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EDITOR'S NOTE

Time and change. These two words encapsulate our experiences here at The Ohio State University. This year's batch of seniors have acquired numerous skills throughout their undergraduate career from classes and club activities, to internships and study abroad programs.

After spending countless hours planning, writing and designing, our team is proud to bring you the 123rd edition of the AgriNaturalist. The stories within this year's edition of the AgriNaturalist show how our students, faculty and staff are looking toward the future.

Change is the only constant, and this year's edition allows us to reflect on the changes taking place at our university and within various sectors of the agricultural industry. We also highlight the numerous accomplishments and anniversaries achieved by individuals, organizations and departments within our college.



Megan Besancon

Front Cover Attribution: Sarah Johnson

AgriNaturalist is the official publication of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Its purpose is to give practical journalism experience to students and provide faculty, staff and students with a source of information about college issues and current events.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
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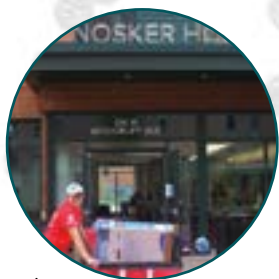
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cfaes YEAR IN Review

Do you follow the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences on Instagram?
(If not, here's what you missed!)

August 2016

It's move-in day for all the new freshmen and returning sophomores in CFAES! We hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe day! Abby Motter, an Agriscience Education major is an OWL Coordinator this year. Abby and all the other OWLs (OSU Welcome Leaders) are excited to help fellow Buckeyes make Ohio State their new home!



September 2016

Entry 6 of 12 of the CFAES Study Abroad Photo Contest. 1 like = 1 vote! 'Hippos Take the Most Lives in South Africa but She Took My Heart.' Photo submitted by Shannon Kelly on the South Africa Exotic Animal Behavior and Welfare Study Abroad Program in Hoedspruit Limpopo, South Africa.



October 2016

If you are interested intraveling and volunteering internationally, Peace Corps will be conducting a workshop specifically geared to students in Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science areas on October 5 from 5-6pm in the Ag Admin Building 207.



November 2016

Today is the final day to apply to Ohio State for early action! The early action application allows you to be eligible for merit based scholarships. Emily Kreinbrink is a sophomore in Food Sciences and Technologies. Ohio State is the only college in Ohio to offer this major. Emily loves being on the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences because it is a small campus, that offers big university opportunities.



December 2016

Congratulations to the Food Science and Technology product development team of Anya Arora, Jessica Miao, and Morgan Whitecotton! They've been named a finalist in the American Society of Baking's 2017 Product Development Competition. They will attend the final round of competition at the annual ASB Product Development Competition on February 27-28 in Chicago, IL.



January 2017

Alpha Zeta Partners, a co-ed agricultural honorary fraternity, is currently accepting applications for Class 19. To be eligible, students must be a freshman or sophomore in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and have a 3.0 GPA or higher. For more information on AZP, check out their website at alphazetapartners.osu.edu, on Facebook, or Instagram!



February 2017

The spring CFAES career expo is Thursday February 16th from 11 AM-4 PM at the Ohio Union. Over 117 companies will be in attendance, and all CFAES students are encouraged to attend to network with the companies. You can also get a free professional headshot photo and a free passport photo at the event.



March 2017

Happy Ohio 4-H Week! Did you know that 4-H was originally founded in Clark County, right here in Ohio? 4-H is now in all 50 states and open to all youth ages five to nineteen, regardless of cultural, economic and social backgrounds.



For these and other exciting updates about what's happening in the college, follow CFAES on Instagram at @osucfaes



CFAES CLUB SPOTLIGHT

STORY BY: SETH ZAVODNY • AMHERST, OH

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at The Ohio State University has been growing more and more each year. Now, with over 40 clubs and organizations, this past year is no exception. Craig Berning, the CFAES student council president, says that organizations within the college are constantly growing and are embracing new opportunities. Berning said that over the past year, the college focused on making sure the organizations are accessible to all students.

Comprising one representative from each organization at the bi-weekly meetings, CFAES student council creates a sense of community inside the college. Council covers all of the actions taken by the CFAES groups and help facilitate the different roles they hold. They plan a few events of their own each year, and collaborate with the groups inside the college to help make the events better.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

CFAES Student Council's main event is the Back to School Bash. The student council partnered with the Animal Science Community Alliance this year to help make the event even bigger. The annual bash is held at Fred Beekman Park and features a kickball tournament, food and projected movie at night. This year they had over 1,000 attendees, and Ohio State now considers it an official Signature Welcome Week Event.



CFAES student organizations line the sidewalks of Fred Beekman Park at the 2016 Back to School Bash. Photo courtesy of CFAES Student Services.

FACULTY APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Another notable event hosted by the council is the faculty appreciation breakfast. At the faculty appreciation meal, they cook breakfast and acknowledge the CFAES faculty and staff.

YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

The fourth annual Young Leaders Conference took place on February 24, 2017, and was put on by the sorority Sigma Alpha and the fraternity Alpha Gamma Rho at the Nationwide Farm Bureau 4-H Center. It is a professional development event for high school students interested in agriculture.

This year, 120 high school students attended to do resume and team building. The event offer sprofessional development opportunities, a mock industry fair experience, and free professional headshots

for students. Leah Schwinn, the Young Leaders Conference chairman, said, "It's a great opportunity for us as college students to be able to give back, and help students that will soon be filling our shoes."

SWINE SPECTACULAR

Another large annual event in CFAES is the Swine Spectacular hosted by the Saddle & Sirloin club. This year, they expect around 400 hogs to show. Allison Price, the swine show committee chair, says "[her] favorite part about being in Saddle & Sirloin is the amount of fun we have while still promoting agriculture and doing what we love at school."

Saddle & Sirloin gives students the opportunity to promote, network and be involved in the industry at the collegiate level.

AGRI-LYMPICS

At the end of every school year, CFAES hosts an "Agri-lympics" consisting of games like relay races, tug of war, pie eating and others. This is CFAES Council's way to end the year and get all of the groups involved. FarmHouse, an agricultural fraternity on campus, took home first place for the third consecutive year in Spring 2016. They await to see if they can make it a four-peat in 2017.

The student council is finding new ways to connect the entire college. The events this year have been bigger than ever, and the college is working hard to build on the ones coming up in the near future. •

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April 21, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at Kottman Hall

Join us for our annual Arbor Day Celebration of Trees on Friday April 21 at The Ohio State University Kottman Hall. Details at: ChadwickArboretum.osu.edu.



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It's a New World For Lady Farmers

STORY BY: TAYLOR PUGH • LOUISVILLE, OH

Being a woman in agriculture isn't just having dinner on the table and the house cleaned for the typical husband farmer anymore. The millennial generation of women has stepped up and taken farming in their own hands.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, almost 100,000 farms across the country are operated by women, and over two-thirds of these women have other careers while pursuing farming. Women are working hard to defy stereotypes in the agricultural industry, even here at The Ohio State University. Alumni Jessica Campbell, Megan Dresbach and Casey Moser are just a few examples of young women setting their own standards.

FARM FRESH IS THE NEW FAD

"I actually grew up in a small suburb in Ohio, not really close to the country," said Jessica Campbell, 29. Her love for agriculture came from being involved with 4-H and working on her aunt Kathleen's hog farm.

After graduating from Ohio State with a degree in animal science, she and her husband Adam bought a 55-acre farm in Warren County. Over the past three years they have converted the former row-crop farm to a livestock operation using rotational grazing practices. Her dream to be a first-generation farmer came to life when the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program was implemented at Carroll Creek Farms.

Campbell said that she noticed an interest in a fresh source of meat from her customers, and a new vision for her farm

started to arise. "People care about where their meat comes from," she said.

Members of the CSA buy a share of the livestock and receive a hand-delivered selection of 20 pounds of various meats each month. The farm specializes in beef, pork, lamb, chicken and eggs. All products from the farm are antibiotic and growth-hormone free.

"I want to drive tractors and trucks just like daddy."

Campbell spends her weekends at farmers markets with her children Lane and Rhett. As the personal face of the product for her customers, a new persona as the "Lady Farmer" has been created. Many of the customers she interacts with are mothers and respect her for the fresh and safe food source she provides.

"I think that I can relate well with the mothers," said Campbell. "The moms are the ones purchasing food for the family, and I think being a woman and being a mother gives me an advantage in this industry to connect on that motherly and caring level."

Campbell continues to grow her business and inspire other women by sharing her story at local events and via social media.

WHO SAID TRUCKERS WERE ONLY MEN?

Megan Dresbach grew up saying, "I want to drive tractors and trucks just like daddy," and she did just that.

By 17 years old, Dresbach had purchased her first semitruck and

semitrailer. She started her own company, M.D. Ag Services, as a way to pay for college and to start getting involved with her father's business, W.D. Farms.

Located in Circleville, Ohio, W.D. Farms specializes in the management of liquid by-products, consisting of manure, bio-products, water plant lime and other farm wastes. "We haul stuff that most people

wouldn't think would still be useful," said Dresbach. "People probably think it's gross, but I guess I'm just that kind of girl."

After graduating from Ohio State with a degree in agribusiness and applied economics in May 2016, she began her life as a businesswoman. She got her commercial drivers license and took a more involved role in the business, from hauling manure to researching safe application tactics.

Now 23, Dresbach has purchased three more semitrucks, traveled the country for industry conferences and assumed control of all the trucking for W.D. Farms. Dresbach is constantly busy.

Dresbach has put her heart and soul into the family operation, and she won't let being a woman hold her back. "Driving semis and driving tractors takes a special kind of person," said Dresbach. "The fact that I get the opportunity to do this makes me work that much harder to prove to any man that women can do the same things, and maybe even better sometimes."

FARMER BORN AND RASIED

Production agriculture has influenced Casey Moser's life since a young age. Growing up on a 1,600-acre crop farm in Plain City, Ohio, there was always work to be done. "I remember working ground and driving the grain cart in the second or third grade," said Moser. "That's just how me and my brother were raised, always in a tractor."

While busy with school and other activities, she still set aside her weekends and free time to help. "My parents prided themselves in never having hired help because I was always in the field," said Moser.

She attended Ohio State majoring in agricultural communication and minoring in agronomy. During college she was involved with organizations and obtained experience through internships, but she continued to help out on the farm as much as possible.

"I grew up around production agriculture, but in the workforce it's like

working in a man's world," said Moser, reflecting on her experiences after graduating college and starting her career as a seed consultant. "I think being a woman in agriculture may give you an advantage; there is real potential for us to strive and be successful."

Moser and her husband John moved to Perrysburg, Ohio, and now farm almost 3,500 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat with her in-laws. During the day Moser is a marketing specialist at Archbold Equipment, but after hours she does all she can on the farm. She runs equipment as much as possible, brings meals to everybody in the operation and now takes care of her 1-year-old daughter Chloe.

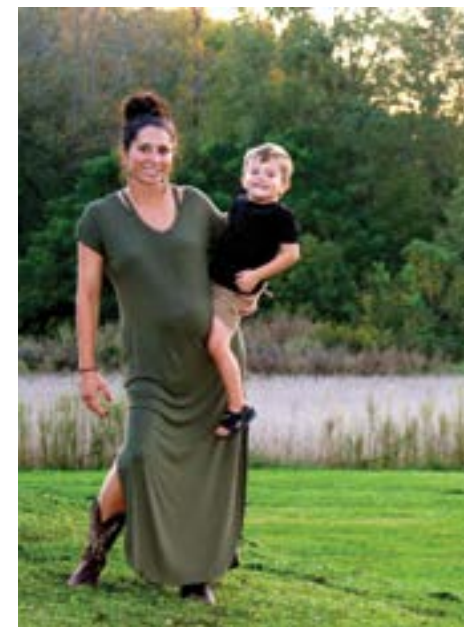
Moser, 26, is also responsible for the bookkeeping for the operation. "You take for granted what conditions you've had on the farm, until you've had to farm somewhere completely different," said Moser. She was able to use the knowledge from her past farming experiences to make grain harvest more efficient in Perrysburg.

UNITED AS WOMEN

Women are coming together to promote their passion for agriculture. There are groups like the Ohio Agri-Women and Ohio's Annie's Project that give women the opportunity to share ideas and experiences as a collective and supportive community. "I appreciate the opportunity to be in a room of open women that feel comfortable enough to share and talk about individual operations. These female-only organizations have helped me gain knowledge that will be beneficial to my own family farm," said Rachael Vonderhaar, president of the Ohio Agri-Women.

Women are pushing boundaries and exceeding those farm-wife expectations everyday. With statistics growing each year of women in charge of American farms, there are no limits to what they can bring to the table.

Next time you head to the grocery store for a fresh selection of produce, thank a farmer—a lady farmer. •



Left: Jessica Campbell and her son, Lane Center: Megan Dresbach Right: John, Casey and Chloe Moser Photos courtesy of sources.



Learn more about Moser Farms at <https://www.facebook.com/MoserFarmsPartnership/>.

Learn more about W.D. Farms at <http://www.wdfarmsllc.com/>.

Learn more about Jessica Campbell and her operation at <http://www.carrollcreekfarms.com/>.

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FOOD WASTE OVERDOSING OHIO STATE'S CHARGE TO CHANGE FOOD WASTE

STORY BY: TYLER CROWE • WESTERVILLE, OH

Photo by: Adam Levine

Most people do not think about how their food waste is disposed. Food waste is much like any other trash: It gets piled up and shipped to a landfill where it will sit and slowly decompose. However, the food decomposing in the landfills turns into methane gas, which is extremely harmful to the environment.

Brian Roe, Ph.D., director of the Ohio State Food Waste Collaborative, explained how harmful methane gas is for the environment.

"Methane is a greenhouse gas that's 20 to 30 times more potent than CO₂ so it has a lot of potential in terms of greenhouse gas effects," said Roe.

Food waste is not an issue to be taken lightly, and some are stepping up to try to stop and reduce the amount of food waste generated.

WORKING TOGETHER TO END FOOD WASTE

The Food Waste Collaborative at The Ohio State University is leading the charge in trying to reduce food waste. The collaborative comprises of researchers, practitioners and students who are dedicated to solving food waste reduction. The Food Waste Collaborative has teamed up with some local and national partners in order to enhance their research and to educate the public on a broader scale.

These partners include Resource 100LTD, a not-for-profit organization promoting environmentally and economically sustainable energy policies and practices, Pennington Biomedical Research Center at Louisiana State University and the Environmental

Protection Agency. These organizations are working together to achieve a common goal and to help the environment. However, food waste can be a complex issue, especially when trying to identify and reverse poor food waste habits. Identifying where the waste comes from is the first step in understanding this complex issue.

