A n entomologist by training, the new vice president for Agricultural Administration and dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, came to The Ohio State University from The Pennsylvania State University where he served as dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. On Nov. 1, Bruce McPheron succeeded Bobby Moser, who is retiring after more than 21 years in the position. To facilitate the transition, Moser will stay on in the college until June 2013. McPheron credits Moser for the leadership position the college enjoys. “The best view of the future comes from the shoulders of the people who have gone before you. We have a firm footing and a clear view of the future.” McPheron was welcomed by leadership across the university and the state. “Dr. McPheron is an Ohio State alumnus and spent three years working as a county Extension educator in the state,” said Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee. “He brings a global view and worldwide experience back to Ohio to lead one of Ohio State’s most important educational programs. I am delighted that we have been fortunate enough to attract him back home.” McPheron’s vision focuses squarely on the future, aimed toward strengthening the college experience to produce career-ready graduates. “We are a university, and our most important product is our students who will leave here not only to find and fill jobs, but to take a leadership role in creating a new future,” McPheron said. That teaching mission extends beyond the classroom to encompass vibrant Extension educational programs, informed by the latest research. “Whether we are educating the next generation on campus, or solving a problem on a farm, in a factory, or in a community, we rely on world-class research,” he said. John C. “Jack” Fisher, executive vice president, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, and vice chairman of Ohio State’s board of trustees, said McPheron brings strong qualifications to the position. “He has accepted an important role at a time of great challenge and opportunity for the university and college. Traditional funding sources are diminishing as new funding models are only beginning to develop,” Fisher said. “Social and environmental demands must be balanced with the need to economically feed the world. Bruce’s track record of creativity and innovation will serve him well as he positions the college for future successes.”

“We are a university, and our most important product is our students who will leave here not only to find and fill jobs, but to take a leadership role in creating a new future.”

—BRUCE MCPHERON

New VP McPheron Brings Much, Expects Much

Feeding and fueling the world in an environmentally and economically sustainable fashion: With this as a top goal, Bruce A. McPheron expects much from his faculty, staff, and students.
PEER MENTORS
Brand-new Program Already Making an Impact on Students

For freshman David Pitts, an animal sciences major from California, starting his college adventure at a campus as big as The Ohio State University’s and so far away from home was a difficult experience.

“When I came to Ohio State I didn’t really know anybody and was reluctant to make friends,” said Pitts, a native of Fresno.

Not anymore. Thanks to the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences’ new peer mentoring program, first-year arrivals such as Pitts are paired with upperclass students who help them navigate the intricacies of college life, provide advice, and forge friendships.

Pitts said his peer mentor, junior Rachel Nemets — an animal sciences major from West Chester, Ohio — has made a huge difference during his first semester at Ohio State and in Ohio.

“My peer mentor was one of the first people to reach out to me, and I am so glad she did,” he said. “We go to lunch about once every two weeks to not only talk about school and grades, but also just about what is going on in life. This program is helping me find my niche on this big campus.”

The peer mentoring program was established this year to help incoming students better connect with Ohio State, CFAES, their department, and their major, said Jeff Hattey, CFAES assistant dean for academic programs.

“Retention rates are impacted when students feel they belong,” Hattey said. “Our goal is to exceed 95 percent retention rate for freshmen. We are close to that goal now, and we believe this program will help us get there.”

This year, the program involves 30 volunteer mentors, each assigned to seven or eight first-year students. They meet in small groups as part of the CFAES Survey course required for all freshmen, with the mentor leading discussions on topics such as academic integrity and practical issues such as how to enroll in courses or how to become involved in research.

The peer mentors also benefit from the program, Hattey said. They learn important leadership skills through the training they receive and from their interaction with mentees.

“I have gained more confidence in myself being a mentor,” Nemets said. “Putting together lesson plans to teach to freshmen is a lot of work, but it makes me feel very confident to accomplish all that I can do.”

NEW CHAIR DIVES DEEPLY INTO AGRICULTURE’S FUTURE

When Gary Straquadine took the helm as chair of the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership (ACEL) on July 1, his vision was focused squarely on the future. His hope is to lead the department to “dive deeply into our primary purpose: to carry the message of the transformation occurring in agriculture and food systems.

“The world will have 9 billion people to feed in a few years. We are at that critical point — agriculture has to change and society has to change. Do people understand all of the pieces necessary for decision-making? Our goal is to help people understand the bigger picture.”

Before joining Ohio State, Straquadine served as the dean and executive director of Utah State University’s Tooele Regional Campus, where he was involved extensively in the university’s distance education programs. Coincidently, ACEL began offering a new online master’s degree program this fall.

“With the new online master’s degree in agricultural and extension education, this department is poised to launch an even greater effort in distance education,” Straquadine said.

Straquadine hopes to hear from students, alumni, colleagues, and other stakeholders. He can be reached at 614-292-6909 or straquadine.5@osu.edu.

