

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

STORIES

IN AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES VOL. 6 NO. 1, 2012

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EXPERIENCE

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generations of scientists

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freedom in education

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animal caretakers

STORIES

IN AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

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FOREWORD

I first met Paul Lasley, now professor and chair of sociol-
ogy and anthropology, on a campus visit with my
parents. Paul was the only professor my father had a
chance to meet before his death months later. Lasley's third
floor East Hall office was filled with farm tools, some
antique and some just old. Behind him on the wall was a
large black and white photo of two impoverished children,
barefoot before a barn with chipped white paint. I honestly
don't remember what we talked about. I just remember that
photo. And how Lasley made us laugh. His laugh filled the
room and spilled down the hall. It was the first time that
day my parents and I really laughed. We felt so much more
at ease the rest of our visit. To see professors as people was an important lesson for me.

Since then Lasley and his family have embraced me and mine. I worked for
Paul as a teaching aid. We led a travel course to Ireland for several years. He sat
on my graduate committee. Lasley and his wife Pauletti (or Papa and Nana as my
young sons call them) were at the hospital just hours after the birth of each of my
children. They invited us to sit in their pew at church. They stood beside me with
the rest of my family during some of the most trying times of my life. I'm so
thankful for the light and joy, fun and family we bring to each other's lives.

That's the kind of connection—one of extraordinary personal support and
kindness—that underlies the education offered in the College of Agriculture and
Life Sciences at Iowa State University. There are countless stories like mine, of
professors and staff going above and beyond for their students. It's not just a job
—it's their passion.

That's why my heart swells whenever Paul Lasley, proudly beaming, introduces
me: "This is my 'adopted' daughter, Melea."

I hope the stories in these pages are able to capture and inspire the special
feeling that's possible here, and conjure fond memories of special professors and
staff from your own time at ISU. If so, please consider sharing your story by
e-mailing stories@iastate.edu. I will compile and share responses with our readers
via our monthly e-newsletter, *STORIES Online*. Visit www.cals.iastate.edu/stories to
sign up.

Kind regards,

Melea Reicks Licht



Photo: Bob Elbert

ON THE COVER

Kayla Reiter, an active CALS ambassador,
is making the most of every part of her
student experience. The senior in agricul-
tural business is interning with Helena
Chemical this summer and plans to work
in the agriculture industry in marketing
and sales after graduation.



Photo: Illustration: McCinahan Studio
and PUSH Branding and Design

Several times a semester, I meet with a student advisory group to listen what's on their minds and let them know what's on my mind.

The lineup of about a dozen students changes each year, but it began as a way to gain student input on difficult decisions the college was wrestling with because of declining state budgets. I recall one student telling me that as a future alum, she wanted to look back at her college and be assured it was still among the best programs in the nation. It was invaluable to hear these kinds of insights and concerns.

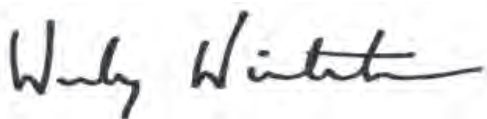
Since then, our topics have expanded. We've talked about a wide range of areas. They commented on our strategic plan draft. (One even volunteered to work with our strategic planning committee, which I gratefully accepted.) They brainstormed new ways to recruit high school students and to communicate with current students.

We've talked about how important it is for a new student to make friends through learning communities, and whether students in our majors need more living-together learning communities in the residence halls. We've discussed the need to develop more courses that link science to societal issues.

My favorite part of our meetings is to open it up to let the students talk about whatever's on their minds.

Some talk excitedly about the employers they met at our annual career day. Some share conversations they had with freshmen about how they're adjusting to campus and how they've felt welcomed. Some talk about the record number of members in their student clubs. Last fall, one proudly spoke of a first-place showing of the soil judging team at a regional competition, and the individual honors bestowed on team members.

I deeply value the thoughtful input I hear every time I meet with these students. When I walk into the room and see them gathered, it is a highlight of my week and reinforces the important work we do together at Iowa State University.



Wendy Wintersteen
Endowed Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences



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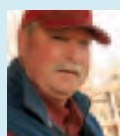
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Photo: Bob Elbert

BEITZ KNOWS IN STUDENT ADVISING

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

By Brian Meyer

After his first semester at the University of Illinois, freshman Don Beitz walked into his adviser's office to register for second-semester classes. His adviser pointed a finger at him and said, "Beitz! You're going to graduate school!"

Beitz, who described himself as a rather timid new college student, said: "What's graduate school?" His adviser told him; it meant he'd be taking a lot more math, chemistry and physics. Beitz liked the

sound of that; he excelled in all those.

Then his adviser pointed his finger again. He pointed down the hallway, where he told Beitz to go see a colleague and ask for a job working in his research lab.

Beitz listened and took both suggestions. He also learned a lesson in advising students that he's used many times in his 45 years on the Iowa State faculty.

"My adviser got to know me, took me under his wing and helped me. He was relatively forward in making his

Mathew O'Neil, graduate student in nutritional sciences, chats with Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor **Don Beitz**. Beitz, co-creator of the agricultural biochemistry major, is known for creating a warm and welcoming environment and tailoring his advising style to meet students' unique needs.

suggestions, which I needed. And he knew I needed that. It's a style I've tried to mimic. After I get to know a student, I'll throw out some ideas. With some students, you just try to stay out of their way. With others, you need to lead more."

"I try to motivate students for excellence," says Beitz. "I always tell them: Good grades have never hurt anybody. Be the best you can be while you're in college. You've got to be totally honest with them and have the highest integrity possible. I've never had locked office doors. I do whatever I can to ensure I don't spoil anyone's trust in me."

Beitz is a Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor of Agriculture and Life Sciences in animal science and in biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology. When he won the prestigious Morrison Award for outstanding research from the American Society of Animal Science in 2010, Beitz estimated he'd taught more than 11,000 students and directed 94 advanced degree programs. Those numbers have grown in two years and continue to grow.

Beitz has sustained a remarkable enthusiasm for education, research and establishing lifelong ties with his students. He thinks of his students, past and present, as extended family.

One of those "family members" is Kim Buhman ('92 ag biochemistry), an associate professor of nutrition science at Purdue University.

"From Dr. Beitz, I learned a lot about the importance of being active, enjoying life and being inquisitive in whatever you do," Buhman says. "But his role as a lifelong mentor is what I treasure most. He continues to introduce me to new people, helps me to identify opportunities I haven't imagined before and offers suggestions

and support when I need it most. His strong passion for people, science and knowledge created this network that has served so many. Dr. Beitz is a gem."

Beitz says it's simply a joy to help students find something they're excited about and will love to do after college. "It makes me feel good at heart."

For more than 25 years, Beitz has taught a seminar for freshmen with a focus on science, biotechnology, DNA and biochemistry. Near the start of the freshman seminar, he talks about defining life on chemistry terms.

"I tell them the difference between life and death is a sodium pump. Students just look at me. So I explain how our bodies take fuel, burn it and make ATP. We use ATP to keep sodium out of our cells so we have a gradient. As long as that sodium pump is working, the brain functions. As soon as that gradient disappears, the brain dies. We have some great discussions. It's amazing how much interest you generate when you start talking about whether you are what you eat."

Beitz considers himself the most fortunate guy in the world. As he was completing his graduate degree at Michigan State and about to accept a job offer in another state, he got a phone call from Norm Jacobson at Iowa State. Jacobson, a dairy nutrition physiologist, invited him to interview for a faculty position that was half animal science, half biochemistry. After the interview, Beitz was offered the job and accepted immediately.

"It was a perfect fit. We had a great set of faculty members in the nutritional physiology program. We started the agricultural biochemistry major. I believe strongly that we need to train students

in the fundamental sciences so they can apply them to agriculture. It's what I've loved about my own research."

His research has covered cholesterol issues in animals and humans; nutritional

ONLINE EXTRAS: www.cals.iastate.edu/stories

Alumni on Beitz: Caring Mentor, Contagious Positive Spirit

Share your own Beitz story and read more from his former students Steve Johnston ('90 ag biochemistry, MS '91 biochemistry and biophysics), Andrew Brown ('07 biochemistry) and Kimberly Buhman ('92 ag biochemistry).

and genetic control of the composition of milk and meat; and a deeper understanding of the causes and potential treatment of fatty liver and ketosis in dairy cattle.

Beitz says his biggest contribution to research has been on what animal scientists can do to improve animal products for humans. "Animal scientists should think more about the composition of products. We need to think about producing the desired composition for the consuming public."

But Beitz's pride and joy has been all the students he's known, worked with and kept track of after they leave ISU.

"My freshman seminar meets in a room in Kildee Hall that has portraits of past animal nutrition faculty. I like to talk about each person and what they did. Students should know about the people looking down on them from the walls. One day, a student told me, 'I want my picture up there someday.' That was just great to hear. It really was." ■

PREPARING FUTURE SCIENTISTS

By Ed Adcock



Alum Lucas Carlstrom, right, stopped by Matthew Ellinwood's lab to catch up and share how he is doing in med school at Mayo Clinic. Carlstrom credits his work in Ellinwood's lab for helping him develop problem solving and critical thinking skills.

WORKING TOGETHER TO CURE CHILDHOOD DISEASES

The management and care of research animals is a necessary, behind-the-scenes aspect of scientific study that animal scientist Matthew Ellinwood has made a learning experience for undergraduates.

"We take seriously the role these dogs and cats play in addressing new treatments or possibly cures for conditions that have a big, negative impact on people, especially children," he says.

After earning his doctoral and veterinary degrees, Ellinwood became a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania. Part of his duties was the management of dogs and cats used to research human genetic diseases—most of them fatal pediatric diseases. Graduate students did a lot of the work, offering valuable hands-on experience. Ellinwood brought this model of students caring for animals to Iowa when he started at ISU about seven years ago.

About 18 undergraduates per semester provide animal care and management and two or three conduct lab work, such as molecular diagnostics, routine biochemistry and inventory management. Led by Ellinwood, the team looks for

answers behind what causes human diseases like glaucoma, the leading cause of blindness world wide.

Nearly all the students have a pre-vet or pre-med focus. Most are animal science students, but there are also those majoring in animal ecology and biology. The work offers an especially good experience for pre-vet students who plan to concentrate on small animals.

Some students get involved for research experience, others because they enjoy animal care and management. Whatever the goal, they find a unique environment for learning.

"Dr. Ellinwood not only created an opportunity for students to learn basic medical care of companion animals, he's given us the opportunity to think on our feet, be attentive to detail and apply what we've learned in other classes to what we're studying in the research colony," says Allie Ludwig, a sophomore in pre-veterinary animal science.

Lucas Carlstrom ('08 animal science) was another of Ellinwood's students. While working in Ellinwood's lab he was first author on one research manuscript


and co-author on another—quite an accomplishment for a student, let alone an undergraduate.

He credits that experience for being accepted into the highly competitive combined medical doctor and doctoral Medical Scientist Training Program at the Mayo Clinic: College of Medicine, where he is engaged in molecular neuroscience and spinal cord regeneration research.

Spending time in a research setting allowed Carlstrom to develop self-guided problem analysis and advanced critical thinking skills. "These valuable training experiences enhanced my intellectual curiosity and afforded me the opportunity to solve relevant biomedical research questions that will hopefully improve human health and alleviate disease," he says.

"The undergraduates we get are top-tier who I would put up against students at any other institution," Ellinwood says. "They are certainly as skilled and bright, but they also have the traditional values of Midwest farm kids, that you may not see as often at other schools."

Ellinwood says it's important to challenge these talented students with real-world problems and to show them they can make a difference.

"Regardless of where they go, I hope they come out of my program with a heightened sense of achievement and accomplishment." 



Group juggling is one of many learning tools **Beth Foreman**, student services specialist, uses to teach students communication and leadership skills.

JUGGLING LEADERSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP AND FUN

By Barbara McBreen

Tossing rubber chickens, stuffed pigs and numerous balls is a group activity Beth Foreman uses to illustrate teamwork and communication skills.

