

# Landmarks

SPRING 2018

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources



*“Through our actions we were able to create a cowboy recreational industry that has been duplicated many times. Our ideas have been borrowed by everyone in the equine industry.” Denny Gentry  
('79 BS, Agricultural Education)*





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# Landmarks

Vol. 33 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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For the complete interview with Dr. Brown, visit [www.casnr.ttu.edu](http://www.casnr.ttu.edu).



The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources welcomed Dr. William F. "Bill" Brown, a nationally-recognized administrator and researcher from the University of Tennessee, as its new Dean. He stepped into his role April 2nd and was welcomed with a reception at Texas Tech University's

International Cultural Center on April 9th.

Dr. Brown has served as Dean for Research and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Tennessee's Institute of Agriculture since 2008. He was responsible for overseeing approximately 170 faculty members and 10 AgResearch and Education Centers across Tennessee and helped to facilitate research collaborations with other colleges on that campus, including Engineering and Arts & Sciences. He was active in national leadership roles with the Experiment Station Committee on Policy, and served as chairman of the Budget and Legislative Committee and of the National Research Support Program – 1 NIMMS.

### Get to know Dr. Brown:

#### Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, but spent a great deal of time on the family farm (my mother's side of the family) near Selma, Alabama. It was a diversified farm with cotton, corn, soybeans, beef cattle and layers. Experiences on the farm were very influential during my younger years and through high school.

#### Q: When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A: My father was a pilot during World War II and the Korean War; my mother was an airline stewardess and a registered nurse. When I was young I wanted to be a commercial airline pilot and even considered attending Embry-Riddle College, which, at the time, was a popular College for flight instruction leading to a career as an airline pilot. At some point, I diverged from that path and attended the University of Florida and majored in Animal Science; I guess it was the family farm influence that led me in that direction.

#### Q: How did you become interested in agriculture?

A: Experiences on the family farm were very impactful. I also enjoy reading and learning about the influence of agriculture on the history and development of locations where I have lived. I will enjoy learning about the history of agriculture in West Texas and its influence on the development of this part of the country.

#### Q: What have you most enjoyed about your career?

A: As a faculty member I very much enjoyed conducting research that addressed real-world problems and publishing the results in scientific journals and producer-focused publications. I enjoyed working with students and especially enjoyed working with producers and extension agents to help deliver research results to cattle and forage producers in the state. As administrators, I firmly believe that our role is to provide

service to others. One of our major goals as a university is to improve people's lives, and we accomplish these goals through student success, facilitating faculty success, and engaging our communities. So, as an administrator, my enjoyment comes from seeing students engaged with their department and other activities outside of the classroom, and then going out into the world and making an impact. I enjoy seeing faculty succeed in their programs associated with the university's mission. Seeing results of our students and faculty work making an impact is very satisfying.

#### Q: What was it about CASNR that motivated you to apply for Dean, and what do you find unique and most intriguing?

A: It is very well known across the country that CASNR is a national leader in producing students that are ready for the job market. CASNR students are motivated, they are engaged in activities outside of the classroom, and they go on to be leaders in the industries we serve. What intrigues me about CASNR are the students, faculty and staff, and alumni and donors. The students are amazing, more so than I've seen before; they are so engaged and have a wonderful work ethic. Our faculty and staff have intellectual horsepower; there is very high-quality science taking place in CASNR. Alumni and donors love this college and university and they are passionate about our students and programs.

#### Q: Can you tell us about your family?

A: My wife, Lindsey, is an attorney focusing on children and family issues. Our son, Austin, graduated from the University of Florida in 2017 and now works as a Business Analyst/Software Engineer with American Express in New York City. Our daughter, Morgan, is a sophomore at Florida State University majoring in Political Science with thoughts of Law School in her future; she is already studying for the LSAT test.

## WANT TO HAVE CASNR IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!



In 2010, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources worked with developer Cap & Compass, Inc. to create a mobile app for all things CASNR

and Texas Tech University. The app, available for iOS, Google and Android operating systems as well as on your desktop, allows you to see all the news, sport scores, social media, etc. on one simple screen.

You can also get tips and guidance on real world issue like taxes, home buying, investing, retirement, engagement rings and much more. Plus, you'll be the first to know about special events, alumni officers and promotions. The app also allows for push notifications, so you get the news as it comes out as well as event invitations and reminders.

Go to your app store and search for "TTU CASNR" to download us today!



## ALUMNI AUTHORS LIBRARY

**Homer E. Jones, Sr.** ('48 BS, Agricultural Education) was featured in 2010's *The Long Road Home*, the published thesis of Lisa K. Brewer. The book reveals the stories and experiences of Homer, and fellow member of the 15th Army Air Force 829th Bomber Squadron Wilson Leon, as a World War II prisoner of war.

Throughout his extensive career with the Arizona State Park Services, **Charles Eatherly** ('61 BS, and '63 MS, Park Administration) wrote many articles, guidebooks and pamphlets, including *Arizona State Parks "The Beginning..."*, *Oh Ranger!* guides, and the *Guidebook to Pleasure Boating on the Arkansas River*.

**Bill Sarpalius** ('72 BS, Agricultural Education), former member of the Texas Senate and U.S. Congress, recently released his book *The Grand Duke from Boys Ranch*, a unique political memoir of his rising from adversity to a life of public service.

The photography of **Bob Moorhouse** ('72 BS, Animal Business) was published in *Pitchfork Country: The Photography of Bob Moorhouse*. The book, forwarded by fellow Red Raider and Texas State Photographer **Wyman Meinzer** ('74 BS, Wildlife

Management), showcases photos taken by the former vice president and general manager of the historic Pitchfork Ranch in Guthrie, Texas.

**Elmer Kelton** (Former Student, '91 Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturalist for Public Service) wrote the preface for T. Lindsay Baker's *Blades in the Sky: Windmilling through the eyes of B.H. "Tex" Burdick*. This book describes the work of a team of Texas-based windmill erectors in the early 1900s. The windmillers' harsh, semi-nomadic lifestyle, and their courage as they clambered about on the high-rise towers, is chronicled here in words and images.

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 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, or feel free to contact Tracee Murph, Coordinator of Alumni Relations at 806-742-2802 or [tracee.murph@ttu.edu](mailto:tracee.murph@ttu.edu).

