Since she joined The Ohio State University, junior Stacie Seger has been busy working for fellow College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences students in a variety of leadership positions.

Now, she is working for all Ohio State undergrads. An agricultural communication major, Seger was appointed last May as the undergraduate student member of Ohio State’s Board of Trustees by Ohio Governor John Kasich. She will serve a two-year term.

“In two years Ohio State has blessed me with unbelievable opportunities. From studying abroad to performing research, Ohio State has helped me grow and develop in ways I would have never imagined,” said Seger, the daughter of Ken and Janice Seger of Fort Loramie, Ohio.

“When the opportunity arose to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees, I couldn’t think of a better way to give back to a community and university that have given me so much. I am humbled and honored to be a part of a group of 19 people who are making decisions that will affect students for years to come.”

Seger said she looks forward to providing an on-campus, student perspective to board discussions and ensure that Ohio State continues to be one of the premier universities in the nation and the place for groundbreaking research.

In the future, Seger said she hopes to own an agricultural marketing and communication firm.

“My family and many families like it have played a strong role in producing quality food, and it is my career goal to be the voice of these successes,” she said. MAURICIO ESPINOZA

Watch Seger talk about her CFAES experience at go.osu.edu/XR6.
‘CULTURE OF COLLEGIALLY’ GROWS IN CFAES STUDENTS’ LEARNING COMMUNITY

Fifty-six students in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences have a home within their home. They’re members of the CFAES Learning Community in Ohio State University’s Norton House residence hall, where they live with other students who share their classes, interests and passions.

“The students are building professional networking opportunities that will continue beyond graduation because of the way the industry of food, agricultural and environmental sciences is organized,” said CFAES Academic Counselor Paul Heimberger. “Many of these dorm mates will continue to interact in career networks after graduation.”

The students in the community are declared majors in CFAES, including the college’s School of Environment and Natural Resources, or in food, agricultural and biological engineering either through CFAES or the College of Engineering. They have requested to be members of the community and are among the 112 CFAES students total and 162 students overall who call the dorm home.

Together they enjoy course-specific study groups, special exam prep sessions, customized service-learning programs, and presentations and services by college faculty and staff, including resume workshops and drop-in academic advising—all of it under one roof.

Started in 1971, the Norton House community is the longest running of the 21 learning communities within Ohio State’s residence halls. And it gets by far the best faculty support. For two years running, it has won the Outstanding Academic Partner award from Ohio State’s University Housing office for having more documented faculty involvement than the 20 other communities combined.

The same office has honored two of those faculty—CFAES Assistant Dean Jeff Hattey and Lynn Knipe, a professor of food science and technology—as Outstanding Academic Mentors.

Knipe, who presented a “grass-fed vs. grain-fed” steak dinner program as part of a wider series on food production, won the office’s award for best faculty activity in the residence halls.

“Norton House is a smaller residence hall—just four floors,” Heimberger said. “There’s a ‘CFAES culture of collegiality’ that is easy to build here.”

CFAES STARTS YEAR WITH BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH

It was a back-to-school gathering like no other.

On a Thursday evening in late August, 940 students, faculty and staff of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences poured across Kenny Road toward Fred Beekman Park where a picnic, a dunk tank, a mechanical bull, a kickball tournament, and even a spontaneous corn-on-the-cob-eating...

“More than half the students in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences now participate in study abroad programs—a rate that is up sharply since last year and is two and a half times higher than Ohio State University’s overall rate.”

“University Housing office for having more documented faculty involvement than the 20 other communities combined.

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Fall/Winter 2013–14

30 percent during the 2012–2013 academic year. In all, an estimated 52 percent of CFAES undergraduates participate in study abroad programs, up from 30 percent during the 2012–2013 academic year.

A key to the increase, Newlon said, was Ohio State’s switch from quarters to semesters. The change created the four-week May session, which hadn’t existed before and that last year drew 80 of the college’s students to new study abroad programs.

Also helpful is the ongoing work of the CFAES Voyagers, a select team of 15 students who have previously studied abroad. Their activities include giving classroom presentations to students on upcoming study abroad programs, holding study abroad reunion events, and hosting a 5K run to raise funds for future study abroad participants.

“Experience of studying abroad builds student confidence and opens his or her mind to the vast issues that affect our industry and their daily life,” Newlon said. “If our graduates are prepared to solve problems considering a broader spectrum of perspectives, we all win.” KURT KNEBUSCH

Learn more: cfaes.osu.edu/studyabroad and go.osu.edu/Wz8

The first event in 2012 attracted nearly 800 participants and received a 2013 Outstanding Student Organization Programming Award.

Benage, the Animal Sciences Community Alliance, and the CFAES Student Council worked with the college’s student organizations to pool programming funds for the first such event in autumn 2012, which attracted nearly 800 participants. The result was an immediate success, and was recognized by the university’s Office of Student Life with a 2013 Outstanding Student Organization Programming Award. This year, all 35 CFAES student organizations, plus honorary, fraternities, sororities and the college’s Diversity Team had tables at the event, offering easy access in an informal atmosphere for students to find ways to get involved.

