

INFLUENCE

2017

Alumni Newsletter

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY



INFLUENCE

2017

Alumni Newsletter

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Mississippi State University

Mark E. Keenum MSU President

Gregory A. Bohach Vice President, DAFVM

George M. Hopper Dean

Scott Willard Associate Dean

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Jonathan Pote Agricultural & Biological Engineering

Keith Coble Agricultural Economics

John Blanton Animal & Dairy Sciences

Jeff Dean Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology
& Plant Pathology

Will Evans Food Science, Nutrition & Health Promotion

Michael Newman School of Human Sciences

Sadik Artunc Landscape Architecture

Mike Phillips Plant & Soil Sciences

Mary Beck Poultry Science

EDITOR

Karen Brasher

DESIGN

David Ammon

WRITERS

Vanessa Beeson

Karen Brasher

Sarah Buckleitner

Amy Cagle

Gina Garner

Susan Lassetter

Addie Mayfield

Kenner Patton

PHOTOGRAPHY

David Ammon

Megan Bean

Dominique Belcher

Karen Brasher

Sarah Buckleitner

Russ Houston

Kenner Patton

Beth Wynn

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is a unit in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination in university employment, programs or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status protected by applicable law is prohibited. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Compliance and Integrity, 56 Morgan Avenue, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (662) 325-5839.

What's Inside

- 03 Letter from the Dean
- 04 Alumnus of the Year
- 05 Alumni Fellow
- 06 CALS Alumni Get Lost in Pizza
- 08 Like Father, Like Daughter
- 10 World Food Prize
- 12 Through the Lens
- 14 Leaders in Agriculture
- 20 Trifecta of Leadership
- 28 Development
- 36 Faculty News
- 40 Study Abroad
- 42 Student News
- 46 Alumni News
- 50 Alumni Breakfast

On the cover: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' students provide a *Trifecta of Leadership* on campus. Find out more about these leaders on page 20. (Photo by Karen Brasher)

Reference to commercial products or trade names within information provided by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences does not constitute an endorsement by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Mississippi State University, and does not imply discrimination against other similar products.

Letter from the Dean

WHAT AN EXCITING TIME IT IS TO BE A BULLDOG. We are experiencing record enrollments, our students continue to excel nationally, and we are growing with new buildings. Add to this an outstanding alumni of over 15,000 who continue to make us proud and represent the university as leaders in agriculture and life sciences. I think you can agree that it is great to be a bulldog.

Our student body continues to grow with 2,408 enrolled in the fall of 2017, a 71 percent increase in the last decade. And our students are going outside of their comfort zones to travel abroad and conduct cutting-edge research.

In 2017, CALS students studied in China, Guatemala, Italy, and Thailand. The CALS Undergraduate Research Scholars program included over 30 students in 2017. This program is producing some great young scientists, many of whom have won major awards and scholarships and continue on to graduate school.

We have launched several new programs including a master of agribusiness management now available online through the Center for Distance Learning. We also have a new graduate certificate in Clinical Health Promotion and Wellness Coaching, designed to fill a critical need in older populations. We have new graduate degrees in Fashion Design and Merchandising. We also are now offering an accelerated master's program in Poultry Science and accelerated master's and Ph.D. programs in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology and Plant Pathology.

While we have struggled with declining budgets, our scientists continue to pursue extramural grants in the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES), which helps with our budget situation. During fiscal year 2017, scientists received funding for 415 projects at over \$22 million.

Of course, none of our accomplishments would happen without the support of our alumni and friends. Thank you for funding student scholarships, study abroad, facilities, and more. This year we received over \$6 million in gifts, a 19 percent



increase over the previous fiscal year. I am so thankful for your support, and please continue with your generosity. We need your help.

We are excited about the new Meat Science and Muscle Biology Laboratory, located on the corner of Stone Boulevard and Blackjack Road, which will soon be occupied. This is the first of three buildings to be completed in a new animal complex. The Animal and Dairy Sciences building is under construction and should be occupied next year. Construction of the Poultry Science building is slated for 2019 with occupancy in 2020. We are excited about this new complex. This issue of *Influence* contains information about the buildings and naming opportunities.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Influence* and discovering the incredible impact our alumni and students make each and every day and into the future. Thank you for your continued support. *Hail State!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Hopper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

George M. Hopper

Dean and Director



2017 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

William S. "Sledge" Taylor III

A 1974 AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY and business graduate, William S. "Sledge" Taylor III, is owner of Buckeye Farms and president of Como Consolidated Gin Company Inc. In 2016, Taylor served as chairman of the National Cotton Council or NCC, representing the industry before lawmakers in Washington, D.C. The Como, Mississippi native is a fifth-generation farmer that has made agricultural advocacy a pillar of his legacy. In addition to his leadership on the National Cotton Council, Taylor has served in various executive capacities for organizations including the Southern Cotton Ginners Association, National Cotton Ginners Association, the Delta Council, and the Mississippi Cattle Industry Board. He is a member of the USDA's Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade and a board member for Delta Wildlife. He has served as commissioner for Panola County Soil and Water Conservation District and Panola-Tate Drainage District. He was also chairman of the Panola County Land Planning Commission.



2017 ALUMNI FELLOW

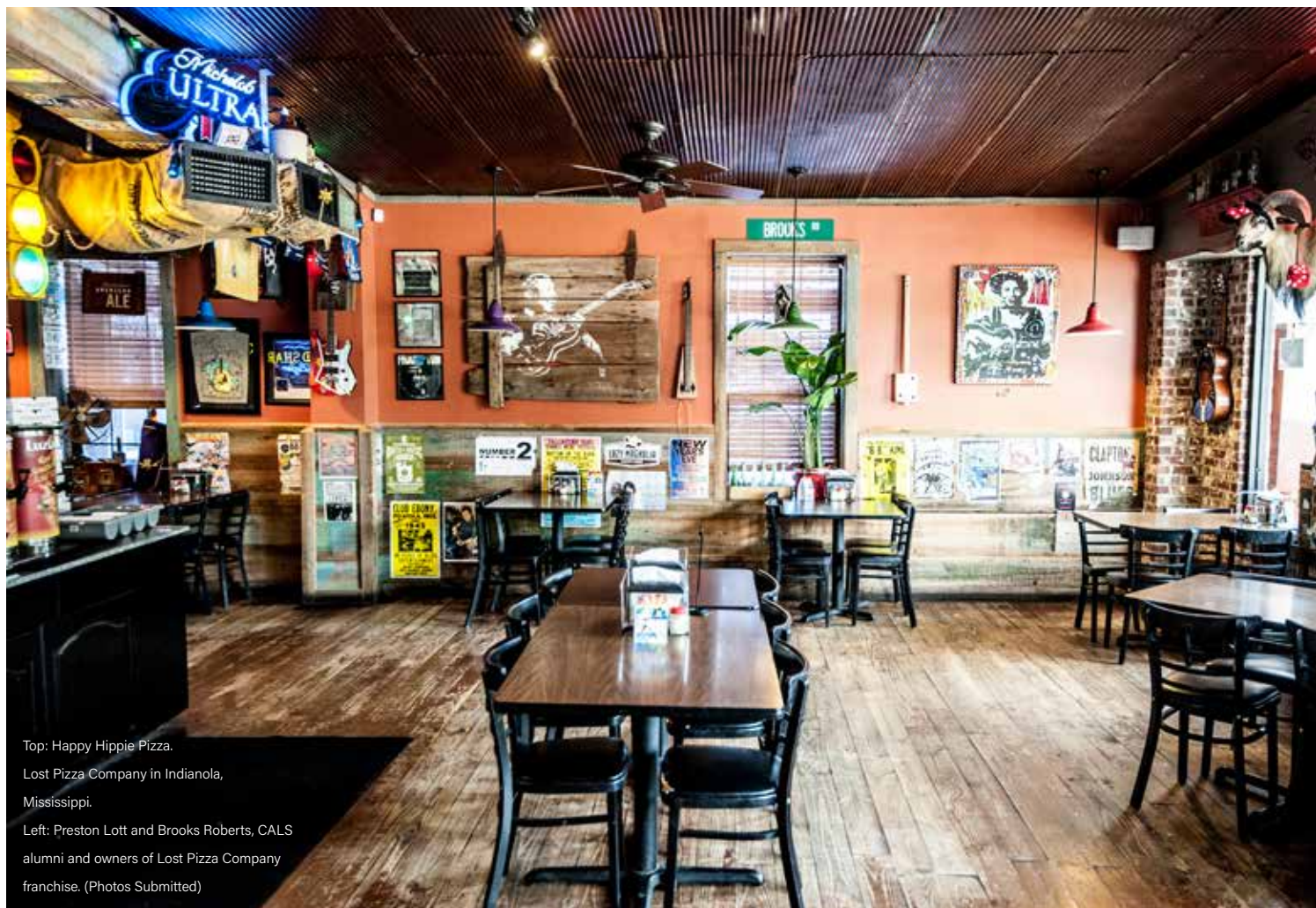
Drew St. John II

DREW ST. JOHN II OF MADISON ENERGIZED BULLDOG fans from 1976-78 as MSU's mascot, and since then the former Student Association officer and Interfraternity Council president has been just as passionate about his university. A 1980 landscape architecture graduate, St. John enjoyed a 28-year career as a landscape contractor. He also presided over the Associated Landscape Contractors of America. In 2007, the Hattiesburg native founded New South Access and Environmental Solutions, LLC, and he continues as its CEO. The company is a leading global provider of construction mats, hardwood and timber mats, and composite mats. In 2017, Drew, along with his wife Kathy, established the Drew St. John Fund for Excellence in the Department of Landscape Architecture. Applied at the discretion of the department head, the fund supports student and faculty development, equipment and resources, lecture series, start-up funding for research projects, scholarship support for students, as well as enhanced teaching, research, and service.

CALS ALUMNI GET **LOST** IN **PIZZA**

Long-time friends establish Lost Pizza Co. franchise

By Sarah Buckleitner



Top: Happy Hippie Pizza.

Lost Pizza Company in Indianola, Mississippi.

Left: Preston Lott and Brooks Roberts, CALS alumni and owners of Lost Pizza Company franchise. (Photos Submitted)

FROM SOWING WHEAT SEEDS IN SOIL to kneading that perfect pizza crust, Lost Pizza founders and CALS alumni **Brooks Roberts** and **Preston Lott** have the process of pizza making down pat.

For Roberts and Lott, both their friendship and love of food began at an early age.

"I grew up on my family's farm in Moorhead, Mississippi. While I spent a lot of my time on the farm, I developed a love for cooking while hanging around my grandmother's kitchen. I met Preston in high school, and we became best friends right away," Roberts explained.

For Lott, who grew up in Indianola, Mississippi, the restaurant business was in his blood.

"I was raised in the kitchen at PeaSoup's (also known to folks in the Delta as Lott-A-Freeze). My grandfather opened the place over 50 years ago. Growing up, Brooks and I would often sneak into PeaSoup's late at night to cook for our friends," Lott said.

PeaSoup's is a Delta diner/dairy bar that is known for its milkshakes, burgers and poboys, but is especially famous for its fried Gulf shrimp.

While the pair had always dreamed of opening up a restaurant, they ended up going to Mississippi State University together. It was never a question for Roberts that he'd end up wearing maroon.

"To be honest, I never considered going

to another school," Roberts said.

While at Mississippi State University, they paired up as roommates and both pursued degrees in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Lott earned a degree in poultry science while Roberts earned a degree in agricultural science.

"After a while the dream of opening a restaurant began to fade. I got a job as a cotton researcher for Delta Pine while Preston worked in egg production for Cal-Maine. Several years went by, and I left the Delta and moved to the Virgin Islands with my wife to work as a scuba instructor, while Preston returned to the family restaurant business," Roberts said.

The move to St. Croix came on a whim, a further example of how Roberts takes the things most people only dream of and turns them into reality.

"My wife and I didn't have kids yet, and we wanted to have an adventure before we settled down. We went to St. Croix on vacation and fell in love with it, so we quit our jobs and moved there a month later. It was crazy, but a ton of fun," Roberts said.

When Lott came to visit Roberts on St. Croix, they talked about their old dream to open up a restaurant in the Delta. That, combined with the fact that their hometown of Indianola lacked a place to get good pizza and wings, spurred them to try and make their dream a reality.

"It became real when we got a call from Preston, who was still living in Mississippi, telling us to pack our bags and come home, because the offer we had made on a building had been accepted," Roberts explained.

"We both love the Mississippi juke joint vibe, and have always had an eye for cool local folk art. We started gathering unique artwork, music memorabilia, and old architectural salvage pieces. Then we found a location next door to PeaSoup's and set out

to create Lost Dog Pizza Company," Lott said.

The pair was able to relive some of their high school memories as they prepared for the restaurant to open.

"Once again, we would cook for our friends late at night after PeaSoup's closed, and experiment with different recipes until eventually we got everything just right," Lott said. "Many of Lost Pizza Co.'s menu items are based on PeaSoup's recipes."

