“I’ve been a strong believer in education. My parents really pushed that.”

Waylon Carroll
A Life Devoted to Education
The fall semester is always a great time to be on a college campus. It’s what the college experience is all about – new faculty members settling in and old ones dusting off their notes for another semester, new students finding their way around campus for the first day of classes, traffic jams, the sounds of the band practicing, the start of football season, and scores of other signs of new life and new energy on campus.

For CASNR, the fall semester has started off with a bang. Our enrollment reached a new record of 1,928 students (1,577 undergraduates and 351 graduate students), surpassing our previous high of 1,876 students in the fall semester of 2011 and growing at a faster rate than the university as a whole. To add to this great news on the enrollment front, the college continues to be a major force in the university’s quest for “Tier 1” status in research efforts, with just under 25% of the university’s research expenditures resulting from the efforts of CASNR faculty members, supported by our staff and students. Indeed, per faculty member, research productivity is greater in CASNR than in any other college on campus. Plans are underway to begin construction on an addition to the Plant Science building during the 2013-14 school year (including some renovations to the existing building), and we are aggressively working with the university administration to find ways to renovate the rest of CASNR’s aging facilities to better allow us to meet our teaching, research, and outreach missions. By the time the academic year is completed, we plan to have filled 25 faculty positions over a two-year span, nine of which are new positions in strategic areas of research. These new faculty members have brought fresh energy and expertise that will profoundly influence the education of our students and our ability to conduct research and serve our clientele for years to come.

So it’s a new academic year, and we have much to be grateful for and proud of in the college. And although it would be really nice to sit back, take a few deep breaths, relax, and be satisfied with where we are and what we’ve accomplished, I know we don’t have that luxury. Being satisfied with the status quo is one of the greatest dangers that organizations face because it’s an attitude that inevitably leads to a reversal in fortune. One of my favorite people, Ronald Reagan, said: “Status quo, you know, is Latin for ‘the mess we’re in.’” To avoid that mess, we’ll keep pressing forward in CASNR. We’ll be visioning about what our degree programs need to look like 10 or 20 years down the road. And we’ll be pushing to expand our research enterprise to better serve the needs not only of the people of West Texas, but of the ever-expanding world population with a growing demand for food, fiber, and effective management of natural resources.

As alumni and supporters of the college, we need your input, advice, and support to help us, as Chancellor Hance often says, “Dream no little dreams” and meet the grand challenges of the future. In this issue of Landmarks you’ll read about CASNR alumni who weren’t satisfied with the status quo. They dreamed large dreams and found success on a grand scale. And the great news is that these are the kind of people we’ve always worked to educate in CASNR, and we plan to keep doing it for a long time to come.
Welcome to another issue of Landmarks! I hope you will enjoy this one as much, if not more, than the last. Each year I have the pleasure of hosting several alumni events, both on campus and throughout Texas. As one of my favorite events is the annual 50th Class Reunion. Each year, we host alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more for a luncheon. After the meal, each person is invited to share memories from their time at Tech and let us know what they’ve been up to since graduating. This year was extra special as it was the first for a female alumna to attend. “As I looked out the window of the plane a flood of memories of good times spent at Texas Tech washed over me like a tsunami. The flood of memories of good times spent at Texas Tech wafted over me like a tsunami. The plains had not changed much. Self-flat, some..."— Tracee Murph, Coordinator of Alumni Relations

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The CAESR Advisory Board recently underwent some changes and expansions. The board’s mission is to promote excellence and innovation within the College, and to assist with strategic planning, provide feedback on current CAESR activities and goals, and to strengthen and enhance the College’s image and reputation. The board has grown from 13 to 21 members, including 15 all new members from across the state. The board consists of representatives from each of the departments, as well as the Development and Alumni Relations office. While the members come from varied backgrounds, they all share a desire to serve the College and to further the aims and priorities of the departments. This year, it is expected to improve the resources available to the College and its students.

