Not even the sky is the limit

Working on a toilet might not sound too glamorous or innovative at first sniff. But if the commode is to be used by astronauts in a space shuttle and needs to defy the problem of zero-gravity, flushing-challenged environments, then things get a little more interesting.

That’s the project Monica Okon, a senior in the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering (FABE), took on last summer as part of an internship at NASA’s John Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. As a project manager, the northeast Ohio native oversaw the task from design to completion, testing the toilet system to validate some modeling that scientists at John Glenn had done.

Nancy Hall, a NASA research scientist who supervised Okon, said the student’s background in biological engineering made her a great fit to manage the project, as she was able to apply what she has learned at Ohio State to solve a complex problem.

Okon agrees.

“FABE is a great department because it brings together different aspects of engineering and biology that we interact with on a daily basis,” she said. “We all eat and we all need to be aware of the environmental processes around us. What I’ve learned during my time here all pertains to how humans and the environment interact, and that’s what I’m interested in.”

Okon believes all students should be involved in an internship so they can apply their knowledge and skills to real-world issues. “Internships bring to life all the concepts you learn in the classroom, allowing you to problem-solve and speak intelligently about the processes involved in what you do.”

After graduating from Ohio State, Okon would like to pursue a Ph.D. and do research at a government agency.

“NASA would be great,” she concluded. Find a video about Okon’s experience at http://www.osu.edu/features/2010/nasa.html. ■ MAURICIO ESPINOZA

ENGINEERING SENIOR CHERISHES NASA EXPERIENCE, QUALITY OF CFAES EDUCATION
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLLEGE'S TOP 20 SENIORS, chosen for their leadership and service and announced March 8.

“Our college is blessed with an abundance of highly talented, actively involved students,” said Assistant Dean for Organizational Development Marilyn Trefz. “The 20 students receiving this award have conscientiously built broad-based college experiences for themselves that emphasize leadership within their student organizations and, in most cases, service to their college and the university.”

A committee of four students and eight faculty members made the selections.

“They have earned the respect of their peers and professors,” said Trefz of the winners. “The choices they have made and the accomplishments they have achieved prepare them exceedingly well for successful careers.”

Read their bios at http://cfaes.osu.edu/top20seniors. The college’s Top 10 Seniors are chosen from this group and were announced at the annual CFAES Recognition Banquet, which took place just before this issue went to press. ■ KURT KNEBUSCH

The new award went to six Ohio State faculty members — and three are from our college.

Half of Ohio State’s first-ever “Champions of Teaching” are from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

The University Center for the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT) recently named Joe Donnermeyer, Rural Sociology; Mike Mangino, Food Science and Technology; and Peg McMahon, Horticulture and Crop Science, as three of the award’s six 2010 recipients.

UCAT Director Alan Kalish said the “Champions of Teaching” program, started just this year, recognizes faculty members who provide significant and sustained service to UCAT in support of teaching and learning at Ohio State.

“We decided to make this recognition in conjunction with our new name, which more directly describes our mission in seeking to advance teaching at Ohio State by promoting a university culture that puts students first,” Kalish said. UCAT had been called Faculty and TA Development.

Donnermeyer, the award’s web site says, “has championed a scholarly approach to teaching in ways that have advanced learning at Ohio State.” He is a past winner of the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, which granted him admission into the Academy of Teaching, and is chair of the Academy’s executive committee.

Mangino participates in the yearly University-wide Orientation for New Instructors, where he “guides and supports many new teaching assistants across campus in their teaching endeavors”; they get “thoughtful feedback and insightful advice.” He, too, is a past winner of the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching and member of the Academy of Teaching.

McMahon “sets the example as someone who works to continually grow as a teacher … and is well-known for her concern for students.” She was an early joiner of the Mid-career and Senior Faculty Learning Community in UCAT’s Ohio State Teaching Enhancement Programs and has won CFAES’s Outstanding Advising Award.

Read more at http://ucat.osu.edu/champions.html.

