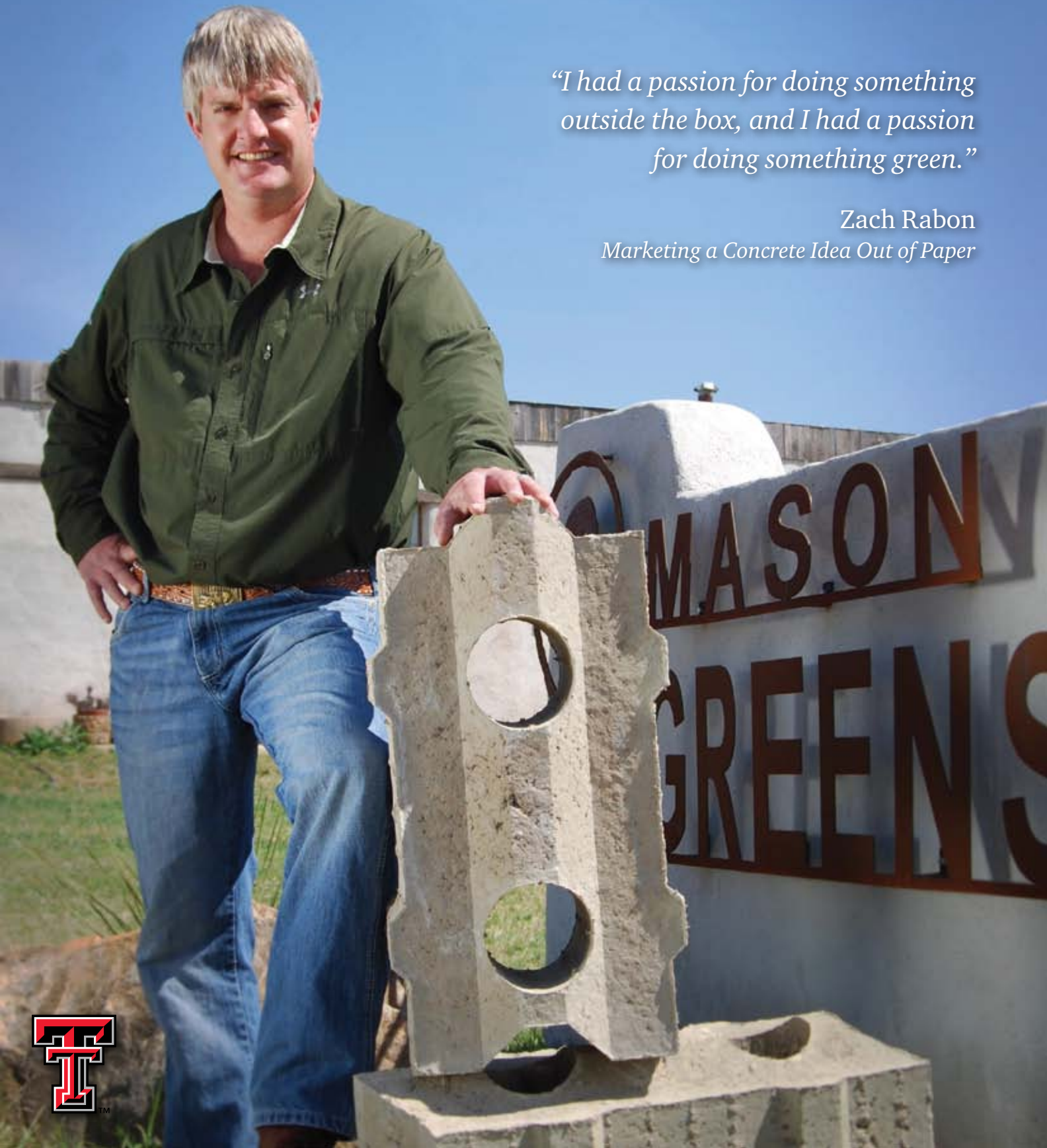
Landmarks

SPRING 2013

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources



"I had a passion for doing something outside the box, and I had a passion for doing something green."

Zach Rabon

Marketing a Concrete Idea Out of Paper

Landmarks

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Landmarks

Vol. 28 Issue 1

Landmarks magazine is a newsletter 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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Michael Galyean
Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

One of the really enjoyable parts of my job is meeting alumni and supporters of the College. Frankly, when I started serving as the Interim Dean a couple of years ago, I had not expected that to be one of my favorite parts of the job. Having been "cloistered in the ivory tower" of university life for most of my career, meeting and greeting people was not (perhaps is still not) my strong suit. I worried about how these folks might respond to me. Would they like what we are doing in CASNR or be critical? My thoughts reflect the fact that even in my early 60s, I can be pretty naïve. Fortunately, however, I learned several things quickly that made me feel much more comfortable about this part of the job.

First, just like I have fond memories of my college days, our CASNR alums have those same fond memories. As a result, they associate me and CASNR with something good in their life. The truth is that virtually all of them like what we are doing and are incredibly supportive. Second, and perhaps the most important thing I have learned, is that almost all the CASNR alums and supporters I meet are successful people – and successful people have great stories to tell. So, I've learned that the best thing I can do is to encourage them to tell their story, which almost always turns out to be a recollection of good memories for them and a great learning experience for me.

Success (and thereby successful people) comes in all shapes and sizes. The dictionary definition of success is "favorable or desired outcome." What the dictionary does not include in that definition is how long it takes and how winding the road is to reach that favorable or desired outcome. For some of our alumni, success came early, whereas for others it came much later in their life. The dictionary also does not define the desired outcome. It could be success in career, finances, service, or a host of other areas (although a successful family life is one thing most have in common). Despite the variation in stories and life histories, I am convinced as I visit with our alumni that the education and experiences they had as a student at Texas Tech are a major part of their success in life. Indeed, I think that the main reason I have enjoyed this part of my job is the sense that these former graduates give me of the importance of the work we are doing in CASNR. In the midst of problems and deadlines that are a daily part of university life, it is very easy to forget that what we do in educating students is truly a life-changing effort. I am thankful that visiting with our alumni and supporters is a way that I am frequently reminded of that important truth.

