For animal sciences major Renee Starkey, there’s nothing more rewarding than getting potential students or incoming freshmen excited about the college experience.

“I wanted to tell the story of Ohio State and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences the way that it had been told to me,” said the graduating senior from Spokane, Washington. “I wanted to help students find a passion and get excited about what the college has to offer.”

Starkey is a CFAES Ambassador, part of a small group of undergraduates whose efforts teach others what the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is all about.

Students chosen for the Ambassador team each year represent the college for recruitment and industry relations purposes. Since 1999, Ambassadors have worked with college faculty and staff, represented the college at national conferences, met prospective students, and provided tours of the college campus to incoming freshmen and transfer students.

Jill Tyson, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences coordinator of prospective student services and Ambassador team advisor, said that being an Ambassador helps students gain leadership, team building, communication, and networking skills; develop friendships; and be a point of contact for those not familiar with the campus.

“For potential Ohio State University students or incoming freshmen, Ambassadors are their first contact,” said Tyson. “They represent the image and the reputation of our college. An Ambassador is the source for learning what our college is all about.”

About two dozen new Ambassadors are selected each year, and come from a variety of majors including animal sciences; agricultural communication; food, agricultural, and biological engineering; food science; and agricultural education. Ambassadors generally

(See Ambassadors on page 2)

Buckeye spirit, academic drive, community leadership, lasting friendships. Students such as Renee Starkey show those new to the college experience what’s possible in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.
College dominates TELR’s distance-education fund competition

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences obtained both of the grants awarded by Ohio State University’s Office of Technology Enhanced Learning and Research (TELR) in March for developing e-learning degree programs.

The departments of Human and Community Resource Development and Plant Pathology submitted successful proposals to the Distance and Open Education Innovation Funds, which TELR provides each year with the goal of nurturing degree programs “that enable any place/any time learning through innovative uses of technology.”

One of the grants ($12,369) will be used to determine the need and support for the development of an online master’s degree in agricultural and Extension education (AEE), said Emily Rhoades, an assistant professor of agricultural communications and leader of the proposal.

The proposed program would be designed to target part-time, nontraditional students with full-time employment as practitioners in the AEE field—such as secondary agricultural teachers, Extension educators, and agricultural communicators. Because it would rely on distance-education technology for its delivery, the program would also be available to students beyond Ohio and traditional AEE graduate students who prefer an online format.

The second grant ($15,000) will help cover the costs of planning a master’s degree in plant protection, said Mike Boehm, professor and chair of the Department of Plant Pathology. The 18-month, non-thesis, executive MBA-style degree will cover a variety of topics, including basic and applied science, management, and communications.

“This program will be designed for busy professionals such as certified crop advisors, Extension-type specialists, and others in private companies that deal with crop production,” Boehm explained. “It will take advantage of e-learning and offer weekend courses.”

For more information about TELR services and funding opportunities, visit http://telr.osu.edu.

MAURICIO ESPINOZA

serve for one year, although they can reapply once their term is up.

Tyson said that the work Ambassadors conduct is strictly on a volunteer basis, and the application process to become an Ambassador is very competitive. However, those who are selected as Ambassadors find the experience quite rewarding.

“Being a part of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Ambassador team has been one of the most rewarding and influential experiences I have had in my college career,” said Lynn Wischmeyer, a food science and technology major who is in her second year on the Ambassador team. “I have gained more confidence in myself, worked with and met amazing people, gained knowledge about the world we live in and the goals we need to achieve, and developed a passion for agriculture.”

The efforts of the CFAES Ambassadors, giving to the college while learning more about themselves, is gaining national recognition. Over the past two years, Ambassadors have received awards during the National Agricultural Ambassador Conference in both recruitment and retention and excellence in service—the first time the program has been recognized nationally.

This year, the experiences of the CFAES Ambassadors will expand to college alumni through a mentoring program between Ambassadors and alumni board members.

“For me, becoming an Ambassador was about reaching out. I saw it as an opportunity to share the great experiences I have had at Ohio State and help prospective students make the right choice for their future while allowing myself to grow as a leader,” said Kayla Weaver, a junior in agricultural communication and a newly selected Ambassador. “Being an Ambassador gives me a chance to give back to the college and have an impact on its future.”

To learn more about the college’s Ambassador program, see its web site at http://cfaes.osu.edu/ambassadors.
More undergraduate students in Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences are seeking an educational experience beyond U.S. borders.

Participation in study abroad programs is increasing, with nearly 20 percent more college students enrolling in college-based and university-wide programs this year than in 2008. The growth is due largely to the creation of short-term programs that allow students to earn academic credits but require less time away from home, said Kelly Koren, the college’s study abroad director.