“While Ohio State is a research-extensive university,” Kalish said, “educating students is core to our mission.” ■ KURT KNEBUSCH

Congratulations to the college’s Top 20 Seniors, chosen for their leadership and service and announced March 8.

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“We decided to make this recognition in conjunction with our new name, which more directly describes our mission in seeking to advance teaching at Ohio State by promoting a university culture that
Ohio State University’s study abroad program to the Dominican Republic celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Considered one of the longest-running study abroad programs offered by the Office of International Affairs in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, the program has undergone some recent changes that add natural resources and conservation to its agricultural components.

“The general focus of the program was rural development, with a specific emphasis in agriculture, but over the past few years, we’ve added a natural resources component to the program,” said Joe Bonnell, School of Environment and Natural Resources program director of watershed management. “We believe the new additions add breadth and depth to the coursework and give students more of an insight into the host country.”

The six-week program, offered winter quarter, provides students with a wealth of information in agricultural economics, international development, and agricultural education, as well as various environmental issues and natural resources topics.

“Students take field trips to important ecological areas, such as organic farms, plantations, and national parks, as well as take courses that address conservation issues, such as water resource management,” said Bonnell, who has incorporated natural resources curriculum into the study abroad program the past two years. “The agriculture and natural resources curriculum nicely complements the cultural and historical aspects of the host country.”

CANDACE POLLOCK
or centuries, Lake Erie’s benefits were seen as either environmental—providing recreational opportunities—or economic—providing industry and agriculture with necessary resources. Now, along with the transition from an industrial to a service economy, those lines are being blurred, said Elena Irwin, agricultural economist and researcher with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

“We’re in an age where individuals and companies are free to locate almost anywhere they want, and quality of life is a major criteria,” Irwin said. “Lake Erie acts as an attractor of people and of firms. A resource like this can generate significant growth.”

For several years, Irwin and colleagues have examined amenity values of an ecologically sound Lake Erie and the ripple effects of changing urban land use. In early April, she presented findings at “Green Recovery,” a seminar sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. So far, research has revealed “interesting interactions between population and the ecological health of the lake,” Irwin said.

In one study, Irwin and former graduate student Shihomi Ara estimated the amenity value of a clean Lake Erie by comparing sale prices of homes around the lake with measurements of the lake’s water clarity and fecal coliform counts at the nearest access point to the lake from the home’s location. When accounting for the size of the house and lot, and number of bedrooms and bathrooms, they found a direct correlation between water quality and the home’s sale price.

“When those two water quality indicators are good, housing prices go up,” and the area is seen as an attractive location for development, she said. But ironically, as development occurs, “water quality is negatively impacted by construction and the runoff that results.”

Helping policy-makers see the big picture and unintended consequences of their decision-making is one goal of her research.

For more information, see these articles in Ohio Sea Grant’s Twineline magazine: “Biocomplexity: Uncovering Lake Erie’s Physical, Biological, and Economic Connections,” Spring/Summer 2009, and “Hot Commodity: Cleaner Water Increases Lake Erie Waterfront Property Values,” Summer/Fall 2006, available online at http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/publications/twineline. – MARTHA FILIPIC
Unique research, unique outreach
OARDC and ATI partners in $3.8 million NSF grant

OARDC and several collaborators—including Ohio State ATI—have landed a $3.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to further innovative research seeking to decipher the molecular mechanisms that regulate fruit shape.

The project is led by Esther van der Knaap, a geneticist in OARDC’s Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, who utilizes tomato as a model to analyze fruit shape variations. Her work has received previous NSF support and has been featured on the cover of the prestigious journal *Science* [http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/tomshape.htm](http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/tomshape.htm).

“Our focus is to discover genes and networks that regulate tomato fruit morphology and learn how these genes affect fruit shape,” van der Knaap said. “The knowledge about fruit morphology genes allows us to investigate whether the tremendous diversity in tomato fruit shape and size is controlled by these genes, and how these genes can be employed by breeders in their efforts to develop new varieties with distinct features.”