While the name initially came from a bar on St. Croix, they eventually dropped the "dog" and the company became known as Lost Pizza Company. It first opened its doors in 2007, and was quickly followed by a second location in Cleveland, Mississippi a year later.

The company has grown fast; only ten years later and there are 13 Lost Pizza Co. locations scattered throughout Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas, with plans in the works to expand to Alabama and Florida this year.

And the pair isn't finished thinking up exciting business ventures.

"We have another restaurant concept in the works called Pizza Social. Currently there's one location in Bartlett, Tennessee."

While their time spent in the agricultural industry might have been a deviation from their eventual careers in the restaurant business, their degrees from Mississippi State University served them well.

"Agriculture and the food industry are closely connected. Our time at Mississippi State provided knowledge of the agriculture industry, as well as the skills we needed to run a business and deal with people," Roberts said.

Not only that, but their understanding of the food system has allowed them to make some of the best pizza in Mississippi.

"Understanding food production plays a big role in selecting the products we use in our recipes; we are able to look for the highest quality ingredients. It's important to know where your ingredients come from," Lott explained.

Craving a bite of melty cheese, tangy sauce, and fluffy crust? Check out the Lost Pizza Co. locations near you: www.lostpizza.com.



LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

For the Bristers, love for Bulldogs is a family affair

By Vanessa Beeson

MIKE BRISTER, '91 POULTRY SCIENCE alumnus, began raising German shepherds before his daughter **Makayla** was even born. Mike's father gave him his first dog when he was a teenager because the young Brister was interested in becoming a veterinarian. That gift spurred a love of animals that now spans generations with Mike's daughter, Makayla, following in her father's footsteps. Not only does she share his love for animals, she is also a current student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Mississippi State.

Makayla is majoring in environmental economics and management in the Department of Agricultural Economics while also majoring in wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture with a pre-veterinary concentration in the College of Forest Resources. If this weren't enough, she is past-president of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences

(MANRRS) and spent last summer in Washington, D.C. as a Demmer Scholar. She's also an ambassador for the College of Forest Resources and serves on the MSU Student Association's Judicial Council. She's even played trumpet for the Famous Maroon Band and is considering trying out again next fall.

When Mike was in college, beyond making extra money as a photographer for the student newspaper, the Reflector, and shooting for the yearbook, he focused mostly on academics. While he was originally on a pre-vet path, when his father died, Mike decided to focus on finishing a poultry science degree so he could immediately enter the workforce.

Still the passion for animals was there and he continued to breed German shepherds, owning a total of fifteen dogs over the decades. Mike said at first Makayla was a little scared of dogs. When her younger brother was born,

however, Makayla's apprehension abated.

"I didn't realize Makayla was apprehensive of dogs until her brother came along, we had a litter the same time Kylan was born and he showed no fear. After that, Makayla became more comfortable because she had to be the big sister and couldn't be afraid."

Her father said Makayla's attitude of embracing apprehensions and challenges was evident throughout her formative years.

"I remember a time when she was around five years old. She wouldn't leave the park until she mastered the monkey bars. She told at the time, 'Dad, this thing can't beat me.' That's been her drive in life. There is nothing she's encountered that she thinks can beat her."

When it was time to choose a college, Mike wanted to make sure Makayla knew she could go anywhere. That's one of the reasons Mike took a promotion in South

Mike and Makayla Brister on the campus of Mississippi State University. (Photo by Dominique Belcher)



Carolina even though it meant spending time away from his family during the week.

"I wanted Makayla to understand that the world was her canvas," said Mike, who has since been promoted to complex HR manager in Carthage, Texas. (He now makes the four-hour commute home every weekend.)

While Makayla knew she could go anywhere, she said her search was over when she came to Starkville.

"MSU was on my radar because I'm from Mississippi; my dad came here as well as my uncle. Also, my brother was five years old at the time and was a huge Mississippi State sports fan. When I took the tour, my mind was settled because it felt like home," Makayla said.

She said her father has inspired her along the way.

"Growing up and saying I wanted to be a vet, Dad would always talk to me about his poultry science days," she said.

"His love of agriculture influenced me. He always said pick something you love and it'll never feel like work."

Mike said watching Makayla come into her own at Mississippi State has been a joy.

"My wife and I have enjoyed watching how being a part of the campus has made Makayla so well-rounded as an individual," he said. "She's given her brother a different outlook on the possibility of going off to college. Her confidence has taught him how to encounter new people, things, and experiences and learn how to embrace them. She's given us a lot and absolutely filled these four short years."

The Bristers say they are all huge Bulldog fans these days. The family named their most recent edition, a newborn German shepherd, after Morgan William, one of MSU women's basketball stars.

"When our puppy was born, she was very small. My brother took one look at her and the nickname Itty Bitty popped

in his head so we decided to call her Mo," Makayla said.

This summer, Makayla will be studying tropical veterinary medicine and One Health issues in Uganda. The study abroad includes insight into international animal production and health management, disease surveillance, public health systems, and food safety and security under the direction of Margaret Khaitisa, professor in the Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine in MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. The course is in collaboration with Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

Makayla plans to graduate in May 2019 and hopes to continue on to veterinary school.

MSU HOSTS INAUGURAL WORLD FOOD PRIZE MISSISSIPPI YOUTH INSTITUTE

By Vanessa Beeson

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS from across the state visited Mississippi State University in March 2017 to discuss how to solve world hunger.

Students conducted research and completed an essay that focused on out-of-the-box solutions for solving global food insecurity to garner an invitation to the inaugural World Food Prize Mississippi Youth Institute. Attendees were officially designated Borlaug Scholars for their participation and are eligible for scholarships to Mississippi State University.

The students presented their research findings in a roundtable discussion moderated by Keegan Kautzky, director of national programs for the World Food Prize. After the roundtable, the students were guests at the Charles E. Lindley Lecture where Kautzky discussed global food security.

Kautzky, who grew up on a farm in Iowa, said a conversation with 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner Norman Borlaug shaped his life's work. In 1986, Borlaug founded the World Food Prize, the foremost international award recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world. In 1994, the World Food Prize Youth Institute was created to increase awareness and involvement of youth in the mission to fight hunger and poverty in a meaningful way.

Kautzky said that the Borlaug Scholars pay tribute to the World Food Prize's



founder, Norman E. Borlaug.

"Dr. Borlaug knew that engaging young people was critical to feeding the world," Kautzky said. "If you are striving to solve global problems at 16, you'll likely be doing the same at 60. The goal of this program is to empower passionate and promising youth to see how they might help feed the world."

Scott Willard, associate dean of MSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, hopes the program will grow in coming years.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our state's youth to engage in a meaningful conversation about global food security," Willard said. "Additionally, it gives these students a chance to earn scholarships and become involved with the World Food Prize, an international organization focused on feeding the world."

Participants, along with their teachers, took part in interactive events on the MSU campus to explore research and work currently taking place in Mississippi to address food challenges. The students also engaged with university experts and their peers to discuss solutions to global hunger and poverty.

ABOVE: The newly designated Borlaug Scholars enjoyed a full day at MSU learning about food security, including a chance to meet with MSU President Mark E. Keenum, a longtime proponent of food security. Pictured (left-right) are Scott Willard, associate dean of MSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Nyshedra Jordan, Thomas Shaw, and Angelique Wilson all of Golden Triangle Early College High School; Keenum; Gabe Entekin of Poplarville High School; Charles Smith, David Burnett, and Christian Williamson of Golden Triangle Early College High School; Mary Lurks of Wingfield High School; and Keegan Kautzky, director of national programs for the World Food Prize. (Photo by Beth Wynn)

RIGHT: Students participated in a round-table discussion on their research topic and potential solutions to global food insecurity issues. (Photo by David Ammon)



KNIGHTS BUILD SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED YOUTH INSTITUTE AT MSU

By Addie Mayfield

A RECENT COMMITMENT from Mississippi State University alumni Barry and Lana Knight of Cordova, Tennessee, is creating an annual fund in support of the World Food Prize Mississippi Youth Institute at MSU.

The Barry and Lana Knight World Food Prize Mississippi Youth Institute

Fund will provide essential support for engaging Mississippi's high school students in the globally recognized program through MSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

As the host campus, the first WFP-MSYI was held at Mississippi State in March 2017.

To participate in the WFP-MSYI, ninth through 12th grade students research a global issue and write a three-to-five-page paper, under teacher mentor supervision, addressing the challenges and possible solutions. Participants then attend the day-long event, where the top students are competitively selected by the WFP Board of Reviewers to represent Mississippi as delegates at the Global Youth Institute.

In an effort to help increase the

significance of the experience for students and teachers who attend, the Knights' gift will help to defray costs of the institute including brochures, literature, meals, and transportation. Additionally, the fund will provide scholarship support for WFP-MSYI student participants to pursue a college degree in agriculture or other related life sciences, as well as a stipend for a faculty or staff member to oversee the program.

"We are pleased to be the state's host for this incredibly valuable program that engages high school students in real-world problems and prepares them as future leaders," said Scott Willard, associate dean and professor for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and WFP-MSYI state coordinator. "The Knights' generous support for this program is an outstanding demonstration of their investment in our youth and the welfare of people around the world."

After earning a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in 1983, Barry Knight earned a master's in agronomy from MSU in 1988. Recognized as the 2011 MSU Alumni Fellow for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, he serves as senior vice president of commercial operations in North America for Indigo, a Charleston, Massachusetts-based organization that specializes in optimizing agricultural production through plant microbiomes. Prior to his current position, he held progressive senior positions at companies including Cresco Ag LLC, Pinnacle Agriculture, and Jimmy Sanders.

Fellow 1988 MSU graduate Lana Knight earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. The couple have been avid supporters of their alma mater over time, supporting areas including Bulldog athletics and student scholarships. In 2013, the couple endowed perpetual support through the Barry and Lana Knight endowed scholarships in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Education, furthering their legacy at MSU.



THROUGH *the* LENS

Celebrating nearly four decades of service to MSU

By Karen Brasher

WHEN LYNN REINSCHMIEDT ARRIVED at Mississippi State University in 1977, he thought it would be a brief stop along his career path. Little did he know that he would have a 37-year career at the People's University.

Reinschmiedt began his career as an assistant professor at the University of Delaware prior to his move to MSU. Once arriving at Mississippi State, he moved through the professorial ranks in the Department of Agricultural Economics. He then applied and was appointed associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 2001. Nine years later he retired as associate dean and professor emeritus.

Many alumni remember the dean's office when Reinschmiedt served, all four walls adorned with photos. First in Lloyd-Ricks-Watson and then in Bost, his walls bore 300 images that he had taken over the years, every picture telling a story.

Although Reinschmiedt officially retired in 2010, the university recognized his talent, and wouldn't let him go.

"I didn't really know what I was going to do, it just seemed like the right time to retire," he said.

After a few months of retirement, then provost Jerry Gilbert called and asked

Reinschmiedt to serve as acting interim associate vice president. He was then asked to serve on the SACS accreditation process for a year.

"I thought I was done when the accreditation process was over but then Jerry Gilbert called and asked if I would serve with Linda Buehler as interim co-registrar during the search process," he said.

Buehler had worked in the CALS dean's office with Reinschmiedt so it was a natural fit for them to work together again. Simultaneously, he worked with the Maroon Edition First-Year reading program.

Reinschmiedt retired again for about a year when Gilbert called again to fill yet another administrative role on an interim basis.

"As before, Jerry said he needed me to serve for about a three- to four-month assignment as interim director of Distance Education," he said. "After serving in the role for 11 months, on May 31, 2016, I retired for the final time."

This time, I was ready to retire, Reinschmiedt added with a smile.

A native of Oklahoma, Reinschmiedt became a life-long Bulldog, fully immersing himself and his family in the university. Over the years, he has



taken thousands of photos, archiving the history of Mississippi State and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

During his professional career, he witnessed numerous changes in academia and society but the two that stand out the most are technology and the composition of the student body.

"When I started graduate school in 1971, the graduate student pool office at Oklahoma State had the old Monroe-Matic calculators that set on your desk, were bigger than typewriters, and really

Lynn Reinschmiedt enjoys life after retirement in his garage in Starkville, Mississippi. (Photo by David Ammon)



heavy,” the economist quipped. “The early electronic versions cost several thousand dollars, and all they did was simple math. They wouldn’t even do square roots.

“Just a few years later, when I began my doctoral degree at Texas A&M, you could buy hand-held calculators for a couple of hundred dollars that would do much more,” Reinschmiedt continued.

Technology has developed exponentially through the years and continues to improve, he added.

In regards to students, the biggest

change has been the composition of students.

“When I was in my undergrad in agricultural economics at Oklahoma State, there were only a few females,” Reinschmiedt said. “In my master’s program, there was only one female graduate student and in my doctorate there were only four or five females in agricultural economics.”