“It’s by far the largest college event of the year,” Benage said. MASTHRA FILIPIC

programs take place during winter break, May session, or spring or summer semester. Topics range from animal science to sustainable agriculture, equine studies to turfgrass science, food security to climate change.

The Back 2 School Bash grew out of the results of a Diversity Climate Survey several years ago, which reflected the need for more community-building opportunities in the college.

“We realized that even though we have AgLympics and the college banquet in the spring, we didn’t really have anything like that in the fall,” Benage said.

CHANGE ANNOUNCED FOR ASSISTANT DEAN, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Jill Pflister, assistant dean of Academic Affairs for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, retired September 30 after 33 years at the university and a total of 36 years of public service. • Pflister worked closely with students as they prepared for graduation. She estimates she cleared undergraduate degree requirements for 10,000 students, and helped the dean hand out approximately 13,000 diplomas. Most recently, she helped lead CFAES faculty through curriculum reform during the conversion to semesters. • Under her leadership, Alpha Zeta Partners received the University Outstanding Diversity Program in 2013, and the Ed Johnson Outstanding Student Organization in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013. She received the Towers Faculty Award in 2012 and the Outstanding Service to Students Award in 1995, 2009 and 2012. She received Ohio State’s Distinguished Staff Award in 2006. • Taking her place is Steven Neal who, since 2003, served as the associate director of Academic Affairs for the Agricultural Technical Institute, the college’s two-year program based in Wooster. There he supervised master scheduling, registration, financial aid and academic discipline. • This background positions him well to establish closer connections between the CFAES four-year and two-year programs and to grow the pipeline of students from ATI to the college’s Columbus campus. • He is the principal investigator for several major grants, including one from the National Science Foundation ($762,416) and one from USDA ($281,509), both related to bioenergy education and workforce development. Another grant from the U.S. Department of Education, worth $1.55 million, provides additional support for first-generation college students, students who are low income, and students with disabilities. SUZANNE STEEL
Extension celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2014, and Ohio State University Extension is preparing to commemorate the date in print and on the football field.

The 1914 Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service, a cooperative venture among federal, state, local and individual funding support—a system of adult and youth education that has become a model for the rest of the world.

“We got our start delivering information to farmers via trains that carried exhibits and offered presentations,” said Keith Smith, director of OSU Extension and associate vice president for Agricultural Administration. “Today we are just as likely to deliver information electronically as we are face-to-face.”

To help observe the anniversary, Ohio State University Extension published a book, Memories and Milestones of OSU Extension. To learn how to obtain a copy, check extension.osu.edu.

A committee is planning other celebrations for the coming year, including a half-time show in Ohio Stadium during the 2014 football season. SUZANNE STEEL

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MEMORIES AND MILESTONES OF OSU EXTENSION INCLUDE:

• Farmers’ Institutes and Farm and Home Week, offered from 1913 to 1959, included lectures on agriculture and home economics. They were taught on Ohio State’s Columbus campus and attracted 11,260 people in 1939.

• Because of its direct link to rural America, Extension had additional roles during World War II, including investigating requests for agricultural deferment from the draft, helping with price control and rationing programs, managing the emergency farm labor program, and promoting increased food and fiber production and conservation.

• In the 1980s, Extension began its use of satellite and computer technology to deliver programming, including a satellite television show called AgriTrends.

OSU Extension brings the resources of The Ohio State University to every county. See extension.osu.edu for locations and contact information for all of our offices.
eXTENSION EXPANDS EXTENSION’S REACH

You’ve got questions—eXtension likely has the answers.

Pronounced “e-extension” and online at extension.org, eXtension is an interactive network that provides easy access to research-based information.

Developed and maintained by land-grant university Extension personnel nationwide, including those at Ohio State University Extension, eXtension makes the best information on wide-ranging subjects available to consumers any time, said Jerry Thomas, OSU Extension’s leader for Innovation and Change. It offers an “Ask an Expert” and a “Communities of Practice” option for users to submit questions to and get answers from Extension professionals, said Thomas, who has worked to develop OSU Extension’s participation in the program since April 2012.

“It’s helping people engage Extension experts in quick, easy conversations online,” he said. “It’s one easy way of extending OSU Extension knowledge into the communities by bringing the university to the people.”

Nationwide, eXtension has 71 Communities of Practice, which offer peer-reviewed information, 50 of which include OSU Extension experts. And OSU Extension educators, along with 70 OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, are available to answer questions via the Ask an Expert widget online. Users can access the Ask an Expert widget from any of the 88 OSU Extension county websites to submit questions including photos.

“Surveys show that 57 percent of eXtension users haven’t had any previous contact with OSU Extension experts,” Thomas said. “The program’s been a huge value for us to reach new clientele.” Some questions asked thus far include: “Will Ohio’s guidelines for trimming a pygmy goat?” “Where do we find a square dance caller for our party?” “What is a pygmy goat?”

“eXtension allows us to know where our clients’ interests are and what kinds of questions they want answers to,” Thomas said. TRACY TURNER

OSU EXTENSION HELPS OHIOANS FIND WAYS TO SAVE

More than half of Americans don’t have an emergency fund. Only 37 percent have tried to figure out their retirement savings needs. More than 40 percent believe they have too much debt.

While these findings from the 2012 National Financial Capability Study aren’t surprising to Betsy DeMatteo, they are trends she would like to see reversed.