CONVINCING CONSUMERS TO WASTE LESS

Food waste can come from a few different sources, such as business waste, institutional waste and consumer waste. The Food Waste Collaborative's main focus is on the consumer end of food waste; this means dealing with any food waste thrown away by a consumer at a house, at a restaurant or at an event. The collaborative's focus is on two processes of reducing food waste: reduction and

diversion. Reduction focuses on cutting the amount of food consumers purchase so that it never becomes waste. Diversion targets where food goes after it is purchased and has gone bad.

Ohio State is taking steps to reduce the amount of waste generated on campus and at university events. Ohio State has started a Zero Waste program to try to eliminate the waste generated from residence halls, dining halls and community events.

The Food Waste Collaborative at Ohio State is taking strides to educate the public and is doing tremendous research to reduce food waste. Even with the strides being taken by the collaborative it will take more than just one team to change our food waste habits. Although food waste is a growing concern, everyone has the ability to make a small change today to make a big difference tomorrow. •





A CELEBRATION TO LAST throughout the Years

STORY BY: LAUREN CORRY • XENIA, OH

“Time and change will surely show.” These familiar lyrics from the alma mater, “Carmen Ohio,” still hold true just as they did since their origination in the beginning of the 20th century. While many things around campus stay the same, some change for the better. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) within The Ohio State University has formally recognized its students and their accomplishments for more than half a century. However, just as the times have changed, so have the students’, faculty’s and staff’s opinions of how students should be recognized. The highlight of the academic year, formerly known as a recognition program and banquet is now a “Celebration of Students.”

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

In 1954, the first “Ag B-B-Q” took place in Plumb Hall. At the event the college acknowledged student success and awarded the singular “Outstanding Man” award, known today as the “Outstanding Senior” awards. Over the years, the “Ag B-B-Q” evolved into a recognition program and banquet. The theme and banquet dedication developed and the event turned into more of a production than a picnic.

Today, the banquet is an event that requires a rather large expenditure and countless hours of time and effort by a select group of faculty, staff and students. The steering committee is comprised of about 30 students with various majors within the college. There are no financial reserves, and the event’s account starts at

zero each year –the entirety is funded by student solicitations and ticket sales.

Linda Martin, Ph.D., associate dean of academic affairs in CFAES, described the benefits of a student-led group organizing an event of this size. “The students involved in the planning are learning a lot about time management, fundraising, communication, coordination, teamwork and a greater understanding of themselves and what they bring to the table in terms of strengths and skills,” Martin said.

Shortly after the 63rd recognition program and banquet in spring 2016, the college received requests for change and new ideas that encouraged a different way of thinking about the evening. About 30 faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students representative of almost all academic units from the college attended a brainstorming session. From this gathering came over 20 pages of notes with positive and negative feedback regarding the

responses pointed out that an ostentatious theme has made students and visitors feel out of place if they were not dressed appropriately for the occasion. Others expressed concern that only certain students were being recognized and, overall, the evening lacked an acceptable level of inclusiveness.

IT’S TIME TO COME TOGETHER

“The original format of the recognition program fit very well for a very long time because it fit our audience and our student body,” said Marilyn Trefz, Ph.D. She is serving her 19th year as an advisor for the steering committee. “We are now creating a new experience, and hopefully a significantly different experience, so folks will realize we listened to what they had to say,” Trefz continued.

One of the items that will be updated this year is the physical arrangement of the evening. The goal is to create

process. This year it was updated to an interest form to be all encompassing of majors and departments. The revised Outstanding Senior application allocates space for students to tell their personal stories and unique college experiences. From one essay to now four, the application lets students promote themselves in the areas of academics, service, influence and reflection.

The transition leans away from a high focus on grade point averages and the quantity of involvements and more toward overall experiences and professional understanding. “We need to quit celebrating the numbers and start thinking about the [students’] impact,” said Martin.

Miranda Miser, vice president of CFAES student council and one of three co-chairs of the steering committee, noted the importance of communication within the college. She believes hearing students’ opinions and respecting their beliefs are vital in this ever-evolving transition. “I want everyone to feel included and that should be our goal, that everyone feels loved and supported in our college.”

IT’S A CELEBRATION!

Along with the new philosophy of celebration rather than recognition, more commemorative actions and events are in the works. CFAES alumna and project manager Jill Arnett will lead the

“Celebration of Students Week” effort. In recent years, she served as the advisor of the CFAES Ambassador Team and is no stranger to promoting the college. Whether it’s students involved in research or student veterans, the one-college viewpoint unites the faculty, staff and student body in CFAES. The goal of the “Celebration of Students Week” is to



pay tribute to students through various endeavors since there is just not enough time in one evening.

“We celebrate students every single day,” said Martin. However, she mentioned the importance of purposefully celebrating

students during this time period around the banquet. “‘Students first’ has always been a hallmark of this college.”

Alterations have been made to the largest student-run event on campus, but at least one challenge still remains. Warren Flood, Ph.D., assessment coordinator for CFAES and Trefz’s co-advisor for the event, said, “The perception is ‘I’m not receiving an award. [The program] has no relevance to me.’ We need to change the perception. It’s not an awards ceremony. It’s a celebration of students.”

The evening is a celebration where each student is invited to attend regardless of campus location, major or level of involvement. “The new Celebration of Students effort is just what this college needed to really recognize its students and the many things that they do,” said Trefz.

The 2017 Celebration of Students will take place April 6 in the Archie Griffin Ballroom of the Ohio Union. The theme “Our Story” was selected to holistically highlight the achievements of the college.

No matter what changes do or do not take place this year, it is important not to forget what is truly wonderful about the college. “One of the most amazing things is when parents, faculty, students and staff all come together, and there’s this sense of family,” said Martin. “‘Student success is a partnership between parents, staff, faculty and students – that’s what we’re really celebrating.’” •

Agribusiness Club at Ohio State



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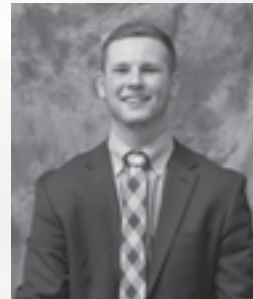
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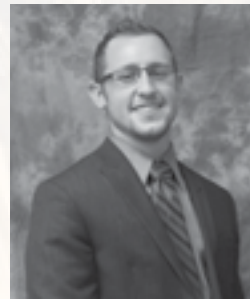
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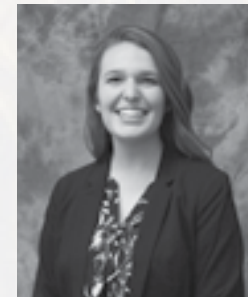
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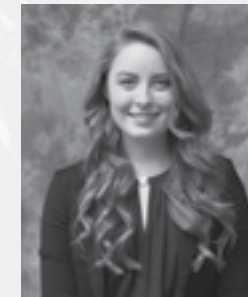
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FROM *Ohio State*



Alumnus Adam Sharp shares his vision for OFBF

STORY BY: MALLORIE WIPPEL • ORIENT, OH



Photo courtesy of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

As Adam Sharp flipped through the 2016 issue of the *AgriNaturalist* he reflected on his time as a student working on the magazine. Time did surely show how much things have changed since he walked the halls of the Agricultural Administration Building more than 23 years ago. “This is a lot better than what we used to do,” Sharp said as he saw the most recent cover. “Ours was pretty darn rudimentary back in the day.” As an agricultural communication student working on the *AgriNaturalist*, Sharp didn’t know that almost 25 years later he would be a feature story.

With a smile on his face and memories in his mind, Sharp uses what he learned as a student in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at The Ohio State University as he looks into the future as the new executive vice president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF).

Growing up on his family farm, in Amanda, Ohio, Sharp’s passion for the industry grew early on. Sharp graduated from Amanda Clearcreek High School where his ag education teacher, Chuck Miller, made an impact on him. “Chuck would ask me what I wanted to do, and I told him that I had an interest in politics and agriculture,” said Sharp. “I had no idea what kind of career that would be.”

Sharp graduated from Ohio State in 1994 with a major in agricultural communication and a minor in international economic and social development. Taking his electives in political science, he knew that he wanted a future in agriculture policy. Ohio State professors Curt Paulson, Rosemaire Rossetti and Robert Agunga helped him make a career pathway into his two passions. Paulson shared Sharp’s resume with his contacts in Washington D.C., and Sharp’s resume found its way to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF).

Sharp worked seven years with AFBF as a communications intern and a governmental relations specialist. “I interned during the summer of 1995 and never came back [to Ohio] for 10

TO *Ohio Farm Bureau*

years,” Sharp said. When George W. Bush became president in January 2001, Sharp was asked by the administration to take a political appointment at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He worked at the EPA for four years before making the decision to return to his roots. Sharp said, “I wanted to raise my kids here on the family farm versus D.C.”

After leaving D.C. to return to Ohio, he found the home that he didn’t know he had at OFBF. Sharp first worked as a federal lobbyist and then became the vice president of policy. On May 10, 2016, his role changed again when the OFBF Board of Trustees announced Sharp as the sixth executive vice president.

GOING FORWARD

Going into OFBF’s 98th year, Sharp has a vision. He wants to focus on a team culture, including maintaining strong partnerships between county, state and the American Farm Bureau, and having a modern appeal by planning who OFBF wants to be for the next 100 years in terms of image branding and logo. Sharp plans to protect and grow the Ohio agriculture and food community. OFBF will be a more inclusive organization by developing new and better youth pathways.

“We need to be the chief advocate for agriculture in Ohio,” said Sharp.

FOCUS ON MEMBERS

Sharp prides the organization on being the “eyes and ears” for farmers and the agriculture community. At the core of Ohio Farm Bureau lays their members. Senior Director of Membership, and alumnus of Ohio State, Paul Lyons works with county organization directors and the membership team at the OFBF state office to help meet members’ needs.

“It’s always been about that member for me. That’s what excites me about the organization,” said Lyons. He believes that OFBF is an important part in solving their problems. With the industry getting more diverse, Lyons said that now is a perfect

a very strong 4-H and FFA family and I have a passion for that. We see a need for it and we are working really hard to figure out how we want to handle this and which way we want to go.”

OHIO STATE AND OFBF: A KEY PARTNERSHIP

Ohio Farm Bureau and Ohio State work closely on many projects within the industry. Water quality, energy and fertilizer applicator regulations are just a few of the projects happening right now.

The Blanchard River Demonstration Farms is a research effort between OFBF and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Ohio State serves on the advisory board. The purpose of these farms is to improve farmers’ nutrient management to protect water quality.

Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training (FACT) is a training course provided by Ohio State Extension to help farmers fulfill the education requirements of Ohio’s new Fertilizer Applicator Certification program. OFBF supports FACT in funding and resources.

Helping students succeed is a mutual priority. OFBF supports students with internship opportunities and a variety of scholarships. For example, OFBF awarded eight students in the Multicultural Students in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) organization scholarships to attend the YAP Conference in February.

“Going forward there will certainly be more [projects] and continue key partnerships,” said Sharp.

“We need to be thinking about the next one hundred years,” said Sharp. He plans to lead the charge of OFBF into that future. With the skills, professional development and lifelong friendships that he gained during his time at Ohio State, he is ready for the challenge. •



Sharp, left, visiting with Farm Bureau members. Photo courtesy of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

opportunity to reach a new audience and tell them more about who who OFBF is.

Policy remains at OFBF’s foundation. “Ag advocacy will still be the core of that new plan,” said Lyons. With Sharp at the helm, Lyons is excited to see where the membership component of OFBF goes.

MAKING NEW PATHWAYS

A main point in Sharp’s vision is creating a more inclusive organization. Melinda Witten, director of leadership programming and alumna of Ohio State, is working with Sharp to create a strong Young Agriculture Professionals (YAP) membership. Witten and Sharp both started at OFBF around the same time and have advanced through the organization together.

“How do we connect 4-H students, FFA students and college students involved in agriculture to Farm Bureau?” said Witten. OFBF is working to become the next step in students’ commitment to the industry.

“Youth pathways is such a passion for him [Sharp],” Witten said. “He’s from

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“ *I was looking for something to continue the leadership and professional development and networking opportunities that programs like 4-H and FFA provided when I was younger. Ohio Farm Bureau provides that through its Young Ag Professional program, and many other opportunities, conferences and activities.* **”**

~ Tim Terrill, Montgomery County



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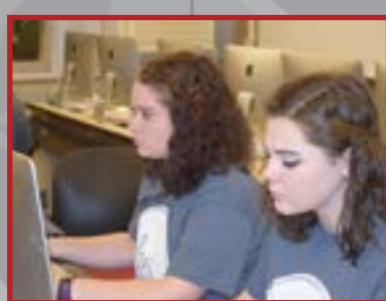
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100 Years Strong

STORY BY: MIRANDA MISER • CUMBERLAND, OH

Photos courtesy of ACEL Archives

Imagine stepping onto The Ohio State University campus in 1917: The Main Library is newly constructed and still gleams with innovation. Telephones are an uncommon luxury, and students handwrite every assignment. The campus is much smaller, and crowded buses are unnecessary for transportation. Ohio Stadium is still an architectural drawing, not yet occupying the banks of the Olentangy River. And following a 1911 state law that required agricultural education in public schools, vocational agriculture and outreach education are just emerging as areas of study.

An Ohio State student's experience today is extremely different than a century ago. While education and technology continue to change, outreach and communication are still crucial to the agriculture industry. The Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership (ACEL) has worked hard to promote the time-honored tradition of agriculture since its inception in 1917. This year, the ACEL department is celebrating its past, present and future during its centennial festivities.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The Department of Agricultural Education began on July 1, 1917, after the inception of the Smith-Hughes Act that promoted vocational agricultural education in secondary schools. The department's goal was to educate potential teachers to fill the classroom roles funded

by the act. Dean Alfred Vivian was credited with bringing the agricultural education major to the College of Agriculture and Home Economics and being at the forefront of vocational agriculture funding in Ohio. Vivian wanted to make sure Ohio capitalized on federal funding and worked with the governor and board of trustees to create the department just months after the Smith-Hughes Act passed.

"When you look at other universities, agricultural education was started in colleges of education and career tech areas like family and consumer science," said Tracy Kitchel, Ph.D., professor and ACEL department chair. "Our dean said, 'We are going to have one and it is going to be here in my college.'"

The department expanded and changed throughout the years. At its creation in 1917 the department focused on agricultural education and then began to shift toward outreach. The agricultural communication major was created in 1973 and added to the department. In the 1990s rural sociology left the Department of Agricultural Economics and joined the agricultural education department. At the same time, the department changed its name from the Department of Agricultural Education to the Department of Human and Community Resource Development to recognize the different majors.