The Department of Landscape Architecture’s undergraduate program was nationally ranked 11th in this year’s DesignIntelligence report of the best undergraduate schools, firmly seating it in the top tier of the nation’s more than 90 landscape architecture collegiate programs. This ranking was featured in the new edition of “America’s Best Architecture & Design Schools 2013.”

A Nationally Recognized Leader in Skeletal Biology Research, Michael Ort, took the helm as the new chair of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. He comes to us from Michigan State University, where he served for 17 years. He has focused his research efforts on improving joint and skeletal health in livestock and companion animals. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Iowa, and his doctorate is from the University of Wisconsin.

Charles Klein, a long-time associate professor and noted landscape architect in the Department of Landscape Architecture, has been named the interim-chair for the department. His research focuses on service-learning and study abroad pedagogies. He is the leader of a community-based ecotourism summer study abroad program to the Yucatan peninsula, where students work with rural Mayan communities to develop low-impact tourism projects. He also serves as faculty advisor to the Student American Society of Landscape Architects and Sigma Lambda Alpha, a student honor society that recognizes academic achievement among students in the field of landscape architecture.

New Mexico native, Phillip Berry, was named the new coach of the Rodeo teams. Prior to joining Texas Tech, he served for 13 years as the coach at New Mexico Junior College. He is a seasoned rodeo veteran, having spent 20 years in the rodeo circuit from junior to collegiate rodeos, and as a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). He received his bachelor’s degree in animal science from South Dakota State University.

Joseph Young, an experienced golf course and sports turf management researcher, has been named an assistant professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science. Prior to joining our faculty, he served as a graduate research assistant in the department of horticulture at the University of Arkansas, and at Mississippi State’s department of entomology and plant pathology.

An Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Lyda Garcia, is now leading 4-H youth development efforts. She was recently named the new coach of the Rodeo teams. He earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science from Sul Ross State University.

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Carlos Capio, an experienced research economist who specializes in agricultural economics and applied statistics, has been added as an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. One of his goals is to build a campus-wide research and teaching program in applied statistics with colleagues and students from other departments.

A Research Scientist who specializes in swine nutrition and health, Anoosh Rangshandeh, has joined the Department of Animal and Food Sciences as an assistant professor. He plans on continuing his research efforts on nutrition and immune function. One of his goals is to develop nutritional strategies to mitigate the negative impact of stress on swine.

This summer we were pleased to host a small group of Park Administration alumni from the classes of 1959, ’60 and ’61. The group came together in Lubbock to reunite so we invited them back to campus for lunch, and took them on a tour of the Landscape Architecture department facilities, showcased some LA students and their work, and went on a campus tour by golf cart tram.

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A singular rare event – the birth of twin reticulated giraffes at a Texas safari ranch – garnered worldwide attention for a trio of alumni of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The female Wasswa, at 4.5 feet tall, and her younger brother Nakato, another foot taller, were born 15 minutes apart to their mother Carol on May 10 at Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch between San Antonio and New Braunfels. The twins are only the second known living set born in the United States and ninth set in the world. They are the 19th and 20th giraffes born at the Wildlife Ranch.

The 400-acre Wildlife Ranch is owned and operated by T. Dudley Soechting (’89 BS, Agricultural Education), his wife, Laurie (Frederick) Soechting (’89 BBA, Finance), his brother, Shawn Soechting (’92 BS, Agricultural Education) and Shawn’s wife, Tiffany (Crapps) Soechting (’92 BS, Animal Production).

“The twins are a huge blessing given to us. It is something that we could not buy, reproduce or recreate,” said Tiffany in an email interview. “The worldwide recognition is amazing. Just google the words ‘giraffe twins’ and see the pages and pages of worldwide press.”

Joining the giraffes at the ranch are more than 500 other animals representing 40-plus species from around the world. They include endangered animals such as white rhinoceros and lemurs as well as kangaroos, zebras, wildebeest, peacocks and camels.

Education and breeding programs are key tenets of the Wildlife Ranch’s mission. “Many of these species are endangered due to habitat destruction, so there is no native homeland to support them. Educating future generations to create an interest through memorable experiences will, I believe, prove to make it instrumental in carrying on breeding programs for years to come,” Tiffany said.