Now, when you go to a professional meeting, females represent 50 percent of the attendees, he noted.

Reinschmiedt said the changes are

welcome and he is excited about the future for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Mississippi State University.

“Mississippi State has been good to my family and me,” Reinschmiedt said. “People asked me when I retired this last time, if I would be moving. I thought about it and realized, where would I go, I have been here for 40 years, this is home.”

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences appreciates the dedication and service of Lynn Reinschmiedt and we are so glad he chose to spend his career here.

LEADERS IN Agriculture

CALS ALUMNI
HELP FEED,
CLOTHE, AND CARE
FOR THE WORLD

ONE OF THE HIGHEST AND MOST NOBLE AMBITIONS is to feed, clothe, and care for the world—and that's exactly what so many MSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' alumni do every single day. It's a humble endeavor and yet so many of our alumni build careers on finding ways to feed, clothe, and care for a growing population and do so with fewer resources, in less time, under greater environmental pressures. This day-in and day-out translates to careers that leave lasting legacies in the industries these alumni serve. Read how George King, a lifelong producer brings passion and dedication to the job every day, both as farmer and president of the Delta Council. Learn how Victoria Hall tracks down illnesses as a disease detective for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Discover how Catherine Montgomery puts food in hungry bellies as programs manager for the Mississippi Food Network.



Pictured on the opposite page is row-crop producer George King, co-owner of Nelson-King Farms and president of the Delta Council. Top photo is Catherine Montgomery, program manager for the Mississippi Food Network. Bottom photo is Victoria Hall (far right) and colleagues in the Centers for Disease Control.



King of the Row remembers roots, with eye on future growth

By Kenner Patton

FOR MANY, FARMING IS MUCH MORE than a career; it's a way of life. It isn't just in the blood, it's in the mud stuck on a farmer's boots and the sweat on his brow. In this regard, George King is no exception. As Delta Council president and row-crop farmer with nearly 45 years' experience in the field, this leader in ag is clearly king of the row.

King started "farming" when he was just 15 as he helped long-time Leland, Mississippi farmer, Ray Beckham, in the summers.

"I learned a lot from Mr. Beckham, but the most important lessons had nothing specifically to do with farming. The two most important instructions were to work hard and always be on time," King said. "Those messages followed me the rest of my life, and I hopefully have passed them down to my four children. I try to stick to them every day."

In 1985, King began working with his cousins, the McCaskill brothers: Jeffery, Tommy, Danny, and Robert.

"Working there I got to do every job imaginable on the farm. But my main job was driving a dirt bucket tractor to precision-level land for irrigation," King said. "That was a great experience for my next career step when my father-in-law, Boots Nelson, and brother-in-law, Tommy Nelson, and I formed a partnership that created Nelson-King Farms, LLC in 1987. Those friendships and partnerships are still strong today."

The Nelson-King Farm now spans 6,500 acres and is nestled between Lake

Washington and Lake Jackson in south Washington County, concentrating on a rotation of corn and soybean. King and his partner, Tommy, have been fortunate that Nelson-King Farms now includes their wives and two of their sons as part of the farming operation.

"The daily hands-on operation has fallen to my son and nephew while I concentrate on managing our grain bins, dirt moving operation, finances, FSA requirements, and new technology," King said.

King is also quick to acknowledge the benefit of mentors and long-term relationships in his life.

"I have been involved with Delta Council for more than 20 years, and this year I am honored to serve as president. Through Delta Council, I have been really fortunate to work with some great leaders in agriculture. Tom Robertson, John Phillips, and Chip Morgan have been instrumental in helping me continue

to grow and learn more about ag. And I would not even be in this business if it wasn't for my father-in-law, Boots Nelson."

After receiving his bachelor's degree in agronomy from Mississippi State University in 1983, King reflects back on how much agriculture has changed.

"When I first started farming back in the '80s, we were just trying to run a lean operation and make a living. But decades later, we've been fortunate enough to have survived through some lean times and celebrate the better years. Looking forward, I think helping solve the water and irrigation issue will be our next greatest challenge," King said. "I also think a lot about our younger farmers and continue to wish them the blessings I have received. I encourage them to get the best education they can. And I also tell them to remember the lesson Mr. Beckham taught me long ago, 'Don't nothing ever take the place of hard work.'"





'Disease detective' uses vet education to sniff out public health threats

By Susan Lassetter

AS A DOCTOR OF VETERINARY medicine, Victoria Hall wouldn't seem a natural fit for investigating human epidemics. However, it's her background in agriculture and animal sciences that make her a valuable part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Mississippi State alumna is what's known as a "disease detective" in the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service. Chosen from a highly competitive pool of applicants that include physicians, scientists, and skilled nurses from across the country, these young professionals chase down outbreaks and disease to sleuth out what is happening and how to keep the public safe.

"We rely on veterinarians in applied epidemiology because they are trained to assess the health of an individual as well as the health of the population," explained Eric Pevzner, chief of the Epidemic Intelligence Service program. "These skills contribute to our multidisciplinary approach of addressing public health."

The CDC uses a concept called "one health" to serve the public good. It is the idea that human, animal, and environmental health are all closely related and that addressing emerging health problems requires collaborative efforts across these disciplines. Hall said she began to really embrace this idea during a semester studying wildlife management in Kenya.

"During that semester, it became very apparent that you couldn't ask people to care about elephants when the elephants were stomping on crops and causing families to go hungry," Hall recalled. "I really became aware that if you helped people grow healthier animals and have safer food supplies you could really help grow a community and its capacity to do a lot of things. That was my first introduction to improving community health."

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Hall came to Mississippi State as part of the College of Veterinary Medicine's early entry program, which pre-admits students to its ranks in an effort to smooth their

transition from undergraduate to medical degree. She completed a bachelor's in animal and dairy science in 2011 and finished the vet program in 2014.

During that time, she also completed a number of international placements, including time with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Italy and Vietnam, a One Health summer school program in Uganda, a World Vets project in Nicaragua, and a summer aboard a Navy ship in the south Pacific—all of which inspired her to continue her studies at Mississippi State and complete a master's in preventative medicine in 2015.

"It was such a blessing to be in an environment like Mississippi State University that was so supportive to me pushing the limits of what a vet can do in the public-health world," Hall explained.

"My time at Mississippi State sparked this desire to serve," she continued. "It became about how to find the best information and the best science to put into the community and drive good policy, decisions, and programs to help it succeed."

Now in her final year of the two-year CDC training program, she is stationed with the Minnesota Department of Health. There she works with the state's Unexplained Deaths and Critical Illness Program to investigate fatalities that have no clear cause.

"With emerging health threats, people are getting affected by disease before we even know it exists," Hall explained. "Since death represents the most severe manifestation of disease, this system allows us to look into unexplained deaths to find rare illnesses or common illnesses that present uncommonly and identify growing threats."

Basically, it's Hall's job to expect the unexpected. And it's this way of thinking that helps her find the reason behind many of Minnesota's unexplained deaths and how they might be interconnected—like those related to the habitual use of opioid-based painkillers such as morphine, hydrocodone, or oxycodone.

Take the case of a middle-aged Minnesota man who died suddenly and at home. He regularly took prescription medication for back pain, and in the

two days prior to his death had shown mild indications of feeling ill and began slurring his words. Testing from the medical examiner diagnosed influenza pneumonia and revealed a high level of opioids in his system.

In this instance, it was a common illness presenting uncommonly that raised the red flag for Hall and her colleagues. Pneumonia wouldn't ordinarily be fatal to an otherwise healthy man in his 40s, but Hall said it's likely his use of opioid painkillers made him more susceptible to the infection or allowed it to become more severe.

"By using this unexplained-deaths program we've been able to look at the opioid epidemic from the infectious disease standpoint," Hall said. "We know opioids can impact the immune system and have side effects that make it easier for something like pneumonia to set in. What we've seen is that even prescribed levels of these drugs can be deadly if combined with infectious disease.

"We've seen a good number of cases with such profound infectious disease it was the only thing written on the death certificate," Hall continued. "With no mention of the very high levels of morphine, these deaths don't get counted in opioid-related death surveillance, which means the problem could be underestimated."

Hall reports that more than half of the opioid-related fatalities identified through her work were not captured in the statewide opioid surveillance data. Because Minnesota is low on the list of severity when it comes to states facing an opioid crisis, it's possible the problem is much greater nationwide.

"Ninety-one Americans die each day from an opioid overdose and in 2015, there were over 33,000 deaths related to opioids, more than any year on record," Hall explained. "Opioids don't discriminate against the young or the old, men or women, rural or urban. We find it in all areas. With the number of opioids being prescribed quadrupling in the last decade, it makes for a very complex public health threat that we need to address from a lot of different angles."

CALS Alumna Tackles Childhood Hunger in Mississippi

By Sarah Buckleitner

WHETHER IT'S FEEDING HER parents shepherd's pie at 11 years old or feeding thousands of children across Mississippi each month, CALS alumna Catherine Montgomery has found the recipe to success.

Mississippi has the highest food insecurity rate in the United States: 28.3 percent of the state's children do not have reliable access to affordable, nutritious food. But Montgomery is working to change that. In her position as programs manager at the Mississippi Food Network, an organization dedicated to fighting food insecurity in Mississippi, she runs several programs that put food in the bellies of both hungry children and adults.

"I oversee our summer feeding, backpack, and school pantry programs. For each of these, I'm involved from the beginning to the end—I plan menus, order food, plan logistics, and manage sites. This last year we were able to begin packing our own backpack meals for children in house," Montgomery explained.

These programs each help ensure that children have access to food even when school isn't in session. Each program addresses a different need and the summer program has provided an average of 48,000 meals over three years to kids over the summer months. The backpack program, which provides kids with a backpack stuffed with three pounds of shelf stable foods each weekend, has also been especially successful.

"The physical act of giving children a meal is really fulfilling, so we have some great supporters. Every Friday, we feed 1500 kids through that program," Montgomery said.

But Montgomery's favorite project is one that she has been involved with

since the beginning: the school pantry program.

"I got funding and implemented this program with the help of the team at Mississippi Food Network. For this program, we physically go in with a group of volunteers—the Junior League of Jackson—and set up a mobile food pantry once a month so that families in the community can pick up fresh produce and shelf stable foods. We supply an average of 60-65 families each with 18-20 pounds of food every month," Montgomery said.

Montgomery especially loves this program because she gets to know the families who regularly come.

"We have this one little girl who comes with her mom every single month. I've gotten to know them over the course of the year. And one time she spotted me from down the hallway, and just dove into my arms," Montgomery said.

Montgomery herself has always had a keen interest in food.

"I was always intrigued by what my mom was making in the kitchen, and when I turned eleven, I asked for a cookbook of my own. I made a shepherd's pie recipe from it, and that's what my family ate for dinner that night," Montgomery reminisced.

When it came time to pursue her college education and eventual career, Montgomery knew right where she belonged.

"We are multi-generational Bulldogs. We grew up coming to games, and we have Thanksgiving and Christmas in Starkville. I didn't really have an option as far as my family was concerned, but I didn't want an option," Montgomery said.

While it took her awhile to determine her eventual major, she finally settled on



nutrition. With the help of her mentors, Lynn Burney and Chiquita Briley, she quickly began to thrive in the field.

“Dr. Burney was always very supportive of me. I knew I could always stop by her office for a life chat. And it was Dr. Briley who first encouraged me to pursue a job at the Mississippi Food Network, even though jobs there were highly competitive,” Montgomery said.

Montgomery first uncovered her passion for addressing food issues by volunteering with the Mississippi Food Network for the field experience hours that are required for the nutrition major.

“Before volunteering with them I wasn’t

oblivious to the need, but it wasn’t in the forefront of my mind. But then I saw these children lined up at a church waiting for a hot meal, and I realized that might be all they get that day. That lit my fire,” Montgomery explained.

To this day, she still feels the influence of her MSU education.

“By requiring us to have dietetic internships, I was able to see how important a community dietitian was, and how one person could have a large impact on the health of an entire community,” Montgomery said.

When asked what she’d recommend for other people who want step in to help

end hunger in Mississippi, Montgomery had a slew of suggestions.

“People can volunteer to help pack boxes, host their own food drive, or donate money directly through the website or through Amazon Smile,” she said. For more opportunities to get involved, visit the Mississippi Food Network at www.msfoodnet.org.



A TRIFECTA OF *Leadership*

*CALS women take the
lead on campus*

By Karen Brasher

THREE SENIOR WOMEN demonstrate what it takes to reign in academics and leadership at MSU. The paths that led each of them to the people's university are varied and yet still centered on family. The three, all students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, represent a trifecta of leadership on campus.

Anne Marie Currie is a biochemistry major with a pre-dental concentration. In addition to serving as president of the Chi Omega sorority, she is homecoming's Miss MSU and serves as a university recruiter.

Victoria Vivians is a human development and family science major and affectionately known as the 'Queen of all Courts.' She was elected as the 2017 Homecoming Queen and is an all-star student athlete on the nationally-ranked women's basketball team.