That’s why DeMatteo, an Ohio State University Extension educator in family and consumer sciences, is coordinating the effort behind Ohio Saves, a statewide campaign to encourage people to save money, pay down debt and build wealth.

To sign up, go to ohiosaves.org and click on “Pledge to Save!”

“All you need is your savings goal and an email address,” DeMatteo said.

Ohio Saves is part of America Saves, a national nonprofit organization headed by the Consumer Federation of America. To date, 347,600 people have signed up with America Saves, pledging to save a specific amount of money for a certain period of time to reach a specific savings goal.

“Research shows that if you make your savings goal specific, if you give it a deadline, and if you write it down, then you’re much more likely to achieve it,” she said.

“So, just the fact that you’re signing up to be an Ohio Saver will help you achieve your goal.”

Participants have access to free resources that will encourage them to save money and reduce debt.

“Savers receive a monthly email newsletter with savings strategies from national experts,” DeMatteo said. “They also have access to online tracker tools and all sorts of encouragement and motivation. It’s all about an individual saver making their own savings goal and being encouraged and motivated toward that goal.”

Ohio Saves joins local campaigns already established in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Hancock County.

“Our hope is that Ohio Saves will pick up everyone else around the state,” she said. MARTHA FILIPC

Ohio Saves is also on Facebook at facebook.com/ohiosaves and on Twitter at @MoneyMattersOH.
2013 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW SEES INCREASED ATTENDANCE, CONCLUDES ON A HIGH NOTE

From teaching techniques for helping growers improve water and soil quality to helping farmers and producers learn how to combat invasive species, experts from The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences sought to “break new ground” at the Farm Science Review September 17–19 at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, Ohio.

And with an attendance of 129,864 visitors, organizers hailed the 51st annual trade show a success. The visitor total was an increase from last year’s Review, which reported an attendance of 114,324, said Chuck Gamble, who manages the Review.

“Exhibitors were very pleased and farmers were out there smiling,” Gamble said. “It’s a great time to be in agriculture, especially knowing that the global population will reach 9 billion by the year 2050, increasing the demand for food.” Following the theme “Break New Ground,” and sponsored by CFAES, the Review featured educational workshops, presentations, demonstrations and educational opportunities delivered by experts from Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, which are the outreach and research arms, respectively, of the college.

The review also included daily tours by members of the OSU Extension Agronomic Crops Team on corn and soybean production in plots established outside the eastern edge of the Review exhibit area.

Known as Ohio’s premier agricultural event, the Review annually draws farmers, growers, producers and agricultural enthusiasts from across the United States and Canada. Participants were also able to peruse 4,000 product lines from 600 commercial exhibitors.

Gamble said the Review sold out of exhibitor space sooner this year than ever, a clear indication of the level of interest participants have in the show.

“Between the educational displays, workshops and demonstrations our college experts provide, farmers know there are numerous opportunities to learn more about the newest research and innovations in agriculture out there,” he said. TRACY TURNER

LONDO NAMED NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences has named Andrew J. Londo as the new assistant director, agriculture and natural resources, for Ohio State University Extension. He started September 1.

Londo is a former professor of silviculture and Extension forestry coordinator at Mississippi State University. He succeeded Donald J. Breece, who served as assistant director, agriculture and natural resources, beginning in 2008. Breece retired in May 2013.
Years of tireless research by OARDC virologist Daral Jackwood have given birth to a new technology for making vaccines and diagnostic tests that combat poultry and livestock diseases, safeguarding our food production system.

This cutting-edge technology has led to the creation of a startup company, LARAD Inc., which is the first OARDC spinout into the university’s BioHio Research Park, an agbioscience technology park based on the Wooster campus. LARAD will commercialize the invention and has the potential to generate high-paying jobs in Ohio.

Jackwood employs molecular biology methods to develop virus-like-particles (VLPs). These VLPs can be used to make vaccines and diagnostic kits not currently available on the market, which increases the technology’s commercialization potential.

This technology can have a wide range of applications including viral diseases of poultry, swine, cattle, fish, horses, cats and dogs.

“These products will allow the industry to do things it hasn’t been able to do before,” Jackwood said.

LARAD will initially focus on production of VLPs for infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV), a highly contagious disease that affects poultry worldwide. Effective control of this disease is critical to the United States, the world’s largest poultry producer with an annual farm value in excess of $20 billion.

In Ohio, IBDV threatens an industry that supports more than 15,000 jobs and is worth close to $700 million a year. According to Jackwood, LARAD’s IBDV vaccine can be produced at a reduced cost compared to conventional inactivated vaccines currently used internationally. This represents a $17 million-a-year market opportunity.

The vaccine could also replace autogenous vaccines used by the U.S. poultry industry, a market currently worth $3–4 million annually and projected to increase twofold over the next five years, Jackwood said.