For example, the Wildlife Ranch’s herd of addax exceeds the one in its native Africa. “We believe a huge part of our successful breeding programs is the free-roaming environment in which they can interact with other species,” Tiffany said.

Visitors too can see the animals up close on a four-mile driving tour, walking tour and at a petting barn. Other park amenities include a restaurant and gift shop. Away from the public the family continues to operate a traditional Texas ranch.

“The ranch is on Hill Country land that has been in the Soechting family for six generations. The brothers’ parents – Trudy and Raymond Soechting – opened the Wildlife Ranch in 1984 as a complement to the nearby Natural Bridge Caverns that opened in 1964 on family land, today overseen by another relative. “Growing up on the ranch has been lots of work, but very rewarding. My brother and I pretty much knew that we wanted to stay here and run it one day,” T. Dudley said in an email. The brothers and their wives have transitioned into operating responsibilities for the Wildlife Ranch during the last few years.

For the Soechting family, the Wildlife Ranch is a source of personal pride. “The ranch has been in my family for over 130 years so there is a huge amount of pride in ranching and being an excellent steward of the land,” Shawn said in an email. Learn more about the Soechting family in the following Q&A interviews.
**MEET T. DUDLEY**

Q. Why did you choose Texas Tech? It seemed that during that time most people in this area went to UF or Texas A&M, so I just wanted to be a little different. I decided on Texas Tech and loved it.

Q. How does your CASNR experience have bearing on your work today? Equine science with Dr. John Pipkin was very good – lots of information on animal reproduction and feeding. Most of the classes in animal science have had an impact on me here at the ranch in animal care and feeding.

Q. What are your titles at the ranch? Shawn, president; me, vice president; Laurie, treasurer; Tiffany, secretary.

Q. What is your vision for the future of the ranch? We want to continue our philosophy of continually growing and changing. It is a cycle of creating something for folks to come see.

Q. What is your favorite part of the ranch? The animals and how we share the world with and the land that sustains them. Also like providing folks with a deeper appreciation for the creatures we share the world with and the land that sustains them.

Q. What animals have been added in recent years? We have not added new species in the past few years as we have concentrated our efforts in our new expansion that will open in spring 2014. The expansion will add many new species, but we are not releasing that information yet.

Q. How has the operation changed since y’all took over? We have expanded the size of the park and added a full restaurant.

Q. How was it like to grow up on the ranch? Growing up on the ranch was, and continues to be, a wonderful experience for my family and me. We still have our ranching section of the property that remains one of the most rewarding jobs. The family always has been very close so we run the whole operation as a family.

Q. What is your least favorite part of the operation? All of the regulations that are required for all the different areas of the business.

Q. How exciting is the addition of the twin giraffes? Very exciting. We were very blessed – bottle feeding one of the twin giraffes. I check his pen to monitor his “bodily functions” and that no changes need to be made to his feeding schedules.

Q. What is a typical day for you at the Wildlife Ranch? My day starts out in a way that would make most any animal lover envious – bottle feeding one of the twin giraffes. I check his pen to monitor his “bodily functions” and that no changes need to be made to his feeding schedules.

Then I come into the office for daily business bookkeeping. I then transition into marketing – creating ads and billboard designs and maintaining and developing signage for all of the property. I design and maintain the supply of our custom drink cups, design our restaurant menu boards and signage, create the brochure and adventure guide book, oversee our website and oversee our educational programs as well.

Q. Taking over a family business is not easy. How have you put your own stamp on the operation? I admire what my mother-in-law and father-in-law taught me. What they developed gave us everything we have today. The biggest element of that is we work as a unit. We do not individualize anything. In my position, I have the most creative freedom, but when I come something I think about it from the ranch branding aspect, not “look what I did.”

Q. What is your favorite part of the ranch? The animals, and how they educate our visitors through the experience they leave with. I also like providing folks with a deeper appreciation for the creatures we share the world with and the land that sustains them.