“The traditional study abroad programs last six weeks and students receive a quarter’s worth of credits. The short-term programs usually take place between quarters—10 days give or take,” said Koren. “The short-term programs make it more feasible from a time and money perspective, still giving students the self-confidence to travel while not requiring them to be away from home for very long.”

Four new short-term study abroad programs are being offered to students this year: CFAES Freshmen Experience in Mexico, which gives freshmen a first-hand experience with Mexican culture, the global economy, and labor issues; Chile Agro-Ecosystems, which introduces students to the many facets of the agricultural phenomena that has transformed Chile’s place in the global market; Iceland Environment and Natural Resources Scholars, which exposes students to the country’s unique and diverse environmental advantages, as well as problems; and Ireland Human and Animal Interactions, which focuses on the role of animals in society.

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Study Abroad office offers 16 different programs, both short-term and long-term, to such locations as Australia, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, South Africa, England, Ghana, Costa Rica, and Netherlands.

The goal of the academic opportunities is to fulfill the college’s strategic plan of having at least 50 percent of the undergraduate student body come away with some type of international experience, whether it’s through internships, research, volunteerism, or academics.

For more information on the study abroad programs, log on to http://cfaes.osu.edu/studyabroad.

† CANDACE POLLOCK
Scientists hope to bring organic hard wheat—and the mills, bakeries, jobs, and income that would spring up around it—to Ohio

Deb Stinner sees bread wheat growing where it hasn’t been: in Ohio.

Her work could boost income for the state’s organic farmers, create new jobs at new mills and new bakeries, and give people more good, fresh, local bread.

Stinner and her colleagues—Mary Guttieri and Clay Sneller of Ohio State and Ed Souza of the U.S. Department of Agriculture—are evaluating hard winter wheat in Ohio. They’re looking for varieties that are genetically suited to growing here—specifically, under organic production.

If they find them—they think they will—they’ll determine the best ways to grow them organically. Soil fertility and amendments, disease control and resistance, baking quality, and more, plus how they all interconnect, will be studied.

A new organic grain mill in Henry County (wanting more local grain), at least two Ohio-based bakeries (ditto), and a number of organic farmers are actively interested.

“It’s important to keep a small grain (such as wheat) in an organic rotation,” said Stinner, administrative coordinator of Ohio State’s Organic Food and Farming Education and Research (OFFER) Program. “But it’s also the part that gets the least economic return.” A typical four-year organic rotation has corn, soybeans, wheat, and red clover in it.

“I was looking for something that could increase the value of (the small-grain) part of a good solid organic rotation,” she explained. “I got interested in hard wheat because I knew it was valuable, and also because I like good bread.”

While Ohio farmers already grow wheat—some 1 million acres’ worth just this year—most of it’s soft winter wheat, good for cakes and cookies. It earns around $4 a bushel if conventionally grown and about double that if organic. Hard wheat—high in protein, needed for quality bread, and mostly shipped in from elsewhere—earns about $5 a bushel conventional and up to $20 a bushel organic.  

KURT KNEBUSCH
Green genes? Roll the video

John Finer’s animations show plant tissues growing, genes expressing, ‘things I’ve never seen before’

A scientist at The Ohio State University has developed a way to see weeks’ worth of plant genes at work in just seconds.

The system—through striking time-lapse animations of plant tissues growing—shows when genes turn on, turn off, or do neither.

With it researchers can watch the process unfold, can spot changes the moment they happen, and can quantify what goes on.

John Finer, a biotechnologist with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and the system’s inventor, said it will shed new light on how gene promoters function and will lead to a “toolbox” of proven promoters for use in genetic engineering—in this case, of soybeans. The promoter part of a gene dictates when and where the gene turns on.

A promoter shown to work well in root tissue, for example, could be included in a soybean line to activate genes for resistance to the root-feeding soybean cyst nematode.

“I’ve been studying some of these processes over the past 20 years of my career,” Finer said, “and I can see things now that I’ve never seen before.”

Until now, studying gene expression in plant tissue took weeks and often subtle changes were completely missed.

The new system, Finer said, “takes long-term experiments and condenses them into a presentable form.”

It uses a digital camera; custom robotics platform; special Petri dishes that don’t fog up—another Finer invention; and, in the tissue samples, a marker gene called green fluorescent protein that glows when active—if the promoter being tested has turned it on.

The camera captures images over days or weeks. Finer and colleagues collect them, create animations, and analyze the results: Which promoters turned genes on? Where? How long? How strong?

“It opens your eyes,” Finer said, “to little things.”

See samples of Finer’s animations at http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/PlantranSlab/Robotics.htm (click on “digital time-lapse animations”).
Research helps boost beef cattle reproduction efficiency

Animal scientists with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center have pioneered a new protocol for increasing pregnancy rates in beef cattle, which is expected to lead to higher production efficiency and cost and time savings for farmers in Ohio and throughout the nation.