More about Gary Straquadine: http://go.osu.edu/ACELchair
n the past few years, The Ohio State University has made a pledge to put “students first.” And nowhere is this emphasis more evident than at the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. “As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act this year, it’s important to remember that land-grant universities like Ohio State were created with the main goal of educating people,” said Jeff Hattey, CFAES assistant dean for academic programs. “Our No. 1 product that comes out of the university is students. They will be the next generation of leaders, scientists, business owners, and agency experts.” CFAES offers its students a wide variety of resources and initiatives that not only provide them access to a college education, but guarantees that this education is a well-balanced combination of academics, research skills, industry experience, outreach and community engagement, global perspectives, and leadership skills.  

MAURICIO ESPINOZA

CFAES Begins Semester Era with Uptick in Enrollment

The Ohio State University’s switch to a semester-based system this past August didn’t impact enrollment in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, which actually experienced a 1.5 percent increase in its total undergraduate and graduate student population. The boost came mostly from undergraduate enrollment in environment and natural resources majors. Undergraduate enrollment in agriculture majors remained unchanged, while the number of graduate students grew slightly in both environment and natural resources and in agriculture.

The quarter-to-semester conversion involved the consolidation of certain programs as well as the creation of new majors. One of them — environment, economy, development, and sustainability — is already gaining speed, with many students expressing an interest in it, said Jill Pfister, assistant dean for academic affairs.

“Our classrooms are busy all day long. Students are taking more classes now, and classes meet longer,” Pfister said. “Our faculty and students are still getting used to the changes and the different pace of semesters.”

Pfister said her staff is working with students who started college under the quarter system to complete their degree audits, so they know exactly how many classes and credits they still need to take to graduate.

“We assure our students that everything is going to work out just fine,” Pfister said. “The change to semesters is a good thing for OSU and we need to work together to make it happen.”  

MAURICIO ESPINOZA
Celebrating the Morrill Act: 150 Years of Education for the Masses

We can thank President Abraham Lincoln for making the United States the agricultural powerhouse that it is today.

On July 2, 1862, President Lincoln signed the Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act into law, offering higher education — once available only to the wealthy and elite — to everyday people.

Under the act, states were given land that they sold to fund the establishment of a college that would focus on agriculture and mechanical engineering.

In fact, before it was known as The Ohio State University, it was called Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The result, said Keith Smith, associate vice president for Agricultural Administration at Ohio State, and director, OSU Extension: “Millions of college graduates across the nation who otherwise wouldn’t have had access to higher education.”

By leading to the Hatch (1887) and Smith-Lever (1914) acts, the Morrill Act spawned “research and outreach efforts to support the country’s most basic enterprise: agriculture,” Smith said. ■ SUZANNE STEEL
Food Safety on the Job

With an estimated 48 million illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000 deaths, foodborne illness costs the nation $77.7 billion a year. And research indicates restaurants and other food-service outlets are responsible for 7 in 10 outbreaks.

But Michele Gross is determined not to let it happen on her watch. That’s why she asks OSU Extension to conduct food safety training annually at Oberlin College.

“Our management team has always been required to have food safety certification, but about seven years ago, we made it a requirement for our cooks, too,” said Gross, Oberlin’s director of dining and business operations. Now, nearly all 50 cooks are certified.

As a result, “we do things very differently,” Gross said. “It’s a job expectation.”

Food temperatures are measured and logged “from delivery and storage to cooking, holding, cooling, and reheating.” Kitchen staff take precautions to prevent cross-contamination, and they keep each other on their toes.

“It’s made us a much more educated organization.”

In 2011, Extension educators reached more than 14,000 people in food safety programs. Training is offered to food-service workers at restaurants, schools, hospitals, childcare centers, nursing homes — “anyone who serves food to the public,” said Linnette Goard, Extension field specialist in food safety, selection, and management.

“They could get online training or take courses from other organizations, but Extension educators have both the food safety know-how and the expertise in teaching adult learners,” Goard said. “We offer a lot of advantages.”


MARTHA FILIPIC

FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM OFFERS NEW REVENUE MARKET FOR FARMERS AND ACCESS TO FRESH, LOCAL FOODS FOR STUDENTS

Ohio’s school lunchrooms provide a great opportunity for Ohio farmers and producers looking to tap into the growing demand for local foods to develop a new and growing source of revenue.

Thanks to a national program operated in Ohio by Ohio State University Extension, the Farm to School program not only offers youth, in pre-K through college, with access to nutritious food, it also supports local farmers and communities.

In addition to providing young people with fresh, local food, the program also helps them understand where their food comes from and how food choices affect their health, environment, and community.

In addition to providing young people with fresh, local food, the program also helps them understand where their food comes from and how food choices affect their health, environment, and community, said Julie Fox, director of Ohio State’s Farm to School program.