But the four-year NSF grant has another dimension. The project will involve undergraduate and high school students in field and laboratory activities, with the goal of increasing their knowledge and appreciation of plant science and crop diversity.

For example, students from The College of Wooster and ATI will be engaged in various studies related to fruit morphology, improvement of the Tomato Analyzer software (which is used to more accurately and automatically measure the effects on fruit shape and size of different regions of the tomato genome), and training in bioinformatics skills.

Additionally, Carri Gerber—an assistant professor at ATI—will facilitate the participation of high school students in workshops held at Ohio State facilities. Experiments will also be conducted at high schools with the help of “traveling laboratories” that will be purchased thanks to the grant.

Other grant partners include Boyce Thompson Institute (BTI) on Cornell University’s Ithaca, New York, campus; as well as natural sciences research institute RIKEN and Chiba University, both in Japan.

More information at [http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/vanderknaap](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/vanderknaap).

Ohio State University entomologists are looking to Ohioans for help in identifying an exotic invasive shrub in their communities that has ties to a chain of undesirable insects.

Mary Gardiner with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center has launched Buckthorn Watch—a science-citizen program where residents volunteer to not only identify buckthorn establishments in their area, but also collect data on soybean aphids and the multi-colored Asian ladybeetle.

Gardiner and colleague Andy Michel are collaborating with Michigan State University and Iowa State University on a three-year research project to determine the distribution of buckthorn throughout Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, and Iowa.

By determining how much buckthorn is spread across the four states, researchers hope to learn more about how buckthorn influences aphid dispersal and populations of the multi-colored Asian ladybeetle. The goal, ultimately, is to identify best management practices for buckthorn to best control both insects.

“For example, if we determine that aphids in soybean fields are originating from local buckthorn establishments, then we can manage the aphid by eradicating the buckthorn within the local area,” said Gardiner. “If we determine that aphids are migrating from more northern locations, then we can conclude that intensive buckthorn management in Ohio may not be as effective for soybean aphid control.”

The research demonstrates how buckthorn can have a cascading damaging effect on natural flora and fauna, agriculture, and public health.

For more information, contact Mary Gardiner at 330-263-3643 or e-mail buckthornwatch@osu.edu.

Entomologists studying the negative impacts of invasive species

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The extracellular matrix, that is. It might hold the key to helping people and poultry live stronger.

The average person loses more than a quarter of their muscle mass by the time they’re 70. OARDC’s Sandy Velleman, a professor of animal sciences, wants to know what something called the extracellular matrix has to do with it — science that may someday help people age more successfully.

The extracellular matrix is secreted by cells, surrounds them, and fills the spaces between them; consists of protein fibers and more; provides structural support to the cells; and regulates — by regulating the expression of certain genes in the cells — the function of certain tissues. Consider it the packing material around cells, the glue that connects them, and a chemical brew that sparks them.

Velleman, for her part, is studying the extracellular matrix of human skeletal muscle fibers and their accompanying satellite cells. Satellite cells repair and rebuild muscle fibers, and their presence and ability decline as a person gets older.

She’s zeroing in on proteins called proteoglycans, which jump-start the actions of certain growth factors — specifically, growth factors that control how many satellite cells there are and what they do. She hopes to understand how the expression of proteoglycans in the extracellular matrix changes as a person ages, and what that means to the satellite cells.

“If I’m successful in determining differences between young and old muscle satellite cells, this will eventually lead to the development of gene therapy approaches to reduce age-mediated sarcopenia,” she said. Sarcopenia is the technical term for muscle loss in the elderly.

Velleman works on OARDC’s Wooster campus, where she studies the extracellular matrix in poultry as well. One of her main efforts looks at how genetically selecting turkeys and chickens to grow faster affects the formation of their muscles, the makeup and function of the extracellular matrix in those muscles, and the quality of meat that results. She’s an international expert in the field and has been honored for her achievements, including by the international Poultry Science Association. Her findings help the U.S. poultry industry, which provides 360,000 jobs and earns $25 billion a year from broilers and turkeys alone, to be even more successful.

