“It’s a reflection of the importance of agriculture to Texas and to this country. I love the people, that way of life and what farmers stand for and what they go through every day to produce the food, fiber and fuel that runs the world.”

Matt Schertz
Change has been the order of the day for both the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and Texas Tech University, especially in recent months. We have come to anticipate change in the university just as much as we anticipate a change in the seasons. For those of us growing up and living in an agricultural world, change is a part of our very existence. Since the end of the summer, there have been some very expected changes such as those for our new beginning freshmen students who are experiencing some of the greatest and most significant changes in their lives.

It is the unexpected changes we deal with which can be challenging with a trip to the unknown. Change for the college has fallen into the category of the unexpected or unknown this current semester. We experienced this change at a very fast pace about twelve weeks ago when Dr. Michael Galyean, who had served as our Dean for CASNR since April 2012, was appointed by Dr. Lawrence Schovanec, newly appointed President for Texas Tech, as the Interim Provost and Senior Vice President. After a series of interviews, I received a call from President Schovanec asking me to serve in the role of Interim Dean for the college.

It has been very humbling to serve in this capacity, especially in light of the nine individuals who have held this post since Texas Tech was in its infancy in 1925. From A.H. Leidigh (founding Dean of the college), W.L. Stangel (CASNR administrator with building named in his honor), Gerald W. Thomas (Dean for which the Outstanding Agriculturalist awards are named), Anson Bertrand (Dean when I was a student), Sam Curl (CASNR Dean when I returned as a faculty member), John Abernathy, Marvin Cepica, and John Burns, to Michael Galyean, who has been my mentor for administration. I am very aware that I have some very big shoes to fill!

There is much to be positive about as my role of Interim Dean becomes more of a reality each day I come to work. At the top of the list is the record enrollment for the fall semester with a total of 2,174 students, which exceeds last year’s all time record by 164 students. These numbers are, in part, the efforts of recruitment and retention that the Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center works to achieve. But it is also a credit to our faculty and administration all working together for the good of the college and our students. The second factor I am optimistic about is the current administrative team and staff I work with in the college. Facilities and infrastructure continue to be a challenge with our growth, but it is a good problem to have!

As the Interim Dean, I want to reach out to all my fellow CASNR alumni as well as stakeholders and ask you to open the lines of communication to me, as well as to the other individuals in CASNR, as we work to build on our past and strive to meet the challenge of change going forward. If you do not know the current department chair of your former department here at Tech, reach out and introduce yourself and reconnect. Everyone is needed for the effort to work for the future for our college, our university, and our students.

Please enjoy this edition of Landmarks and remember it is the official alumni news magazine for the college. We welcome your comments or suggestions for future editions.
ARE YOU A PUBLISHED AUTHOR?

The work of our alumni is something to celebrate and recognize! The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources’ Office of Development and Alumni Relations would be pleased to hear from alumni who have written a book either in their academic field or beyond. We welcome all genres of fiction and non-fiction for inclusion in our new Alumni Authors Library.

Books submitted will also be mentioned in Landmarks in the Where They Are Now section. Collecting these book 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.

For example, DON R. WORKMAN (’60 BS Agricultural Education) recently published Let’s Rodeo, Sandhill Cowboy, a look into the serious living and amusing incidents through the eyes of a champion bull rider of his competing years and of the events following that rodeo career in the business world...a personal memory of a family, an era, and an area in time.

For submission, please send a copy(s) of your book to CASNR Alumni Authors Library, Box 42123, Lubbock, TX 79409-2123. Questions? Contact Tracee Murph, Coordinator of Alumni Relations, at 806-742-2802 or tracee.murph@ttu.edu.

MEET THE TWO NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM!

MEREDITH HAMILTON is our new Senior Business Assistant. She is a recent graduate of the University College here at Tech, with a Bachelor of Science in University Studies. She started in October.

KLOE BURRIS is our new Student Assistant. She’s been with us since April. She is a Junior, Agricultural and Applied Economics major from Poteet. Both these ladies are a joy to have and we welcome them to our team!

UPCOMING EVENTS

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS OPEN HOUSE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEAN’S OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE Tuesday, December 13th, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Goddard Building, Suite 102

37TH ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI & OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARDS Monday, February 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center

50TH + CLASS REUNION Thursday, May 4, 2017, 11:00 a.m. McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center

MANY OF OUR EVENTS ALLOW YOU, AS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHANGES AS WELL. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE EVENTS!