## 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 & Friends Reception in conjunction with the Texas Wildlife Association Annual Meeting**  
Friday, July 13, 2018  
San Antonio, TX

**Alumni & Friends Reception in Conjunction with the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas Professional Development Conference**  
Tuesday, July 31, 2018  
Lubbock, TX

**57th Annual Homecoming Breakfast**  
Saturday, October 20, 2018  
Student Union Building,  
Red Raider Ballroom on Campus

**91st Annual Pig Roast & Outstanding Agriculturalist Awards**  
Thursday, November 1, 2018  
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center



# A CLOSER LOOK

AT THE  
DEPARTMENT:

## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



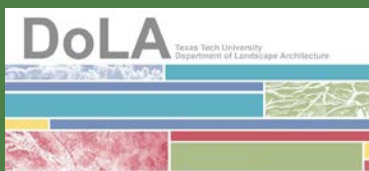
### ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT:

The Department of Landscape Architecture (DoLA) strives to advance the discipline and profession of landscape architecture through innovative learning, research and service activities. Student learning outcomes are coordinated throughout the curriculum in an innovative “Semesters of Learning” approach to develop creative leaders ready for professional licensure and practice in the public or private sector or in academic careers. It offers first-professional Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture degrees accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB). LAAB develops and promulgates the accreditation standards, rules and procedures for conducting the accreditation process, and is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as the official accrediting body for first professional programs in landscape architecture.

DoLA is home to the Texas Tech University Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (SASLA). Each year, SASLA hosts a WreckShop, where students, faculty and alumni come together with industry professionals for professional development, workshops and education sessions, and mentorship. Beginning in 2018, the WreckShop will be hosted during the fall semester to accommodate the new spring semester internship and study abroad opportunities.

DoLA is also home to the newly established Greenscape Design Studio, a USDA funded student internship studio where participants work with clients to create landscape designs for area homeowners that emphasize water-conserving elements.





## FAST FACTS:

**Tagline:** DoLA; which not only stands for Department of Landscape Architecture, but also encourages current and prospective students, as well as alumni and friends to, “Do Landscape Architecture.” #DoLA

**History:** Originally part of the Department of Horticulture in the School of Agriculture when Texas Technological College opened its doors in 1925. The department was changed to Plant Industry in 1932. The curriculum for Park Management was added in 1949 so in 1951, the department changed names again to Horticulture and Park Management. In 1963, it transitioned to the Department of Park Administration, Horticulture and Entomology. The first accredited Bachelor of Landscape Architecture was added in 1972. When Entomology became a separate department in 1974, the department became Park Administration, Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. Finally, in 1993, Landscape Architecture became its own department.

**Students:** There are currently 84 undergraduate students in the BLA program, 7 graduate students in the MLA program, and 2 graduate students pursuing a Ph.D.

**Faculty:** Nine; Two associate professors, three assistant professors, one professor, three instructors.

**Alumni:** 1,522

**Website:** <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/larc>

## ACADEMIC AREAS:

The Department of Landscape Architecture offers Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredited four-year Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA), three-year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA), two-year post-professional MLA programs, as well as an interdisciplinary Land Use Planning, Management and Design (LPMD) Ph.D. program.

The BLA program specializes in semi-arid landscapes, while engaging design and planning issues critical to a sustainable, resilient, adaptable earth and its growing urban populations. Students are off-campus the spring and summer of the third year on extended internship or a combination of study abroad and a three-month internship.

The Master of Landscape Architecture program offers both first-professional and post-professional degree options vital to the Department’s vision to advance the discipline of landscape architecture. The first professional LAAB-accredited degree program is designed to accommodate students who do not have a BLA or related design degree but who wish to become licensed landscape architects. Post-professional students, who already have a BLA or related design/planning degree, develop a specialization in the discipline, and/or prepare to enter an academic career in landscape architecture. Faculty advisors assist students in their development of a specific program of study to meet their goals and satisfy university and LAAB requirements.

In addition, the department offers a Landscape Studies Minor to students studying outside the major. A minor in landscape studies consists of introductory design, history, and modeling and communication courses totaling 18 semester credit hours.

## ACCOLADES:

The MLA and BLA programs recently underwent LAAB Accreditation Visits during the fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters, respectively. Visiting teams were incredibly impressed with the new curriculum and noted that all aspects of the program are “on a positive trajectory” and “everyone is committed to the vision to advance Landscape Architecture.”

For the second year in a row, DoLA students will be receiving Texas Chapter of ALSA Design Awards for their outstanding work; and faculty just presented 10 papers at the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) Conference in March, including a joint presentation on our new curriculum and Semester of Learning Theory.



## MEET THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR:

**Professor Eric Bernard ('96 BLA, and '00 MLA, Landscape Architecture)**

**Q:** What is your vision statement for the department?

**A:** Our vision, mission and desire to be thought and knowledge leaders in landscape architecture and experts on the Llano Estacado short-grass prairie, semi-arid

landscape are bold. We need our alumni and supporters’ help to:

1. Update our alumni records to improve our communication and share our Red Raider successes as leaders in making a difference in our world! 2. Build our approved DoLA landscape research facility to study landscape performance and native short-grass prairie plants and ecosystems critical to SITES certifications. 3. Recruit future Red Raider professional leaders.

**Q:** Tell us a little about your background: education, career path, when you started, etc.

**A:** I am honored and privileged to lead the department, that, as a student, prepared me so well to make a difference. Great mentors and challenging opportunities influence and mold each of us. From ranch and forestry work in northeastern New Mexico; to research projects with Dr. Ernest Fish; to award winning projects with Design Workshop working with Joe Porter, Richard Shaw and Kurt Culbertson; to an amazing time of growth, learning, teaching and research at Kansas State University from 2000 to 2012; to leadership roles at the University of New Mexico and Trust for Public Land; I am humbled by such rich opportunities and such excellent role models.

**Q:** What lead you to this position?

**A:** A conversation with then Dean, now Provost Galyean about the future of the department, and deep reflection on my goals to contribute to the discipline and make the world a better place. There is no greater honor and privilege than to help others find, pursue and grow their passion through learning, and no greater field to do it in. How many people get to design and build people’s dreams and make the planet better at the same time?

**Q:** What do you consider your greatest achievement as chair? What is your favorite part about serving in this role, working for Texas Tech University?

**A:** Inspiring and challenging faculty, students and stakeholders to leverage the best of the past in the community development of a cutting-edge curricular approach to advance landscape architecture and take risks to win awards. The greatest part of this role is being able to help people find and explore their passions and support them in their work and learning about all the great alumni and their incredible projects and leadership roles.