The activity is one of many experiential learning tools Foreman, student services specialist, uses with agricultural ambassadors. The students are college volunteers who give tours to prospective students and parents, host new student programs and work at various alumni and recruitment events.

In the group juggling exercise, students shout a name and toss a ball or stuffed item. As the activity continues, more items are added making it tougher to keep everything moving. To reflect, Foreman asks students what techniques made it easier to pass the ball to others in the group and keep the balls from dropping.

Foreman emphasizes how the rubber chicken, which is introduced near the end,

represents the problems students encounter.

"It's a teaching strategy that combines mental and physical challenges. It's a simple and effective concept—you play the activity, review what worked and reflect on how it applies in other situations," says Foreman.

She oversees the student-run ambassador program that is an essential part of the college's recruiting efforts. Foreman says prospective students visiting campus want to talk to students who are here on campus.

Molly Heintz, a senior in animal science, says talking to students was a big selling point when she visited Iowa State. Once she enrolled, she also joined the ambassadors.

"We do a lot of fun things, and you gain something at the end of every activity," Heintz says. "You always pick up a little piece of information that helps us communicate with students visiting the campus."

For the past 10 years Foreman has balanced a fulltime job while pursuing her doctorate degree. She coordinates group and individual visits for the college and advises and trains student ambassadors.

Her doctoral research is focused on the connection between student experiences and the development of leadership skills.

"I've gained a better understanding about how student involvement influences leadership and it's made my work with students more effective," says Foreman.

A Cyclone herself, with degrees in child, parent and community services and human development, she understands the importance of a positive student experience.

"I didn't grow up an Iowa State fan," Foreman says. "I became a fan because of my positive experiences as a student."

She's also seen evidence that her teaching strategies are working. Last year she overheard one student refer to a last-minute problem as a "rubber chicken."

Foreman, the ambassadors and her colleagues in student services are a large part of what has driven the college to record enrollment. In the fall of 2009 the college's enrollment hit a 30-year high of 3,082 undergraduate students. Last fall the college surpassed that record with an enrollment of 3,298. ■

Photo: Bob Elbert



Beth Foreman's doctoral research focused on how student involvement relates to leadership skills. She says her research has made her work with agriculture and life sciences students more effective.



BRIDGING CULTURES

By Kristin Senty

LEADING STUDENTS TO EXPAND KNOWLEDGE AND WORLDVIEW

She'd been sporting a short Afro, and then showed up in class one day with 500 shoulder length braids woven into her hair. For Ebby Luvaga, a native of Kenya, Africa, the dramatic change in hairstyle was nothing unusual. But for a classroom of Iowa State University freshman, many from small rural Iowa communities, the shift was totally unexpected.

"For some students I may be the first person of color they've interacted with," says Luvaga. "In this case, I remember the students were silent and just stared." So she opened her class time with a discussion about black hair care, letting stu-

dents ask the questions they had on their minds. It was a practical and teachable moment—the kind that Luvaga employs regularly in her economic development class and as an adviser in the economics department. "I want students to feel comfortable asking me about my differences."

The sense of her own differences was something that hit Luvaga the moment she arrived in New York City as a young college student in 1983, fresh from the small Kenyan village where she'd grown up. "I stepped off the plane and didn't think twice about carrying my suitcase on the top of my head. It's just how we carried things

Senior lecturer **Ebby Luvaga** is known among students for her enthusiasm and her tough love. "I hold students accountable and expect them to live up to their potential," she says, "but I also want them to feel comfortable enough with me to be open and honest."



Photo: McClanahan Studio

IN HER OWN WORDS: **LUVAGA** ON LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Ebby Luvaga's agricultural business learning community is award-winning. And, most importantly, the retention rates for her first-year students have reached 90 percent and higher. Hear her talk about student/faculty connections in learning communities in a video online. Visit www.cals.iastate.edu/stories.

in Kenya," she laughs. "I kept wondering why no one else was doing the same."

The daughter of a school principal and a teacher, she was always encouraged to seek higher education. So when the opportunity to study in the United States presented itself, her parents were naturally supportive.

Luvaga graduated from Ohio University with a master's in international affairs and a doctorate in economics education. "I always knew that I wanted to work closely with students," she says. When a position that combined student advising, teaching economics and leading study abroad programs opened at Iowa State in 1997, she felt it was an "ideal" match.

Her role at Iowa State is a diverse one. She serves as a learning community adviser for the agricultural business major, working with 75 to 80 students each year. Luvaga recently won recognition from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for her ability to create a welcoming environment for students and increase their participation

in the learning community process. She also teaches a class in economic development and leads study abroad courses to such places as Argentina, Spain, Australia and Panama.

Over the years, she's developed a reputation for working enthusiastically with students, but also with a firm hand—a balance that reminds her of her father. "I hold students accountable and expect them to live up to their potential," she says, "but I also want them to feel comfortable enough with me to be open and honest."

Tory Mogler, a 20-year-old sophomore serving under Luvaga as a learning community peer mentor, agrees that she can be "a bit of a stickler" when it comes to students doing things right. "But she has her heart in the right place," he says. "I'm never hesitant to talk to her about things, and she always takes her role with students seriously."

Coming from a small rural town in Iowa, he also remembers being one of those freshmen who hadn't had a lot of

exposure to diverse cultures. "Ebby sets herself out as an example and lets people ask her questions. She encourages curiosity. She helped me feel comfortable with her differences to the point where I don't feel that we have them," he says.

Luvaga sees herself as a "bridge," helping the increasingly diverse range of students at Iowa State continue to expand their perspective. With her roots in Africa and her home now in Iowa, the sense of being part of a global community is central to Luvaga's identity—and it's what she imparts to her students. ■



Contributed Photo

Professor **Steve Mickelson** tours with a professional gospel group when he's not busy teaching or chairing the agricultural and biosystems engineering department.



Photo: Bob Elbert

MICKELSON TOURS FOR A HIGHER POWER

By Ed Adcock

Steve Mickelson was three when he started singing in public. Known as “The Mickelson Five,” he, his sister and three brothers sang at funerals, church events, community events and Farm Bureau meetings around Storm Lake where his family farmed. His mother taught them show tunes, hymns and gospel music.

Today Mickelson ('82 agricultural engineering, '84 MS, '91 PhD) tours with a professional gospel group when he's not busy in the classroom or chairing the agricultural and biosystems engineering department. He has been singing with “Higher Power” for about 16 years at churches and community events around the Midwest.

The group performs more than 40 concerts a year, and they usually find time for a recording project each year. Although the group has been asked on more than one occasion to go full-time, they agree it isn't for them.

“We want it to be fun. We have never wanted it to be a burden on our family, or to take away from our fulltime job responsibilities,” he says.

Music has always been a major part of Mickelson's life.

“I grew up on the Oak Ridge Boys and the Statler Brothers. The Imperials was a gospel group I loved,” Mickelson says. “I remember seeing them at Estes Park at the age of 16 in Colorado and saying, ‘I want to do that.’”

While studying agricultural engineering at Iowa State, Mickelson made time for taking part in the Oratorio Choir, Chamber Singers and a VEISHEA play. He met his wife, Colette, a music education major, in Cardinal Keynotes, the university's show choir.

Each of the couple's five children have chosen to make music an important part of their lives as well. Mickelson says bus rides to gigs became a family tradition, “like camping, but in style.”

Mickelson says he feels blessed to have music as such a big part of his life.

“It's still a tremendous passion for me. My wife will sometimes ask, ‘Do you really want to go out and sing this weekend?’ And I say, ‘I can't wait.’”

ONLINE EXTRAS: www.cals.iastate.edu/stories

Find links to listen to Higher Power at www.cals.iastate.edu/stories.

TEACHING, SERVING AND GIVING FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

By Barbara McBreen

When the 9/11 tragedy unfolded, Harold Crawford was visiting faculty at Sitting Bull Tribal College in the middle of southern North Dakota. It was a warm, clear day when Ron His Horse Is Thunder, the college's president, stopped in the dean's office to tell Crawford he wasn't going anywhere and invited him to stay at his home.

Crawford, an emeritus professor of agricultural education and studies, vividly recalls that day. Like many across the nation, Crawford paused to reflect on the events at hand. He also reflected on the purpose of his visit to a college located on the northern plains.

Crawford says his work to help tribal colleges is one of the highlights of his nearly 50-year career at Iowa State University. The programs were funded through a U.S. Department of Agriculture Initiative and brought in more than \$4 million to enhance natural resource education at four tribal colleges in Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

He came to Iowa State as a transfer student in 1946, after serving in WWII. After graduation, Crawford ('50 agricultural education, MS '55, PhD '59) taught high school agriculture before becoming an instructor at Iowa State in 1965. He



Linda Hugelen, Sitting Bull College project coordinator, and Harold Crawford, an emeritus professor of agricultural education and studies, greet powwow dancers at Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

soon became a professor and head of the department of agricultural education.

In 1983 he became the associate dean of international programs and put his innovative technological ideas to work. He developed a mobile microcomputer lab for off-campus instruction. He and two instructors loaded a dozen large suitcase-sized microcomputers in a mobile lab and traveled throughout Iowa.

Wade Miller, chair of agricultural education and studies and the first director of the Brenton Center for Agricultural Instruction and Technology Transfer, describes Crawford as a visionary, who believes in outreach and is dedicated to agricultural education.

"Lots of people have good ideas, what distinguishes Harold is that he acts on his ideas," Miller says. "The Mobile Microcomputer Van helped teachers learn the 'new' technology of computers."

Crawford saw the need to provide distance education and understood the importance of making classes available to potential students who couldn't make it to campus. Today, distance education is seen

as an essential service and the college provides classes for students working on both bachelor's and master's degrees.

"Dr. Crawford has done everything at every level," says Robert Martin, professor of agricultural education and studies. "Throughout his career he's always had the best interest of each student in the forefront."

Crawford continued his focus on educational technology after he became associate dean and director of international agriculture programs in 1989. He retired in 2007, after collaborations brought in nearly \$17 million in funding for various projects. He currently keeps an office in Curtiss Hall and continues to write proposals for grants and work on historical projects.

Crawford and his wife Rachel continue to support agricultural education and studies programs and students. Their support helped renovate a suite of Curtiss Hall classrooms—the same classrooms in which Harold both learned as a student and taught as a professor. ■

Harold Crawford, emeritus professor of agricultural education and studies, and his wife Rachel hold teaching and students close to heart. Crawford's motto: "Teaching is to serve, serving is to give and giving is to live."



Photo: Barbara McBreen

HEARTY HELLOS

Andrew Lenssen joined Iowa State Oct. 1 as a soybean systems agronomist with teaching, research and extension responsibilities. Lenssen comes to ISU from Sidney, Mont., where he was a research ecologist and lead scientist for USDA dry-land research.



Catherine Kling, economics, has been named interim director of the Center for Agricultural and Rural

Development. Kling has served as the division head of CARD's Resource and Environmental Policy Division. Kling took over for Bruce Babcock who is now the Cargill Endowed Chair in Energy Economics and director of the Biobased Industry Center.

Angela Laury ('03 animal science, MS '06 meat science), began work in August as an assistant professor in food science and human nutrition and extension food safety specialist. She works with Iowa producers and manufacturers to promote food safety. Laury completed a doctorate at Texas Tech University in animal science, with an emphasis in food safety and microbiology.



David Krog ('80 agronomy, MS '82 economics, PhD '88), former CEO of AgraGate Climate Credits Corp., has been named the inaugural Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative. Krog will support instruction in an undergraduate economics course, provide mentorship to the initiative's Student Incubator Program and assist with the Affiliates Program.



BURRAS RECEIVES USDA EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Lee Burras ('81 agronomy, MS '84), agronomy professor, received the annual USDA Food and Agricultural Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award on Nov. 13 in San Francisco. The award is based on teaching quality, philosophy and methodology; service to the profession and students; and professional growth and development.