A SPARKLE IN HIS EYE

Grayson Davies (’11 BS, Viticulture and Enology) couldn’t wait to get a business degree and have a real job in an air-conditioned cubicle in a high-rise office building, far from the tasks assigned him at his parents’ Oak Creek Vineyard started in 1999 near the Texas-Oklahoma border.

“I still remember that first year. I guess I remember it more vividly than any other because of how hard we worked,” said Grayson, who was in the sixth grade at the time.

But just like time transforms fermenting grapes into wine, so too did it help Grayson see his future in a different light.

“I started maturing,” Grayson said in explaining his change in career paths. He was the first to graduate from the Viticulture and Enology Program in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University. Today he is an award-winning winemaker for the family’s venture now marketed as Arché. The operation includes a vineyard, winery, tasting room and wine club.

In 2016, Arché garnered five awards at three competitions, including a double gold for its Tempranillo 2014 and a gold for its Roussanne 2014 at the San Francisco International Wine Competition.

By Laura Gutschke
The name Arché (Ar-KAY) means beginning or origin in Greek. Arché’s beginning is rooted in Grayson’s parents, Amy and Howard Davies, deciding to turn their passion for wine into a vocation.

Howard’s family in Idaho owned one of the largest flower greenhouses west of the Rocky Mountains. His knack for fixing cars as a youngster led to an engineering career that included time at Texas Instruments. Amy loved to back-yard garden, and she had business acumen honed in the family printing company and personal entrepreneurial pursuits.

“He always had a love of wine since he was in his 20s,” Grayson said of his father. “It was always a dream of his to own a vineyard and make wine.”

While Grayson and his two older brothers, Patrick and Ryan, were at summer camp in 1999, the parents made that dream a reality after attending a wine train tour in Napa, California. They then bought 100-plus acres near Saint Jo, about 90 miles northwest of their home in Plano. The land included a seven-acre vineyard of Black Venus table grapes that had been abandoned for at least 15 years.

“It was a forest of oak trees and brambles,” Grayson said. About 90 percent of the vines were dead, but the trellises and irrigation system were usable.

The family initially traveled to the property on weekends to start the project. The brothers did a lot of manual labor and worked chainsaws, an auger and other lawn equipment.

“It was a lot of clearing, clearing, clearing,” Grayson recalled about that first year.

New vines of Cabernet, Merlot, Syrah and Chardonnay grapes were planted on the original trellises. Oak Creek Vineyards was the first commercial vineyard of wine grapes in Montague County, and one of only a handful in North Texas at the time.

In subsequent years, new vines were planted, and the grapes were sold to Texas wineries.

2005 saw many changes for the family. Grayson graduated from Plano Senior High School and enrolled in classes at Austin Community College, living with middle brother Ryan, who was later killed in an automobile accident. Patrick graduated from Texas A&M University and moved to California to become a winemaker. The parents moved to Saint Jo to focus on the vineyard.

After three semesters in Austin, Grayson transferred to North Central Texas College in Gainesville.

“I started maturing and asked myself, ‘What do I want to do?’,” Grayson said. He realized the answer was in Saint Jo.

“I’ve always loved growing things and appreciated wine. I realized if I let this opportunity go, I’d be a fool,” Grayson said.

“I’VE ALWAYS LOVED GROWING THINGS AND APPRECIATED WINE. I REALIZED IF I LET THIS OPPORTUNITY GO, I’D BE A FOOL.”
“PEOPLE ASK ME IF WINEMAKING IS AN ART OR A SCIENCE. IT’S DEFINITELY A SCIENCE. NOW ULTIMATELY, THERE’S A FLAIR TO IT, BUT IT’S DEFINITELY A SCIENCE.”

RETURNING TO HIS ROOTS

He enrolled in horticulture classes while working at the vineyard, where the family had opened a winery and tasting room in 2007. With Howard as the winemaker, the family kept their grapes to make and market estate wines.

A fortuitous meeting with Ed Heflin, Ph.D., professor of viticulture in CASNR with joint appointment with Texas AgriLife Extension, led Grayson to becoming a Red Raider. Grayson met the professor at the family’s annual Davies Grape Day in 2008, a seminar for commercial and hobby wine grape growers featuring industry experts. He shared with Grayson the college’s plan to start a V&E program. Grayson was interested.

“I had been accepted to Texas Tech out of high school, but I went to Austin for fun,” Grayson said.

