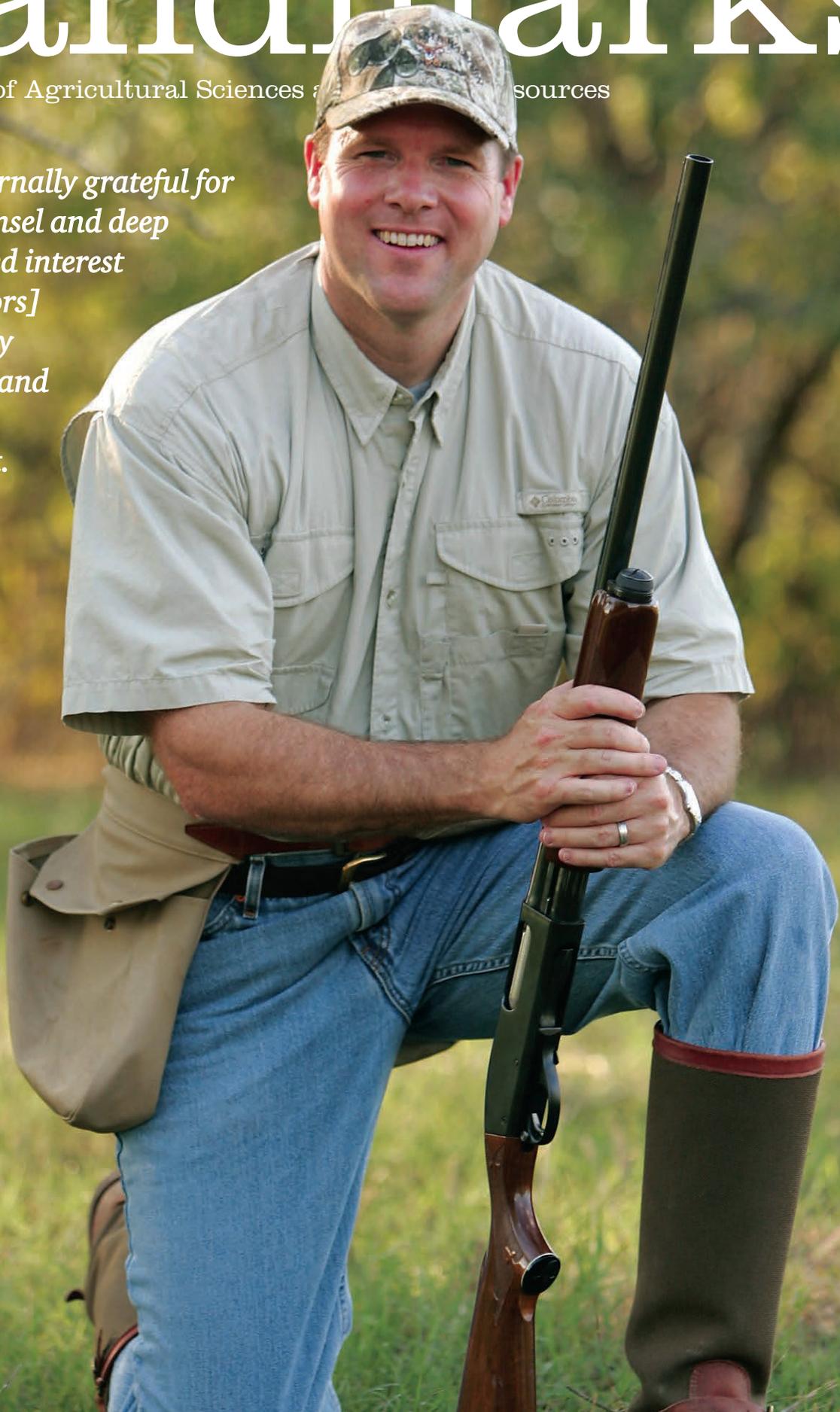


SPRING 2017

# Landmarks

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry sources

*"I will be eternally grateful for the sage counsel and deep and sustained interest [my professors] showed in my educational and professional development. My parents rightfully credit them with getting me back to school."*



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Honoring the Heritage,  
Preserving the Past for  
the Future

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National Champions



# Landmarks

Vol. 32 Issue 1

*Landmarks is the official alumni news magazine of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University. It is published biannually and sent to alumni and friends of the college.*

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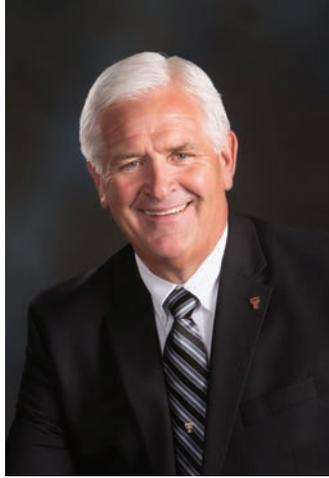
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The United States Department of Agriculture website is very positive on employment opportunities for college graduates in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and the environment. In the coming years, the USDA expects an average of 57,900 annual openings for graduates with bachelor's degrees in those areas. According to USDA projections, almost

half of the opportunities will be in management and business. Another 27% will be in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Jobs in sustainable food and biomaterials will make up 15%, while 12% of the openings will be in education, communications, and governmental services.

An average of 35,400 new U.S. graduates with expertise in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, or the environment are expected to fill 61% of the expected 57,900 average annual openings. Having a critical mass of graduates with expertise in these areas is essential to our ability to address the U.S. priorities of food security, sustainable energy, and environmental quality. In the last issue of Landmarks I noted that we were at an all-time high in enrollment in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources with 2,174 total students (undergraduate and graduate). Between the growth of student numbers and the prospect of jobs, the outlook for CASNR is very positive. There is still the problem of having a shortage of qualified graduates to fill positions. This spring, CASNR graduated 217 students with B.S. degrees for a total of 391 students (136 Fall 2016 and 38 Summer 2016) graduating with a B.S. in the past year. Based on the USDA projections, CASNR needs to be graduating 640 students for our part to meet the current job demand.

There is much work to do as we work to recruit, retain, and graduate quality students with the skill set to work in the food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and the environment sectors. A great deal of this responsibility falls on the Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center (SSC). One of the methods used by the SSC is telling the stories of our many successful alumni and the career path they have taken. Landmarks features one or more of these alums in each issue. In recent issues, alums such as Jeff Lansdell ('90 BS Animal Production; '93 MS Meat Science and Muscle Biology), and his career with Creative Educational Video, and Dr. Larry Butler ('74 BS Wildlife Management), creator and producer of the television program "Out On The Land" on RFD TV, were featured for the successes they have had. Other features have included Todd Gregory ('85 BS & '87 MS Agricultural Education) and Mackenzie Gregory Allison ('10 BS & '12 MS Agricultural Communications), successful Father/Daughter agricultural teachers at Klondike ISD, and Tommy Wilkens ('82 BS Horticulture), director of sales for Grow Farms Texas LLC. Russell Laughlin ('81 BLA Landscape Architecture), VP of Hillwood Properties and Hillwood Urban, a Ross Perot land development company in Dallas, and Matt Schertz ('01 BS Agricultural and Applied Economics), Policy Director at the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, have also been featured for the career path each has taken since graduating from CASNR and Texas Tech University.