This issue of Landmarks will introduce you to some very successful CASNR alumni, and I know you will enjoy reading their stories. In fairness, I should note that although our alumni credit their CASNR education for opening doors and helping them to achieve success in life, these people have other qualities that have contributed to their success. They are people of strong character and integrity who have a terrific work ethic. As John Wooden, the great UCLA basketball coach, said, "Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."

Michael Galyean

Tracee Murph
Coordinator of Alumni Relations

Welcome to *Landmarks* magazine! I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I do. Once again, it has been a great pleasure getting to know the alumni featured within these pages. I hope you enjoy their stories. We are fortunate to have alumni and friends who take an active interest in the College, and who support us with the generous gifts of time and money.

Many of you have probably received phone calls from student callers recently, as the Office of Annual Giving has started its annual phone-a-thon. The Annual Fund caller program gives students a unique opportunity to raise money to support academic programs at Texas Tech while gaining valuable professional experience. These students are a great asset to the College, our programs and scholarships. We truly appreciate your generosity when giving to the College, and your gifts have been instrumental in helping us reach our Vision and Tradition $1 billion capital campaign goal.

Also within these pages you'll find a list of our upcoming events. As you know, the College hosts several alumni events throughout the year, such as Homecoming Breakfast. We have great turn outs for these events, and hope you can make plans to attend. These are great opportunities for you to get back to campus and visit with classmates and friends, and even make new ones along the way. I hope you always feel at home at our events, and invite you to join us every chance you get!

Jane Piercy
Director of Development and External Relations

Pop, pop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is… that Alka-Seltzer commercial has been on my mind ever since the announcement that the $1 billion dollar Vision & Tradition campaign goal for our great university was met. I never really liked Alka-Seltzer, but I can relate to the feeling of relief from having reached our goal. The $1 billion (that's too many zeroes to type out) goal was reached at the end of January 2013. Our target date was to reach it by September.

Looking back over these past three years and that seemingly insurmountable goal announced back in 2010, I probably couldn't count the antacids I've taken. I can't say stress was the main reason, although I'm sure it was a contributing factor. More than anything, our donors have really good taste restaurants and I tend to indulge more than I should. And oh, that chicken fried steak the Chuck Wagon chefs cook….it's so worth the indigestion.

Back to the campaign…it started with a great party and the unveiling of a video that tapped into our emotions through featuring the Masked Rider, making us realize how incredibly powerful that tradition is to us (many tears were shed watching it over and over). The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) carried its weight in the campaign – from research support to scholarships to bequests funding endowed faculty positions, and the icing on the cake was the receipt of matching funds from the Texas Research Incentive Program. Throughout the past three years, the adage "there is no I in team" has had more meaning than I'd ever known. Many donors have been cultivated through the relationships that have been nurtured though the years between students, faculty, staff, alumni and corporations. These relationships have benefited our college greatly.

The billion dollar number doesn't really tell the story, though. The homes we've been welcomed into, the stories we've heard of success and failure, good times and bad, the difference one faculty or staff made in the lives of the donors, the joy of receiving thank you letters from grateful scholarship recipients, the memories shared about fellow students – all connected by the incredible gratitude our alumni have for the education they received from Texas Tech University. The culture of philanthropy in our college is something that will always amaze me. Some of us have had the privilege to stand on the shoulders of giants.

As you can imagine, our team of institutional advancement and college development staff were pretty thrilled to see the goal reached early. The icing on the cake was getting to attend the celebratory reception at the Chancellor's house at the end of the day of the announcement. Even though we know the campaign doesn't end until August 31, 2013, it was nice to take the time to pat each other on the back, thank each other for the team effort, and for the pop, pop, fizz, fizz to be that of sparkling Champagne.

UPCOMING EVENTS

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
July 29 - August 2, 2013, *American Bank Center – Corpus Christi, TX*
Alumni Reception: *Tuesday, July 30th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.*
Texas State Aquarium - Dolphin Bay Underwater Room.

HOMECOMING BREAKFAST
Saturday, October 12, 2013
Look for more information in the mail soon!

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear agricultural sciences and natural resources? Most people outside of the agriculture industry have images of tractors, crops, cattle, and other traditional production agriculture practices in mind. While these are key pieces in the agriculture industry; did you know that only 10 percent of Americans are involved in traditional agriculture careers?

There are numerous careers in the field of agriculture and natural resources that most people don't recognize as part of the ever growing agriculture industry. Agricultural careers are diverse and include agribusiness management; natural resources; parks, recreation and tourism resources; horticulture, food sciences, fisheries/wildlife, eco-tourism, plus so much more. Research shows that there are approximately 22 million people employed in agriculture related fields.

The USDA Employment Opportunity Outlook for 2010-2015 states that 5% more college graduates will be needed with agricultural sciences and natural resources expertise. There will be 54,400 annual openings for college graduates in agricultural sciences and natural resources; 74% of jobs in business and science, 15% in agriculture and forestry production and 11% in education, communication, and government. Agriculture and natural resource related employment has a positive outlook.

With the agriculture and natural resources industry positive job outlook, it is a great time to consider earning an advanced degree from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR). CASNR offers degree programs in all fields of the agriculture and natural resources industry that can prepare you for a new and exciting career or help you move up in your current field. Today's agriculture industry offers more than 200 rewarding and challenging career options. Land use planner, food scientist, renewable energy, crop producer, computer graphics technologist or an ecotourism specialist are just a few examples of agricultural sciences and natural resources employment opportunities.

Texas Tech University College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources offers 12 undergraduate degree options and 27 graduate degree options including master, certification, doctoral and Peace Corps Master's International programs. Degree options range from agribusiness/economics, communications, animal science, landscape architecture, food science and safety, plant and soil science, natural resources management and education. CASNR is also proud to offer our students unique programs like faculty-led study abroad programs, industry internships, the CASNR Government Internship Program and student clubs and organizations.

