



Student Research Conference

The 21st Annual Undergraduate Student Research Conference was held on Thursday, April 3, 2008. The agriculture department was well represented with a total of twelve different presentations given over the course of the day by sophomores, junior and seniors. Presenters are listed with their faculty mentor and the title of their research. If you are viewing the newsletter electronically, clicking on the presentation title will take you to the research abstract on the Truman website.

- **Andrew Green** (Gladstone, MO) and **Joe Bell** (Maywood, MO) with Dr. Mark Campbell: [Evaluation of Amylomaize VII Hybrids Developed from the Germplasm Enhancement of Maize Project](#)

- **Carl Duncan** (Fillmore, MO) with Dr. Glenn

Wehner: [Evaluation of Different Grass Species for Replacement Summer Grazing of Cattle](#)

- **Matt Craig** (Paw Paw, MI) with Dr. Glenn Wehner: [Effects of Finishing Lambs on Standing Grain Pasture versus Finishing Lambs in a Feedlot](#)

- **Catie Burke** (St. Louis, MO) with Dr. Michael Seipel: [Assay Process Improvements: Incorporating Hand-held Computers into Recording Segregation Data and Using New Boxes for Tissue Sampling](#)

- **Rebecca Pace** (Winchester, KY) with Dr. Glenn Wehner: [Efficacy of Subjective Visual Udder Scores in Beef Cows for the Prediction of Lactation Potential and Weaning Weight of Their Calves](#)

- **Crystal Cunningham** (Emporia, KS) with Dr. Charlie Apter (Northeast Texas Community College) and Dr. Dean DeCock: [Determination of Dominance Hierarchy and](#)

[the Influence of Preferred Association](#)

- **Nicole Novak** (Park Forest, IL) with Dr. Michael Seipel: [Digestibility of Prepared Diets in Selected Wild Felines](#)

- **Sheila Rustemeyer** (Centertown, MO) with Dr. Glenn Wehner: [The Association of Pasture Intake on Estimates of Actual Milk Production and on Genetic Estimates of Milk Production with Grazing Gelbvieh Cow Calf Pairs](#)

- **Sarah Shipley** (Burlington Junction, MO) with Dr. Glenn Wehner: [Milk Composition in Comparison to Weaning Weights, Milk Production, Udder Scores, and Body Score Conditions in Gelbvieh Cow-calf Pairs](#)

- **Lindsay Rudolph** (St. Charles, MO) with Dr. Glenn Wehner: [Adding a Yeast Culture Preparation to a Complete Trace Mineral Mix and its Effect on Performance of Grazing Cow/Calf Pairs](#)

- **Ryan Kiel** (Wentzville, MO) with Dr. Michael Seipel and Dr. Charlie Apter: [Creating a Taxonomic Key to the Plants on Truman State University Campus](#)

- **Kimberly Kruse** (St. Louis, MO) with Dr. Mark Campbell: [Genetic Variation Among High Amylose Genotypes for Starch Thermal Properties Measured by Differential Scanning Calorimetry](#)



Presenters pictured left to right included: Sheila Rustemeyer, Nicole Novak, Crystal Cunningham, and Becca Pace. (additional picture on page 5)

Equestrian Team Finishes Strong Season

It has been a transition year for the equestrian team, getting used to a new coach and a new way of doing things. The year started off strong by hosting a successful stock show at the University Farm and having the reserve high point rider on Sunday in Lauren Wilson (Weston, MO). The hunt team was consistent all year, usually ranking in 4th or 5th in the team competition out of 15 teams. The team had an excellent weekend Feb 16-17 in St. Louis with blue ribbons from Joanna Russell (Intermediate fences, Clark, MO), Corrine Smith (Novice fences, Kansas City, MO), Kate Heisler (Intermediate Flat, St. Louis, MO), Amanda Brehm (Beginning Walk/Trot/ Canter, Lee's Summit, MO), Alison Knarr (Walk/Trot, St. Louis, MO), and Samantha Dever (Walk/Trot, Forstell, MO). Several of these riders are poised to point up to the next division and go to regionals next year. The western team had a large presence at the regional competition sending Lauren Wilson in the opening reining division, Whitney Mahsman (New London, MO) in Intermediate, and Samantha Dever in Beginner. Samantha placed second at regionals and qualified for Semi-finals in North Carolina where she rode well. The work all the rid-