Q. What is your vision for the future of the ranch? We want to continue our philosophy of continually growing and changing. It is a cycle of creating something for folks to come see.

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**MEET SHAWN**

Q. Why did you choose Texas Tech? Because of my brother attending Tech. My Ag teacher also attended Tech.

Q. How does your CASNR experience have bearing on your work today? All of my classes in the agriculture field were memorable. They have a direct bearing on almost all of the things I do on a daily basis.

Q. What animals have been added in recent years? We have not added new species in the past few years as we have concentrated our efforts in our new expansion that will open in spring 2014. The expansion will add many new species, but we are not releasing that information yet.

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Q. What is a typical day for you at the Wildlife Ranch? First drive through to check all the animals, then meet with managers to line out all of their day’s duties. I love the outdoors, so I don’t have office work I work with fellow staff members on projects.

Q. What animals have been added in recent years? We have not added new species in the past few years as we have concentrated our efforts in our new expansion that will open in spring 2014. The expansion will add many new species, but we are not releasing that information yet.

Q. What is your least favorite part of the ranch? The animals and working with them.

Q. What is your vision for the future of the ranch? We want to continue our philosophy of continually growing and changing. It is a cycle of creating something for folks to come see.

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**MEET TIFFANY**

Q. Why did you choose Texas Tech? Because I was a freshman in high school (high school sweethearts). I went to Tech the year before me and I followed.

Q. How does your CASNR experience have bearing on your work today? The whole experience was molding. I can honestly say that each class I had, along with the experience of being away from the security blanket of home, was a stepping stone.

Q. What is your favorite part of the ranch? Because Shawn and I started dating when we were so young, I have in essence grown up around the ranch. I actually started working for the Wildlife Ranch when I was 15. It is extremely rewarding to be raising my sons (T.Decker, 17, and Zane, 13) on the ranch.

Q. How were your responsibilities set up? When each graduated from Tech and came back home to work, my mother-in-law and father-in-law did not assign us jobs. They let us work to find our niche. As TV/news crews requested interviews, it seemed like the one who liked to ramble on and one was the one pushed in front of the camera (me).

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**Funny Things Kids Say**

Following are some of the funniest comments Tiffany has heard from children visiting the ranch.

* Are antlers made out of wood?
  * Why do poops look like that?
  * In answer to the question “What are the five things these animals need to survive?” a very serious first grader said, “Fried chicken.”
  * Overhead a conversation between a younger and her mother while pointing to the mother of the twin giraffes: Child: “That is the mother.” Mom: “How do you know?” Child: “Because she is the prettiest and the hair is longer.”
Waylon Carroll (’50 BA and ’54 MA, Agricultural Education) has retired from two education administrative positions in Lubbock, but the teaching never stops for the consummate educator.

“I know everyone says it was crazy that I put in 60 years in education, and not retiring earlier, but it was a great experience,” said Carroll, who was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources in 2002.

Even in retirement, Carroll spends much of his free time on setting up educational exhibits and helping with office duties at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture. He is a founding board member of the Lubbock museum that opened in 2002.

Given his devotion to education, it is fitting that a scholarship at the college in honor of Carroll and his wife Ruth, who died three years ago, is awarded to students majoring in agricultural education or communications.

“I’ve been a strong believer in education. My parents really pushed that,” Carroll said. He grew up on a small stock farm about 20 miles from Lampasas. After high school, he enrolled at Tarleton Junior College (now Tarleton State University) in nearby Stephenville. He initially wanted to study engineering, but the long enrollment line prompted him to look at other options.

“I chose a major in agricultural education because I figured I could make a living at it,” Carroll said. “I have never been sorry about changing majors.”

One of the reasons Carroll has enjoyed agriculture-related work through the years is its challenges, especially as technology and science have transformed the industry.

“You’ve got to know chemistry, seed varieties, equipment and federal programs. You really have to be smart to be a farmer today,” Carroll said.