**Q:** Are you involved in any professional clubs or organizations?

**A:** I hold a Kansas Landscape Architect License and am Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) Certified. I am a member of American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), CLARB, Texas ASLA, and the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA).

**Q:** Have you received any awards, accommodations, designations?

**A:** Some professional works have earned recognition from the American Society of Landscape Architects, including the Honor Award in the ecology and sustainability categories to Design Workshop, Inc. in 2000, the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) 2005 Special Achievement Award in GIS, and 2013 GeoDesign Best Lightning Talk Award. I also received a College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources' Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2015.

**Q:** When you are not working, what do you do in your spare time?

**A:** In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling to new landscapes, fly fishing, and creative time in my wood and metal working shop.

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

**Q:** What are some top bragging points for the department?

**A:** Our faculty are doing a fantastic job developing and delivering courses with our new Student Learning Outcomes aimed at our vision to Advance Landscape Architecture. We are working feverishly to become leading experts on the Llano Estacado landscape and developing big data resources, valuable research and methods for achieving SITES certification for regional projects. Our newly renovated departmental home in the old Animal Science Building offers our students, faculty and staff cutting edge technology and amenities. In the last 20 months more than \$1.5 million dollars have been invested in space and technology improvements including students, faculty and staff de-constructing and re-constructing more than \$350,000 work of drafting tables into collaborative, rolling workstations with a drawing surface, and laptop and second monitor mount system. New scanning and plotting/printing equipment in all our spaces facilitates rapid prototyping and iterative hand graphic-to-digital model workflows.

**Q:** What is the most unique thing about the department?

**A:** Our people! Students, faculty, staff and alumni values and attitudes make us unique and help us make a difference in the world. From entering freshmen, to firm and agency leaders, Red Raiders are Doing Landscape Architecture and leading as Park Administrators.

**Q:** What are the focuses for the upcoming school year?

**A:** With the new curriculum in place, new faculty on-board, and major space renovations winding down, we will be turning our attention to communications, recruiting, alumni relations and development of specialization options for students tied to faculty and alumni expertise. We will also be rolling out special learning opportunities for our alumni to sharpen their skillsets aimed at profit generating workflows on cutting edge technology, utilization of DoLA big data resources, semi-arid landscape performance and outdoor learning environments.

**Q:** What is the long-term plan for the department?

**A:** Our long-term plan is to advance the profession of landscape architecture through our learning, teaching, research and engagement with stakeholders and professionals in challenging,

difference making projects.

**Q:** What are some new and exciting things the department is doing in research?

**A:** In the last year we have developed a regional geodatabase with the very best available data for modeling and simulating landscapes and their hydrologic and economic systems, challenges facing them, and alternative desired futures. Students are winning awards and presenting their work on playa hydrology and ecosystems and water use alternatives using these resources. These resources we plan to make available over the next year to alumni, stakeholders and partners to aid their workflows, products and profits. The Greenscapes Design Studio and OLE (Outdoor Learning Environments) Texas projects funded by the USDA are making a difference in Lubbock and across Texas. Our faculty are involved in National Park Service, landscape performance, infrastructure and resiliency research. We will be starting a new research symposia series this fall under the direction of our newest faculty member, Jason Sowell.

**Q:** What skills will this department most help students most develop?

**A:** Our students are leaning to rapidly prototype existing landscape conditions, and creative design concepts in an iterative workflow integrating hand graphics and digital 3D models. Importantly they are learning to assess their solutions based on researched theories and frameworks for decision making and rating criteria such as SITES, as well as cost, value and profit. We know these skills are essential to leaders in our field, from interns to practicing professionals. Jim Richards, legendary sketcher, commented, during a graphic workshop, that this, "is one of the most exciting approaches to the future of landscape architecture education I've seen."

**Q:** What kinds of jobs do students who graduate from this department typically pursue?

**A:** The majority of our alumni are employed in private practice, while others join public practices within architecture, design and landscape firms, or take on academic roles. We are proud to have the associate director of the National Park Service and the past president of CLARB as excellent examples of Red Raider leaders in Landscape Architecture and Park Administration.

**Q:** What percentage of graduates typically obtain jobs related to the majors obtained in this department?

**A:** In the last 2 years, 100%!

**Q:** Does the department have an advisory board or committee?

**A:** We are in the process of developing a DoLA Leadership Forum (including Park Administration) to meet for the first time this fall. This group will help us hone our strategies to develop future and current leaders in landscape architecture and parks and help us assess our progress in Advancing Landscape Architecture. If you are interested in participating, please contact Eric Bernard at [eric.bernard@ttu.edu](mailto:eric.bernard@ttu.edu).

**Q:** What are the department's greatest needs, challenges, etc.?

**A:** We are currently working to update our alumni database and develop stronger connections with our Park Administration and Landscape Architecture alumni. Our marketing plan is finalizing now and will be fully implemented in the next year. It will include a new website with an alumni area and social media streams to showcase great work and leadership. We need our alumni's help to share your current contact information with us, so we can be more effective in communication, support and engagement, and offering our resources.





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Denny Gentry ('79 BS, Agricultural Education) may be one of the most recognized names in the cowboy industry. He's winding down an illustrious career in the industry after creating both the United States Team Roping Championships and the World Series of Team Roping and seeing them to success.

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## A CHAMPION OF *Championships*

By: Tracee Murph

**D**enny was raised in Dell City, Texas, a small rural town and farming community co-founded by his grandfather, on his family's farming and feed lot operation. He said he never really considered anything other than a career in agriculture.

"Of course," Denny said, "Finding a niche for a career when every other farm and ranch kid had the same idea was perplexing."

Following his high school graduation, Denny took classes at both Sul Ross State University and South Plains College, at different times, and started a feed brokerage business with his father.

His life took a turn in 1977 when a near-fatal water skiing

accident put him out of work. After a year of recovery, he knew he'd been given an opportunity to start over. So, he enrolled in the, then, College of Agricultural Sciences at Texas Tech University, combining his previous education and work experience to major in Agricultural Education. He was involved in the Rodeo Association, where he occasionally participated in calf roping and steer wrestling, and was a member of the Block and Bridle club.

Maintaining a full-time job and two part-time jobs to pay his way, he still managed to find himself among the Who's Who in Agriculture. Driven for success, he even took and passed the LSAT and was accepted into two law schools. Unable to financially support pursuing a law degree, he decided to accept a position with the New



Mexico Cattle Growers Association, a career move he calls a twist of fate.