The new fixed-time artificial insemination (AI) protocol—known as “5-day CO-Synch + CIDR”—represents an important advancement in efforts to better synchronize a beef cow’s estrus (heat) cycle so that AI can be administered to the largest number of cattle possible at the same time.

“We have been working on this protocol during the past five years, modifying what has been done in the field in the past,” said Mike Day, an animal sciences professor responsible for the breakthrough. “We managed to shorten the duration of standard estrus synchronization programs to increase the opportunity for cows to be at optimum fertility when AI is done.”

The protocol, which has now become a recommended practice within the beef cattle industry, increases pregnancy rates of cows by 11 percent. It has been tested on more than 1,200 cows in Virginia and Ohio (including at OARDC’s Eastern and Jackson agricultural research stations and at the OSU Beef Center in Columbus), resulting in 68 percent of cows getting pregnant within one day.

More information about beef reproduction research and outreach efforts can be found at http://beef.osu.edu. ■ MAURICIO ESPINOZA
Thirty years ago, John Hageman stepped onto a Lake Erie boat as part of his high school Stone Laboratory field trip, and he was hooked. “The moment I pulled up a net full of fish, I knew science was what I wanted to do,” said Hageman. Now the leader of the same program that sparked his own interest as a high school student, Sea Grant Extension’s Hageman brings science to life for more than 7,000 grade school and high school students every year.

Stone Laboratory’s aquatic workshop program started in 1973 with the idea that kids learn science better and retain information longer if they can participate in hands-on activities. “We saw early on that if students are wading in Lake Erie water with nets in their hands and catching fish and invertebrates, they’re going to remember what they learned much better than in a classroom,” explained Hageman.

Located on Ohio State University’s island campus on Lake Erie, Stone Laboratory uses the lake as a living laboratory to provide student groups from all over the country with one-of-a-kind, interactive science experiences.

From the kids’ perspective, they’re Lake Erie scientists for the day. They venture out onto Stone Lab research vessels to take water samples and head back to the lab to analyze what they captured. They dissect fish from a trawl they pulled earlier in the day and scour the island for native bird, plant, and reptile species. From their teachers’ perspective, Stone Lab is applying science concepts that the students could never fully understand if they were anywhere else.

Hageman points out that for many of his students, the workshop program is the first time they have ever had the opportunity to see Lake Erie, Ohio’s most valuable natural resource. “When they see firsthand all the life that Lake Erie holds, it’s hard not to want to preserve and protect it,” said Hageman.

And that may be why so many of the 100,000+ students who have gone through the workshop program over the years end up returning later in college to take one of Stone Lab’s 30 summer courses. Stone Lab incites learning all around.

“There is nothing better than seeing a student get excited about the science they’re learning,” said Hageman. “And if that excitement can lead to sparking the next Lake Erie scientist, like it did for me, that’s all the better.”

For more about Ohio State’s Stone Laboratory Program, call (614) 292-8949 or go to http://stonelab.osu.edu.

The Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory Program was selected as Ohio State University’s nominee for National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges “2009 C. Peter Magrath Engagement Award,” an award honoring the nation’s top university outreach and engagement projects.
In May 2008, Ohio State University Extension launched what promised to be an exciting venture: a strategic plan to guide the organization through 2014.

Less than a year later, Extension has turned time and again to that plan to guide the organization through a rocky recession and the deep budget reductions that have resulted, including a 4.75 percent state funding rescission in October 2008 and a 5.75 rescission in January 2009.

Looking ahead to the next biennium, it’s unclear what the future holds. But the governor’s proposed state budget would mean 24 percent less for Extension in fiscal year 2011 than in 2008.

“We know this loss of income in no way reflects the value we offer,” said Keith Smith, director of OSU Extension and associate vice president of agricultural administration. “No other organization provides the delivery system for lifelong learning that Extension does. Our reorganization plan is designed to allow us to continue, even in a grim economy, and will allow us to bounce back quickly as economic conditions improve.”

Reduced funding has led to a swifter restructuring than anticipated. A key tactic allows Extension educators to specialize more in their areas of expertise and to share their knowledge across county lines, in clusters of nine to twelve counties called Extension Education and research Areas.

Such a change makes sense, said Treva Williams, who was named in April as one of the new area leaders.

“This strategy is going to allow Extension educators and support staff to become more specialized,” Williams said. “They will be able to focus on their strengths and their interests, and really be allowed to shine.”