RODERMEL FELLOW OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Steven Rodermel is one of five from ISU honored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in February at the association's annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. Rodermel, professor of genetics, development and cell biology, was named fellow "for distinguished contributions to the field of photosynthesis, particularly for understanding nuclear-chloroplast genetic coordination, and for university and (National Science Foundation) administrative service."



VANDERZANDEN NAMED CELT DIRECTOR

Ann Marie VanDerZanden, horticulture, has been named director of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. Associate director of CELT and its interim director since Aug. 1, VanDerZanden also will serve as co-director of the university's learning communities program.

BE SOCIAL

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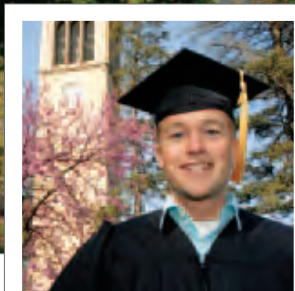


▶ CLASS NOTES AND MORE: GET STORIES ONLINE

Want to hear what your classmates are up to and get recent news from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences? Sign up for the monthly alumni e-newsletter *STORIES Online* for class notes, research news, faculty, staff and student updates and notices of college events.



E-mail stories@iastate.edu to join the mailing list.

**Darrin Rahn**

UPDATE INFO

RECENT ACTIVITY

Studies at Iowa State University - Ames, Iowa
Majored in Agricultural Business & Marketing, May 2012 Graduate
Lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota
From Milledgeville, Illinois
Working as a Sourcing Business Analyst for Target HQ in Minneapolis



Darrin Rahn ISU National Agri-Marketing Association shared a link. April 2011

**NAMA Student of Year**

Darrin Rahn was recognized as the National Agri-Marketing Association Successful Farming & Fergie Ferguson Student of the Year in Kansas City, Missouri.



Darrin Rahn Summer Internship at Hormel Foods grocery products marketing, Austin, Minn., May – August 2011



Iowa State College of Agriculture & Life Sciences posted on Darrin's wall. December 2010



Congratulations to newly elected Iowa State University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Student Council President, **Darrin Rahn!**

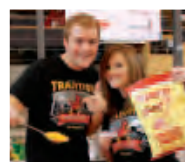
68 Likes



President Geoffroy tagged **Darrin Rahn** at the President's Leadership Class Christmas party December 2008



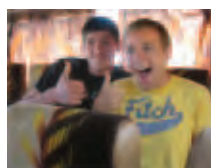
Darrin Rahn created and invited over 3,000 people to the **2011 Iowa State College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Week** event. October 2011



Celebrating **Iowa State's College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Week!** **Darrin** and **Lauren Fangman** serve up food and fun at lunch BBQ!



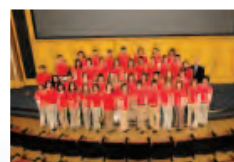
Darrin Rahn added 24 photos to the **Greece Study Abroad** photo album. July 2010



Dakota Hoben and Darrin give a thumbs up!



Darrin Rahn joined the **College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Ambassadors, University Honors Program,** and **Iowa State Agricultural Business Club** and 4 other groups. September 2008



Darrin Rahn accepted his admission to Iowa State University. January 2008

STORIES Online Extra: Read Darrin Rahn's story at www.cals.iastate.edu/stories.

FINDING FREEDOM

THROUGH EDUCATION

By Barbara McBreen

You're 12 years old. You live in a mud hut with a tin roof in a desert. You eat one bowl of grain a day and you live among 70,000 refugees in a place known as "nowhere."

These are recent memories for Maurice Aduto. It's also what drives him to seek opportunities and make a difference in his homeland of South Sudan, a country that gained independence in 2011 after a 22-year civil war.

When Aduto was a young child herding cattle with his uncles, brothers and cousins the problems of Sudan's war seemed far away. His family lived in Chukudum, a village near the Uganda border in east Africa.

The village was known for its fertile land and abundant harvests. Aduto has fond memories of the tranquil valley where he played. He also remembers his British-trained elementary school teachers, who taught him the importance of education.

Things changed in his village as the war moved south. The violence threatened Aduto's family. The soldiers were killing children.

Many families decided to send their children to Kenya for safety. Aduto was sent and he remembers running for an entire week, evading soldiers and wild animals before reaching the border.

"It was a long journey. We only traveled at night," Aduto says. "People were

dying from lack of water and food."

When the refugees reached the Kenyan border the United Nations took them to the Kakuma refugee camp. The camp's name means "nowhere" in Swahili. Aduto spent the next six years in a dusty maze of refugees from eight nations. To survive he focused on a lesson he carried in his soul.

"In middle school the teacher told us that school is everything," Aduto says. "The pen is everything. It is the key to your life."

Aduto and his family spent two years navigating through red tape to get to the United States. When he arrived in Des Moines he was 20 years old and considered too old to attend high school. Aduto persuaded officials to allow him to finish his last year. He supported himself with a part-time maintenance job, survived on \$90 a week and graduated in 2007.

One of Aduto's goals was to attend college. He was inspired by the numerous opportunities he could see in the United States.

"I talked to my high school counselor who helped me find scholarships that fit my status and public universities that I could join," Aduto says.

Iowa State University's Multicultural Vision Program offered him a scholarship and a chance. The award is given to high school seniors who demonstrate academic ability and maturity, despite adverse situations. Aduto fit the description.

His first semester at Iowa State was difficult. Aduto knew his grandparents,



Contributed photo

Lino Logwe, Maurice Aduto's uncle, says prayers during the reburial ceremonial for Aduto's grandparents in Chukudum in 2009.



Contributed photo

*Above: Adviser **John Burnett** helped Aduto navigate the necessary red tape to become a U.S. citizen on Oct. 14, 2011.*

*Right: **Maurice Aduto**, a senior in natural resource ecology and management, hopes to return to his native South Sudan to aid in the development and protection of the country's natural resources.*



Photo: David Livingston/Iowa State Daily

who had raised him, had died in the war. It suddenly overwhelmed him.

"I felt so bad and I wondered what the point was to be here. I couldn't focus," Aduto says. "Then I realized many of the wishes my grandparents gave me had come true."

He continued and decided to major in animal ecology and minor in forestry. Skills he could take to South Sudan, which is rich in wildlife and natural resources.

Aduto also found a trusted friend and adviser in John Burnett, a student services specialist in the natural resource ecology and management department. Burnett and coworkers helped Aduto return to

his village in 2009 to attend reburial ceremonies for his grandparents.

"Maurice's life is about his connections with his family and his home country," Burnett says. "He has overcome unimaginable adversity, but he still maintains those connections."

With the help of Burnett, Aduto became a U.S. citizen on Oct. 14, 2011, just 47 days before returning to South Sudan. This time Aduto returned to oversee a reburial ceremony for his father, who had been killed by robbers in the spring of 2011.

On July 9, 2011, the Republic of South Sudan celebrated its independence from Sudan. As president of the South Sudanese

Student Association at Iowa State, Aduto helped exiled residents register to vote and cast their votes in the election, which was held Jan. 9, 2011. More than 98 percent of South Sudan's residents voted to separate.

Aduto, who is a senior at Iowa State, plans to return to South Sudan. He says his generation represents the seeds that have been scattered throughout the world.

"We are the seeds that are vital to the development of South Sudan," Aduto says. "Most of us who came here are the children of war. To go back is tough, but to take the initiative and make the sacrifices to go back is important for the future of South Sudan." ■



Jenny English sports some fabulous footwear. From a tour of duty in Afghanistan, to studying abroad in Mexico, to twirling in a dance studio on the ISU campus, her student experience is like no other.

Q&A: STUDENT TO STUDENT

Carly Martin, junior in agricultural education and studies, communications option, chats with Jenny English, senior in animal science and member of the Army National Guard, about what it's like to walk in her shoes.

What have you been involved with at Iowa State?

I am animal science pre-vet and I have a minor in Spanish and nutritional sciences. I also have drill training one weekend each month for the Army National Guard. I work for Diane Spurlock in her lab and I'm a Student Admissions Representative. I'm a member of ballroom dancing club, too.

You stay pretty busy! Is there a particular animal that you are most interested in?

I joined Block and Bridle as a freshman and participated in the Little North American Showmanship contest winning the novice showmanship award for swine.

This experience made me realize I was most interested in learning about and working with swine.

I actually grew up on a swine farm so they're my favorite, too. How will you pursue your interest in working with swine?

Currently I'm working in the swine nutrition lab researching feed digestibility. This summer, I will apply to vet school and intern with Iowa Select Farms.

Do you have a favorite activity that you have been part of at Iowa State?

Being a Student Admissions Representative. I love being able to give students tours around campus and get them excited about coming here.

How did you decide to join the Army National Guard?

Some of my high school classmates in Le Grand, Iowa, encouraged me to join. After learning about the benefits such as full paid

tuition, books and living expense, I went through the training.

When you were deployed what did you enjoy most and what were your biggest challenges?

After my junior year at ISU I was deployed to Afghanistan for a year. I enjoyed being able to take part in more of the hands-on experiences like creating Purple and Bronze Star awards for soldiers and working with people from many different states and countries. I was also assigned to interact with locals to help gain and build their trust with the United States. The hardest part was being away from my family, especially when my mom passed away in a car accident in January of 2011.

Was it tough to transition back to campus?

My return back to Iowa and my studies went more smoothly than I expected. While deployed, I took online classes and that really helped me transition back. My family and friends were a great support, too. I still keep in touch with students from my unit that attend Iowa State.

What other international experience have you had?

In the spring of 2009, I studied abroad in Mexico for three months as part of a Spanish language immersion course.

Looking back, what have you learned from your time on campus and abroad?

People are one of the best resources you can have. The advice and mentoring I've received have opened up so many doors and opportunities that I couldn't achieve on my own. ☺



Photo: Barbara McGreen

Carly Martin, junior in agricultural education and studies, communications option, interned in the college communications office. As part of her internship she coordinated the Agriculture Weekend Experience (see page 16). Martin was selected as ISU Student Employee of the Year for her extraordinary service to the college.

ONLINE EXTRAS: www.cals.iastate.edu/stories

Carly Martin penned online stories about student life under the "eCarly@CALS" byline. Go to STORIES online to read more about Martin and find the eCarly archive.

AGRICULTURAL WEEKEND EXPERIENCE OFFERS NEW PERSPECTIVES

The college's Agricultural Weekend Experience (AWE) gives students majoring in agriculture and life sciences the opportunity to interact with Iowa families and the agriculture community. Participants spend the weekend as guests on a working family farm. This fall, 11 students participated in the AWE program. Carly Martin, student intern in the college communications office, coordinated the program. The ISU Agricultural Endowment Board and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences sponsor AWE. Participants say the program helped broaden their understanding of agriculture.



Contributed Photo

- *"I saw that farming is not as cheap as I thought it was. It made me realize that you never know how something is until you get out there and experience it, which is what this program has allowed me to do."* **Khadija Brown**, a freshman in animal science pre-vet from Chicago.
- *"The weekend answered many of my questions with first-hand examples like allowing us to use the equipment."* **Chawn McGrath**, a freshman in animal science from Pennsylvania.
- *"This program is very beneficial for any student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Whether a student has a farming background or not, it can give someone a new perspective on how farms are operated."* **Katelyn Gardner**, a junior in public service and administration from Vinton.
- *"The AWE program showed me what a true Iowa family farm is like and it was interesting to see all the hard work and challenges that go along with farming."* **Kelsey Regan**, a junior in agricultural biosystems technology from Davenport.

CALS WOMEN HONORED FOR "IMPACTING" ISU

Four women from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences were honored by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics on the sixth annual Women Impacting ISU calendar. **Molly Heintz** (right), a senior in animal science; **Alejandra Navarro**, a senior in animal ecology; **Sharon Bird**, associate professor of sociology; and **Shelley Taylor**, assistant director of Global Agriculture Programs were selected to appear on the 2012 calendar.