Tyler McMurray is an animal and dairy sciences major and MSU Student Association president. She has led the organization with style and grace, opening seats at the table for an inclusive governing body.

These student leaders who rise early and work late will graduate in May 2018. As they approach the finish line, preparing for diverse careers, they represent the leadership found in so many of the students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences that embody the true spirit of Mississippi State.

Anne Marie Currie

CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI NATIVE, Anne Marie Currie, grew up in a tiny town along the Mighty Mississippi in the boot heel of Missouri. Her ties to State were paternal. Her father graduated in business administration from MSU and loved his time in college.

When selecting a school, she knew she wanted the sense of community, which defined her hometown but wasn't sure which colleges would provide such a place. She visited three universities before making a decision, all about equal distances from home: Mississippi State, the University of Alabama, and the University of Missouri.

"The feeling I had when I walked onto MSU's campus, one of welcome and hospitality, was overwhelming," Currie said. "I truly felt that people at MSU were here to help me."

Currie said there was a sense that everyone at the university wanted to help her succeed as a student and prepare her to go out into the world and help others. She said the big draw was that the university made her feel like a person instead of just a number. The family connection mattered, too.

"Of course, when I made the decision to attend MSU, my dad was thrilled to bring out his cowbell," Currie laughed.

When Currie arrived on campus, she knew she would be active in the university's community. She joined the student association, worked as counselor in the new maroon camp, and served as an orientation leader. During her academic career, she became a member of Chi Omega sorority, serving in numerous leadership roles including as the organization's

president this year. She is also in the honor societies Lambda Sigma and Mortar Board. She was asked to serve as Miss MSU for homecoming, a selection based on an interview process. Plus, there is the rigor required for a biochemistry degree complete with challenging classes and labs.

"Being here at Mississippi State and in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, you are constantly being poured into and provided outlets and resources to use," Currie said. "That level of support and engagement has paved the way for an amazing experience."

She begins her day early with a morning devotional and a run. Her sorority sisters joke that she is the first one up in the house every morning. After breakfast, she dashes to class, then to a host of labs and meetings. After that, she hits the books, oftentimes until midnight. Then she gets up the next day and does it all over again. She says that rigor is preparing her for her next challenge: attending the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry in Memphis this fall.

Currie says choosing MSU is the best life decision she has made thus far and the memories she's made here will last a lifetime.

"The little moments of college, the late night ice cream run, grabbing a quick bite, or going for a walk with friends is something I'll miss as I make the transition to dental school," Currie said.

And the busy schedule has definitely been a balancing act for Currie.

"Being sorority president has been like a full-time job that's not listed as a job," Currie said. "You never know what is going to come across your desk, whether



it's someone that needs a friend or a helping hand, logistics with the university, philanthropy events, or resolving a need within the national organization."

She says the responsibility has definitely kept her on her toes and been an amazing leadership experience in both leading her sorority and as an orientation leader.

Currie has found that the opportunities afforded students is one of the many things that sets Mississippi State apart.



“It is empowering to be able to make a difference,” she said. “It has truly been an amazing time. While I am excited about the future, it is sad to be leaving campus.”

When she does return to campus, she says she will visit her favorite place, the Drill Field.

“When you walk from Dorman Hall, where I spend a lot of time in class, and then you walk onto the Drill Field and you see Lee Hall, it has to be my favorite image of campus,” Curry said. “It’s like

you can feel the history of Mississippi State in that space, you see the diversity on campus, and you can picture the cadets that once performed drills there. When I am in that space, it makes me so proud to call this my campus. We have the prettiest campus, I think it is because we are an agricultural school, and I am so fortunate to have been able to go to school here and call this place home.”

Seniors Anne Marie Currie of Caruthersville, Missouri, and Nicolas D. “Nick” Harris of Millington, Tennessee, are Miss and Mr. MSU 2017. Currie, a biochemistry/pre-dental major, and Harris, a communication/public relations major, are presented during halftime of the MSU vs. University of Kentucky homecoming football game on October 21, 2017. (Photo by Russ Houston)

Victoria Vivians

A HEAVILY RECRUITED STUDENT ATHLETE from Forest, Mississippi, Victoria Vivians's path to Mississippi State was centered around family. Not so much the family at MSU, but her own family, her parents and siblings.

Vivians has a large family and all cheer for her boisterously from the stands. MSU women's basketball coach Vic Schaefer jokes that there will be 100 season tickets available when she graduates.

The All-American athlete made her break out in eighth grade when the college scouts first took notice. By the end of her junior year she had narrowed the choices to four universities: Florida, Louisville, Kentucky, and Mississippi State.

"The first three schools had more NCAA tournament appearances and Mississippi State had a losing record in the SEC and had missed the NAAs that year," Vivians said. "However, in the end, it came down to family, particularly my brothers and sister, because MSU was closer to home."

Little did she know that a family awaited her at Mississippi State, a family of athletes and children. As a human development and family science major with a concentration in youth studies, Vivians is surrounded by children, both in her internship in the School of Human Sciences' Child Development and Family Life Center and the numerous bulldog fans who look up to her, literally and figuratively.

"I love kids and have lots of nieces, nephews, and small cousins. Kids are attracted to me for some reason," Vivians said, when describing why she chose

her major. "It seemed like a natural fit to work with kids."

At 6'1", she towers over the young students that attend the center and she knows that they look up to her in more than one way.

"It is an honor to be a role model and mentor to the kids but it is also a lot of pressure, knowing that they are always watching me," Vivians said. "I try to remember to always do the right thing, make it a habit to do the right thing, because if I mess up, the kids will see it. A little bit of pressure doesn't hurt."

This semester Vivians interns in lieu of classes, a final requirement of the human development and family science major. Her day begins early, arriving at the child development center by 7:30 each morning. After a few hours of work, it is off to basketball practice, which generally lasts three and a half to four hours. She then returns to the center in the afternoon. She readily admits that she likes to go to bed early.

Vivians has racked up numerous awards for her prowess on the basketball court including First Team All-America honors from USA Today, four C Spire Gillom Trophies as the best women's collegiate basketball player in Mississippi, a finalist for National Player of the Year honors, named to the AP all-SEC team, among myriad others. As a high-school student, she scored a national-record 5,745 points and had earned her own exhibit at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum.

However, perhaps her greatest challenge was running for the 2017

Homecoming Queen, an elected position. It was a far reach for the self-described shy homebody from Forest, MS.

"It was outside of my comfort zone to run for homecoming queen," Vivians said. "I didn't think I would win, but I thought, I am just going to try it. Besides being in the NCAA Championship over the last two years, homecoming is one of my fondest memories of my time at MSU. It was something different that I went for and I got it."

Trying different things is something that Vivians embraces that has helped shape her into the leader she is today. While comfortable on the court, she quickly points to her community service that has built leadership skills in her that will last a lifetime.

"I am a positive person and I try to approach each opportunity in that way," Vivians said. "Working in the community, no matter the task, gives me the chance to embrace different people and share my optimistic outlook. It also lets me get others involved that might not otherwise serve."

As for future plans, Vivians' desire to be drafted in the Women's National Basketball Association became reality when she was selected to play for the Indiana Fever.

And when she returns to campus, you will find her at the Junction or the Drill Field, her favorite places at MSU.

"I love the scenery, the buildings, the stadium," Vivians said. "Those are my favorite places on campus."





Victoria Vivians, the 2017 Homecoming Queen at Mississippi State University, is escorted by her father, John Vivians, during halftime of the MSU vs. University of Kentucky homecoming football game on October 21, 2017. (Photo by Russ Houston)

Tyler McMurray

FLOWOOD, MISSISSIPPI NATIVE, TYLER MCMURRAY, strongly considered the University of Mississippi for her undergraduate studies. Her older sister Erin was at Ole Miss, and being the younger sibling, Tyler wanted to follow in her footsteps.

She had no ties to Mississippi State. Her father is from North Carolina and her mother is from Arkansas, they met at med school in Missouri and both landed jobs in Jackson before Tyler was born.

On a spring visit to Mississippi State during her senior year of high school, McMurray knew she had found her home.


"The interactions that I had with students, mostly freshmen, sealed the deal for me," McMurray said. "They were so kind and welcoming and when I got home I told my family that I belonged at Mississippi State."

"It also occurred to me that MSU was the best fit since I wanted to go into veterinary school," McMurray added.

She started out in biology but quickly changed to the animal and dairy sciences major for the hands-on experience and pre-veterinary concentration.

McMurray is an active campus leader, serving in the Chi Omega sorority and as president of the MSU Student Association. She has been involved in the student governing body throughout her academic career. She has been a campus recruiter for four years, volunteering as a Roadrunner for the Office of Admissions and Scholarships. She





is also in Lambda Sigma honor society, and worked as an orientation leader.

A day in the life of Tyler McMurray begins early when she gets up and works out with friends at the Sanderson Center. After breakfast, it is off to class in the Wise Center, where all of her classes are held this semester. After lunch, it is meetings until 9 p.m.

As president of the MSU Student Association, McMurray has office hours so that students can come by and visit and express their concerns. While office hours are not a requirement for the Student Association, the executive board felt that it was important to make themselves available to students.

McMurray also has laboratories, part of the heavy science curriculum in the animal and dairy sciences major. She confesses that she is somewhat of an early to bed, early to rise type gal, preferring to save homework and studying for the weekend.

As MSU Student Association president, McMurray is most proud of the work by the executive board to extend the membership on the senate. While it has been talked about for many years, the Student Association, under McMurray's capable leadership, offered a seat at the table for a diverse group of students.

"The senate has always been run by students in fraternities and sororities but Mississippi State is the most diverse school in the Southeastern Conference and our senate was not representative of the unique voices across campus," McMurray said. "We, as an executive board, worked with senators to change our constitution to create organizational seats. The organizational seats allowed students who may have been underrepresented to have a seat at the table. Those organizational seats fall into 11 different categories including cultural, political, religious, international, and recreational, among others."

Now, anyone who is in an organization within these categories is qualified to run for a seat in the senate.

"The change gave populations on our campus a guaranteed voice in the senate,

which is supposed to be representative of our student body," McMurray added.

She said she initially worried the measure wouldn't pass since it would take seats away from fraternities and sororities. That turned out not to be the case.

"The entire Student Association came together because they knew that this was for the betterment of the university. Passing the bill was a very cool moment," McMurray said.

The change brought a lot more debate, however, it has made the Student Association much more productive and more inclusive, McMurray added.

McMurray plans to attend veterinary school upon graduation. She has been accepted to both Auburn University and Mississippi State. While she has always wanted to be a vet, her interest has shifted somewhat to the policy side of veterinary medicine. Trying to figure out which school will be the best fit for her projected career path has been tough. Auburn has a dual degree program with a master's in public health and a DVM, however, she is true maroon, so she has decided to pursue her vet degree at MSU.

The consummate recruiter, McMurray convinced her younger brother Nathan to attend Mississippi State, although her sister tried to persuade him to attend the University of Mississippi. McMurray quickly brought him to MSU for a campus visit and now he is a junior pursuing a chemical engineering degree at the land-grant institution.

Her favorite place on campus happens to be the same place where she first realized that Mississippi State would become her home, the Chapel of Memories.

"The Chapel of Memories was the very first place I visited on campus and the place where I fell in love with Mississippi State. That is where I had so many interactions with people, where I realized these are the people I want to be around and this is the environment in which I want to thrive," McMurray said. "On that first visit, all these students were gathered there playing music and hanging out and that's when I knew that Mississippi State was where I belonged."

Tyler McMurray
in front of
the Colvard
Student Union
on the campus
of Mississippi
State University.
(Photo by Russ
Houston)

Development

A Legacy in Research

Longtime MSU researcher memorialized by endowed scholarship

By Addie Mayfield

A RECENT COMMITMENT from Janice E. “Jan” Chambers, MSU Giles Distinguished Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and director of the university’s Center for Environmental Health Sciences, has endowed a scholarship in memory of her late husband and former MSU faculty member **Howard Chambers**.

The Dr. Howard Chambers Endowed Scholarship will provide support to full-time undergraduate students. Preference will be given to Mississippi residents enrolled in life and physical science or math related majors.

A native of Buda, Texas, Howard Chambers received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Texas A&M University and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, all in entomology. In 1968, he joined the MSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology and Plant Pathology as a toxicologist, where he served for nearly 50 years.

“Howard loved his job and appreciated the environment that MSU provided him throughout his entire faculty career,” Jan Chambers said. “He always felt fortunate to have a job where he could ‘play in the lab every day and get paid for it.’”

During his tenure, Chambers developed



Jan Chambers, center, has endowed a scholarship in memory of her late husband and former MSU faculty member Howard Chambers. She is pictured with her daughters Kristen Funck (left) of Harrisonburg, Virginia, and Cheryl Chambers (right) of Starkville. (Photo by Russ Houston)

federally-supported research programs initially focused on insecticide toxicology and more recently on improved nerve agent antidotes. His efforts, many of which included research collaboration with his wife, led to the invention and patent of several chemical compounds used in combating chemical warfare and furthering research for nerve agent antidotes.