He completed his basics at NCTC and transferred to Texas Tech, where he especially enjoyed studying enology with former faculty member Brent Trela, Ph.D.

“I was extremely focused in my V&E courses because I was seeing it firsthand,” Grayson said.

The vineyard was expanded in 2009, and additional equipment was purchased to ramp up wine production. With his experience in the wine industry in California, Patrick consulted on the expansion, and Grayson applied classroom lessons into the working vineyard and winery.

“It’s theory for everyone else, but for me on the weekends I’m actually doing it,” Grayson said.

The expansion also brought a new title for Grayson.

“During the expansion, my parents said, ‘These are your responsibilities. You are now the winemaker,’” Grayson said.

While attending school from 2010 until his graduation in December 2011, he commuted to the vineyard on weekends, at first making the 10-hour roundtrip in his truck and then later flying to reduce the travel time. Grayson would leave a list of tasks for his father to tackle during the week while attending classes in Lubbock.

The vineyard’s 2010 vintage marked the beginning of Grayson’s wine-making efforts, which garnered some awards.

“The 2012 vintage was the first year I was here all the time, and I saw improvements in the wines,” Grayson said.

He attributes that to being able to pay attention to a lot of little details in the vineyard and the winery and to advice from Patrick, an award-winning winemaker in his own right.

PROMOTING TEXAS WINES

Grayson enjoys all aspects of the wine process, from working in the vineyard to harvesting the grapes to making the wines.

“People ask me if winemaking is an art or a science. It’s definitely a science. Now ultimately, there’s a flair to it, but it’s definitely a science,” Grayson said. “In my education, I learned the science. I know why things happen. It’s chemistry and microbiology. Now at the same time, I like to approach winemaking in the old-world style, which is not scientific. The new style of wines is perfect without flaws. Old-world wines have flaws but that is what gives them character.”

Being involved in all parts of the process enables him to control the details that separate good wines from great.

“The winemakers who say it’s an art are getting premium fruit and don’t have the weather pressures like we do. Science helps us correct for weather pressures, or to prevent them from causing problems later in the process,” Grayson said.

Today Arché primarily grows Syrah, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Roussanne, Marsanne and Viognier grapes. They also have smaller plantings of Mourvedre, Carignan, Dolcetto and Grenache grapes. The winery currently produces about 1,600 cases of wine annually, mainly with their estate grapes. Additional grapes are procured from other Texas growers. A new tasting room opened in 2015.

Depending on the time of year, and even the time of day, Grayson wears many hats at Arché. He may be working in the vineyard with his father, running lab tests on wines in the tanks, meeting customers in the tasting room with his mom or attending Texas wine promotions in other parts of the state. In his free time, he enjoys road racing, a hobby picked up from his parents. Grayson drives a vintage 240Z that his father originally rebuilt and raced.

But Grayson’s passion remains advocating for Texas wines and wineries, including nearby ventures of Blue Ostrich Winery and Vineyard and another one in the works. Having more wineries in the area gives people from the Dallas/Fort Worth area added reason to travel to the Red River Valley and has increased foot traffic at Arché, he said.

“Our goal is to grow world-class wines,” Grayson said. “I’m trying to get through the stigma of Texas wines. People say, ‘Oh, Texas wines? It’s going to be crap.’”

The many national and international awards won by Arché and other Texas wineries would prove otherwise, and that thinking motivates Grayson.

“My wines are good. After 2012, I figured out some things. Now it’s just a matter of trying to improve some little things,” he said.

“People ask me if winemaking is an art or a science. It’s definitely a science. Now ultimately, there’s a flair to it, but it’s definitely a science.”
Working in the maelstrom of national agricultural policy, Matt Schertz (’01 BS, Agricultural and Applied Economics) stays focused on how what happens in Washington, D.C. affects rural families across America by keeping his heart grounded in his Texas roots.

“As a farm kid from Robstown, Texas, I never envisioned that I would end up working at the Capitol and fighting for farm families,” Schertz said.

But that is what he does as policy director at the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture. Working under the leadership of Chairman K. Michael Conaway (R-TX), Schertz manages the Committee’s legislative team and operations.

An internship with Texas Tech University’s Congressional Internship Program brought him to Washington, D.C. and the committee in January 2002. But, his passion for American agriculture and farm policy has kept him there where he has worked on a variety of agricultural policy issues, including the 2002, 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills.

“It’s a reflection of the importance of agriculture to Texas and to this country,” said Schertz.

