutes of Camden, El Dorado and Warren. However, the distance doesn’t matter to some, like John and Blondell Mullins of Euless, Texas: “Each season we look forward to the fruit harvest. Our many 300-mile trips to Suzanne’s Fruit Farm from the Dallas area have been a rewarding experience. We look forward to the next trip.”
Ag Hall of Fame inducts two alumni, three friends

Five men inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame at the annual induction luncheon March 13 in the Ambassador Ballroom at Little Rock’s Embassy Suites Hotel include two alumni and three friends of Bumpers College.

The alumni were Justin Morris, BSA ’58 MS ’61, of Springdale and Bob Spears, BSA ’62, of Farmington. Friends of the college inducted were Marion Fletcher of Hot Springs, Paul H. Harvel of Arkadelphia and Collier Wenderoth Jr. of Fort Smith.

Justin Morris, distinguished professor of food science, is director of the Division of Agriculture’s Institute of Food Science and Engineering and is internationally known for his work with juice and wine grapes. He also has served many years as executive vice president of the Ozark Food Processors Association representing 90 food processing companies and suppliers in 35 states.

Morris is a leading authority in the world on vineyard mechanization. His research and collaboration with grape grower Tommy Oldridge of Lowell led to development of the patented Morris-Oldridge Vineyard Mechanization System in 2002.

Bob Spears operated a dairy with a herd of 400 milking cows that was recognized as one of the most productive per cow between 1981 and 2001 by the Dairy Herd Improvement Association program. He had the first rapid exit parallel milking barn in the state and used a computer chip to monitor each cow’s production capacity.

He was the first president of the Arkansas Dairy Federation and served on regional and corporate boards of the Associated Milk Producers, Inc. For many years he hosted the state 4-H and FFA dairy judging contests on his farm and has welcomed numerous groups and visitors including U of A students. He sold his milking herd in 2001 and now produces about 3,000 replacement heifers each year.

Marion Fletcher is state supervisor and program manager of agricultural education in the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education. A lifetime member of the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association and FFA, Fletcher has positively influenced the lives of countless Arkansas young people.

Paul H. Harvel, president of the Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance, was a general manager of the Little Rock Regional Chamber and in 1987 led the establishment of the Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Collier Wenderoth Jr. became president of O.K. Feed Mills in 1955 and grew it into a fully integrated broiler company with world-wide sales, known today as O.K. Industries. The company and its subsidiaries employ more than 4,000 people in west central Arkansas and east Oklahoma. He was listed among the founders of the Arkansas Poultry Industry by the U of A Division of Agriculture’s Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

Craig Roberts honored as CSES Outstanding Alumnus

Craig Roberts, MS ’82 PhD ’85, professor of plant sciences and extension forage specialist at the University of Missouri, was presented the 2009 Outstanding Alumnus Award at the crop, soil, and environmental sciences awards banquet April 14 at the Clarion Inn.

Roberts said some of his best mentors were agronomy professors from the World War II era’s “greatest generation,” including the late Don Brown and Art Spooner, who was Roberts’ major professor.

After two years in a post-doctoral position at the University of Illinois, Roberts joined the Missouri faculty. He is well known for his research in forage quality and has established one of the leading state extension programs in dairy forage management. He is editor-in-chief of all Crop Science Society of America publications.

As banquet speaker, Roberts described the disciplines of agricultural, food and life sciences as “science with a cause” and encouraged students to pursue careers that have a positive impact.
Apparel studies alumni were featured in an Oct. 5 article in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* by Kyle Brazel about the impact of the current youth culture focus on the fashion industry. Excerpts from the article are below.

Sarah Hillman, BS HESC '08, “spent this past summer in London, studying the ways technology and especially segmented android forms will affect everyday life.... The 23-year-old Benton native’s internship (as an apparel studies major) found her at Worth Global Style Network, a leading forecasting institution relied on by designers and retail buyers to predict what people will be in the mood to wear a year or two into the future.”