For farmers and producers, the program offers them the opportunity to reach new markets, she said. It also teaches them what products schools buy; how products are packaged, priced, and distributed; how schools operate; how to develop relationships with school decision makers; and how to put together a plan that fits with their business goals.

Farmers benefit from the program through access to a committed market with constant, steady demand, getting reliable prices for their products, increased community awareness and support, market diversity, and the promotion of nutritious food for students.

Now in its third year in Ohio, the program leadership moved from the Ohio Department of Agriculture to Ohio State, where a team of OSU Extension professionals brings an interdisciplinary approach to the program with research and education in nutrition, food production and distribution, and local food systems.

More information on the program can be found at http://farmtoschool.osu.edu.

TRACY TURNER
OSU Extension Works With Growers, Producers to Help Blunt the Impact of 2012 Drought

What’s become known as the “Drought of 2012” has been the worst such event in the United States since the 1950s, negatively impacting farmers and livestock producers across Ohio and nationwide. The U.S. Department of Agriculture last month estimated that the U.S. corn crop will be the lowest in six years, and soybeans will be the lowest in nine years due to drought losses.

Estimates from Purdue University economists put the damage at $77 billion, which would make this year’s drought the third-costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. In fact, July was the hottest month the nation has ever recorded.

As a result, OSU Extension professionals rallied to create two websites to offer expertise to help farmers, growers, producers, consumers, and businesses manage the drought, whether they farm, manage a nursery, or simply want to keep their garden growing.

Resources on the OSU Extension site http://agnr.osu.edu/managing-drought-2012 include links to and information on crops, news releases, livestock and pasture, home and landscape, and drought resources from other universities and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

OSU Extension experts also continue to hold workshops on drought-related financial and management options for livestock producers, present field day demonstrations offering expertise on drought-related planting and livestock issues, and issue news releases related to drought.

Also, the OSU Agronomic Crops Team continues to provide guidance to growers and producers regarding drought through its weekly C.O.R.N. Newsletter at http://corn.osu.edu/.

OSU Extension also created a Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/OHdrought12 to offer news and information on drought. ■ TRACY TURNER

In addition to drought, growers and producers also dealt with near-record heat, with the summer of 2012 the third-hottest in U.S. weather history. In fact, July was the hottest month the nation has ever recorded.

Ohio 4-H’er Earns Year-long Japanese Internship

When Erin Hope was 12 years old, her mother saw a flier for an international exchange program sponsored by Ohio 4-H.

• “She just decided, ‘OK, we’ll host a Japanese exchange student.’ And we fell in love with the program,” Hope said. Over the years, her family hosted two more month-long Japanese exchange students and a year-long exchange student, and both Erin and her older brother visited Japan on two-month exchanges as part of the Labo International Youth Exchange Program.

Ten years later, Hope is embarking on another adventure: She was selected to be one of three interns from the United States and Canada in the yearlong Labo Intern Program in Japan. • Labo is a Japanese youth organization focused on helping its members improve their English-language ability and learn about other cultures. It includes homestay and academic exchange programs for young people in Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, and China.

Hope, who graduated from Ohio State in June with a degree in Japanese, was one of three Ohio 4-H members who were selected as finalists for the internship earlier this year, said Mary Lynn Thalheimer, program director for the Ohio 4-H International Program, which is a partner of Labo in the United States.

“We couldn’t be more proud of Erin and our other finalists,” Thalheimer said. “Erin will be a wonderful ambassador for Ohio 4-H, Ohio State University Extension, and the state of Ohio in general.” • Before she left for the internship in September, Hope said she was looking forward to working with the kids.

• “The goal of Labo is to broaden horizons,” she said. “I’m looking forward to helping (the members) see and understand that there’s a whole other world outside of Japan.” • More about Erin Hope: http://go.osu.edu/Labointern. ■ MARTHA FILIPIC
The impact of the tornado on the OARDC campus was devastating, and we have been extremely pleased and gratified with the support from all quarters to rebuild the campus.”
— STEVE SLACK

The September 16, 2010, tornado destroyed it. Two years later, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center’s Wooster campus has secured enough money to rebuild its Agricultural Engineering Building — thanks to $6 million in emergency funds allocated by the state of Ohio’s Office of Budget and Management and approved by the State Controlling Board last September 10.

The allocation of the funds was announced August 29 by State Rep. Ron Amstutz during a meeting of Ohio State’s Board of Trustees at OARDC. Amstutz, whose 3rd House District includes Wooster and who chairs the Ohio House of Representatives’ Finance and Appropriations Committee, has been a strong supporter of OARDC over his three decades of service in the Ohio legislature.

“The impact of the tornado on the OARDC campus was devastating, and we have been extremely pleased and gratified with the support from all quarters to rebuild the campus,” OARDC Director Steve Slack said.