"The skills I learned in day-to-day association management were eventually critical to starting and running my companies," Denny said.

## THE SEED THAT STARTED IT ALL

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Working in a non-profit organization, you learn to wear many hats. Denny started in a communications position, working with the association's memberships, networks, committees and board of directors. He spent the bulk of his time organizing and attending meetings, dealing with legislators, in discussions with state and federal officials, and growing the association's memberships. He honed skills in areas such as management, journalism, magazine and newsletter production, recruitment, government relations and policy, organizing meetings and planning events, fundraising, and working in a membership database. All the while he was building relationships within local and national government, fellow associations, and colleagues in the cattle and equine industry.

Less than a year later, he was promoted to Executive Vice President of the association. Some of his main duties were to bring in new members and organize benefits for the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranch on behalf of the association. He turned to one of his industry connections for inspiration. Don King ('49 BS, Agricultural Education) was the general manager of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association at the time, and someone Denny thought of as a mentor and friend. The two discussed the success of the TSCRA's membership only cutting horse contests.

Building on that idea, Denny decided to organize a combined effort to increase membership while raising money for the Boys and Girls Ranch by hosting team roping competition. The first event was such a success that the association gained more memberships in one day than it had in a year and all the proceeds went to the Boys and Girls Ranch. It led to many more over the next seven years. During that time, he learned the ins and outs of what he thought was a potential for a roping industry.

"After doing that a while," Denny said, "It became apparent that I had a skill set, and I felt I could make a living producing roping events professionally."

## THE ULTIMATE ENTREPRENEUR

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Denny left the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association in 1989 and set off to fill a void in the cowboy entertainment industry. In January 1990, he formed the United States Team Roping Championships, the first time a rodeo event was successfully organized as a stand-alone entity. This pioneered the development of other rodeo sports in entities such as the Professional Bull Riders (PBR).

Until then, team roping competitions were wide open the same way other rodeo events were, in a jackpot fashion, where the best ropers won the prizes and the novice were left out. To better serve the ropers, he developed a national classification, or handicap, system allowing for ropers to be rated based on experience and placed into classes to compete ensuring a fair competition. His system changed the face of the sport, allowing ropers to compete nationally, and paved the way for a national finals competition. There are currently more than 200,000 team ropers competing internationally.

"Through our actions we were able to create a cowboy recreational industry that has been duplicated many times," Denny

said. "Our ideas have been borrowed by everyone in the equine industry."

In 1992, Denny created SuperLooper, a monthly team roping magazine, to provide national news and event information to USTRC members.

"Creating a communication arm was extremely important to selling our product and connecting the industry," Denny said. "The timing of the onset of desktop computing was instrumental in tracking the large amount of data that allowed our industry to develop."

Denny sold the USTRC and SuperLooper magazine in 1998, and went into a period of non-compete, a time in which he agreed not to enter into or start a similar profession or trade in competition against the USTRC. All the while, he was dreaming up a new and better competition for team roping. In 2006, he partnered with Las Vegas gaming executives to create a cowboy event to rival the National Final Rodeo, the World Series of Team Roping.

The event became the second richest equine event in the world in 2014, and last year paid contestants more than \$12 million. Today, the team roping industry pays out more than \$70 million in competition winnings. That is more than all the other equine related disciplines combined, excluding horse racing. The industry has also had a tremendous impact on manufacturing related to the equine industry, such as horse sales, vehicle and trailer sales, tack and ropes, western clothing and boots.

"It is always rewarding to get recognition for your efforts, but many people thought our success the first time around was just circumstance and luck," Denny said. "I think that being able to build another company bigger and more successful the second time was very gratifying."

He sold the WSTR to Active Interest Media in October 2015. In June 2017, AIM purchased the United State Team Roping Championships. Denny will continue to oversee the membership and roping operations for both events through 2019, when he plans to retire after 30 years.

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

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Denny and his wife, Connie, live in Albuquerque, N.M. Connie, who Denny calls his secret weapon, is not so secret. Connie was a former human resources specialist with a space technology firm in Albuquerque and since becoming a partner in the family business, has been recognized many times as one of the top business executives in the Southwest. The two have three grown children, Lacee, Audra and Lucas, who have inherited their parents' drive for success, business minds and entrepreneurial spirit.

Both daughters now work for Active Interest Media. Lacee is in marketing and advertising and has developed a start up health and nutrition company focused on children. Audra heads the communications for the roping companies and in her spare time is a high school volleyball coach. Following her most recent state championship, she was named New Mexico Volleyball Coach of the Year for the second time. Their son is currently a student at the University of Hawaii studying business and has several side businesses, including a very popular event DJ business.

Looking toward the future, Denny hopes to stay involved in the industry in a more advisory or consultant mode.

"I have promised to help several of these young producers develop and expand their operations," Denny said, "And think that will be a lot of fun."

He also hopes to have more spare time to spend playing with some young horses, fishing and, of course, roping.

### 1970-1979

**Rex Isom** ('78 BS, Animal Business) was elected Chairman of the National Watershed Coalition at the National Conservation Conference. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Texas State Soil and Water Board and has served as Vice-Chairman for the organization for the past two years.

### 1980-1989

**Christopher B. Hoffman** ('88 BLA, Landscape Architecture) transitioned to Past President and Chair of the Committee on Nominations for the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards, following the conclusion of his one-year term as the organizations president. He previously held many leadership positions with CLARB, including President (2016-'17), Vice President (2015-'16) and Secretary (2012-'14). He also served as Region 3 Director (2009-'11) and as a member of CLARB's Communications Committee (2007-'09). Chris is the founder of Christopher B. Hoffman Landscape Architects, a Clinton, Miss.-based firm. His expertise spans 28 years of master planning, site design, grading and drainage, and detailed design services.

### 1990-1999

**Chandra Montgomery Mathis** ('90 BS, Agricultural Communications) is now a fourth-grade teacher for Hereford ISD. She is married to Dustin Mathis ('90 BS, Crops).

### 2000-2009

**Jodi Wied Smith** ('02 BS, Agricultural and Applied Economics) was promoted to Senior Vice President for First United Bank. She has more than 20 years of experience in the financial industry and has been with the bank for more than 14 years. Jodi is also the Vice President of the New Home athletic booster club, a member of the New Home FFA booster club, a member of the New Home PTO, and a youth committee member of the New Home Baptist Church.