Rural sociology moved from the department in the late 2000s, and the

community leadership major was created in 2012. With the creation of the new major, and the transition from quarters to semesters, the department decided to change its name entirely to the ACEL department, and this name still holds true today.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY

To find ways to celebrate 100 years of existence, the ACEL department has put together a steering committee made up of staff, students and alumni. The committee is collaborating with Burkholder-Flint, a marketing agency, to find ways to educate and reach out to the public throughout 2017.

"We want to make sure to incorporate the celebration into events like homecoming, the college banquet and the department banquet," said Emily Wickham, ACEL student services coordinator. "We don't want to have one big event, we want to celebrate this milestone throughout the year."

The committee plans to use the time between January and May 2017 to create a calendar of events for summer and autumn 2017. The plan is to advertise and highlight the centennial and anniversary celebrations at the Ohio 4-H Conference, Ohio FFA Convention and American Association for Agricultural Education events.

Tom Stewart, ACEL lecturer and committee member, is excited to see the planning come together in the next few

months and get more students involved. "Right now, we are still in the early stages of planning and want to get everything put into place for the anniversary in July," said Stewart. "We don't have anything set in stone yet, but there are many sub-committees working on different aspects of the celebration to make sure ACEL is represented well throughout the year."

In addition to using outreach at events, and having representation across the college at annual banquets, the committee

relates with agriculture has changed drastically. The ACEL department wants to continue to enhance the way it interacts, communicates and educates the public over the next 100 years through the research, demographics and skill sets of their department faculty, students and staff.

"Less than two percent of the United States' population is engaged in farming," said Kitchel. "There is a lot of misinformation and myths out there, and the more people we bring into our world

Remembering the past, appreciating the present and looking toward the future.

is putting together an endowment for the department.

"The goal of this endowment would be to give resources to faculty to really think and rethink how we put together our curriculum, our courses or what we teach in those courses," said Kitchel. "This endowment would really give us a way to try to be at the cutting edge of our teaching and academic programs."

Ideally, this endowment would become available to department educators within the next three years. Technology and resources are constantly changing and this endowment would ensure that the ACEL department stays relevant and effective in its teaching efforts.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Over the last few years, the way society

that have different experiences the more we will be prepared to interact and react when those misconceptions do come up."

Bringing in more diverse backgrounds will allow students to think about agriculture in a different way, said Kitchel. Even though some of the courses are broad, most of the professors have some form of agricultural background. Therefore, food systems, the environment and industry issues are still used as examples to educate students indirectly.

The Ohio State University strives to be at the forefront of research and innovation. The ACEL department continues to complete this mission by collaborating with other CFAES departments to help enhance research efforts, as well as to continue research on their own. "We have members of our faculty working with

the AEDE [Agricultural, Environmental, Development Economics] department on food waste research," said Kitchel. "They are using their talents to help understand a complex issue and eventually educate others about the problem."

The faculty, staff and students of ACEL have a special ability to interact with consumers. Finding ways to use these talents and collaborate more with other departments to complete their mission is a goal ACEL has in the coming years. Some of these ideas include creating more workshops, leadership conferences and finding effective ways to connect with the public through different media platforms.

Nothing is more constant than change. ACEL has transformed drastically over the past 100 years and will continue to change over the many years that will follow: continuously finding new ways to advance the department, students and curriculum. ACEL is always looking ahead and asking questions to better the department for the next generation. •

For more information about ACEL, visit: acel.osu.edu



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ENGINEERING YOUR SUCCESS.

A LOOK AT OHIO'S CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

STORY BY: EMILY HENES • ORRVILLE, OH

"I think experience is the best teacher."

"In my mind career technical education is a real-life approach to learning," said Cassandra Palsgrove, the Ohio Department of Education education program specialist for the Office of Career Technical Education or CTE. CTE courses have a direct correlation to a real world scenarios, and the curriculum provides application to academic subjects. "You can easily answer, 'Why am I learning this?' Real-life career skills and real life skills," said Palsgrove.

In the state of Ohio career technical education is an avenue that students are able to take to expand on their education and career pathways. The CTE process is centered on work force development, giving students a look at future opportunities with a rigorous but relatable program.

The programs vary from agriculture to cosmetology, and from nursing to emergency medical services. In the state of Ohio alone there are 610,000 students from ninth to 12th grade, and out of those students there are over 121,000 enrolled in CTE courses. Out those enrolled in CTE courses over 20 percent of them are enrolled in an agricultural or environmental systems program.

APPROACH

These courses allow students to apply what they are learning directly into their everyday life and eventually into the workforce. By focusing more on applied skills, students are being guided to think about what they will do for the rest of their lives, and what they need to do to get there. CTE allows students to take control of their education, putting their schooling back into their own hands, and allowing them to direct where their course work will take them, whether that is post-secondary education or directly into the workforce.

APPLICATION

"When I came out of my first soils judging contest, I never knew it would help influence me in my future career," said Katherine Bell, an agriscience education student at The Ohio State University.

Currently in her third year, she always knew she wanted to be in the education system but never knew what subject she wanted to teach; that is, until she became engaged in her agricultural courses. From the public speaking contest to soil judging, Bell never realized how much those contests would be applicable in her life further on.

"I didn't actually realize when I was doing the contest what it was actually teaching me," Bell said. "At the time I just enjoyed getting out of class and spending time with my friends." Now, when looking back at those experiences, Bell explained that it has prepared her to speak confidently in front of peers, students and employers.

Amanda Atterholt, current Smithville High School FFA advisor, explained similar benefits that students and parents have expressed to her about the content related to her CTE courses. The ability for the students to interact and gain relations with people already working and involved in the agricultural industry is a huge benefit.

The Ohio Department of Education's goal is to increase the number of students in Ohio enrolled in a CTE courses, because all graduating students will need to get a job after graduation, whether upon graduation from college or high school. Every student will need a job, therefore why wouldn't every student take advantage of the experiences that CTE courses offer? •



STUDENTS SEATED AT THE BIG TABLE

STORY BY: JARRED SHELLHOUSE • SYCAMORE, OH

Photo by: Maria Kraynova

Sitting at a long, narrow table in front of Stacie (Seger) McCracken were eight students and faculty members from The Ohio State University. She was beginning her first interview to become the next undergraduate student representative on the Ohio State Board of Trustees.

McCracken was asked a series of rapid-fire questions regarding the university's policies and procedures. Still overwhelmed at the conclusion of the interview, McCracken took a breath and thanked her interviewers for taking time out of their Saturday to help with the process.

It didn't occur to McCracken until she returned home that it was actually Sunday morning, and the interviewers caught her mistake.

This one mishap did not stop McCracken from advancing to the next

round of interviews and eventually earning the gubernatorial appointment as the next undergraduate student to serve on the Board of Trustees.

McCracken is the third student in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) to hold this position since 1988, when the board opened seats for one undergraduate student and one graduate student to provide input from the student perspective. Joe Shultz and Debra (Van Camp) Schaefer were also appointed to two-year terms in 2001 and 2007, respectively.

Serving on the university's Board of Trustees adds another level of influence for CFAES. The student trustee contributes discussion and works with the university's leadership to approve large-scale investments and the strategic plan, hire executives and handle other issues

for the university. These CFAES students brought their perspective to the business table.

FROM FORGOTTEN SOCKS TO U.S. SENATE

Joe Shultz, current Democratic staff director for the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, was the first CFAES student to be appointed to serve in this position. In late 2000, the agribusiness and applied economics major began the application process while on a year-long leave of absence from his education after a little motivation from his friend and fraternity brother, Doug Fox.

Like McCracken, Shultz has one particular memory about his interview process, and it involved a slight mishap. "I brought my suit to Columbus from home,"

Shultz said. "But I forgot my socks. All I remember is my buddy, Doug, running back to his apartment so he could give me a pair of his black socks."

At the end of the interview process, Shultz was appointed to the Board of Trustees. As an active member of both university-level organizations like Ohio Staters, Inc. and SPHINX Senior Class honorary and college-level organizations like Alpha Tau Zeta (now FarmHouse Fraternity), Shultz credits CFAES for helping him bring a new perspective to the board.

As a trustee, Shultz worked on an initiative to improve faculty/student interactions and relationships. "One of the things we do really well in CFAES is that every student has the opportunity to interact with faculty and advisors in a meaningful way," Shultz said. "Other colleges didn't have that same opportunity."

Shultz's tenure also included large-scale decisions about building the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC) and the new Ohio Union and remodeling Thompson Library. Shultz uses a lot of the skills from his term in his current job in Washington, D.C. "I don't deal with the same issues, but [my tenure on the board] gave me this taste for working with big institutions and making things better when you leave them than when you entered," Shultz said.

Shultz ended his time as a trustee in 2003 after he graduated from Ohio State and took his career into politics, using his experiences to benefit the future of agriculture.

FOOD SCIENCE STUDENT CRAVES IMPACT

Just four years after Shultz ended his term, CFAES gained their next undergraduate student trustee. Debra (Van Camp) Schaefer, a student pursuing a degree in food science and technology, was appointed in 2007. Schaefer currently lives in Switzerland, working for Nielsen, a market research company that helps companies launch new products.

Motivated by being a land-grant scholar and passionate about issues like access to education, Schaefer applied to the board to serve in a position where she could be the voice for students. For Schaefer, this prestigious position created a larger impact on herself than she made on it.



There was one pivotal moment between Schaefer and a board member, the Honorable Algenon Marbley, that had a lasting effect to this day.

"We had just left one of our meetings, and he could tell I cared about some issue passionately but was too shy to speak up," Schaefer said. "He told me, 'If you are silent we don't hear the voice of the thousands of students here.'"

Schaefer said that gave her the confidence she needed to discuss complex issues in those meetings, and to continue speak up today on behalf of clients, stakeholders and friends.

The confidence she gained is applicable to any student. "Having the confidence to speak up in a constructive way was huge!" she said. "If you can do it in a room with influential people and know that your voice was heard, you can do it anywhere!"

While the board may have been a position that added to Schaefer's undergraduate experience, the confidence gained contributed to the rest of her life.

FARM GIRL TO PROFESSIONAL ADVOCATE

McCracken's appointment to the Board of Trustees came in 2013. As an agricultural communication major, she was active in many organizations such as Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, CFAES Student Council, CFAES Ambassadors and Saddle & Sirloin Club. She also served as the CFAES senator on the Undergraduate Student Government.

McCracken credits her college with equipping her with some of the skills that gave her the opportunity to serve on the board. "I will always champion CFAE and the skillset that it gives its students," she

Left to right, Joe Shultz (2001-2003), Debra Schaefer (2007-2009) and Stacie McCracken (2013-2015) have all served as the undergraduate representative on The Ohio State University Board of Trustees. Photos courtesy of subjects.



said. "I think they teach us to have drive, succeed and give back, which is what helped propel me into the position."

During McCracken's term, she had the opportunity to interview Dr. Michael Drake in his pursuit of becoming president of Ohio State. "To actually sit on an interview in which the candidate knew everything about me and knew my background and that I grew up on a farm was very interesting," McCracken said. "I think I was more nervous for the interview than he was."

McCracken took the skills that she developed in college and during her term to Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association (OCWGA), where she served as the communication manager for two years.

"I realize now, that no matter how much I didn't want to be known as the 'farm girl,' that was my area of expertise," McCracken said. "I used it on the Board of Trustees and I took my area of knowledge to OCWGA, where I served on multiple boards and continued to advocate for agriculture."

Shultz, Schaefer and McCracken are all examples of students who used their undergraduate experiences as a stepping-stone for their careers. A daunting interview process for each of these students led to a fruitful tenure on the Board of Trustees, and they continue to use this experience to make decisions, advocate for agriculture and change the world for those around them. •

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PLAYING WITH FOOD

STORY BY: LEAH SCHWINN • NEW LONDON, OH

Imagine relaxing on a nice warm summer day, sipping a cool glass of crisp, sweet lemonade that is low in sugar. Or imagine pleasing the picky-eater palate of a child with a PB&J that is smeared with low-sugar raspberry jam on a piece of wheat toast low in both sodium and sugar. Or imagine sitting down at the dinner table to devour a big juicy steak – made from a vegetable. These healthy food options sound too good to be true, but in the near future these food innovations, among many others, could be available to consumers. So, how can we get nature to

do more of the heavy lifting when it comes to formulating healthier foods?

FLAVOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

The Flavor Research and Education Center (FREC) at The Ohio State University is a research facility that focuses on analyzing flavor and understanding how flavor not only works, but also how flavor is perceived by human senses. Driven by consumer demands on the food industry, researchers are working on ways to make food healthier without sacrificing any of the flavors consumers enjoy. Nestled among The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, FREC is housed in the Parker Food Science and Technology building.

Program director Devin Peterson, Ph.D., said, “The center is a spot for the food industry to come together as a community and help solve larger challenges to promote healthier foods that you want to be eating. [This research is] not for one company... but for a whole industrial impact.” Partnering with companies like Kellogg’s, General Mills and Smucker’s, FREC is focused on driving

food innovation in coordination with the research needs of their 16 member companies.

The center is using the results of their studies to help promote a healthier lifestyle through food. “In my mind, food should always be designed to taste good. Telling people to eat healthier things that they don’t like is probably not a very effective strategy, nor does it have to be that way,” said Peterson.

Peterson moved himself, the center and a team of researchers to Ohio State’s campus in August 2016. The center transitioned from the University of Minnesota to Ohio State where Peterson was excited about the university’s investment in agriculture. With so much time, energy and investment on agriculture, the university provided the perfect platform for FREC.

RESEARCH: FROM WHISKEY TO WHEAT

The FREC researchers break down food and use chemistry to find ways to make foods healthier while still providing full flavor and affordability. They have worked with foods that run the gamut from whisky

to wheat. This detailed examination of specific foods helps the researchers obtain information that ultimately allows them to answer the question, “How can these foods be made healthier while still tasting great?”



Lowering sodium and sugar intake are two prominent research areas for FREC. Extensive research has been done in the area of wheat bread and finding the right balance between health and taste. As wheat bread is historically known for being coarse, FREC researchers are finding ways to simulate the texture of white bread while not compromising the health benefits of wheat bread.

FOOD CAN BE MEDICINE

Specializing in flavoromics and chemometrics, graduate research associate Geoff Dubrow focuses his research primarily on jam. “Jams are really high in sugar. Consumer standpoint is to cut out sugar and producers want to help them do that. We use flavoromics to see what is happening to the product when we take sugar out,” said Dubrow.

