

# Landmarks

FALL 2016

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

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

*Matt Schertz*



# Landmarks

Volume 31 | Issue 2



A Sparkle in His Eye

Championing Farm and Ranch Families in Washington, D.D.



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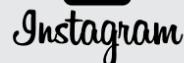
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## Landmarks

Vol. 31 Issue 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEET THE TWO NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM!



Meredith Hamilton



Kloe Burris

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

**KLOE BURRIS** is our new Student Assistant. She's been with us since April. She is a junior, Agricultural and Applied Economics major from Poteet.

Both these ladies are a joy to have and we welcome them to our team!

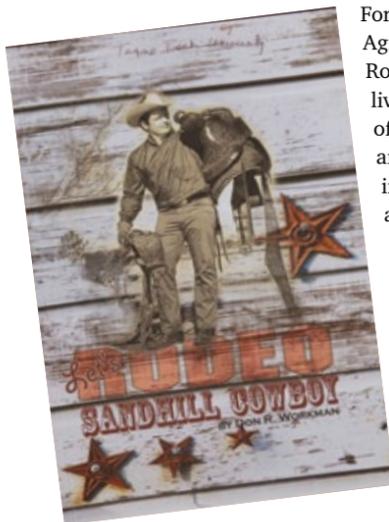
ARE YOU A PUBLISHED AUTHOR?

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

Books submitted will also be mentioned in Landmarks in the Where They Are Now section. Collecting these book not only provides us with good stories to read—it also serves as a great resource for classmates, professors, and other professionals to read about and connect with the CASNR family.

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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



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

A SPARKLE IN HIS EYE

Grayson Davies makes  
mark as Texas winemaker



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

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

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

"I started maturing," Grayson said in explaining his change in career paths.

He was the first to graduate from the Viticulture and Enology Program in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University. Today he is an award-winning winemaker for the family's venture now marketed as Arché. The operation includes a vineyard, winery, tasting room and wine club.

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

By Laura Gutschke



### PURSUING A PASSION

The name Arché (Ar-KAY) means beginning or origin in Greek.

Arché's beginning is rooted in Grayson's parents, Amy and Howard Davies, deciding to turn their passion for wine into a vocation.

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

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

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

"It was a forest of oak trees and brambles," Grayson said.

About 90 percent of the vines were dead, but the trellises and irrigation system were usable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