**Jena Moon** ('02 BS, Wildlife & Fisheries Management, and '04 MS, Wildlife Science) assumed the role of President of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society during its 54th Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

**Ryan Gray** ('06 BS, Interdisciplinary Agriculture) announced his retirement from rodeo in November 2016. He has been one of the most accomplished bareback riders in the world throughout the last decade. He qualified for the National Finals Rodeo eight times, seven in a row, during his career.

**Weston D. Harding** ('06 BS, Agricultural and Applied Economics) owns X Plus Real Estate in Chicago, Ill. He was ranked in the top one percent of all realtors in Chicago through the Chicago Association of Realtors last year. He has been ranked in the top 10 the past five years.

**Chad Dietz** ('08 BLA, Landscape Architecture) was elevated into an associate position with the Amarillo, Texas office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, a multidisciplinary firm that provides comprehensive architectural and engineering design services for a multitude of projects in government, commercial and institutional sectors, public works, environmental, infrastructure, transportation, healthcare, and church facilities. Chad is a Landscape Architect in the company's Higher Education Sector. He has been with the company for more than five years, a landscape architect for more than nine years, and has received the Certificate of Merit from the American Society of Landscape Architects.



**Eric Straw** ('08 BS, Environmental Conservation of Natural Resources) recently finished a six-month expedition canoeing rivers in all 50 states raising awareness and funds for American Rivers, a national river conservation organization.

"I wanted an adventure. I had a particular one in mind - an old inkling, an idea spawned while working towards

my ECNR degree years ago, the kind of idea you talk about but never carry out - canoeing all 50 states," Eric said. "I researched rivers, lakes, routes, costs, etc. I re-read Muir, Graves and Thoreau. I bought a roof rack, a used canoe and quit my environmental consulting job. Then, last April, I set off. I spent six months of 2017 snaking my way around the nation, floating/camping along a natural body of water in every state. "From the tropics to the tundra, I set paddle in as many ecosystems as possible. In the Everglades I canoed by dolphins, American Crocodiles and sharks. I saw soaring California Condors from the bottom of Glen Canyon. My canoe passed by river otter families, swimming bears, wary moose and thousand-year-old Cyprus trees. Riparian areas, throughout the nation, didn't disappoint.

"I returned to Dallas in October with 500+ canoe miles, 100+ nights camping, \$4,000+ raised for the nonprofit American Rivers and the claim of all states paddled." You can learn more about Eric's expedition through state-by-state narratives on his website, [www.shamelesstravels.com](http://www.shamelesstravels.com). As a result of his journey, Eric was offered a job as an Environmental Specialist for Grand Prairie, Texas.

"Our department, I'm pleased to report, even has a canoe."

### 2010-2017

**Christi Chadwell** ('11 BS, and '15 MS, Agricultural Communications) is now the Southwest Regional Communications Manager with the Cotton Board. In this position she travels around California, Arizona, New Mexico, and central and south Texas representing the Cotton Board and garnering favor for the cotton research and promotion program. Nathan Pond ('12 BS, Animal Science, and '14 MS, Food Safety & Microbiology) is now the Director of Food Safety and Quality Assurance with Kane Beef.

**Nathan Pond** ('12 BS, Animal Science, and '14 MS, Food Safety & Microbiology) is now the Director of Food Safety and Quality Assurance with Kane Beef.



## In Memory

### Lewis A. Cobb

1948 Animal Production

### Earl W. Sears

1948 Agricultural Education

### George R. Wall

1948 Agronomy

### Jack B. Bennett

1949 Dairy Management

### Earl D. Lewis

1954 Soil Science

### Donald C. Dilley, Jr.

1956 Agricultural Economics

### Wendell L. Kent

1962 Animal Production

### Dale Robinson

1962 Park Administration

### Jerry L. Isbell

1963 Animal Production

### Melanie R. Zurinski

1979 Wildlife Management

### Dean E. Hawkins Ph.D.

1984 and '86 Animal Science

### Ronald D. Voigt

1984 Agricultural Education

### Pamela R. Shafer

1992 Horticulture

### Adam H. Richardson

1996 Agricultural  
Communications

### Daniel C. Holt D.V.M.

2002 BS Animal Science

### Kristina J. Mougey, Ph.D.

2008 MS Wildlife Science,  
and '16 Wildlife Science &  
Aquatic Wetlands Science  
and Management



**Dr. William F.  
"Bill" Bennett,  
Sr. Professor  
Emeritus,  
Agronomy  
Jan. 23, 1927 -  
Dec. 29, 2017**

Dr. Bennett joined the Texas Tech University faculty in 1968. During his tenure, he taught eight separate undergraduate and graduate courses in Agronomy and Soil Science within the Department of Plant and Soil Science. In 1970, he became the Associate Dean for Resident Instruction for the college, with duties primarily for academic and student programs. Two of his proudest accomplishments were the initiation of two student groups - the Ambassadors for Agriculture and the Agri-Techsans - both are still active today. In 1985, Dr. Bennett became the college's Associate Dean for Development, and then the Director of Development in 1993 and served until his retirement in 1997. During his 28 years of service, he was a positive influence who provided motivation for the Student Agricultural Council, while also supporting numerous other opportunities for student-centered accomplishments. His students remember him best for his support of quality academic programs, insistence on high academic performance, encouragement of involvement in student activities, promotion of agricultural leadership involvement, and his general support and council. While helpful and fair to all students, Dr. Bennett was especially fond of helping students who might be struggling to "walk that extra mile" needed for graduation.

*"Dr. Bennett, in the fall of 1970, met with this prospective student transfer from San Angelo State. I sat down in his office with a 1.9 GPA and one foot from being drafted into the*

*armed services. The opportunity he gave me was to finish school and go into the Air Force on my terms. You see the grade report he looked at went from a person who came to the meeting with a 1.9 GPA to a person that gave a student a second chance, a 3.75 GPA. I made the dean's list for the remainder of my semesters at Texas Tech.*

*I will never forget the opportunity, confidence, and parental influence he gave me."*

*~ Billy J. Ford ('74 BS, Park Administration)*

He regarded it a hand of fate that he received the call from TTU in 1968 to consider joining the faculty. According to Dr. Bennett, the most important accomplishment of the college during his tenure was the large number of high-quality students who became alumni. One of Dr. Bennett's greatest impacts was in raising much-needed scholarship funds for students in the college. Through Dr. Bennett's leadership, and the active support of dedicated faculty, administrators, alumni, and friends, the college's endowment grew from less than \$10,000 in 1976 to more than \$10 million by his retirement in 1997.