CASNR offers one undergraduate degree online, a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture. Several master and doctoral programs, plus some graduate certifications, are offered online and through distance classes. This gives students from various parts of the United States and across the world the opportunity to complete a degree from TTU CASNR without relocating to Lubbock, Texas.

Visit the Texas Tech University College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at http://www. casnr.ttu.edu for more information regarding agricultural sciences and natural resources degree options and careers opportunities.

Editorial provided by the Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Texas Tech University.

BANKING ON People, Texas Tech and the Community

By Laura Gutschke

Legendary Lubbock banker W.R. Collier ('61 BA Agricultural Economics) has many career highlights, but the ones he recalls first have nothing to do with company expansion or multiple-figure deals.

"I loaned money to couples to pay for adoptions," Collier said. "I had one customer who came to me and said, 'I'm an alcoholic, and I need to borrow $10,000 to go to the Mayo Clinic and take my family.' The treatment was a success and today he is a leader in our community."

Such personal recollections of his career thus far reflect Collier's philosophy for success personally and professionally.

"Banking is an opportunity to help people. That is one of the reasons we are here on Earth – to help other people," Collier said.

He is the senior chairman for the West Texas Division of Prosperity Bank, whose holding company Prosperity Bancshares, Inc. is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE:PB). He previously was CEO/chairman of American State Bank, which merged with Houston-based Prosperity Bank in 2012.

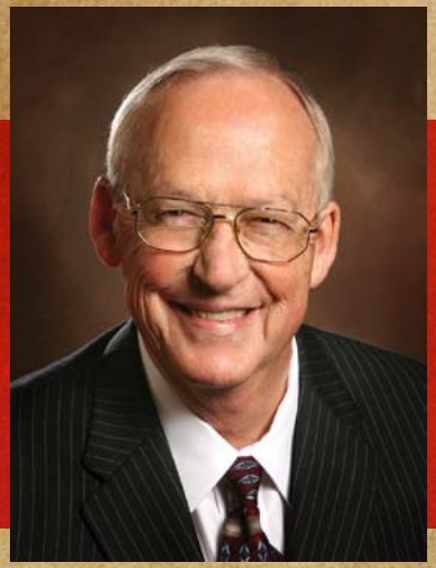
Collier joined American State Bank in 1959 when it then had only one location. He started working as a teller the summer after his sophomore year at Texas Tech University. During the school year, Collier worked 20 hours a week while taking 18 hours of classes and participating in several school activities. He lived in the dorm and was a wing advisor.

"I didn't mind working hard. One of the many lessons learned, if you're reared on a farm, you don't mind working hard," Collier said.

Through the years, Collier worked in all areas of the bank, progressing from assistant cashier to consumer loans, commercial loans, administration and the board of directors. He was named president in 1974 and president/chairman/CEO in 1988.

After Collier became president, American State Bank expanded as the state's new banking laws allowed the creation of bank holding companies and branch banking. At the time of the merger with Prosperity Bank, American State Bank had 37 locations in Lubbock, Abilene, Midland/Odessa, San Angelo and communities in between.

Collier can trace much of his business acumen to the lessons he learned on the farm and from his early mentors, many of whom were in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech. In return, he has been a champion of the college.



Meet W.R. Collier

Family

W.R. and Mary Collier were married in 1997. They have a blended family of five children and seven grandchildren.

Education

Texas Tech University, 1961; Southwestern Graduate School of Banking, Southern Methodist University, 1967.

Student Activities

Dean's Advisory Committee in Agricultural Sciences, Saddle Tramps, Alpha Zeta, Junior Class vice president and president of Ag Economics Club.

Professional Activities

Held leadership positions with American Bankers Association, Conference of State Bank Supervisors, Texas Bankers Association, American Institute of Banking Lubbock Chapter, Independent Bankers Association of Texas and Lubbock Bankers Association.

FARM SENSE AND BANKING

Collier's career path may have been different had he and his father not disagreed over hoeing cotton. It was the start of the summer just after sophomore studies at Texas Tech, and Collier was living on the family farm seven miles north of Idalou.

"All I knew was farm life. I had done all the jobs on the farm, and I thought I'd be a farmer," Collier said.

When Collier had enrolled at the university, his father had given him a few acres to grow cotton to support himself. But that summer he also expected Collier to hoe cotton.

"We had a disagreement and he told me maybe I ought to get a job in town," Collier said with a chuckle.

He soon interviewed with Jack Payne, the first president of American State Bank, who launched Collier on a new career path.

Collier said CASNR assistant professor J. Wayland Bennett, Ph.D. nurtured his growing interest in banking by adjusting his degree plan to include more business courses, such as business law instead of farm law.

"He knew that I probably wouldn't end up at the farm," Collier said. "I ended up with a lot of hours in business administration. Studying in other colleges is the norm today, but back then it was not common."

After graduating from Texas Tech, Collier served active duty in the U.S. Army for six months and was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He had been accepted into law school, but opted to return to banking in Lubbock, while continuing to serve in the reserves for five and one-half years.

Collier wrote his early loans in longhand and typed them after the close of business. He tried to relate well with his customers.

"You are helping customers achieve their dreams," Collier said. "Whenever customers are able to accomplish things, you are happy."

Seeing employees succeed also makes Collier happy.

"You have to look at any job as a team effort, and you try to surround yourself with as many smart, hard-working people as you can," Collier said.

Community Involvement

Through the years, Collier also took an active role in the community. His resume is rich with extensive volunteer service and advocacy for diverse causes, going back to when he was still a student.

While working part-time at the bank, Collier approached bank president Payne about setting up a scholarship for the Alpha Zeta ag fraternity.

"I told Mr. Payne that it was a wonderful organization that gave students good opportunities, and that it needed a scholarship," Collier said.

The scholarship the bank established in 1960 continues today.

Since then, Collier has been involved with many groups at Texas Tech, including the Chancellor's Council, Red Raider Club, Texas Tech University Foundation and Dean's Advisory Committee for CASNR. In 1987 CASNR named him a Distinguished Alumnus.