“The loss of the Agricultural Engineering Building was especially crippling because it housed the core of our bioenergy and bioproducts research. Ron Amstutz has been both an advocate and a leader in the restoration efforts, and the announcement of these funds means that a very significant funding gap has now been resolved and enables us to move forward to rebuild this critical facility.”

Cost of the new building is estimated at $14 million, with insurance covering only part of the expenses. What remains of the old structure will be torn down in late 2012. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2013 and be complete in late 2014.  ■ MAURICIO ESPINOZA
WILY COYOTES ARE HOWLINGLY FAITHFUL

Coyotes living in cities never stray from their mates — like, ever — and stay with each other till death do them part, according to a new study.

The finding sheds light on why the North American cousin of the dog and wolf, which is originally native to deserts and plains, is thriving today in urban areas.

Stan Gehrt and Cecilia Hennessy in the School of Environment and Natural Resources genetically sampled 236 coyotes in the Chicago area over a six-year period and found no evidence of polygamy — of the animals having more than one mate — nor of one mate ever leaving another while the other was still alive.

This was even though the coyotes exist in high population densities and enjoy abundant food supplies, which are conditions that often lead other dog family members, such as some fox species, to stray from their normal monogamy.

To cat around, as it were.

“I was surprised we didn’t find any cheating going on,” said Gehrt, a wildlife ecologist with the school. “Even with all the opportunities for the coyotes to philander, they really don’t.

“In contrast to studies of other presumably monogamous species that were later found to be cheating, such as arctic foxes and mountain bluebirds, we found incredible loyalty to partners in the study population.”

The study appeared in a recent issue of The Journal of Mammalogy.

The finding came through a wider study of Chicago-area coyotes that Gehrt has led since 2000. As the largest study ever on urban coyotes, it’s a long-term effort to understand the animals’ population ecology, how they adapt to urban life, and how to reduce their conflicts with people. • KURT KNEBUSCH

Scientists Help Defend Ohio from ‘Staggering’ Assault from New Tree Pests

Picture the Hocking Hills without hemlocks. Northeast Ohio without sugar maples. The Buckeye State without buckeyes.

Some growing foreign threats could make it happen.

From the emerald ash borer to the Asian longhorned beetle to the hemlock woolly adelgid and others, “Ohio is under assault from invasive tree pests,” said entomologist Dan Herms, who has appointments with OARDC and OSU Extension. “Their potential impact is staggering.”

Herms’s mission, and that of his colleagues, is to track the invaders, which have come here by accident from Asia, Europe, and elsewhere, and to study how to control them.

OARDC is specially suited to the task, Herms said. As Ohio’s agricultural experiment station, “There’s a critical mass of expertise, resources, and facilities here, including new tools in molecular biology, that is unique and allows this work to be done.”

“Many of the trees that Asian longhorned beetle and thousand cankers disease affect are staple landscape trees in our area,” said Kyle Natorp, president and CEO of Natorp’s Inc., a leading nursery and garden center in greater Cincinnati that alone has lost $1 million to emerald ash borer. “If we lose them, it will devastate Ohio’s nursery and landscape industry.

“The research that Dan and his colleagues are doing is paramount in preventing another loss like that of the ash tree.” • KURT KNEBUSCH

Current concerns include:

• Asian longhorned beetle, now in southwest Ohio, which feeds on and kills multiple species, including maples and buckeyes.

• Hemlock woolly adelgid, now in southern Ohio, which if unchecked will devastate hemlocks.

• Thousand cankers disease, which has reached Pennsylvania and wipes out walnuts.

• And the widely established, still-spread ng emerald ash borer. The pest has already cost Ohio communities some $7 billion to remove and replace dead ash trees and the state’s businesses $1 billion in ruined nursery and timber stock.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

➢ Read an expanded version of this story at http://bit.ly/OocX4n

➢ Gehrt’s Chicago-area project has a website at http://urbancoyoteresearch.com/

➢ Watch a WLS-TV, Chicago, news report on Gehrt’s project that includes, among other things, infrared video of coyotes walking unseen down city sidewalks at night at http://go.osu.edu/PQn

8 | continuum NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Testing Whether Biogas Can Break Us Free from Foreign Oil

Jim Currie, head of OARDC’s ATECH program, which works to commercialize research, is pumped.

Thanks to a $46,000 Clean Fuels Ohio grant that Currie secured, OARDC has started a demonstration project on running some of its fleet vehicles on compressed natural gas, or CNG.

And not just any CNG, but biogas-derived CNG produced by one of OARDC’s industry partners, quasar energy group, which has a waste-converting biogas plant and CNG fueling station in OARDC’s BioHi Research Park in Wooster.

“It’s not just that it’s an alternative fuel,” Currie said. “It’s that it’s bio-derived, that it takes a waste stream and turns it into a useful product.”