The Massachusetts native was a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow with the University of Pennsylvania’s Medical School Connective Tissue Research Institute and an assistant professor in the University of Connecticut’s Department of Animal Sciences before coming to OARDC in 1995.

Read more about her research at http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/velleman.
Driving through various Cleveland neighborhoods, it’s not hard to find large tracts of land vacated by years of population decline and economic struggle. But these days, it’s also easy to spot “urban farm” or “community garden” signs going up at many of those sites. OSU Extension is helping make that transformation happen.

Farmers, consultants, and ag businesses who regularly visit the site (http://agcrops.osu.edu) will find significant changes to the crop production management resource tool. In addition, the valued Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N.) newsletter will also feature a new look.

“It’s all about getting information in the hands of farmers faster,” said Harold Watters, an Ohio State University Extension agronomist. “These changes are based on farmer surveys and focus groups. Farmers told us they don’t care about paper any- more. They want their information electronically, fast, and up-to-date, and that’s what we are trying to provide with this new look.”

The Agronomic Crops Network web site is the hub of OSU Extension’s Signature Program, “Increasing Profitable Crop Yields Above Trendline—2014,” which aims to meet the growing demand for food, feed, fiber, fuels, and industrial uses of Ohio’s crops.

“Profitability is No. 1 in farmers’ eyes,” said Watters. “Increasing yields increases profits and implementing various production practices, like soil testing, scouting, and IPM, helps bring about those higher yields. Our objective is to share that information — in a central location — with farmers for them to achieve that goal.”

From blight to bloom
OSU Extension helps green-up, re-develop Cleveland with urban farms

“Our goal is to re-imagine Cleveland from a rust-belt city into a national model of urban agriculture and ‘green’ economic development.”

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The Cuyahoga County office of OSU Extension (Western Reserve EERA) has been working with local residents, area universities, community organizations, and elected officials in a variety of projects and legislation seeking to encourage residents to turn empty lots and backyards into sources of fresh fruit, vegetables, and even livestock.

“The Cuyahoga County office of OSU Extension (Western Reserve EERA) has been working with local residents, area universities, community organizations, and elected officials in a variety of projects and legislation seeking to encourage residents to turn empty lots and backyards into sources of fresh fruit, vegetables, and even livestock.”

One project is Stanard Farm, which was developed on the site of the former Stanard Elementary School after Cleveland City Council last November passed legislation transferring the property to the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD). This farm will provide employment and training opportunities for adults with disabilities, while growing fresh local food for people in areas of the city where these commodities are hard to find. CCBDD and OSU Extension have shared a goal to develop 10 such farms in the next five years.

“Our goal is to re-imagine Cleveland from a rust-belt city into a national model of urban agriculture and ‘green’ economic development,” said Marie Barni, Cuyahoga County office director. “We now work with over 200 community gardens on 60-plus acres of land producing over $3 million worth of fresh produce every season. For-profit market gardens are generating income for urban farmers, youth and adults alike, and they are also helping local hunger shelters.”

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Other urban agriculture projects in which OSU Extension has played or plays a role in the Cleveland area include:

- Providing expert advice in support of 2009 legislation allowing city residents to raise poultry and rabbits, and keep beehives.
- Training of more than 100 gardeners, half of whom have started agricultural businesses such as selling at farmer’s markets.
- Helping coordinate the Cleveland–Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition along with Case Western Reserve University and the New Agrarian Center.

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More than 34,000 Ohio children and teens are in military families, with about one-third of them in the southwestern corner of the state — Ohio State University Extension’s Miami Valley Extension Education and Research Area (EERA). Tucked inside that area is Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which straddles Montgomery and Greene counties. Since 2002, OSU Extension educators Betty Wingerter and Beth Bridgeman have spearheaded 4-H programs at the base.

The 4-H partnership with the Air Force started in 20 states, “and we were one of them,” Wingerter said. “Now 4-H is at all Air Force bases — and Army and Navy installations — worldwide.”