In this issue of Landmarks, our featured alum is Carter Smith ('93 BS Wildlife Management), Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, a post he has held since January 2008. He is responsible for overseeing an agency of 3,100 professionals in 11 different divisions, including Wildlife Law Enforcement, State Parks, Coastal Fisheries, and Inland Fisheries. Take the time to read about Carter and the success he has had since becoming an alumni of Texas Tech. We are the strong college we are today because of the many hundreds of alumni who wear our brand. If you have a story to tell, please share it with us by contacting either Tracee Murph, Jane Piercy, or myself. We want to keep up with all our alums, so please let us hear from you.

Steve Frazee  
*Interim Dean, College of Agricultural  
Sciences and Natural Resources*



**W**elcome to the Spring 2017 issue of Landmarks! We took a little extra time and care this issue, and I hope you like the changes we've made. In each issue, we like to try something different and keep it fresh. I am inspired by our alumni who do the same with the degrees they obtain from our college, and how they enter the agriculture and natural resource industry with a new perspective on the traditional and make it their own. We have alumni making strides in innovation and research, and working to keep the industry strong to provide for the future. Those successes never cease to amaze me.

We have had a wonderful response from our Alumni Authors since the last issue, and added some great books to our library!

**Perry Thompson Arledge** ('61 BS, Animal Production) is a lifetime motivational-keynote speaker who, in 1994, discovered Calcium Bentonite Clay. She has since dedicated her life to researching and sharing her knowledge of the clay. Her book, *Calcium Bentonite Clay Nature's Pathway to Healing*, is a definitive guide to understanding how the clay works. She has also written *Just Desserts*, a non-threatening approach to seeing and accepting all people in your

life as delicious morsels.

**James Dunn** ('59 BS, Agricultural Economics) collaborated with Wanda Evans to write *Trail of Blood: A Father, a Son, and a Tell-Tale Crime Scene*, the true crime story of his son's disappearance and murder, and Jim's relentless search for truth and justice. Jim now speaks at missing person conferences, such as Parents of Murdered Children, to help give some hope to families still looking for closure and give tips on dealing with investigators and aiding in the search.

**John Holt** ('61 BS, Animal Production & '66 MS, Agricultural Economics) believes without a dream to chase, life is empty. With that in mind, he wrote *Chasing Your Dreams* to encourage his grandchildren to dream, to chase their dreams life-long, and to provide some aids that can help them in their chases.

**John Weir** ('90 MS, Range Science) wrote and published a book in 2009 through the Texas A&M University Press titled *Conducting Prescribed Fires: A Comprehensive Manual*. John is currently a research associate in the Natural Resource Ecology and Management department at Oklahoma State University.

If you would like to join the CASNR Alumni Authors Library, please send a copy of your book to CASNR Alumni Authors Library, Box 42123, Lubbock, TX 79409-2123.

Collecting these books not only provides us with good stories to read—it also serves as a great resource for classmates, professors, and other professionals to read about and connect with the CASNR family.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 806-742-2802 or [tracee.murph@ttu.edu](mailto:tracee.murph@ttu.edu).

*Tracee Murph*

UPCOMING

*events*

Here in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the CASNR experience doesn't stop with commencement. From our signature Pig Roast to Homecoming Breakfast, there are lots of opportunities for the CASNR family to gather, reconnect, and enjoy great food and fun. We hope you will join us and participate in some of these traditions!

**Alumni Reception in conjunction with the Texas Wildlife Association Annual Meeting**

Friday, July 14, 2017  
San Antonio, TX

**Alumni Reception**

in conjunction with the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas Professional Development Conference

Tuesday, July 25, 2017  
Arlington, TX

**56th Annual Homecoming Breakfast**

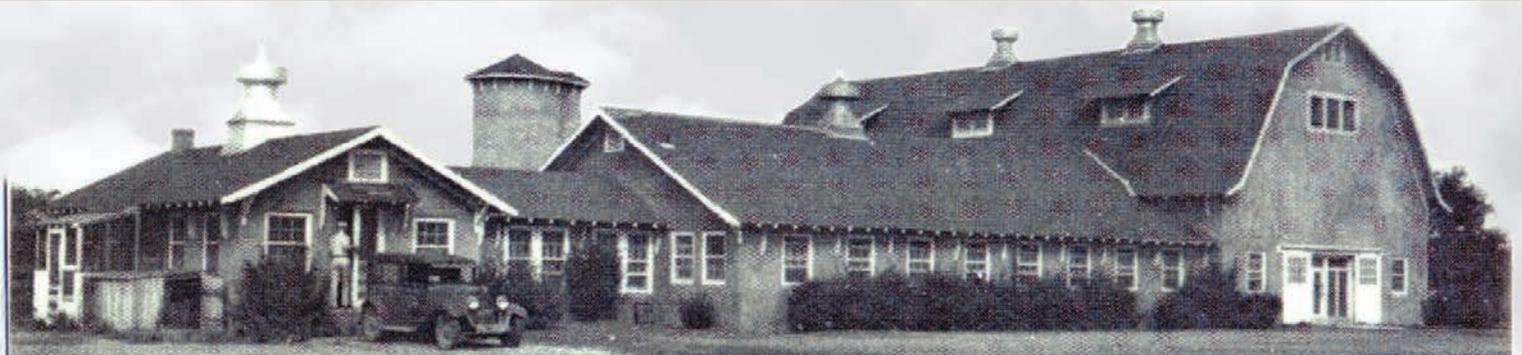
Saturday, October 21, 2017  
Student Union Building,  
Red Raider Ballroom

**90th Annual Pig Roast & Outstanding Agriculturalist Awards**

Tuesday, November 7, 2017  
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

# TEXAS TECH DAIRY BARN

A SYMBOL OF INNOVATION & COMMITMENT



An iconic landmark located in the center of the Texas Tech University campus, the Dairy Barn has stood the test of time. Constructed in 1926, the Barn is one of the oldest structures on campus. Over the years, it has survived a fire, abandonment followed by years of neglect, and threats of demolition. Reflecting its agricultural heritage and the indomitable spirit of the countless Red Raiders who worked there over the years or who merely walked by it day after day on their way to and from classes, the Barn is woven into the very fabric of Texas Tech.

Today, the Dairy Barn and Silo stand as an integral piece of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and University's history. A state-of-the-art structure at the time, the building designed by Fort Worth architect Wyatt Hedrick with the help of then School of Agriculture's Dean Arthur Leidigh and Professor Wenzel Stangel. Now the time has come to restore the Barn to its rightful place as a working academic facility, joining the Agricultural Pavilion and the Administration Building, which are in daily use and were constructed at approximately the same time.