The biogas-derived CNG costs about 25 percent less than gasoline, emits a third less greenhouse gas, and comes from a domestic, renewable resource — local food-processing waste and similar feedstocks — not from foreign fossil fuels.

The grant paid to convert three Ford Fusion sedans and a Ford F150 pickup truck into bifuel vehicles, which can now run on CNG, or if need be, gasoline.

At a gasoline price of $4 a gallon, burning CNG in the vehicles could save OARDC about $1,000 per vehicle per year, based on their estimated use and on quasar’s CNG costing the equivalent of $2.25 a gallon.

Plus they’ll put out about 25 percent less carbon dioxide, 65 percent less nitrogen oxide, and 90 percent less carbon monoxide, according to a U.S. Department of Energy website.

“The OARDC/quasar CNG conversion pilot project is a great example of how university research institutions and industry are working together in northeast Ohio to develop real-world solutions to meet our energy challenges,” said Dave Karpinski, vice president, NorTech, and director, NorTech Energy Enterprise, both in Cleveland.

“OARDC and quasar were already well out in front on the issue of utilizing CNG as an alternative transportation fuel and have emerged as clear leaders in this important market — a market that promises significant economic growth potential for our region.” — KURT KNEBUSCH

‘Tremendous Effect’ of Eating an Apple a Day

Eating an apple a day might in fact help keep the cardiologist away, new research suggests.

In a study of healthy, middle-aged adults, consumption of one apple a day for four weeks lowered by 40 percent blood levels of a substance linked to hardening of the arteries.

Taking capsules containing polyphenols, a type of antioxidant found in apples, had a similar, but not as large, effect.

The study, funded by an apple industry group, found that the apples lowered blood levels of oxidized LDL — low-density lipoprotein, the “bad” cholesterol. When LDL cholesterol interacts with free radicals to become oxidized, the cholesterol is more likely to promote inflammation and can cause tissue damage.

“When LDL becomes oxidized, it takes on a form that begins atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries,” said lead researcher Robert DiSilvestro, professor of human nutrition and a researcher with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. “We got a tremendous effect against LDL being oxidized with just one apple a day for four weeks.”

The difference was similar to that found between people with normal coronary arteries versus those with coronary artery disease, he said.

The study was published in the Journal of Functional Foods.

For the study, the researchers recruited nonsmoking healthy adults between ages 40 and 60 who had a history of eating apples less than twice a month and who didn’t take supplements containing polyphenols or other plant-based concentrates. Some ate a large Red or Golden Delicious apple daily for four weeks; some took capsules containing polyphenols; and some took a placebo containing no polyphenols. The researchers found no effect on oxidized LDLs in those taking the placebo.

The study was conducted as a master’s thesis by graduate student Shi Zhao, and was funded by the U.S. Apple Association/Apple Product Research and Education Council and a donation from Futureceuticals Inc. of Momence, Illinois. Also involved in the study were associate professor Joshua Bomser and research associate Elizabeth Joseph.

More details: http://go.osu.edu/appleaday. — MARTHA FILIPIC
ATI’S POWER EQUIPMENT AND HYDRAULICS PROGRAMS: GRADUATES IN HIGH DEMAND

For many ATI students, the path to the power equipment and hydraulics majors is by way of the family farm, where they have been exposed to the variety of equipment that is essential to any progressive agricultural operation. However, both the power equipment degree and the hydraulic power and motion control degree are designed to empower students to embrace the diversity of opportunities that exist outside of agriculture. Consequently, graduates regularly land in careers in industries they might never have considered before coming to ATI.

“We produce graduates that have fundamentals common to many industries — agriculture, of course, but also construction, mining, utilities, infrastructure,” explained John Arnold, associate professor and coordinator of the power equipment and hydraulics programs.

Neil Baker ’91 thought he would pursue a degree in power equipment to bring some enhanced mechanical aptitude back to his family’s grain farm in Danville, Ohio. But the first class he took that explored the concepts of hydraulics changed all that. “I didn’t even know that field existed,” Baker said. “I thought, ‘Wow! There’s a whole other world out there!’ I never would have been exposed to that if I hadn’t come to ATI.”

Baker went on to double-major in power equipment and hydraulics. After graduation, finances were pinched at the family farm, so when an entry-level position became available at American Augers in West Salem, Ohio, Baker jumped at the chance to move into the field he found fascinating. American Augers is a leading manufacturer of underground construction equipment, and all of it relies heavily on hydraulic systems driven by large diesel engines. When the company went through a growth spurt and was short on engineers, Baker found himself stepping more and more into engineers’ shoes, producing technical drawings for directional drill prototypes. Recognizing his skill, the company moved him into the engineering department, where he has been ever since. He is a power systems engineer and is currently working on new product development for vertical drilling rigs for the oil and gas industry.

