



National Ag Week



Ag students take a picture with (front) President Dixon, Provost Garry Gordon, and Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, Doug Davenport. Students from left to right: Matt Craig, Kelsey Witte, Cale Plowman, Amanda Miller, Catie Burke, Sheila Rustemeyer, and Marie Zumwalt.

Truman's Agriculture Department helped the University and the Kirksville community celebrate National Agriculture Week March 17-21. The week was organized by the 2008 National Ag Week Planning Committee, whose leader was Kelsey Witte (Williamsburg, IA). Other students on the committee included Sheila Rustemeyer (Centertown, MO), Matt Craig (Paw Paw, MI), Cale Plowman (Van Buren, IA), Marie Zumalt (Reeds Springs, MO), Catie Burke (St. Louis, MO), Whitney Mahsman (New London, MO) and Amanda Miller (Columbia, MO).

Students were welcomed back from Spring Break Monday morning with a petting zoo held on the mall of campus. Though the weather was rainy, the Pre-Vet Club had the grounds crew set up a large tent so the visitors and animals were

protected and the petting zoo went on despite the weather. Animals at the petting zoo included: two llamas, one ewe and two baby lambs, two baby goats and a chicken, a duck and a rabbit from Dr. Campbell (all of which he brought in the cab of his pickup), and a horse and a baby calf from the University Farm. The petting zoo drew a good turnout of visitors, and students said it was a nice break from school as they walked to and from classes.

Tuesday's activity was held by Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. The men held a farm challenge which included bale tossing and dizzy cowboy relay games. The games were held on the quad throughout the day for any students wanting to try their hand at "agricultural games."

Sigma Alpha helped organize "Ag in the Classroom" at the Kirksville elementary school for Wednesday of Ag Week. Members of the sorority taught

a lesson to a third grade class about dairy cattle. In the lesson, the students learned many things about dairy cattle, including breeds of dairy cattle and how much milk was produced from one cow. The kids enjoyed the lesson and invited the Truman students back anytime.

Also on Wednesday, farm tours were given at the University farm and the equestrian team gave riding demos in the indoor arena. Some Truman students came for tours and the riding demos, and there were several kids from the community who came to see the riding demos. Concluding Wednesday's festivities was the Agriculture Barbecue. The BBQ was held at the farm in the multi-purpose room, and students played Frisbee and blew bubbles provided by Alpha Gamma Rho while waiting for the hamburgers to (see page 4)

Alumni Profile: Michael Bradley

Many students probably recognize the face of Michael Bradley, but most don't know that he has been a resident of Northeast Missouri for many, many years. Michael grew up on a farm just east of Kirksville and attended Truman from 1967 to 1971. When he first came here, Truman was called Northeast Missouri State College, but changed to Northeast Missouri State University while he was here. Bradley received a BS in Agriculture in 1971, which is comparable to an Agricultural Science degree now. Because Michael worked at other jobs while taking classes, and he got married just before his senior year, he wasn't involved in many campus activities, but he does recall

that Alpha Gamma Rho was just in the process of starting a chapter on campus. Upon graduation in 1971, Bradley went to work for the Soil Conservation Service, currently called the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and has 36 years of service with them. He started out in Macon, MO, transferred to Bethany, MO, then on to Ozark, MO, and finally back to Kirksville to serve as the District Conservationist for the Moberly, Macon, Lancaster, and Kirksville offices. Now, he serves as the District Conservationist for both the Kirksville and Macon NRCS offices. He resides on the farm where he grew up just east of Kirksville with his wife, Kathy, of 37 years. He has 2 sons and daughter-in-laws who live in Houston, TX and Burlington, IA. He also has

3 wonderful grandchildren. His hobbies include doing anything with the grandkids, and raising a few Hereford cows. Bradley also enjoys representing the USDA NRCS at the Truman Career Fair every year and recruiting students for the agency. Make sure to stop by his booth next time the Career Fair comes around!