A $30,000 National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant makes the Wright-Patt partnership possible. County 4-H staff works with employees at two childcare programs and its youth center, reaching nearly 300 youths.

“The idea is to enhance the base’s youth programs and offer a sense of continuity to children of military families, who are often uprooted,” Wingerter said.

Gary Gray, director of youth services at Wright-Patt, said the program opens the 4-H experience to a whole new audience. “They get involved with animals, with pets, with environmental projects. They go to 4-H camps and experience the outdoors. These are things they wouldn’t be exposed to without this partnership.”

The materials 4-H provides are also beneficial, Gray said. “The educational portion of 4-H is just outstanding; the curriculum is so well put together that even our inexperienced childcare workers can just pick it up and run with it.”

Wingerter is proud to offer support for military youth: “I call them our youngest heroes because they’re serving too. They’re sacrificing their parent — sometimes both parents — during a deployment, and they often have more responsibility at home than other children. I see that participating in 4-H programs allows them, in at least one way, to be just a kid like every other kid.”

For more on Ohio 4-H’s partnership with the military, see http://www.ohio4h.org/military.

SUN SAFETY WORSHIPERS

Extension effort aims to protect Ohioans from skin cancer

It’s summertime — prime time to think about sun safety.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, skin cancer is the nation’s most common form of cancer. In 2006, 53,919 people were diagnosed with melanoma of the skin, and 8,441 people died from it.

Ohioans appear to be taking the risk more seriously than ever, say Ohio State University Extension educators Pat Brinkman and Rose Fisher-Merkowitz, who co-lead Extension’s Family and Consumer Sciences Sun Safety program.

“When we first started doing sun safety programs at pesticide applicator trainings, a lot of the reaction was, ‘Oh, I’m not going to worry about this,’” Fisher-Merkowitz said. “Maybe two or three people would approach me to have their skin looked at in the Dermascan. Now, they stand in line. They’re out in the sun a lot, and they take it seriously.”

Dee Jepsen, OSU Extension’s safety leader, said people tend to get excited about using the Dermascan equipment, but it’s the Sun Safety educational messages that truly make a difference. “We conducted research with farmers in the 1990s and found that educational programs changed behavior for skin cancer prevention,” Jepsen said.

During a 2007 Extension Sun Safety in-service, educators from across the state were trained to use Dermascan equipment and introduced to educational materials and activities. Brinkman uses the materials all year long, at a Fayette County Health Fair that draws 1,400 to 1,600 people a year, at field days and farmers’ markets, at Master Gardener meetings, and with teens at area high schools.

“I tell people, if you’re over 50 and out in the sun a lot or if you had a lot of sunburns when you were young, it’s best to get checked by a health professional now,” Brinkman said. “If there’s not a problem, you don’t have to worry. But if they find something, it’s best to find it early.”

For information on skin cancer, see the CDC’s web site at http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin. To learn more about OSU Extension’s Sun Safety programs, contact Brinkman at brinkman.93@cfaes.osu.edu or Fisher-Merkowitz at merkowitz.1@cfaes.osu.edu.

— MARTHA FILIPIC
n the shadow of Ohio State University’s main campus, the University District is often called “a city within a city,” with distinct neighborhoods and a diverse population. In 2002, as a part of the university’s outreach efforts, Ohio State University Extension relocated educator Susan Colbert from the Franklin County office to the University District, allowing Extension to directly serve the university’s next-door neighbor. Since then, Colbert has forged partnerships with local organizations to meet the needs of this often underserved community.

“I attribute much of our success to the unique partnerships in the community,” Colbert said. “They help us leverage our resources.”

Now, people have opportunities that otherwise would not be afforded to them.”

Before Extension started working in the neighborhood, things were different, said Joyce Hughes, a member of the Weinland Park Employment Collaborative. “Before there was a just clear divide, the east side of Weinland Park on one side, Ohio State on the other,” Hughes said. “Now, people have opportunities that otherwise would not be afforded to them.”