By breaking down the jam into individual molecules, Dubrow is able to get an idea about what each component of the jam is, and that ultimately gives him an insight on flavors. Dubrow is also working with Scotch whisky, revealing the chemicals behind aged flavor.

With these projects, and more research in the future, Dubrow hopes to make better-tasting food and be part of the push to make healthy foods an easier choice.

“We spend a huge amount of money on treating diseases, and not a lot of money on prevention. Food can be medicine in

some ways, yet people tend not to look at it that way,” said Dubrow. The researchers at FREC hope that their research, along with their partnership with the food industry, will do just that: create food that makes staying healthier easier.

PLANT-BASED PROTEIN

A large part of the food industry’s current focus is on finding new protein sources to use without compromising the flavor profiles to which consumers are accustomed. The research FREC is doing regarding vegetable protein could prove to be a key avenue for the industry to pursue.

With 75 to 85 percent of the population not eating enough fruits and vegetables, the center plans to concentrate more of their research on fruits and vegetables in upcoming studies. The research on vegetables in particular will focus on utilizing them as a plant-based protein source.

Associate director of research Smarro Kokkinidou, Ph.D., said, “We are looking into what the impacts are when replacing animal proteins with vegetable proteins what is the impact on the aroma, the profile, the taste.”

Kokkinidou said that the growing consumer demand for high-protein-content foods usually comes with a price: Most are animal-based. Animal protein sources face sustainability issues because of the amount of land and water used to produce them, along with the high amount of greenhouse gas emissions from food animals. By switching to plant-based proteins the amount of resources needed decreases by about one-tenth.

Kokkinidou asked, “How we can begin



to understand those flavors and how we can develop processes to mitigate them to make products that will be better tasting and more sustainable? Better for the environment and better for the people.”

With consumers demanding healthier food options, FREC is at the forefront of researching the possibilities.

“[Consumers] want something that’s healthy and more natural and a reduction of all of the things that are ‘demonized,’ but they don’t really spend a lot of time reading about the science behind it to know what it entails to remove all those things. Our job is to look at the science part and make it feasible, and say ‘here!’” said Kokkinidou.

The research from FREC provides a platform from which the food industry can build their own innovations. The industry receives knowledge and recommendations from FREC regarding how to create healthier foods and refine their formulations. Some member food companies have already used research and advice from FREC to improve their products.

Food is something that is a key factor in our lives. While health and wellness are what some people say drives their food choice, the reality is that the main drivers of food choice are cost, convenience and flavor quality. Although wanting to eat healthy is a common sentiment among many consumers, food acceptability and what consumers deem tasty play a significant role in what foods consumers tend to eat. As Kokkinidou said, “It’s all a balance. You have to eat well and feel well, but you have to enjoy it.” •

CORN,
CHOCOLATE, OATS,
COFFEE, HAZELNUTS,
POTATO CHIPS, JAM –
JUST A FEW OF THE
FOODS THAT RESEARCHERS
HAVE ANALYZED

Photos from left to right: chemicals in the lab, shaved chocolate (Photo courtesy of FREC) and test tubes.

TOP 5 MILK QUESTIONS ANSWERED

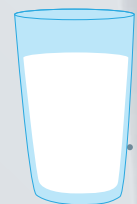


1. IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ORGANIC & REGULAR MILK?

No. In terms of quality, safety and nutrition, there's no difference between organic and regular milk. The difference is how they are produced on the farm.

2. ARE THERE ANTIBIOTICS IN MY MILK?

No. All milk – both regular and organic – is tested for antibiotics. Cows sometimes get sick and require medicine, but their milk does not go into the milk supply. If milk tests positive for antibiotics, it is disposed of and never enters the food stream. Less than 0.02% of all milk tested last year ever had an issue.



4. ARE THERE HORMONES ADDED TO MY MILK?

No. Hormones are naturally present in many foods of plant and animal origin, including milk. Some farmers choose to supplement their cows with rbST, an FDA-approved synthetic hormone, to help with milk production. Science shows that it is safe for cows and has no effect on humans or the hormone levels in the milk itself.

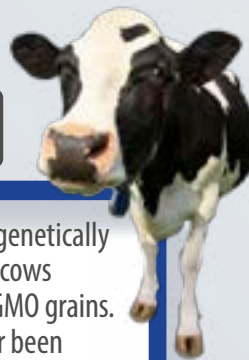
3. IS RAW (UNPASTEURIZED) MILK SAFE TO DRINK?

No. Milk should be pasteurized, it's a matter of food safety. Pasteurization is a simple, effective method to kill potentially harmful bacteria without affecting the taste or nutritional value of milk.



5. ARE THERE GMOS IN MY MILK?

No. Some cows eat feed containing genetically engineered corn and soybeans which cows digest the same way as they do non-GMO grains. Genetically engineered DNA has never been detected in milk derived from cows fed GMOs.



American Dairy Association
MID EAST



Sources: Drink-Milk.com/TopMilkQuestions.pdf



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ONE IDEA, ONE COMMUNITY, *One Love*

STORY BY: MEGAN BESANCON • STERLING, OH

What do you do when you can't sleep? Some people count sheep, some read and some come up with ideas on how to make the world a better place. For one woman, that meant contemplating what she could do to improve the culture of acceptance within her college.

Kelly Newlon is the director of education abroad in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at The Ohio State University. She is the creator of the One Love campaign, a movement initiated due to the tension from the presidential election. Sitting at a table outside her office in the Agricultural Administration Building, Newlon explained how she came up with the idea for this campaign.

"Essentially there was a lot of strife on campus related to the elections, and there were a lot of people, both for and against President Trump, who were not feeling positive about the turmoil surrounding it," Newlon said. "I had been lying in bed at night thinking about what could change, what might be needed, what could be useful. The idea was simply a statement that this college is no place for hate."

Several key CFAES staff and faculty members held a meeting on Nov. 14, 2016, to address the rise in instances of bias and harassment during the presidential election. Together they brainstormed ideas to improve the culture of the college. The result was the One Love campaign, which is a part of a larger strategy to address student inclusion.

There are university-wide efforts to promote these ideas through the use of hashtags #BuckeyeStrong and #BuckeyeLove on social media. The

day after the violent incident on Nov. 28, 2016, Ohio State held an event called Buckeye Strong as a way for students, faculty and staff to continue healing. The #BuckeyeLove Day of Giving campaign on Feb. 14 and Feb. 15, 2017, allowed alumni, students and others to support

"The idea was simply a statement that this college is no place for hate."

Ohio State by donating to their favorite cause, college or program. These hashtags continue to be used to express support for Ohio State and students as a whole. However, the purpose of the One Love campaign is to address inclusion and diversity specifically within CFAES. "We felt there was real importance in having a message specifically for this college because sometimes our college can be associated with some thoughts and ideals that aren't necessarily as open and welcoming," Newlon said. "The assumption is that so many of our students are from areas where they haven't been exposed to a lot of diversity, so there is fear related to that diversity. But that's just simply not true, so we wanted to have our own message to send that out into the Buckeye world."

ONE COMMUNITY

Kaitlyn Murray, a graduate research associate in the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership (ACEL), has been involved in the campaign from the

beginning. Murray works in the OSU Leadership Center in ACEL, serves as the program coordinator for the CFAES Peer Mentoring Program and works for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion as the coordinator of two different peer-mentoring programs as part of the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation. Her connections and expertise give her a unique perspective, allowing her to offer her support to the campaign.

"I think that CFAES and food production and environmental systems are inherently linked to issues of social justice," Murray said. "As we're thinking about the role that food has in building community, and agriculture has in building community, it's a logical fit for something like this to come out of CFAES. I think that it reflects



Olivia Carros makes One Love buttons in the Ohio Union Resource Room.
Photo by: Kelly Newlon



Marisa Twigg, a third-year in environmental policy and journalism, holds up a One Love campaign button. Photo by: Kelly Newlon

a lot of things that people have been thinking and feeling but maybe didn't have the words to say."

The campaign is still in its infancy, but it is already starting to grow as more students become involved. The first student meeting was held on Dec. 1, 2016. Newlon continues to serve as the main source of leadership, with Murray in a supporting role in order to provide resources and advice to students.

"The idea is to make it a student-driven campaign, for students, by students," Murray said. "I think that is one of the coolest things; Kelly had an idea but she put the idea at the feet of the students, who are now going to take it in whatever direction they wish."

STUDENTS MAKING AN IMPACT

Two students who helped with the initial promotion of the campaign are Olivia Carros, a third-year in environmental policy and decision making, and Marisa Twigg, a third-year in environmental policy and journalism. Carros and Twigg worked with Newlon to create marketing materials for the campaign. So far they have made over 100 buttons with the words "One Love" and "CFAES is no place for hate" emblazoned around a

buckeye. All of the buttons were dispersed to students within a week.

Carros is enthusiastic about the potential impact of this campaign to promote diversity and inclusion within the CFAES community.

"I think it goes both ways, as you can include some of your ideas in the campaign and the campaign can influence you to be even more open minded than you previously thought you were," Carros said. "I think short term we just want more exposure to these buttons, first and foremost, because if people keep seeing people wearing these buttons they'll be, like, 'this community is something that really stands for love and stands for tolerance.' We're hoping everyone will come together in the community."

Twigg said she hopes that, in the long run, the campaign results in hands-on activities, such as diversity and inclusion trainings, bystander trainings and public forums to discuss opposing ideologies.

"My standpoint is that there is only so much that a button and an info sheet or fact sheet can do," Twigg said. "We can present all the facts, but if we don't engage with people on an emotional level, we're not actually going to be able to have a shift in culture here. If we aren't consistently

engaging in conversation on these really difficult, sensitive topics, we're not going to make change, because people need time to grow."

CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM

Another meeting for students to continue to work toward these goals took place on Jan. 25, 2017. One student after another voiced ideas on how to expand the campaign: From a Snapchat filter to a panel discussion, the ideas are endless. Preparations have begun in coordination with the CFAES Student Council to make more buttons. From one woman's idea to a full-fledged student-led campaign, the effort to increase inclusion and diversity within CFAES has begun. "We talk very much about the college being a family and serving the students well," Newlon said. "I think this campaign is my dream of us having all students feel that they are a part of that. We wanted everyone to feel a part of the family, regardless of which side of politics, or feelings about national movements at this point you are. This place, our buildings, our location on campus, our social settings are just no place for anyone to feel unwelcome."

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Photo courtesy of Herdmark Media

STORY BY: SHELBY BRADFORD • SUNBURY, OH

2016 was a big year for American crop farmers, setting records for total yield among nearly all species of crops with corn being at the forefront. Every year, the majority of the corn harvested in the United States is mixed into livestock feed or is exported to other countries. Since 2005, the amount of corn that goes to ethanol production has skyrocketed, and ethanol now ranks as the number two use of American corn. With ethanol production rates rising consistently and new plants being built across the country, Ohio continues to compete as one of the leading states in ethanol production.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER: OHIO JOINS THE ETHANOL PARTY

Mark Drewes, Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association (OCWGA) board member, defines ethanol as the leading biofuel produced in the world as renewable, environmentally friendly and the best oxygenate for modern fuel production.

“Ohio came late to the ethanol party due to overzealous regulations as compared to neighboring states,” Drewes

said. “But our location to the eastern seaboard and heavy fuel usage in the eastern U.S. now gives us an advantage. We have abundant corn, water and also

“[Ethanol] is truly an American success story.”

many refineries and infrastructure that now gives Ohio an advantage.”

The ethanol industry directly contributes more than \$536 million in economic impact in Ohio alone, and the industry has provided over 13,000 jobs across the state, according to the Ohio Ethanol Producers Association industry overview.

“Ohio is proud to be the home of seven ethanol plants,” said Brad Moffitt, director of market development and membership at Ohio Corn & Wheat and the ethanol lead for the Ohio Corn Checkoff. “Those plants created nearly 250 jobs, produce a half-billion gallons of ethanol and purchase 170 million bushels of corn from 6,000 Ohio farmers.”

Moffitt and Drewes are two individuals who were a part of the efforts toward the retail ethanol infrastructure build-out in

Ohio between the OCWGA and the Ohio Corn Checkoff. With policy support from OCWGA and financial investment from the Ohio Corn Checkoff, two ethanol

infrastructure grants were awarded that added fuel dispensers to key locations across the state.

“When we launched our Ohio corn programs in 2014, there were approximately 120 locations in the state to purchase E85. By the end of 2017, our programs will have helped grow that to 200 locations,” said Moffitt. “These will also include E15 (15% ethanol) and mid-level blends like E30 (30% ethanol).”

In addition to these development programs, the Ohio Corn Checkoff identifies opportunities to improve domestic demand for Ohio corn.

THE TRUTH ABOUT ETHANOL

Misconceptions about ethanol use among consumers have led teams like the OCWGA and the Ohio Corn Checkoff to

work harder to educate the general public on how the use of ethanol as a fuel is just as beneficial for the consumer as it is for the environment.

Chuck Beck, the director of special projects and outreach at the American Coalition for Ethanol, and Drewes both noted the importance of educating consumers at a younger age on the benefits of ethanol in order to make them more comfortable with the fuel product and more likely to utilize it in the future.

In 2017, educational programs will be implemented into the strategic plans of state and national organizations like the Ohio Corn Checkoff, the OCWGA and the American Coalition for Ethanol.

“It is infuriating to hear the myths and lies about ethanol and [it] having negative impacts,” said Moffitt. “It is generally much cheaper, it is higher octane and it burns cleaner than regular gasoline. We also believe that using an American-made, clean fuel is very important. United States ethanol production offsets the need for millions of gallons of foreign oil each year.”

The use of ethanol in the United States fuel supply reduces greenhouse emissions by over 30 million metric tons annually, and the industry has since supported over 400,000 jobs across the country. American ethanol has also contributed \$44 billion to the United States’ gross domestic product.

Ohio State agribusiness and applied economics graduate Josh Yoder, Ethanol Advisory Team member for the U.S. Grains Council, said, “In the past six months, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members have been trying to manipulate the price of oil through cutting production and attempting to drive up the price. Ethanol has proven to be an important component in helping insulate the U.S. to some degree from that kind of behavior.”

On the Ethanol Advisory Team, Yoder, along with other farmer members and ethanol industry members, strategizes efforts to promote ethanol exports throughout the world. Yoder is also on the Ohio Corn Checkoff board.

“It is 100 percent produced in America and gives us national security and economic benefits,” said Drewes.

“[Ethanol] is the biggest success story ever for American agriculture and the profitability of farmers.”

THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN ETHANOL

Beck states that there are currently 206 ethanol-producing plants in the United States.

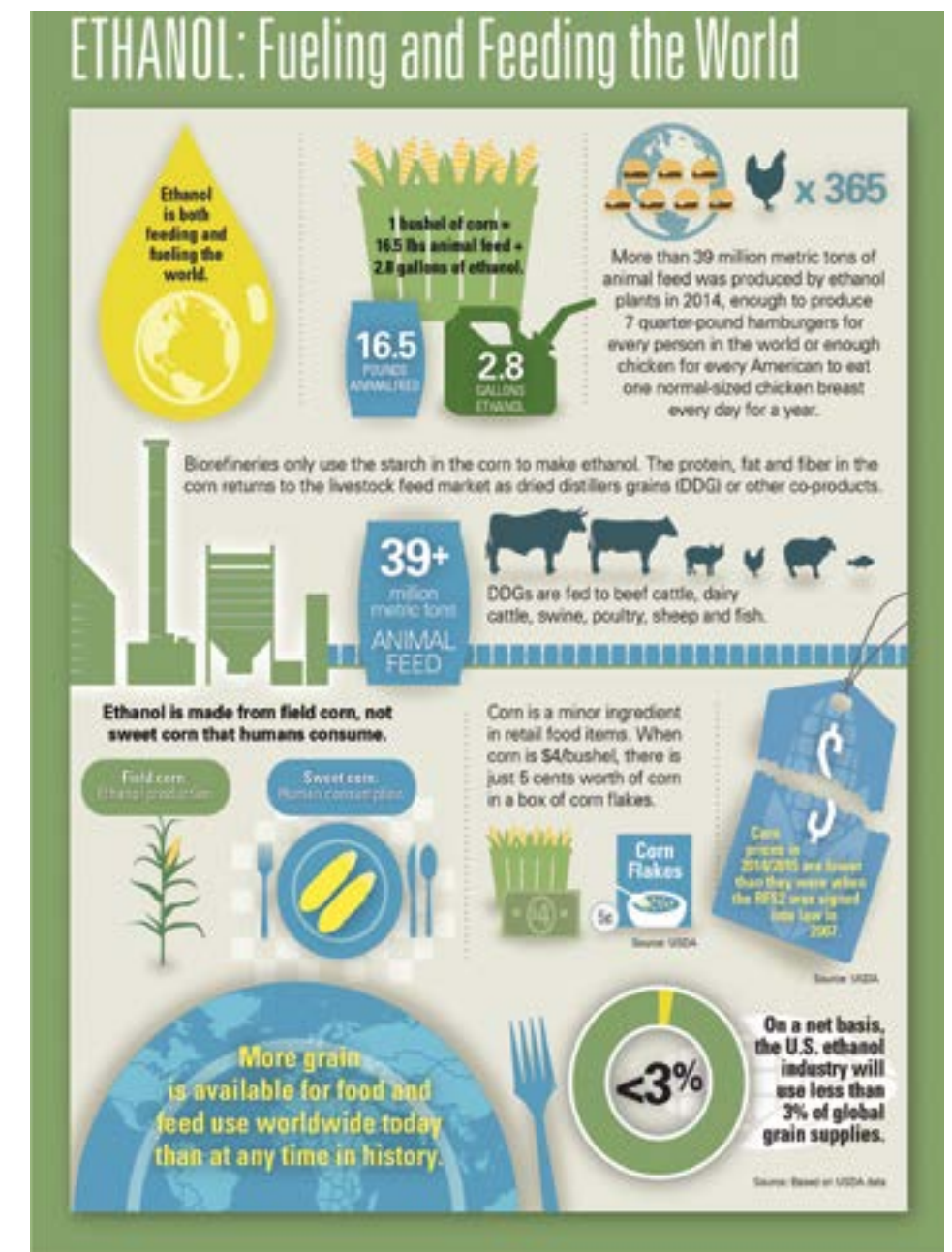
“I think where the main growth in the industry is going to come with current plants expanding their production totals and adding new technology to the current ethanol plant,” said Beck of the 2017 goals of expansion. “Plants are also getting more efficient in their production which also improves their production totals.”

The Renewable Fuels Association ethanol industry overview from 2016 states

there is a growing demand for American ethanol in countries seeking to reduce greenhouse emissions and pollution, one of the leading countries being China.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, exports of American ethanol have consistently risen by tens of millions of gallons from month to month and shows no signs of stopping in 2017.

“Ethanol is here to stay,” said Drewes. “It is the best thing to ever happen to American fuel consumers and farmers. It is truly an American success story.” •



Infographic courtesy of Renewable Fuels Association.

harvest: [har-vist]

noun: a crop or yield of one growing season

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VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE *Brings Change and Challenges*

STORY BY: ELIZABETH OVERHOLT • GLENMONT, OH

For most people, going to the doctor to receive an antibiotic is easier said than done. It requires a phone call to schedule an appointment, sitting for what seems like hours in the waiting room and then going in to the examination room to see a doctor. Finally, on the recommendation of the doctor, a prescription is written that requires you to head to the pharmacy. This is a tedious process, and one that is becoming all too familiar in the animal industry. As of Jan. 1, 2017,

purchasing feed with antibiotics that are critically important to humans will require a veterinary feed directive (VFD). This new rule prevents animal producers from purchasing over-the-counter antibiotics for feed use without the consent of a veterinarian.

The document must contain specific information like the name of the producer and the veterinarian, dosage amounts, expiration dates, number of animals and a signature of the veterinarian in order for the document to be considered lawful.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) created the directive because of the issue of antibiotic resistance. Officials believe that overuse of antibiotics in animals could lead to difficulty treating humans in the future. Therefore, drugs that are important to the health of humans are listed under the directive rule. This rule will no longer allow antibiotics to be used for growth promotion or feed efficiency.

Dr. Kelly Liming of Rolling Hills Veterinary Services has worked with his local producers to help them better understand the new regulation and the reason behind it. He has seen firsthand the many misconceptions people have about this new directive. "The ultimate goal of the FDA is to try to prevent antibiotic resistance

of bacteria," said Liming. "It prevents people from using [antibiotics] when it's not necessary and it will help direct people on the correct way to use antibiotics with feed."

FORGING RELATIONSHIPS

The implementation of the directive has created new challenges for veterinarians and their staffs, producers and feed mills. Anicia Smith works at East Holmes Vet Clinic as a client specialist. Since the rule went into effect, much of Smith's time has been dedicated to working through paperwork, going on farm visits and visiting local feed mills. In the first three weeks of January, Smith was responsible for managing 38 different directive forms that were written by veterinarians at the clinic.

For Smith, the new rule has created new hurdles to jump through, including learning a new system, adding more clients and keeping additional records. "We are assisting our clients in writing the VFD and learning as we go," said Smith. "It is a very steep learning curve and it came on all of a sudden."

A large part of Smith's job is working with and educating clients on the importance of the directive and working through the new online system that oversees the creation of the directive. This new rule requires veterinarians and clients to have an established relationship, otherwise known as a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). This means visiting farms more regularly and knowing more about each producer's operation.

"We have to be on the farm in the last year for the species of animal they need the VFD for," said Smith. "We have to make sure they have those animals, the situation they are in, their health concerns and if they truly do need the feed-grade antibiotic."

A STEEP LEARNING CURVE

Smith is not the only individual who has encountered new issues with the VFD. Keith Mullet of TMK Farm Services manages a feed mill in Sugarcreek, Ohio, and is also facing challenges with the rule in place. Staying educated about these new rules has been a challenge in itself. Mullet has been taking classes since last fall and will continue to do so until September 2018. This training helps educate the feed mill's employees on FDA-mandated policies so that they are able to ensure that their business is in compliance with these new rules. The very first class Mullet attended covered the VFD.

In addition to having to learn new procedures and educate his staff, Mullet has had to work with veterinarians throughout his area. Once the veterinarian has established that the producer needs the medication, he or she sends the VFD to the feed mill chosen by the producer. The feed mill then has to ensure that the VFD has been written correctly.

Since the implementation, Mullet has seen challenges with the VFD because of veterinarians making mistakes on the amount of antibiotic being prescribed.

"They are telling us that the vet can write it—but we have to double check and make sure it's in compliance with the feed companion before making that batch of feed," said Mullet. "We cannot just rely on the vet saying here it is and do exactly what the VFD reads. We have to make sure it is within our guidelines."

EDUCATION IS KEY

Dr. Mary Sutton, a veterinarian of public health in meat processing plants throughout Ohio works with producers to explain the importance of combating antimicrobial resistance and how to properly use antibiotics in feed. Sutton has received most of her information from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and other

professional organizations. She believes that the FDA taking action and the creation of the directive will help the cause against antimicrobial resistance, but she says we won't be able to see the effects of the directive for some time.

"This is not a be-all and end-all solution to the development of antimicrobial resistance—we are not taking antibiotics away from the farmers. We are just encouraging and managing their use," said

Sutton. "People have a misconception that we are taking these things away. We are not taking them away; we are just regulating the usage of them [antibiotics]."

Ohio State Extension and the College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University have played a major part in educating people throughout the state. Dr. Luciana Da Costa, an assistant professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine in the Department of Veterinary Preventative Medicine, has worked closely with extension educators throughout the state to ensure that they have the proper information on the new directive.

"There's a lot of questions, even basic ones—that is an indication that we still have more training and education that needs to be done," said Da Costa. "That is why we are working with educators to get them better educated to inform the masses."

John Grimes, the beef coordinator for Ohio State University Extension, has seen the challenges that come with the directive as a producer and an educator. He said that the people who are most affected by this new directive are small farmers and 4-H and FFA members, because they do not have a VCPR established with their local veterinarian. "A full-time producer or part-time producer with a relationship

with a veterinarian shouldn't have a problem," Grimes said. "It is the ones that have an infrequent or rare relationship with a veterinarian that I worry about."

In addition to working with extension educators, College of Veterinary Medicine faculty are taking phone calls, creating brochures, hosting webinars and taking meetings with people to help further educate the public.

Most importantly, the message being promoted by the College of Veterinary Medicine is prevention. "I think it is crucial," said Da Costa. "Most of our efforts should be on preventing diseases to cure rather than treating diseases." •

For more information about the Veterinary Feed Directive, visit fda.gov.

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Award Winning Faculty

Martin Nominates Three National Teaching Award Winners

STORY BY: MINDI BROOKHART • WAYNESFIELD, OH

At The Ohio State University, one doesn't have to travel far to find pride. Whether standing on the Oval, inside the 'Shoe or waiting for the next CABS bus, just looking left or right will reveal a satisfying answer. This pride reaches deeper and spreads further inside classrooms and lecture halls. Specifically, the faculty, staff and students that make Buckeyes unique reflect beyond campus.

In November 2016, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) found Ohio State to be worthwhile as well. The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) awarded three College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) educators Excellence in College and University Teaching awards. This isn't the first time CFAES has produced award winners and surely will not be the last.

"This award reflects that our faculty has demonstrated excellence in teaching, advising and mentoring within their academic unit," said Linda Martin, Ph.D., the CFAES associate dean and director of academic affairs. "The award is about more than just agriculture. It's ag, natural resources, environmental sciences, and related areas so these colleges are very broad nationally. All of the disciplines can be recognized—every little mix possible and that is what makes it a big deal."

NOMINATION PROCESS

Martin worked and committed to nominate the three recipients by not only admiring their traditional ways of teaching, but the innovative and engaging ways they reach students. To begin, the selected recipients received recognition at the college, university and regional levels before gaining the privilege to be recommended for this highest award.

"These are people who have consistently and have broadly been recognized in lots of difference venues," Martin said. Noted opportunities include working with student organizations, initiatives, mentoring and student advising meaning that teaching is about everything during normal classroom hours and long after and into the weekend.

YOUR WINNERS

"I think it [this award] shows that we are, in terms of education, on the right path to providing a really good educational experience for our students," said Brian Lower, Ph.D., U.S. North Central Region recipient of this award. Lower is an associate professor in the School of Environmental and Natural Resources. Also recognized for the regional award was Emily Buck, Ph.D.,

associate professor of agricultural communication. The Ohio State recipient of the national award was Ann Christy, Ph.D., professor of food, agricultural and biological engineering.

Lower grew up in a family of teachers. From a young age he appreciated the responsibility of shaping the minds of young people. "What you tell them will help them make decisions now and in the future so I see it as a way to facilitate my students to reach their goals," Lower said. "Meeting with students, even just emailing them or speaking for a few minutes to talk about what they're facing makes the difference." Passing by or stopping to answer a question, he noted really showcases our faculty's availability to students. "We have a huge campus and to me, making sure the students are successful is what I find rewarding," said Lower.



2016 Winners of USDA-APLU Award from L to R: Ann Christy, Emily Buck, Brian Lower, John Ewing, Elizabeth Applegate, Nicole Stedman, Eric McLamore, Rebecca Lawver

Lower is the instructor for an introduction to environmental science course. Being a general education class, he considers it nearly his favorite because he gets to interact with a broad group of students with different majors and backgrounds. This course gives him the opportunity to communicate with a diverse audience. He credits this to making him a better scientist and granting him the ability to practice breaking down complex ideas to people that may not have a similar science background. Students feel comfortable when they can go to the store and know what some of these terms mean, and Lower works to encourage and educate them so they can make their own decisions beyond his class.

"As a whole, I think this award is more of a reflection," said Lower. "Teaching this many students you can't just have one person standing up there lecturing- you have to have support from TA's, graduate students, teaching associates to help put stuff together, e-designers."

For Buck, the idea of teaching didn't come until finishing her master's degree. "I found quickly I could connect to the students," Buck said. "One of them asked if I was going to be a teacher. At that moment, I wasn't and said no but that student showed me the difference I made in her life and I knew I needed to become a teacher."

MARTIN'S PRIDE RUNS DEEP

This award goes further than the college, as well as the university, and shows the nation what CFAES educators are capable



Pictured above in order of L to R: Linda Martin, Brian Lower, Emily Buck and Ann Christy

of. After obtaining her own bachelor's degree from Ohio State, Martin is now nearing her tenth year in her current position. Extremely proud of the great accomplishments and advancements within CFAES, she commends the faculty's ability to influence students. Martin said, "They are people that are paying it forward every day." Her pride for Ohio State runs deep.

"Something that just jumps out at you, is that they are all very humble people," said Martin when speaking on the three award winners. "They're appreciative of the

opportunity to teach, they love students, and it's not about them—it really is about the students." That's another piece that makes the faculty stand out—people who rise up to that level. Reaching beyond not only the noted three, for all faculty within CFAES, it isn't about them. It is about making a difference.