Contributed Photo

STUDENTS ELECTED TO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Danielle Hamilton, a senior in agricultural and life sciences education, was elected president of the National Postsecondary Agriculture Student Organization and Logan Lyon, a junior in agronomy, was elected president-elect at the group's national meeting in November. **Rachel Owen**, a senior in global resource systems and agronomy, was elected national vice president of Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences at the American Society of Agronomy in October.

CALS STUDENTS RECEIVE ALL-UNIVERSITY SENIOR AWARD

Four of the five student-recipients of the ISU Wallace E. Barron All-University Senior Award were from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The award recognizes outstanding seniors who display high character, outstanding achievement in academics and university/community activities and promise for continuing these exemplary qualities as alumni. CALS recipients for 2012 were: **Sam Bird**, global resource systems and economics; **Sagar Chawla**, biology and global resource systems; **Scott Henry**, agricultural business, finance and international agriculture; and **Amy Peyton**, agricultural business, economics, public service and administration in agriculture and international agriculture. Read more about the winners at www.cals.iastate.edu/stories.

ONLINE EXTRA: www.cals.iastate.edu/stories

SLIDE SHOW: NEW GRADUATE ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO CONTINUE THEIR ADVENTURES



Photo: Barbara McBreen

Write your story and continue the adventure you started in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: That was the advice of convocation speaker **Ashley Dermody**, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in agronomy in December. Hear her complete address and see a photo slideshow online at www.cals.iastate.edu/stories.

Much to cheer about!

Fall 2011 enrollment in agriculture and life sciences hit a 30-year high with **3,584**. And we have the best college retention rate on campus with 81% of first year students sticking with CALS and a total of 88% sticking with ISU.

Welcome to the club

95% of CALS students gain hands-on experience and develop leadership in departmental clubs and activities including agronomic and livestock judging teams, competitive national judging teams, competitive national contests and service projects.

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

You're hired!

98% Placement Rate
73% of new grads stay in Iowa
70% of undergrads complete internships before graduation

Adam Bierbaum made the most of every part of his student experience. An active CALS ambassador and 2012 graduate in agronomy, Bierbaum returned to his hometown of Griswold, Iowa, to join his family's farming operation.

Science with practice

CALS students get a solid grounding in science from biology to chemistry to advanced agrisciences. Our "Science with Practice" undergrad research program paid students **\$250,000** since 2005 to learn and earn in research laboratories, farms and greenhouses in nearly every CALS department.



Photo: Bob Albert

*Director of Student Services **Tom Polito** sees the student experience in agriculture and life sciences as connecting what happens in and outside the classroom. For Senior **Katee Keller** that includes Collegiate FFA, Block & Bridle, the Agricultural Business Club and working in the student services office.*

VOICES

By Tom Polito, Director of Student Services and assistant professor of agricultural education and studies and of agronomy

DEFINING THE CALS STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The student experience in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences connects what happens inside and outside the classroom. The two are mutually supportive and synergistic.

Students' out-of-classroom activities are as instilled in the college's culture as the land-grant philosophy. Even Iowa State's motto, "Science with Practice," reflects how our students take what they've learned in class and make the coursework more relevant to them.

Some parts of our student experience, like student clubs, student council and Alpha Zeta, have been fixtures for a century or more. My wife's grandfather, a 1912 animal husbandry grad, has fascinated me with the story of his Alpha Zeta induction. Traveling abroad goes back more than 50 years. Today, students study on every continent.

In the past 15 years, learning communities have become an important way for new students to become part of the ISU community quickly and easily. About 90

percent of the college's freshmen are members of a learning community. Learning communities set the stage for what students can accomplish in their time at ISU. Plus, the students enjoy their experiences. One student commented on a learning community evaluation, "This is the greatest thing mom ever signed me up for!"


We particularly encourage and assist our students in finding internships. In my experience, students returning to campus after completing internships have greater direction and motivation. They bring what they've learned back into the classroom so that other students and often instructors can benefit.

As a faculty member, it's exciting to watch students change their focus from a purely academic one to a professional one. Instead of thinking only about grades, they begin to grasp that what they're learning will impact how they advise future clients, benefit their communities and solve problems locally and globally. Internships aid them in making this transition. Coincidentally, guess what happens

to students' grades as they progress from an academic focus to a professional one?

With such a breadth of opportunities, another of our college's strengths comes into play—academic advising. I like to think of our advisers as symphony conductors. They help students blend activities both inside and outside the classroom, where each student's final college experience is greater than the sum of its parts.

Our student experiences have never been one size fits all or cookie cutter. We strive to provide all students with rich, meaningful, individual and personal experiences that enable them to accomplish more than they believed possible when they entered ISU. That's our legacy, that's our future.

We have plenty of evidence of success. For me, the most convincing evidence occurs every year on the second Tuesday in October. That's the day the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences hosts the largest agricultural career day in the nation. Our great graduates are in great demand! 



Contributed Photos

INTRODUCING PEERS TO A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

By Ashlee Hespen

Tia Sandoval has been bitten by the travel bug and she loves to share her affliction. Sandoval is a Student Travel Consultant with the Ag Study Abroad office.

Three College of Agriculture and Life Sciences travel courses to China, Brazil and Ecuador are just the beginning of her international experiences.

The senior in animal science and international agriculture spent last spring semester in Brazil. While there, Sandoval, from Kansas City, Mo., polished her Portuguese skills and completed an independent study on poultry nutrition at the Federal University of Viçosa in Minas Gerais. She also taught an English conversational course.

"It can be difficult to learn a language from books or teachers, so I came up with different topics each week and led them in conversations," Sandoval says. "It was rewarding to see them progress in their English and become more conversational."

In order to share her experiences, Sandoval has worked as a Student Travel

Consultant with the Ag Study Abroad office since 2009. The student consulting program grew from suggestions by students in 2005 who wanted more interaction with students who had been abroad. Today there are five student consultants on staff.

"As a consultant, we share personal experiences from a student perspective so other students can relate to the program and find out more about studying abroad," Sandoval says.

Briana McNeal, a junior in global resource systems and nutrition, will be studying abroad on the same semester exchange program to Brazil next year.

"It was nice to listen to Tia's personal experiences rather than reading pamphlets from the school, because now I have a better idea of what to expect," says McNeal.


Each semester, the consultants provide valuable feedback to the Ag Study Abroad staff on what their peers are interested in, helping the programming to be more effective. Last year, 220 students participated in

Ag Study Abroad travel courses. Shelley Taylor, director of study abroad for the college, says the consultants play a critical role.

"Student travel consultants are insiders. Students consider the information more valuable coming from peers than from me," Taylor says. "This program is so valuable in recruiting. It is a crucial link in staying relevant to our goals."

Sandoval says she enjoys sharing what she has learned abroad.

"My experiences have taught me to be open minded," Sandoval says. "When you're in a new country or culture, it is important to keep an open mind, because they have different beliefs, cultural activities, food and ways of doing things. This gives me the opportunity to learn something new and also share what I know."

Sandoval has been nominated for Agriculture Extension in Sub-Sahara Africa with the Peace Corps, where she hopes to share her passion for agriculture in an international setting. 



JOB#1: HELPING STUDENTS OVERCOME OBSTACLES By Susan Thompson

*Above: Alumna **Maggie DenBeste** credits Professor **Howard Tyler** for believing in her when it seemed no one else would.*

Read Howard Tyler's list of honors and it's clear the animal science professor puts students first, based on awards for his work as a student adviser and mentor.

"I prioritize my time by focusing first on activities that have the most impact on students," Tyler says. "Helping students overcome obstacles is the part of my job I find the most rewarding."

Maggie DenBeste faced many obstacles. After high school, she enrolled at Kirkwood Community College. The following year, her parents divorced and her mother was

diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Despite family turmoil, she graduated with an associate degree in agriculture and transferred to Iowa State. Her mother died the following spring. "I dropped half my courses and failed the other half," DenBeste says.

She kept trying and in December 2002 graduated with a bachelor's in animal science. In January, she learned she was pregnant and would be raising a son alone.

DenBeste worked four years before deciding she couldn't make enough money to support herself and her son.

“Most students face obstacles, but often don’t know how to ask for help. Students typically don’t leave school because they aren’t smart enough. With a little more guidance, most could make it. Supporting students is a crucial part of my job.”

She wanted to return to school and contacted her undergraduate adviser, Steven Lonergan, who introduced her to Tyler.

“Earning my undergraduate degree was difficult,” DenBeste says. “With my mother’s death, I had trouble caring. I got my grades up enough to graduate, but when I wanted to enroll in grad school, Dr. Tyler was the only one who would consider me.”

“Her grades were not stellar,” Tyler jokes. “But I didn’t feel her grades reflected her ability. It seemed with all she’d been through, graduate school would be a small challenge.”

DenBeste enrolled in January 2007. “That March I almost quit because I didn’t believe I could succeed. I stuck with it, thanks to Dr. Tyler and fellow graduate students,” she says.

Tyler deflects DenBeste’s praise, saying he “just encouraged her to talk, and tried to be supportive of her status as a single mom.”

DenBeste sees it differently. “I had a major lack of confidence,” she says. “During my project, I had to collect blood samples from baby calves within five minutes of birth. Dr. Tyler helped with the first few, watched for a few and then left me to sink or swim. He knew I could do it even if I didn’t.”

Tyler and his wife Kris helped on a personal level. “They would watch my son if I had to be at the dairy farm, or working on my thesis, or just needed a night off,” DenBeste says.

Tyler organizes monthly meetings for his grad students. “We had speakers who would talk about their journey through life. Dr. Tyler wanted us to learn how to balance personal and work life,” DenBeste says.

She graduated in December 2009 with a master’s in animal physiology and is education program coordinator for the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence at Iowa State.

“Most students face obstacles, but often don’t know how to ask for help,” Tyler says. “Students typically don’t leave school because they aren’t smart enough. With a little more guidance, most could make it. Supporting students is a crucial part of my job.” ■

FACULTY RESOURCES FOR HELPING STUDENTS THROUGH PERSONAL CHALLENGES

Howard Tyler was among the first to sign up for the ISU Student Counseling Service’s new Mental Health First-Aid training. The 12-hour session teaches faculty and staff a set of action steps for helping a distressed student until appropriate treatment and support are received. “Many students just need someone to notice they are having challenges and ask about their life in a nonjudgmental way,” says Tyler, who completed the training in July. “The training gives you the tools to initiate these conversations, recognize the issues and effectively refer students to the appropriate resources,” he says.

Maggie DenBeste (center) and her son grew to become like extended family with Howard Tyler and his wife Kris. “They would watch my son if I had to be at the dairy farm, or working on my thesis, or just needed a night off,” DenBeste says. Their young sons grew to be fast friends.

Photo: Brianne Osborn



A SAMPLING OF STUDENT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

By Seneca Cuddeback and Carly Martin

Involvement in student clubs allows students to grow their leadership skills, professionalism and network with other students. With over 40 departmental clubs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences alone and countless special interest, political, social and cultural clubs at ISU, students' opportunities for involvement are limitless. Here's a sampling of a few CALS clubs. For a complete list of clubs in the college and a link to all registered student organizations visit: www.cals.iastate.edu/stories.

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS CLUB

For the past six years, Iowa State University's Agricultural Business Club has been recognized as the "National Outstanding Chapter." This award distinguishes the club as the best agricultural business club in the nation. The club has more than 150 members, with about 30 of those serving each year as chairs for eight committees. The club strives to provide agricultural business students with opportunities to develop their leadership skills, recognize their accomplishments and create unity among the students and faculty. Agricultural business students are given the chance to participate in an industry golf tournament, Pre-Career Day panel discussion, roadside cleanup, industry tours and attend the National Agriculture and Applied Economics Association conference each year.