“Neil is a shining example of what our graduates can do,” Arnold said, “but he is by no means the only one.” Citing consistent success in attracting potential employers to the annual ATI engineering technologies job fair, Arnold noted that graduates from either program are in high demand, and graduates with a dual major especially so.

“They have expertise in a broad spectrum of skills, and graduates generally have multiple offers they can choose from.”

FRANCES WHITED

WHERE GRADUATES GO

Graduates of ATI’s power equipment and hydraulics programs usually have plenty of options to choose from for employment. Some of the northeast Ohio companies that currently employ or have employed ATI graduates include:

JLG: manufacturer of material handling equipment
Test Technicians

AMERICAN AUGERS: manufacturer of directional drills and gas and oil well rigs
Service
Assembly and Test
Quality Assurance
Engineering, Training
Clockwise from left: Jordan Penhorwood at his internship with Thomas & Marker Construction of Bellefontaine; Dillon Rhodes on internship with the East Fairfield Coal Company of North Lima; Mark Sutton on internship with American Augers of West Salem; ATI student Mathew Boudinault and Assistant Professor Paul Lee with a pneumatic trainer (detail of trainer below); Neil Baker of American Augers.
Ohio State Kicks Off Campaign

Ohio State has officially launched the public phase of its $2.5 billion But For Ohio State fundraising campaign. With more than half of the goal already achieved, more than 400,000 alumni and friends have contributed to the campaign so far.

The university’s focus will be on these five priority areas: Placing Students First; Elevating Faculty and the Academic Enterprise; Creating Modern Learning Environments; Emboldening Our Research Agenda; and Driving High Impact Innovation. “The But for Ohio State campaign is about the difference between good and great,” said President E. Gordon Gee. “Our ability to garner private support from alumni and friends will allow us to play on the world stage in ways we cannot otherwise. People invest in strength and Ohio State is stronger than ever.”

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.

“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,” said Dr. Bobby D. Moser. “Food security and human health, biobased energy resources, environmental quality and sustainability — all represent areas of strength for CFAES and opportunities to find solutions for a world in need of answers.”

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. Support of the Moser Scholars Program and the gift from Tim Smucker and The J.M. Smucker Company are great examples of the contributions to the campaign that are making a difference. You can read more about both of these on these pages.

For more information about the campaign call the CFAES Development office at (614) 292-0473 or visit www.osu.edu/giving.

What does it mean to you?

The Pat and Bobby Moser Scholars Program

In September 2011, Bobby Moser, the longest tenured dean at The Ohio State University, announced plans to retire. Moser is, as one of his students said, somewhat of an Elvis figure at Ohio State and statewide; there will never be another like him — or another couple like Bobby and Pat. Without question, he and Pat leave behind a tremendous legacy. It is only fitting, then, that a gesture to honor them be equally unique. • The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is celebrating the achievements and influence of Bobby and Pat Moser by creating the Moser Scholars Program, which benefits the students they have spent their lives supporting.

The program was launched in August and has already raised over $900,000 in support from individuals, organizations, and businesses. • The Moser Scholars Program will be comprised of both general endowment and current-use, and individually named endowment funds that are united by a common purpose—to provide financial aid to students at the college, including ATI, through support of:

- 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.

The Moser Scholars Program is a wonderful example of Placing Students First, one of the priorities of the university and the But for Ohio State campaign. For more information on the Moser Scholars Program, contact the Development office at 614-292-0473 or to give visit http://giveto.osu.edu/moserscholars/.

“There has been no greater ambassador for The Ohio State University than Bobby Moser. Truly, his career has been a calling.”
—Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee
Generous support from Tim and Jenny Smucker and The J.M. Smucker Company will endow three funds for the college. The J.M. Smucker Company Scholarship Fund will be used to support undergraduate scholarships—with preference given to food science and technology students—as a part of the newly created Pat and Bobby Moser Scholars Program in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and the Agricultural Technical Institute.

Secondly, The Smucker Leaders Scholarship Fund will be used to support undergraduates from a variety of majors pursuing a minor in Leadership Studies in the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership. Finally, The J.M. Smucker Company Innovation Research Award Fund will be used to support undergraduate, graduate, and faculty research awards in the college. Preference shall be given to projects focused on food.

“Jenny and I have a special commitment to education because we feel strongly that lifelong learning is critical to the future and growth of our communities. Through these scholarship funds, we have the opportunity to help students further their education and to help support research that could lead to innovations within our industry,” said Tim Smucker, chairman of the board of The J.M. Smucker Company.

For more than 110 years, The J.M. Smucker Company has been committed to offering consumers quality products that bring families together to share memorable meals and moments. Today, Smucker is a leading marketer and manufacturer of fruit spreads, retail packaged coffee, peanut butter, shortening and oils, ice cream toppings, sweetened condensed milk, and health and natural foods beverages in North America. Its family of brands includes Smucker’s®, Folgers®, Dunkin’ Donuts®, Jif®, Crisco®, Pillsbury®, Eagle Brand®, R.W. Knudsen Family®, Hungry Jack®, Café Bustelo®, Café Pilon™, White Lily®, and Martha White® in the United States, along with Robin Hood®, Five Roses®, Carnation®, and Bick’s® in Canada.