Many Lubbock organizations also benefited from his time and talents, including the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock State School, Lubbock United Way, Lubbock International Cultural Center, Ranching Heritage Center, Green Lawn Church of Christ, Lubbock Power and Light Task Force, and Chairman of Lubbock Power and Light for eight years.

Collier's actions in both his personal and professional endeavors reflect a grounded philosophy for how to live each day.

"I always tried to be a happy, outgoing person, to build people up and strengthen them," Collier said.

Marketing a Concrete Idea **Out of Paper**

BY LAURA GUTSCHKE | PHOTOS BY KYLE MARTIN

Zach Rabon ('99 BS Environmental Conservation of Natural Resources) saw a sure sign of the transformative potential of his new energy-efficient building product when two international manufacturers challenged his patent.

"That's when I realized that we are doing something extraordinary," said Rabon, founder and president of Mason Greenstar in Mason, Texas.

The patent was granted in January 2011, 40 months after Rabon submitted the application for his formula for a building block comprised of 10 percent organic material, 25 percent cement and 65 percent recycled paper. A generic term for it is papercrete.

The recycled paper, also called cellulose, includes a proprietary blend of newspapers, phonebooks and lottery tickets is made exclusively for Mason Greenstar by Houston-based International Cellulose Corporation. Also included is paper mill sludge.

Rabon founded Mason Greenstar in 2005 to develop and mass produce environmentally friendly, competitively priced building materials.

The blocks first made by Mason Greenstar involved mixing materials into an oatmeal-like slurry that was poured into outdoor molds to be cured by the sun. The trademark Greenstar BLOX is a traditional adobe block measuring 10- by 14- by 4-inch.

On the job site, the blocks are stacked like bricks and held in place with mortar and plaster of the same material to create a solid wall that expands and contracts evenly throughout the seasons. The plaster can be painted or overlaid with stone or other finishes.

The material also can be cast into other shapes and sizes in the construction of homes, buildings, retaining walls and other structures. The Federal Emergency Management Agency also has certified Greenstar BLOX as a safety shelter component.

"I've lived in a 3,200-square-foot house of this material, and I have seen it react to the seasons.

How **Zach Rabon** Became An **Environmentally Conscious** Entrepreneur

Given his studies in conservation of natural resources, Zach Rabon was bothered by the amount of waste he saw on construction sites.

After graduation from Texas Tech University in 1999, Rabon started working for his father, Kent Rabon, a long-time builder in the Lubbock area.

"Seeing three or four roll-off dumpsters for each house being built was devastating," Rabon said.

Initially an environmental engineering major, Rabon switched to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources when the new degree in Environmental Conservation of Natural Resources was launched. Rabon was in the degree's first graduating class.

"I had a passion for doing something outside of the box, and I had a passion for doing something green," Rabon said.

His studies were enlightening.

"When I used to go to class I would leave scared to death. It is not a question of if but when we run out of water, trees and other precious resources. That made me want to steer down a different path," Rabon said.

In his search for alternatives to traditional building, Rabon gravitated to concrete construction.

"We are one of only a few countries not making building with blocks mandatory," Rabon said.

In 2002 he purchased a ready-mix cement company in Mason, Texas, where his family had a small ranch.

Meanwhile, Kent Rabon traveled to the Big Bend area and discovered a papercrete product developed by Clyde Curry. Curry used the material to construct Eve's Garden Organic Bed & Breakfast and Ecology Resource Center in Marathon, Texas.

When the younger Rabon saw the papercrete, he said he was fascinated and started researching it. He spent three years developing his own formula for commercially producing papercrete on a large scale.

"I became a mad scientist," Rabon said.

He launched Mason Greenstar in 2005 on a five-acre site in an industrial park in Mason. A few years later, he built a 20,000-square-foot facility to automate production.

The new facility was built with recycled steel and includes solar panels, a rainwater retrieval system and a system for reusing water used in production. While a petroleum product is commonly used to line molds in concrete production, Rabon uses soybean oil.

"We are literally trying to be the greenest company out there," Rabon said.

The first automated production line was installed in early 2013. The new facility eventually will house two lines capable of manufacturing 30,000 units daily.

Since Mason Greenstar's founding, about $2 million has been invested in the operation, Rabon said. His company now employs eight people, and he expects to double the workforce before year's end.

In some respects, Mason Greenstar has returned to its roots. Curry and Rabon's father now both work for Mason Greenstar.

"When I finally got my father convinced about the product and he decided he never wanted to do wood-stick construction again, I knew we had something. He now works for the company, going to job sites," Rabon said.

"I've lived in a 3,200-square-foot house of this material, and I have seen it react to the seasons. It's been a great example as an experiment to watch develop over time and to show proof of product concept. It has performed beautifully as a sound building product that has outperformed conventional materials."

It's been a great example as an experiment to watch develop over time and to show proof of product concept. It has performed beautifully as a sound building product that has outperformed conventional materials," Rabon said.

In early 2013 the company installed custom-designed manufacturing equipment from a Canadian vendor to automate production of blocks in various sizes. The new system ensures uniformity, regardless of weather, temperature and other conditions that could not be controlled when manually casting bricks.

Rabon's material is more than just a suitable substitute for conventional wood-frame construction. Using Greenstar BLOX can cut construction costs by up to 20 percent because of the reduction of building materials, multiple work crews and job site waste.

Mason Greenstar's product also is resistant to fire, water, termites and mold, and has withstood damage from projectiles fired at 220 miles per hour in the Debris Impact Test Facility at the Texas Tech University Wind Science & Engineering Research Center.

"The BLOX is one-third the weight of a traditional cinder block but has twice the strength. It has a high insulation value due to the thermal mass of the finished wall system, whereas a cinder block does not have much. It is a green product made of recycled materials," Rabon said.

Rabon's recycling of paper mill sludge is garnering interest from leaders in the paper industry as a cost-effective way to deal with what is otherwise an expensive waste to manage, he said.