After graduating from Tarleton, Carroll joined friends in attending Texas Tech. He quickly appreciated the CASNR’s attentive faculty.

“I was close to them, and they were close to me. That’s what was so impressive about Texas Tech in the late 1940s and early 1950s. And, they were so helpful in job placement,” Carroll said.

He pushed himself to graduate a semester early, carrying 26 hours — including six labs and a Saturday class — his last semester. His first job was a five-month stint with a federal program in Hereford to teach veterans about the latest trends in agriculture.

“I was 20 years old, and their average age was 29, so I taught them what I knew real quick,” Carroll said.

He next worked as a vocational agriculture teacher and FFA adviser at Canyon High School from 1950 to 1955 and Monterey High School in Lubbock from 1955 to 1965.

Each year Carroll trained students to complete in eight judging teams and six leadership teams in district, area and state FFA contests. The secret to their many winnings was simple.

“I worked at it, and they worked at it. Nearly every night I met with a team,” Carroll said. “I loved to train teams and see boys win.”

He also had five students serve as FFA district presidents, five as state presidents and five as state vice presidents. In addition, 70 earned the FFA’s Lone Star Farmers Degrees and four the American Farmers Degree.
Continuing education Department as assistant director of extended studies and principal of Texas Tech University High School. At the time the school specialized in correspondence courses. He planned to work for them two years and instead stayed 20, retiring in 2009.

At about the same time he joined the university’s Continuing Education Department, Carroll also began working part-time with the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce as its agriculture manager. He had been active in the organization since the mid-1950s.

While working for the chamber for the next 10 years, Carroll’s achievements included promoting the local junior livestock show and bringing the Farmer Stockman Show to Lubbock. At community gatherings, he also encouraged people in the growing city of Lubbock to continue to appreciate agriculture’s role in its diverse, stable economy.

“Lubbock is really blessed. We have big medical facilities. We have big educational institutions. We have a lot of government employees. We have businesses that rely on agriculture, and we have agriculture,” Carroll said.

About the time Carroll stepped down from the chamber, he joined forces with five other agriculture leaders to transform a collection of farm equipment gathered by Lubbock County commissioner Alton Brazell into one place called the American Museum of Agriculture, recently renamed the Bayer Museum of Agriculture.

Since the 25-acre museum opened, the collection has expanded to include an array of indoor and outdoor exhibits of equipment, machinery, household items and toys, including die-cast tractors and miniature pedal tractors. The story of agriculture is told through static displays, hands-on exhibits and interactive touch-screen video displays.

“I’ve never had anyone say anything but this is about the best museum ever attended,” Carroll said.

The endowed scholarship in Carroll’s honor was established in 2001 by the AgTexas Farm Credit Services, which he had served as a director for several years. Carroll and his family—his three children and three of his seven grandchildren graduated from Texas Tech—continue to support the fund.

“I did it because Texas Tech has been so good to me, and to my children,” Carroll said.
WHERE THEY ARE NOW

A. EARL HADDING (’54 BS and ’59 MED Agricultural Education) is retired after 30 years of teaching and administration, as well as 30 years as an auto dealer with Maddox Auto Sales.

FINUS J. BRIANHAM (’60 BS Agricultural Education) has retired from teaching, and is now the office manager for Economy Mills Feed.

CYRIL V. MAY (’62 BS Animal Production), a retired U.S. Navy commander, is now a foreign liaison officer with the US Department of the Intelligence Agency (DIA). He recently completed a six-month deployment in Kabul. As of July, he has been the Defense in Service for 51 years!

MICKY L. BLACK (’64 BS Agricultural Economics) retired from the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Services as Assistant State Conservationist after 50 years of federal service.

LARRY D. BUTLER (’74 BS Wildlife Management) is Executive Producer and Host for “Out on the Land,” TV series on RFD-TV, a show featuring stewardship of the land and their conservation stories. He retired as a state conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services in 2007. Fellow Texas Tech alumnus, KENT FERGUSON (’77 BS Range Management) has guest starred on the show.