Dr. Bennett received several significant awards and honors throughout his tenure as a Red Raider, including the college's Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturalist Award for Public Service in 2007, and in April 2011, the Dean's Office within the college dedicated the Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center in his honor.

If you would like to give in Dr. Bennett's memory, please visit [www.Give2Tech.com](http://www.Give2Tech.com), search for "Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center Endowment," "Dr. William F. Bennett Student Success Center Scholarship Endowment," or "W. F. Bennett Ambassadors for Agriculture Scholarship Endowment;" or contact the CASNR Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 806-742-2802.

▼ .....  
**Dr. David Weindorf** ('95 BS, Range Management, '97 MS, Soil Science, & '00 PHD, Agronomy), research administrator and professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, was named a Research Faculty Fellow with the University's Office of the Vice President for Research. In his new role, he is working on special projects to expand the research enterprise of Texas Tech. His work will focus on bringing together colleges across campus and linking them with funding agencies both domestically and internationally. He will spend a quarter of his time with the VPR's office and the remainder still with Plant and Soil Science.

▼ .....  
 The Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center gained a new College Recruiter. **Shelbey Havens** ('15 BS, Agricultural Communications) started her new role in January. She returns to the office after serving as a student assistant while an undergraduate at Tech.

▼ .....  
 Fourteen undergraduate students were selected for the first cohort of the new **Matador Institute of Leadership Engagement (MILE) Program** within CASNR. MILE is a new, three-semester leadership certificate program that seeks to develop participants' personal and professional skills while exposing them to the key issue affecting local, state and national agriculture and policy. The program is designed to provide participants with a competitive edge when seeking career opportunities after graduation.

▼ .....  
 Dr. Brown replaces interim dean **Steve Frazee** ('76 TEACH, Agricultural Sciences, and '78 MS, Agricultural Education), who served in the role since August 2016, when Dr. Galyean was named Provost. Dr. Frazee has returned to his duties as Chair of the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications.

▼ .....  
**Darren Henry** was named an assistant professor of sustainable livestock grazing management in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. He is continuing his research efforts in manipulating and

characterizing ruminal fermentation and enteric methane production. One of his primary goals here is to provide data that will lead to advances in mitigation of environmental impacts on beef and dairy cattle production, and to provide a solid education base for undergraduate and graduate students that will allow them to excel in the years to come.

▼ .....  
 A former assistant professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture, **Melissa Currie**, returned to her role this fall after pursuing her doctoral degree in Geography and Urban Regional Analysis at the university of North Carolina-Charlotte. Her research interests include community resiliency, foreclosure effects from the Great Recession, and the impacts of the built environment on health with implications for how communities rebuild following disaster.

▼ .....  
 With approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Department of Plant and Soil Science established a **new undergraduate degree specialization in local food and wine production systems**, a first-of-its-kind program at any university in the U.S. The program will be located at both the Hill Country University Center on the University's Fredericksburg campus, and the main campus in Lubbock, or through online courses. Sustainable production of food and wine is another component of the program and the new concentration includes coursework dealing with sustainable agriculture including vegetables, fruits and nuts. Students can begin enrolling in the hybrid program for the next fall semester.

▼ .....  
**Cade Coldren** was named an assistant professor of ecological modeling with the Department of Plant and Soil Science. He is interested in the development of the next generation of the Ecological Dynamics Simulation (EDYS) model, that has been very successful in simulating plant, water and animal dynamics in a variety of ecosystems in the western United States and several locations overseas.

▼ .....  
 The Department of Plant and Soil Science named **Rupinder Kaur Saini** a research assistant professor in weed science. Her research is focused on plant-herbicide interactions, strategic use of cultural practices and equipment to manage weeds, and potential influences of soil and climate factors on weed growth and development. She plans to work to develop integrated strategies for weed management in specialty crops, such as vegetables, ornamentals, turf and grape production.

▼ .....  
**Dr. Michael Ballou**, CASNR's Associate Dean for Research, was named Interim Chair of the new Department of Veterinary Sciences. The recently formed department, which is a graduate degree program only, will offer both a master's and doctorate research degree. The primary focus of the department will be to train individuals in population and preventative veterinary medicine. The program plans to attract people interested in pursuing a research career with a primary focus in farm animal medicine.

▼ .....  
**Rafael Neves** has been named an assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Sciences. The department is designed to provide a greater focus on research and outreach efforts in food animal, equine and wildlife health and well-being, and is intended to meet the educational and research needs of the animal-agriculture industry and the regional veterinary community. His position helps form the core of the new department, which will be strongly aligned with the Department of Animal and Food Sciences through joint appointments.

▼ .....  
**Vinicius Machado** has been named an assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Sciences. He plans to continue his research efforts in understanding immunological mechanisms behind pathogen recognition and clearance in the postpartum uterus of dairy cows, and exploration of new strategies for metritis treatment.





The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources opened its spring semester with the continuation of a new tradition, Winter Welcome, featuring the Mr. CASNR contest and a Queso Cook-off. Dane Rivas (right), a junior animal science major from Tahoka, Texas, was named the 2018 Mr. CASNR after winning first place in the western wear, interview and talent competitions; while the People's Choice vote went to Paul Montgomery (left), a senior agricultural communications major from Memphis, Texas. The inaugural winner of the Queso Cook-off was a team from the Ag Ambassadors organization, with lead chef Haleigh Erramouspe, a junior agricultural communications major from Corona, N.M. The winning recipe was a combination of Velveeta, cream of mushroom soup, Rotel, sausage, ground beef, and hot green chilies.

CASNR has joined Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, a leading multi-stakeholder initiative working to unite the agricultural supply chain in defining, measuring and advancing the sustainability of food, fiber and fuel production in the United States. As an active member, CASNR will work together with grower organizations, academia, conservation groups, public sector partners and leading companies to help to catalyze opportunities for continuous improvement in productivity, environmental quality and human well-being across the agricultural value chain.

Iconic denim brand Wrangler and Texas Tech University's Texas Alliance for Water Conservation announced a partnership to promote best-in-class techniques and technologies for efficient water use among cotton growers. Under a memorandum of understanding, the TAWC will serve as advisors to Wrangler's U.S. sustainable cotton program, and Wrangler will help raise awareness for best practices produced by TAWC's on-farm research.