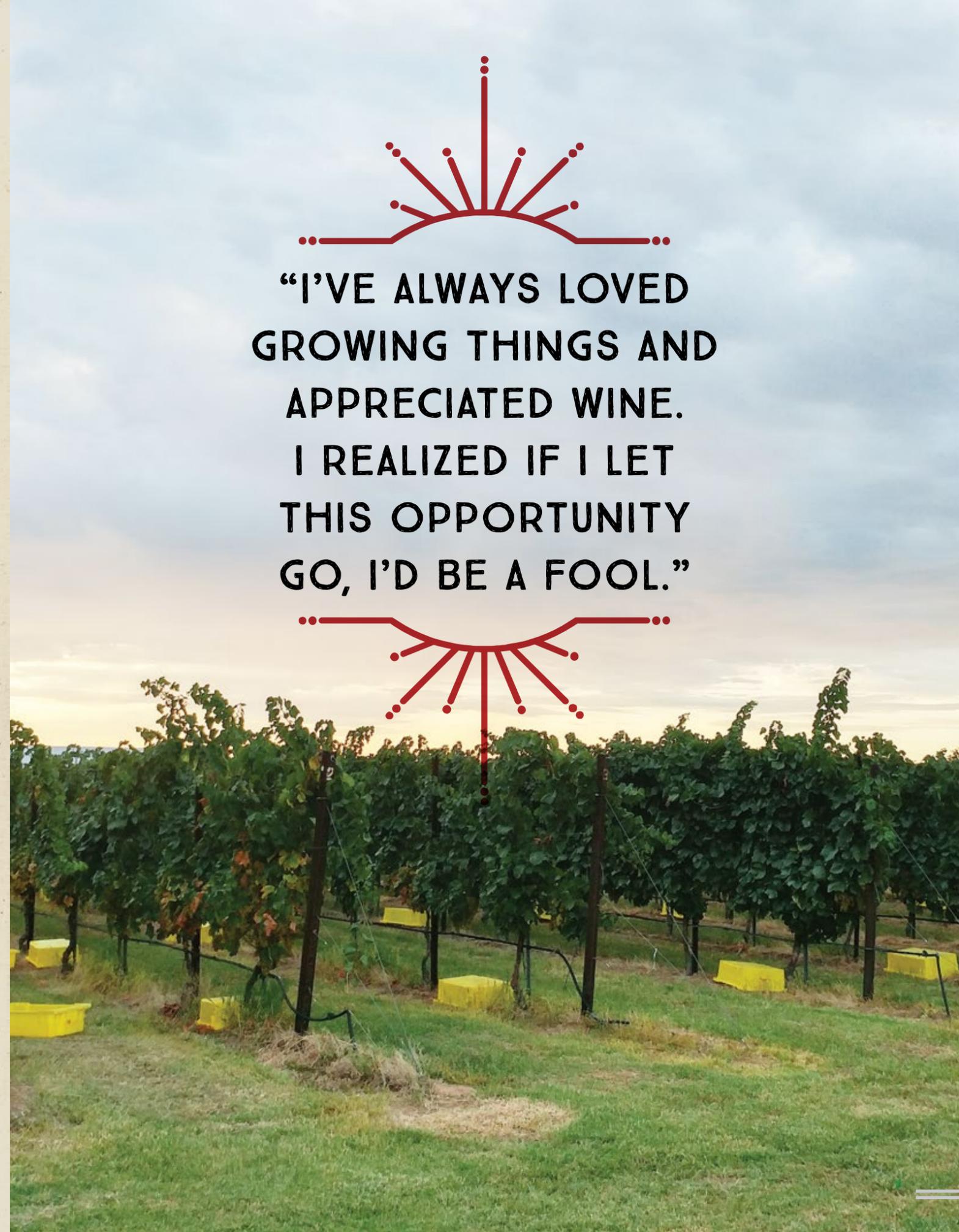
"I started maturing and asked myself, 'What do I want to do?'," Grayson said.

He realized the answer was in Saint Jo.

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



"I'VE ALWAYS LOVED GROWING THINGS AND APPRECIATED WINE. I REALIZED IF I LET THIS OPPORTUNITY GO, I'D BE A FOOL."





### RETURNING TO HIS ROOTS

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

A fortuitous meeting with Ed Hellman, Ph.D., professor of viticulture in CASNR with joint appointment with Texas AgriLife Extension, led Grayson to becoming a Red Raider.

Grayson met the professor at the family's annual Davies Grape Day in 2008, a seminar for commercial and hobby wine grape growers featuring industry experts. He shared with Grayson the college's plan to start a V&E program. Grayson was interested.

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

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

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

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

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

The expansion also brought a new title for Grayson.

"During the expansion, my parents said, 'These are your responsibilities. You are now the winemaker,'" Grayson said.

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

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

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

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

### PROMOTING TEXAS WINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# CHAMPIONING

*farm and ranch families*

## IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

*by Laura Gutschke*

**Working in the maelstrom of national agricultural policy, Matt Schertz ('01 BS, Agricultural and Applied Economics) stays focused on how what happens in Washington D.C. affects rural families across America by keeping his heart grounded in his Texas roots.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It wasn't until after Schertz graduated and began graduate-level classes that he finally had the time to consider it and apply. He was accepted into the program and moved to Washington in January 2002.



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### *seizing opportunities*

The timing could not have been more perfect. The House Committee on Agriculture was then chaired by Lubbock’s own Larry Combest (R-TX), and the House and Senate had just passed their versions of what became known as the 2002 Farm Bill.

“I got to see the process unfold firsthand and to witness the intense debate on reconciling those two bills,” Schertz said.

But he did more than just observe the process from afar. The work was seven days a week, and Schertz said he loved every minute of it and took advantage of every opportunity during that time.

“It’s this invaluable experience that makes the program such a standout,” Schertz added. “There’s not a university out there—land grant or otherwise—that doesn’t work to model their internship program after the one that was developed at Tech.”

One of the most memorable experiences was being tasked by Tom Sell, the committee’s then deputy chief of staff, to come up with a graphic visual that Chairman Combest could use in conference committee negotiations to champion the House version of the 2002 Farm Bill.