Student Profile: Deanna Love

Senior Deanna Love came to Truman from Chicago, IL and has nothing but great things to say about her experiences here. Deanna is an Ag Science major, and she is planning on moving to Georgia or Florida after graduation and working as a Veterinary Technician for a couple years and then applying to vet school. Deanna's most fulfilling experiences at Truman have been the awkward times out at the farm she has gone through with a number of classes: "I never thought in my life that I would ever get close and personal to a cow, but I did and it was amaz-

ing," she said. The best part of Truman for Deanna has been her ag professors. "I've never felt so cared about as a student until them." She has really enjoyed the students and professors in the ag department and getting to know them and what their lives were like. Although she has no intentions of working with large animals later in life, she'll never forget the experiences she had at Truman. Deanna feels that the support she has received from her professors has made the difference in helping her succeed at Truman.



Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad competition was held February 16 here on Truman's campus. As in past years, Dr. Mark Campbell helped to oversee it all. There were a total of 16 high school teams and 11 junior high teams from around northeast Missouri. Science Olympiad is a chance for students to show off how much they know about the different areas of science. Each school brings a team

of students who have been studying the many aspects of science, including meteorology, physics, chemistry, bio-processes, biology, trajectory, and remote sensing, just to name a few. Most areas require the students to take a test, with the option of completing it with a partner. Some fields require students to build something. For example, in trajectory, students built a catapult device and test it

prior to competition so they were ready to launch the projectile at any target from 2-6 meters away and up to 1 meter off the ground. In the robots section, student built a robot that could maneuver around a course set up the day of the competition. Overall, it turned out to be a very successful Olympiad with many Truman students volunteering their Saturday to help as proctors.

New Professor Profile: Dr. Abdo Alghamdi

As many of you know, Dr. Charlie Apter left Truman in 2007 after accepting a position at Northeast Texas Community College. This year, Professor Emily Costello has taken over many of his classes while the search continued to find a replacement equine professor. The search came to an end in March when Dr. Abdo Alghamdi accepted the position. We would like to welcome him to the Agriculture Department and introduce him to you.

Dr. Abdo Alghamdi was born and raised in the small farming village of Baljurashi in southwest Saudi Arabia. He grew up with 5 brothers and 2 sisters. His first dream was to be a fighter pilot, but he realized that was not attainable because of hearing, so the medicine route was plan B. After graduating high school, Dr. Alghamdi worked in his brother's car garage and learned that was not what life had in store for him, so he went back to school. During his first semester he knew that the field of veterinary medicine was what he would spend the rest of his life in. Abdo graduated in 1993 with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from King Saud University—Gassim



Branch, in Buraydah. He came to the States in 1994 where he spent a year in English school in NY before moving to MN to start the MS program. Dr. Alghamdi completed his PhD in the summer of 2005 and is currently working on a postdoc in Swine Nutrition until he comes to Truman for the start of classes in the fall.

Abdo, along with his wife, Kelly, and stepson, Mark, is looking forward to moving to Kirksville, and he says that everything about Kirksville and Truman have made him excited to move here. Being from a small village, he's looking forward to moving back to a small town, along with doing the job he loves to do: teach. In his "free-time", which is not much, he likes to read, write, draw, fish, hunt, cook, bowl, and play ping-pong and soccer. He is hoping to improve his horseback riding skills, which, according to him, need a lot of improvement.

Just so we all feel we know a little bit more about Dr. Alghamdi, he gave an embarrassing story for everyone to read:

During the early days of his MS program, he was palpating a mare and talking to his mentor at the same time. He mistakenly put his hand in the wrong opening and as he realized a different feel, his mentor was laughing at him, asking "What the heck are you doing?"

The Ag Department is very excited about a full-time professor to fill the equine position. Please help us congratulate and welcome Dr. Abdo Alghamdi to Truman.

Supporting the Equestrian and Cattle Teams

Most alumni would agree that some of their best learning experiences occurred outside the classroom. As a department, we try to support student learning wherever it occurs, and we depend on alumni support to aid in those efforts. The Agriculture Development Fund is a University Foundation account that the department can draw on to support activities not covered by normal educational supplies budgets. Recent examples of development fund expenditures include funding a portion of the Biodiesel processor for the Ag Practicum class, purchasing Ag Week t-shirts to be worn by administrators and the two Science secretaries on t-shirt day, and purchasing food for the Ag Week student picnic.