"There are a lot of great teachers in our college," said Buck. "Dr. Martin's support and faith in what I do is why working at Ohio State is so amazing." •

Past Teaching Award Recipients from Ohio States 2005-2016

Ann D. Christy, Regional, 2005

M. Susie Whittington, National, 2008

Joseph F. Donnermeyer, Regional, 2010

Michael J. Boehm, National, 2010

Emily B. Buck, Regional, 2016

Ann D. Christy, National 2016

Brian H. Lower, Regional, 2016

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FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE WORKPLACE

OHIO STATE VETERANS ARE GETTING IT DONE

STORY BY: JAMES P FAIRCHILD • UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO

James Travis O’Quin, or “Chief” as many people know him, awoke at 5:30 a.m. and was out the door by 6:30. The morning ritual was off to Tim Hortons for either a vanilla cream doughnut or a pack of Timbits and a steaming hot large black coffee with a shot of espresso. After a 30-minute drive to The Ohio State University campus in Columbus, O’Quin has another bus ride just to get to his first class by 8:10 a.m.

Based on information provided by the Office of Military and Veterans Services, O’Quin is one of 1,304 student veterans attending Ohio State during the Spring 2017 semester. Of these student veterans, 97 call the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences home. Life for student veterans today on campus is very different from what previous veterans have experienced.

The Ohio State University Office of Military and Veterans Services can assist the student veterans with tutoring, counseling, help with admissions and peer



O’Quin in civilian mode as an Ohio State student. Photo courtesy of James Travis O’Quin.

me personally than not having a degree, even at this stage in my life. It is a goal that I have always wanted to achieve,” said O’Quin. One of the hardest things to become accustomed to is “usually being the oldest person in class; I feel like I am behind where I should be in my life. Learning the same things at the same time as 19-year olds makes me feel like I do not have enough life left to get where I want to be.”

“I was in a position of authority the day I retired from the navy, and stepping into a college classroom felt like the first day of my freshman year in high school. Not being in charge anymore is probably the hardest transition. Realizing that I was starting over,” said O’Quin.

When asked what advice is most important for incoming freshman veterans, O’Quin gave the following quotation with a serious look on his face. “Never forget where you came from, but don’t let it stop you from where you want to go. One thing I had to do was stop thinking about the

last 20 years and concentrate about where you want to be in four. Simply put, in realizing that the ending of one era of my life was not the end, it was the beginning of something new.”

OSU ALUMNI

On the flip side of the current students are all the veterans who have graduated and joined the workforce. These veterans bring a lot to the table for potential employers. Most of these veterans have exceptional leadership skills and their attention to detail is second to none. Once



Cox Jr showing pride in service at the veterans lounge he helped establish on Marion campus.

you add in these veterans having degrees from Ohio State, hiring them becomes a no-brainer for employers. One of these former student veterans is Gary Cox Jr.

As a 2014 graduate of Ohio State University Marion campus, Cox has already put his degree in psychology to good use. Shortly after graduation Cox accepted a job offer from the Salvation Army in Delaware, Ohio. The job was working in their Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) division as a case manager. Cox worked with local landlords to help homeless veterans receive stable housing. This included many important aspects of housing, such as providing the veterans their first month’s rent and covering their security deposit. This is often a major barrier to homeless veterans because they simply do not have the means to cover these costs.

Cox served in the United States Marine Corp for 8.5 years and reached the rank of sergeant (E-5.) During his time in service, Cox was stationed at Camp Fuji and Marine Corp Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, and Marine Corp Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina, and had completed deployments to Afghanistan and Korea. Cox finished his military career on recruiting detail. All the experiences Cox has gone through while in the military help him to better connect with the fellow veterans who he serves daily.

While attending Ohio State Marion, Cox was on the 2011 homecoming court, served as undergraduate student government vice-president twice. He was one of a few key members who worked with the university and student veterans to create a student veterans room from conception to completion. There had

never been a room specifically dedicated for veterans to hang out and interact with other veterans on the Marion campus before then.

After gaining valuable experience with the Salvation Army, Cox decided he wanted to use his education and experience to do even more. Cox accepted a position of case manager just over one year ago with ViaQuest in Dublin, Ohio. ViaQuest provides psychological and behavioral services to their clients. Cox said he “helps civilians and veterans that have a mental or physical disability within the community to be able to deal with the everyday stressors within our society.”

When asked why he chose to follow the career path he has started, Cox explained, “The main reason I went to college was because of my father. He was a disabled veterans outreach program specialist that helped veterans who had separated from military service find employment. I wanted to follow his footsteps.” Unfortunately for Cox, his father passed away unexpectedly on August 10, 2013, before he got to see all the great work his son is accomplishing for veterans.

Cox said the thing he missed the most about being an Ohio State student veteran was “the camaraderie. It did not matter what you were doing or where you were on campus, veterans would always find each other and talk.”

A major university such as Ohio State is forever evolving to keep up with the latest content and delivery methods. This is also the case of the number of student veterans who have chosen to use their educational benefits. In the past, many veterans chose not to use their benefits. The number who do choose to use their educational benefits, appear to be growing every semester. The modern veterans are trying harder than any time in recent history to better themselves. •

mentoring. These programs put in place by Ohio State aim to make the transition as smooth as possible from military life to student life.

“We are here so the student veterans can do well during their transition. The Veterans and Transition Services also helps student veterans with career placement once their time here at Ohio State is complete,” said Michael Forrest, director of Veterans Transition & Services. Being a U.S. Air Force veteran himself, Forrest has a vested interest in the success of Ohio State veterans.

CURRENT STUDENTS

For 20 years, four months, and 16 days O’Quin was a Chief (E-7) Machinist Mate (someone who operates, maintains and repairs ship propulsion machinery, auxiliary equipment, and outside machinery) carrying on a family tradition of naval service. While in the navy, O’Quin deployed to the Mediterranean Sea twice and the Persian Gulf Once. O’Quin, a fine arts major, joined to get the GI Bill to help pay for art school, his true passion in life.

“Having a degree would be better for

TYPES OF VETERANS BENEFITS

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E) CHAPTER 31

- Comprehensive evaluation to determine employment abilities, skills and interests
- Vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning for employment services
- Job training, job-seeking skills and resume development

- Assistance finding and keeping a job
- On the Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships and non-paid work experiences
- Post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school
- Supportive rehabilitation services, such as case management, counseling and medical referrals
- Independent living services for veterans unable to work

POST-9/11 GI BILL, CHAPTER 33

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Department of Horticulture and Crop Science IMPLEMENTING NEW CURRICULUM AUTUMN SEMESTER 2017

STORY BY: SARAH ANNE JOHNSON • WILLIAMSPORT, OH

Photo courtesy of: Herdmark Media

Interested in sustainability? What about plants? Soon there will be even more chances for you to find your fit in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. In Fall 2017 new career opportunities within sustainable plant systems are being brought to life in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science (HCS) at The Ohio State University.

“I think these changes will encourage students to study HCS who don’t previously have a personal or family background in agriculture, but are interested in the production and research aspects of agricultural operations,” said Joey Hamrock, graduate student in Horticulture and Crop Science.

CHANGES TO THE CURRICULUM

After careful thought and revision, the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science will be offering two new specializations for the autumn 2017 semester. The specializations, agroecology and plant biosciences, will be added to the existing four specializations within the sustainable plant systems major agronomy,

horticulture, turfgrass science and landscape design and management. “This will give students more options in the plant sciences area, and we may actually attract more opportunities for students that don’t exist right now,” said David Barker, Ph.D., associate chair and professor in agronomy.

The growth will expand potential job options for students in the sustainable plant systems major. “It could open up a lot of career opportunities for students, as both of these specializations are interdisciplinary in nature and important for organizations involved in agricultural research, crop production, food security, ornamental gardening and landscaping, et cetera, but could also lead to entrepreneurial opportunities,” said Hamrock.

A BROADER VARIETY

The two new specializations will allow students to have a wider variety of career choices in many plant-related jobs. “These changes will also give our department the opportunity to become increasingly more competitive with other universities,” said Keeley Overmyer, a sophomore studying agronomy. “It will give our students the

opportunity to become a more diverse, career-ready candidate after graduation.”

Many individuals find their career while taking these courses within their specialization. This gives students the opportunity to experience firsthand what potential careers involve. “The department has many opportunities with amazing staff that will help students expand and enhance their ability to prepare them for a successful career,” said Ben Eggers, a senior studying sustainable plant systems.

AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

“Students who come from different backgrounds—farming communities, urban, suburban settings and students we’ve missed, long to have an ecological perspective and they prefer to apply it in some concrete way instead of abstractly,” said Emilie Regnier, Ph.D., associate professor in horticulture and crop science. “They are drawn to agriculture production systems. Students are valuable because they bring unique perspectives to ag cropping systems. It’s also valuable to have someone from outside the systems to see with fresh eyes.”

Even though this integration of new

curriculum won’t directly affect current students, it will impact their experience within the department. “Adding two new specializations will build the diversity that the horticulture and crop science department currently has. The sustainable plant systems major has a variety of specializations, and adding agroecology and plant biosciences will make the sustainable plant systems appealing to a broader range of students,” said Overmyer.

For Overmyer, “the sustainable plant systems major is especially attractive because many of the courses overlap between specializations. This gives students more flexibility to change majors if they come to campus and find that a different specialization interests them more. Adding these specializations will entice potential students to consider majoring in sustainable plant systems.”

THE SPECIALIZATIONS

The plant biosciences specialization is a new opportunity for students interested in applied plant science who don’t desire being constrained to a specific commodity group. As proposed in the curriculum

submitted by the department to the College Academic Affairs Committee, “this specialization offers students the opportunity to explore plant origins, diversity, growth and development at multiple scales.”

The agroecology specialization is designed to develop a system-type way of thinking, focusing on the ecological aspect of plant systems. Also proposed in the curriculum submitted, it involves applying ecology within the structure and management of agroecosystems. Such systems could involve horticulture and agronomic crops that, “integrate production of multiple species to create more diverse, ecologically sound and sustainable land-use systems.”

POTENTIAL IMPACT

“These are very important additions because agroecology and plant biosciences are critical areas in plant science that we are in need of more educated professionals,” said Overmyer.

Concentrating on these specializations will give the department an opportunity to pave the way in these fields of study. Students will be equipped with the

knowledge necessary to succeed in their chosen career path.

“We hope to provide an agroecology-centric specialization for those people who want to get into the ecology of agriculture at the biology level. Our goal is to provide students with a really good understanding of biology and ecology of a system,” said Regnier.

Regnier also explained that it will be a wonderful change to have a home for students interested in these specializations because, until now, they haven’t had a home within the department. “It’ll create a sense of a critical mass, students can get to know each other, which will create a sense of excitement within our department. Enthusiasm from students, anticipating that it will facilitate students learning from each other—it will also be rewarding for those who teach ecology as applied to agriculture, knowing that we have students interested,” said Regnier.

“I want people to see that if you’re interested in plants, whatever aspect—that this is the department to come to,” said Jim Metzger, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science. •



Buckeyes Abroad

STORY BY: AMANDA BUSH • MT. GILEAD, OHIO

Since 1940, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University has offered numerous Ohio State faculty-led study abroad opportunities for students to engage. However, education abroad became recognized as part of academia, developing its own department within the college in 2006. Education outside the classroom has become very important, whether it be to earn academic credit or for personal or professional growth, there is an experience that will fit every student's interest to educate, give back, serve or learn about agriculture or food sustainability in other countries.

Kelly Newlon, an Ohio State alumnus who is now the director of Education Abroad for the college, has traveled to six different continents through international programs. Newlon has held various titles throughout the college but has

“Education abroad is an investment that pays dividends the rest of your life.”

found her calling in this position, and she is determined to make it to that final continent someday.

“Studying abroad is so important because there is nothing that we do in this college that is not global in nature,” Newlon said.

“It is often a catalyst for students recognizing their passions and understanding the complexity of their interests,” Newlon said. Newlon works diligently to lock in new sponsorships and scholarships for students to apply for to ensure they have the opportunity to get the international experience they wish to have. Statistics from the college show that a little over half of the students who apply for

scholarships end up as recipients, making their experience more appreciative and affordable.

With study abroad under the academic umbrella, students may use student loans and FAFSA as a way to fund their trips.

Tracy Kitchel, the Agricultural Communications, Education and Community Leadership (ACEL) department chair said, “I am exceptionally supportive of students taking advantage of study abroad opportunities in college. As I have seen with students who have taken advantage, study abroad can change your view of the world, and more broadly, your life.” •

WOMEN TAKING *Lead* OF COLLEGE AND ATI ADMINISTRATION

CATHANN ARCENEUX KRESS, PH.D.

The Ohio State University has recommended Cathann Arceneaux Kress, as vice president for agricultural administration and dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). She currently is vice president for extension and outreach and director of cooperative extension at Iowa State University.

“It’s an honor to join the incredible community of faculty, staff and volunteers dedicated to all of CFAES’s missions in education, research, outreach and service. I’m excited by the opportunities and multiple ways we can enhance the capacities and impacts of CFAES,” Kress said.

Kress earned a B.S. in social work at Iowa State and an M.A. in counselor education/college student development and a Ph.D. in education, both from the University of Iowa.



KRISTINA M. BOONE, PH.D.

Kristina M. Boone, Communications and Agricultural Education department head in the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University, will start her new role as the Director of ATI on April 1, 2017.

Boone received her M.S. and Ph.D. from Ohio State in agricultural communication and extension education, respectively, and her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech. She served as a watershed extension agent with Ohio State University Extension and co-led a water education program during her graduate program.

“I’m excited about returning to Ohio State University in this new and different capacity. The campus is well positioned because of the strategic planning initiatives,” she said.




Story and photos courtesy of CFAES Communications.






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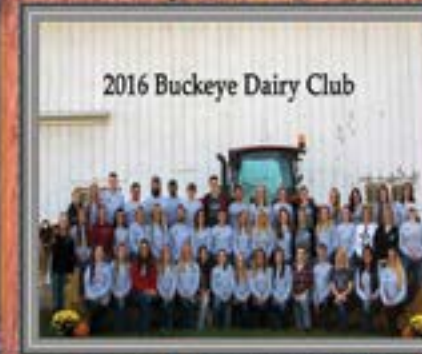
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BuckeyeDairyClub.osu.edu

DRAWING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN OHIO'S FORESTS AND THE BUCKEYE NATION

STORY BY: CHLOE MORELAND • COLUMBUS, OH



While the average student spends a large amount of their college career studying inside the Thompson Library, not many students are aware of the meticulous development the building itself has sustained. The library is unmistakably a work of art, and “Building Ohio State,” an exhibit on display until May 14, 2017, will teach students and spectators alike about the history of The Ohio State University and its connections with Ohio’s forests.