## HONORING THE HERITAGE PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

After sitting vacant for 50 years, and being one of the oldest and most recognizable structures on campus, the Dairy Barn stands as a monument to the University's history. Having been a working Barn, it represents communal work and work done for the community.

To Texas Tech students, past and present, the Dairy Barn and Silo are more than just buildings. They are physical reminders of the presence and prominence of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources within the University, as well as the importance of agriculture and natural resources management in the daily lives of Americans.

In 1969 when John Burns, Ph.D. joined the biology faculty at Texas Tech, a colleague told him about the history of a run down, unused building known as the Dairy Barn. He said the story impressed him because of the reference to hard working students who were contributing to the cost of their education through access to this space.

"Forty one years later when I retired as Dean of CASNR, my respect for the efforts of these students remained but I had also become profoundly aware of the symbolism embodied in the Dairy Barn," Burns said. "It represents Texas Tech's hard working students and its intimate relationship to agriculture. Therefore, Liz and I are happy to support the preservation and renovation of the Dairy Barn."

While agricultural operations have evolved and shifted to many locations around campus and Lubbock, the rich Texas Tech tradition of camaraderie and academic success will once again be present in the Barn. Once the Barn is renovated, it will make a bold statement that the past and the future come together in the present.

With its prime central location, the Dairy Barn is an ideal collaborative and conference space for Texas Tech students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This unique venue, in the heart of the campus, will allow discussion of problems ranging from the nuances of a particular discipline to the global grand challenges facing humanity over the next several decades. Students, faculty, visiting scholars, and artists will be invigorated to work together on creative ventures, problem solving, and developing new program initiatives.

"The Dairy Barn is an iconic Texas Tech landmark. From its beginnings as a provider of dairy products for our campus and community, to its place today on the National Register of Historic Places, it has stood the test of time," Texas Tech University System Chancellor Robert L. Duncan said. "The renovated Barn will become a centerpiece of our campus and be cherished by future generations of Red Raiders."



# VISIONING THE FUTURE

## COLLABORATION, RESEARCH, AND STUDY

A significant component of the renovated Dairy Barn will be a permanent display reflecting the history and importance of the Dairy Barn and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The first floor will be a multi-functional collaboration space to provide various opportunities for collaborations, study of the creative process, education, and contain small group meeting and 'visioning' space. An open space with excellent internet connectivity, open writing and exhibit spaces, and versatile layout options will provide disciplinary and multi-disciplinary groups a unique environment that will foster problem solving and creative thinking and scholarship.

The Dairy Barn is the place at the heart of Texas Tech, the literal and figurative crossroads of disciplines. The University's history will be reinvented and reimagined when an engineer works with an artist, a therapist works with a mathematician, or dancers exchange ideas with an architect. The collaborative space in the Barn will be an attraction to artists and scholars-in-residence and will generate an atmosphere of creativity in perpetuity.

Scholarly research and study of the creative process will require working across disciplines, the benefits of which will go far beyond what we learn about creativity. Ultimately, the aim is to become what we study – to incorporate creativity and thinking outside the box into the very nature of the Texas Tech community of scholars. Partnerships will provide opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate, to observe and work with resident scholars, and to enter into discussions with them, much like a seminar. The hands-on approach will help students learn more than they would via lectures or books.



The second floor is intended to be a multi-purpose loft for events and gatherings. It will have space for things such as lectures, receptions, small conferences, large meetings, and educational productions. This area would be available by a request from any department or group on campus.

"The Dairy Barn stands as a witness to the spirit and vision of those who laid the foundation for Texas Tech University," Texas Tech University President Lawrence Schovanec said. "We now have an opportunity to preserve and protect our history and tradition by making the Dairy Barn a dynamic part of what our thriving University has become."

The Office of the President will match dollar-for-dollar up to a \$1.3 million for each donation made to restore this historic landmark for future generations of students, he said.



## DAIRY BARN RESTORATION FUND

“The first time I really paid attention to the Dairy Barn was in the summer of 2011. I was on the second-floor atrium of the Plant Science Building, which provides a roof-level view of the Barn,” former CASNR dean and current Texas Tech provost and senior vice president Michael Galyean said. “I was utterly shocked by the large areas of missing shingles and the unpainted and broken pieces of trim board, and I remember telling the people standing there with me that we had to do something about the condition of the Barn or we were going to lose it.”

“That fall, our CASNR Homecoming Breakfast was held outdoors on the grass in front of the Barn, and we officially kicked off the Dairy Barn Restoration Fund. In the summer of 2012, with the help of the President’s Office, we were able to get a new roof on the Barn and repair and paint the wood trim.

“I am so pleased that we have now embarked on a plan to bring the Dairy Barn back into the mainstream of University life. With matching funds from the President’s Office, we will be able to allow students, faculty, staff, and alumni the opportunity work, think, and create in a space that has been part of the campus since 1925, while at the same time honoring the agricultural heritage of the University. Being able to see this plan come to fruition will certainly be a highlight of my career at Texas Tech.”

This \$2.6 million proposed restoration project aimed at bringing the building back to its place as a working academic facility, is currently in the fundraising stage and construction will not begin until the funding is in place.

You can help! Give a gift that honors the heritage of Texas Tech and your family. Have your name inscribed on a donor wall, to be placed prominently on the first floor of the Dairy Barn, with a minimum pledge of \$10,000, payable over five years.

Texas Tech has made a lasting impression on the lives of many. Now you can make a lasting impression on Texas Tech. Have your name ‘set in stone’ to forever be on display at the Barn that holds a special place in your heart. Bricks are available for \$1,000, and will be placed in the courtyard surrounding the front entrance of the Dairy Barn. Payable over three years, the four inch by eight inch bricks have room for three lines of engraving with 15 total characters and spaces per line.

Giving opportunities don’t stop at naming or engraving. All dollar amounts are welcome from anyone interested in contributing to cause. Donors are encouraged to give online at [www.give2tech.com](http://www.give2tech.com) or to contact the Development and Alumni Relations office within CASNR.



# TIMELINE

1926

Students were encouraged to bring up to three cows of their own to campus and house them in the barn. The barn had enough milking facilities for 40 cows, a calving stall, feeding rooms, a chiller, and an office. The dairy business took off, and in 1926, the Student Dairy Association was organized.



## Structurally Sound, but in Need of Major Facelift

Built in 1926, Tech's Dairy Barn is one of the four original buildings on what was then known as Texas Technological College. By 1931, Tech's Dairy Manufacturing Department was self-supporting, furnishing milk and ice cream to campus cafeterias and the Lubbock community. The college herd, comprised of cattle bought by or donated to the college, swelled beyond the Barn's capacity by 1935. As a solution, students were asked to remove their own cattle from the Barn and the era of tuition payments through milk sales came to an end. The facility continued to serve as an educational site for students interested in the industry until it was abandoned in 1964, when dairy operations were moved. Campus planners razed the dairy manufacturing addition a year later to make way for new facilities and the historic Barn sat quietly ignored.