In Extension’s traditional structure, educators often needed to be “an expert on everything,” Williams said. Now, questions about garden tomatoes, for example, can be directed to an educator in a nearby county who specializes in consumer horticulture instead of relying on the expertise of an educator who might know more about grain. Similarly, support staff who prefer working with numbers will be able to focus on fiscal matters across counties, while those who are best at updating web pages and editing newsletters can concentrate on that.

As always, county funding is essential, Smith said, and counties that provide more funding will receive more from OSU Extension. “Services will follow dollars—that’s only fair,” Smith said. “But our plan is to continue to have some type of Extension presence in every county in Ohio.”

OSU Extension’s Strategic Plan (2008) and Reorganization Model (March 2009) both are available at http://extension.osu.edu.

**Grow your own scarlet buckeye—and why**

Ohio State University President Gordon Gee planted a scarlet buckeye in March in Wooster, the first in a forest of Signature Trees that will soon grace Ohio communities.

Ohio State’s new Signature Trees project has grown 1,700 young scarlet buckeyes, silver lindens, and pagoda dogwoods and will start to sell them later this year. It’s an offshoot of OSU Extension’s Why Trees Matter Signature Program.

The idea is to raise money to support Ohio State’s long-term tree research—in particular, in Secrest Arboretum and in the Tree Research Evaluation and Extension (TREE) plot, both at the university’s Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster.

“It’s also about connecting people to the environmental services trees provide and to the importance of sustainable urban forests,” said Jim Chatfield, an OSU Extension horticulture educator and a co-leader of Why Trees Matter.

“Trees,” he tells people in his talks, “pay us back.”

- A Why Trees Matter study of 1,804 street trees in Xenia, for example, showed an average contribution of $102 per tree per year in cleaner air, energy conservation, carbon sequestration, stormwater remediation, and higher property values.
- Ohio’s green industry generates $10 billion in economic impact a year and provides more than 180,000 jobs.
- Some 7,000 jobs alone are with The Davey Tree Expert Company of Kent, Ohio, the nation’s biggest tree-care company and a partner in the Signature Tree work.

There will be sales of trees to individuals, sales at public events such as Farm Science Review, and ceremonial plantings on Gee’s many visits to Ohio counties.

The overall aim, Chatfield said, “is to focus on the kinds of things Ohio State is doing to support tree research, urban forests, and the green industry.”

The shape of the trees’ labels? Naturally, like Gee’s own signature bowtie.

For more information, log on to http://treesmatter.osu.edu and http://secrest.osu.edu.
Clarifying climate change: A new university partnership helps Ohioans grasp issue

As news reports about climate change continue to flood our airways, just understanding the basics about climate change and how it will affect Ohio can be overwhelming. A new university partnership launched earlier this year could make deciphering that information a lot easier.

Led by Ohio State University Extension researchers, the Climate Change Project is a collaborative effort among several Ohio State University departments, OSU Extension, and the Ohio Sea Grant College Program to get climate change information out to the general public.

“As people hear about climate change, we’ve found that many don’t really know how it will affect things here at home—Ohio’s agriculture, plants and animals, Lake Erie,” said Brent Sohngen, CFAES researcher and partner on the project. “We realized, with the great resources we have across the university, we could help localize the climate change issue and fill in those informational gaps.”

Proposed projects for the group include a web site with resource links, fact sheets, and a web-based seminar series on how climate change could affect issues like water quality, Ohio industry, and state and federal policies.

“Our hope is that anyone can find the information they may need to make an informed decision about climate change,” said Sohngen.

For more about the project, go to http://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/climate.

Plan ahead to attend Farm Science Review

Popular farm show Sept. 22–24, 2009

Stay on the cutting edge in agriculture by planning ahead, and “bale” out of the challenging times by attending this year’s Farm Science Review.

The Ohio State University-sponsored farm show is heading into its 47th year of being the venue for what’s new in terms of equipment, technology, research, and services. This year’s theme is “Your 2009 Bale Out.”

Agriculture’s positive position amid the economic downturn has producers, agribusinesses, and national farm show exhibitors in a good mood, said Chuck Gamble, Farm Science Review manager. He hopes that upbeat attitude carries over to Farm Science Review.

“Farmers are looking at their operations with guarded optimism,” said Gamble. “But even when times are rough, they are still planning ahead for future purchases.”

Farm Science Review will be held Sept. 22–24 at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, Ohio. One of the nation’s top farm shows, Farm Science Review is unique in that it draws upon both industry collaboration and university-driven research and education to support Ohio agriculture.

Visitors have access to over 80 acres of exhibit space, showcasing 4,000 product lines from 600 commercial exhibitors. Within that exhibit area sits OSU Central, an area of university-based research, outreach, and education in agriculture, 4-H, horticulture, family and consumer sciences, and nutrition and health. There are also demonstration fields, where the latest in farm equipment and technology is showcased, as well as the Gwynne Conservation Area for all the latest in natural resources and the environment.