“The thing I think people don’t understand is that new trends aren’t taken from past fashion trends,” says Hillman, who now manages the high-end boutique Mason’s in Fayetteville but hopes to join The Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

“They’re taken from anything: brands, art exhibits, books, movies. For instance, jackets are really big right now, and you’re not just seeing a tailored pea coat or a trench. You’re seeing things with big necklines. Well, where did that neckline come from? It could be inspired by an architect — a giant curve on a building in China is what they saw, and turned it into a giant neckline on a coat.”

The article mentions the *Women’s Wear Daily* ranking in 2003 of the U of A as the country’s sixth most fashionable campus — based in part on the quality of the apparel studies program in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. The timing of the ranking was significant, because it was when a wave of pop-culture attention to “fashion-industry insiderism” was forming.

“I’ve had a lot of students want to become stylists,” says Assistant Professor Laurie Apple. “That used to be a hidden job. Now Bravo (TV network that airs a reality show built around a stylist) has really brought those background jobs to the forefront....”

“Ashley Leonard is one of the rarer examples of a UA apparel studies graduate working in commercial fashion design in New York. The 27-year-old Bryant native designs outerwear for the Kenneth Cole label....”

“It’s kind of a benefit, surprisingly,’ Leonard says of fashion world reaction to her Arkansas roots....” With Wal-Mart and Dillard’s executives on the program’s advisory board, graduates are all but guaranteed job placement... “Wal-Mart contacts, especially, garner attention.”

“Accessories familiar from fashion depictions in modern pop culture abound at the school.” They include industrial sewing machines, dress forms and trend boards produced by students, which make a case for a future fashion trend. Lauren Conrad, of *The Hills* on MTV and an ascendant designer, often presents trend boards — similar to those developed by the UA students — as part of her on-camera studies at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles.

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**TREND FORECASTING** — Sarah Hillman, an apparel studies major who graduated in 2008, worked in trend forecasting last summer and now is manager of Mason’s in the Northwest Arkansas Mall.

**FASHION SHOW** — Students Rachel Smith, left, and Signe Walsh select recycled denim jackets for a fashion show at the Fayetteville Country Club. Students and faculty in the apparel studies program organized and ran a “green” themed fashion show for the University Women’s Club on Earth Day 2009. The show, with the theme “Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Green,” featured new and recycled clothing from area merchants as well as items designed and made by some of the students.
Class Notes

1950s

Robert Harrison, BS ’54 MS ’56, says he is retired and enjoying it! He has good memories of the U of A days. He misses the coffee and the many friends in the “old” student union.

1990s

George M. Matteson, BSA ’97, recently joined the Harrelson Law Firm in Texarkana. George received his J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 2000 and is licensed to practice law in Arkansas and Florida. The Harrelson Law firm provides professional legal services to clients in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana and Florida.

Michelle Kim, MS ’99, has finished one year of her Ph.D. in plant biology with a minor in horticulture at North Carolina State University. She is a teaching assistant for “Agrobiotechnology for Today’s Society” and conducts experiments with molecular biology, tissue culture and transformation of sweet potatoes.

2000s

Eastin Jordan, BS ’00, graduated in December from Michigan State University with an MBA. He has recently accepted the position of sourcing manager within the Foods Product Development group at Meijer in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Jeremy Hayward, MS ’01, has taken a position as a midwest regional sales manager with Allied Seed, LLC, based out of Nampa, Idaho. Jeremy will be responsible for managing the company’s forage, turf and wildlife seed portfolio for the entire Midwest. He will continue to be based out of Nixa, Mo.

Andrea Banks Gatewood, MS ’07, married Donald M. Gatewood, BS BA ’04 on July 30, 2007. Andrea works for U.S. Customs and Border Protection as an agriculture specialist at the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. Andrea also welcomed a daughter, Ej’a D’Ahyn on March 17, 2008. She joins big sister Raevyn.

Weddings


R. Scott Walnofer, BSA ’05 MS ’08, and Kristen Jessup Walnofer, MBA ’08, were married August 9, 2008, in Napa Valley, Calif. Scott is furthering his specialty in food research and development by attending the Culinary Institute of America–Greystone. Kristen is the Direct Marketing Specialist for Cuavison Estate Wines. The couple currently resides in Calistoga, Calif.