Lubbock is among the first cities to permit houses to be made with Greenstar BLOXs.

"It was used in million-dollar homes in Lubbock," Rabon said.

Mason Greenstar is garnering attention in all the right places.

The State Energy Conservation Office in May 2011 named Greenstar BLOX one of six top energy efficient products in Texas and awarded the company $50,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to assist with marketing.

At the 2012 World of Concrete trade show in Las Vegas that included hundreds of exhibitors, the local newspaper cited Greenstar BLOX as one of the top five unexpected things to see.

Texas Tech University became an equity partner in Mason Greenstar and committed resources from the Whitacre College of Engineering, the Office of Facilities Planning and Construction and the Office of Technology Commercialization to assist in marketing and testing the strength, durability and insulation factor of Greenstar BLOX technology.

The Texas Tech tests are part of the groundwork for Mason Greenstar to next receive code acceptance by the International Code Council. ICC approval will lead to more cities permitting the use of Greenstar products in construction projects.

Guiding Mason Greenstar in achieving ICC approval is Bob Henrich, a member of the company's Product Advancement Committee and former ICC executive director.

With an eye on soon achieving ICC approval, Mason Greenstar is seeking to license its product with partners on each continent. Rabon expects the building material to one day be available at home improvement stores throughout the country.

"In the U.S. we are starting to be more open to green construction," Rabon said.

MONICA KIWEWESI ('12 BS Food Science) is currently an eHealth intern for standardization and interoperability in Geneva, Switzerland with the World Health Organization. She serves as a member of the core team to the Department of Knowledge Management and Sharing under the Innovation, Information, Evidence and Research Cluster. She has done volunteer work with international organizations such as the Uganda Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity Uganda.

GREG O. CLARK ('08 BS Interdisciplinary Agriculture, '10 MS Animal Science) is an Agriculture teacher at Rio Vista High School and co-owner of Clark Family Club Calves in Blum, Texas.

BRANDON L. REESE ('05 BS Horticulture) announced the birth of his first child, daughter Blair Elizabeth, born June 16. He recently accepted a position as Superintendent at TPC Scottsdale, the golf course that is home to the world's largest attended sporting event The Waste Management Phoenix Open. Previously he was Superintendent of TPC San Antonio at the JW Marriott.

JOSH L. STEWART ('99 BS Interdisciplinary Agriculture) is an Agricultural Science teacher at Ralls High School. He and his wife, Amanda, have two daughters – Baylee and Adilee.

DAWN B. STUMP ('96 BS Agricultural Economics) was recently appointed head of government affairs for the Futures Industry Association (FIA). In this newly created position, she will lead and coordinate FIA's relations with Congress and participate in the development and implementation of FIA's legislative and regulatory strategy.

SHANNALEA GRUBB TAYLOR ('94 BS Agricultural Education) has recently been named President of The Bank and Trust out of Del Rio, Texas.

KEVIN R. MITCHELL ('93 BS Horticulture, '96 MS Agriculture) is now the Assistant Director of Parks for the City of Grapevine. He is also President of the Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) this year.

CHRISTOPHER B. HOFFMAN ('88 BLA Landscape Architecture) was elected Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). He is currently licensed in Mississippi and has worked on a number of projects, including the Clinton Natchez Trace Visitor Center, Siberian tiger exhibit at the Jackson Zoo, and numerous other projects. He is also a CLARB certified landscape architect. He is a past member of the Mississippi Landscape Architectural Advisory Council and an active member of the Mississippi chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture.

RICK BARNES ('85 BS Agricultural Economics) has been elected International President of FarmHouse Fraternity.

DAN B. SMITH ('76 BS Agricultural Economics)has been elected to the Board of Directors for Texas Farm Bureau. He and his wife, Reeda Cay, live in Lockney where they have farmed for 38 years. They have two daughters and two granddaughters.

DR. THOMAS V. ALVIS ('61 BS Agricultural Education) is currently working for Moak, Casey & Associates as a consultant for wind energy.

In Memory

CHARLES L. "CHUCK" ANDERSON
'65 BS Dairy Management

RANDELL H. LACEY
'76 BS Agricultural Education

C. THOMAS GANN
'49 BS Soil Science

JAMES A. POTTS
'48 BS Agricultural Education

JOHN B. STRIBLING, JR.
'53 BS and '54 MS Animal Production

JOHN W. BRACKEN
'61 BS Horticulture

KEITH G. BROCK
'56 BS Agricultural Economics

W. B. DUFF
'51 BS Agricultural Engineering

JERALD F. STEWART
'71 BS Wildlife Management

ROBERT R. REED
Former Plant and Soil Science Professor

Texas Tech set another enrollment record, and CASNR continued its record-setting student numbers with 1,856 students signed up for classes.

Texas Tech University System's Board of Regents approved two new degree programs in December. One is a Master of Science in Professional Science shared in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The degree can begin as early as Fall 2013. The target audience is people with bachelor's degrees in biology/natural resources, and the departments most effected will be Natural Resources Management and Plant and Soil Science.

An expert in youth development and agricultural education, **WHITNEY CONNOR**, has been named Coordinator of Student Programs with CASNR's Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center. She received her bachelor's in 2008 from the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications. She has on-the-ground experience in recruiting for the College, having been an Agricultural Ambassador and Agri-Techsan as an undergraduate. She officially started in October.

CHRISTINE CASANOVA, an expert in design methods for merchandizing, has been named an instructor in the Department of Landscape Architecture. The Louisiana native, who recently completed her master's degree in landscape architecture with a specialization in sustainability at Texas Tech, began her teaching post September 1. In addition to teaching, she freelances as a landscape designer, working in the residential area with a concentration on xeric gardening and resource sustainability. She also works as an interior designer. She's a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Native Plant Society, and is a Certified Lubbock Master Gardener.