Separately, the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation hosted its Fourth Annual Water College focusing on connecting today's producers and crop consultants with the latest in irrigation technology and research. Among the highlights of the event were programs on utilizing variable rate irrigation technology in West Texas cotton; soil management for ideal water infiltration; Wrangler's commitment to healthy soils; and improving corn water use by hybrid selection.

The 2017 fall competition season was, yet again, a prosperous one for both the Livestock and Meat Judging Teams. Both teams started the series off strong with second place standings at the National Barrow Show. The Livestock Judging Team captured the crown at the American Royal Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City, Mo., and finished their season with a fourth-place win at the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Ky. Meanwhile, the Meat Judging Team picked up the overall team victory and claimed top individual honors for the third year in a row at the Eastern National Meat Judging Contest, brought home their third straight overall team victory at the American Royal Meat Judging Contest, captured top honors both as a team and individually at the Cargill High Plains Meat Judging Contest, and finished the season with its third national championship, 13th in team history, in the last five years at the American Meat Science Association International Meat Judging Contest. Continuing their success, the Meat Judging Team started the spring 2018 competition season with a win at the Southwestern Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest.

An innovative, new animal welfare product recently installed at the Texas Tech University Beef Center is providing researchers a unique opportunity to evaluate the impact that shade can have on animal health and wellness. The system is composed of shade cloths suspended in the air by cables in a checkboard pattern, and can reduce temperatures on the pen floors by as much as 30 degrees. The cloth can block up to 70 percent of the Ultraviolet rays for the cattle, which reduces heat stress. The system can handle the harsh West Texas weather, withstanding wind gusts of up to 100 miles per hour while the unique checkboard pattern allows the sun to reach the pen floor to dry mud after rain. The screens can also be rolled up in the fall and stored to protect them from snow and ice.



The Therapeutic Riding and Therapy Center welcomed another Gypsy Varner horse to his stable. Snowdrift was acquired through a Facebook contest with LexLin Gypsy Ranch in Rockwood, Tenn. and is now being used for the program's equine-assisted therapy and therapeutic riding.

A new Greenscape Design Studio in the Departments of Landscape Architecture and Plant and Soil Science is allowing students to create landscape designs for homeowners in the Lubbock area. The studio, made possible through a USDA Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture Capacity Building Grant, allows student interns to create designs aimed at helping homeowners incorporate water-conserving plants and xeriscaping principles for areas where drought-tolerant landscape is needed and wanted. The studio charges clients by the hour and does its best to estimate the amount of time a project will require after their initial meeting with the client. The grant will expire in December 2018, but the team hopes to continue with their current clients while working toward making the studio self-sufficient.

Researchers in the Department of Natural Resources Management are working to understand what causes toxic blooms of golden alga, a species of harmful algae, and how to combat the problems caused by it. Golden algae lives in costal and inland brackish waters and has caused numerous fish kills in the United States and around the world. The first golden alga bloom in Texas was reported in 1985 in the Pecos River and has wiped out mass amounts of fish in the state.

The Department of Plant and Soil Science signed an institution-to-institution memorandum of understanding with Amarillo College to enable the success of community college transfer students who want to focus on horticulture. The need arose from a meeting between the two to further develop programs for students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) areas at Amarillo College who intend to transfer to Texas Tech. Amarillo College's new associate degree program in horticulture will become available for the first time in fall 2018. The partnership is expected to open doors for collaborative research among faculty and students of both schools, with projects to be jointly undertaken

at Amarillo College's greenhouse and at university facilities in Lubbock.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or drones, are being used in agriculture to help farmers work more efficiently and use fewer inputs. Researchers, such as **Wenxuan Guo**, an assistant professor in Plant and Soil Science, are working with drones to develop advanced agricultural production practices. Drone technologies are helping solve many of the problems currently facing agriculture. They can often detect potential issues with a crop utilizing specialized sensors and cameras with high-resolution video, and can allow farmers to locate, identify and address production-related issues before they can impact crops or livestock by observing spectral signatures in the images.

Plant and Soil Science's Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute has a new custom-built ginning laboratory containing a cotton micro-gin. This equipment gives researchers the ability to closely match ginning conditions that cotton fibers will experience during the real-world, commercial ginning process. FBRI leaders hope the micro-gin will be an asset to cotton breeders by helping them produce cottons that perform better than current varieties when processed through a commercial gin. The micro-gin uses transparently-sided, scaled-down versions of commercial ginning equipment. It allows for the processing and ginning of cotton breeder/research samples for turnout and fiber quality testing, and serves to educate undergraduate and graduate students on the inner-workings of the various machines within the industry.

Separately, the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute unveiled a new foam-dyeing process for denim during a special event hosted by Indigo Mill Designs. Heritage denim brands Wrangler and Lee, along with the Wal-Mart Foundation, are early investors in the technology and were in attendance to show support for the initiative. Foam-dyeing is a cost-effective and environmentally friendly process for

dyeing yarns, but its use was limited for denim manufacturing. This new process reduces chemical usage while achieving the same or better dye quality and reduces water and energy usage by more than 90 percent. It will allow fabric mills to produce much smaller quantities than conventional dyeing processes, reducing waste and allowing for exciting design and marketing innovations within the denim industry.

The Department of Animal and Food Sciences' new Canine Olfaction Lab at the New Deal Research Farm is giving professors and students hands-on opportunities in companion dog research. The answers to their research could eventually lead to breakthroughs such as developing more nutritious or desirable dog foods or improving the abilities of canines that serve with law enforcement or in the military. The lab can house 12 dogs and has two play yards, one behavioral training room and a controlled lab where odors are created. Aside from discovering crucial scientific information about dog preference and the olfactory system of dogs, the purpose of this program is to provide behavioral rehabilitation services to shelter dogs and help ensure they find good homes. The main research aims are to aid in the training of detection dogs and gain a thorough understanding of canine behavior and welfare.

In a continuing effort to improve the Online Education Support Program, the College created a new Accessibility Compliance Team. The ACTeam is comprised of three graduate students from the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications and the Department of Plant and Soil Science, and headed up by Karissa Greathouse, CASNR's Distance Education Instructional Technologist. Services offered by the team include proofing and correcting the caption files for lecture videos, and ensuring that the syllabus, course schedule and lecture PowerPoints are accessible.



San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. Distinguished Chair in Meat Science and professor of meat science and muscle biology, **Mark Miller** ('82 BS, Animal Production, & '84 MS, Meat Science), received the Harry L. Rudnick Educator's Award from the Washington, DC-based North American Meat Institute in recognition of his dedication to educating future industry leaders, as well as his commitment to education, research and service activities in the field of food science.