In the fall of 2012, Texas Tech's historic dairy Barn received a facelift. The structure's exterior now dons a new coat of paint, and all roof shingles have been replaced on the treasured campus monument. "The dairy Barn is a vital part of the agricultural heritage of Texas Tech, and I'm pleased that the [University] administration recognized the value of the structure and committed the funds for the new roof," Galyean said.

In 2014, the greening of the West Library Mall and the area surrounding Tech's iconic Dairy Barn were part of a \$2.5 million campus beautification project that included new turf grass and landscaping, along with an irrigation system, lighting and walkways.

In 2016, Lubbock County's Historical Commission and the Student Government Association of Texas Tech unveiled a new Texas State Historical Marker in ceremonies. Built in an L-shaped configuration, the agricultural complex includes a free-standing grain silo to the west of the main wing. A description of the building from the register notes: The complex was built with interior milking and feeding facilities for 40 cows, plus calf stalls, feed mixing room, boiler room, attendant's room and an office. A fire in January 1930 damaged the building, destroyed equipment and killed three cows, but the building was soon repaired and new milking equipment was installed. Some minor interior and exterior changes were made through years of milking operations before 1966, when the Dairy Manufacturing Department vacated the building.

A 1976 report and slide presentation titled "Restoration: Texas Tech Dairy Barn," recommended the return of the dairy Barn to its 1946 condition in order to create a dairy museum or perhaps a theater for the German, French and Spanish departments. During the late '70s, architecture professor Will Robinson began attempts to register the dairy Barn as a historic place. His interests in the National Register of Historic Places were strengthened when the Barn was deemed unsafe and structurally unsound by the Coordinating Board for the Texas College and University System in 1984. The report called for the building to be demolished or abandoned. The Texas Antiquities Committee designated the Barn as a historical landmark in 1985, but renovation estimates soared to \$500,000.

In 1989, Tech's student senate took action, creating a committee to study the preservation of the facility and work towards having it listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The "Save the Barn" campaign, a student and alumni effort held from 1990-92, raised \$64,000 to weatherize the Barn. The project sealed the facility from the harsh West Texas weather elements by rebuilding its roof, repairing the windows, doors and walls and repainting both the Barn and the silo. Preservationists ultimately prevailed and the Dairy Barn and Silo were officially dedicated to the NRHP in 1992. But the Barn would not rest peacefully for long. University master planners drew in a pedestrian mall at its current location in 1997. Talks of renovation began again but the Barn and silo continued to sit unchanged and today stand as a quiet and curious reminder of Texas Tech's agricultural roots.

# LINE



1927

The Texas Tech University Dairy Manufacturing Department furnished milk and ice cream to the university and the Lubbock community.

1966

The Dairy Barn was mutually beneficial to Texas Tech and the students by providing milk to the Home Economics Food labs and the campus cafeteria, with any extra dairy products sold to the Lubbock community to help pay for the student's college fees. The Barn was abandoned, and dairy operations were moved to another location.

1992

The Dairy Barn was recognized by the National Register of Historical Places, thanks to a successful student fundraising effort. Because of this effort, the Dairy Barn has been preserved as a symbol of Texas Tech's agricultural heritage.

2016

Lubbock County's Historical Commission and the Student Government Association of Texas Tech unveiled a new Texas State Historical Marker.





Ryland and Carter

# Carter Smith

## CHAMPIONS CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

By Laura Gutschke

“We owe a big debt of gratitude to our state’s farming and ranching families for ensuring that those vast places still exist in Texas, where 95% of the land is proudly owned and stewarded by our private landowners.”

Carter Smith ('93 BS, Wildlife Management) grew up with an Austin street address, coupled with outdoor sensibilities and responsibilities. When not attending classes at St. Stephen’s Episcopal School, he could be found on his family’s central Texas farm and ranch land in nearby Williamson and Gonzales counties.

“Being outdoors was a constant part of my childhood, whether it was fishing or hunting, working or exploring. Thankfully, I had a cadre of close friends and family who grew up the same way and enjoyed doing the same things,” Smith said. “While my cousins were more suited for ranching, I was always more inclined towards the wildlife side of things. They were a lot more handy on a horse, fixing a windmill, or doing any other ranch related chores. My talents appeared more suited for things like gigging bullfrogs and calling coyotes,” Smith chuckled.

That urban-rural upbringing has suited him perfectly for his duties as executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, a position he assumed in January 2008. Fittingly, the Department’s headquarters is in southeast Austin, on the edge of McKinney Falls State Park and about 10 miles from downtown Austin. Helping urban Texans – 85 percent of whom are concentrated in nine metropolitan areas – connect to the outdoors is one of his most important tasks.

“From a purely population perspective, we’ve been an urban state for about 60 years, but we still think of ourselves as a rural state, largely because of our proud history and connection to the land, as well as the extent of our wide open spaces,” Smith said. “We owe a big debt of gratitude to our state’s farming and ranching families for ensuring that those vast places still exist in Texas, where 95% of the land is proudly owned and stewarded by our private landowners,” he commented.

...from the moment he stepped on campus, that genuine concern and investment in the success of students defined the entire CASNR faculty and staff.

TPWD's responsibilities cover the state's 266,807 square miles, divided into 10 natural regions that range from desert to coastal and prairie to forest. Smith oversees over 3,100 employees in 11 diverse divisions at TPWD.

"I think few people truly understand the breadth of things that TPWD does for our state, its citizens, and our natural and cultural resources. Our core work in managing the state park system, stewarding and protecting fish and wildlife resources, and promoting hunting, fishing boating, and other activities is fairly well known," Smith said. "But, other major services that TPWD provides each and every day for our state are much less so, such as law enforcement along the Rio Grande and Texas' 367 miles of coastline, as well as emergency response and disaster relief efforts statewide by our game wardens during catastrophic events from floods to fires to hurricanes are not as well recognized."

And there's much more, such as scientific work to ensure the health of the state's rivers, bays, and other aquatic resources, extensive wildlife management partnerships with private landowners, combating invasive and exotic species, protecting rare and unique species, and providing support to communities all across the state through various trail, local park and boating access grant programs, he said. The work may be immersed in the outdoors, but the two-legged creatures are inarguably the most important stakeholders.

"At the end of the day, my job is a people job," Smith said. "There's always going to be the tyranny of the urgent. Challenges associated with maintaining fish and wildlife populations, addressing repairs in the parks or at fish hatcheries, combating aquatic invasive species, arresting various species-specific population declines, containing emerging wildlife diseases, or responding and recovering from catastrophic weather events are a constant and come with the territory."