“He wanted a visual that quickly and easily showed how the House bill was better for farm families,” Schertz said.

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

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

In July 2007, Schertz left the Hill just before the 2008 Farm Bill was approved by the House to join the consulting firm of Combest, Sell & Associates. He considered Combest, Sell, and Jeff Harrison as mentors from when they worked together on the House Agriculture Committee.

“They are honest, hardworking and committed, and I admired their reputation and the work they do,” Schertz said. “That off-hill experience allowed me to see how the various agricultural groups work to advance policy,” Schertz said.

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



### *more than farm bills*

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

“It is a misconception that it slows down between farm bills,” Schertz said. “There are always important issues to address.”

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

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

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

Because farm prices have fallen significantly since the 2014 Farm Bill was approved, grassroots involvement concerning the next farm bill has started early.

“We’re already seeing farmers more active and focused and that is a good thing,” Schertz said.

He welcomes those occasional opportunities to travel across the country to speak to farmers and other agricultural stakeholders, and of course, he always relishes visits to Lubbock.

“It is always a powerful reminder of the responsibility of my job, working on policies that have a real impact on people’s lives,” Schertz said.

Although he may be considered a veteran of Washington, D.C., it is a job he doesn’t take for granted knowing full well the importance of ensuring the survival of the nation’s most fundamental industry.

“What I’ve learned from being here is that the continued success of American production agriculture requires a whole range of people,” Schertz concluded. “You need farmers and ranchers, and you need those who are passionate about fighting for them.”



### MEET *matt schertz*

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

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

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

**Best advice:** “Mr. Combest always said things aren’t as bad as they appear or as good as they appear, so roll with the punches,” Schertz said.





**DR. SCOTT BURRIS** ('92 BS Agricultural Education), associate professor and graduate studies coordinator, was named Interim-Chair for the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications. After joining the department in 2005, he served as the department's student teacher coordinator and advisor for Tech's chapter of Collegiate FFA.

**DR. STEVE FRAZE** ('78 MS Agricultural Education), the Shirley L. and LuCille Garrison Endowed Chair in Rural Youth Development, was named Interim-Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. He joined the Texas Tech faculty in 1988, was made full professor in 2004, and was named chair of the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications in 2008. "I am confident that Dr. Frazee will sustain the excellence of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and effectively represent the college to the university community, alumni and its many external constituents," said Texas Tech President Dr. Lawrence Schovanec.

A specialist in contract and grants administration, **GALEN AUSTIN** ('97 BS, '03 Ph.D. Animal Science), was named CASNR's new Grants Administrator. His primary goals are to assist faculty in their pursuit of funding and help identify other sources of support for faculty positions.



A nationally-recognized leader in landscape water resources management, **ERIC BERNARD** ('96 BLA, '00 MLA Landscape Architecture), was named Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture. He is a licensed landscape architect, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards Certified, member of The American Society of Landscape Architects and New Mexico Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and served as a regional leader in the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. In 2015, he received the college's Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center gained three new faces. **BRANDYL BROOKS** ('14 BS Agricultural Communications) is now the College Recruiter. She is charged with overseeing all recruitment of high school students and transfer students for the College, and travels to represent CASNR and TTU at local, area, state, and national functions, as well as two year institutions. **STEPHANIE LEGAKO** is the college's new Academic Specialist for Student Retention. She focuses on the advancement, satisfaction and overall success of CASNR current students to meet personal, professional and academic goals during their time at Texas Tech. **EVERADO MACIAS** was named the new Coordinator of Diversity, tasked with continuing the college's recruitment of high school and transfer students through a targeted effort, as well as developing and coordinating information and

printed literature emphasizing the college's diversity, its programs, centers and facilities. Ever is also developing and coordinating an undergraduate student diversity retention plan, coordinating with the other diversity programs across Tech's campus.

**JAMIE BOLOGNA** was named an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. She plans to continue her research efforts on regional economic development and political corruption.

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics named **STEPHEN DEVADOSS** as their Emmabeth Thompson Professor of Risk Management. His research is focused on crop insurance, risk analysis, international trade, industrial organization, and econometrics.

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

**JOHN RAYFIELD** ('06 Ed.D. Agricultural Education) joined the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications as an associate professor. He is working to alleviate the agricultural teacher shortage in Texas and nationally.