For information on OSU Extension’s University District programs, see http://udistrict.osu.edu, or watch a video on OSU Extension’s YouTube Channel at http://www.youtube.com/user/OSUExtension: choose “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.”

Examples of the partnerships include:

- A partnership with the University Area Enrichment Association and Ohio State’s Department of Art Education has led to a successful “Girls and Technology” 4-H program. This unique partnership received funding from an OSU CARES grant.

- A partnership with the Godman Guild has allowed Extension to offer GED classes, computer training, and a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for neighborhood residents. VITA offers free tax preparation services to low- and moderate-income working families and is estimated to have helped residents gain $2.3 million in tax credits since 2005.

- A partnership with the Weinland Park Employment Collaborative is credited with finding full-time jobs for at least 25 residents at Ohio State and other nearby employers since 2008. As a result of the collaborative’s efforts, a new Human Resources position has been created at Ohio State to help more residents gain access to campus employment.

MARTHA FILIPIC
FIELD CROP PRODUCTION GOES HIGH-TECH

A profitable farm operation is all about gaining efficiency. Think of a farmer steering equipment back and forth across a field. If the passes are overlapped by even as little as 5 or 10 percent, that could amount to as much as 4 feet on a 40-foot implement. Multiply that by the number of passes through a field, and you see how such a small overlap can have an enormous impact on fuel, seed, and chemical consumption, not to mention time spent in the field.

A new John Deere guidance system acquired by the ATI farm provides, among other things, pass-to-pass accuracy of plus or minus 4 inches. The AutoTrac technology actually steers the equipment through the fields, enabling operators to work at higher speeds and with greater accuracy than is possible with manual steering. The guidance system will be used with one of ATI’s John Deere tractors and a self-propelled sprayer.

Another feature of the system is swath control, which allows sections of the spray boom to be turned on or off automatically, based on GPS data. “You define field boundaries,” explained crops professor Nels Hansen, “and the equipment will not spray outside of those boundaries.” Nor will it spray where it’s not supposed to within the field boundaries—when crossing over a waterway, for example.

Swath control can also be used in planting. “Fields in Ohio are often not square,” said Hansen. “As you’re negotiating all the odd field margins, the swath control technology can turn off individual gangs on a planting drill—so no more double planted rows.”

The guidance system technology will be incorporated into field crop production classes and practicum. “It’s important for students to learn how to operate equipment with advanced technology,” Hansen said. “In a few years, most farms will be using something like this.”

FRANCES WHITED
Dairymaster donates new milking system to ATI

A quarter million dollar milking system donated by the Irish company Dairymaster is giving ATI dairy students the opportunity to work with state-of-the-art equipment.

Dairymaster donated not only the milking system, but the installation of it, as well. The milking system includes cow ID, automatic take offs, milk meters that record daily milk production, a milk line for high protein milk, a milk line for low protein milk, and a milk line for un-salable milk. The system automatically diverts milk into the separate milk lines. The donation also included all the computer software to run the system and all the equipment to wash and sanitize the system.

The new swing ten parallel parlor replaces ATI’s old double six herringbone parlor. The new parlor has 20 stalls, with 10 milking units shared between the two sides.

The building that housed the old parlor had to undergo some significant modifications in order to accommodate the new equipment. The structure was widened by 10 feet and the ceiling raised 3 feet. The finishing touch for the project was an Animat interlock rubber flooring system for the parlor and the holding area, donated by Harold’s Equipment of Dundee, Ohio.

Increased efficiency is one of the biggest benefits of the new system. “We’re able to milk more cows with less equipment,” explained Andrew Remillard, assistant dairy herd manager. “And decreased milking time will help lower labor cost.” He continued, “With the new equipment, we should be able to take advantage of certain milk quality premiums that we were not able to in the past, and that will help raise revenues.”

The educational benefits for ATI’s dairy production and management and dairy science students are considerable, as well.

“The new equipment operates on different principles than most conventional milking systems do,” said Remillard. “In a nutshell, it will broaden students’ education about how different milking systems work.”