"But, above it all, there is nothing more important than ensuring our work is relevant to all Texans. Study after study shows Texans care passionately about what we do, but they approach it from very different, and sometimes rather divergent, perspectives. We have to figure out ways to work with and engage all of them. In other words, we have to meet them where they are at, whether that be in Llano or Laredo, El Paso or El Campo."

Smith's journey to appreciate that complex connectivity between land and people is a circuitous one. The proverbial fork in that life path came with meeting two professors from the Texas Tech

University College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in the middle of a Texas wilderness.

## FINDING DIRECTION

After attending Sewanee-The University of the South in Tennessee, The University of Texas in Austin, and Sul Ross State University, Smith took a hiatus from his undergraduate studies to work as a projects technician at Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area south of Alpine. There he met Fred Bryant, Ph.D. and Steve Demarais, Ph.D. The CASNR professors were conducting research on mule deer and other wildlife, and they encouraged Smith to transfer to Texas Tech to complete his undergraduate degree.

"I will be eternally grateful for the sage counsel and deep and sustained interest they showed in my educational and professional development," Smith said. "My parents rightfully credit them with getting me back to school."

He added that from the moment he stepped on campus, that genuine concern and investment in the success of students defined the entire CASNR faculty and staff. They exhibited it through easy accessibility inside and outside the classroom, involving students in research projects, and facilitating networking with professionals in the field, Smith said.

Other CASNR faculty members helped foster Smith's professional interests and academic skills during his two years at the college, setting a firm foundation for his pursuit of a master's degree in conservational biology at Yale University, which he completed in 1997. Smith's first day at Yale in an advanced statistics and computational ecology course even had ties to his statistics studies with David Wester, Ph.D. at CASNR.

"After spending the entire hour of class discussing these almost incomprehensible series of algorithms, the professor finished his first lecture by giving us three scientific papers to read and digest for the next class. When I saw that two of them had been written by Dr. Wester, I had an immediate burst of confidence that I was up to the challenge of whatever academic rigors were going to be thrown my way in New Haven," Smith said.

While at Yale, Smith studied under the late Stephen Kellert, Ph.D., a pioneer in understanding the connections between humans and nature, also known as the theory of biophilia.

"He was instrumental in shaping my perspective and appreciation of the very diverse relationships that people have with nature and the outdoors," Smith said.

## PROFESSIONAL FOCUS

Prior to joining TPWD as executive director, Smith worked with The Nature Conservancy of Texas from 1998 to 2007, the last three and a half years as state director. He previously was the first executive director of the Katy Prairie Conservancy, a local land trust west of Houston that has now protected almost 20,000 acres of critical wetlands and waterfowl habitat. He continues to serve today on the Advisory board. His professional career began in 1993 as a management intern with TPWD in the Private Lands and Public Hunting programs.

Smith's other career highlights prior to joining TPWD show his adeptness in any setting, from remote wilderness to board rooms.

Carter Smith administering oath of office to Game Warden Graduating Class in the House Chamber.



## MEET CARTER SMITH

**FAMILY:** Carter Smith and his wife, Stacy ('93 BS Animal Business) have one son, Ryland, 4. He is following in his father's footsteps, enjoying trips to the family Hill Country ranch to chase deer, hogs, turkeys, and other critters.

**HOBBIES:** Avid outdoor enthusiast including dove, deer and quail hunter. Also enjoys anytime playing baseball with Ryland.

**VOLUNTEER WORK:** Donates time to a host of conservation-related boards and councils, such as Texas Land Trust Council, Katy Prairie Conservancy and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, of which he is past president.

**MEMBERSHIPS:** Professional member of Boone & Crockett Club and a lifetime member of Texas Bighorn Society, Dallas Safari Club, and Houston Safari Club.

**AWARDS:** Named an outstanding alumnus by Texas Tech and Yale University. Honored by the Audubon Society with their Victor Emmanuel Conservation Award, the Texas Wildlife Association with the Sam Beasom Conservation Leader Award and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas with the 2016 International Award of Excellence in Conservation.



Stacy and Carter Smith on a mule deer hunt in west Texas.

As a biologist, some of his most memorable experiences included researching moose in Saskatchewan, Canada, waterfowl in the Laguna Madre of Tamaulipas, Mexico and mule deer and pronghorn antelope in far west Texas. While at The Nature Conservancy, he helped to protect lands and waters in diverse areas, from the Davis Mountains to South Padre Island to the Texas Hill Country. Another career highlight came in 2005 working on the campaign to secure \$90 million in bonds for the Aquifer Protection Initiative in San Antonio. The funds were used to purchase conservation easements on farms and ranches atop the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone, the single source of water for the country's seventh largest municipality. "It was a classic win-win for water, agriculture, conservation, and the people of San Antonio," Smith remarked.

Other accomplishments include launching a prescribed fire cooperative with ranchers in the Refugio-Goliad prairie and working to reintroduce Attwater's Prairie Chicken in coastal Texas and aplomado falcons on South Padre Island.

That diversity of experience plays into his day-to-day responsibilities overseeing the administration and operations at TPWD.

"There is no standard day for me, other than dealing with a rather diverse suite of issues that may involve everything from addressing a serious wildlife-related disease such as chronic wasting disease in deer to facilitating a land acquisition project for a new state park to addressing funding needs for the 100-year old Battleship Texas," Smith said. "I spend a lot of time interacting with major stakeholders and partners from private landowner organizations, conservation entities and state park enthusiasts to local, state and federal officials."

One of the misconceptions about TPWD is its funding.

"What makes TPWD rather unique is that we operate through a 'user pay, public benefit' system. That means our work is supported almost entirely by fees paid by hunters, anglers, park goers and other outdoor enthusiasts," Smith said.

It is a complex formula that includes about \$130 million annually from hunting and fishing licenses, which are to be used strictly for fisheries, wildlife or law enforcement. The state parks are supported by the over \$50 million they generate in user fees, plus funds generated annually from a portion of the state sales tax collected on sporting goods, Smith said.

"The conservation, stewardship and outdoor recreation benefits that we provide to the state as a result of those user-pay funds result in healthy lands, waters, habitats, fish, wildlife and open spaces that all Texans can enjoy and appreciate," Smith said.

He added that one of the biggest challenges facing TPWD is funding to steward the state parks, historic sites and natural areas across the state.

"As the state grows, the demand for affordable, quality outdoor experiences increases. In some cases, state parks are in danger of being loved to death. Decades of deferred maintenance, coupled with the age of their facilities and heightened visitation have pushed some of them to the literal brink," Smith said. "These are the places that tell the life, history and stories of our great state and provide quality outdoor and recreational experiences for 9 million visitors each year. As we approach the centennial of the state park system, it should not be lost on any of us that we owe it to all Texans, now and to come, to take care of these state treasures."

Other challenges facing TPWD include addressing major legal disputes and challenges about how resources such as deer and oysters are managed in the state and ensuring that TPWD positions its work and programs to be relevant to the state's very diverse and burgeoning population, many who are detached on a daily basis from outdoor and natural resource-related concerns.