“I love the people, that way of life and what farmers stand for and what they go through every day to produce the food, fiber and fuel that runs the world.”

Scherz gives credit to the skills and values he learned growing up in a small town where he participated in 4-H and FFA and was involved in raising and showing livestock. His family’s farming history also inspired a love of agriculture. Both of his parents were raised on farms in the Denton area, and relatives including his brother, Jeff Schertz (’02 BS, Agricultural and Applied Economics), continue to farm there today.

While Schertz was raised in a family of Aggies, he was recruited by Texas Tech University to join the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources’ nationally acclaimed livestock judging team. His time in Lubbock left an indelible mark.

“I didn’t grow up in west Texas, but when I think of Texas and home, I first think of Lubbock,” he said. “I was a part of Tech, but I was also a part of the community and that still means a lot to me today.”

Part of that community included the faculty and staff members at CASNR, specifically the former dean, Marvin Cepica, as well as Professor Marty Middleton, who challenged him and encouraged him to take advantage of opportunities in agriculture, including pursuing a Washington, D.C. internship.

“I knew about the program and knew people who participated, but my focus was livestock judging,” Schertz explained.

It wasn’t until after Schertz graduated and began graduate-level classes that he finally had the time to consider it and apply. He was accepted into the program and moved to Washington in January 2002.
There’s not a university out there—land grant or otherwise—that doesn’t work to model their internship program after the one that was developed at Tech.”

Joe Schertz

“SUCCESS ISACHIEVING OPPORTUNITIES
The timing could not have been more perfect. The House Committee on Agriculture was then chaired by Lubbock’s own Larry Combest (R-TX), and the House and Senate had just passed their versions of what became known as the 2002 Farm Bill. “I got to see the process unfold firsthand and to witness the intense debate on reconciling those two bills,” Schertz said. But he did more than just observe the process from afar. The work was seven days a week, and Schertz said he loved every minute of it and took advantage of every opportunity during that time. “It’s this invaluable experience that makes the program such a standout,” Schertz added. “There’s not a university out there—land grant or otherwise—that doesn’t work to model their internship program after the one that was developed at Tech.”

One of the most memorable experiences was being tasked by Tom Sell, the committee’s then deputy chief of staff, to come up with a graphic visual that Chairman Combest could use in conference committee negotiations to champion the House version of the 2002 Farm Bill. “He wanted a visual that quickly and easily showed how the House bill was better for farm families,” Schertz said.

Drawing on his training at Tech and his experience as a CASNR student assistant, Schertz used analytical software tools to develop the “Safety Net Calculator” that provided a quick comparison of the differences in returns between the House and Senate farm policy proposals. Combest used it to sway legislators toward the House bill during conference negotiations.

He then was hired full time as a staff assistant from April to December 2002. After Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) was appointed committee chairman, Schertz served as a legislative assistant until December 2005 and a professional staff member from January 2006 to July 2007. During that latter appointment, he worked in earnest on what eventually became the 2008 Farm Bill as well as managed several other issues under the committee’s jurisdiction.

In July 2007, Schertz left the Hill just before the 2008 Farm Bill was approved by the House to join the consulting firm of Combest, Sell & Associates. He considered Combest, Sell, and Jeff Harrison as mentors from when they worked together on the House Agriculture Committee. “They are honest, hardworking, and committed, and I admired their reputation and the work they do,” Schertz said. “That off-hill experience allowed me to see how the various agricultural groups work to advance policy,” Schertz said.

He returned to the committee in February 2011 to serve as senior professional staff under Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK), and as staff director for the Agriculture Committee’s Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, which was chaired at the time by Conaway. He served as the lead Republican House staff negotiator for the farm policy and crop insurance titles of the 2014 Farm Bill.

Since January 2015, Schertz has held his current post as policy director on the Agriculture Committee. Even though the committee currently is in between farm bills, it remains a busy time with other pressing issues, such as making sure federal agencies are implementing the current Farm Bill as intended, as well as holding congressional hearings on matters ranging from the repeal of the country-of-origin labeling to oversight of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to highlighting how the farm economy and foreign subsidies adversely affect U.S. agricultural producers. “It is a misconception that it slows down between farm bills,” Schertz said. “There are always important issues to address.”

With his hand in three enacted farm bills, Schertz notes that each one was different “due to the needs of the agricultural industry and the makeup of Congress at the time.”

The next one is sure to have its own unique circumstances as well. What remains the same is the process involved in getting a farm bill from initial concept to legislative approval to enactment and implementation. That process gets more difficult because fewer people, including legislators, have rural connections.