Ashley Ford Post, BSHE APST ’07, married Dustin Post on June 7, 2008.

Births

Michael Ferguson, BSA ’01, announces the birth of a son, Mason Lee Ferguson, on November 29, 2008.

Leanne Gabriel, BS ‘04, and husband Anthony, BS ME ’04, announce the birth of their third child, Isaac Noah, on May 20, 2008. He joins big sister Angel Rose and big brother Anthony Jr.

Teddy E. Morelock
1944-2009

Teddy E. Morelock, 65, university professor of horticulture, died April 18 at his home in Fayetteville. He conducted a Division of Agriculture vegetable crop breeding program that developed varieties of southern pea, spinach, mustard and turnip. He was also an Angus breeder and was active in the National Junior Angus Association.

Morelock worked closely with plant pathologists Professor Jack Goode, who died in 1988, and Professor Jim Correll to develop plant disease resistance traits now included in virtually all spinach hybrids. He taught a vegetable crops course and a graduate-level plant breeding course.

Morelock joined the horticulture department faculty in 1974. He was a graduate of Greenland High School and had B.S.A. and M.S. degrees in horticulture from the University of Arkansas and a doctorate in plant breeding and genetics from the University of Wisconsin.

Survivors include a daughter, Leslie Ann Roye, and a granddaughter of Fayetteville.

The family requests that memorials be made to the Dr. Teddy E. Morelock Memorial Scholarship fund in Horticulture at the University of Arkansas, in care of:

Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences
Attn: Development Office
E108 AFLS Building
1 University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Make checks payable to the University of Arkansas Foundation.
Arkansas Farm Bureau has a long tradition of supporting Bumpers College students, 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.
A CLASS ACT
— Students Desiree Wilson and Cassandra Ellington visit with Karen and Steve Tucker during the Class Act benefit weekend in February at the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs.
Karen is a human resource specialist for the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock.

Crescent Hotel owners donate weekend of lodging and dining

Friends of Bumpers College enjoyed a weekend of dining and fellowship at the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs Feb. 6-7. The event, called “A Class Act,” was hosted by students and faculty in the hospitality and restaurant management program, which is a concentration within the food, nutrition and hospitality major in the School of Human Environmental Sciences.

Crescent owners Marty and Elise Roenigk and manager Jack Moyer, who is a member of the program advisory council, made the hotel available for the event. Dinner and lodging packages purchased by the guests raised more than $7,000 for scholarships and other support.

Students and faculty prepared and served Arkansas-inspired cuisine for an elegant reception and dinner followed by live entertainment. Students provided first-class turndown service for guests with hand-made truffles in every room. A breakfast buffet was served Saturday morning followed by a career fair.

Seventy-three guests participated in the first year of what is envisioned as an annual event. The 2010 Class Act is scheduled for Feb. 19-20.

Graduate student marches in Inaugural Parade

Bumpers College was represented in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20. Jake Farnum, an entomology graduate student, was one of 200 marchers selected by the National Peace Corps Association and the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

Farnum was a Peace Corps volunteer in Chulu, Malawi, as a parks and wildlife volunteer from 2001 to 2004. He worked with his Malawian counterpart to help decrease villagers’ dependence on resources from the national park.
He also educated young people on sexual health issues.

“It was a life-changing experience,” Farnum says of his life in the village, which had no running water or electricity. Through his immersion in the culture, he says he gained tremendous respect for the people.

Farnum became fluent in the Chichewa language, which is spoken in Malawi and eastern Zambia. After a chance meeting in Mullins Library with another student who speaks Chichewa, he joined the African Students Organization, of which he is now vice president.

Farnum’s faculty adviser is Kelly Loftin, extension entomologist and associate professor of entomology. His master’s thesis research is on the population dynamics of the phorid fly, which is being introduced as a natural enemy of red imported fire ants in Arkansas and other states. He is a native of Tyler, Texas, and has a B.S. degree in natural resource conservation from Texas Tech University.