"We need state parks like McKinney Falls in Austin, Franklin Mountains in El Paso, Sheldon Lake in Houston and other accessible outdoor areas immediately proximate to where people live," Smith said.

One important reason is that extensive research shows the emotional, intellectual, mental health, physical, and community values of connecting with nature on a regular basis, he said. He is especially passionate about getting children involved in the outdoors, like he enjoyed growing up.

"We know that children spending time in natural settings benefits them immensely, whether that is hiking a trail or camping in the park, catching a fish or hunting a deer. There is ample research that shows it helps shape them for life. They are happier, healthier and smarter. It improves test scores, as well as their sense of confidence, autonomy, and independence," Smith said.

Recognizing the complexities of the myriad challenges facing TPWD in a state as big, populous, and diverse as Texas, Smith takes a long view on things. "The work of this Department, from the stewardship of our bountiful wild things and wild places to the advancement of our proud outdoor and sporting heritage, must be thought about and framed in generational terms. We are doing things now that will benefit people who aren't even born yet," Smith reflected. "That gives me more satisfaction than any paycheck or title ever could."



Texas Tech University announced the appointment of **Michael Galyean**, formerly the dean of Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, as the university's new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has been serving as interim provost since August last year. The Office of the Provost is responsible for the overall academic mission of the university. This involves working with the president, deans, faculty, students and staff to promote academic excellence throughout the institution. Dr. Galyean, who is a Texas Tech Horn Professor, the highest distinction a faculty member can receive from the university, joined Tech in 1998. He received his bachelor's degree at New Mexico State and his master's degree and doctorate at Oklahoma State University.

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**Stetson Coreman** ('16 BS, Agricultural and Applied Economics), an experienced calf roper, team roper, and former vice president of the Texas Tech Rodeo Team, was selected as the new coach for the Rodeo Team after a brief stint as interim in the role. While on the team, the Colorado native placed fourth in the All-Around of the Southwest Region College Rodeo, had two qualifications to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Mountain States Circuit Finals, qualified for the PRCA All-American Finals, and was named the PRCA Mountain State Circuit Rookie of the Year. He previously worked at Northeastern Colorado's Burlington Feeders, Inc., focusing on the organizations cow/calf operations. He also managed a cow/calf operation with Corman Ranches in Bethune, Colo.

▼ .....  
 An expert in food microbiology and food safety systems, **Alexandra Calle**, was named a research assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. She plans to continue her research efforts investigating applications and measures to reduce foodborne pathogens during the production, harvesting, and processing of food. One of her primary goals at Tech is to focus on international food safety research projects and to collaborate with government, industry, and academia. She received her bachelor's degree in biology from the Universidad de Valle

in Cali, Colombia and her master's degree in food science and technology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her doctorate is from Texas Tech.

▼ .....  
**Jerrad Legako** ('11 Ph.D., Animal Science) was named an assistant professor of food science with the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. He is continuing research efforts in meat quality, exploring the impact of factors such as cooking, processing, and packaging techniques on beef flavor chemistry. He is a member of the American Chemical Society, American Society of Animal Science, and the American Meat Science Association. He received his bachelor's degree in biology from Texas Tech and his master's degree in food science from Oklahoma State University.

▼ .....  
 An expert in equine-assisted group counseling, **Katy Schroeder**, has been named an assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. The Iowa native is interested in continuing her research investigating how equine-assisted mental health interventions promote social and emotional learning in diverse populations and across all age groups. One of her primary goals is to help Tech grow the companion animal science research and teaching program. She received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University

of Delaware, her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling from Oregon State University-Cascades, and her doctorate in counseling from Oregon State University-Corvallis. In addition, she has certifications as a National Certified Counselor, Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning, and Therapeutic Riding Instructor with the Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

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**Noureddine Abidi**, an associate professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, was recently named Managing Director of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute (FBRI) and was appointed the Dean Leidigh Memorial Professorship. The professorship was established in 1995 in memory of Arthur Leidigh, who served as the dean of the School of Agriculture from 1925 to 1945 and a professor of agronomy until 1950. The FBRI is equipped and staffed to conduct both basic and applied research and development activities ranging from small-scale testing to large-scale manufacturing.

▼ .....  
 A professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science with a joint appointment with the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Service, **Peter Dotray**, was appointed to the Rockwell Fund Chair in Plant and Soil Science. One of his primary goals has been to carry out research on effective, profitable and sustainable weed management in all crops grown in the Texas High Plains, and disseminate results directly into the classroom and in outreach activities.

▼ .....  
**J.D. Booker** ('13 Ph.D., Plant and Soil Science) has been named an assistant professor in urban soils with the Department of Plant and Soil Science. He has interests in studying the cycling and interactions among water, sediments, nutrients and contaminants in urban, disturbed, specialty food production, horticultural, recreational, and industrial soils and their associated ecosystems. He received his bachelor's degree in soil science from New Mexico State University-Las Cruces, and his master's degree from Auburn University. His doctorate is from Texas Tech.

**1980-1989**

**Rick Barnes** ('85 BS, Agricultural Economics) joined the North-American Interfraternity Conference staff in the role of vice president of campus operations, where he helped develop robust campus support model to increase alumni, undergraduate and Interfraternity Council effectiveness. He works to establish relationships with campus professionals and NIC stakeholders to coordinate a national education and advocacy strategy. Rick was a member of the FarmHouse fraternity at TTU.

**Christopher B. Hoffman** ('88 BLA, Landscape Architecture) was appointed President of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). He has received appointments by three Mississippi governors to serve on the Mississippi Landscape Architectural Advisory Committee to the Mississippi Board of Architects. He is the founder of Christopher B. Hoffman Landscape Architects, a Clinton, Miss.-based firm.

**Nick Allen** ('89 Former Student, Agricultural Economics) retired from the United States Air Force in 2011, and is now working at PDX Inc. in Fort Worth, TX. His daughter, Morgan Allen, is currently a fourth generation Texas Tech student studying Agricultural Communications.

**1990-1999**

**Steve Wolf** ('91 BS, Agricultural Education) is now the Superintendent for Lazbuddie ISD.

**Jim Bret Campbell** ('96 BS, Agricultural Communications, and '97 MS, Agricultural Education) is now the Executive Director of the National Ranching Heritage Center.

**Grant Kinsey** ('96 BS, Agricultural Communications) was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott as judge of the new state district court in Coryell County. Grant graduated from Baylor Law School in 1999.

**Robert Wells** ('96 BS, Animal Science) is now a Livestock Consultant with the Noble Foundation, and is Executive Director for Integrity Beef Alliance.

**2000-2016**

**Kenneth Ostrand** ('00 Ph.D., Fisheries Science) was selected as the new Director of the San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center. He has served the San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center as Deputy Center Director since 2011.