“The further removed people are from agriculture, the harder it is for them to understand why this is important,” Schertz said. “I love working for Chairman Conaway because, despite not having an agricultural background, he is a staunch advocate for America’s farm and ranch families.”

Because farm prices have fallen significantly since the 2014 Farm Bill was approved, grassroots involvement concerning the next farm bill has started early. “We’re already seeing farmers more active and focused and that is a good thing,” Schertz said.

He welcomes those occasional opportunities to travel across the country to speak to farmers and other agricultural stakeholders, and of course, he always relishes visits to Lubbock. “It is always a powerful reminder of the responsibility of my job, working on policies that have a real impact on people’s lives,” Schertz said.

Although he may be considered a veteran of Washington, D.C., it is a job he doesn’t take for granted knowing full well the importance of ensuring the survival of the nation’s most fundamental industry. “What I’ve learned from being here is that the continued success of American production agriculture requires a whole range of people,” Schertz concluded. “You need farmers and ranchers, and you need those who are passionate about fighting for them.”

MEET matt schertz

Family: Schertz and his wife, Tamara, were married in September 2015. They are expecting their first child in November. They met while working on the House Agriculture Committee. She is now the founder and chief strategist of Comunicado PR.

Free Time: Despite often working 10- to 12-hour days, Schertz occasionally volunteers for local 4-H chapters and judges at collegiate livestock judging events.

Favorite Washington D.C. monument: The Thomas Jefferson Memorial is at the top of his list because the third president was a staunch advocate of American agriculture.

Best advice: “Mr. Combest always said things aren’t as bad as they appear or as good as they appear, so roll with the punches,” Schertz said.
A nationally-recognized leader in landscape water resources management, ERIC BERNARD (’96 BLA, ’00 MLA Landscape Architecture), was named Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture. He is a licensed landscape architect, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards Certified, member of The American Society of Landscape Architects and New Mexico Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and served as a regional leader in the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. In 2015, he received the college’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

A specialist in contract and grants administration, DR. STEVE FRAZE (’92 BS Agricultural Education), associate professor and graduate studies coordinator, was named Interim-Chair for the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications. After joining the department in 2005, he served as the department’s student teacher coordinator and advisor for Tech’s chapter of Collegiate FFA.

The Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center gained three new faces. BRANDYL BROOKS (’14 BS Agricultural Communications) is now the College Recruiter. She is charged with overseeing all recruitment of high school students and transfer students for the College, and travels to represent CASNR and TTU at local, area, state, and national functions, as well as two year institutions. STEPHANE LEGARDE is the college’s new Academic Specialist for Student Retention. She focuses on the advancement, satisfaction and overall success of CASNR current students to meet personal, professional and academic goals during their time at Texas Tech. EVERARDO MACIAS was named the new Coordinator of Diversity, tasked with continuing the college’s recruitment of high school and transfer students through a targeted effort, as well as developing and coordinating information and printed literature emphasizing the college’s diversity, its programs, centers and facilities. Eric is also developing and coordinating an undergraduate student diversity retention plan, coordinating with the other diversity programs across Tech’s campus.

JAMIE BOLOGNA was named an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. Her research (’84 Ph.D. Animal Science), an expert in animal well-being, was named a research assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. She plans to continue her research efforts in animal well-being, behavior and physiology.

An expert in science and agricultural communications, NANN LI, was appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications. Her primary goals are to help alleviate agricultural illiteracy through cutting-edge research and responsible teaching practices.

JOHN RAYFIELD (’86 Ed.D Agricultural Education) joined the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications as an associate professor. He is working to alleviate the agricultural teacher shortage in Texas and nationally.

The Department of Agricultural Education and Communications launched a new agricultural communications master’s level graduate program aimed at students taking courses at a distance. The online degree track provides students and transfer students for the College, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. They are to assist faculty in their pursuit of funding and help identify other sources of support for their programs across Tech’s campus.

ARLENE GARCIA-MARQUEZ (’30 MS, ’47 Ph.D. Animal Science), an expert in animal well-being, was named a research assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. She plans to continue her research efforts in animal well-being, behavior and physiology.

An expert in canine olfaction, or sense of smell, NATHANIEL HALL, joined the Department of Animal and Food Sciences as an assistant professor. His research is in olfaction in dogs with a focus on applications for pet and working dogs.