“While Howard’s scientific legacy will continue to be carried on by his research colleagues and students, I wanted to do something that would be a tribute to his time here at MSU,” Jan Chambers said. “I chose to establish a scholarship because neither of us would have been able to go to school without scholarship support. It made all the difference in the world to the education we were able to receive.”

A Berkeley, California native, Jan Chambers received her bachelor’s degree

from the University of San Francisco before earning a Ph.D. in animal physiology from MSU in 1973. In continuing the toxicology research she and her husband conducted, Jan Chambers recently was recognized as a winner of the 2017 Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award for MSU. Howard and Jan Chambers were married for 47 years and have two daughters, Cheryl Chambers of Starkville, an MSU faculty member in the Department of Communication, and Kristen Funck of Harrisonburg, Virginia, a faculty member of James Madison University. Both are graduates of MSU.

An open fund in the MSU Foundation, the Dr. Howard Chambers Endowed Scholarship, may be increased through additional contributions. Furthermore, the endowed gift will provide perpetual support for future generations of Bulldogs.



@CALSDdevelopment
@MSU Properties
@BulldogForest

Honoring Parents, Local Farmers

Retired educators, alumni couple endow multiple MSU scholarships

By Gina Garner

THREE SEPARATE ENDOWMENTS created by Larry and Florence Box of Starkville will benefit undergraduate majors in Mississippi State's colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Education.

Longtime residents and retired public school educators, the couple recently established the F. Warren and Mary Cowsert Oakley Endowed Scholarship in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The scholarship honors Florence Box's parents, both MSU alumni who operated a dairy and beef

cattle farm in the Oktoc community of southern Oktibbeha County.

They also established the Larry and Florence Box Endowed Scholarship in the College of Education. Additionally, their gift fully endows the Barry F. and Mary H. Box Endowed Scholarship established earlier in memory of Larry Box's parents.

Barry Box, who led MSU's educational psychology department before becoming associate dean of the college, has a campus building on Morrill Road named in his honor. Mary Box

received both bachelor's and master's degrees in education from MSU.

Beyond Larry and Florence Box's recent outright gift, all three of their endowments will receive proceeds from a gift annuity they created.

The scholarships will assist full-time students maintaining minimum 3.0 grade-point averages (based on a 4.0 scale) and displaying leadership abilities, who also demonstrate financial need.

Larry Box holds three degrees from the education college, including a 1966 bachelor's, 1968 master's and 1985 doctorate. In 2014, he received the lifelong designation as an Alumni Fellow of the college, and also has served on the Dean's Advisory Board.

Before serving as Starkville School District superintendent from 1991-2002, the former mathematics teacher was assistant district superintendent and, prior to that, principal at both Henderson Junior High and Sudduth Elementary schools.

Florence Box holds a 1975 MSU master's degree in library science. A career librarian with the Starkville district, she also received a 1966 bachelor's degree in library science from then-Mississippi State College for Women, now Mississippi University for Women.

Over the years, the Boxes have provided support for other areas at MSU, including Mitchell Memorial Library, Starkville-MSU Symphony, and additional scholarship programs.



Florence and Larry Box (Photo by Russ Houston)

Take the Reins

State equine association names room in MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences building

By Amy Cagle

THE FIRST GIFT toward an anticipated Animal and Dairy Sciences building slated to open in spring 2019 on the Mississippi State University campus comes from a state horse-owner organization.

For their \$25,000 contribution, the food retail room on the first floor of the new facility will be named for the Mississippi State Equine Association. An affiliate of the Washington, D.C.-based American Horse Council, MSEA is a statewide network of horse owners dedicated to improving the quality of life for state equine and horsemen through education and information programs.

“As the first of its contributors, we want to encourage other individuals and organizations to have their names associated with the Animal and Dairy Sciences building in this manner,” said Executive Director James H. Watts of Brandon. “We are pleased this contribution will become part of our long history of support within our state.”

MSEA works closely with Mississippi colleges and universities, as well as county boards of supervisors. At Mississippi State, the association also supports scholarships and the Extension Service’s 4-H Therapeutic Riding and Activity Center.

MSEA President James Rasberry of Kosciusko further explains the motivation behind the organization’s gift, saying, “Our organization assists Mississippi State when possible, and this building will help the university’s faculty address challenges

facing our state’s livestock industries.”

The building is currently under construction near the corner of Stone Boulevard and Blackjack Road in front of the Wise Center. The relocation of the program from its current occupancy of the fourth floor of the Wise Center will enhance and grow teaching and research capabilities. The three-story building will contain some 34,500 square feet of offices, conference rooms, classrooms, and labs.

Once complete, the Animal and Dairy Sciences building will help form an L-shape complex. The remaining buildings within the complex are a newly constructed 15,000-square foot Meat Science and Muscle Biology Laboratory opening in 2018 and a two-story 26,500-square foot Poultry Science building anticipated for completion in spring 2020.

“The initial gift from the Mississippi State Equine Association will help spark other contributions for the building that can assist with future operations for the facility, as well as benefit learning and research at Mississippi State,” said Jud Skelton, director of development for the university’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. “We are actively working with alumni, friends, and industry partners and feel many of them will link their names with these much-needed facilities.”

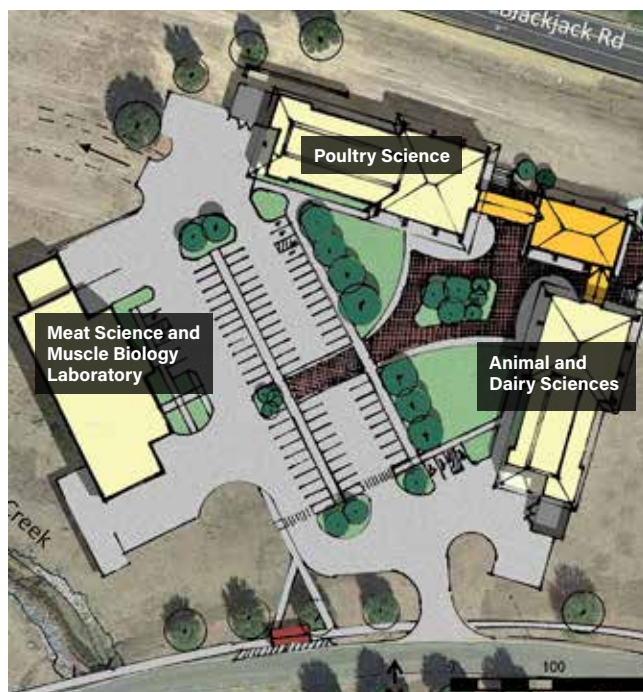
Along with select features for the three facilities, interested individuals also can name the buildings and/or the multi-purpose building connector. For more on supporting facilities for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, contact Jud Skelton at 662-325-0643 or email jud.skelton@foundation.msstate.edu.



A graphic rendering of Mississippi State's Animal and Dairy Sciences Building, which is slated to open in spring 2019. (Photo submitted)

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Take advantage of this opportunity to have your name included on the new Animal and Dairy Sciences building, Poultry Science building, or Meat Science and Muscle Biology laboratory. The entire complex is currently under construction.



Naming Opportunities

ANIMAL AND DAIRY SCIENCES

Large Conference and Classroom	\$100,000
Multi-purpose Classroom	\$100,000
Main Lobby	\$100,000
Teaching Lab	\$100,000
Distance Classroom	\$75,000
Laboratory (1) & (2)	\$75,000
Conference Room	\$50,000
Animal Room (1) & (2)	\$50,000
Graduate Assistant Suite	\$25,000
Lab Tech Suite	\$25,000

POULTRY SCIENCE

Multi-use Connector	\$1,000,000
Classrooms	\$100,000
Main Lobby	\$75,000
Laboratory (9)	\$50,000
Conference Room	\$25,000
Lab Tech Room	\$25,000

Other naming opportunities are also available.

CONTACT

Jud Skelton

EMAIL: jud.skelton@foundation.msstate.edu

OFFICE: 662.325.0643

MOBILE: 662.617.0946

 @CALSDdevelopment

Train up a child

Rowe children honor parents through CALS endowment

By Vanessa Beeson

BETTY AND JAMES ROBERT raised six children—four girls and two boys—on a family farm in Prairie, Mississippi. They worked to instill an iron-clad work ethic, an unwavering spiritual faith, and a passion for education in each of their children. All of the Rowe children went on to attend MSU and five graduated from the land-grant university. Four of them continued on at Mississippi State and various other institutions to earn master's degrees while two have continued on the path to doctoral degrees. To honor the hard-working legacy of their mother and father, the Rowe children established the James Robert and Betty Rowe Endowed Scholarship in 2017.

The scholarship will assist full-time CALS students who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need. The award gives preference to students from Monroe County and members of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS). The inaugural recipient is Norfolk, Virginia native, Dianna Wilson, a junior majoring in Culinology in the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion.

Betty, a native of West Point, Mississippi recalls that she turned eighteen on a Tuesday and married James Robert from Gibson, Mississippi, two days later. That was nearly 60 years ago. The African

American couple met at Mary Holmes Community College in West Point, Mississippi.

While Betty planned to continue her education after marriage, a growing family took precedent. Similarly, James Robert focused on supporting the young family by getting a job at the American Can Company in West Point and buying farmland in Prairie, just a few miles south of his hometown. Over the years, Betty and James Robert worked their hearts out cultivating crops and raising cattle all the while serving at the helm of a family blessed with success and steered by faith.

At Mary Holmes, Betty had been an early education major. As a bright young student, she skipped several grades and graduated high school at age fifteen. She began college at sixteen. As a young mother, the early education background helped as she placed emphasis on reading and comprehension for her young children.

"All of our children had library cards by the time they were six years old. We would go to the library and check out books and I encouraged education all along the way," Betty said, who even sold encyclopedias so her children could have a set.

Their son Loston, who earned a bachelor's and master's from MSU in agronomy in 1984 and 1986, respectively, remembers reading the encyclopedias from

volume A to Z.

"My parents spent hard earned money on those encyclopedias and all the kids were pretty excited the day they came," said Loston, who points out life on the farm was pretty busy. "Every day before and after school, there were a certain number of daily chores. From planting through the spring and summer months to harvest in the fall, there was always something to do."

He says the experience taught his siblings and him life skills they still use today.

"Farming puts a sense of order in your life because your life is scheduled around seasonal farming activities," Loston said. "You learn how to organize and prioritize. You learn discipline, problem-solving, and accountability because you have jobs to do and no real excuses for not getting them done."

James Robert echoes that sentiment.

"Work ethic is the main thing you gain when you grow up on a farm," James Robert said. "Go to a place right now and say you were raised on a farm. That employer will know you've got the work ethic."

James Robert, who grew up as a Southern black man in the Jim Crow era, helped take care of his family when his father joined the service in the 1940s.

"My dad went into the U.S. Army in





Front row: James Robert and Betty Rowe.
Back Row: The Rowe siblings: Candais Hale, Loston Rowe, Lisa Rogers, James Darnell Rowe, Demetric Rowe, Rita Jackson. (Photo by David Ammon)

1945. I had three sisters and I was the only son. I was nine years old at that time and had to take on responsibilities,” James Robert remembered. “Back then, we didn’t have the same opportunities as white people. We had to study just a little harder and put forth extra effort. No one was going to give you a break. That’s what was instilled in me during my childhood. I knew I had to work.”

Later, as Betty and James Robert’s children grew, the emphasis on hard work and education naturally grew into

the couple’s desire for the Rowe children to attend college.

“I had to give up on my education and do what I needed to do to commit myself to being a mother and wife. Same with my husband. He had to work full-time and run the farm,” Betty said. “That’s why we encouraged our children to attend college before starting a family.”

With Betty as a homemaker and James Robert working at the American Can Company, the family still farmed full-time, harvesting between 800 and 1,200 acres

of row-crops and two to three acres of truck crops while raising approximately 50 head of cattle on their land. Row-crops through the years included cotton, soybeans, corn, and hay. Truck crops included peanuts, cucumbers, okra, peas, and more. James Robert managed the row-crops and livestock side of the operation while Betty took care of the truck crops. Betty sewed as a hobby, making dresses for her four girls.

“As a farming family, you did just about everything with your hands. Almost

everything you ate, you had to grow or raise. Everything you wore, you had to make,” Betty said. “Now, we live in a microwave world. All you have to do is push a button. Our children didn’t grow up like that. They grew up using their hands.”

Both Betty and James Robert were active in the Prairie community, in their church and as part of the Rural Community Development Club, or RCDC. Betty was a part of the RCDC’s Homemakers Club and also served as a 4-H leader. Betty said the family’s participation in 4-H is what ultimately led the children to attend Mississippi State.