**Kori Dunn Knappe** ('08 BS, and '09 MS, Agricultural Communications) and her husband **Chris Knappe** ('11 MLA, Landscape Architecture) co-own WTX Landscape Design, LLC, a design-build landscape company in San Angelo, TX.

**Matthew Townsend** ('08 BS, Interdisciplinary Agriculture) received a Masters of Divinity from Criswell College in Dallas. He recently accepted a position as an Associate Pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church. He and his wife have two sons, Tobyn and Noah.

**Annie Wolf Sims** ('11 BS, Agricultural Communications) is now a sixth grade math teacher for Henrietta ISD.

**Natalie Kincy** ('12 BS, Horticulture and Turfgrass Science) recently moved back to Texas after four years in Georgia, and is currently an Agriculture Education teacher at Athens High School in Athens, TX.

**Jenna Hay** ('16 BS, Agricultural Communications) was named the Female World Champion in her age group of 20-24 for the Long-Course Duathlon at the Powerman Zofingen Duathlon World Championship in Switzerland. She was the youngest competitor in her race and finished with a time of 10:42:26.

**Ryan Nunnally** ('16 BLA, Landscape Architecture) is currently the Unit Coordinator of Functional Support at Texas Tech University ISD.

**In Memory**

**Mr. Glenn M. Witten**  
1945 Animal Production

**Mr. Henry D. Schwarz**  
1947 Dairy Management

**Mr. A. T. Fouts, Jr.**  
1948 Soil Science and Mechanized Agriculture

**Mr. R. Douglass Degge**  
1954 Dairy Management

**Mr. Don A. Nelson**  
1955 Soil Science

**Mr. Bobby L. Moore**  
1957 Agricultural Education

**Mr. R. Dan Thompson, III**  
1967 Animal Science

**Lester E. Ehler, Ph.D.**  
1968 Entomology

**Mr. Dan R. Reid**  
1976 Landscape Architecture

**Mr. Robert P. McMillen**  
1978 Agricultural Engineering

**Mr. Acie C. McAda**  
1986 Agricultural Economics

**Mrs. Julie A. Maxwell**  
2011 Interdisciplinary Agriculture

Texas Tech University set another enrollment record with 36,551 students for the fall semester. Enrollment across campus has climbed each year since 2009, on track to reach the goal of 40,000 students by 2020 as set out in the university's strategic plan. The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources has continued its record as well, with an overall enrollment of 2,174 students. This is the eighth consecutive year of increased enrollment, which includes 1,754 undergraduates and 420 graduate students.

The Texas Alliance for Water Conservation in the Department of Plant and Soil Science was selected for a National Water & Energy Conservation Award from the Irrigation Association of Fairfax, Va. Established in 1982, the National Water & Energy Conservation Award honors a company, organization or group that has made significant achievements in the conservation of water and energy due to irrigation procedures, practices, equipment, methods and techniques.

The Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute in the Department of Plant and Soil Science received a grant of almost \$275,000 from the Walmart Foundation. The funding will extend the crucial research being conducted to improve the safety and efficiency of indigo dyeing of cotton yarns entitled "Foam Indigo Dyeing of Cotton Yarns: Machine Design and Process Control."



2016 Ranch Horse Team National Champs

The Ranch Horse Team finished off a successful season by capturing the overall title at the 2016 Stock Horse of Texas (SHOT) Show World Championships in Abilene. The Red Team outpaced second place Texas A&M by 69 points, earning 410, to win top honors. The Black Team finished fourth with 307 points, just five points shy of third place. The win capped off their season of success where they competed in six shows earning four championships and two reserve championships, including the team's seventh national title at the Collegiate National Championships. The Ranch Horse Team was led by three individuals who each finished in the top three all-around in their respective levels at the SHOT show.

## CONTINUING THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

CASNR Passes the Century Mark in National Championship Titles

The college passed a huge milestone this summer when the outstanding Meat Science Academic Quiz Bowl Team brought home a national championship title at the 69th Reciprocal Meat Conference in San Angelo. The quiz bowl win brought the number of national championship titles for CASNR to 100.

Since Texas Tech's beginning in 1923, CASNR has provided programs of excellence in teaching, research and public service to prepare students for employment in the modern agricultural and renewable natural resources industry. Included in that effort is a long-standing competitive streak that presses its students toward excellence. "Having been involved in judging contests at some level since I was

a junior 4-H'er and throughout my career, I am astonished at the level of excellence that has been attained by our CASNR judging programs," said Steven Frazee, Interim Dean. "It is so appropriate to celebrate 100 national championships as Texas Tech University approaches a century of education, research and service."

CASNR is well known for an educational philosophy that fosters active learning inside and outside the classroom.

"Being a past judger myself, I'm a huge supporter of the judging programs in the college," said Cindy Akers, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Programs and a member of Tech's 1990 Livestock Judging Team. "Judging team participation is a great



2016 National Champion Meat Science Quiz Bowl Team



2017 Meat Judging Team

example of the hands-on learning outside the classroom.”

The Department of Plant and Soil Science laid the groundwork with a decades-long string of national titles beginning in the 1940’s. Between 1947 and 1970, its crop judging team took no less than 35 championships. Meanwhile, from 2007 to 2009, the department’s Agronomy Quiz Bowl Team dominated the title rankings.

One factor in Tech’s dominance was the presence of two individuals. Cecil Ayers, a noted agronomy professor who began working at Tech in 1942, was the winner of the Piper Professor Award. The longtime coach of Tech’s crops judging team led his teams to either first or second in both national and international judging teams from 1947 to 1953 and again in 1955.

“Cecil Ayers was the quintessential teacher and judging team coach,” said Cynthia McKenney, Rockwell Endowed Professor of Horticulture in Plant and Soil Science. “He was able to share his passion for crops with his teams such that they were able to strive for the best and make Texas Tech a dominate force in national competitions for many years.”

Another leader was B. L. Allen, a veteran educator and nationally-recognized soil scientist who taught soil science courses at Tech for almost 50 years, starting in 1959. From 1991 until his retirement in 2003, Allen served as the university’s Rockwell Professor of Soil Science. In addition, he coached the soils team for 40 years.

“Dr. Allen was a foremost soil scientist, a deeply religious individual, and most importantly a good man,” added Richard Zartman, former chairman of the Department of Plant and Soil Science. “He was the



2017 National Champion Wool Judging Team

consummate field soil scientist, and he instilled his curiosity and passion in all of us who had the good fortune to work with him,” said Zartman, who retired from his post as chairman and Leidigh Professor of Soil Physics in 2014.

While athletic teams tend to cycle up and down in the limelight during the current sports season, two CASNR teams have recently been dominate in competition, often defending their national championship titles in distant locations across the nation. The Meat

Judging Team and the Livestock Judging Team, both in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, are among the country’s top leaders in their fields.