Top row from left, Krystin Schupp, Liz Messer, Laura Hoffner, Kate Heisler (hunt historian), Joanna Russell (vice president), Alison Knarr. Middle Row from left, Whitney Mashman (president), Kelly Limberg, Jacob Crider, Brandon Hall, Emily Costello (coach), Kim Kruse, Carrie Ostowski, Samantha Lagergren. Bottom row from left, Samantha McKinley (fundraising chair), Taylor Blair, Corinne Smith, Amanda Brehm, Erin Day, Catie Burke (Secretary), Alyssa Harris (Treasurer), Kelsey McFarland, Samantha Dever, Clare Dellinger. Horse: Leos Royal Bonita.

ers put in this year has really showed in both their success in competition and also in how well our horses at the farm are doing. The team is looking forward to a relaxing summer which will allow us to gear up for a successful season next year. For more information about the Truman Equestrian Team, visit our web site at equestrian.truman.edu.

Submitted by: Coach Emily Costello

Attention Alumni:

If your company/employer has a careers webpage which includes postings of entry-level jobs for which our graduates (Agriculture majors/minors [including Ag. Business and Equine Studies]) would be qualified, we would like to link it from our Careers page. We will begin adding those employers that we are aware of, but we do not want to exclude anyone. Please send the website URL and any other information to mseipel@truman.edu.



Student Profile: Andrew Green

This week's student profile is about a fine young lad that enjoys wearing bib overalls when most people could consider it inappropriate. Andrew Green, a junior Agriculture major and Biology minor, is from Gladstone, MO and became interested in agriculture by helping his grandfather plant crops, bale hay and feed cattle on his farm in southern Iowa. Andrew enjoys fishing, trap shooting, camping, running his truck into telephone poles, studying history and learn-

ing about antique farm equipment. At Truman, he is the president of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and enjoys finding new ways to annoy Dr. Wehner. He intends to graduate from Truman in May of 2009 and attend graduate school to study plant breeding. This summer, he is moving to Bozeman, MT to work for Dr. Luther Talbert at Montana State University. His future goals are to work for a university or a seed company doing genetic research.

Where Are They Going After Truman?

Where have the past 4 years gone? Being a senior myself, the time sure has flown by. Many of us have called Kirksville home for these last few years and even though we're not sticking around much longer, it's going to be a bittersweet good-bye. We've grown used to the stoplights that start blinking at 5:00 pm on weekdays and don't work at all on Sundays, we're used to seeing the same faces every morning when we walk through the doors of Magruder, we always look forward to the end-of-the-year picnic (or EOY as it's known to most) and the funny little gag gifts that Seipel hands out, all the little things we tend to overlook when they happen day in and day out. But next year will not be the same without this senior class. Of course, a whole new freshman class will come in, but first, some ag students will be leaving. Where are they going and what are they going to be doing? Well they all have graciously told us so we can report it to you.

-Sara Copp (Normandy, MO), with her minors in biology and environmental studies, has a job at the Chicago Botanical Gardens working with aquatic plants. Eventually Sara

would like to go to grad school for conservation biology or environmental science.

-Morgan Bullock (Camdenton, MO) is going to back home and start his own business.

-Sheila Rustemeyer plans on attending graduate school, however she is not sure where yet, possibly at the University of Wyoming. She hopes to one day work with farmers to improve livestock techniques and management.

-Kelly Limberg (Bland, MO) plans to attend Kansas State University within the next year for a Masters in Animal Science.

-Sarah Shipley is moving to Bethany, MO where she is going to be looking for a job and planning for her wedding in October.

-Ryan Kiel (Wentzville, MO) will work for a landscaping company back home in St. Louis, or possibly attend grad school at either Mississippi State or Ball State.

-Carl Duncan (Fillmore, MO) has a job lined up with New Alliance, F.S. and will move to Iowa after graduation.

-Mike Doorack (St. Louis, MO) will be moving to Warrenton, MO where he will be a foreman for Masonry Forte, Inc.

-Drew Olson (Papillon, NE) will be attending Nebraska and Iowa State in their 2+2 professional veterinary program. He also hopes to pursue alternative energy opportunities.

-Cale Plowman (Douds, IA) is going back home to help manage the family cow/calf herd. They are in the process of building a 450-head cattle finishing barn

-Maddison Syberg (St. Louis, MO) is going to spend her summer working as a Clydesdale Handler at Grant's Farm and be an Assistant Zoo Keeper in River's Edge and Antelopes at the St. Louis Zoo. She is excited to see what the future holds after the summer is over.

-Bryce Harken (Liberty, MO) is going to see what's out there in the world.