Photo: Seneca Cuddeback

COLLEGIATE FFA

Members of the ISU Collegiate FFA were happy to have the Iowa FFA Convention back on the Iowa State campus this April after a few years held elsewhere. Iowa State University has had a presence at the Iowa FFA Convention for more than 25 years. The Collegiate FFA assists with the conventions every year by volunteering at a silent auction, sponsoring a bingo night and interacting with high school FFA at different convention activities. Besides helping with FFA events, this organization is most well-known on campus for its annual pancake breakfast which is held during National FFA Week and sponsoring a "Dean for a Day" contest as a fundraising event for the club.

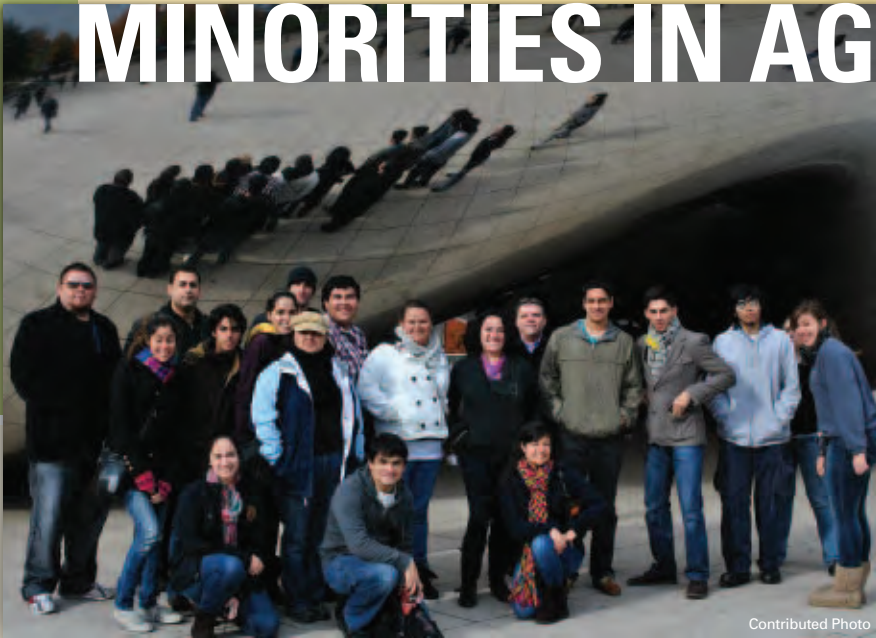
BLOCK & BRIDLE

Block & Bridle, the largest club in the college with nearly 300 members, promotes the animal industry through various activities and service projects. The club dates back to 1919, when ISU was among its founding national member universities. It recently received several awards at the 2012 National Block and Bridle Convention placing first in chapter activities and chapter yearbook and second in chapter webpage. The Little North American showmanship contest is one of the most prestigious events the club hosts annually along with other livestock and companion-animal shows. The club serves the Ames community through canned food drives, donating hand-made blankets to hospitals and participating in VEISHEA service projects.

LANDSCAPE CLUB

Known for its hands-on experiences, the Landscape Club gives ample opportunities to enhance learning outside of the classroom. It seeks service projects that allow club members to conduct the entire process of landscape design and installment. Recently, members took part in the design and installation process of the green roof on the Horticulture Building. Because of their great efforts, the club was asked to install another green roof on the Memorial Union in Spring 2012. "The skills that we learn through these projects we put to use at our annual Professional Landcare Network trip," says club president, Miles Thompson, a senior in horticulture. During the trip club members compete at events such as landscape installation and design contest and take advantage of great networking opportunities. Visit www.cals.iastate.edu/stories for a link to timelapse video of the green roof installation.

MINORITIES IN AG



Contributed Photo

MINORITIES IN AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND RELATED SCIENCE

The Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Science is a growing organization open to students from any major. This national organization promotes the advancement and potential of multicultural students on campus through assisting with leadership activities, internships, scholarships and career placement. "This organization is all about making life changes and helping students have a successful college experience," says Aurelio Curbelo, the club's adviser. Statistics have shown that multicultural students involved with MANRRS have increased graduation rates and obtain jobs faster. One of the most rewarding activities that MANRRS members partake in is a campaign promoting the importance of receiving a diploma in Iowa and Illinois at-risk school districts. Members also get the opportunity for international travel and serve the community with various service projects.

NATIONAL AGRI-MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Iowa State University's student chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association is a catalyst for students with the desire to expand their agri-marketing abilities while developing and utilizing professional networks. The student club works closely with the Iowa Professional NAMA chapter. The club supports a marketing team, which competes nationally. Students receive independent study credit as members of the marketing team. Currently, there are over 30 student members and this continues to grow each year. The Iowa State student chapter has earned several national awards in recent years including Outstanding Chapter twice in the last five years and the 2011 John Deere Signature Award.



Photo: Serenica Cuddeback

VEISHEA

VEISHEA

The 90-year-old tradition of VEISHEA wouldn't be a success without strong leadership from College of Agriculture and Life Sciences students. The 2012 executive committee was nearly 50 percent CALS students and led by B.J. Brugman, senior in agricultural business, as a general co-chair. The college had 11 clubs participating in this year's VEISHEA through fundraising and activities for the public. Some VEISHEA favorites include the Dairy Science Club's "I Milked A Cow" event, timbersports on central campus, the Horticulture Club's plant sale and several club foodstands.



LANDSCAPE CLUB

COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

CALS TEAMS BRACKET NATIONAL SUCCESS

By Seneca Cuddeback and Carly Martin

A CROPS TEAM

The ISU crops team helps prepare students for a career as agronomists by teaching them skills such as plant, insect and disease identification as well as problem solving. Each year the team competes against other four-year universities at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) contest which is held at various locations across the country. During the competition the team also travels to farms and agricultural businesses to learn about the area's agriculture. In 2012 the ISU Crops Team finished first in the Knowledge Bowl and second in the Crops competition. Erik Christian and Josh Enderson, agronomy, are coach and assistant coach of the team.

Back row: Matt Mattia, Adam Bierbaum, Josh Enderson, Luke Higgins, Eric Hansen, Erik Christian. Front row: Hannah Cox, Brooke Darrington, Megan Seys.

B DAIRY PRODUCT EVALUATION TEAM

The Dairy Products Evaluation Team is a student club in the food science and human nutrition department that focuses on learning and sharpening the sensory evaluation techniques and skills for six dairy products: 2% milk, cottage cheese, vanilla ice cream, Cheddar cheese, butter and strawberry yogurt. Until the 2009 team was formed, ISU hadn't competed in the National Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest since the late 1970s. Since reviving the team, the students have enjoyed success, earning finishes within the top four each year. Each fall semester the team prepares for the annual National Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest and in the spring they focus on fundraising, social activities and industry visits. The team is coached by associate professor Stephanie Clark.

From left: Yee Lung Lai, Gerui Li, Ashley Poore, Katelyn Dunnigan, Patricia Reyes, Catherine Lynch, We Leik (Patrick) Yeok, Michael Rathe.



Contributed Photos

C LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

Intercollegiate livestock judging provides students with communication and decision making skills. At each contest, teams representing universities from around the country compete by placing 12 classes of livestock (cattle, hogs and sheep) and giving eight sets of oral reasons. A set of oral reasons is a prepared speech given to an official by a student defending the way the individual placed a particular class of livestock. Typically over 30 teams compete at national events. The 2011/2012 Livestock Judging Team finished first at the Aksarben Stock Show, Iowa Beef Expo and at the Sioux Empire Farm Show. They brought home a third-place finish from the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Jonathan DeClerck, animal science, coaches the team.

Front row: Harrison Frey, Colby Taber, Troy Sloan-Cameron, Tyler Stutsman, Hunter Shoemaker. Back row: Kyle Dice, Kyle Greiman, Adam Darrington, Chris Sievers, Chelsey Branderhorst, Derek Brown, Jon DeClerck.

D MEATS JUDGING TEAM

Intercollegiate meat judging is a competitive student team activity dating back to 1926. Students travel across the country and interact with leaders in the meat industry, while competing against teams from other universities. These competitions provide students opportunities for improving their skills and competencies in determining the value of beef, pork, lamb and processed meat products. The team is coached by Sherry Olsen and the assistant coach is Lori Ellensohn. At the 2011 Southeastern contest the team finished third and fourth. They finished ninth at The American Royal, and at The International, the team finished 16th.

Front row: Lori Ellensohn, Sherry Olsen, Sara Morine. Second row: Amanda Houghe, Daweyn Albertsen, Heidi Reynolds, Andrew Filipi, Sandy Dion, Chris Sievers, Chelsey Branderhorst.



Contributed Photos



E SOILS JUDGING TEAM

Success is a common theme associated with Iowa State's soils judging team. Three of the past four years, the ISU team has won the regional contest and in 2012 the team finished third overall in the National Collegiate Soils Judging Contest. Graduate student Matthew Streeter and professor Lee Burras, agronomy, coach the soils team. Jonathan Sandor, who recently retired, coached the team for 28 years. The competition allows students to develop their skills while describing soil properties, identifying types of soils and associated landscape features and interpreting soil information for agriculture and other land uses.

Back row: Rachel Owen, Scott Shannon, Elyssa McFarland, Meredith Elgersma, Able Castor, Ben Butcher, Chris Flansberg, Matthew Streeter. Middle row: Heidi Dittmer, Alex Maeder, Matt Reisen, Lee Burras. Front row: Tom Lawler, Shannon Mitchell, Tyler Reimers.

F TURF BOWL TEAM

The ISU Turf Club has captured first place in the last 12 of 14 national "Turf Bowl" competitions. Hosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the competition gets students excited about mastering professional skills key to the industry. Over the years, the Iowa State team has become known as the team to beat. The team's achievement is largely due to their willingness to devote time to hands-on training at prominent golf courses. They also learn the latest techniques in turf by inviting guest speakers to club meetings. Networking with the top golf course superintendents in the United States at various conferences has also helped their success. While the Turf Bowl is what they're best known for, the club also offers projects for members to bridge their knowledge from the classroom to real life scenarios. The team is coached by Nick Dunlap, a graduate student in horticulture, and the team adviser is Nick Christians, University Professor of Horticulture.

From left: Nick Christians, Nick Dunlap, Dan Strey, Shane Lohman, Casey Sheehy, Isaac Mertz.

CHARTING THE COURSE FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

By Melea Reicks Licht

Mike Retallick's door is always open. The assistant professor of agricultural and life sciences education and studies advises more than 80 students annually, in addition to his research and teaching responsibilities. Any number of his advisees could drop by in a given day. And they do.



Louis Thompson Advising Academy

Retallick ('05 PhD agriculture and life sciences education) is one of 135 faculty advisers in the college. Together with another 13 full-time staff advisers they help agriculture and life sciences students navigate through their ISU experience.

For each advisee Retallick is the person who reviews their course schedule to be sure they are meeting degree requirements. He helps them identify and prepare for their internship and student teaching experiences. He intervenes when students are headed for academic probation and offers congratulations when they make the dean's list. He processes course substitutions and makes sure his students meet university and departmental deadlines.

Retallick says that when entering college many students aren't prepared for balancing their newfound independence with coursework. That's where he comes in. He helps students learn to study and manage their

daily lives, but he also encourages them to take their college experience a step further.

"I challenge them to get the most complete experience while at Iowa State. Our grads are highly sought after, but a degree on a wall should not be their end goal," Retallick says. "Students should get the most out of each opportunity and differentiate themselves through clubs, leadership roles, internships, study abroad. It is the entire package that sets our students apart."

Another major role Retallick and other advisers play is helping students handle the challenges life throws at them while they work on their degree. He connects students with campus resources such as student counseling, student health, financial aid and the academic success center.

"It is key as an adviser to be upfront, honest and frank with your advisees," he says. "It helps them to know what to expect and makes their time on campus less scary."

According to his advisees Retallick does just that. Transfer student Rachael Emig considers Retallick as the most influential person in her college experience.

"Dr. Retallick is always available to answer any question I have quickly and clearly, and I feel like I could ask him any question," she says. "He helped me solidify my decision to major in agricultural education and have the smoothest possible transition to Iowa State."