The Meat Judging Team won top honors in 1989, 1991, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015, while the Livestock Judging Team won national titles in 1934, 1953, 1985, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, and 2016. Separately, other high-flyers in the department bringing in national titles include the Meat Animal Evaluation Team which won in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2013; and Ranch Horse Team which won in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2016.

Mark Miller, a nationally-recognized animal scientist with the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, leads one of CASNR’s standout teams. He was selected to receive last year’s American Meat Science Association

Intercollegiate Meat Judging Meritorious Service Award.

Miller has mentored and coached 293 meat team members across 32 teams at a world-class level. Collectively, his teams have retired 23 championship cups, unprecedented since the start of meat judging in 1926.

“These students represented Texas Tech University with excellence,” Miller said.

Meanwhile, Ryan Rathmann, an associate professor with the Department of Animal and Food



2017 Livestock Judging Team

Sciences, leads another winning team. “We’re fortunate to have so many exceptional students in our judging program,” Rathmann said.

“The experiential learning and development that takes place while being on a team are hard to replicate in a classroom,” said Michael Orth, chairman of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. “What has been the most impressive to me is meeting many of our former students and seeing

not only how successful they have become in their careers, but also their exemplary character.”

“CASNR has a long culture of involvement that encourages students to be engaged in activities outside the classroom,” said Michael Galyean, the university’s new Provost and Senior Vice President. “Competitive teams are a key way of showing that involvement,” he said.



2015 National Champion Meat Judging Team



2015 National Champion Livestock Judging Team



2016 Meat Judging Team



2016 National Champion Livestock Judging Team

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**Noureddine Abidi**, an associate professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science and Managing Director of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute, was named a Texas Tech Integrated Scholar by the Office of the Provost. The designation is given to faculty members who demonstrate significant accomplishments and effective synergy among the major professorial functions of teaching, research and service.

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 A professor of food microbiology and food safety in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, **Mindy Brashears** ('92 BS, Food Technology), has been named a fellow to the National Academy of Inventors. The fellowship is awarded to academic inventors who demonstrate an enhanced spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a significant impact on quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society.

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**Chance Brooks** ('94 BS & '97 MS, Animal Science), a professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, was awarded the 2016 Non-Land-Grant Agricultural and Renewable Resources Universities' (NARRU) Distinguished Educator Award.

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 Award-winner agricultural economist, **Darren Hudson** ('94 MS, Agricultural Economics & '97 PHD, Agricultural and Applied Economics), was named a Texas Tech Integrated Scholar by the Office of the Provost. Integrated Scholars are faculty members who consistently promote active learning and infuse the results of their research and scholarship in courses and other learning experiences, and they publish results of their teaching innovations in peer-reviewed journals.

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**Tio Kleberg** ('69 BS, Animal Science) and Fred Bryant ('70 BS, Range Management) were honored for their groundbreaking conservation work, both individually and for their work with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute in Kingsville, Texas. The two renowned South Texas Conservationists were selected as 2017 inductees into the Texas Conservation Hall of Fame.

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**Brandon Reese** ('05 BS, Horticulture) recently won the Environmental Leaders in Gold Award. Presented by the Gold Course Superintendents Association of American (GCSAA) and Golf Digest in partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

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 A veteran professor, administrator and agricultural economist in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, **Eduardo Segarra**, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association. One of the organization's highest honors, the award recognizes significant and enduring contributions in scholarship or public service to southern agricultural economists.

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**Pat Taylor** ('67 BS & '69 MS, Park Administration), retired associate professor and program director at the University of Texas at Arlington, was elevated to Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). He is one of 28 members nationwide to have received the honor. Fellowship is among the highest distinctions the ASLA honors members, and it recognizes the contributions of individuals to their profession and society at large as demonstrated by their works, leadership, management, knowledge and service.

The Director of Development and External Relations for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, **Jane Piercy**, received the Association of Fundraising Professionals-Lubbock Area Chapter's Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award.



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**Cindy Akers** ('91 BS and '92 MS, Agricultural Education), a professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications and CASNR's Associate Dean for Academic and Student Programs, was named a Fellow in the American Association for Agricultural Education. Separately, **David Doerfert**, a professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications and associate dean of Texas Tech's Graduate School, was presented the AAEE's Distinguished Research Award during the conference.

## Outstanding Agriculturalist Awards

Established in 1969, the annual Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturalist Awards recognize people who contribute immeasurably to the general good of the agricultural industry.

Individuals eligible for the award must be successful and distinguished in his or her profession, business, and other worthy endeavors. They must have demonstrated significant contributions to the agricultural industry and be recognized by their contemporaries for their contributions.

Three individuals are selected each year to receive the award; one each in the categories of agricultural production, agribusiness, and public service.

This year's recipients were **Edwin Teeter** for agricultural production; **Gail Krings** for agribusiness; and **Randy Boman** for public service.

Eddie Teeter started farming in 1965. After a break to serve in the U.S. Army, he returned to farming some 1,300 acres of corn, cotton and wheat. While farming in Floyd County for more than 45 years, he has held numerous leadership positions and supported conservation programs. Honors for Randy include 'Citizen of the Year' from the Lockney Chamber of Commerce (1988), and the 'Blue Legacy Agriculture Award' from the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Committee (2013). He received his bachelor's degree in business from McMurray University. He is a member of the Floyd County Farm Bureau, Texas Young Farmers and Rancher Committee, Floyd County Fair Board,



L to R: Gail Krings, Randy Boman, Eddie Teeter and Interim Dean Frazee.

County Central Appraisal Board, and producer committee for the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation.

A long-time member of the West Texas cotton milling industry, Gail Krings has played a pivotal role in this critical part of the agricultural industry. The Houston native served as president of PYCO Industries, starting in 2002 until retirement last year. In addition, he served as the Texas District Director of CoBank; advisor and vice president for the National Cotton Council; board member and president for the National Cottonseed Products Association; member of the industry advisory committee for the Texas Food and Fiber Commission; president of the Texas Agricultural Co-op Council; and president of the Texas Cottonseed Crushers Association. He is a member of the Lubbock Power and Light Utility Board; and Plains Capital Bank's Advisory Board. Gail was named 'Cooperator of the Year' for the Texas Agricultural Co-op Council (2005). He received his bachelor's degree in

business administration from Texas Tech.

A native of Frederick, Oklahoma, Randy Boman served 14 years as Extension Agronomist-Cotton at Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center in Lubbock, where he was initially hired as assistant professor, and later promoted to associate professor. In 2006, he was promoted to professor and extension agronomist. In 2011, he moved to Oklahoma State University, where he is currently a Research Director and Cotton Extension Program Leader. He was awarded the West Texas Chemicals Institute's Special Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Agricultural Industry of West Texas (2011); 'Specialist of the Year in Texas Agriculture' from the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association (2008); and the 'Extension Cotton Specialist of the Year Award' (2006). He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in agronomy, and doctorate in soil science from Oklahoma State University.