“I was a 4-H leader for many years and all of the children were involved in 4-H,” Betty said. “We taught them how to plant flower beds and how to raise calves, and plenty of other things. Each summer we visited MSU to compete in 4-H events so the university just became a part of our routine.”

Loston also said the MSU Extension Service had a big impact on the family while he was growing up.

“The MSU Extension Service has been a big help to us. No matter what was going on in the Prairie community, if we needed answers we would call the Monroe County Extension agent. They’d come check on our crops and give us the information we needed.”

Betty says that from 1977 to 1996, at least one Rowe child was attending MSU at any given time. Upon graduation from MSU, Loston went on to earn his doctoral degree from Michigan State University’s Department of Crop and Soil Sciences with an emphasis on weed science in 1989. He now lives in Eads, Tennessee. James Darnell Rowe of Stafford, Virginia, earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agricultural economics in 1980 and

1987, respectively. Demetric Rowe of Atlanta, Georgia attended MSU from 1978 to 1981. Lisa (Rowe) Rogers, of Grand Blanc, Michigan, earned her bachelor’s in business administration in 1988. Arlington, Texas resident, Candais (Rowe) Hale, earned her bachelor’s (1991) and master’s (1994) in education while Rita (Rowe) Jackson of Lakeland, Tennessee,

earned her bachelor’s and master’s in family and consumer science in 1996 and 2001, respectively. She is on track to earn her doctorate of education from the University of Tennessee in May 2019.

After the children were a little older, Betty finished her associate’s degree and a clerical certification and went to work for the Aberdeen school district first





as a teacher's assistant and later in the administrative office. She retired in 2002 after 30 years with the district. James Robert retired from the American Can Company in 1997, after 32 years. Both Betty and James Robert continue to farm a few acres of crops and raise beef cattle.

Betty says the family has expanded exponentially over the years and the emphasis on education is still there.

"We have eleven children because five of our six children have spouses," Betty said, who points out that three of those spouses graduated from MSU.

The couple also has ten grandchildren, many of whom have graduated or are attending college. Their grandson Christopher Rowe graduated with a

bachelor's degree in agribusiness from MSU in 2010.

Throughout the years, Betty has taught her children and grandchildren to keep the faith.

"I always told them no matter where you go or what you do, put God first," she said.

James Robert says he's most proud of the set of values he sees in his sons and daughters now.

"I always taught the children to do what is right because it is right to do right," James Robert said. "Our children always did right. They never got into trouble. That's the one thing I am most proud of—that our children have values and have valued life every day of their lives."

LEFT: James Robert at the Rowe farm in Prairie, Mississippi.

ABOVE: Betty Rowe at home in Prairie. (Photos by Dominique Belcher)

Faculty News

Hopper honored with national leadership excellence award

GEORGE HOPPER, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station director and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences dean, received a 2017 Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors ESS Excellence in Leadership Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Experiment Station Section. Hopper, who also serves as dean of MSU's College of Forest Resources and director of its Forest and Wildlife Research Center, has dedicated his career to the land-grant mission in the capacities of professor, department head, dean, and director. He has been a dependable leader in SAAESD,



George Hopper, third from left, accepted the 2017 Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Stations Directors ESS Excellence in Leadership Award. Congratulating him are, from left to right, Gary Thompson, Experiment Station Section chair and associate dean for research and graduate education for Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences; Jay Akridge, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and diversity at Purdue University; (Hopper); and Ian Maw, vice president of food, agriculture and natural resources at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. (Photo submitted)

serving in various capacities including 2015 chair, 2016 ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee member, and SAAESD representative to the Southern Rural Development Center Board of Directors from 2011 to present. As a natural resources leader, Hopper has been a part of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs Executive Committee for nearly two

decades, including a term as president. He also chaired the APLU Board of Natural Resources. A Vicksburg native, Hopper earned MSU bachelor's and master's degrees and holds a doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He is a Society of American Foresters Fellow.

Evans honored for health education practice

THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion is being honored for his work as a health education practitioner. **Marion W. "Will" Evans** received the Sarah Mazelis Award for outstanding performance by a practitioner at the American Public Health Association. Evans was also most recently named a Fellow of the Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program. Prior to his role in academia, Evans served as a private chiropractor

in rural Alabama for 17 years. Evans provided health education to his patients and formed an alliance with other local health care providers to improve the lives of individuals and families within the community. Within this role, Evans led a partnership with city leaders to pass and enact the town's first non-smoking ordinance in 1991 and again strengthen that ordinance in 2000. Evans is a master certified health education specialist and a certified wellness practitioner. He earned his bachelor's degree from



Indiana University and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Alabama. He received a doctor of chiropractic degree from Logan University.

Lemley chosen for major regional recognition

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CALEB LEMLEY

was selected for the 2017 Outstanding Young Animal Scientist in Research Award by the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science. A faculty member in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences and researcher with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Lemley recently accepted the honor from the ASAS unit whose members represent Mississippi and 14 other states in the region, along with parts of Mexico and the Caribbean. Accompanied by a \$500 stipend, the award recognizes notable contributions by a scientist under the age of 40 whose research involves beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, sheep, goats, or swine. Elanco Animal Health, an Indiana-based international manufacturer



Caleb Lemley and research associate Caitlin Hart examine uterine blood flow of pregnant dairy cattle. (Photo by David Ammon)

of animal feed supplements and pharmaceuticals, provides support for the annual recognition program. Lemley's research has focused on pregnancy in cows, specifically how supplements of the hormone melatonin help increase blood flow between heifers and their unborn calves.



L. Wes Burger, Jr. selected as SEC Fellow

L. WES BURGER JR., ASSOCIATE director of both the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center and Dale H. Arner Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management is one of four Mississippi State administrators and faculty members selected as 2017-2018 Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program Fellows.



McCurdy honored for early-career achievements

JAY MCCURDY received the Crop Science Society of America's 2017 Early Career Award for making significant contributions to the field within seven years of completing a final academic degree. A Tennessee native reared on a sod farm in the Gibson County city of Dyer, McCurdy came to MSU two years ago after completing an Auburn University doctorate in agronomy and soils. He earned earlier degrees at University of Tennessee campuses in Martin and Knoxville. An assistant professor of plant and soil sciences with the MSU Extension Service, McCurdy also

conducts research with the campus-based Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. Additionally, he teaches in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' nationally recognized golf and sports turf management academic program within the plant and soil sciences department. Beyond this, McCurdy currently edits Mississippi Turfgrass magazine and is associate editor of the International Turfgrass Society proceedings in the Journal of Agronomy and Crop Science. He has authored nearly 20 peer-reviewed scientific publications.



Knight honored for horticulture work

PATRICIA KNIGHT, research professor in the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and director of horticulture research on the Coast, was presented with the Sidney B. Meadows Award from the International Plant Propagators' Society Southern region of North America. The award honors and recognizes outstanding individuals for contributions to the nursery industry and to plant propagation in the Southern Region of North America. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a member. A 20-year veteran, Knight works in plant development and evaluation in Poplarville at the MAFES South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station. Her work in crape myrtles, one of the South's most beloved trees, includes propagation of six varieties. Previously, Knight was named fellow of the international society in 2010 and served as president from 2007-2008. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Auburn University in horticulture and a Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



Animal scientist leads research, extension center

JANE PARISH took the reins at the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center on Feb. 1, 2017. Parish has served as research and extension professor at the MAFES Prairie Research Unit since 2014. During her tenure, she has overseen the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association and directed educational programming. Parish earned her doctorate in animal and dairy science from the University of Georgia in 2001, her master's from Texas Tech University in 1998 and her bachelor's from Texas A&M University in 1997. Additionally, she recently received her master of business administration from MSU.

The North Mississippi Research and Extension Center includes four MAFES research locations: North Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Holly Springs, Northeast Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Verona, Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, and Prairie Research Unit in Prairie. North Mississippi counties served by the regional center are Alcorn, Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Lowndes, Noxubee, Marshall, Monroe, Oktibbeha, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union, Webster, Winston, and Yalobusha.

Krutz named leader of Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute

L. JASON KRUTZ has been named director of the Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute (MWRRI). Most recently, Krutz served as a Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station irrigation scientist and an irrigation specialist with the MSU Extension Center at the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville. Krutz conceived and directed the Row-crop Irrigation Science Extension and Research (RISER) Program. This innovation has increased adoption of profitable irrigation best management practices for



cotton, corn, soybeans, rice, and peanuts across the state. He also has formulated strategies to facilitate the adoption of RISER techniques throughout Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Tennessee for

public and private stakeholders. A native of Arkansas, he received bachelor's and master's degrees in agronomy from the University of Arkansas. He holds a Ph.D. in agronomy from Texas A&M University.



Seal named leader of MSU's Center for Distance Education

SUSAN SEAL has been named executive director of Mississippi State University's Center for Distance Education. Seal, an assistant professor of international agricultural and extension education in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' School of Human Sciences, has served as the interim executive director of the Center for Distance Education since July 2017. As executive director, Seal will continue to lead the university's nationally recognized distance education efforts and work with campus units to enhance the educational experience for students and faculty. Seal received an

MBA from MSU in 2002 and completed her doctorate in agricultural education in 2006. From 2001-2009, Seal was the distance education coordinator for the MSU Extension Service. She spent two years as the director of outreach and external affairs for the university's College of Veterinary Medicine. After three years as director of outreach for Christian World Missions, Seal returned to MSU in 2014 as an assistant professor in the School of Human Sciences.

Study Abroad

Animal and dairy sciences students study agriculture in China

STUDENTS TRAVELED TO CHINA in May to study animal agriculture. Shengfa Liao, assistant professor in animal and dairy sciences led the program, which included five undergraduate students. Stationed at China Agricultural University in Beijing, the capital city of the world's second largest economy, students learned about the country's animal agricultural practices, as well as its animal product consumption customs. Lectures on dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, poultry, and rabbit production were delivered by the top Chinese faculty members in the fields.

Field trips to a dairy farm, a swine farm, a chicken farm, and a rabbit farm were also conducted. These farms represent the modern Chinese animal agriculture companies/industries. In addition, students were escorted by their Chinese counterparts and experienced the country's cuisine, culture, language, and some very attractive sights.

From left to right: **Shengfa Liao, Kristen Corey, Jasmyn Fearon, Kate Parsons, Elizabeth Mitchell, Alex McCafferty,** and Jiang Mao (a local coordinator).



Dietetic intern students visit Thailand

DIETETIC INTERN STUDENTS visited Thailand for a study abroad in global nutrition. Students took time out of their trip to visit the Erawan Museum in Samut Prakan, about an hour outside Bangkok. The hallmark of this museum is the three-headed elephant statue, weighing 250 tons, 29 meters high, and 39 meters long. The statue is cast in a pure green-hued copper. There is a museum housed inside and beneath its roomy belly. From left to right, back row: **Anna Goldman, Taylor Cox, Sammi Lochami, Andrea Crawford, Dianna Wilson, Anna Sherrell.** Front row: **Bryce Thornton, Courtney Kilgore, Julie Mabry, Ning Tapanee (co-instructor).** Terezie Mosby led the group.



MSU students visit Guatemala

IN A PLACE as picturesque as the Western Highlands region of Guatemala, malnutrition is a real and daily challenge for many of the indigenous population. The Guatemala Livestock Education program was designed to provide Guatemalan extension agents and livestock owners with basic education related to livestock management through workshops and on-farm demonstrations. Mississippi State University faculty advisors Jessica Graves and Marina Denny traveled with 17 students to Momostenango, Guatemala over spring break. The team developed a basic livestock management manual and worked with livestock owners to assist with animal husbandry needs.



Student News

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



Franklin native completes semester internship with U.S. Senator Thad Cochran

U.S. SENATOR THAD COCHRAN (R-MISS.) thanked **Hannah Berny** of Franklin, Tenn., for her assistance to his Washington, D.C., office during a semester-long internship. Berny is a senior agribusiness policy and law major at Mississippi State University in Starkville. Berny, a graduate of Fred J. Page High School, is the daughter of Doug and Tracie Berny of Franklin.

During her internship which began in early September, Berny assisted Cochran's staff in a number of capacities, including constituent services and Capitol tours. She aided the legislative staff on agriculture policy issues and in vetting amendments to the

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the first major effort in decades to reform the federal tax code. Prior to joining Cochran's office, Berny was a summer intern with the Foreign Agricultural Service's Cochran Fellowship Program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In this capacity, she helped coordinate training for agricultural industry leaders from underdeveloped countries in the Africa and Middle East region. The Cochran internship program is designed to give college students a firsthand opportunity to experience the federal legislative process and the operation of a U.S. Senate office.

AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING



Doctoral Student honored with MAFES Outstanding Graduate Research Award

ZHENGHONG BAO, a doctoral student in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, received the MAFES Excellence in Research Award, Graduate Category. Under the direction of associate professor Fei Yu, Bao has been principal investigator for two peer-reviewed journal articles and co-author of another.