The floor-to-ceiling glass entrance of the exhibit allows foot traffic on the library’s first floor to catch a glimpse into the history of local woodlands. Upon entering the exhibit, spectators are welcomed by a showcase filled with a hefty black bowling ball, a roughed-up bowling pin, a tube of toothpaste and a baseball. Tall vinyl banners drape the perimeter of the room. Each banner displays images of enormous white oak trees, known scientifically as *Quercus alba*, native to Ohio’s Zaleski State Forest. The exhibit neatly captures the history of Ohio forestry within eight glass showcases, each staging different artifacts and anecdotes dating all the way back to 1788. (Back then, Ohio was approximately 95 percent woodland.) Each case includes a compilation of maps, documents,



photographs and even preserved ears of corn. Fascinating elements draw connections between human influence on Ohio’s forestry and its connections to Ohio State.

LIBRARY HISTORY AND RENOVATIONS

The William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library, commonly referred to as Thompson Library, has endured several drastic changes since 1913 when it first opened its doors to the campus community. After its grand opening, developers soon realized the library would need to expand. Since it was originally constructed using white oak for its

paneling, doors and bookshelves, each renovation has incorporated white oak as an essential element of its construction. It was in 1951 that the Main Library, as it was originally known, underwent a formal name change to honor the university’s fifth president, William Oxley Thompson. The first, second and third major renovations each improved both the utility and style of the library.

At Ohio State, library exhibits are usually reserved over a year in advance and in the past have only consisted of research completed by faculty librarians of the university. “Building Ohio State” is the university’s first-ever collaborative exhibit, incorporating work from the College of

Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) along with the Ohio Society of American Foresters, the Ohio Forestry Association, the Ohio Tree Farm Committee and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

As the 10th anniversary of its latest renovation approaches, the Thompson Library welcomes students and visitors to the exhibit which will be on display until May 14, 2017. The exhibit program’s purpose is to feature collections that reflect

“There is something very human and very warm about the white oak.”

diverse world views, cultural perspective and history of the university. “Building Ohio State” not only reflects those principles, but it exceeds them.

PEOPLE BEHIND THE EXHIBIT

The collaboration has caused quite the excitement for many, including the Head of CFAES Library and Student Success Center Florian Diekmann.

“Putting this together and deciding the best way to tell the story is meaningful for today’s students studying in the library. It’s not just highlighting our collection; it’s telling a story so that people who are using it every day can take something away from it,” Diekmann said. “My biggest hope is that we get the connections across.”

While each showcase in the exhibit captures a distinctive point in history, it is the white oak trees that are truly the star of the show. The white oak utilized to construct the Thompson Library was harvested and processed specifically with a quality finished product in mind. Currently, the wood paneling, the shelves and the doors in the library come from white oak trees native to Ohio.

A common interest in this special tree brought Adam Conway and George Acock together in 2004. Conway, vice president of the Ohio Forestry Association and president of Superior Hardwoods of Ohio, grew up in southern Ohio in a family that was established in the lumber industry. Acock, a 1963 Ohio State alumnus, is the founder and president of Acock Associate Architects. Acock had a spectacular architectural vision for the

Thompson Library, with white oak playing a starring role.

“There is something very human and very warm about the white oak,” Acock said.

Kathy Smith, Ohio State Extension program director of forestry, has been fascinated with forestry since she was in high school. After graduating from Ohio State and working with the Ohio Division of Forestry for 11 years, Smith returned to Ohio State. She became education

chair for the Ohio Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, which is one of the entities that began the process of “Building Ohio State.” She is proud to be a “Building Ohio State.”

“I’ve learned a lot going through this process,” Smith said, referring to the white oak. “It’s a renewable resource and as long as we manage the resource properly we have trees for years to come,” Smith said.

Acock made it a priority to follow through with his vision and see it come to life. With Conway’s help and the collaboration with CFAES, Diekmann and Smith, the finished product is something they can all be proud of.

The exhibit’s grand opening attracted dozens of viewers, Conway encouraged visitors to the exhibit to continue researching and learning about the exhibit, and for those in the industry to continue to find ways to be efficient in manufacturing white oak from Ohio’s forests. In his closing statement, Conway reminisced on his life growing up being influenced by his grandfather in the timber industry.

“Wood is warm, wood is strength, wood is character. We are drawn to it. Wood is renewable and wood is sustainable,” Conway said, “No one has ever said ‘Wow! That looks like real plastic.’” •



William A. Kellerman (1850-1908) was Professor and Head of the Department of Botany at The Ohio State University from 1891 to 1908. Kellerman and his wife, Stella, prepared this mount for an exhibition in 1893.



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CeCe Utendorf, Dr. Matt Utt, Shawn Winner,
Jeff Ziegler, Julie Ziegler

No one is successful by themselves. We all need others around us who believe in the work we do and our mission. COBA/Select Sires has been very fortunate to work with the outstanding students, staff and faculty at The Ohio State University and OSU-ATI for many years. The mutual respect and shared learning benefit all involved.

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Members of the SUSTAINS learning community show their Buckeye pride on a trip to Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of SUSTAINS.

SUSTAINING YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

STORY BY: RACHEL ROMONOSKY • COLUMBUS, OH

“I was nervous about coming to a university as large as Ohio State,” said Matthew Griffin, a member of the Students Understanding Sustainability and Taking Action to Improve Nature and Society (SUSTAINS) learning community. “I wanted to find a community of students who shared my passion for the environment, and I was looking for a way to make Ohio State feel smaller, and SUSTAINS gave that to me.”

At The Ohio State University, a learning community is a group of students that all live on the same floor of a residence hall and who are connected by a shared academic interest. Living in one common area makes it easier to meet other students with similar majors and fields of interest. A learning community gives a small-community feel to a massive college campus. Research conducted by U.S. News & World Report has shown that students who are involved in learning communities have better study skills, which ultimately leads to a better GPA, than students who not involved with a learning community.

SUSTAINING LIFE AT OHIO STATE

SUSTAINS is one of 16 learning communities at Ohio State. It is one of the newest learning communities and has 35 current members. SUSTAINS was created for students who want to learn about protecting the environment and living a sustainable lifestyle. Students of any major are welcome to apply.

The goal of SUSTAINS is to teach students different ways in which they can support the environment by maintaining natural resources and minimizing the amount of materials they waste each year. Members of SUSTAINS work on different projects within the university to promote sustainability and take care of the environment.

The program started in Fall 2014 and is located at 160 W. Woodruff Avenue in Scott House. Students interested in participating in SUSTAINS must apply to live in Scott House, and they will not be charged any additional fees on top of the cost of living upon acceptance into the program.

Gina Hnytka is the SUSTAINS Learning Community program co-leader and academic partner for the program. Her role on campus includes co-leading the planning of campus events, recruiting new students for the program and program management. She has been working full time at Ohio State for eight years and has a background in student housing, which is how the idea for SUSTAINS first came about. She feels passionately about the environment and sustainability, so she wanted to create a smaller learning group where students could get involved in their community.

SUSTAINS ACTIVITIES

The SUSTAINS learning community offers a wide variety of activities in which students can participate, ranging from social to professional development. Annual trips focus on different aspects of sustainability, such as the policies and the economic components that go along with sustaining life in different communities across the country.

Some of the trips offered include Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Chicago. The D.C. trip focuses on the different policies associated with sustainability. The Baltimore trip focuses on the community aspect and sustainable lifestyles’ impact on the environment. The Chicago trip focuses on the business side of sustainability.

Only one additional seminar course is required for students to be considered for SUSTAINS. The rest of their schedules will consist of regular required courses for their majors. Hnytka said, “One of the required activities for the course is to come up with an idea that can encourage sustainability on campus and at the end of the semester students vote on which idea they liked best and they will work together to make it happen for the following semester.” This is a way for students to take charge and show that they are being active in coming up with different ways to help the environment.

Currently SUSTAINS is working with the MyCup Initiative to promote sustainability and environmental awareness. “The idea is that students use the same cup every time they eat at one of the many dining halls on campus,” said Hnytka.

Students have been working with researchers from the Food Waste Collaborative to help educate the campus community about reducing the amount of food wasted on campus each year. The Ohio State Food Innovation Center partnered with other researchers at Ohio State to create a healthy food system on campus.

Students can also participate in a monthly “Dinner and Dialogue.” Directors from different nonprofit organizations talk about applying sustainability in the real world. Students can also watch documentaries and are encouraged to have conversations about the different environmental issues introduced by each film.

CREATING MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME

Carolyn Voigt has been involved with SUSTAINS since the program’s inaugural year in 2014 and is currently a resident advisor for the program. Voigt is an environment, economy,

development and sustainability (EEDS) major with a specialization in international development.

“I joined SUSTAINS as not only a chance to connect with others interested in sustainability, but to develop a sense of community my first year of college,” Voigt said. “Being able to connect with others who share an invested passion for sustainability has given me a greater appreciation for the diversity of the field, while gaining friends who still mean a great deal to me even three years later speaks the influence SUSTAINS has had in both my professional and personal life.”

Voigt joined SUSTAINS because it offered a chance to help the environment by participating in many of the unique opportunities that are not offered in any other learning community on campus.

“My favorite memories have been the pre-professional trips SUSTAINS has taken the past two years to D.C. and Chicago,” Voigt said. “Being able to connect with industry professionals in both environmental policy and sustainable business gave me an entirely new understanding of the field while also being able to explore the cities with my friends, either walking around Lakeshore Drive or the memorials and fountains of the D.C. mall, has given me memories to last a lifetime.”

Matthew Griffin cherishes the memories he made during the trip to D.C. last year. “On our trip, we met with top executives and policy makers to hear how sustainability is being embraced at the highest levels of our society. I also made many wonderful memories as I truly got to know my fellow SUSTAINS friends,” said Griffin.

GETTING INVOLVED WITH SAVING THE WORLD

The world will not be able to sustain the lives of over 7 billion people if we do not make a change in the way that we use natural resources. Students involved with SUSTAINS are coming up with ways in which they can help improve the sustainability of the world’s resources.

“The most rewarding part of being with SUSTAINS is watching students create their own ideas about sustainability and apply them to the real world. There is nothing that compares to that as an instructor,” Hnytka said.

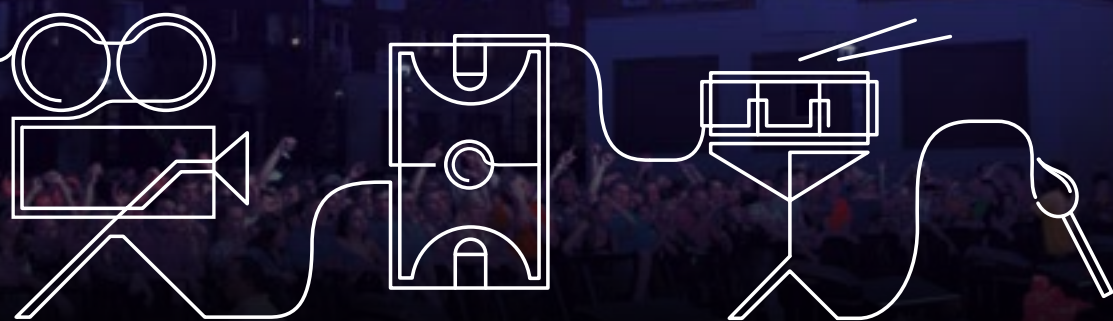
The students involved in the SUSTAINS learning community are coming up with unique ways to help improve life on campus for more than 50,000 students. So what are you doing to help sustain the world’s natural resources? •



Students engage with instructors and community leaders at a sustainability “Dinner and Dialogue” event. Photo courtesy of SUSTAINS.

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RE-ENVISIONING PROCESS *defines values* MOVING FORWARD FOR OHIO STATE ATI



STORY BY: MARY SIEKMAN • DELAWARE, OH

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences cultivates positive change and a fresh vision for Ohio State ATI

A group of identified leaders and faculty members spent several long days together surrounded by big charts, sticky notes and the ambition to cultivate positive change and a fresh vision at The Ohio State University's Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI). Though they may not have realized at the time, their initial work planted a seed that will continue to blossom into transformational growth in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) for years to come.

"The re-envisioning process is all about identifying and establishing a pathway to create one overall philosophy for our college," said Linda Martin, Ph.D., associate dean and director of academic affairs at CFAES. "The results will benefit staff and faculty on both the Wooster and Columbus campuses, stakeholders and the entire university. It will also impact our students, who are the core of everything we do."

Through the re-envisioning process, CFAES put a priority on looking at ATI and identifying its value and what it contributes to the university as a whole.

"The intent of this re-envisioning process is not to 'fix ATI,'" said Jeanne Osborne, assistant director at ATI. "The intent is to identify all the great things ATI is doing and look at how they can be made even greater to really make the campus an integral part of the college."

This process began in 2014 with a select group who started to identify how

ATI contributes to CFAES, the university and to the state of Ohio. Together they spent several meetings brainstorming the overarching strengths and weaknesses ATI possessed. "In 2015, the committee identified a list of seven different macro goals that would be set in place to guide the re-envisioning process," Osborne said.

Some general themes of the identified macro goals included integrating both the Columbus and Wooster campuses, improving facilities and technology, building relationships with stakeholders and industry representatives and creating an atmosphere that offers students the best overall experience and helps them succeed.

Sub-committees were assigned to each of the seven different macro goals and tasked with creating a respective list of micro goals, related to their specific macro goal, accompanied by action steps to achieve them.

"As a means to communicate the progress of each sub-committee, an implementation plan was published in March of 2016," said Osborne. "This document identified action steps and how they would be achieved."

RE-IDENTIFYING ATI'S VALUES

Amidst these initial discussions of re-envisioning, feelings of worry and anxiety arose because of the fear of losing the campus's structure and identity. ATI's strengths lie in the applied, two-year degrees and the institution's unique ability to serve as an access point to Ohio State's

four-year degree programs.

"When you hear the word 're-envisioning,' you began to think of change," Osborne said. "However, we were actually beginning to look at ATI through a different lens and identify areas of potential growth. This process wasn't to devalue ATI, but to see how ATI can be a stronger academic unit within the college. It took people a while to move from feelings of anxiety to feelings of excitement and wanting to get on board."

A series of events paired with leadership within CFAES sparked the idea of implementing future change.

"The university transitioned from quarters to semesters in 2012," Osborne said. "The transition prompted us to take a closer look at ATI's curriculum. We realized the need to identify pathways, or offer a successful path of transition, for each program as our students continued into four-year programs at the Columbus campus."