“It is the gem of our college and a hidden treasure for those who attend,” said Gamble. “Once farmers discover the show, they really like the venue and keep coming back,” said Gamble. “We provide a nice experience and what attendees are looking for in terms of equipment, exhibitors, food, and infrastructure.”

For more information, log on to http://fsr.osu.edu.

Farm Science Review is sponsored by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Ohio State University Extension, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.
Hawk’s Nest: ATI’s 18-hole classroom

Golf pro Chris McCormack isn’t the only person teaching at Hawk’s Nest Golf Course these days. ATI is taking advantage of its newest acquisition by using the course as a learning laboratory for a variety of classes.

The 193-acre public course was given in 2007 to ATI by Earl and Betty Hawkins of Wooster, who built the course in 1993. The gift, valued at $4.6 million, was the largest in ATI’s history.

One of the biggest advantages Hawk’s Nest offers over teaching turfgrass courses on ATI’s grounds is the sheer number of opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience. Before Hawk’s Nest, students in a turf practicum class might each get to take one pass over a green with a mower. “When you only have one green, there’s only so much that can be done,” said Terry Lanker, chair of ATI’s horticultural technologies division, in reference to the golf laboratory facility on ATI’s campus. “There are plenty of greens at Hawk’s Nest for students to work on.”

Students have undertaken a number of significant projects at Hawk’s Nest as part of their coursework. They have reconstructed one of the greens to improve the grade, installed new drainage in a bunker, replaced part of the irrigation system at the club house, and are in the process of establishing a sod nursery. This year, students will create beds around each of the tee signs to make mowing easier for the grounds crew and install new landscaping near the course restroom facilities.

Turfgrass students follow an unusual schedule during spring quarter, with five weeks of classes being followed by the first five weeks of a 15-week internship. By using Hawk’s Nest as a teaching location, ATI has been able to create a package of five-week courses that allow the students to spend the entire day at the golf course and make very efficient use of their time. Courses offered this spring were turf practices, irrigation and draining, golf course organization and management, practicum, and oral communications.

A wireless network has been installed in the club house to allow students to make use of laptops—their own or ones ATI makes available for them to borrow—during breaks between classes.

While classes in the turfgrass management curriculum are an obvious fit for Hawk’s Nest, a number of other programs are also making use of the golf course. Faculty members have conducted labs and classes in construction, soils, plant ID, plant pathology, and environmental sciences. ATI also offered a university physical education class, Golf 2, at Hawk’s Nest.

“The acquisition of Hawk’s Nest has far exceeded our expectations from both a financial perspective and in terms of its impact on our academic programs,” said Rhonda Billman, ATI assistant director. Enrollment in the turfgrass management program has experienced a 47 percent increase from 2007 to 2009.

Also of note: Golf Digest’s Places to Play has awarded Hawk’s Nest a rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars each year since 2004, placing it among North America’s 201 best public-access courses. Only 16 courses, including legendary courses such as Pebble Beach and Pinehurst #2, have achieved all 5 stars.

FRANCES WHITED
For the third year in a row, Ohio State ATI hosted “Embracing Our Differences Ohio,” an outdoor art display that celebrates the positive nature of diversity. The display comprised 39 billboard-sized pieces of artwork created by members of the Wooster community.

The concept of “Embracing Our Differences” originated in Sarasota, Florida, in 2004. Some Wooster residents vacationing in Sarasota saw the exhibit and were so moved by it, they became determined to undertake a similar project in Wooster.

In 2006, ATI and the other educational institutions in Wayne County were asked to provide promotional support for the exhibition, but ATI’s involvement soon became much greater.

The steering committee initially approached the City of Wooster about hosting the exhibition in one of the city parks, but the city was unable to accommodate them. Stephen Nameth, ATI director, stepped up to the plate and offered ATI’s large front lawn as the exhibition site. He also enlisted the help of students in ATI’s construction management program in building the large steel frames on which the 16-by-12-foot pieces of art were displayed.

“It was really exciting to watch the front lawn being transformed as the artwork was installed,” Nameth said. “The exhibition has turned out to be a very positive and enjoyable event as well as good exposure for ATI. It’s one way we can give back to the Wooster community.”

The 2009 Embracing Our Differences Ohio exhibition ran from May 3 through June 17.

Frances Whitehead

BTES helps businesses retool for tough times

When economic times are tough, businesses often need to seek out every possible efficiency in order to remain profitable. Businesses in northeast Ohio have lately been turning more and more to ATI’s Business Training and Educational Services (BTES) office for help in improving their bottom line.

BTES recently completed nine new contract training programs for clients in a variety of businesses and industries. Two of the most popular training programs have been supervisory training and Lean/Six Sigma Process Improvement.