The company remains rooted in the Basic Beliefs of Quality, People, Ethics, Growth and Independence established by its founder and namesake more than a century ago. For more information about the company, visit www.smuckers.com.

This tremendous commitment will help bolster the college and its students and faculty to achieve great success and reach beyond their goals. It also is another great example of a But for Ohio State campaign gift, aligning with both the college’s and university’s goals and priorities. For more information on the campaign contact the Development office at 614-292-0473 or visit www.osu.edu/giving.

“Pat and I are extremely grateful to Tim Smucker and The J.M. Smucker Company for its generous donation to the Moser Scholars Program and other scholarship programs,” said Bobby Moser, retiring vice president for Agricultural Administration and dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. “The success of our students, who are really the future of Ohio’s food industry, is so important to us. The gift for student and faculty research awards is truly visionary. It is through research that our food industry remains strong.”
The Alumni Association’s awards program celebrates more than 50 years of excellence by honoring alumni and others who have brought extraordinary credit to Ohio State. This year, two individuals from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences were recognized.

L. H. Newcomb ’73, 2012 Ralph Davenport Mershon Award

“Do something great!” For generations of Ohio State students, that has been L. H. Newcomb’s guiding principle. Even as a small-town farm boy in Virginia, he was determined to succeed as a first-generation college student. * And succeed he did. After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agricultural education from Virginia Tech, Newcomb pursued his doctorate at Ohio State in agricultural education. He had planned to return to Virginia but, instead, accepted an assistant professorship position at Ohio State. He became the agricultural education department chair in just 13 years, then served as senior associate dean of the college until he retired. * Forty years later, the master teacher, student advocate, researcher, and leader in college change management has an impressive string of accomplishments — most important of which was always putting students first. * A noted expert in the psychology of learning and teaching methodology, Newcomb has mentored many teachers. He was the inaugural holder of the Sanford G. Price and Isabelle P. Barbee Chair in Teaching, Advising, and Learning. He was dedicated to advising student organizations, believing that they are laboratories for life, teaching leadership, organizational management, and human relations skills. As a result, he has received several awards honoring outstanding service to students and their organizations. His presence in the halls of the college buildings, where he interacted with students, faculty, and staff, is greatly missed. * As any college administrator knows, organizations must change and restructure to remain effective. Throughout his career, Newcomb has been recognized for his expertise in organizational change and innovation. He has served on numerous university and college committees and councils. Even during retirement, he was asked to serve as acting chair of the Department of Human and Community Resource Development, guiding its reorganization. More than 20 colleges and national professional societies have sought his expertise. * Among his honors are a Distinguished Service Award and Distinguished Lecturer Award, both from the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture. In addition, he was named a Fellow of the American Association of Agricultural Educators and an Honorary American Farmer by the national FFA. * At the heart of Newcomb’s values is the idea that producing food for people is an important vocation deserving of our best minds, technologies, and efforts. His lifelong dedication to teaching has meant significant contributions to this worthy goal and to Ohio State.

Rattan Lal ’68, 2012 Professional Achievement Award

Through soil sciences research, professor Rattan Lal has made a difference in the lives of millions worldwide. Lal joined Ohio State in 1987. His work has focused on managing world soils to adapt and mitigate climate change, advance food security, and improve the environment. * His contributions have attracted high praise from Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee, who notes, “His insight has reduced hunger on the other side of the globe. Like the soil he studies, he is essential.” * Lal pioneered this research in the 1980s, long before it became popular internationally. He is the world’s foremost scientist in studying soil carbon sequestration — or the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and its storage in the soil — which decreases the concentration in the air and reduces the effect on climate change and global warming. * In 2001, Lal founded the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center, which conducts research on this natural fix. His work has shown that the natural process of soil carbon sequestration has additional benefits, including advancing food security, restoring eroded and degraded soils, promoting conservation agriculture, and developing methods for carbon farming. * Lal has been published extensively and is often cited by researchers worldwide. He has authored 15 books and edited an additional 50 in soil science and climate change, having...
written 345 chapters in other books, along with serving on the editorial boards of 27 peer-reviewed international journals. He has been invited to present nearly 325 keynote addresses, and his publications have been cited in National Geographic and Newsweek. During 2009, Lal worked closely with former Vice President Al Gore, who solicited his input in preparing the book Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis.