ATI Minuteman, a Murray Grey yearling bull born and raised at ATI’s Apple Creek Farm, made an outstanding showing at the 2010 Ohio Beef Expo. Minuteman won the yearling bull class. He then won the Champion Junior Bull and went on to win overall Grand Champion Murray Grey Bull.

“The farm staff was quick to realize Minuteman’s potential as a calf,” said ATI Director of Farm Operations Mark Schleppi. At the beginning of the school year, beef herd manager Casey Meek sought out students who might be interested in committing the time and effort necessary to prepare Minuteman for the show ring.

During fall quarter, students John Karlen, Jessie Hoobler, and Andrew Christian worked with Minuteman, breaking him to halter and getting him accustomed to handling. Hoobler and Christian graduated after fall quarter, so Karlen carried on with the help of another student, Brent Kasler. Kasler and Karlen were responsible for Minuteman’s final fitting. Cargill donated show feed to help get Minuteman in the best possible condition for the show. Karlen showed Minuteman in all the classes.

The Murray Grey breed originated in Australia and was brought to the United States in 1970. ATI’s herd was established through a donation of 13 animals in 1988. Minuteman is not the first ATI Murray Grey to find success in the show ring. ATI Streamline was national Reserve Champion Calf in 1994 and national Grand Champion Bull in 1995. He eventually was sold to a breeder in Brazil. All told, ATI has produced three national champion and two reserve champion Murray Greys, as well as dozens of Ohio champions.

After Minuteman’s big win, Murray Grey breeders from four states were interested in purchasing him. ATI Minuteman was ultimately sold to a breeder in Kentucky who intends to show him at the national Murray Grey show in Spokane, Washington, in August. “We wish Minuteman and his new owner all the best in Spokane,” Schleppi said.
On Jan. 27, 2010, a reception was held at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center to welcome Ronald Hendrick to The Ohio State University. He was recently announced as the new Director of the School of Environment and Natural Resources and Associate Dean of the college. Before arriving at Ohio State, Hendrick was a Fellow in the Naturalist and Ecologist Training Program at the University of Michigan. He later joined the University of Georgia, ultimately becoming Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in 2007.

Despite the cold weather, the reception room was filled with donors, faculty, and staff enjoying an evening with a fellow Buckeye. Bobby Moser hosted the reception and introduced Hendrick as someone whose “leadership skills will be very important as he directs the college in the area of Environmental Quality and Sustainability.” In addition to the kind words from Dean Moser, a highlight of the evening was capturing a photo of three generations of SENR directors: Robert Teater, Jerry Bigham, and Ronald Hendrick.

When asked about his experience at Ohio State thus far, Hendrick responded, “I’ve very much enjoyed getting to meet not only colleagues here on campus (including several programs outside SENR and CFAES), but representatives from the private sector, state agencies, and the municipalities around Columbus and central Ohio.”

SARAH GRAFNER

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**Development staff news**

**Former Program Manager of the Ohio 4-H Foundation** Erin Wingfield has a new position in the college’s development office and Jenny Wensink has joined the team at ATI.

Wingfield is now the Director of Development for OSU Extension—4-H Youth Development in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. She was promoted to the position in late 2009 after Bill McCleery’s retirement.

She is responsible for fundraising for CFAES, OSU Extension, and 4-H, as well as acting as a liaison between the Ohio 4-H Foundation and the college development team.

“I’m looking forward to continuing my work raising money for Ohio 4-H while also getting to know the great CFAES alumni,” Wingfield said. “I hope I can help our alumni find the best ways to invest in their passion and in the future of the college.”

Wensink, a CFAES alumna, was with Select Sires Inc. prior to becoming the new assistant director of development. She focuses on major gifts for OSU Extension and 4-H.

“I graduated from Ohio State with a degree in Agricultural Communication and I’ve always loved our college,” said Wensink. “I’m really excited for the opportunity to work with our donors and do my part to help the mission of OSU Extension.”