-Pat Blomme (Victor, IA) is getting married in June! He will go back home and start his own hay grinding business called P&L Grinding, Inc.

Two other graduating seniors are Brian Easley and Deanna Love. We wish these 14 wonderful people the best of luck in whatever they do and wherever they go in life. It's been a great past few years and they will be missed!

Alumni Profile: Amber Byrd

Amber Byrd was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. She attended Truman from August 2002-May 2006. While pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science with an emphasis in Animal Science, Amber was quite involved on campus. These activities included: Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, Louis Stokes Scholar Program, Coalition of African American Women, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and National Pan-Hellenic Council. Her favorite memory of TSU is making cheese with Jenny, Sarah, Tammy, and Katie for the Practicum class. While applying to grad schools after graduation, Amber worked at everyday jobs including Wendy's and FedEx and remarks, "Working at these places with a college degree, is very...humbling, to say the least."

In March, 2008, Amber was hired by Con-Agra Foods where she works in the laboratory at a flour mill. She feels that her degree from Truman and all the experiences she gained while here have helped her to get to where she is today. She still plans to get her Master's but is unsure in what field. An interesting experience that Amber has had along the way is the reactions she receives when interviewing for a position and the interviewer notes that she has a degree in agriculture. She says that they immediately start asking her about her experiences on the farm. They always question about everything, from branding to castrating, from ear tagging to using a rectal thermometer. She also enjoys telling them about her cheese-making experiences. Amber lists the things that she misses about

Truman as, "Dr. Wehner's stories in class that would kind of get off topic, but then somehow come back toward the end and tie in perfectly; Dr. Marshall's jokes; Dr. Campbell's crazy antics during lab; dissecting cats with Dr. Guffey; attempting to ferment grapes with Dr. Apter; and finding out the do's and don'ts of cheese-making with Dr. Seipel. You guys were the greatest, and THANK YOU!"



Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Every semester, students can apply for several scholarships from the Foundation Scholarship fund. There are 3 scholarships specifically given to students in the agriculture department. These scholarships, with a brief description and the recipient(s) include:

-Norvell C. Allen Memorial: This scholarship was established in 1982 from income earned on crops harvested over eight years from University properties. It was named for Norvell C. Allen who served the University as an instructor of agriculture from 1937 through 1963. Recipient: Justin Nash (Warrenton, MO). Justin is a junior pursuing a BS in Ag/Animal Science. After Truman, he will go to grad school and study Reproductive Physiology and ultimately get a doctorate in the same area. Past recipients include:

- 2007-Sarah Shipley
- 2006-Sarah Shipley
- 2005-Octeva Johnson
- 2004-Valerie Hentges (Freeburg, MO)
- 2003-Valerie Hentges
- 2002-Teresa Pafford
- 2001-Michael Guethle
- 2000-Justin Kelley (Dexter, MO)
- 1999-Jennifer Duncan (St. Louis, MO)

-Alpha Gamma Rho Agricultural: This scholarship was established in 1987 by the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity to honor excellence in agricultural studies, as well as the promotion of agricultural science. Recipient: Brandon Hall (Industrial, IL). Brandon is a senior pursuing a BS in Ag/Animal Science. After Truman, he plans to find a job in the animal ag industry and later go to OK State Shoeing School. Past recipients include:

- 2007-Justin Nash
- 2006-Brian Easley (Fulton, MO)
- 2005-Steven Webb (Plainfield, IL)
- 2004-Adam Eichelberger (Boonville, MO)
- 2003-Andrea Finzel (Bellevue, IA)
- 2002-Matthew Jones (Maywood, MO)
- 2001-Jeannie Patterson (Decatur, IL)
- 2000-Jeff Stewart (New London, MO)
- 1999-Christina Truesdale (Jefferson City, MO)

-Bryce Edward Stever/Alpha Gamma Rho Memorial: Endowed by Alpha Gamma Rho and other friends of Bryce E. Stever who passed away after a motorcycle accident in 1992. Stever was an agricultural science major and held membership in the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, the Truman wrestling team and the Pre-Veterinary Club. Recipient: Marjorie Zumalt (Reeds Springs, MO). Marie is a sophomore pursuing a degree in Ag/Pre-Vet. After Tru-

man, she hopes to attend vet school to obtain her DVM. Past recipients include:

- 2007-Gina Thurmon (Eolia, MO)
- 2006-Justin Nash
- 2005-Sheila Rustemeyer
- 2004-Rebekah Kruvand (St. Louis, MO)
- 2003-Valerie Hentges
- 2002-Andrea Finzel
- 2001-Laura Moore (Independence, MO)
- 2000-Shannon Klepper (Union, MO)
- 1999-Shannon Klepper

Other AGSC scholarship recipients:

-Sina Faye Fowler Memorial: This scholarship was established by the estate of Sina Faye Fowler ('27) in 1970. Ms. Fowler served as a dietician in several hospitals and military hospitals throughout her career and published a book in 1937. Recipient: Sarah Stoll.