Read more of Larry’s story online in the CASNR News Center, “In Profile: NRM grad Mickey Black for 51 years!”

WHERE THEY ARE NOW

E. HAYES CALDOWELL (’72 BS Park Administration) is now Executive Director of Cabledress Zoo. This year he is celebrating 50 years with the zoo he has been working at since he was 14. Today the zoo, which started out in his uncle’s back yard in 1937, is comprised of 85 acres and is home to more than 2,000 animals and 250 species.

Read more of Hayes’ story at today.ttu.edu, “Red Raider Alumni Still ‘Wild’ About His Career.”

WILLIAM M. “BILL” CLAY (’74 BS Wildlife Management), a certified wildlife biologist, is now the Deputy Administrator for Wildlife Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service division of the United States Department of Agriculture.

GERALD W. HOBSON (’75 BS Agricultural Education and ’77 MS Entomology) is a Range, Pusture and Crop Protection Specialist for DuPont Company in Weatherford, Texas.

MORRIS D. SNYDER, JR. (’75 BS Agricultural Economics) is now the owner/operator of Hubbard Creek Cattle Co. He is also the livestock manager for H.R. Stansney & Sons LTD in Albany, Texas.

JAMES C. POWELL (’80 BS Soil Science and ’81 MS Entomology) was a member of the U.S. Navy from 1972-1976. He married Donna Reagan in 2009 and has been on the board of directors for the High Plains Water District since 2010.

ROBERT H. “HANK” BLANCHARD (’83 BS Mechanized Agriculture) retired as Captain with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in August 2011, after serving for more than 25 years with the agency. He has been named Coordinator of Law Enforcement Programs at Amarillo College where he oversees the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy and in-service training for peace officers in the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle.

ARLAN W. GENTRY (’90 MED Agricultural Education) has retired after 29 years as a county extension agent with the Texas A&M Agriculture Extension Service and has moved with his wife, Lisa, back to Lubbock.

ANDREA L. HANCE (’92 BS Agricultural Economics) was recently named Executive Director of the Texas Shrimp Association. After a 20-year career in real estate, she and her husband started a shrimp business in 2008. She now oversees the Texas Wild-Caught Shrimp Industry as a whole.

DR. ELLEN J. FOSTER (’93 BS Agricultural Economics) was elected Vice President of Curriculum & Instruction of the National Council of Geographic Education. She was also awarded promotion and tenure in July to associate professor of secondary social studies education in the School of Education at the University of Mississippi.

JARRETT P. JAMESON (’94 BS Agricultural Economics) is the general manager for Western Equipment, LLC, a John Deere dealership in Childress, Texas.

ERIC A. BERNARD (’96 BLA and ’00 MLA Landscape Architecture) is now the Director of the Landscape Architecture program in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of New Mexico, after 12 years with Kansas State University.

DAVID R. BRIMGER (’96 BS Wildlife Management) is now the Director of Marketing for the Texas Wildlife Association.

JOOLO SMITH (’02 S Agricultural and Applied Economics) has been promoted to Vice President for First United Bank. She has been with the bank since 2002, and has over 15 years of banking experience. She serves as the loan documentation manager at the Lubbock Northwest Bank Center, and spends her free time volunteering for the New Home Independent School District PTA and FFA programs.

JARROD R. MILLER (’11 BS and ’95 MS Animal Science) and AMBER BRADY MILLER (’00 BS Animal Science) were married March 24, 2012. Jarrod is a Quality Manager with Procter’s Inc. and Amber is an attorney with Brady & Hamilton, LLP in Lubbock.

MARCUS D. THARP (’13 BS and ’13 MS Agricultural Communications) is now the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Texas Tech University System.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW? DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL? Send your updates, announcements and successes to Tracee Murph at tracee.murph@ttu.edu.

The Department of Animal and Food Sciences is seeking former Horse Judging Team members. If you were on the team, or any other AFS judging teams, please send your updated contact information and the year(s) you judged on each team to Moriah Beyers at moriah.bayers@ttu.edu.