Following the university's switch to semesters, faculty advisors began to receive more and more feedback from students regarding course credits that wouldn't transfer with them to Columbus. This new problem, paired with a continuous increase in the enrollment of students, prompted ATI to start thinking about necessary changes to ensure a positive undergraduate experience.

"This was all happening when Dr. Bruce McPherson began his role as dean of the college," Osborne said. "He noted that a



The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute located in Wooster, Ohio, is an associate degree-granting program within CFAES. Photo by: Taylor Lutz

thorough review of ATI and its role within the college was long overdue and said it was time to initiate one. It was at that time we began to think about this process of re-envisioning."

McPherson's leadership was critical and continues to be as he supports the mission of ATI in his new role of executive vice president and provost. Many additional

"It's been an opportunity for others to realize the great things happening at ATI."

key players have contributed effort to move this process forward, including Martin.

"Dr. Martin has provided some really strong leadership," Osborne said. "She has a passion for our college's educational mission and for the value ATI brings. She not only has provided encouragement from the start, but has been a critical part of the process."

A large portion of the re-envisioning focused on adjusting how closely ATI's academic programming was aligned with the rest of the college to ensure a seamless transition for students completing their four-year degrees.

"As we looked at aligning our academic programs with the college we realized we needed to be a part of the same accreditation process as the rest of Ohio State," Osborne said. "Prior to the re-envisioning, ATI was separately

accredited even though all other regional campuses were included in the university's accreditation."

The Higher Learning Commission is the accrediting body of the entire university. It serves as the determining body that says Ohio State is allowed to offer degrees, as well as regulates how the university does what it does.

"We are one college and one university. It just made sense that we would be accredited in the same way," Osborne said. "As a result of the re-envisioning process we were able to make it happen. ATI is now accredited in the same way as the rest of the university."

NEW PROGRAMS PROVIDE CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS

The progress made by the re-envisioning teams has paved the way for new academic programs within the college. One of the newest programs, bioenergy and biological waste management, was created to replace a deactivated program.

"The college's renewable energy program was recently deactivated as a result of work done through re-envisioning," Osborne said. "When students finished the two-year degree at

ATI there was no continued opportunity to pursue a four-year degree in Columbus. Students truly were disadvantaged."

After identifying a need, representatives from the industry worked with faculty to develop curriculum to train and certify students in the new bioenergy and biological waste management program, already an improvement from the renewable energy program according to Osborne.

"Key stakeholders who serve on the ATI Advisory Committee helped us identify the need for graduates certified in managing water and wastewater for our health," Osborne said. "Students graduating in this new two-year program will work directly in this industry. Every city has water and wastewater management facilities, but they do not have the workers to maintain and operate them."

The new program is in direct alignment with the college's mission, the university's mission and the needs of Ohioans.

"This is what ATI can do," Osborne said. "We can look at what the needs are and develop programs that don't necessarily require a four-year degree program to be met."

In addition to the positive changes related to academic programming, other milestones have been made at the Wooster campus.

"We've created momentum and responding to this push to improve what we're doing," said Thomas Janini, Ph.D., interim director of ATI. "We're now seeing an improved integration of the operations on the Wooster campus and a greater collaboration among faculty and staff across the college."

The re-envisioning process has allowed many to see the entirety of the Wooster campus as a part of the college, but the process is not done. The continued goal is to make ATI a more integral part to the CFAES mission.

"As a result of what's been done there are so many more people in our college who became aware of what ATI actually is," Osborne said. "Before, there were any faculty, staff and students who had no idea ATI existed. It's been an educational process – it wasn't just re-envisioning ATI, but rather identifying that ATI had a lot of great things going on. It's been an opportunity for others to realize the great things happening at ATI." •

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I SPY:

A College With Hidden Major Gems

STORY BY: KATIE SHOUP • ORRVILLE, OHIO

It is a bustling school day on a college campus where students are going to class or sitting in a quiet library to study and work on homework. From new students to upperclassmen, they are working hard to get an education.

In Columbus, The Ohio State University is noted for the many majors offered to students, especially those within agriculture. Some of these majors are hidden gems, lower-enrollment programs that offer unique experiences. Among these majors in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) are agricultural systems management, plant pathology and entomology. These majors are a way to experience and learn something new.

department has teamed up alongside them, so plant health and entomology students are put in the same program bringing the total of students to around 30. “They get to experience both sides,” Wendy Klooster, Ph.D., said.

Klooster, the academic program coordinator for the entomology program at Ohio State, has a passion to help increase interest for the program. The program uses a “shotgun” approach to market the major by putting advertisements in C&B buses, in the campus newspaper The Lantern or by word of mouth.

Going out into the community and informing groups, like Girl Scout troops, is one way Klooster chooses to market the program, especially to young people. “It is one way to notify people that insects are not bad and won’t hurt them,” she said. Students wanting to get more involved in entomology can join a club called Chrysalis. “It is student-run, and anyone can join who has an interest in entomology,” Klooster said.

career. He enjoyed the course a great deal. “Having earned an A with ease, I was convinced that it would be an excellent career choice, and I have not looked back since,” said Greibenow.

MAJOR STAND POINT

As the assistant dean of academic affairs for CFAES, Steve Neal, Ph.D., oversees the curriculum and courses for students studying in the college. “Starting college is just discovering all of the possibilities [offered] for you and your life goals,” Neal said.

An incoming college student’s general awareness of lower-enrollment majors is slim. “They can only picture working on the farm or working as a vet after they are done with school,” Neal said. From communication to science to business and electrical characteristics: There are so many options a student is offered at the collegiate level.

MAJOR INTEREST

One hidden gem is agricultural systems management (ASM), with about 80 students in the program. Students studying ASM learn how to apply skills in math, physics and engineering to food production and processing systems.

Another hidden gem is plant pathology. Plant pathology is the study of plant disease and includes analysis of DNA. In the past, Ohio State’s plant pathology department studied the DNA of wheat where the plant pathologists were able to identify a blight, or poisonous pathogen. They found that the wheat was susceptible to a blight that caused hallucinations. This wheat blight may have even played a part in the Salem witch trials.

Due to the small size of the plant pathology program, the entomology

A STUDENT’S MAJOR OPINION

Zachary Griebenow, an entomology major and president of the Chrysalis Club, has had an interest in insects for as long as he can remember. He decided to become an entomologist after taking a college-level insect identification course at Ohio State’s Stone Laboratory at Put-In-Bay when he was 15.

After taking the course at Stone Lab, Greibenow decided on systematic entomology, or the study of evolutionary relationships among given insects, as a

MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES

Even though graduating high school students may have a narrow vision about available majors in college, talking with multiple CFAES advisors provides a great opportunity to learn what is out there. This could open doors for incoming students to take introductory courses before committing to the major.

Opportunities also exist for current students, so it is good to never stop exploring, asking questions and taking time to see what else is out there. You may be overlooking a hidden gem. •

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FARMLAND *Forever*

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is protecting farmland for the future, one acre at a time.

STORY BY: HOPE BONDURANT • BALTIMORE, OH

As Joe Young flipped through the pages of some farm magazines, he came across information about the Farmland Preservation program. Young admits he was a bit skeptical of the program because it involved the government. However, the farmer who now has multiple easements in the program shared, “I can rest assured it is going to stay agricultural even after I’m gone.”

Young grows corn, soybeans and wheat right outside of Rushville, Ohio. He currently has 395 acres preserved and is even trying to get some neighbors to join the program. “I thought it sounded like an excellent thing I wanted to do for our farm because my grandson is the seventh generation,” Young said.

At the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), the main goal of the Farmland Preservation program is to preserve blocks of farmland, which is done through an agricultural easement. “An easement is a portion of the value of the property,” said Jody Bowen, program administrator in the Farmland Preservation office.

The ODA currently has two different programs set up for the farmland preservation. One of these allows the landowner to donate their land, meaning they would not receive any monetary value for it, but could get a tax discount. The other is the agricultural purchase program,

which seems to have a higher volume of easements.

THE HISTORY

Gov. George Voinovich and Lt. Gov. Nancy Hollister passed legislation for this program in 1996 when they announced that the governor would form a farmland preservation task force. Howard Wise, the assistant director of the ODA and alumnus of The Ohio State University,

For land to be eligible during the annual application period for the voluntary purchase program, it must meet a few requirements. Those requirements include the person wanting to apply owning the land, the land consisting of at least 40 acres and the land being enrolled in the agricultural district program within its county, as well as being taxed at its current agricultural use value (CAUV).

“CAUV is a tax rate that landowners

“It’s their business, it’s their livelihood, but it’s also their life so they are concerned and want that to be preserved for the future.”

was instrumental in getting this program up and running. Wise shared that he and a few others others traveled to Michigan, Pennsylvania and Maryland to see how those programs worked in order to shape Ohio’s.

Ohio began its program in 1999 with the first year just including donated land. The first purchase program easement was accepted while Wise was the executive director of the Farmland Preservation office in 2002. The purchase program itself has protected nearly 70,000 acres of farmland in Ohio with pending easements included.

receive because their land is in agricultural production,” said Amanda Bennett, program manager in the Farmland Preservation office.

PAPERWORK PROCESS

The purchase program in Ohio requires that the landowner must go through a partner organization called a local sponsor. “That (local sponsor) can be a county, a township, a soil and water conservation district or a nonprofit organization,” Bennett said. Once the local sponsor has applied on behalf of the landowner, the agricultural easement purchase process,

which can take up to two years, can begin.

The process begins with looking through the landowner’s title work and the history of the property to make sure there are no other interests on the property so the land can enter into a deed of agricultural easement. There are a variety of documents that must be completed for an easement because it is a government program. When all of the paperwork is done with the landowner and government, the landowner is then able to sign the easement. “(The deed) essentially takes the development rights off the table and therefore keeps the land in agriculture perpetuity,” Bennett said.

Many landowners apply to be in the program again once their original land gets accepted so they will have multiple easements for their property to be preserved. Joe Young even used some of the money he received for his easement to purchase more land nearby that he plans to preserve with the program as well.

“The majority of people I speak with are emotionally committed to the farmland, it’s their business, it’s their livelihood, but it’s also their life so they are concerned and want that to be preserved for the future,” Bowen said.

FARMLAND FOR THE FUTURE

There is no doubt that farmland is important to the future of our society. “Some people have a genuine belief that we need to preserve farmland for a future food supply; agriculture is a land-based industry,” Wise said. The other reason people find this program important was that “they love the land, they love the farm, they understand it produces food but they don’t want to see it taken out of farmland because of a love for the agricultural land and the agricultural industry,” Wise said.

Young advised landowners to, “find out everything about it you can, and the other thing is make absolute sure the family is on board with it, too. Everyone has to know what’s going on and everyone has to agree.”

The program is currently working with the highest number of easements it ever has, which will help to preserve more acres for the future. Preserving farmland through the program is important for future generations of the state of Ohio, the country and our world. Those involved are passionate about that future. “We love it out here; my roots go deep,” Young said. •

FAST FACTS: *Farmland Preservation*

- Legislation for this program passed in 1996
- Program reaches 58 counties of 88 in Ohio
- Nearly 70,000 acres preserved in Ohio

For more information about the program, visit:
WWW.AGRI.OHIO.GOV



Photo courtesy of The Ohio Department of Agriculture.



SIX MUST-SEE METRO PARKS

STORY BY: MARY SIEKMAN • DELAWARE, OH

Metro Parks strive to provide opportunities that encourage people to discover and experience nature throughout Central Ohio.

1 THREE CREEKS METRO PARK
 Located near Groveport, this 1,000-acre metro park is home to over 40 miles of trails to explore. The park is named after the confluence where Alum, Big Walnut and Blacklick creeks join together. Visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the beautiful park available to them and are welcome to bike, canoe, kayak, fish and explore the natural play areas. The area is home to many owls, great blue herons and nearly 100 other species of birds. It is common for visitors to catch a glimpse of native wildlife including beaver, mink, coyote and deer while exploring the trails.

2 SLATE RUN METRO PARK
 Located near Canal Winchester, Slate Run features a variety of habitats to explore throughout its 1,705-acre park. The Slate Run Living Historical Farm is located inside the park and offers a unique experience by exhibiting an opportunity to see first-hand what it was like to live on an Ohio farm in the 1880s. The park may be best known for its historical farm, but the scenery is equally breathtaking. Among its marshes and forests, visitors experience an abundance of tree species including beech, sugar maple and hickory. Combine the Bobolink, Kokomo and Sugar Maples trails for a six-mile hike throughout the metro park.

3 SCIOTO GROVE METRO PARK
 This 620-acre park is located along the Scioto River near Grove City. Scioto Grove is home to mature forests and scenic areas overlooking the river. The park features more than seven miles of trails, community picnic areas and shelters, making it a lovely place for people of all ages and abilities to experience nature and enjoy quality time outdoors. Scioto Grove became a favorite destination for many backpackers of all experience levels after outdoor retailer REI constructed an overnight camping and hiking trail along the river for those craving more backpacking experience.

4 WALNUT WOODS METRO PARK
 Located near Groveport, Walnut Woods features 1,098 acres of beautiful woodlands, fields and restored wetlands areas. The park's winding trails through tall pines and sweetgum trees make it difficult to believe downtown Columbus is located only twenty minutes away. The park is bordered by Walnut Creek to the north and offers plenty of opportunities for canoeing, kayaking and fishing. Visitors are encouraged to bring their animal companions with them on the trails or let them play off-leash in the park's designated dog park that includes a doggy swimming pool.

5 Highbanks Metro Park
 Located just north of Franklin County, Highbanks Metro Park sits on almost 1,200 acres and overlooks the Olentangy State Scenic River. The park contains a variety of scenery and views including wooded trails and beautiful ravines cut into sandstone by tributary streams. Highbanks offers outdoor activities including hiking, biking, canoeing and kayaking for all ages. Combine the Coyote Run and Overlook trails for a challenging, five-mile hike through forest and river views. Additionally, the park provides incredible vistas of fall foliage and color for its visitors to enjoy every year.

6 INNISWOOD METRO GARDENS
 Nestled within a scenic nature preserve north of Columbus, Inniswood Metro Gardens provides a welcoming atmosphere for visitors of all ages. The 121-acre, landscaped park is filled with more than 2,000 species of plants, specialty collections and themed gardens. In addition to the lovely foliage, natural streams and woodlands filled with wildflowers and other critters make themselves at home in the park. Walkers, hikers and bikers are welcome to explore trails winding through the woods on the outside of the gardens.



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