MAURICIO ESPINOZA

Learn more: go.osu.edu/UpH

“These products will allow the industry to do things it hasn’t been able to do before.” — DARAL JACKWOOD
What we eat is determined by more than just hunger pangs. It’s often an unconscious response to what’s around us. • “Our environment can affect how much we eat, and even how much we like a food,” said Chris Simons, assistant professor of food science and technology and sensory scientist with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. “Environmental cues—visual, auditory, aroma—can generate cravings that influence food intake.” • Simons is putting to use new labs in the Parker Food Science and Technology Building on the Columbus campus that will help him study such cues. • One of Simons’ new testing grounds is an immersive technologies laboratory, in which an entire wall is covered with high-definition video screens to help set a visual scene—the interior of a five-star restaurant, for example, or a fast-food burger joint. • Less obvious components are surround-sound speakers and a stainless-steel spout jutting from the wall that can pump aromas into the room. • “We could set up tables and chairs in the room that are consistent with, say, a Wendy’s restaurant, and re-create the environment that a customer would experience,” Simons said. “Then we can alter some things, perhaps pumping in some strong flavor aromas, to see how consumers react to different stimuli.” • The back of the room has a one-way mirror that allows researchers to make observations of study participants. • Another lab will allow researchers to gather physiological data, including heart rate, respiration and skin perspiration, to help measure unconscious reactions to various food-related stimuli including flavors, packaging or visual images of company logos. • The new labs, plus two new consumer sensory testing booths nearby, complement the traditional Sensory Testing Services offered by the department. • “The majority of new food products fail once they get on the market, and that’s after extensive consumer tests are done. With better ways to measure consumer responses to new products, we can help companies improve their success rate.”

—CHRIS SIMONS

TAPPING INTO THE SUBCONSCIOUS
NEW SENSORY SCIENCE LAB TO EXPLORE FLAVOR, AROMA, APPETITE

$2.2 MILLION GRANT BOOSTS RESEARCH AGAINST FLU VIRUS

UNIVERSAL VACCINE WOULD PROTECT HUMANS, FARM ANIMALS

As public health officials keep a wary eye for signs of resurgence of a deadly flu strain that emerged in China last spring, an Ohio State University researcher is working on a new type of vaccine that would vastly improve the odds of protecting both humans and animals from the flu virus.

Chang-Won Lee, an associate professor in CFAES’s Food Animal Health Research Program, received a five-year, $2.2 million grant earlier this year from a special joint program between the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Currently available flu vaccines are effective against only a few strains at a time, and they’re not always targeted against the strains that end up circulating during flu season. That’s one reason why more than 200,000 people are hospitalized due to seasonal flu every year in the United States, with thousands of deaths. In addition, flu viruses mutate easily, developing new pandemic strains that humans have little to no immunity against.

Lee’s project is testing swine and chickens at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center’s campus in Wooster in addition to mice—the traditional model—to develop a universal flu vaccine.

“If you can show that something works in a large animal, especially swine, which is anatomically, physiologically and immunologically similar to humans, then there is much more of a chance that it will work in humans,” Lee said.
“And since swine and poultry are the top two types of animals affected by the flu and sporadically transmit the virus to humans, you get a dual benefit from this research. “Agricultural and medical researchers don’t normally work together, but we should,” Lee said. In this project, Lee is working with Xi (Jason) Jiang at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. MARTHA FILPIC

Learn more: go.osu.edu/univ_vacc

NEW DRAINAGE DITCH DESIGN REDUCES MAINTENANCE COSTS, BOOSTS WATER QUALITY

Drainage ditches are often a must for growing crops in Ohio. They help carry excess water from fields.

Now, there’s a new, better way to dig a drainage ditch on a farm, thanks to scientists in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Research by agricultural engineer Andy Ward and colleagues has produced the innovative “two-stage” ditch design. Compared to conventional ditches, the new design drains water better, reduces flooding, reduces soil erosion, helps take nitrogen and phosphorus out of the water, and needs little mowing, dredging and other kinds of maintenance.

“These benefits translate to cost savings and increased yields for the farmer and to cleaner water for all of us,” said Kent Wamsley, project manager of The Nature Conservancy’s Wabash River Initiative, which is urging farmers to use the design.

The new design features a small main channel at the bottom of the ditch—stage one—and raised, grass-covered “benches” along the channel’s sides—stage two. In essence, the benches create a small floodplain within the ditch.

Among their benefits, two-stage ditches can remove 50 to 2,000 pounds of farm nitrogen runoff from the water per mile per year, depending on several factors, including their age.

(They work better as they get older.) Farm nitrogen runoff can pollute drinking water and is the main cause of “dead zones” in lakes and the Gulf of Mexico.

Two-stage ditches also can remove phosphorus from drainage water, Ward said, but further research is needed to determine exactly how much. Phosphorus is the main cause of harmful algal blooms in lakes.

To date, farmers and agencies in Ohio, other states, Canada and Europe have installed nearly 50 miles of ditches employing the improved design.

The work earned Ward the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center’s 2013 Innovator of the Year Award.

“The concept,” one of his nominators wrote, “is changing long-held perceptions of what constitutes a ‘good’ drainage ditch.” KURT KNEBUSCH

A VACCINE THAT COULD SAVE $664M A YEAR

NEW TECHNOLOGY COULD HELP SWINE FARMERS BETTER CONTROL PRRS VIRUS

An OARDC researcher has created a unique vaccine to protect swine from porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), a viral disease that causes direct losses to U.S. swine producers to the tune of $664 million a year.