The toughest part of his job, Retallick says, is there are no easy answers.

"My first answer to many questions is 'it depends,'" he says. "Every situation and every student is unique and policies and procedures can be interpreted differently."

He admits it can also be difficult to bal-

ance his research and teaching load with the number of advisees he currently carries. But, that challenge is also what drives him.

"These students are what recharge my batteries. I enjoy the one-on-one teachable moments that come with advising," he says. "You just don't find that in the classroom."

ADVISING THE ADVISERS

The college launched the Louis Thompson Advising Academy in 2011. The academy, named in honor of the late agronomy professor and associate dean known for advising excellence, promotes the professional, individual and academic development of students through a mentoring relationship with an academic adviser.

Retallick is among the 25 faculty members of the academy who earned acceptance by receiving at least one college or university advising award.

David Acker, associate dean for academic and global programs, says the academy will help the college make further strides in becoming the best student advising program on campus.

"At its core the academy is about helping students reach their potential and maximize success inside and outside the classroom," Acker says.

The academy was created based on recommendations from the college's Future of Academic Programs Task Force and Academic Affairs Committee with support from the Iowa State University Agricultural Endowment Board.

"It takes time, it takes patience and it takes a caring attitude to serve students in this capacity," Acker says. "This highly experienced group will provide excellent guidance and counsel on how to maintain and improve our tradition of excellence in advising." ■

Photo: Bob Elbert

EACH DAY IS AN ADVENTURE

Advisers are never sure what each day will bring. For Mike Retallick, agricultural and life sciences education and studies, that's definitely the case. Here's a sample from Retallick's calendar.



Assistant professor **Mike Retallick** and **Adair Boysen** catch up between classes. Boysen, a graduating senior in agricultural education and animal science, participated in Retallick's study abroad course to Australia and credits Retallick for helping her get the most out of her college experience.

Calendars

Today

8:00	Set up student teaching visits for students to five Iowa high schools.
8:30	Advisee stops in for a signature to drop a course.
9:00	Assist another adviser. A student has issues and needs to return home, but decides to take online classes. Work together to drop the on-campus courses and sign-up for online classes.
9:30	Collaborate with ISU colleague on a Council for International Programs grant for project in Uganda.
10:00	
10:30	Meet with doctoral student, review first three chapters of dissertation and discuss reviewers' comments on her first research article.
11:00	An advisee on the GI Bill stops for signature to add another class to meet the military's full-time student requirements.
11:30	Finalize and submit a course proposal to the CALS Curriculum committee with an emphasis on agriculture and society.
12:00	Meet with advisee to discuss independent study research project. Phone call from graduate student and former teaching assistant requesting a letter of reference.
12:30	Graduating senior drops in to triple check that he is on track to graduate in May.
1:00	Meet with advisee to discuss independent study research project.
1:30	Meet with Science with Practice group and prepare for class.
2:00	
2:30	Teach AgEdS 312 Class.
3:00	
3:30	Grade AgEdS 520 assignments from last week.
4:00	
4:30	Conference call with Master of Agriculture off-campus student to discuss creative component and graduation procedures.
5:00	
5:30	Prepare presentation for national research conference / Respond to email from prospective transfer student.
6:00	Respond to ISU foundation regarding departmental scholarship accounts and processing.

Jan Feb Mar Apr **May** Jun Jul Aug Oct Sep Nov Dec

TENDING THE HERDS

By Ed Adcock

ALUM GROOMS NEXT GENERATION OF ANIMAL CARETAKERS

When Marshall Ruble started as manager of the beef teaching farm as a new Iowa State grad, he figured he'd stay three or four years. It's now been nearly 33 years, mentoring hundreds of students to care for the farm's herd.

The farm provides cattle for 11 undergraduate courses, industry events such as scholarship contests, livestock judging, artificial insemination schools, ultrasound training and ultrasound certification.

"If we can help promote animal agriculture we want to be a presence. We are involved in a few research projects if it doesn't affect our primary directive of undergraduate teaching," he adds.

Ruble ('78 animal science) is a native Iowan raised on a diversified livestock farm near Corydon. He especially loves beef

cattle, although he's taken care of sheep, swine, horses, chickens and dairy cattle.

Ruble likes to call his student-workers "projects." His no-nonsense demeanor doesn't hide his concern for the students under his charge.

"My success is measured if they're successful," he says.

More and more student workers have been added in recent years. Enrollment is at an all time record for animal science and expected to increase significantly this coming fall semester. About 11 students work each semester. Some care for the animals while others maintain machinery. In the summer, students work harvesting forages and bedding for the sheep, swine, horse, beef teaching and beef nutrition farms.

"The students are my labor," he says, "Without them, we don't get it done."

Ruble has been impressed by the students coming from more urban areas, a trend that started about 15 years ago.

About a third of the farm's students are pre-vet, with most coming from animal science majors.

Ashli Jay, an animal science freshman from Miami, wanted to work with cattle in high school. For her that meant going to another school district to join an FFA program. The USDA's Ag Discovery summer program brought her to Iowa State and she liked it so much Jay decided to apply after high school.

"She started calling me when she graduated, emailing me, wanting a job," says Ruble.

Jay's initiative and persistence helped convince him to hire her despite a lack of experience.



RUBLE RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Dean Wendy Wintersteen presented Marshall Ruble with the Dean's Citation for Extraordinary Contributions Feb. 16 at the college's spring convocation. The surprise award recognizes faculty and staff who have exceeded expectations. Maynard Hogberg, chair of the Department of Animal Science, says he nominated Ruble because he's a dedicated staff member who is a great role model for other employees.

"Marshall Ruble continuously operates the Beef Teaching unit with a positive financial operating balance. He does this with hard work, smart buying and closely monitoring costs of his operation, including student labor," Hogberg says.

The Beef Teaching cow herd produces genetics sought after by commercial beef producers, Hogberg says, judging by the success of the biannual "Tradition of Excellence Female Sale." It is conducted with assistance of the Beef Marketing Class that is co-taught by Ruble and Brad Skaar. Ruble also is one of Iowa State's main contacts for the Iowa beef industry. He has served on multiple boards and committees, including the Iowa Beef Breeds Council where he served at the president.



Ashli Jay, a freshman from Miami, called **Marshall Ruble** repeatedly asking for a job at the Beef Teaching Farm and a chance to prove herself alongside students with more on-farm experience. Ruble was impressed by her determination.

“He took me under his wing and helped me with transitioning from Florida to Iowa,” Jay says, even helping her shop for the proper footwear for working on the farm in winter. “I am so grateful for Marshall, I could not have a better introduction to Iowa.”

Ruble estimates he’s had nearly 200 students work at the farm during his 33 years as manager. Many start as freshman and continue working until they graduate.

His first crew set a standard for excellence that he strives to continue:

- Steve Johnson (’81 animal science) is the director of feedyard operations at Cactus Feeders, the largest cattle feeder in the nation
- Dave Judd (’80 animal science) is a Kansas Gelbvieh cattle breeder
- David Edge (’80 farm operation) is owner with his wife, Melanie, of the Western Edge stores, farms and raises horses

Edge still has vivid memories of that first calving season with Ruble.

“I spent a couple summers on a Montana ranch, so I’d rope calves from a pick-up while he drove. After roping, my job was to tag, weigh and tattoo calves all the while keeping as far from the cows as possible,” he says. “They would try to get into the truck. After that year, Marshall began to select for disposition in the herd.”

Edge also took away the importance of record-keeping from the experience, something he applies in his current businesses.

Ruble expects students to learn as well as earn a paycheck.

“Everybody’s going to learn,” he says. “Every job you have hopefully you learn and pick up new things. I always ask them, ‘What do you want to get out of this job today?’.”



Ruble looks on as **Brandon LeSage**, junior in ag studies, and Jay take the weight of a young calf. About 11 students work at the farm each semester. Some care for the animals while others maintain machinery.

SITTING DOWN WITH THE DEAN

STUDENTS LEARN TO LEAD

By Brian Meyer

Sharing quality time in a seminar with the dean of the college can help shape the rest of your college experience—if not the rest of your life.

Catherine Swoboda, ('08 agronomy), who works for the World Food Prize Foundation in Des Moines, says the Dean's Leadership Seminar was a highlight of her years at ISU. "It taught me the joy of thinking analytically and rigorously and the pleasure of generously sharing ideas and knowledge. And for a freshman to have access to instruction by the deans was very impressive," Swoboda says.

Each fall semester, a new cohort of stu-

dents takes the Dean's Leadership Seminar. The students are offered the opportunity as recipients of some of the college's premier endowed scholarships. The seminar, co-taught by Dean Wendy Wintersteen and Associate Dean of Academic and Global Programs David Acker, introduces the freshmen to leadership qualities, problem solving on current issues, global perspectives and responding to societal needs in agriculture and life sciences.

"These students are up-and-comers who'll be leaders in the college and in their future careers," says Wintersteen. "It's wonderful to follow these students as they

progress through college and into careers."

Nate Looker, a senior in agronomy and global resource systems, says the dean's seminar substantially shaped his undergraduate experience. "Associate Dean Acker exhibits the style of leadership I hope to develop with time, empowering others with genuine, respectful communication. He introduced me to colleagues with whom he thought I'd share interests, helping me diversify my experiences."

Rachel Owen, a senior who'll graduate in agronomy, says she remembers Wintersteen speaking about how to respond to a critical news article. "The reason that stuck with me is because of the professionalism in which she handled the situation," Owen says. "I try to model the same professionalism when I'm in a leadership role."

The seminar was a great motivator, Owen adds. "Since the class, I've been involved in many student organizations both on campus and nationally. The issues we addressed helped me become a better leader."

Allyson (Chwee) Dirksen ('08 agricultural business) took the Dean's Leadership Seminar in 2004 with then-associate dean Eric Hoiberg. "Dean Hoiberg's integrity made an impression on me. He was such an approachable, sincere mentor," says Dirksen, who now practices law in Sioux City.

Amy Peyton, now a senior in agricultural business, says she learned how important it was to contribute to a conversation with peers about real-world issues. "That was the best part, meeting and becoming friends with the amazing people in class, several of whom I'm still good friends with today." ■



CALS students **Andrew Owen**, sophomore in pre-diet and exercise, and **Gail Barnum**, junior in food science, are among the students who regularly visit with **Dean Wendy Wintersteen** as part of the Dean's Leadership Seminar.

Photo: Barbara McGreen



By Ed Adcock

CAPPING OFF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Bart Howard was known on campus for the costumes he wore to class around Halloween—and for being an excellent student.

He donned a cap and gown when he graduated magna cum laude in December with degrees in forestry and agricultural business. Howard was selected to represent the college at commencement as its student marshal to honor his accomplishments.

He also was a letter winner on the track team and was selected to represent the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters at its national convention last fall. Howard had impressive internships every year of his college career, and is working as an arborist for Ryan Lawn and Tree in Kansas City.

“Bart is constantly on the move,” says Richard Schultz, university professor of natural resource ecology and management, who served as his escort as marshal, and led a study abroad trip to China that Howard completed.

“I’m most proud of my family; how my parents raised me and how close I am with my sisters, Holly and Hannah,” Howard says.

The three siblings had majors in natural resource fields and lived together while going to school. Holly graduated in 2010 (animal ecology, environmental studies and biology). Hannah plans to graduate in fall 2013 with a forestry degree and spring 2013 with an animal ecology degree.

They were by his side to celebrate his graduation. **S**

Photos: Jim Heemstra

MAKING DREAM OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT A REALITY

By Melea Reicks Licht

Don Koo Lee breathed deeply and looked out into the audience of delegates to the United Nations. He leaned into the microphone and began to speak:

“The core idea is that sustainable development is feasible when both developing and developed countries assume full responsibility, share each other’s burden and collaborate,” Lee said as part of his address. “I believe these are the values we must continue to uphold and pursue.”

As minister of the Korea Forest Service, Lee (’75 MS forest biometry, ’78 PhD silviculture) sought to inspire the delegates to work together in “ecosystemic development,” which he and other world leaders see as a possible solution for desertification, land degradation and drought.