JAMES KNOWLTON, JR. (’86 BS Mechanized Agriculture and ’90 MS Agricultural Engineering) is the Director of Standardization & Engineering with the USDA Cotton Division. These 22 pallets of cotton standards were air freighted to China from the USDA cotton standards warehouse in Memphis, Tenn. China is the largest cotton producer in the world with over 30 million bales of cotton produced each year. These standards will be used for grading entire Chinese cotton crops. The USDA cotton standards operation in Memphis provides cotton standards each year to over 50 countries around the world. James and his wife FELICIA LYNN ODOM KNOWLTON (’90 BS Food Technology) live in Oakland, Tenn.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW

DR. GERALD W. THOMAS, who served as Dean of Agricultural Sciences from 1958 to 1976, passed away July 30th. He was 94. During his tenure at Texas Tech, he had additional short-term assignments as Deputy Director of the Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies, and Acting Executive Vice President.

In 1969, the College established the Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturalist Award in his honor. These awards recognize one individual from three categories – Production, Agribusiness, and Public Service – for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the Agriculture and Natural Resource Industry. These awards are presented each year at the College’s annual Pig Roast. Read more of Dr. Thomas’ story online in the CASNR News Center, “World War II fighter pilot, former CASNR Dean Gerald Thomas dies at 94.”

In Memory

JACQUE D. ALLEN
1953 Animal Production

JOE K. FOSTER
1953 Soil Science

JAMES S. MINTON
1953 Horticulture

GEORGE R. LEBUS
1957 BS Animal Production

THOMAS L. POWELL
1965 Range Management

DALE A. KEITH
1966 BS Agricultural Education

ALBERT SAGER “TEX” ELLIOTT
1970 BS Agricultural Economics

V. COKE HOPPING
1980 BS Agricultural Education

Former Masked Rider

Where are you now? Do you have a story to tell? Send your updates, announcements, and successes to Tracee Murph at tracee.murph@ttu.edu.
A select group of Agricultural Communications students participated in a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. this summer. Lead by Assistant Professor COURTNEY MEYERS, the program focused on the nation’s history, agricultural policy, and included meetings with a dozen agricultural organizations.

A new scholarship endowment in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications has been established to honor their long-term administrative business assistant. The ‘Mary Lou Rom Endowed Scholarship’ was created in February by former students to show their appreciation for all the hard work and dedication Mary Lou Rom has invested in the department since 1978. JUNE HUMBLE BELL (’84 BS Agricultural Education and ’85 MAG Agriculture), a former graduate assistant in the department, and her niece JENNA DAVIDSON HIGHTOWER (’08 BS Agricultural Communications) assisted in the development of the endowment, with the financial support of an anonymous donor. The scholarship allows former students to give back to the College, as well as thank and honor Mary Lou for the help they received as students. The scholarship will be awarded to undergraduate students in the department.

One of the most visited islands in the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic, was home base for three students in the Department of Landscape Architecture this year. They were there to work up a master design plan for a Roca De Yuma private developer called the ‘Yuma Bay Vacation Village’ as part of the Landscape Architecture 4507 senior design studio class. The capstone project converted a 250 acre site and focused on developing a resort and residential area, including a casino, apartment complex, and activities area.

Other projects in the department included a water conservation plan for the Colorado River Authority, an ecotourism project in Yucatan, Mexico, and a number of projects in Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy.

After another great season of wins, the Ranch Horse Team claimed their fourth national title at the American Stock Horse Association National Collegiate Championship Show in Abilene. More than a dozen teams from across the nation vied for top honors, including Missouri State, New Mexico State and Colorado State. The team competed in three divisions – Non-Pro, Limited Non-Pro and Novice, and ranked among the top 10 in every division.

GUY LONERAGAN, a professor of food safety and public health in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences has been appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Micro-biological Criteria for Foods. The committee’s work provides a valuable resource for obtaining external expert advice on scientific and technical food safety issues for our nation’s food safety programs. Members include 29 scientists from academia, industry, and other organizations. Guy’s research focuses on understanding the ecology of antibody resistance, and looking at pathogens such as Salmonella and E. Coli 0157 to understand their ecology within livestock populations.