**Dale Rollins** ('83 PHD, Range Science) was selected for the 2018 Texas Conservation Hall of Fame for his lifetime of conservation achievements, including development of the Bobwhite Brigade youth program that has evolved into a state-wide program called Texas Brigades.

Former Masked Rider, **Stacy Stockard** ('05 BS, Agricultural Communications, and '06 MS, Agricultural Education) was named to the National Parking Association's 40 Under 40 list for 2017. The list recognizes an outstanding class of young professionals and up-and-coming leaders in the parking industry. Stacy currently serves as the Media Relations Coordinator for University Parking Services at TTU.

**Thayne Montague**, an associate professor of horticulture and Undergraduate Program Leader in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, was presented the 2017 Non-Land-Grant Agricultural and Renewable Resources Universities' Distinguished Educator Award.

Two faculty members were selected for the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Faculty Awards, the highest faculty honor in the university system. **Courtney Meyers**, an associate professor and graduate studies coordinator in the Department of Agricultural Education

and Communications, received the Distinguished Teaching Award, and **Venugopal Mendu**, an assistant professor in the Plant and Soil Science, received the Distinguished Research Award.

Separately, **Courtney Meyers** was named a 2018 Integrated Scholar by the university. The honor indicates demonstrated significant accomplishments and effective synergy among the major professorial function of teaching, research and service.

Texas Tech University recognized seven CASNR faculty members during its Celebration of Faculty Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity. **Mindy Brashears** ('92 BS, Food Technology), a professor of food microbiology and food safety in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, received the National Academy of Inventors Fellow. **Michael Farmer**, an associate professor in both the Departments of Natural Resources Management and Agricultural and Applied Economics, received the Core Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Award. **John McGlone**, a professor and institutional official with Animal and Food Sciences, was issued a patent for his work Artificial Boar Saliva and Boar Grunts Stimulate Estrus Behavior and Reproduction in Swine. **Brad Johnson**, Gordon W. Davis Regent's Endowed Chair in Meat Science and Muscle Biology, was appointed to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. **David Weindorf** ('95 BS, Range Management, '97 MS, Soil Science, and '00 PHD, Agronomy), B.L. Allen Endowed Chair in Pedology in Plant and Soil Science, received a Soil Science Society of America Fellow and Presidential Award. **Gad Perry**, a professor of conservation science in Natural Resources Management and Director of the International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies, received a National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicinal Jefferson Science Fellowship.

Separately, **David Weindorf** was named a 2017 Fulbright Specialist by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program pairs highly-qualified U.S. academics and professionals with host institutions abroad to share their expertise while building relations, honing skills, and gaining international and cultural experiences.



Several faculty and students from the Department of Natural Resources Management participated at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, presenting posters, giving oral presentations, competing in competitions and receiving honors. **Blake Grisham** ('12 PHD, Wildlife Sciences & Aquatic Wildland Science and Management) received the professional group's Educator of the Year Award. **Clint Boal** received the Outstanding Book of the Year Award as co-editor, with alumnus and former faculty member **David Haukos** ('88 MS, and '91 PHD, Wildlife Science), of "Ecology and Conservation of the Lesser Prairie Chicken." Also, students **Kaitlyn Wilms** won First Place in the Undergraduate Student Poster Competition for her poster entitled, "Accumulation of Radiocesium in Bullfrog Tadpoles in a Contaminated Effluent Canal on the Savannah River Site;" **Rachel Bittner** was recognized as Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the Year; **Kathryn Watson** won the Sam Beason Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship; and several undergraduate students won awards in the Photo and Art Competition.



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## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



L to R: Wayne Schilling, Tony Williams, Dee Vaughan.

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 awards were presented during the 90th annual Pig Roast at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. The Pig Roast also celebrates scholarship donors, recipients and intercollegiate judging teams. The awards are named for Dr. Gerald Thomas, who served as dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences from 1958 to 1970.

This year's recipients were:

**Dee Vaughan**, in the category of

Agricultural Production. Born and raised near Plainview, Vaughan continues a family tradition on his farm near Dumas, where he and his wife Terri produce corn, cotton, sorghum seed, and wheat. Since 1989, he has been a proactive supporter of Texas and U.S. agriculture, currently serving as a director of the Corn Producers Association of Texas, Texas Corn Producers Board, and Southwest Council of Agribusiness. Vaughan serves on the advisory committees of the Texas Ag Forum at the Texas A&M Ag and Food Policy Center, and the Southern Risk Management Education Center at the University of Arkansas. He has worked extensively on policy and regulatory issues pertaining to agriculture in the areas of farm policy, energy, transportation, and trade. He served as a corn industry representative to the Doha round of World Trade Organization negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, and to the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He attended Texas Tech, studying agricultural economics.

**Wayne Schilling**, in the category of Agribusiness. Born and raised near Hereford, he moved to Slaton in 1979 to start an agricultural compost business. The Schilling family business composts cattle manure for agricultural use at feed yards from south of Lubbock to the Texas Panhandle. The main office is located in Slaton, with divisions in Bovina and Dalhart. His lawn and garden branch, Back to Nature, bags composted cotton burrs and ships them to independent nurseries and garden centers throughout Texas and surrounding states. He and his

family also farm cotton in the Lubbock area, and run a cow/calf operation. He was named the Lubbock County Conservation Farmer of the Year (2017); and is an active member of the Southwest Council of Agribusiness, United States Compost Council, Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, and Texas Cattle Feeders Association. Schilling is a past member on the Business Development Board for Peoples Bank. Schilling and his family also received the Texas Tech's Department of Animal and Food Sciences Distinguished Service Award (2016).

**Tony Williams** ('84 BS, Agricultural Economics), in the category of Public Service. Born and raised in the West Texas area, Williams worked for Monsanto Agriculture Products following his graduation from Texas Tech. Since 1988, he has served as the executive vice president of the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association in Austin. While in this position he has been responsible for the financial operations, the TCGA Annual Convention & Trade Show, and worked with legislative and governmental agencies to provide the cotton ginner's point of view. Williams was instrumental in crafting several significant pieces of legislation, including HB 2095 that allowed the Texas Cotton Ginners' Trust to self-insure as a group of employers for workers compensation insurance, and HB 2093 that adopted increasing the weight of cotton module trucks. He was awarded the National Cotton Ginners' Association Distinguished Service Award (2009).