The Department of Agricultural Education and Communications launched a new agricultural communications master's level graduate program aimed at students taking courses at a distance. The online degree track provides cutting-edge development of professional communications skills for related careers in agribusiness, government service, education and extension. The advanced degree is designed to prepare graduates for entry into or advancement in a variety of mass media, marketing and public relations positions.

An expert in food chemistry and microbiology, **HUAIGIONG CHEN**, joined the Department of Animal and Food Sciences as a visiting assistant professor in food sciences. Her research focuses on the fabrication, characterization and application of food-grade delivery systems of bioactive food components such as antimicrobials, antioxidants and additives.

**ARLENE GARCIA-MARQUEZ** ('10 MS, '14 Ph.D. Animal Science), an expert in animal well-being, was named a research assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. She plans to continue her research efforts in animal well-being, behavior and physiology.

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

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

**DR. DICK AULD**, Rockwell Endowed Chair and Professor of Plant and Soil Science, retired in May after more than 25 years of highly-awarded teaching, research and administration within the Department of Plant and Soil Science.

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

**YONG SIG KIM** was named a research assistant professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science. His research interest is in the understanding of plant responses to biotic and abiotic stresses such as pathogens, extreme temperatures, drought and salt conditions by using *Arabidopsis* as a model plant.

The Department of Plant and Soil Science named **LINDSEY SLAUGHTER** as an assistant professor. She plans to continue her research in soil microbial ecology and plant-microbe-soil relationships in both natural and agricultural ecosystems.



**BARCLAY WHITE** ('14 BS Agricultural and Applied Economics) married **KATHERINE MCBEE WHITE** ('13 BS Journalism, '14 MS Mass Communications) on July 30, 2016. He is currently in his second year of Law School at Tech and working toward a master's in Agricultural Economics.

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

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

**BILL B. CARAWAY** ('87 BS Agricultural Economics) joined the Kelly Hart firm as a partner in the Oil & Gas/Energy Practice Group, in their Midland office. There, he represents landowners and exploration companies in state and federal courts, and both individual claims and corporations.

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

**OTTO W. LEHMBERG** ('02 BS Interdisciplinary Agriculture) and his wife **ERIN MCMATH LEHMBERG** ('03 BS Agricultural Communications, '09 JD Law) announced the birth of their daughter, Lydia Fay, on April 8, 2016.

**JOSH WILLSON** ('04 BS Horticulture) is now a tax manager at The Walton Group, LLC in Fort Worth. He was recently awarded the Outstanding Community Volunteer award by the Fort Worth chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants in recognition of his leadership in the CPA's 100 Year, 100 CPAs, 100 Hour Campaign of 2015.

**KORI DUNN KNAPPE** ('08 BS, '09 MS Agricultural Communications) and **CHRISTOPHER KNAPPE** ('11 MLA Landscape Architecture) were married in March of 2012. The two recently started a business together in San Angelo. WTX Landscape Design, LLC, is a landscape design and building company.

**LACY HAMILTON** ('11 BLA Landscape Architecture) welcomed future Red Raider Elijah James Hamilton in August.

**KATY JO MCCASLAND** ('13 BS Agricultural Communications) is now the Outreach Coordinator for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest.

## In Memory



**DR. DON E. ETHRIDGE**  
'65 BS '67 MS  
Agricultural Economics. Dr. Ethridge served as professor and chairman of the Department of Agricultural and

Applied Economics from 1997 to 2005. In 1997, he was named the director of Tech's Cotton Economics Research Institute. He retired from the university in 2008.

**MILES W. CAUDLE**  
'49 BS Agricultural Economics

**OPAL B. DWYER**  
'54 BS Animal Production

**MILTON D. ADKISSON**  
'58 BS Dairy Management

**WILLIAM H. "PINKY" ARLEDGE**  
'61 Former Student Animal Production

**BILLY D. BIGHAM**  
'62 BS Soil Science

**SARAH B. O'BRIEN**  
'65 BS Animal Production

**GARY D. CAIN**  
'68 BS Agricultural Education

**GARLAND BOOZER, JR.**  
'70 BS Agricultural Economics



**DR. SAM E. CURL**  
1979-1997  
Former Dean. Dr. Curl gave three decades of service to Texas Tech University, including three years as Associate

Vice President for Academic Affairs. He received the college's Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturalist award for Public Service in 2008.