The Livestock Judging and Wool Judging Teams both took first place honors at this year’s Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo intercollegiate judging contests. The livestock team took first place with a score of 4,819, and had three of the top 10 high individuals and was first in the Cattle and Reasons divisions. The wool team won with a score of 2,260, and had five of the top 10 high individuals.

This year, the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics took a new step into Study Abroad with a faculty-lead trip to Spain. Nine students and two professors traveled to Seville for the Summer 1 session, earning the students six credit hours and an irreplaceable experience. Drs. JEFF JOHN-SON and JAIME MALAGA taught Farm and Ranch Management and Agri-business Management. They group also took four excursions to discover the connection between agricultural production and marketing within different industries. They visited wineries, a hog operation, a strawberry production facility and an olive grove to learn about marketing strategy and product production.

The students stayed with host families across Seville. When they were not in classes, the students had the opportunity to visit Europe and toured places like Portugal and Italy, as well as explore Spain.

It was another stellar year for the meat teams as well. The Meat Science Academic Quiz Bowl team took home another national championship after winning top honors at the American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference. The team took two teams to competition, and ended up with first and second place.

Meanwhile, the Meat Animal Evaluation Team claimed first place at the National Meat Animal Evaluation Contest. The event, which rotates among competing universities, was hosted in Lubbock for the first time. The team won the breeding animal, sheep evaluation, beef evaluation, market animal, and meat divisions, outsourcing the second place team by 106 points.

The Meat Judging Team also walked away with first place honors at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo intercollegiate judging contest. The competition was the ninth consecutive for the Red Raiders to win at Houston. The black team finished first with a total score of 4,399 points, and the red team followed in second.
The Distinguished & Young Alumni Awards were established to recognize some of the most outstanding alumni of Texas Tech University’s College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The purpose of these programs is to recognize and honor CASNR alumni who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments and careers have brought distinction to the college and to the profession associated with agriculture and natural resources. One alumnus from each of the college’s departments is selected to receive the awards.

The 50th annual Distinguished Alumni Award winner is:

MIKE R. GIBSON, for the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. A graduate of Guthrie High School, Mike earned his bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Economics in 1963. A superb rancher, manager and significant contributor to varied agricultural trade associations, professional groups, and community activities, Mike worked for the Four States Ranch in Guthrie, Texas beginning in 1964 and he succeeded his father as ranch manager in 1991. During his tenure, the ranch’s base of Hereford cows was phased out and replaced with a Black Angus program to better suit the market, a program that continues to expand and excel today. Mike retired in 2008 and is currently owner/operator of Gibson Ranches in Paducal. He has been a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Ranching Heritage Association. He was also awarded the Outstanding Lone Star Land Steward by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 2012.

The Young Alumni Award is presented in conjunction with the Distinguished Alumni Awards. It is given to an individual who graduated from the college within the last 15 years and has attained a high level of professional accomplishment and standards of integrity and character to positively reflect and enhance the prestige of the college and the industries of agriculture and natural resources.

This year’s Outstanding Young Alumni award winner is:

KRISTINA H. BUTTS, for the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences. Kristina earned her bachelor’s degree in Agronomy in 1991 from the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. She moved to Oregon in 1993 to work as a research scientist, and later returned to St. Louis in 2004 where she began her career in Washington, DC, as staff member for U.S. Congressman Lamar Smith and was responsible for advising the Congressman on legislative matters important to the District of Columbia and the 21st Congressional District. Currently, Kristina is the Executive Director of Legislative Affairs for the National Women’s Beef Association based in Washington, DC. She leads lobbying activities on a variety of issues including: food safety, nutrition, energy, animal welfare, and animal health issues, on behalf of cattle producers. She works closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, representing the interest of U.S. cattle producers. She also remains involved with the College, mentoring students in the CASNR and President of the National Intercollegiate Programming Teams in Washington, DC.