Lee was invited to address the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in October 2011 as president of the Conference of the Parties, the decision-making body of that convention. He proposed the Changwon Initiative, which provides practical measures to battling desertification and land degradation.

Lee is a renowned expert in forest sciences, especially forest regeneration and silviculture (the growth and management of trees for wood production). He served as president of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations from 2006 to 2010 and became minister of the Korea Forest Service in February 2011.

“I make and develop better policies and determine how to put them into practice. I

enjoy knowing that the Korea Forest Service is well-recognized among other government organizations in our country. We recently obtained the top ranking in one-year work accomplishments among 38 government organizations.”

Most of Lee’s career has been spent as a professor of forest sciences at his alma mater—the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Seoul National University—where he also served a two-year term as dean.

His academic career culminated in the publication of “Ecological Management of Forests,” a book he authored with 29 of his students.

For Lee, the completion of his master’s and doctorate at Iowa State not only allowed him to build a meaningful career, it was the achievement of a childhood dream to become a professor.

Lee says he is glad government consultants recommended he attend Iowa State. He remembers the kindness and friendliness of Iowans, the hot July day he married his wife in a church near Ames, the volatile summer weather and the football rivalries.

“The Cyclones beat Nebraska in 1976 and the goal post was destroyed in the joy of victory,” he recalls.

Lee’s advice to current students: “Please have your own dream! Be ambitious in spirit and honest in all your works! Then you will be well-recognized and obtain great success.”

His dream for the Republic of Korea is to continue to lead and collaborate with the international community in sustainable development and forestry cooperation. ■



Photo: R.H. Lee, Korea Forest Service

In his work with the United Nations Don Lee, minister of the Korea Forest Service, is working to address desertification and land degradation worldwide. He says to succeed all nations must “assume full responsibility, share each other’s burden.”

ONLINE EXTRAS: www.cals.iastate.edu/stories

Relive the Cyclones 1976 victory over Nebraska via video online.

*Despite being briefly sidelined after a car-bike accident, **Sarah Low** is making an impact on rural development as an economist with the USDA.*



Photo: Mark White

DRIVEN:

ADVANCING RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH RESEARCH

By Melea Reicks Licht

Sarah Low was supposed to be training for the Washington D.C. Triathlon, not immobilized in a neck-to-hip brace.

Low ('02 public service and administration in agriculture) didn't get to do the 2010 triathlon. The car-bike accident during her commute made sure of that. But she was able to celebrate several victories along her six-month journey to recovery.

One was continuing to work—from her bed—as an economist in the Farm and Rural Business Branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

"I drew on my indomitable spirit, developed through TaeKwonDo, to continue working. An intern I supervised that summer said I was the most hard-working and demanding supervisor she'd had, despite the fact I was immobilized. I was tickled pink," Low says.

Low conducts research on farm and rural business and rural economic development. The outreach and policy-relevance of her work drives her. She wants what she does to create economic opportunities for people in rural areas.

"I am often asked to summarize the

current state of research for members of Congress. I recently briefed the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture on my local food marketing research. I just love taking calls from graduate students or economic development practitioners who have questions about my research. These are the outlets in which I can make a difference," she says.

She's done work on rural entrepreneurship and innovation, rural broadband accessibility and she'll be delving into rural manufacturing resilience next.

Low's list of published research and presentations is lengthy, especially for a young professional, and continues to grow. She has a master's in agricultural economics from Purdue and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in agricultural and consumer economics.

As a student at Iowa State, Low participated in precursor courses that now are part of the college's Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative. The native of Maysville, Iowa, also enjoyed getting her hands dirty.


"Working at the ISU dairy farm as part of the freshman honors program was a lot of fun. I'm so glad I got to experience

that. I remember going directly to my first class of the day smelling like, well, a dairy farm," Low says.

Low was known on campus for her involvement in the Government of the Student Body, which was very influential in shaping her career. She also fondly recalls the support of mentors like Liz Beck, then director of the campus honors program, and her academic adviser, Steve Padgitt, professor of sociology.

"I'll never forget Dr. Padgitt giving me a copy of the *Main Street Economist*, a publication of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. I was enthralled. I did research on the author and decided that I wanted a job like hers when I grew up," Low says. "Less than three years later, I was in the cubicle next to her, writing about rural economic development issues for the *Main Street Economist*."

That same drive and focus allowed her to get back on her bike. Eighteen months after her accident, she finished a sprint triathlon. She still bikes to work on occasion and trains with the DC Triathlon Club. **S**

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit, light blue shirt, and a striped tie, is smiling at the camera. He is standing outdoors in front of a building with large arched windows and some bare trees. The background is slightly out of focus.

Alum **Craig Morris**, deputy administrator of the USDA's Livestock and Seed Program, credits F.C. Parrish for helping him land his dream job—facilitating the domestic and international marketing of the nation's meat supply.

MEAT SCIENCE LEGEND LEADS GRAD FROM By Melea Reicks Licht

ROOKIE TO THE BIG LEAGUES

Craig Morris always wore his St. Louis Cardinals hat. As a freshman animal science student at Iowa State in 1988, that hat made him feel at home. It also caught the eye of his meat science professor, F.C. Parrish, who would come to do the same.

Morris ('92 meat science), now the deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Livestock and Seed Program, credits Parrish's influence for leading him to his dream job—facilitating the domestic and international

marketing of the nation's meat supply.

Like Morris, Parrish was a native of the St. Louis area, and felt an instant kinship. "He was an excellent scientist as a young guy. You don't find them that work any harder than Craig did. He wanted to succeed," Parrish says.

Morris worked with a butcher in high school and was working for Carriage House Meats in Ames at the time. "I loved everything about the meat business," Morris says, "and F.C. loved teaching people about the business. We gravitated toward each other.

Contributed Photo



Coach F.C. Parrish remembers Craig Morris (fourth from right) as "a heck of a competitor and really respected," placing third overall in the 1990 international meat judging contest. The 1990 ISU Meats Judging Team from left to right: Bobby Johnson (assistant coach), Marcia Carlson, Brent Geater, Kevin Bremer, Ed Greiman, Craig Morris, Alisa Antone, Dan Hillman and F.C. Parrish.

Parrish hired Morris as an undergrad research assistant. "After I was exposed to research, I never really left," he says. Once he arrived at Iowa State, Morris spent every weekend and every semester break either working in the ISU Meat Lab or on an internship that Parrish helped him land. He was a member of the meats judging team, and Parrish introduced him to the American Meat Science Association.

"I didn't have a friend in college that I spent more time with than F.C. It was seamless between work and fun," Morris says.

Well known in the meat science industry, Parrish was on faculty in animal science for more than 35 years teaching introductory and advanced meat science classes. He taught more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students during his tenure and was major professor to more than 30 graduate students before retiring as a University Professor in 2001.

He and his wife Fern provided Morris with home-cooked meals and moral support. In return, Morris mowed their lawn

when Parrish was recovering from minor surgery. For him the couple became "like second parents."

After graduation in 1992 Morris continued to work at the Meat Lab. Parrish recommended graduate schools and helped him find the best fit at Texas A&M.

"F.C. wanted me to go out and experience the world. If he would have just once asked me, I would have stayed, but he was kicking me out of the nest. It's the best thing that could have happened," Morris says.

At the USDA Morris oversees marketing activities for livestock, meat, fish, grain and seed. It's a big job. He manages budgets and human resources for nearly 500 full-time employees.

He oversees USDA grading and verification programs ranging from Prime Beef on restaurant menus to export verification programs allowing U.S. meats to enter countries all over the world. He handles purchasing specifications for commodities that go into the nation's school lunch program and food banks. He also oversees

country of origin labeling; market news reporting for livestock and grain; check-off programs for beef, pork, lamb, soybean and sorghum; accreditation of organic certification bodies; and the Federal Seed Act ensuring agricultural seeds are accurately labeled for interstate and international commerce.

Morris learned to manage employees from Parrish's example.

"I used to put a lot on my plate and needed help to prioritize. F.C. would put a 'one' next to everything on my list and let me work through it," Morris quips. "I've tried to emulate him as I've gotten more responsibility in my career. He surrounded himself with self-starters, independent thinkers and creativity. He trusted his employees. He would impart ownership and push you into the limelight."

Morris can't help but wonder what his life might have been like if not for Parrish.

"Just think," he says, "if I'd have been a Cubs fan, that might have been the end of it." **S**

Agricultural journalism alum **Janine Whipps** helps her clients focus on what's most important: their relationships with customers.

Photo: Brian Meyer



Contributed Photos

A retelling of how her family managed to save their purebred Duroc herd was the first story Whipps sold. She showed the 1976 Iowa State Fair Grand Champion purebred Duroc gilt during her high school days and is happy to report the Stewart herd is going strong. At the 2005 Iowa State Fair her daughter Kelly showed the Grand Champion 4-H Market Pig that year.



BUILT ON TRUST

By Brian Meyer

STRONG RELATIONSHIPS SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS SUCCESS

When Janine (Stewart) Whipps was a student at Iowa State, her family's farm faced a crisis when pseudorabies struck the purebred Duroc herd.

The family worked with Iowa State to successfully transfer embryos from their best Duroc sows and implant them in disease-free sows. The result: Elite genetic lines were saved and the herd rebuilt.

Whipps ('83 agricultural journalism) wrote a story about it. She pitched it to *Successful Farming* magazine, which bought the article and ran it.

"That was the first article I ever sold. It was a big deal. As a student, you have to do things like that to be different and stand out from the crowd," she says. "That's what I tell young people who have a passion for agriculture and for communications."

Whipps has lived her advice. She's one of the principals of Morgan&Myers, a company she's been with 27 years, that provides integrated communications and strategic planning services for agricultural clients in animal health, seed, banking, commodity organizations and more. The company offices in Waterloo, where

Whipps is based, and Waukesha, Wis.

As a student, Whipps was active in both journalism and agricultural groups, including working for swine industry legend Al Christian at the ISU Swine Teaching Farm. Her goal was to work for a national agricultural magazine. But she graduated as the Farm Crisis deepened and found slimmer opportunities.

So her first job was working for a Harvestore dealership in communications, advertising and client relations. "It was a great first job. You leave college thinking you know it all, then you realize you don't. That's good for everyone to learn," she says.

Whipps went on to work for the Hampshire Swine Registry in Peoria and then an agency in Cedar Falls that worked on animal health and seed industry accounts. Morgan&Myers eventually bought the agency and Whipps stayed on.


"We've grown while staying very true to our agricultural and pasture-to-plate roots," she says. "I'm pleased to have worked so long with so many who are making a difference in food and agriculture."

One accomplishment she'll never

forget was leading the team that worked with Asgrow to introduce Roundup Ready soybeans.

"I'd take farmers to a field and watch them as the plants were sprayed. You'd just see them cringe," she recalls. "Then we'd return two weeks later and see this beautiful field of soybeans. Seeing that new technology take off was a great experience."

Whipps has seen major changes in communications tools (gleefully, she believes every student should experience a manual typewriter). But some things don't change.

"The fundamentals remain the same. You need to know your audience, have insight into what's important to them, know what information is relevant and understand who influences their decisions," Whipps says. "These are the foundation for building consistent messages that are on track and resonate. Then you need to build relationships and gain trust by being as transparent as possible. At the end of the day, relationships matter and are what sets companies, products and people apart." 