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

**PHILLIP F. TRAMMELL, III**  
'01 Agricultural Communications

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

**DEREK WILLIAMS CUMMINGS**  
'15 Former Student Conservation Science

level educational experience to enhance the rigor and relevance of agriculture, food, and natural resources subject matter. In addition, teachers explored hand-on projects and activities to learn characteristics of animal science, and worked on major projects and problems similar to those agricultural specialists face in their careers.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

During an annual scientific conference on textiles in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the board of the Association of Universities for

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



**DR. MICHAEL GALYEAN**, former Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, was appointed as Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Texas Tech University.

"Dr. Galyean is a distinguished scholar and educator, with an extensive record of professional service and leadership," said Texas Tech President Lawrence Schovanec. "As dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Dr. Galyean has earned the respect of colleagues within CASNR and across the campus. I have great confidence in the leadership Dr. Galyean will provide to the entire university as our chief academic officer."

Texas Tech has begun the process of conducting a national search for provost. The Office of the Provost is responsible for the overall academic mission of the university. This involves working with the president, deans, faculty, students and staff to promote academic excellence throughout the institution. Such duties include academic and budgetary planning; review of all faculty appointments, promotions, and tenure; development and enhancement of scholarship and research; compliance with institutional policies and external regulations, including accreditations; and ensuring the quality of student learning by overseeing the curriculum and supporting educational initiatives.

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

**CHARLIE SNIDER**, a junior Animal Science major from Corinth, took the reins as the 55th Masked Rider. During his freshman year in 2013, he joined the Equestrian Team where he showed both Western and Hunt Seat against

colleges and universities in Zone 7, Region 2 of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. From 2014 to 2016, he served as one of the Masked Rider's assistants for the 53rd and 54th Masked Riders.

Twenty-three high school instructors from across the nation were on campus for a special agricultural science education course. The Department of Agricultural Education and Communications hosted the 11-day Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education program which provided a high-

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI &amp; OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARDS

The 36th annual Distinguished Alumni & Outstanding Young Alumni Awards recognized some of the most outstanding graduates from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The purpose of these awards is to recognize and honor CASNR alumni who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments and careers have brought distinction to the College and to the professions associated with agriculture and natural resources. One alumni from each of the College's departments is selected to receive the awards.

This year's recipients were:

**JOE M. "JODY" BELLAH** ('81 BS Agricultural Economics). Jody now owns and operates registered and commercial cow/calf, stocker, and wheat operations in Throckmorton, Haskell, Baylor and Robertson counties in Texas as well as Otero and Elbert counties in Colorado. He also partners in an order buying company in Abilene, Texas, two feedyards in the Texas panhandle, and a transport company in Woodson. Professionally, he serves as a director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Texas Cattle Feeders Association. He has served on the Texas Wheat Producers Board since 2005, was Chairman of the Board from 2013 to 2015, and has served as chairman of the Research Committee since 2010. He is also a member of the Texas Tech Equestrian Programs Advisory Board.

**BERHL ROBERTSON, JR.** ('85 BS, '92 MS Agricultural Education) of Lubbock. He is currently the Superintendent with Lubbock Independent School District. He is certified in Special Education and received a Master of Education in 1993. He also received his Superintendent and Mid-management certification in 1995. In 2005, he pursued his doctorate degree in Education all at Texas Tech. He has been a member of the Texas School Alliance Board of Directors, Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of School Boards, Texas Association of Community Schools, and was appointed by then Senator Robert Duncan to the Senate School Finance Advisory Committee, to name a few. He was awarded the 2003 Superintendent of the Year for Region 17, and received the Outstanding Young American award in 1996.



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

**CHAD DAVIS** ('94 BLA Landscape Architecture) of Lubbock. He is an owner and Principal at Parkhill, Smith and Cooper Inc., a Lubbock based multi-discipline architecture and engineering firm. He started at the firm in 2001 as the first landscape architect. He is a licensed Texas Landscape Architect in Texas and a Landscape Irrigator. He has managed projects such as North University Gateway and Overton Park here in Lubbock; the Laredo Parks Master Plan, Lake Alan Henry Sam Wahl Recreation Area, and numerous parks, schools, streetscapes and plazas. He has been

an advocate for Landscape Architecture since his days as a student. As a guest lecturer for a class at Tech, he spoke of the importance of the American Society of landscape Architects, or ASLA. He has continued his service with ASLA and has been state President, Government Affairs Chairman, and Student Scholarship Endowments Chairman; and was instrumental in creating endowments at each of the four universities in Texas with Landscape Architecture programs, raising an initial \$75,000 in five years from the 700 member group.