The Department of Plant and Soil Science named a new instructor in September. **ASHLEY ELLE**, an experienced horticulturist, received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture and her doctorate in agronomy all from Texas Tech. One of her goals is to improve methods for assessing undergraduate learning and improving curriculum content quality through technology. Her current interests include sustainable food systems that can be produced in West Texas and other semi-arid climates focused on food security. She has a particular interest in plant species with high nutritional values and species that are currently native to this climate region.

AARON JENNINGS, an experienced judging team coach, has been named an instructor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. He recently graduated from Tech with a master's in animal science. In addition to lecturing in courses such as Introduction to Animal Science, Livestock and Meat Evaluation, Animal Breeding and Genetics, and Sheep and Goat Production, he will be working on research and coursework to complete his animal science doctorate. During his time as a master's student, he led the wool judging teams to top finishes in several national competitions.

Texas Tech continues its pursuit of Association of American University (AAU)-like research university status and Tier One with the strategic hire of a respected forage researcher. **CHARLES "CHUCK" WEST** is now serving at the Thornton Distinguished Professor of Forages in the Department of Plant and Soil Science. He is internationally recognized for his comprehensive research on tall fescue and a symbiotic fungal organism, an endophyte that improves the drought tolerance of the grass but also causes varying levels of toxicity in livestock.

ALLISON PEASE, an aquatic ecologist with broad experience studying the environmental factors that affect stream fish communities, has been named an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management. Along with teaching, she plans to continue her research efforts in community and population ecology of temperate and tropical stream fish, fish as ecological indicators, and conservation and management of stream fish and habitats. One of her goals here at Tech is to carry out international research on the impacts of environmental change on native fish assemblages.

Soil and environmental scientist **THEOPHILUS UDEIGWE** has been named an assistant professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science. He began his teaching and research in September and has plans to continue his research efforts on soil and environmental chemistry, water quality, and soil fertility and nutrient management on the Texas High Plains. He has also worked on developing crop coefficient for cotton irrigation in the Mid-South United States, and evaluated performance of transgenic and conventional cotton and soybean varieties.

KATHY LUST, an experienced South Plains landscape architect, has been named an instructor in the Department of Landscape Architecture. Prior to joining the faculty she served as a landscape architect with Parkhill Smith & Cooper, a Lubbock-based design firm that provides engineering and architectural design primarily in the public sector; as well as Turner Land Architecture in Amarillo. She received her bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Tech in 1987. She served as a member of the CASNR Advisory Board from 2007-2011, is a past president of the American Society of Landscape Architects – West Texas Chapter, is a former secretary of the U.S. Green Build Council – West Texas Branch of North Texas Chapter, and is a member of the South Plains Irrigation Association.

The Department of Plant and Soil Science has hired Entomologist **SCOTT LONGING** as a visiting assistant professor. His research interests are in ecology and conservation of endemic insects relying on permanent groundwater-influenced habitats, and how populations are affected by climate and landscape factors. Additionally, he said he would like to investigate the ecology of insects in ephemeral aquatic habitats in urban and rural settings on the Southern High Plains.

ROBIN VERBLE, a fire ecologist and forest entomologist, has been named an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management. One of her primary goals while at Tech is to facilitate the growth of the fire ecology and fire management programs. Along with teaching, she plans to continue her research in forest ant communities. In the past her research has focused on the fire history of Ozark oak forests, responses of Ozark ant communities to prescribed burning, and occurrences of carpenter ants in Ozark forests in relation to prescribed fire and stand variables.

Thanks, in part, to donations made toward the Dairy Barn Restoration Fund, the iconic Dairy Barn and Silo finally received a much-needed facelift this fall. The exterior now dons a new coat of paint, and the roof has been repaired and all the shingles replaced. Discussions continue regarding potential renovations and use, with interests of turning it into some sort of classroom, workspace, or office space for CASNR students and employees.

Three years into a five-year project, researchers in the Department of Natural Resources Management continue to work on stemming a massive decline of quail in Texas, despite last year's blistering drought cutting quail counts. The Quail-Tech Alliance, a partnership between Texas Tech and Quail First (a Dallas-based non-profit organization) is conducting research and demonstration projects on an array of topics. The team is also taking a closer look at predator activity affecting the study populations. Among the animals caught on camera are skunks, coyotes, raccoons, and bobcats.

The Rodeo Teams turned in strong roping and riding performances at the final of the fall season. **GARRETT HALE** placed first in the finals and took second in the overall calf roping championships. Team ropers **KYLE PARKER** and **CHANCE GASPERSON** took first place in the go-round and seventh overall, while **TRACI BAILEY** and **TRENTON HEROD** finished sixth in the go-round and placed in the finals Top 10. In Barrel Racing, **TAYLOR LANGDON** continued her streak taking second in the go-round, first in the finals, and first overall, while **SHELBY JANSSEN** came in first in the go-round, second in the finals, and second overall.

Texas drivers continue to support students earning an agriculture-based degree by purchasing license plates bearing the cotton boll image. In 2012, Texas Cotton Producers made $6,385 available for scholarships to CASNR students. The program, which is the result of an agreement between the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Cotton Producers, Inc., has been raising scholarship money since 2004. Purchasing a cotton boll license plate for the $30 specialty plate fee designates $22 for the sole purpose of providing college and university scholarships to students pursuing degrees in agricultural related fields related to the cotton industry. Scholarships are distributed between Texas Tech and Texas A&M University.

Texas Tech was selected to host more than 40 colleges at the North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference this Spring. Some 800 students from across the nation will compete in a broad spectrum of 13 different contests ranging from livestock judging to horticulture judging to ag mechanics and computer applications. NACTA focuses on the personal and professional development of members through the teaching and learning of agriculture and related disciplines. Serving as the host institution, Tech students are not able to compete but will be instrumental in the successful implementation of each contest.

After setting a record score at the Cargill Meat Solutions' Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest and taking its fifth consecutive first place honor at the American Royal Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest, the Meat Judging Team took home its 10th National Championship. The team won the American Meat Science Association's International Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Dakota City, NE by a 50-point margin. Tech won the beef judging, lamb judging, pork judging, specifications, placings and reasons divisions, and finished second in total beef and beef grading. Since 2000, the team has dominated meat judging competitions winning more than 55 percent of all national contests. During the past four years, they have won 27 out of 34 competitions entered.