AMY MCKENZIE
It’s amazing that someone I’ve never met believes in me and wants to help with my education. By giving what you can, you’ll definitely change somebody’s life.

Melissa Rubenbauer describes food as her passion. She loves cooking and plans to open a restaurant and catering business one day. By majoring in food business management and minoring in agribusiness at Ohio State, she also hopes to focus on food safety, particularly for those who suffer from food allergies and immunity issues. “Often, people don’t think about what goes into the food they eat,” she says.

Melissa’s parents had been financing her education with their retirement funds, but they were negatively affected by the downturn in the economy. When she learned she would receive scholarship support, her family was thrilled. “Although the scholarships don’t cover everything, they’ve made a major impact on my life,” she says.

By making a gift to Students First, Students Now today, donors can help deserving students accomplish their goals. Providing a helping hand for the next generation allows you to make an immediate impact—and a lasting difference for the future.

Help the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences put Students First, Students Now—please make a gift today.

giveto.osu.edu/studentsfirst
The Hurricanes are coming to town! No, not the storms but the University of Miami football team will be playing the mighty Bucks on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010, in the ‘Shoe. Game time is set for 3:30 p.m., and Ag Fallfest, with all of its great friendship, sharing, food, and silent auction for scholarships will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the newly renovated French Field House just north of the stadium. This will be University Reunion Weekend as well so make it a big family experience and join the festivities all weekend, Sept. 10–12.

University Reunion Weekend
The University Reunion Weekend committee has planned events for alumni returning to campus. General reunion activities will be announced by the University Alumni Association soon. For more information, contact the University Alumni Association directly at http://www.ohiostatealumni.org/connections/reunions/. Alumni who graduated in 1960 will receive a special invitation from President Gee for a Sunday brunch.

CFAES Fallfest
The CFAES Alumni Society has planned a great Fallfest for Saturday, Sept. 11, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the French Field House on Woody Hayes Drive. More information will be posted on the alumni web site, http://cfaes.osu.edu/alumni-and-donors/alumni/. The menu entree will be pork loin and all the trimmings. Graduates of 1950 and 1960 will receive special recognition at Fallfest.

Since this game is a high-profile game, our game ticket allocation will require a lottery. Application for the lottery is included in this newsletter. Please complete and return by the Aug. 6 deadline.

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. 6, to qualify for the lottery drawing to be conducted on Aug. 10.

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. 17 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 CFAES Alumni Society Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment Fund, which supports three to five 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 scholarship endowment 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. 10–12 for tours of campus, Saturday’s Fallfest, and the brunch (by invitation only) on Sunday. It will be a great time!
We are looking for top-flight CFAES alumni to recognize at the 2011 CFAES Alumni Society Awards luncheon to be held on Saturday, March 5, 2011, 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 35,000 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 2011.

“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 Awards 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 alumnus 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 2011. Nomination deadline is October 1, 2010.

Nominate outstanding CFAES alumni for 2010 awards

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Those familiar with agriculture understand the strong connection between doing what’s best to protect and preserve our natural resources and doing what’s best for the viability of agriculture and the strength of our food supply. With the School of Environment and Natural Resources embedded in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, there are plenty of green efforts to share. But I want to point out some of our efforts that might not be so easy to see:

- In April, the third annual Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair, held on our Wooster campus, attracted more than 2,000 visitors and 67 exhibitors.
- We are embarking on a program with UniPrint, the university’s printing facility, that will enable participating departments to use soy-based toner in office printers and copiers. This program will be both a boon to the environment and also an important outlet for agricultural products.
- Our Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center continues to impress. Built in 2004 as the first LEED-certified “green” building on campus, it led the way toward a new university policy for each new building or $4-million-plus renovation on campus to be built to achieve U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver-level certification or higher.
- Our college’s Faculty Council has formed a Sustainability Council with representation of faculty, staff, and students looking at more ways to support green policies and practices within the college, both administratively and on an individual level.

We like to think that our college puts the “green” in Scarlet and Gray, but we’re always striving to make that green deeper and longer lasting.