ALUMS HONORED BY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND CALS

Fifty-seven individuals were honored with 28 awards at the 80th Honors and Awards Ceremony in October. Several College of Agriculture and Life Sciences alumni were honored by the ISU Alumni Association:

- **Gerald** ('53 farm operations) and **Carol Hunter** ('58 home ec ed) of Ames, received an Alumni Medal
- **Gerald Klonglan** ('58 rural sociology, MS '62, PhD '63) of Ames, emeritus sociology professor and retired associate dean, received the Alumni Service Award
- **Alan** ('66 animal science) and **Myrna Tubbs** ('66 child dev) of DeWitt, received the Alumni Service Award
- **Larry Ebberts** ('62 ag and life sciences education, MS '68) of Ames, received the Award for Superior Service to Alumni

Recipients of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences awards were:

- **James Frevert** ('60 farm operations) of Nevada, Iowa, received the Floyd Andre Award
- **Lowell Catlett** ('80 PhD economics) of Mesilla, N.M., received the Henry A. Wallace Award

- **Harold Crawford** ('50 ag and life sciences education, '55 MS, '60 PhD) of Ames, emeritus agricultural education and studies professor and retired associate dean, received the George Washington Carver Distinguished Service Award

- **Charles Stewart** ('00 PhD ag biochemistry) of San Diego, received the Superior Achievement Award for Early or Mid-Career Alumni

To read more about award winners visit www.cals.iastate.edu/stories.



Gerald Klonglan (center) congratulates fellow awardee Charles Stewart (right) at the award luncheon with Don Beitz who mentored Stewart during his ISU days.

VOGEL EARNS TOP HONORS FROM AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL EDITOR'S ASSOCIATION

American Agriculturist Editor **John Vogel** ('70 ag journalism and animal science), was honored by the American Agricultural Editor's Association in New Orleans with the "Writer of Merit" award. He's only the sixth person in the association's history to attain that distinction. The award requires scoring honors in 10 of 12 writing categories, such as ag issues, on-farm production articles, technical features, economics and management, human interest, editorial opinion and blogs.

KIEFER NAMED FARM MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Ed Kiefer, vice president and office manager for Hertz Farm Management Inc., was named 2011 Professional Farm Manager of the Year by Syngenta, AgProfessional magazine and the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. Kiefer ('75 agricultural business) has been a farm manager for 36 years and manages Hertz's Geneseo, Ill. office.

SCHWAB HONORED FOR EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT IN ANIMAL SCIENCE

Clint Schwab ('05 MS animal breeding and genetics, '07 PhD) received the 2012 Outstanding Early Career Agribusiness Award from the Midwest sections of the American Society of Animal Science and American Dairy Science Association. Schwab is the CEO of the National Swine Registry, a company that provides genetic evaluations, breed promotions and educational materials to the swine industry.

CHLUPACH COMPLETES IDITAROD

Bob Chlupach ('71 fisheries & wildlife biology) completed 1,000 grueling miles by dogsled in the legendary Iditarod race across Alaska in March. He entered and completed his first Iditarod, longest dog sled race in the world, in 1977. He has since entered and completed 11 Iditarods over five decades. Since retiring from his career as a fishery biologist, Chlupach has worked as a carpenter and professional sports fishing guide in Alaska. Read more about Chlupach's Iditarod career at www.cals.iastate.edu/stories.



HUTCHCROFT INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL 4-H HALL OF FAME

Theodore "Ted" Hutchcroft was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in October for lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H. Hutchcroft ('53 agricultural journalism) was one of 15 people inducted during a ceremony held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center. He served as the information director of the National 4-H Foundation for nine years beginning in 1959. Hutchcroft retired in 1994 after serving as interim director of communications and publications of the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.



Matt Deppe (left), chief executive officer of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, and **Dan Loy**, director of the Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University, look for ways to combine efforts of their two organizations to move the industry forward.

Photo: Bob Elbert

IOWA BEEF CENTER, IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ADVANCING THE INDUSTRY TOGETHER

By Sherry Hoyer

Take one organization focused on offering top notch research information to Iowa's beef industry, add another organization committed to growing Iowa's beef business through advocacy, leadership and education, and what do you have? A collaborative effort for helping Iowa beef producers that's second to none.

Iowa Beef Center director Dan Loy says the center's strength is access to a leading research university with faculty and staff who share a commitment to provide relevant unbiased information to the state's beef industry.

"Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has a long history of providing information to ag-minded professionals to make operational decisions that can lead to longer term sustainability," he says. "Our regional program specialists and county extension staffs' expertise complements our ability to be at the gate of the producer's needs."

As chief executive officer of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Matt Deppe ('99

animal science) understands and appreciates the cooperation between the two organizations. Prior to becoming CEO, he worked for ISU Extension in county and regional extension education director roles.

"While the Iowa Cattlemen's Association is the political and legislative voice for Iowa cattlemen and women, our interests in proactive policy measures utilize science and economics as a key component of working topics forward," Deppe says. "The Iowa Beef Center provides access to information and that's why we need and value the center as our partner."

As an ISU Extension center funded partially with state dollars, the Iowa Beef Center is accountable to the people of Iowa. The Iowa Cattlemen's Association is a grassroots membership organization with nearly 10,000 members and a network of county cattlemen's associations across Iowa, and it is funded through membership and industry support.

Working together is a win-win situation for both groups, Loy says, because such cooperative programs provide cut-

ting edge information that's relevant to the needs of the producers.

"One recent example of success was a 10-site series of heifer development clinics across Iowa. Nearly 600 people learned about technologies available for the successful development of productive heifers," Loy says. "The center and the association worked together from the beginning on this program from sponsor identification to publicity to attendance recruitment. We plan to continue to work together on programs like this in the future."

Utilizing the combined staff and resources of two partners is efficient and effective when it comes to getting valuable resources and information into the hands of members, Deppe says.

"There's no doubt that combining efforts and sharing credit for helping producers be profitable is something our association will be looking for well into the future," he says. "Ultimately this relationship makes both organizations more effective as we continue to work for the same stakeholder." ■

ROLLING OUT THE WELCOME MAT

KIRKWOOD AND IOWA STATE ENSURE SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

By Darcy Mauslby

Agriculture degrees are hot, and enrollment in community colleges' agriculture programs has soared in recent years. For students like Katie Yule, who start at Kirkwood Community College and want to earn a four-year degree at Iowa State University, the collaborative spirit among student services staff at both institutions makes the transfer process as seamless as possible.

"My Kirkwood adviser helped lay out all my options and explained what classes would transfer," says Yule, a senior from Packwood who is majoring in agricultural studies at Iowa State. "It was a very smooth transition."

Transfer students have always been important to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. They comprised nearly 27 percent of the college's enrollment in 2011. "As soon as students tell us they are thinking about transferring, we get them lined up with an ISU adviser so they can develop that relationship," says Scott Ermer, dean of agricultural sciences at Kirkwood, who noted that approximately 40 percent of Kirkwood's ag students transfer to four-year schools.

Communication is the key, says Barb Osborn, an academic adviser and program coordinator in the Iowa State University Department of Horticulture. "Both ISU and Kirkwood share the common goal of student success, and we know each other's academic programs very well. By developing a transfer process that's economical and timely, we can match each student with the best options available."

Osborn has seen the partnership benefit students first hand, as three of her own children attended Kirkwood and transferred

to Iowa State in agricultural programs.

Today's ag students come from diverse backgrounds, says Ermer, who noted a growing number of young people want to return to the family farm or work in production agriculture. In addition, more non-traditional students in their 30s, 40s and early 50s are enrolling in ag programs at Kirkwood to train for a new career. While transferring to Iowa State may not be part of some Kirkwood students' initial plans, Ermer says a sizeable percentage discover a four-year degree is achievable and make it part of their career goals.

Iowa State offers a number of resources to simplify the transition for transfers, says Yule, who coordinates campus visits, manages the College of



Photo: Bob Elbert

Katie Yule (right), a senior in agricultural studies, leads a tour group of prospective transfer students and their parents as part of her role as an Ag Ambassador. In 2011, nearly 27 percent of the college's enrollment transferred credits from another institution.

Agriculture and Life Sciences' Facebook group for transfer students and highlights the various ag clubs on campus. "I've had an awesome experience at ISU, and I encourage transfer students to get as involved as possible."

The faculty and staff at Iowa State and Kirkwood are always willing to go the extra mile for students, Ermer says. "The partnership with Iowa State continues to strengthen, and it has been a successful model not only for Kirkwood, but for other community colleges across Iowa and beyond." ■

ENRICHING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE, PAYING IT FORWARD

By Melea Reicks Licht

For many students, receiving a scholarship not only supports them financially, it gives them that extra boost of confidence needed to take advantage of all the opportunities college presents.

Alyssa Swan is such a student. As a Dean's Leadership Scholar she receives financial support for working at least 10 hours per week in an area related to her major.

"Our scholarships come from someone who believes in us and in the college," she says. "Being selected as a Dean's Leadership Scholar was fantastic. It was like someone saying, 'Here you go, you can do this!' The donors believe in CALS and they believe I can make an impact and that helps me go that extra mile."

Make that miles. Swan, a junior in animal science from Milwaukee is an officer in the ISU Horseman's Association and a member of the Pre-Vet Club. She also is a member of National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Alpha Lambda Delta / Phi Eta

Sigma and Alpha Zeta honor societies as well as the University Honors Program.

She has worked as undergraduate research assistant in Matthew Ellinwood's lab since her freshman year (see story on Ellinwood on page four). Swan worked as an animal caretaker and assisted Ellinwood with a surgical procedure related to his genetic research on the mucopolysaccharidoses diseases.

Swan continues to work in the lab, but is now leading her own project researching cat coat color genetics. She believes this project has the potential to advance the future genetic research potential of the cat colony.

"I don't think I ever would have been adventurous enough to attempt under-

graduate research my freshman year if it hadn't been part of my scholarship. Because of my work with Dr. Ellinwood, I've really been able to begin to figure out what I like to do and how to plan [for my future]," she says.

Swan has an externship at Wisconsin Equine Clinic and Hospital this summer—an opportunity she says she might not have been able to take if she had not received a scholarship, because the job is unpaid.

She benefitted so much from her scholarship she's already looking for ways to pay it forward.

"I see myself becoming a donor in the future because these scholarships have improved my experience tenfold," she says. ☐



Photo: Barbara McBrean

Scholarship recipient Alyssa Swan helps groom the horses at the ISU Horse Barns as part of a service project with the ISU Horseman's Association. Swan says receiving a scholarship allows her to participate in service activities and gain research experience rather than working to finance her education.

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IN AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

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The next STORIES will focus on **LIFE SCIENCE RESEARCH** and **ACADEMIC** programs in the college. From biochemistry, biophysics, molecular biology and organismal biology, to microbiology, genetics, development and cell biology, in the next issue you'll meet **FUTURE SCIENTISTS**, doctors and policy makers and the faculty helping equip them to **SOLVE** some of the industry's and the world's most pressing **CHALLENGES**.

A CYtennial Homecoming Celebration: *Taking Ames by Storm*

In 1912, Professor S. W. Beyer called out to alumni, encouraging them to return to Ames for the Iowa State College-University of Iowa football game. He said, "We hope to make the custom so popular that in future years the number who come back will go far up into the hundreds."

Beyer couldn't have envisioned how ISU's Homecoming would evolve during the next 100 years. Join us as we celebrate our CYtennial Homecoming Oct. 26-27, 2012!

FRIDAY, OCT. 26

- ❖ Pep Rally & Centennial Celebration, ISU Alumni Center
- ❖ ExCYtement in the streets
- ❖ Pancakes, Mass Campaniling, and fireworks on Central Campus

SATURDAY, OCT. 27

- ❖ Homecoming Tailgate, ISU Alumni Center,
- ❖ Cyclone football vs. Baylor

REUNIONS

- ❖ Gather your friends!
- ❖ For reunion info contact Katie Lickteig at 515-294-1955

More events are being planned for Homecoming week Oct. 22-27 throughout campus and the Ames community. Go to www.isualum.org/homecoming2012 for details.



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Andy wanted to **follow in his father's footsteps.**



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Andy Chamra inherited his love of the land from his father. He's been exploring that passion as an ag business major at Iowa State. Along the way, Andy learned something about himself: he's a born leader. He landed an agronomy internship, researched nitrogen stabilizers and became an economics tutor. He even became the president of the Ag Business Club. Now he can show other students how to chart their own amazing adventure.

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