“Two of our new clients have promoted some of their employees to supervisory positions,” said Melanie Garcia, BTES account executive. “Many of these people came to their new positions with little or no experience managing other employees.” Training for new supervisors focuses on such areas as effective leadership and communication, how to provide job performance feedback, and managing and resolving conflict.

The latter presented some special challenges for one new client, a Holmes County company with a largely Amish workforce. Garcia explained, “Amish culture eschews confrontation, so new supervisors had a tendency to overlook performance issues rather than deal with them. The training they received focused on using non-confrontational supervisory techniques.”

Training in these so-called “soft” skills can yield concrete gains. For one BTES client, supervisory training brought about reductions in waste and employee turnover that contributed to almost $250,000 in annual savings.

Lean process improvement is another training program that has attracted new clients. Although this management approach was developed in large manufacturing environments, it can be effective for any size or type of business, said Kim Sayers, director of BTES. Following lean training, one BTES client realized more than $75,000 in annual savings. Eliminating waste in just one part of their shipping process accounted for more than half of that savings.

Other new clients include a safety apparel manufacturer, a financial management software company, a plastics firm, and two metal fabricators. Garcia, who joined BTES in September, has been working hard at getting the word out about what BTES can provide. “A lot of people are surprised to find out that we can be a training and consulting resource for just about every type of business or industry, not just agriculture.”

Frances Whitehead
Ohio State’s commitment: ‘Students First, Students Now’

Ohio State University’s top priority is students. And during these tough economic times, the university is dedicated to helping students enter and stay in school.

In December 2008, Ohio State, led by President E. Gordon Gee, introduced “Students First.” This university-wide initiative ensures that students have continued access to education, and lets K–12 students and their parents know that higher education remains open to them even when the economic strain on families persists.

As part of this far-reaching commitment, a two-year fundraising initiative called “Students First, Students Now” began on January 1, 2009. Funds raised through this effort enable Ohio State to respond quickly to students who need immediate financial help by providing scholarships, loans, and emergency funds.

“Our profound commitment is to providing access to Ohio State’s excellent educational opportunities,” said President E. Gordon Gee. “Now more than ever, we must assure that young people are able to pursue their dreams, earn a degree, and use their talents to enhance our economy, our state, and our world.”

To make a gift to the “Students First, Students Now” campaign, visit http://www.giveto.osu.edu.

Campus Campaign

Special thanks to the faculty and staff of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and ATI for contributing $237,836.36 to the 2009–2010 Campus Campaign!

Campus Campaign is Ohio State’s annual “I Believe in Ohio State” fundraising effort for faculty and staff. Since its beginnings in 1985, Campus Campaign has evolved into one of the most successful faculty and staff campaigns in the nation. By supporting the areas of the university that mean the most to them, faculty and staff make a significant impact on many of the projects, programs, research, and scholarship that make Ohio State such a great place to work, learn, and grow.

From the left, Dean Bobby Moser, OARDC Director Steve Slack, ATI Director Steve Nameth, and Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee show that they believe in Ohio State by forming O-H-I-O at the Campus Campaign kickoff event in Wooster in March.
Elizabeth Shaw Long Scholarship Fund: A history of giving

In 1980, the late Harry Long, Jr. began giving to The Ohio State University. According to his daughters, Janice Long, Rebecca Long, and Nancy Hamilton, this one unselfish act started a storied history of giving, highlighted by the Elizabeth Shaw Long Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Long set up the fund to honor his mother, Elizabeth Shaw Long, for her contribution to his happy and successful life. She was also a strong figure in his education. “My mother never went on to higher education but always encouraged us to seek some,” Mr. Long once said. “In helping us with our homework, she learned algebra, language, and science. She was a terrific learner. We felt it appropriate to honor her in a permanent way beyond our longevity.”

For more than 20 years, the income from the fund has provided a need-based scholarship for a worthy student in the School of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. It was important to Mr. Long that he contributed to the assistance of others, just as he was helped as a student. He often said, “The fund also provided an opportunity to return to the university and the lumber industry … some of the benefits they gave me and my family.”

The 2008–2009 scholarship winners are Benjamin Gombash and Michael Hall. Both are honors students in Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife.

Mr. Long also provided his time to students, often meeting them for coffee. His daughter Janice explained how it gave him so much joy to read the thank-you notes from the scholarship recipients. For instance, one student wrote, “I am currently spending the summer fighting forest fires in Montana with the Gallatin National Forest Initial Attack Crew, but I look forward to returning to school in the fall. And I look forward to my career serving the land and its resources. Again, thank you very much.”

After retirement Mr. Long continued to give back to his community. He was involved in a group called the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) through which he counseled small businesses. He loved to discuss the lumber industry and business in general with these groups.