Unlike the current live vaccines used to prevent PRRS, the new vaccine uses an inactivated virus to eliminate adverse reactions in pigs such as abortion, sick piglets and further spread of the disease, said Renukaradhya Gourapura, an associate professor in the Food Animal Health Research Program.

The vaccine is also enclosed in biodegradable nanoparticles, which improves its efficacy and its absorption by a pig’s immune system.

“Our tests have shown that two doses of this vaccine, administered intranasally along with a potent mucosal adjuvant, achieve 100 percent protection in pigs against genetically variant PRRS virus,” said Gourapura, who started working on this project in 2009. In Ohio, which ranks ninth in the United States in overall pork production, according to the National Pork Board, outbreaks of PRRS have been more common since 2010. Even among vaccinated sow herds in the state, the virus can cause 10 to 20 percent mortality, a significant economic loss for an industry worth $681.5 million in production value alone and that supports 10,000 jobs.

Gourapura said the vaccine has been successfully tested in a small number of animals at Ohio State. The next step involves extensive field trials in hundreds of pigs in commercial herds.

“The vaccine appears to be commercially feasible,” he said. “Once it is produced in large quantities, its cost should be similar or just a little more than that of currently available vaccines for PRRS.”

This research project has been supported by several grants from the National Pork Board, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s PRRS CAP2 project and OARDC, totaling over $500,000. MAURICIO ESPINIZA

Learn more: go.osu.edu/WY2
ATI

Thom Janini and Jon Flad joined the ATI faculty in 2007. Janini, an organic chemist, holds a BA and PhD in chemistry from Kent State University. After a post-doctoral year at West Virginia University, he was recruited by a family friend to a research and development position in New Jersey with Congoleum. This was followed by four years with a pharmaceutical company working on anticancer drugs.

Then 9/11 happened. “I used to pass the Twin Towers every day on my commute. There are many types of bonds—physical, emotional, even metaphorical. The bonds of place and family were an underlying factor in bringing two outstanding chemists to the Ohio State ATI campus, where they shepherded the entire suite of ATI chemistry courses through the transition from quarters to semesters even as they shepherd students through one of the traditional bugaboos of college courses.

Ohio State ATI faculty members Jon Flad, left, and Thom Janini are committed to finding the right formula to help students succeed in chemistry—a challenging but necessary course for just about every ATI major.

Thom Janini and Jon Flad joined the ATI faculty in 2007.

Janini, an organic chemist, holds a BA and PhD in chemistry from Kent State University. After a post-doctoral year at West Virginia University, he was recruited by a family friend to a research and development position in New Jersey with Congoleum. This was followed by four years with a pharmaceutical company working on anticancer drugs.

Then 9/11 happened. “I used to pass the Twin Towers every day on my commute.
Columbus courses, meaning “transfer” chemistry courses. Janini said, recalling his 1997 and 2004. After graduation from Stanford, Flad took a position at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Boulder, Colorado, where he applied his research skills in reaction dynamics to atmospheric chemistry.

After three years with NOAA, however, Flad began to search for teaching positions. “I wanted a position that was primarily teaching—which in chemistry is pretty rare,” Flad said.

At the time that Janini and Flad joined the faculty, at least one chemistry course was required in every one of Ohio State ATI’s 27 majors—either the technical general chemistry sequence of courses (which, by the way, are not offered anywhere else in the Ohio State University system) or the “transfer” chemistry courses. These are the so-called “Columbus” courses, meaning they are identical in content to their counterparts offered on the Columbus campus and must be taught by faculty approved by Ohio State’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, which is consistently ranked as one of the best in the nation by the National Research Council.

In 2009, The Ohio State University Board of Trustees approved the switch from quarters to semesters. One of the outcomes of the semester conversion was the combining of the two elementary chemistry courses into one course. With the semester conversion also came some new degree offerings for ATI, including biochemical sciences, in which students can specialize in pre-veterinary medicine, among other choices. The new program required the addition of two organic chemistry courses to Ohio State ATI’s offerings.

“The organic chemistry sequence makes ATI much more attractive for undecided students,” Janini pointed out. “Those courses, for example, are required for all the pre-professional science programs.” For the student who is looking to pick up a needed chemistry course, the difference between the drive to Wooster and the drive to Mansfield might be the deciding factor.

So what about chemistry’s reputation as the “hurdle” course that can make or break a student’s success? “I think we do students a disservice in this country by giving them an ‘out’ when it comes to challenging courses,” said Janini. “The message is sometimes, ‘You’re just not good at chemistry, but that’s OK. It’s not for everyone,’ instead of, ‘You need to work harder.’ ” Janini added, “It’s not even necessarily working harder, but doing the right kind of work,” pointing out that he withdrew from an organic chemistry course in his sophomore year due to his lack of study skills. “It’s my job to help students understand what they need to do. I used to pound that idea, throw it at them. Now I lead them to it.”

Ohio State ATI’s small class sizes contribute to that process. Flad noted that the introductory chemistry course on the Columbus campus might have 1,000 students enrolled, and different instructors for the lecture, recitation, and lab. “My largest class is 35,” he said.