ANIMAL AND DAIRY SCIENCES



Grad student honored with teaching award

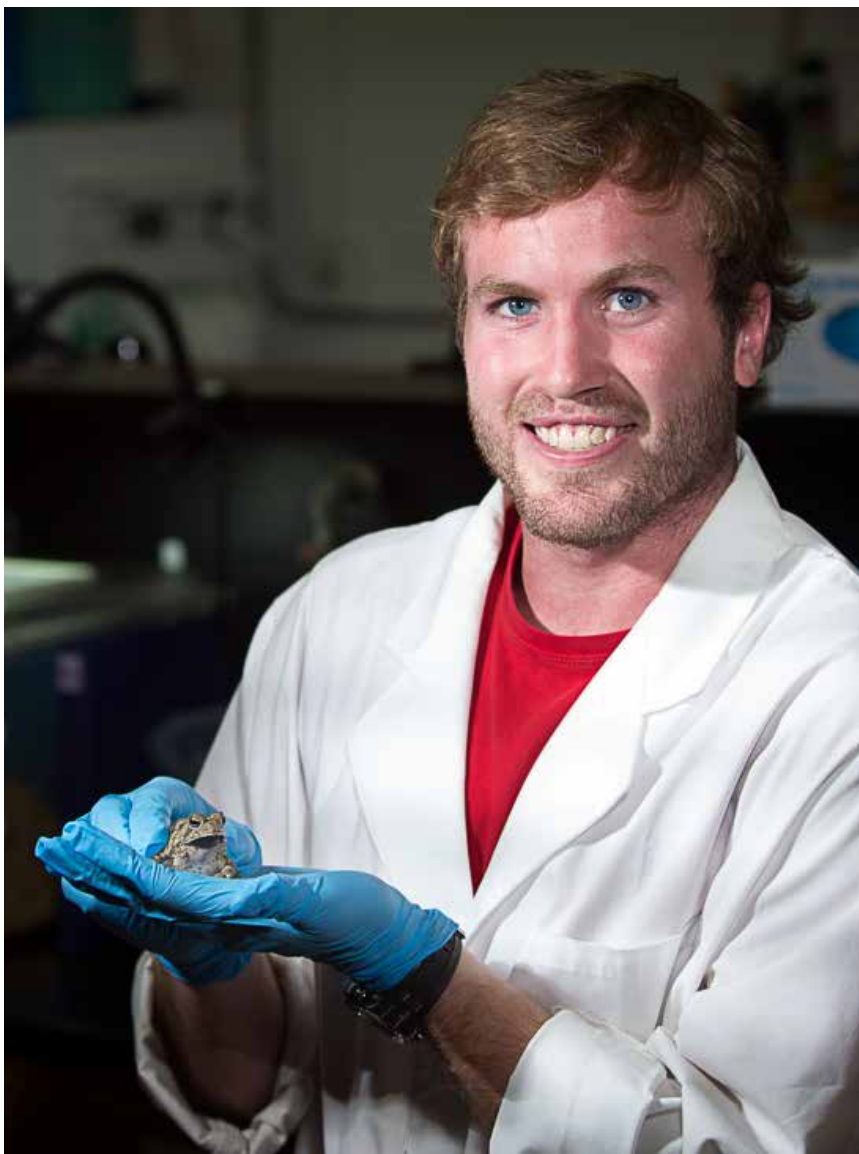
MEGAN P.T. OWEN was honored with the Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit in the Ph.D. Division from North American Colleges and Teachers of Agricultural organization. Owen works under the direction of Caleb Lemley.

BIOCHEMISTRY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

MSU student named Fulbright Scholar

A MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY student traveled abroad in 2017 after being accepted in the U.S. Student Fulbright Program. **Andrew House** of Kennedy, Alabama, graduated with degrees in wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture, and biochemistry, and is now conducting graduate work at Finland's University of Turku.

House is studying fish genomics, specifically examining Atlantic salmon while pursuing a doctorate. During his time at MSU, House has worked in the university's Hoffmann Biological Sequence Laboratory and the Amphibian Reproductive Research Laboratory. His research has been presented in London, Denver, Colorado, Vicksburg and at MSU's Undergraduate Research Symposium. The Alabama native has served in leadership roles in student organizations on campus. He is past-president of the MSU Chapter of the Wildlife Society; he founded a Men's Club Volleyball team and served as the club's president. House also was a member of the MSU Fashion Board for four years.



Biochemistry student named MSU's first Gates Cambridge Scholar

SENIOR BIOCHEMISTRY MAJOR LUCAS FERGUSON has been honored with a prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. A 2016 Judy and Bobby Shackouls Honors College Outstanding Research Award recipient, Ferguson is among 36 selected to receive one of the most generous international scholarships awarded by the University of Cambridge. In addition to the full cost of studying at one of the world's leading universities,

the award provides additional discretionary funding. Ferguson also received the MAFES Excellence in Research Award, Undergraduate Category. Ferguson worked under the direction of Henry Wan of MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. Ferguson's research uncovered a previously unknown influenza strain in Mississippi cattle and resulted in two first- and one second-author peer-reviewed articles in Virology magazine and the Journal of Virology.

FOOD SCIENCE, NUTRITION
AND HEALTH PROMOTIONCALS graduate student develops
award winning program

THE NATIONAL EXTENSION ASSOCIATION of Family and Consumer Sciences selected the Healthy Homes for Child Care program, developed by graduate student **Brooke Knight**, as the Southern Region winner and a national winner in the Clean and Healthy Families and Communities category. The program is designed to teach early childhood teachers how to provide a safe and clean environment for young children.

Knight completed the program as a component of her master's degree in Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion. She modified and adapted information from the Healthy Homes Solutions training program to meet state licensure requirements. Knight, who works as an extension agent in Jones County, completed the project under the direction of professor Barry Hunt and assistant professor Brittney Oliver.

The program is offered through the MSU Extension Service. In addition to Knight, team members included extension agents Susan Cosgrove, Lanette Crocker and Patty Swearingen; Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station assistant research professor and extension state health specialist David Buys; and Jessica Heap, child care licensure official with the Mississippi State Department of Health.

HUMAN SCIENCES

MSU fashion design,
merchandising student
named semi-finalist for
National Retail Federation
Foundation scholarship

SADIE LEE PIERCE, a senior fashion design and merchandising major at Mississippi State University, is among a select group of 25 students from around the country who represent the next generation of retail leaders. The Hockley, Texas native recently was recognized as one of 25 semi-finalists for the Washington, D.C.-based



National Retail Federation Foundation's Next Generation Scholarship program, which provides financial support to college students pursuing careers or majors relevant to retail.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Landscape architecture
students, local
kindergartners envision
playground

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS collaborated with students from Starkville Oktibbeha School District's Sudduth Elementary School to envision a master plan for a playground.

Early in the Fall 2017 semester, the landscape architecture department in MSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences was abuzz with activity during their annual Design Week. It was all hands-on design while teams of students made up of freshmen through seniors and graduate students spent the week designing playground ideas for the local school.

To kick off Design Week, the department coordinated with the school principal, county superintendent, and local stakeholders to host a design charrette. The charrette was a visual input session where children and parents drew out



their ideas of adventures and activities that they wanted to see come alive. The week culminated in the eight teams presenting their designs in front of community stakeholders, faculty, and peers at Bost Auditorium on the MSU campus.

Landscape architects from Memphis-based landscape architecture firm Dalhoff Thomas Design Studio were on-site all week to mentor MSU students throughout the intensive design practicum.

Aubree Burchfield, a third grader at Henderson Ward Stewart Elementary, brainstorms playground possibilities with MSU landscape architecture graduate student Eloisa De Leon. (Photo by Megan Bean)

PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES



MSU agronomy student provided 'Golden Opportunity'

A **MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY** agronomy graduate student has been selected into the Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute, a program of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America.

Charles Hunt Walne of Collierville, Tennessee, is the first Mississippi State student to receive the honor. The Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute selects 14-15 students throughout the globe and pairs them with professional mentors during the society's annual meeting.

Walne worked as an undergraduate research scholar in MSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He studied drought tolerance of corn in the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station's Soil-Plant-Atmospheric-Research Units, working under the direction of Raja Reddy, MSU research professor in plant and soil sciences. He also served two years as a student senator for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and vice president of the MSU Student Association during the 2016-2017 school year.

Walne graduated in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy. His experience as an undergraduate research scholar sparked a curiosity in research. Now, as an agronomy graduate student, his research on drought and flooding stresses in corn hybrids could assist producers in determining the best seed to plant in less-than-favorable conditions.

POULTRY SCIENCE

MSU poultry science majors chosen for research recognition

TWO MISSISSIPPI STATE GRADUATE students are winners of major research recognitions presented at the 2017 International Poultry Scientific Forum. **Tomilola O. "Tomi" Obe** (below) and **Mohit Bansal** (right) were presented with awards of excellence at the professional gathering held in Atlanta, Georgia. Both are Starkville residents pursuing master's degrees in the Department of Poultry Science in the university's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The annual forum is co-sponsored by the Southern Poultry Science Society, Southern Conference on Avian Diseases, and United States Poultry and Egg Association. Its student competition is judged on academic rigor of the



research project and a student's ability to successfully communicate its complex details—both traits required for professional success.

Research by the two MSU students involved separate areas of salmonella resistance, with Obe testing whether salmonella resistant to antimicrobials may also have resistance to pH, heat or antibiotics. Bansal looked at the ability of listeria and salmonella with resistance to antimicrobials to resist antibiotics and examined the components of "biofilm" or the coating that pathogens create when they come into contact with antimicrobials. Associate Professor Aaron Kiess directs their investigations.



Beck is a national award finalist in FFA

CHRYSTA BECK, poultry science major, received the American Star in Agriscience from the national FFA. The American Star awards represent the best of the best among thousands of American FFA degree recipients. The Agriscience award recognizes FFA members who are actively engaged in agriscience research and



experimentation. As an undergraduate research scholar, Beck examined the role probiotics play in broiler performance.

Alumni News

RON ALLEN (B.S., Agricultural Economics, 1977) is now executive vice president, chief credit officer for Madison-based BankFirst Financial Services.

DYLAN BOTELER (B.S., Agronomy, 2014) is assistant superintendent at Country Club of Jackson, home of the Sanderson Farms Championship.

SARA ANNE FORD (B.S., Horticulture, 1979) was named a "Top Flight Attorney" by Birmingham, Alabama-based B-Metro Magazine. She is a partner at Lightfoot, Franklin and White LLC and specializes in complex commercial litigation.



HALEY HOBART (B.S., Biochemistry, 2017) of Hollandale received the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship, valued at \$30,000 per year for medical training at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

JORDAN JACKSON (B.S., Biochemistry, 2017) of Wheeler received the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship, valued at \$30,000 per year for medical training at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

JOHN MARK LOONEY (B.S., Agronomy, 2006; M.S., Agribusiness Management, 2008) has been farming full-time with his father on Six Mile Farms in Tribbett, Miss., since graduating from Mississippi State University. His father grew rice for 30 years, then switched to soybeans and corn. However, Looney decided to grow a new niche crop not commonly grown in Mississippi, popcorn. Last year, he harvested 70 bushels of popping corn, marketed as Crop to Pop.

ALYSON FRANKLIN MCMULLAN (B.S., Human Sciences, 2011) was named client services manager for the GodwinGroup. This newly created position is meant to bridge delivery of services between the agency and its clients in today's digital environment. A native of Gulfport, she came to the company in 2015 from a position with Target Corp.

NISMA MUJAHID (B.S., Biochemistry, 2009) was the first author on a recent article in Cell Reports about UV-independent, topical approaches for boosting melanin production in human skin. She is a third year medical student at the Boston University School of Medicine.



After nearly 40 years, **DR. ARTHUR WADE PARKER** (B.S., Biochemistry, 1977) finally got to add a Mississippi State University degree to his wall. In 1977, he left the university just nine credit-hours short of graduating to begin work towards a medical degree. At the time, bachelor's degrees were not a prerequisite for medical school admission, however, many undergraduate institutions did present the degrees to their alumni after the successful completion of the first year in a medical program. Working with MSU administrators, Parker's family secured his long-awaited diploma and presented it in December. He practices internal medicine in Bend, Oregon.



With more than 30 years of experience in global agribusiness development, **JOHN RABBY** (B.S., Entomology, 1977; M.S., Entomology, 1979) has been elected chairman of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center's board of directors. He leads RE LLC, a global agribusiness consulting firm and is commercial lead for AgBiome Innovations LLC.

TOM WHARTON (B.S., Agronomy, 1985; M.S., Agronomy, 1988) was named national sales manager for FMC Corp.'s North America Professional Solutions, which comprises FMC's turf and ornamental and structural pest solutions segments.