Many of Mr. Long’s close friends and family members have contributed to the Elizabeth Shaw Long Scholarship Fund since its establishment, honoring his tradition of giving and helping to ensure that students will be helped by this scholarship for years to come.

Ohio State’s first green building now official

The Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center is now officially the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified green building on The Ohio State University campus.

The medallion issued by the U.S. Green Building Council was unveiled at a ceremony preceding the Patterson Lecture on April 24. Attending were Jim and Nancy Patterson, who served on the steering committee for the center; Jack Fisher, University Trustee and Executive Vice President of the Ohio Farm Bureau; Karen Blickley, Nationwide Foundation representative; Joe Alutto, University Provost; Tom Archer, State 4-H Leader; and Bobby Moser, Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

The 46,000-square-foot center, the first of its kind on a university campus, features a geothermal heating and cooling system, plumbing fixtures designed to use 52 percent less water than conventional fixtures, extensive use of natural lighting and recycled materials, and highly reflective roofing materials. In its first full year of operation, the center has used 25 percent less energy to operate than a conventional building.

Celebrating the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center’s official LEED certification are, from the left, Jim and Nancy Patterson; Bobby Moser; Karen Blickley; Joe Alutto; Jack Fisher; and Tom Archer.
Fallfest and University Reunion Weekend Registration Form

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Name ________________________________________________________________
Graduation Year ______________________________________________________
OSU Alumni Association Member Number _________________________________

Guest Name(s) _______________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________________________________
State ______________ Zip Code ____________
Day Phone ( ) ______-_________ Night Phone ( ) ______-_________
E-mail __________________________________________________________________

Friday Events (Reunion Weekend)
To register or for more information please visit
http://www.ohiostatealumni.org/reunions or call 1-800-762-5646
Tours (Choose one only)
Bus Tour of Campus __________________ No Charge
William Oxley Thompson Library __________________ No Charge

Saturday Events—AG FALLFEST and GAME
Football Tickets ($67) Limit of two per household
and FALLFEST ($19) __________ # Attending @ $86 each $ __________
FALLFEST Meal Only __________ # Attending @ $19 each $ __________
ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION $ __________

Sunday Event (Reunion Weekend)
To register or for more information please visit
http://www.ohiostatealumni.org/reunions or 1-800-762-5646
Reunion/Alumni Brunch @ Longaberger House $25 per person $ __________

TOTAL DUE $ __________
(Check Payable to The Ohio State University)

__________________________________________________________
___ I have a silent auction item to donate. Please contact me.
___ I am available to assist with set-up on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 9 a.m.
   Please contact me.
___ I am available to help with Fallfest on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Registration form and check must be postmarked by Aug. 7 and mailed to:
Ray Miller, Alumni Coordinator
Room 100 Ag Admin Building
2120 Fyffe Road
Columbus, OH 43210

Clip and send this registration form with check payable to
The Ohio State University postmarked by Aug. 7, 2009.
Confirmation will be by e-mail, if provided, as soon as possible, but within the week.

What a weekend and what a game! University of Southern California Trojans vs. Ohio State Buckeyes! Sept. 12, 8 p.m. in
the Shoe! This is University Reunion Weekend as well as Ag Fallfest, and we are certain you don’t want to miss the great
food, fellowship with friends, and the game. So, mark your
calendars and hold the dates—Sept. 11, 12, and 13, 2009.

University Reunion Weekend
The University Reunion Weekend committee has planned
events for alums returning to campus. To register for a Friday tour
of the campus or the newly renovated William Oxley Thompson
Memorial Library, or for the Alumni Brunch on Sunday at
Longaberger Alumni House, contact the University Alumni
Association directly at http://www.ohiostatealumni.org/reunions.

CFAES Fallfest
The CFAES Alumni Society has planned a great Fallfest for
Saturday, Sept. 12, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Nationwide and
Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, due to a last-minute decision to
renovate French Field House. More information will be posted
alumni/.

Since this game is a high-profile evening game, our game ticket
allocation has been reduced significantly, and a lottery will be
necessary.

Several restrictions have been placed on who can apply for
game tickets, so read the Lottery Application Guidelines carefully
before submitting. All Fallfest applications must be postmarked
by midnight, Aug. 7, to qualify for the lottery drawing to be
conducted on Aug. 11.

Notification of lottery winners and non-winners will be
completed by e-mail unless you do not have an e-mail address,
so make certain your e-mail address is legibly listed on your
application. This process will be completed by Aug. 18 at the latest.
Non-winners will also be notified and checks will be shredded
unless you specify they be returned to you.