Funds are also used to support the Equestrian Team and Cattle Show Team. As the school year draws to a

close, it's time to think about next fall already. This year has been a huge success for both teams. With thoughts about the future of both teams and the direction each would like to go, it comes as no surprise to find limitations based on the equipment they currently have. The desire to expand both the Equestrian Team and the Cattle Show Team has prompted each group to put together a "wish-list" for items they are in need of. A few items on the Equestrian Team wish-list include:

- 8-10 sets of jump cups (\$5-10/set)
- 4 pairs of ankle boots (\$30-60/pair)
- 3 hunt bridles (\$50-100 each)
- 3 western breast collars (\$30-50)
- 2 sets of long lines (\$30)

The Cattle Show Team list includes:

- grooming supplies (curry combs, hard brushes and halters)

- new stock trailer (we will combine development funds with University equipment funds when the opportunity arises)

- money for meals and lodging for students during the show.

Currently, the students on both teams pay for their own meals and lodging.

These are just a few of the items on the teams' lists. If you would like to donate either an item or give a monetary donation to provide the means to buy an item, you can give online at isupport.truman.edu or send donations to the Office of Advancement (Truman State University, 100 E Normal, Kirksville, MO 63501-9958). In either case, specify "Agriculture Development Fund" as the fund to which you would like to donate.

A “Bare Bones” Approach

Five students, a faculty member, and a willing faculty spouse have been spending some long hours in Magruder Hall. In 2006, a mare owned by Tammy Bragg (BS-Ag 2006) was euthanized at the University Farm. The bones were collected in the spring of 2007 and in the fall of 2007, under the direction of Dr. Susan Guffey, five students began the work of building an articulated horse skeleton .

Crystal Cunningham (Biology/Pre-Vet, Emporia, KS), **Jessika Jamski** (Ag Science/Pre-Vet, Wildwood, MO), **Erin Pauli** (Biology/Pre-Vet, Columbia, MO), **Lindsay Rudolph** (Biology/Pre-Vet, St. Charles, MO), and **Matt Lewis** (Ag Science/Pre-Vet, Wildwood, MO) began the project by cleaning



“2008 skeleton.” Front (L-R): Crystal Cunningham, Jessika Jamski. Back: Lindsay Rudolph, Erin Pauli, Matt Lewis. Not pictured: Dr. Susan Guffey.



“The 1994 model”. Front (L-R): Christine Burns, Rachel Stefan. Back: Christy Stensland, Theresa Bednar, Karen Selbert, Dana Gillig. Not pictured: Sarah Reid and Dr. David Cross.

and then whitening all the bones in peroxide, which took most of the fall semester. Upon returning for the spring semester, all the bones were identified (with Dr. Guffey’s help) and articulated. With additional help from Robert Guffey, the bones were drilled and wired together in order to create the horse skeleton now on display in Magruder Hall. The students presented a poster detailing the skeleton construction process at the Student Research Conference on April 3, 2008.

This is not the first skeleton construction to happen at Truman. In 1994, seven students, including four AGSC majors, completed a similar project under the direction of then-Assistant Professor of Equine Science, David Cross. Four of those seven students went on to complete the DVM degree.

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be grilled. This year’s BBQ had the biggest turnout of agriculture students in the past few years. Door prizes were given out from area sponsors and local businesses. Seniors Cale Plowman and Sheila Rustemeyer were given the honor of being this year’s Ag God and Goddess.

An agriculture forum was put on by Collegiate Farm Bureau on Thursday night of Ag Week. The topic of the forum was Confined Animal Feeding Operations, with the pros and cons of the subject presented by different parties. The goal of the event was to present each viewpoint to the audience and then take questions about the topic.

Cale Plowman, Farm Bureau President, served as the mediator for the event.

On Friday, ag students held Farm Trivia on the Quad for Truman students to stop by to answer agriculture-related questions. Gift certificates were donated by local businesses which were given to students who answered their question correctly.

Other activities throughout the week included a picture with planning committee members and University administrators on a John Deere tractor brought to campus from Sydenstricker Implement. Sigma Alpha held penny wars in Magruder Hall with each professor hav-

ing their own jar. Dr. Seipel won the “contest” and was able to wear a cow costume on Friday for his reward!

National Ag Week was a huge success this year. Thanks to the students, professors and local businesses who helped make it possible!