Ohio State ATI now offers seven different chemistry courses at the freshman/sophomore level. “For as few students as ATI has, compared to Columbus, we serve quite a diversity,” Flad said. That diversity includes students focused on veterinary school, as well as those who come in with a “Why do I need to take this?” mindset.

Flad and Janini both find the answer to that last question obvious. “It’s a foundational course,” Flad said. Janini adds, “Nutrition, genetics, herbicides and insecticides—it’s all chemistry. But beyond that, it helps us understand our culture and society. Everyone can benefit from an understanding of chemistry.”

Even students who are not converts to the “everyone needs chemistry” school of thought do approve of Janini’s and Flad’s teaching skills. According to Ohio State ATI Interim Director James Kinder, “Student feedback on their teaching is consistently highly positive, whether that feedback is in the form of class evaluations or anecdotes. That level of student approval is frequently not found in required courses like chemistry.” He adds, “We are indeed fortunate to have such high-caliber chemistry instruction on our small campus.”

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I felt like I had arrived,” Janini said, recalling his drive home that day on the eerily deserted New Jersey Turnpike, as lower Manhattan smoldered. “My wife and I are both from Ohio, and we decided we didn’t need to chase the high-dollar jobs anymore. We wanted to come home.”

Flad, who is a native of Massillon and a graduate of Jackson High School, is a physical chemist who earned a BS in chemistry from Kent State University in 1997 and a PhD in chemistry from Stanford University in 2004. After graduation from Stanford, Flad took a position at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Boulder, Colorado, where he applied his research skills in reaction dynamics to atmospheric chemistry.

According to Ohio State ATI’s Interim Director James Kinder, “Student feedback on their teaching is consistently highly positive, whether that feedback is in the form of class evaluations or anecdotes. That level of student approval is frequently not found in required courses like chemistry.” He adds, “We are indeed fortunate to have such high-caliber chemistry instruction on our small campus.”

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BOND noun—1c: an attractive force that holds together the atoms, ions or groups of atoms in a molecule or crystal 4: a uniting or binding element or force

“Nutrition, genetics, herbicides and insecticides—it’s all chemistry. But beyond that, it helps us understand our culture and society. Everyone can benefit from an understanding of chemistry.”

—Thom Janini
MOSER SCHOLARS PROGRAM PLACES STUDENTS FIRST

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences celebrated a milestone, introducing the first Moser Scholar, Sarah Bookman, at the Ultimate Ice Cream Social in June. Support grows stronger for the program honoring the achievements and influence of Bobby and Pat Moser.

Sarah, a Food Science and Technology major from Loudonville, Ohio, in Ashland County, received the J.M. Smucker Company Scholarship, a named endowed scholarship in the Moser Scholars Program. As a Moser Scholar, Sarah will receive a four-year tuition scholarship and opportunities for support in study abroad, internships, and research projects.

The Moser Scholars Program, which benefits the students that Bobby and Pat have spent their lives helping, is more than one-fourth towards its goal of $5 million to fully fund all initiatives. Current funding in gifts and pledges exceeds $1.3 million, and donors are continuing to embrace this opportunity to make an impact on students. For more information, or to support the Moser Scholars Program, please contact the CFAES Development office at 614-292-0473 or visit us online at cfaes.osu.edu/development. MATTHEW MARX

THE MOSER SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS PART OF THE BUT FOR OHIO STATE CAMPAIGN BY PLACING STUDENTS FIRST. THE FUNDS SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:

- undergraduate and graduate student scholarships including study abroad, stipends and research support
- summer internships and year-round assistantships within Ohio State University Extension
- co-curricular activities for enrichment beyond the classroom, such as field trips, guest lectures and national conferences
- travel expenses and stipends for distinguished researchers and educators to visit the college, lecture and teach master classes
- undergraduate and graduate research projects intended to be competitively judged at college and university forums and/or professional conferences, or those specifically aimed toward completion of the student’s degree program
But for Ohio State

The But for Ohio State campaign is a $2.5 billion fundraising endeavor that invites those who believe in The Ohio State University to invest in our students, our faculty and our potential. With more than $1.64 billion of the goal already raised, over 521,000 alumni and friends have contributed to the campaign so far. The university’s focus is on these five priority areas: Place Students First, Elevating Faculty and Academic Enterprise, Creating Modern Learning Environments, Emboldening Our Research Agenda, and Driving High-Impact Innovation. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences has a similar focus for the campaign. With a campaign goal of $150 million for the college, the signature areas have been identified as: Food Security, Production and Human Health; Environmental Quality and Sustainability; and Advanced Bioenergy and Biobased Products.

As of August 31, 2013, the college has raised over $72.9 million toward that goal.

Similar to the university, CFAES has had a tremendous amount of support thus far, and will continue to grow through the public phase of the campaign. For more information about the campaign, call the CFAES Development office at 614-292-0473 or visit osu.edu/giving. CYNTHIA PLUMMER

Reasons for CFAES to Say “Thank You!”

$72,928,313

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences’ goal is to raise $150 million during the university’s But for Ohio State campaign, which is a $2.5 billion fundraising endeavor that invites those who believe in Ohio State to invest in our students, our faculty, and our potential.