JOSEPH HEARM was named an assistant professor in animal health for the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. The native of Britain is continuing his research in diseases of the bovine cardiovascular system.

The Department of Animal and Plant Science named WENXUAN GUO as a research assistant professor. He plans to continue his research efforts in precision agriculture, environmental sciences, and remote sensing in agriculture, especially UAV application in precision plant phenotyping.

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The Department of Plant and Soil Science named KATY JO MCCASLAND as the Outreach Coordinator for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest.

BARCLAY WHITE (’14 BS Agricultural and Applied Economics) married KATHERINE MCCREE WHITE (’13 BS Journalism, ’14 MS Mass Communications) on July 30, 2016. He is currently in his second year of law school at Tech and working toward a master of Agricultural Economics.

LARRY D. “DOC” BUTLER (’74 BS Wildlife Management) received the W.R. Chapline Stewardship Award at the Society for Range Management’s 69th Annual Meeting. The award recognizes members of the society for exceptional accomplishments and contributions in the application of the art and science of range management, specific to rangeland entities and wildlife and domestic livestock on such lands. Larry has spent his entire adult life promoting rangeland stewardship and has his own television show, “Out on the Land,” which airs on RFD-TV, now in its eighth season.

JAY K. RUTHERFORD (’85 BS Agricultural Economics) is an attorney at Jackson Walker, specializing in labor and employment law and litigation. He was named in The Best Lawyers in America by Woodward/White Inc. for 2016, and received the Law “Good Scout” Award from the Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America for 2016.

BILL B. CARAWAY (’57 BS Agricultural Economics) joined the Kelly Hart firm as a partner in the OES & Gas/Energy Practice Group, in their Midland office. There, he represents landowners and exploration companies in state and federal courts, and both individual claims and corporations.

KELLIE KREBS GRIFFIN (’01 BS Agricultural Communications) is now teaching Agriculture at Tuloso Midway Middle School.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW

Where they are now: College updates

faculty positions.

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In Memory

DR. DON E. ETHEIDGE
'65 BS '67 MS Agricultural Economics. Dr. Ethridge served as professor and chairman of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics from 1997 to 2005. In 1997, he was named the director of Tech's Cotton Economics Research Institute. He retired from the university in 2008.

MILES W. CAULDE
'49 BS Agricultural Economics

OPAL B. DWYER
'54 BS Animal Production

MILTON D. ADKISSON
'54 BS Dairy/Management

WILLIAM H. "PINKY" ARIELIDGE
'61 Former Student Animal Production

BILLY D. BIGHAM
'62 BS Soil Science

SARAH B. O’BRIEN
'65 BS Animal Production

GARY D. CAIN
'68 BS Agricultural Education

ORLANDO BOOZER, JR.
'79 BS Agricultural Economics

In the News

WHERE THEY ARE NOW

In Memory

DR. SAM E. CURL 1979-1997
Former Dean. Dr. Curl gave three decades of service to Texas Tech University, including three years as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. He received the college’s Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturalist award for Public Service in 2008.

D. BLAIR LANG, JR.
'00 BS Agricultural and Applied Economics

PHILLIP F. TRAMMELL, III
'01 Agricultural Communications

KRIS WILSON
'06 Ph.D. Animal Science. He was the founder of Tech’s perennial national championship-quality Ranch Horse Team, and he served on the Department of Animal and Food Sciences’ faculty from 2006 to 2009 before moving on to manage several of the region’s top ranches.

DEREK WILLIAMS CUMMINGS
'15 Former Student Conservation Science

As one of their final assignments for the school year, one class in Texas Tech’s Department of Landscape Architecture was given the task of constructing replicas of old downtown Lubbock buildings such as the Pioneer hotel, Mast White House, and others. They had to work with a variety of complex tools and instruments to make certain that measurements were precise, ranging from advanced computer programs, laser cutters and then, of course, some good old-fashioned glue. The replicas now have a permanent home in Lubbock’s American Wind Power Museum, and play a role in the newest 33,000 sq. foot addition to the museum, “The Wind Energy Experience,” which opened in June.

The project involves a fall planting of five acres of pollinator habitat, with emphasis on regional education and outreach.

Between Earth and Sky, a collaborative film effort featuring CASNR’s Associate Dean for Research David Windolf, has released its second film trailer on www. betweenearthandskymovie.com. The ground-breaking film is the first of its kind to explore global climate change through the lens of soil science. The research-based film tells the story of global climate change by shining a light on arctic soils and ecosystems, and the livelihood of Alaskan-Americans.