The Livestock Judging Team continued its success finishing third at the American Royal Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest. The team was led by second high individual, **WHITNEY STUART**, who posted a score of 960 points. The team finished second in oral reasons, third in swine, and fifth in beef cattle.

Four students from the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications were chosen to participate in the inaugural class of "Ranch House Design Scholars". These students, selected from a pool of more than 100 students from 35 universities, began a one-year mentorship program with industry professionals to help build skills in livestock advertising and web design, livestock marketing, photography, video, journalism and social media. The students have opportunities to participate at various events across the country, including American Royal, North American International Livestock Exposition, National Western Stock Show, and the Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston Livestock shows.

In a partnership between Texas Tech University, Mississippi State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Risk Management Agency, researchers in Agricultural Economics have developed a problem solving computer program called the Stocker Cattle Analysis Tool. The decision tool is specifically designed to assist stocker cattle producers in evaluating a wide range of production, insurance and marketing decisions on their cattle. Those who produce both cattle and wheat for grain can also evaluate a similar set of decisions regarding their wheat production. The tool can be used to evaluate profitability and risk for different types and weights of cattle; wheat production versus graze out; and purchase of alternative wheat insurance products including: yield protection, revenue protection, and revenue protection with harvest price exclusion. Other options include the purchase of Livestock Risk Protection on stocker cattle, and choice among farm options. Pricing options for both stocker cattle and wheat include cash pricing, forward contracting, or futures hedging.

This tool is available at no cost to producers. For additional information on the tool go to www.new.aaec.ttu.edu/stocker2/.

A group of students from the Association for Natural Resource Scientists and Society for Conservation Biology assisted in a community-wide effort to help clean up Canyon Lakes #3, known by Guadalupe Barrio residents as "El Arroyo." The students have been working with Guadalupe residents, as well as members of the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association, for the past two years to help improve natural resources in Lubbock, obtain service hours for their organization, and network with the community.

The Department of Natural Resources Management has two faculty-led study abroad classes. A Fall class for graduate students focuses on research and is taught in the British Virgin Islands, and a class for undergraduates is held during the summer in various tropical locations, including the British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, and, most recently, Ethiopia. The program is not based in a single location, but rather involves traveling through diverse ecosystems, exploring historical sites, and spending time camping in a nature reserve. Students spend time exploring species and habitats through trips and projects.

During the summer of 2012, students were joined by 10 Ethiopian undergraduates in exploring biology, history and sustainability in their country. Together they explored northern Ethiopia, including the ancient rock-hewn church of Debre Tsion Abraham and the early capitols of Axum and Lalibela. Travelling south and covering almost 4,000 miles in all, students visited the falls at the source of the Nile, the capitol Addis Ababa, and several nature reserves.

The primary setting was the Nechisar National Park near the southern town of Arba Minch, which means "40 Springs" in Amharic. For a week, students camped in the reserve, exploring habitats and meeting zebras, hippos and even a leopard up-close.

Set in a land that has been ravaged by over-exploration and war and left not as fertile as it once was, students saw first-hand the efforts made by the Ethiopian government to update the infrastructure and invest in education, as well as the optimistic and committed nature of the Ethiopian people.

Group projects required teams of Americans and Ethiopian design students that looked at three species of monkeys found locally. Guest lectures by Ethiopian and international experts, including the Warden of Nechisar National Park, helped introduce the students to the challenges of managing natural resources in a developing country, and to some strategies that work.

The Texas Alliance for Water Conservation (TAWC), a research project made up of producers, industries, universities, and government agencies, recently received the Save Texas Water Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture from the Water Conservation Advisory Council. The TAWC began in 2005 thanks to a grant from the Texas Water Development Board. The project uses on-farm demonstrations of cropping and livestock systems to compare the production practices, technologies, and systems that can maintain individual farm profitability while improving water use efficiency with a goal of extending the life of the Ogallala Aquifer while maintaining the viability of local farms and communities.

Retired professor **GEORGE TERESHKOVICH** has been named to the Department of Plant and Soil Science's Faculty Hall of Fame. He is the fourth member to be added to the distinguished group. During his tenure, which ran from 1968 to 1995, Dr. T taught courses in Arboriculture, Plant Propagation, Small Fruits and Viticulture, and Principles of Horticulture, and he remains an advocate for the department.

NORMAN HOPPER ('65 BS, '67 MS Agronomy), CASNR's former Executive Associate Dean for Academic and Student Programs, has been presented a Lifetime Achievement Award from the University's Office of International Affairs. The honor was presented at the group's annual Global Vision Award Ceremony in October at the International Cultural Center.

The Department of Animal and Food Sciences honored seven outstanding alumni and friends during its annual Hall of Fame Meat Science Recognition Banquet: **TERRY CROFOOT** received the Hall of Fame Distinguished Service Award, **BRITT CONKLIN** ('97 BS Animal Science) received the Hall of Fame Horizon Award, **RICHARD LIGON** ('58 BS, '60 MS Animal Science) received the Hall of Fame Advanced Graduate of Distinction Award, **CHUCK ANDERSON** ('65 BS Dairy Management) received the Hall of Fame Graduate of Distinction Award, **ROD POLKINGHORNE** received the Meathead of the Year award, **TIM TATSCH** ('97 BS Animal Science, '99 MS Interdisciplinary Agriculture) received the Albert Usener Award, and **BRADLEY PRICE** ('98 BS Interdisciplinary Agriculture, '00 MS Animal Science) received the Meat Science Distinguished Alumni Award.

Two faculty members from within CASNR were recognized by Texas Tech's Mortar Board and Omicron Delta Kappa for their outstanding teaching ability. **RYAN RATHMANN**, an assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, and **JON ULMER**, an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications, were selected by the student body from a pool of more than 600 nominees. Only five honorees are selected each year.