Through his career, Lal has served as president of the Soil Science Society of America, the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation, and the International Soil Tillage Research Organization. He has convened 36 international conferences on soils and climate change and has testified at seven congressional committee hearings. He currently serves on grant-review panels for the USDA, USDOE, and NASA. Lal has served the Ohio State community in a range of activities, including as a member of the University Senate, Faculty Council Steering Committee, Faculty Cabinet, Research Committee, and Graduate Council. He also served as a member of the Honorary Degree Committee of the Senate for two terms, and as its chair. His achievements have earned him more than 40 awards worldwide, including Ohio State’s Distinguished Scholar Award (1994), University Distinguished Lecturer (2000), and Distinguished University Professor (2011).

JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2013 ➔ Planning for 2013 events is underway. Please watch our website for updates and registration information: http://cfaes.osu.edu/students/alumni/events.

On September 21, the Ohio Union held its second annual Sloopy’s Diner Sandwich Club Unveiling, and the CFAES Alumni Society was one of three groups and seven individuals recognized for outstanding commitment to the Ohio Union, Student Life, and The Ohio State University.

This year, the Biscuits and gravy Entrée at Sloopy’s will be named for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Alumni Society. The society represents over 36,000 living alumni who are graduates of CFAES, including the School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Agricultural Technical Institute. The society has been recognized several times as a top society by the OSU Alumni Association, and its members have been recognized nationally throughout their careers. In announcing the award, Sloopy’s and the Ohio Union said it is only fitting to honor the alumni of CFAES this year, the 150th anniversary of the Land Grant Act of 1862. The annual selection is sponsored by the Ohio Union and Dining Services in the Office of Student Life.

HANG ON!

CFAES Alumni Society
One of Three Groups Honored by Ohio Union, Student Life

On September 21, the Ohio Union held its second annual Sloopy’s Diner Sandwich Club Unveiling, and the CFAES Alumni Society was one of three groups and seven individuals recognized for outstanding commitment to the Ohio Union, Student Life, and The Ohio State University.

FALLFEST 2012 RECAP

Over 500 people joined us in the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center for Fallfest 2012. It wasn’t all food and socializing. With the help of our Silent Auction we raised just over $5,000 for the CFAES Alumni Society Undergraduate Scholarship.

Miss us in 2012? Please mark the date of October 19, 2013, on your calendar for Fallfest and the game vs. the Iowa Hawkeyes. Watch the CFAES website and future issues of Continuum for more information about Fallfest 2013.

The CFAES Alumni Society thanks 2012 donors:

- Ohio Poultry Association
- Farm Credit Services of Mid-Amercia
- Mideast American Dairy Association — Smith’s Dairy
- Amanda Hills Spring Water
- And our many Silent Auction donors

We would also like to thank Fallfest co-chairs Dan Boyesel and Tim Street along with our Silent Auction Chair, Sandy Kuhn.

Twelve Alumni to Be Recognized at March Awards Luncheon

The CFAES Alumni Society announces the selection of 12 recipients for recognition at its annual Alumni Awards Luncheon on Saturday, March 2, 2013, at the Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road. 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 are $26 each and can be reserved online (visit http://cfaes.osu.edu/students/alumni/events for a link to the reservation form) or by telephone (614-247-2745).

MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE
Raymond A. Miller (BS, MS, PhD, Agricultural Education, 1966, 1968, 1976), Hilliard, Ohio
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI AWARD
Rodrigo A. Chaves (PhD, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, 1994), Washington, D.C.
YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD
Vinodini “Emma” Buck (MS, Food Science and Nutrition, 2007), Columbus, Ohio; Joseph A. Shultz (BS, Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 2003), Washington, D.C.; Daniel Toland (BS, Agricultural Communications, 2005), Marysville, Ohio

http://cfaes.osu.edu/students/alumni/events

The Alumni Society has been recognized several times as a top society by the OSU Alumni Association, and its members have been recognized nationally throughout their careers. In announcing the award, Sloopy’s and the Ohio Union said it is only fitting to honor the alumni of CFAES this year, the 150th anniversary of the Land Grant Act of 1862. The annual selection is sponsored by the Ohio Union and Dining Services in the Office of Student Life.
Dean’s Corner

Bruce A. McPheron
Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean,
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Greetings, friends and colleagues!

It is an honor for me to write as your new Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and Vice President for Agricultural Administration. I truly never anticipated that I would see this day — when I could begin to give back to the college, university, and state that provided so much to shape my life and career.

It is a special opportunity for me that this transition happens in 2012, the sesquicentennial of the Morrill Act, which created our fabulous land-grant universities. My own journey began in 4-H in Union and Hardin counties, but it includes time as a county Extension educator (in Clermont County) and a career in research, teaching, and administration at Penn State University.

I tell you this because it is important to celebrate our history while gazing clearly toward the future. We build on the history of the land-grant system; we build on the successes of Bobby Moser and the faculty, staff, and students that make up this great college; we build on our own individual experiences. But, we are focused together on the future. We will learn from our past accomplishments, but we are poised to achieve even more.

Join me! Come along for the ride!