During an annual scientific conference on textiles in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the board of the Association of Universities for Textiles (AUTEK) announced that Texas Tech University has been selected as its newest member. AUTEK, an association of universities with an international reputation for textile education and research, was established in 1994. Headquartered in Ghent, Belgium, the group currently has 34 members from 28 countries. Noureddine Abdi, an associate professor with Tech’s Department of Plant and Soil Science in addition to holding the position of associate director of the Texas Tech Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute, presented the candidacy for Texas Tech to become an AUTEK member. The AUTEK Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the university as a member, citing the strong cotton research program currently underway at the school’s research institute.

Lubbock County’s Historical Commission and the Student Government Association of Texas Tech unveiled a new Texas State Historical Marker honoring the Dairy Barn. Previously, the Dairy Barn and Silo were officially designated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

CHARLIE SNIDER, a junior Animal Science major from Caruth, took the reins as the 55th Masked Rider. During his freshman year in 2013, he joined the Equestrian Team where he showed both Western and Hunt Seat against level educational experience to enhance the rigor and relevance of agriculture, food, and natural resource subject matter. In addition, teachers explored hands-on projects and activities to learn characteristics of animal science, and worked on major projects and problems similar to those agricultural specialists face in their careers.

CASNR surpassed the century mark in national championship titles following the Meat Science Academic Quiz Bowl Team’s national championship at the 69th Reciprocal Meat Conference. This tradition of excellence dates back to the Livestock Judging Team’s first national championship title in 1934 and continues today.

Following wins in Denver and Fort Worth, the Meat Judging Team finished out the spring season on top at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The team took both first and second place overall, and placed eight of the top 10 finishers individually.

Thanks to four team victories and numerous individual championships throughout the season, the Women’s Rodeo Team captured the Southwest Region title earning them a spot at the Collegiate National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. This was the eighth appearance in the Finals for the team, who won the national title in 2012.

The livestock Judging Team finished out its spring season with a first place win at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Intercollegiate Livestock Contest, with four team members in the top 10 individually. They also had a strong showing at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition Collegiate Livestock Contest, coming in third place overall and taking both first and second place individually.

SCOTT LONGING, an assistant professor and entomologist in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, is collaborating on a research project with the Bayer CropScience’s “Feed a Bee” program and The Wildlife Society. The program seeks to provide forage for pollinators, addressing one of the biggest challenges bees face today in the United States. It highlights the importance of conservation actions aimed at improving foraging and other habitat resources for native bees, as well as managed honey bees.

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Twenty-three high school instructors from across the nation were on campus for a special agricultural science education course. The Department of Agricultural Education and Communications hosted the 11-day Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education program which provided a high-
The 36th annual Distinguished Alumni Outstanding Young Alumni Awards recognized some of the most outstanding graduates from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The purpose of these awards 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 professions associated with agriculture and natural resources. One alumni from each of the College’s departments is selected to receive the awards.

This year’s recipients were:

**JOE M. “JODY” BELLAM (’81 BS Agricultural Economics)** Jody now owns and operates registered and commercial cross/calf, stocker, and wheat operations in Throckmorton, Haskell,aylor and Robertson counties in Texas as well as Otero and Elbert counties in Colorado. He also partners in an order buying company in Abilene, Texas, two feedyards in the Texas panhandle, and a transport company to Woodlands. Professionally, he serves as a director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattlemen Association and the Texas Cattle Feeders Association. He has served on the Texas Wheat Producers Board since 2005, was Chairman of the Board from 2013 to 2015, and has served as chairman of the Research Advisory Board.

**BERNHARD ROBERTSON, JR. (’85 BS, ’92 MS Agricultural Engineering) of Lubbock. He is currently the Superintendent with Lubbock Independent School District. He is certified in Special Education and received a Master of Education in 1993. He also received his Superintendent and Mid-management certification in 2001. In 1988, he completed his doctorate degree in Education all at Texas Tech. He has been a member of the Texas School Alliance Board of Directors, Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of School Boards, Texas Association of Community Schools, and was appointed by then Governor Robert Duncan to the Senate School Finance Advisory Committee, to name a few. He was awarded the 2003 Superintendent of the Year for Region 17, and received the Outstanding Young American award in 1996.