MANY EMPLOYEES AT CAL-MAINE'S semi-annual General Managers meeting held in Jackson, MS on July 26-27, 2017 are Bulldogs. Front row (L-R): Jason Morgan, accounting intern; Steve Sanders, CM Board of Directors; **BRIAN BALLARD** (B.S., Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business, 2002), general manager; Tim Dawson, CFO; **RYAN WEAVER** (B.S., Poultry Science, 2008), general manager; **SARAH WALLACE JONES** (B.S., Poultry, 2008), Corporate Food Safety Manager; **JOSH MOORE** (B.S., Poultry Science, 2000), general

manager; (B.S., Poultry Science, 1997), COO; Dolph Baker, Pres and CEO; **RYN LASTER** (B.S., English, 1991; B.S., Poultry, 1993; M.S., Food Science and Technology, 1997; Ph.D., Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion, 2008) Director of Food Safety and Animal Welfare; **COREY DAVIS** (B.S., Ag Information Science, 2012), general manager; **KEN CARVER** (B.S., Agricultural Economics, 1997), general manager; **MATT WHITEMAN** (B.S., Poultry, 2011), general manager; **BOB LOAR**, (Ph.D., Agricultural Science, 2011), general manager;

JOE WYATT (B.S., Poultry Science, 1962), vice president.

Back row (L-R): **TODD WALTERS** (B.S., Poultry, 1995), vice president; Lance Elkins, business administration; **JUDD STEVENS** (B.S., Poultry, 2003), general manager; **JASON WILBANKS** (B.S., Poultry, 2001), general manager; Robert Coleman, general manager; **DAVIS WILBOURN** (B.S., Poultry, 2000), general manager; **ED SCOTT** (B.S., Poultry, 1978), director of recruiting; **WIL WEBB** (B.S., Agribusiness, 1996), general manager.

OBITUARIES

JOHN ROBERT ARNOLD (B.S., Agriculture, 1944) 94, Starkville – He was active in ROTC and a member of the football team while at Mississippi State. Following his graduation, he joined his family's dairy and farm, which raised cattle and cotton. In the 1960s, he turned to manufacturing and under the brand names of Howard Furniture, Herschede Hall Clocks, and Motor Guide; produced family-room furniture; floor, wall, and mantel clocks; and electric trolling motors. These companies merged under the umbrella of Arnold Industries in 1973. He also formed Dodge City Enterprises, which included a Chrysler dealership, several barbecue restaurants, and an appliance retail business. He helped launch a bus ministry at the First United Methodist Church of Starkville and later formed a tour bus business called Starkville Buses, which continued until his retirement in 2014. He was active in many organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts of America, the Rotary Club, and United Way. He was also the president of Sessums Community Club. – Aug. 23, 2017

JOHN G. "JAY" BURRELL JR. (B.S., Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business, 1986; M.S., Computer Science, 1989) 54, Starkville – He began his career in Mississippi State's agriculture economics department where he discovered a love for computers and information technology. He transferred to the Information Technology Services unit as manager for system services before becoming director of information technology infrastructure. He was known across campus for his ability to "McGyver" solutions to any problem. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church. He was also a first lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol Golden Triangle Composite Squadron, participating in many search and rescue missions, including Hurricane Katrina response. – May 14, 2017

WILLIAM BUCY BYNUM (B.S., Agronomy, 1956; M.S., Soils, 1959) 82, Williamsburg, Virginia – A retiree of the Federal Highway Administration, he was active in the Walnut Hills Baptist Church and performed several volunteer assignments with the Jamestown Foundation and Faith In Action. – Aug. 17, 2017

HOWARD CHAMBERS (faculty) 76, Starkville – He earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Texas A&M and a doctoral degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where he met his wife and fellow MSU faculty member, Jan. He spent his entire 48-year academic career serving the students of Mississippi State University as a professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology, where he established a research program in insecticide toxicology. He is credited with synthesizing numerous chemicals, including potential antidotes that could save the lives and brain function of people attacked with chemical weapons. These patented antidotal chemicals will see continued development through his colleagues and students. – Dec. 3, 2016

JOHN FRANKLIN CLIFTON JR. (B.S., Horticulture, 1974) 65, Houston, Texas – A native of Yazoo City, he remained a strong supporter of Mississippi State University after his graduation. He was especially proud of the activities associated with his years in the cooperative education program, which led to career growth and challenges. He earned an MBA from the University of Houston and was an avid outdoorsman and traveler. – Feb. 20, 2017

CARL COCKRELL (B.S., Seed Technology, 1959) 82, Shannon – He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict before attending Mississippi State. He spent several years with Monsanto Co. in sales with the animal feed division, ultimately retiring as a systems analyst. He was an active member of St. Luke Methodist Church and its men's club and coffee club. – Oct. 21, 2016

JOE CLEMENT DOUGLASS (B.S., Animal Science, 1955) 83, Columbus – He was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity, Alpha Zeta Honorary Agriculture Fraternity and the agriculture judging team, as well as ROTC. He served in the Air Force and the reserves until 1967 when he was honorably discharged as a captain. He owned Douglas Farms in Lowndes County. – July 26, 2017

TAYLOR GRAYDON FLOWERS JR. (B.S., General Agriculture, 1951) 87, Dublin – He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and a life member of the Mississippi State Alumni Association. He was also a member of the Delta Council and served many years on the boards of Hopson Bayou Drainage District and Oldham Drainage District. – July 18, 2016

WEBB PRUITT LEE (B.S., Agriculture, 1948) 95, Louisville – In his early career, he was a salesman for Taylor Machine Works' Agricultural Division. He owned and operated Lee Tractor and Equipment Company for 25 years. He was a decorated B-17 bomber pilot based in England with the 8th Air Force during WWII. He survived 29 bombing missions over Germany, including the crash of his heavily damaged bomber during his final outing. – March 14, 2017

JOHN OWEN "FROGGY" MOORE SR. (B.S., College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 1949) 89, Helena, Arkansas – He served in the Navy during WWII and the Army during the Korean War. As a student at Mississippi State University, he played football, something his family says solidified his unwavering belief in learning and unfaltering optimism toward Bulldog football. He spent several years teaching for the Veterans Affairs agri-program before joining Helena Wholesale, where he launched an agri-services division. He went on to co-found JMJ Planter Services and his work led to the formation of Sprayrite Manufacturing Co. – March 29, 2017

LYLE E. NELSON (retired faculty) 96, Starkville – He disrupted his education to serve in the Army during **WWII** before returning to North Dakota Agricultural College to earn a bachelor's in agriculture. He later earned a doctoral degree from Cornell. Following time on the faculty at Mississippi State, he joined Cornell on a project in the Philippines meant to develop rice farming to help feed the country's growing population. He continued to participate in similar projects in the Philippines and India sponsored by Cornell, Mississippi State, and the federal government. He had a career spanning 35 years as a researcher and professor of soil science in the agronomy department at **MSU**. He was a benefactor of the Starkville-**MSU** Symphony, the Starkville Public Library, Palmer Home, and **MSU**. – July 27, 2017

CAROLYN VINSON NESPOLI (B.S., Landscape Architecture, 1977) 63, Rossville, Tennessee – She was a charter member of the Beta Mu Chapter of the Tri-Delta Sorority. A longtime member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, she was active in the church choir, Daughters of the King and the Thursday Morning Bible Study. She was also a member of Carnival Memphis, Grand Krewe of Ra Met and was queen of Ra Met in 2011. – May 31, 2017

HAROLD LEROY "PETE" PETERSON (retired faculty) 70, Starkville – He earned a bachelor's degree at Mayville State University before attending Iowa State where he completed master's and doctoral degrees. After a 29-year career, he retired in 2002 from Mississippi State as a professor of soil microbiology and biochemistry. An avid Mississippi State baseball fan and original member of the current Left Field Lounge, he was a longtime member of the Bulldog Club. – Feb. 24, 2017

CARLA PRICE (Ph.D., Poultry) Ellisville, Mississippi – Carla grew up in Southern Pines and graduated from Pinecrest High School in 1975. She attended N.C. State University, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal science, then the University of Georgia where she received a master's degree in poultry science. She later obtained a Ph.D. in poultry nutrition from Mississippi State University. Carla has been called a truly forward thinker and one of the most brilliant nutritionists in the poultry industry. Carla is survived by her loving husband, David; and her two sisters, Shannon Young McCamey and Tracey Young. – May 1, 2017

ALLAN BOYD SMITH JR. (B.S., Agronomy, 1948) 91, West Memphis, Arkansas – He enrolled at Mississippi State in 1942 before volunteering for the U.S. Air Force. He earned the rank of second lieutenant as a navigator for B-24 aircraft during **WWII**. He re-enrolled as the war ended becoming a student leader as treasurer and later vice president of the student body. He was also a member and held leadership positions in honor societies and fraternities across campus. He spent 37 years as a farm mortgage appraiser with Connecticut General Life Insurance Co. often guiding clients through tough financial times. He also purchased and improved several tracts of farmland in the Mississippi Delta. – Jan. 22, 2017

ALBERT HUNTER SPINKS (B.S., Agriculture, 1952; B.S. electrical engineering, '61) 86, Burlington, North Carolina – After receiving his first bachelor's degree, he spent two years in the military, earning the rank of first lieutenant before beginning a five-year farming career in the Delta. He then changed career paths and became a certified professional electrical engineer after earning a second bachelor's from **MSU** and a master's from North Carolina State University. He spent 27 years with Lucent Technologies in several cities in New Jersey and North Carolina. – Nov. 12, 2016

ARTHUR R. TAYLOR JR. (B.S., Agribusiness and Pre-Law, 1943) 94, Senatobia – He was a member of **SAE** fraternity. During his college years, he volunteered with the Navy and was stationed in Pensacola, Florida. He specialized as a gunnery instructor and also served in the Marine Corps in that role. He was later sent to Colgate College for special navigation courses on plane identification. He worked for Purina in the chicken, feed and seed business, and earned a law degree from the University of Memphis. He then formed a farm real estate business. He was a member of the Bulldog Club, president of the Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association in 1989, a patron of excellence and member of the board of directors of the Original Century Club-now known as the Bulldog Club-and a member of the **MSU** Ag 100 Club. – Oct. 6, 2016

PAUL E. WARNER (B.S., Agriculture and Extension Education, 1950) 90, Brandon – As part of **ROTC** at Mississippi State, he was a member of the Scabbard and Blade Military Honor Society. He was a veteran of **WWII** and the Korean War. He retired from the military with the rank of brigadier general. – May 25, 2017

JOHN EVERETT WILSON (B.S., Agriculture Economics, 1948) 93, Liberty – A native of Hazlehurst, he attended Copiah-Lincoln Community College before serving in the U.S. Army during **WWII**. Following his return, he enrolled at Mississippi State and was a sprinter for the track team. He joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a county executive director in Liberty, where he stayed until his retirement 32 years later. After his retirement, he served three terms on the Liberty Board of Aldermen. – April 1, 2017

JOHN D. YORK (B.S., Animal Husbandry, 1959) 85, Cary, North Carolina – He was a native of Coffeetown and was retired from Valent Chemical Company. – June 2, 2017

Super Bulldog Weekend

April 8, 2017

1. Robert Williams, project coordinator for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; George Hopper, CALS dean; and Scott Willard, CALS associate dean discuss the morning activities.

2. Clinton Hegwood (Horticulture, 1969, 1971) accepted an alumni award on behalf of John Clark (Horticulture, 1978, 1980) from CALS Dean George Hopper.

3. CALS ambassadors and advisors serve as host for the breakfast.

4. John M. Dean (Agriculture, 1966) received an alumni achievement award from CALS Dean George Hopper.

5. Harry Martin (Agricultural Economics, 1948) recognized for alumni achievement. He is accompanied by his daughter, Janet Martin.



Homecoming

October 21, 2017



1. Young alumnus of the year Herbert T. Miller IV (Ag Pest Management, 2003; Agronomy, 2005) with father Herbert T. Miller III (Entomology 1975, 1977) and daughter.

2. R.J. Reed (Food Science and Technology, 1979, 1981) receives a Dean's award from MSU President Mark Keenum, CALS Dean George Hopper, and DAFVM Vice President Greg Bobach.

3. John Byrd, Plant and Soil Sciences, with daughters Anna (Pre-accounting major) and Sarah (Agronomy major).

4. Mark Keenum (Agricultural Economics, 1983, 1984, 1988); Zach Ishee (Agribusiness major); Harold Ishee (Agricultural Economics, 1958); Sidney Ishee (Agricultural Economics, 1981, 1983).

5. Bob Williams (Ag & Extension Education 1961, 1977) receives a Dean's award from MSU President Mark Keenum, CALS Dean George Hopper, and DAFVM Vice President Greg Bobach.



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

P.O. Box 9760

Mississippi State, MS 39762

NONPROFIT ORG

US POSTAGE

PAID

MISSISSIPPI STATE 39762

PERMIT NO. 81

EARN YOUR DEGREE ONLINE

distance.msstate.edu



NEW ONLINE PROGRAM

Master of Agribusiness Management



**Master of Science in
Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion**
with a concentration in Health Promotion