**JAMES ANDERSON** ('97 Ph.D. Wildlife Science) is the Davis-Michael Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources at West Virginia University. His research interests include restoration ecology, wetland and riparian ecology and management, and wildlife habitat relations. In particular he is interested in evaluating wetland functional equivalency and ecology of wetland-dependent wildlife. He has published over 130 scientific articles and served as major advisor for more than 30 graduate students. He teaches a number of courses including Restoration Ecology, Renewable Resource Policy and Governance, Advanced Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Applied Wetlands Ecology and Management, and Waterfowl Ecology among others. He is also the

founder of the WVU Environmental Research Center, an interdisciplinary education and outreach collaborative, and the WVU Natural History Museum.

**SCOTT ASHER** ('98 MS Crop Science) of Greensboro, North Carolina. He is the Eastern Region Agronomic Service Manager with Bayer CropScience. He has worked in the crop protection and seed industry in many different roles. He started his career as a technical service representative and has since held various technical, marketing and managerial roles. Scott served as the global project lead for a new development project which exposed him to agriculture all over the world including India, China, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and Europe.

In addition, the college recognized one outstanding young alumnus. The recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Young Alumni Award was Matthew Schertz ('01 BS Agricultural and Applied Economics) of Washington, D.C. He is currently the Policy Director for the House Agriculture Committee.

The measure of a college's distinction and influence depends greatly upon the achievements of its alumni and the positions they attain in their respective communities and fields of endeavor. These awards were established to recognize some of the college's most outstanding alumni.

The awards do more than honor former students, officials added. They spotlight the accomplishments of the college, Texas Tech and, ultimately, they enhance the pride of alumni, students, faculty and staff. They are tangible evidence of the effectiveness of agricultural and natural resource programs at Texas Tech.

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

Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, **CARTER SMITH** ('93 BS Wildlife Management), received the International Award of Excellence in Conservation from the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. He was honored in recognition of his notable strides in the realms of private land stewardship, the Children & Nature Network movement in Texas, and the acquisition of new park land.

The COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES was presented with the Campus Internationalization Award by the university's Office of International Affairs as part of the group's annual Global Vision Awards program. The award recognizes a college, department or office within the Texas Tech University System that has made significant contributions toward internationalization. CASNR has been a steadfast leader in campus internationalization, featuring four Fulbright Scholars on the faculty, one of whom is currently on assignment in Europe. In addition, it has been successful in securing nine Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development scholars, hosting three over the past few years.

The Texas Tech Board of Regents announced the promotion of three faculty members. **SCOTT BURRIS** ('92 BS Agricultural Education) was promoted to professor from associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications; **TIM GRABOWSKI** was promoted from research assistant professor to research associate professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management; and **DAVID WEINDORF** ('95 BS Range Management, '97 MS Soil Science, '02 Ph.D. Agronomy) was promoted to professor from associate professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science.

Four standout faculty members received awards for their quality teaching and research during the university's annual Faculty Honors Convocation. **CYNTHIA MCKENNEY** ('79 BS, '86 MS Horticulture), associate chair and Rockwell Endowed Professor of Horticulture in the Department of Plant

and Soil Science, received the President's Excellence in Teaching Award. **JOEY YOUNG**, an assistant professor of Turfgrass in PSS, received the Texas Tech Alumni Association New Faculty Award. **CLINT BOAL**, a unit scientist with the Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, was presented the Texas Tech Parents Association Bernie E. Rushing, Jr. Faculty Outstanding Researcher Award; **SCOTT BURRIS**, interim-chair of the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, received the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award. At the same ceremony, Emeritus Faculty Certificates were awarded to **MAX MILLER** ('58 BS Dairy Management), with the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, **DICK AULD** and **STEPHEN MAAS**, with the Department of Plant and Soil Science, and **TOM KNIGHT**, with the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

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

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

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



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