**FRANK MILTOEDER (’00 Ph.D. Animal Sciences)** is a Professor and Air Quality CE Specialist with the University of California-Davis Department of Animal Science. He is an expert for agricultural air quality, livestock emissions and husbandry, and agricultural engineering. Overall, he conducts research that is directly relevant to understanding and monitoring of air emissions from livestock operations, as well as the implications of these emissions for the health and safety of farm workers and neighboring communities. The bulk of Frank’s research centers on the quantity, source, fate and biochemical nature of air emissions, such as ammonia, volatile organic compounds, hydrogen sulfide, and greenhouse gases, emanating from concentrated animal feeding operations.

**CHAD DAVIS (’94 BLA Landscape Architecture)** of Lubbock. He is an owner of H.R. Davis Landscape Architecture (HDR-Inde Architects). Chad is an owner and Principal at Parkhill, Smith and Cooper Inc., a Lubbock based multi-discipline architecture and engineering firm. He started at the firm in 2001 as the first landscape architect. He is a licensed Texas Landscape Architect in Texas and a Landscape Irrigator. He has managed projects such as North University Gateway Outdoor Park in Lubbock, the Lubbock Parks Master Plan, Lake Alan Henry Sam Wah Recreation Area, and numerous parks, schools, streetscapes and plazas. He has been an advocate for Landscape Architecture since his days as a student. As a guest lecturer for a class at Tech, he spoke of the importance of the American Society of Landscape Architects, or ASLA. He has continued his service with ASLA and has been state President, Government Affairs Chairman, and Student Scholarship Endowments Chairman, and was instrumental in creating endowments at each of the four universities in Texas with Landscape Architecture programs, raising an initial $75,000 in five years from the 700 member group.

**JAMES ANDERSON (’77 Ph.D. Wildlife Sciences)** is the Davis–Michael Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources at West Virginia University. His research interests include restoration ecology, wetland and riparian ecology and management, and wildlife habitat relations. In particular he is interested in evaluating wetland functional equivalence and ecology of wetland-dependent wildlife. He has published over 130 scientific articles and served as a major advisor for more than 30 graduate students. He teaches a number of courses including Restoration Ecology, Renewable Resource Policy and Stewardship, Advanced Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Applied Wetlands Ecology and Management, and Waterfowl Ecology among others. He is also the founding director of the WUU Environmental Research Center, an interdisciplinary education and research center, and the WUU Natural History Museum.

**SCOTT ASHER (’98 MS Crop Science)** of Greensboro, North Carolina. He is the Eastern Region Agronomic Service Manager with Bayer CropScience. He has worked in the crop protection and seed industry in many different roles. He started his career as a technical service representative and has since held various technical, marketing and managerial roles. Scott served as the global project lead for a new development project which was launched in South America all over the world including India, China, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and Europe. In addition, the college recognized one outstanding young alumni. The recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Young Alumni Award was Matthew Zerba (’01 BS Agricultural and Applied Economics) of Washington, D.C. He is currently the Policy Director for the House Agriculture Committee.

The measure of a college’s distinction and influence depends greatly upon the achievements of its alumni and the positions they attain in their respective communities and fields of endeavor. These awards were established to recognize some of the college’s most outstanding alumni. The awards do more than honor former students, officials added. They spotlight the accomplishments of their alma mater. The college Tech and, ultimately, they enhance the pride of alumni, students, faculty and staff. They are tangible evidence of the effectiveness of agricultural and natural resource programs at Texas Tech.

**DAVID LAWVER, a professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications, received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award from Little Rock-based Winrock International. The award is given each year to individuals, groups or families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. He volunteered numerous hours on international assignments with Winrock’s U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Farmer-to-Farmer Program.**

**JAMES DAY (’87 BS Range Management)**, a noted wildlife biologist and member of the CASNR Advisory Board, was named runner-up for the 2016 Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award. The award is given annually to an agency within the federal government by the Council for the Conservation of Migratory Species. He has been tracking, documenting and protecting wildlife at the Pantex Plant northeast of Amarillo for more than 15 years.

**MARK MILLER (’82 BS Animal Production), ’84 MS Meat Science**, received the American Meat Science Intercollegiate Meat Judging Meritorious Service Award sponsored by Food Safety Net Services and Agri-West International.

**TOM KNIGHT, Chair of the Department of Plant and Soil Science and internationally-recognized research scientist in cotton fiber research, was designated a Horn Professor by the Texas Tech University System. Horn Professor is the highest distinction a faculty member can receive, and recognizes scholarly achievement and outstanding service to Texas Tech.**
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