“Our influence on issues of global importance has never been more vital, and now more than ever, people everywhere are looking in one direction—to CFAES—to confront the fundamental challenges of our planet. Food security, production, and human health; biobased energy resources; and environmental quality and sustainability all represent areas of strength for CFAES and opportunities to find solutions for a world in need of answers.”

—DEAN BRUCE A. MCPHERON

Campaign Volunteers Host Marilyn and Bruce McPherson

Volunteers in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences generously give back to the college, and the But for Ohio State Campaign Volunteer Committee members are no exception. This summer, several of the committee members hosted events to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Bruce McPheron and provide an opportunity for alumni and donors to meet the new dean.

Melanie Wilt kicked things off with a “coffee” for Bruce in her Wilt Public Relations office. Guests included more than 20 alumni working in the Springfield area.

Dan Wampler and his wife Lisa welcomed Marilyn and Bruce McPheron to their home in Mason, Ohio. Fifty guests gathered to enjoy conversation with CFAES faculty and students, and to hear Bruce share his vision for CFAES.

Bill Hirzel and the family of Hirzel Canning Company & Farms hosted more than 80 guests at their Northwood facility and Homestead Museum. Guests learned of partnerships between CFAES and area businesses, talked with CFAES faculty and students, and were treated to a tour of an operating tomato canning facility.

Kurt Deibel welcomed Bruce for dinner in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where guests met other area Buckeyes and heard the dean’s vision for the future.

As the But for Ohio State campaign moves forward, CFAES wants to thank our Campaign Volunteer Committee members for their continued and dedicated service. CYNTHIA PLUMMER

Campaign Committee Members:

Jack Fisher, BS ’67, MS ’69 (Co-Chair); Dan Wampler, BS ’80, PhD ’83 (Co-Chair); Kevin Adams, BS ’83, MS ’86; Kurt Deibel, BS ’79, MS ’81, PhD ’85; Keith DiDonato, BS ’01; Chad Endsley, BS ’03, JD ’06; Andrea Grube, BS ’00; Bill Hirzel, BS ’64; Todd Kranz, BS ’83; Nathan Louiso, BS ’00; John Torres, BS ’05; Mike Townsley, BS ’81; Melanie Wilt, BS ’98
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Ten years have come and gone for the 2003 Top 20 Seniors. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences contacted this group of alumni to see what great things they have accomplished since their time at The Ohio State University. Some alumni have moved across the country, some have worked their way up the management or leadership ladder, and some are even supporting agriculture at the White House. Here are some of the great things our graduates and alumni are doing.

ELLEN CRIVELLA
PORTLAND, OREGON

Crivella works for the world’s largest renewable energy consultancy, GL Garrad Hassan, serving as the department head for the Environmental and Permitting Services business group. She leads a staff of project managers, analysts, scientists, and GIS personnel in the United States and Canada who conduct scientific studies and prepare permit applications for wind, solar and wave/tidal facilities.

DANYELLE (DAUCH) LANTZ
CLYDE, OHIO

Lantz is currently working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency as the program technician and Junior Fair Coordinator for Sandusky County. She stays involved in the local community by serving as the Junior Fair Coordinator as well as assisting with the local Business Professional Association.

CHAD ENDSLEY
PICKERTON, OHIO

Endsley currently serves as the director of Agricultural Law for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. In that role, he advises the Farm Bureau on legal, legislative and regulatory matters, and frequently gives educational presentations to groups on agricultural legal topics. Endsley is a member of the College’s Campaign Committee, the State Extension Advisory Board, and the Fairfield County 4-H Endowment Board.

Top to bottom, left to right: Ellen Crivella, Danyelle Lantz, Chad Endsley, Jeremy Falk, Melissa Karcher Brewer, Lesley Fry, Jeremy Krone, Elaine Beekman, Carrie Pickworth, Joe Shultz, Lorraine Terry, Emily Siegrist

JEREMY FALK
MOSCOW, IDAHO

Falk is a professor of Agricultural Education at the University of Idaho. He completed three degrees in Agricultural Education, all from The Ohio State University. Upon receiving his undergraduate degree, he taught for four years, then returned to work on a master’s degree before completing his PhD.

MELISSA KARCHER BREWER
WOOSTER, OHIO

Brewer works for the Certified Angus Beef brand on the public relations team as the director of public relations. In her role, she communicates with consumers and the media about premium beef and how to choose beef when shopping.

LESLEY (KING) FRY
WAYNESFIELD, OHIO

Fry generates story ideas and manages media relations from the other side of the camera at Ohio State Lima. She is also engaged in graphic design, photography and managing several marketing communications projects and initiatives. Fry completed her master’s degree from Ohio State in 2010.

JEREMY KRONE
LITCHFIELD, OHIO

Krone is working at MTD Products as the engineering team leader. He remains active on the board of directors for a local charity in Lorain County and serves as a member of the board of trustees for ATZ Farm House at Ohio State.

ELAINE (MCCONNELL) BEEKMAN
WELLINGTON, OHIO

Beekman is currently teaching science at Horizon Science Academy and has continued her community involvement as a volunteer for FFA and 4-H. She is also a Farm Bureau member and helps on her family farm.