Student Success Spotlight

A graduate student and staff member of the Department of Natural Resources Management has been recognized for academic excellence and involvement in fire-related research and service by the Association of Fire Ecology. **MICAH-JOHN BEIERLE** received the Harold Weaver Graduate Student Excellence Award at the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress.

Eighteen outstanding CASNR students were recognized as 2012 Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. In the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics was **BAILEY NUTT** of Dimmit, **KELSEY STOKES** of Afton, and **STEPHANY WINES** of Lubbock. In the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications was **KASSIE DAVIDSON** of Valley Vista, **THERESA GRAF** of Momence, Ill., **HARLEY HOOT** of Schulenburg, **KATY MCCASLAND** of Clovis, N.M., and **DANIEL RAMIREZ-ESCONBEDO** of San Antonio. In the Department of Animal and Food Sciences was **CAITLIN O'NEAL** of Dallas, **CARA WESSELS** of Missouri City, **BRANDON REEVES** of Mount Solon, Va., **DAKOTA WILLIAMS** of Glen Rose, **ROBERT MOORE** of Mission Viejo, Calif., and **GRAYSEN ORTEGA** of Lubbock. In the Department of Landscape Architecture was **JOSHUA EPPS** of Angleton, **STEPHEN EVANS** of The Woodlands, and **ELEANOR POWELL** of Snyder. In the Department of Natural Resources Management was **MASI MEJIA** of Laredo.

Texas Tech's chapter of Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow took home a series of awards from the Ag Media Summit, including the Chapter Leadership Award. Several students submitted their work in the conference's Critique and Contest: **FAITH JUREK** received third place scenic photo; **KRISTEN ODOM BROWN**, editor, and **DR. DAVID DOERFERT**, faculty advisor, received second place magazine for The Agriculturist Ag Com Student Magazine; **JESSIA LOPEZ**, **KATELYN KARNEY**, and **LAYTON NORWOOD** received first place public relations campaign; **KAITLIN SPRABERRY** received first place video and excellence in electronic media; and **KRISTA LUCAS** received second place video.

OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURALISTS

Established in 1969, the Outstanding Agriculturalist Award recognizes 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.

Joe Donald Hurst
Agribusiness

Joe Hurst was born in 1956 to L. J. and Grace Hurst. The fifth of six boys, Joe attended Lorenzo schools until graduation in 1974. He began his college career in 1975 with plans to become an Ag teacher in one of the area public school. He graduated from Texas Tech University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education and began his teaching career at Roosevelt ISD.

Joe returned to the family business as a salesman in 1974, following the decline of his father's health. Hurst Farm Supply, Inc. began in 1955 as a John Deere dealership in Lorenzo and a service center in Crosbyton. When the senior Hurst passed away in 1987, Joe became the general manager and he and his brother Terry become stakeholders in the company. Joe developed a process for trading and selling late model, used cotton stripers that enabled Hurst Farm Supply to earn the title of #1 Cotton Stripper Dealer for John Deere in the nation. The company quickly grew in the success and expanded to service more of the South Plains area. Today, headquartered in Lorenzo, Texas, the company has dealerships in Lubbock, Slaton, Crosbyton, Colorado City, Snyder and Abernathy.

A family business at its foundation, Hurst Farm Supply is operated by Joe and his sons, and his brothers and their sons. Joe attributes the success of the company to three key aspects: a business based on a Christian lifestyle, dedication to partnering with its customers to provide the best service and parts available in the industry, and a belief that the area the company services and its customers are some of the most aggressive and conservative producers in the industry today.

Kevin Igo
Producer

Kevin Igo graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1984, with a Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy. A native of Plainview, Texas, he is a third generation agriculturist in Hale County. He began his career in production agriculture in 1979 with the purchase of his first farm in the Edmonson are. He bought one half the interests in Igo & Igo Farms in 1986 and the remaining half in 1997.

Kevin is a leader in the fields of agronomy and cattle production. He currently farms 3,000 acres of land, with crops including corn, cotton, wheat, milo, cucumbers, soybeans and alfalfa. He also runs 225 head of Black Angus cattle and operates a feedlot/finish yard with background cattle. He is involved in using A.I. and embryo transplant for herd improvement. Over time, he has produced and raised 14 Breed or Reserve Breed Champion steers at major Texas stock shows in Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston. He has also placed 58 calves in premium sales at the major shows.

Kevin is also very successful in the Agribusiness side of the industry. Along with being a crop consultant in his area, he is also the president and owner of Halfway Farm Chemical, Inc. A family business he bought from his father in 1987, the company consists of four grain handling locations and three seed, fertilizer and chemical application locations. It has sites in Halfway, Edmonson, Plainview and Quarterway, Texas.

Richard L. "Dick" Ridgway
Public Service

Richard L. Ridgway received a Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy from Texas Tech University in 1957, and was awarded MS and Ph.D. degrees in entomology from Cornell University in 1959 and 1960, respectively. He began his professional career with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and later served on the graduate faculty at Texas A&M University. From 1963 to 1997, he served in research and leadership positions with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in both College Station, Texas and Beltsville, Md. He made scientific contributions to biological insect controls, regulation of pesticides, and pest management. He forged USDA's policy that led to Beltwide Boll Weevil Eradication. He has traveled extensively while consulting with international organizations such as the Agency for International Development, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Richard is the recipient of the Geigy Recognition Award for Outstanding Contributions to Agriculture, the USDA Science and Education Award for Special Achievement, and the USDA Superior Service Unit Award, among others. He has authored, edited or co-edited numerous publications including four books, and he continues as a member of several professional societies.

Dr. Ridgway now serves as the president of the Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation where he has initiated a partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the World Food Prize Foundation "to promote a broader understanding of agriculture and to demonstrate the importance of scientific knowledge." This partnership conducts an annual distinguished lecture in Washington, DC. The lectures inspired a related round table showcasing exemplary collaborations. A food safety project from Texas Tech was one of eight projects featured at the round table.

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