Silent Auction
As always, the Society will be conducting the annual silent
auction to benefit the FAES Alumni Society Undergraduate
Scholarship Endowment Fund, which supports one or two
students each year with financial assistance. If you have an item to
donate, please check the box on the application, and our auction
committee will be in touch with you for details. Unique Buckeye
items seem to draw the best activity on auction day. If you cannot
attend this year but want to support the scholarship fund, you can
contribute an item to the silent auction, or the Society will gladly
accept any size cash tax-deductible donation you might want to
make to the fund. Checks should be made payable to The Ohio
State University for any cash donation to the scholarship fund.

Again, join us for reunion weekend Sept. 11–13 for the tours on
Friday, Saturday’s Fallfest, and the Alumni Brunch on Sunday at
Longaberger Alumni House. It will be a great time!
CFAES alumni to host hospitality tent at FSR

When you are visiting the Farm Science Review Sept. 22–24 at the Molly Caren Ag Center near London, Ohio, plan to stop by the CFAES Alumni Society hospitality center and rest your weary feet a few minutes.

This year, we will be located near the center of the grounds near the intersection of Kottman and Friday and close to the Ohio-Michigan Equipment Dealers Association display.

You can get a long, cool drink of water, check up on what is happening with the Alumni Society, meet other alums who may be resting with us, or just stop by to say hello.

Ray Miller, CFAES Alumni Coordinator, will be around the tent and several other society officers and other alums will be helping out for the three days. We might even have an O-H-I-O cheer practice or modify it to a more difficult cheer, like OH–IO.

Admission tickets to the Review are available for $5 in advance from your county office of OSU Extension or can be purchased at the gate for $8. Check out Farm Science Review and its programs for 2009 at http://fsr.osu.edu. It’s more than just for farmers!

GO BUCKS! See you at the Review.

Ray Miller

Nominate outstanding CFAES alumni for 2010 awards

We are looking for 14 top-flight CFAES alumni to recognize at the 2010 CFAES Alumni Society Awards luncheon to be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at the Fawcett Center on The Ohio State University campus.

We seek your assistance in nominating your friends, colleagues, and fellow alumni in a wide variety of occupations and careers for Meritorious Service, Distinguished Alumni, International Alumni, and Young Professional Achievement Awards.

With over 34,000 living alumni of the college who live and work around the globe, doing all sorts of great things in their professions and communities, we know you can help us identify a large pool of candidates from which the committee can select the best of the best for 2010.

“We are looking for a pool of candidates that clearly represents the broad array of careers and service sectors, both profit and non-profit, our alumni are involved in, and that clearly represents the contributions our women and men have made to their professions, industry, and communities,” said Ann Ball, president of the CFAES Alumni Society. “This includes business, production areas, education, research, government, natural resources, community service, and many more.” So take a few minutes to think about your associates and friends from your Ohio State days and nominate a person worthy of recognition as an outstanding CFAES alum.

“The Alumni Award program is a pinnacle moment in the lives of the alumni recognized each year, and is a highlight of my activities each year,” said Vice President and Dean Bobby Moser. Help another alum have a pinnacle moment by downloading the nomination form from the college web site at http://cfaes.osu.edu/alumni-and-donors/alumni/alumni-awards-program/ or contact Amber Pasternak at (614) 247-2745 or pasternak.6@osu.edu.

Criteria for each of the four categories of awards, as well as a list of prior recipients in each, are located on the college web site. All nominees must be living at the time of selection for the awards for 2010. Nomination deadline is October 1, 2009.

Ray Miller
More students are turning to the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences for their education, and we’re not surprised.

The word is spreading about the hands-on opportunities this college offers, through undergraduate research, international experience, and leadership training.

Our annual Undergraduate Research Forum spring quarter highlighted 35 undergraduate research projects in animal and life sciences; nutrition; food and meat science; environmental and plant sciences; and social sciences.

As you’ll see on page 3 of this issue, 134 CFAES students studied abroad in the last academic year, in 23 different countries. This opportunity is now open to freshmen through the CFAES Freshmen Experience in Mexico, giving first-year students experience with the Mexican culture, the global economy, and labor issues.

And you can hear directly from Renee Starkey on page 1. This 2009 graduate discusses her experiences as a CFAES Ambassador, just one of many leadership opportunities available to CFAES students.

All of these positives for the college are manifesting into an anticipated increase in incoming freshmen for autumn quarter 2009. We’re seeing a 9 percent increase in the number of applicants admitted into our college and an impressive 20 percent increase in the number who have paid admittance fees. This is nearly double the university’s paid admittance numbers.

We’re seeing growth in majors across the field, but especially in the environmental sciences, animal sciences, and food sciences.

Again, we’re not surprised. Many of the hottest issues facing society today have their solutions in our college. Clearly, our incoming students are a part of that solution.