CARRIE PICKWORTH
ZEBULON, NORTH CAROLINA

Pickworth is a research associate at North Carolina State University working on university partnerships with K–12/STEM education. She and her husband, Dr. Daniel Poole, recently purchased a small farm in North Carolina so that the lessons they teach can be applied in their community.
JOE SHULTZ
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Shultz is the chief economist for the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and spends most of his time working on the U.S. Farm Bill. He is active by serving as a mentor to Ohio State students in the John Glenn Fellows Washington Internship Program, which is offered by the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. While in Washington, John Glenn Fellows remain registered students of Ohio State and earn academic credit hours while completing an internship and a research seminar, taking a policymaking course, and engaging in public service in the Washington community.

LORRAINE (SOMMERS)
TERRY LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA
Terry works for AT&T in Atlanta, Georgia, as a lead advertising manager for the national advertising team. She develops national advertising programs and campaigns and the components that make up those campaigns, including national television commercials (like the commercials with the kids!), print, out-of-home advertising, radio and social engagement. She works closely with many cross-functional teams at AT&T including PR, external affairs, customer lifecycle, brand, all forms of marketing and more.

EMILY (STAMMEN)
SIEGRIST COLDWATER, OHIO
Siegrist works for Purina Animal Nutrition (formerly known as Land O’ Lakes Purina Feed) through Mercer Landmark and Trupointe as a calf and heifer specialist. Emily is actively involved with her family’s 300-cow dairy operation, Wabash-Way Holsteins.

FALLFEST 2013
Over 350 people joined us in the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center for Fallfest 2013. It wasn’t all food and socializing—with the help of our Silent Auction we raised over $3,000 for the CFAES Alumni Society Undergraduate Scholarship. Miss us in 2013? Please mark the date of October 18, 2014, on your calendar for Fallfest and the game vs. the Rutgers Scarlet Knights. Watch the CFAES website and future Continuum issues for more information about Fallfest 2014. The CFAES Alumni Society thanks our 2013 donors: Ohio Pork Producers, Ohio Soybean Council, Mideast American Dairy Association—Smith’s Dairy, Velvet Ice Cream, Amanda Hills Spring Water, and our many Silent Auction donors. We would also like to thank Fallfest Co-Chairs Tim Street and Dan Boyssel along with our Silent Auction Chair, Sandy Kuhn.

THIRTEEN ALUMNI TO BE RECOGNIZED AT MARCH AWARDS LUNCHEON
The CFAES Alumni Society announces the selection of 13 recipients for recognition at their annual Alumni Awards Luncheon on Saturday, March 1, 2014, at the Ohio Union. Honorees will be recognized in Meritorious, Distinguished, International and Young Professional categories beginning with a reception at 11:00 a.m. followed by the luncheon at noon and the recognition program at approximately 1:15 p.m. Alumni, family, friends and mentors are encouraged to attend and support our recipients. Meals can be reserved online (visit cfaes.osu.edu/alumni for a link to the reservation form) or by telephone (614-247-2745).

MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE
Robert Hothem (BS, Agricultural Economics, 1975), Centerville, Ohio
James (Jim) Helt (BS, MS, Agricultural Education, 1961, 1970), Mt. Gilead, Ohio

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
John Miller (BS, Dairy Science; MS, Food Science, 1969, 1973), Dublin, Ohio
Kevin Adams (BS, MS, Agricultural Economics, 1984, 1986), Mandeville, La.
Bob Ramseyer (BS, Dairy Technology, 1960), Millersburg, Ohio
Ellen Bergfeld (BS, Animal Science, 1990), Madison, Wis.
Herbert Floyd (BS, Agronomy and Botany, 1950), Louisville, Colo.

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI AWARD
Muhammad Sarwar (PhD, Ruminant Nutrition, 1991), Faisalabad, Pakistan

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD
Allison Specht (BS, MS, Agricultural Economics, 2004, 2007), Denver, Colo.
Matthew Pullins (BS, Economics, 2000), Pittsburgh, Pa.
Anand Subramanian (PhD, Food Science, 2009), Marysville, Ohio
Marie Carity (BS, Agricultural Education, 2000), Minster, Ohio
Tom Stannard (BS, Agricultural Construction Systems Management, 2000), Wellington, Ohio
Greetings friends,
Ohio State has reached an important milestone in its quest for eminence. The Discovery Themes—Food Production and Security; Health and Wellness; Energy and Environment—represent strategic investment areas for recruiting new faculty who will focus on some of society’s most pressing challenges.

The first hires will occur in an area of research called data analytics—big data analysis.

To some, the immediate reaction is to scratch your head and wonder what this has to do with agriculture. Let me assure you, it has everything to do with agriculture, the food system, strong communities, and a healthy environment.

Have you ever programmed your GPS and allowed the voice on the dashboard to steer you to your destination? Do you ever watch the progress of the latest winter storm on TV? You’ve used big data!

Whether we’re talking about plant and animal breeding, precision agriculture, managing water quality, or investing in the commodity market, we’re talking about analysis of big data sets. Data analytics has become the backbone of nearly every research project we undertake, and understanding how to use data is becoming part of every major we offer.

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences will be aggressive in building new expertise in big data. We feel we can provide better leadership to the food and agricultural sectors by remaining at the cutting edge of our science. I look forward to introducing you to some of these great new faculty in the future.