-Truman Royalties: Established in 2000 with royalties from the Truman State University logo, this scholarship provides support for a student who can demonstrate financial need. Recipient: Suzanne Pitts (Kirksville, MO). Suzanne is a freshman pursuing a degree Ag/Animal Science. After Truman, she will either go to vet school or teach agriculture at the college level.

(continued on page 5)

Summer Research in the Ag Department

This summer, agriculture students Justin Nash and Suzanne Pitts and community college student Diana Acevedo will be conducting research projects. Nash received a Science Development fund stipend and will be working with Dr. Wehner on his research project to compare two physical markers used to identify standing estrus in bovine females. One product, called Bovine Beacon, is an ink pad that is broken by the bull, and the other product is a sticker that is scratched off by the bull once mounted multiple times. Justin and Dr. Wehner have conducted a preliminary study that has shown the Bovine Beacon is broken about 24 hours in advance to the scratch-off product showing positive for standing

estrus. The two will study the time between the products while observing standing heat, then breed the females, and finally look at conception rates and sex ratios in the calves.

Suzanne Pitts will also be working with Dr. Wehner. Suzanne's research is funded by The Next STEP, a coordinated 10-week undergraduate research program supporting Ag Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math and Computer Science. Suzanne will work with Dr. Wehner at feeding the glycerol produced from Bulldog Biodiesel to heifers at the farm. The project will determine the level of KOH in the glycerol, and find ways to detoxify the glycerol to get rid of the KOH if necessary. This project will find the viscos-

ity of the glycerol and determine how it could be fed to cattle and possibly add mineral to the glycerol, all the while saving on corn because of high prices.

Diana Acevedo, a student at Metropolitan in Kansas City, will move to Kirksville this summer and work with Dr. Campbell on a research project that is also funded by The Next STEP. Diana's research will be related to working out a method for evaluating high amylose corn hybrids.

Joe Bell is also working with Dr. Campbell by assisting in field work while making manual crosses of different lines and conducting yield trials of experimental hybrids. Joe's research is funded through the USDA Germ Plasm Enhancement of Maize continuing grant. Dr. Campbell has had one student each summer for the past eleven years conduct research funded by that particular USDA grant.

Scholarship Recipients, cont. from pg 4

From the desk of Dr. Glenn Wehner

Friends:

It is not very sage to state that the cost of everything is going up! Here at Truman, our costs have expanded also, but we are still the affordable, public Liberal Arts and Science institution in the Midwest. Part of that affordability is our ability to offer departmental scholarships to deserving students such as the ones listed above. But as stated in the movie, *The Thirteenth Warrior*, "...don't worry little brother, there are

more of them!" And that's the point of this appeal; we have many more deserving students truly worthy of financial support.

We spread out the departmental support as best that we can, and YOU can help! Some options for your consideration when called upon by Tele-alumni, are the agriculture scholarships: Norvell Allen – any ag major; Bryce Stever Memorial – Prevet with preference to AGR members but open to all ag majors; or the Alpha Gamma Rho Agriculture – open to all ag majors with preference to AGR's if qualified. Your financial support of these scholarships through the

Foundation (501C – tax deductible) enables us to serve more scholars and insure that we can attract the best agriculture students in the state and the nation. Make sure that you write on the pay line: Truman Foundation-Agriculture or note Agriculture on the memo line so that your funds will find the correct home. One final option for donating is by following the links at giving.truman.edu. Thank you for all you already do for us financially and in all the other ways you help us make a difference! See ya at Homecoming!



SRC presenters (L to R) Matt Craig, Carl Duncan, Andrew Green and Catie Burke.

End of the Year Picnic

The Ag department held its annual "End of the Year Picnic" at The Point shelter at Thousand Hills State Park on Friday, May 2nd. Around 60 students and faculty attended the picnic and enjoyed playing Frisbee, soccer, football and socializing in the shelter before and after a great potluck dinner. On the menu was smoked turkey, BBQ pork loin, lots of salads, lots of desserts and homemade ice cream! The meal was concluded with a senior awards presentation. Dr. Seipel introduced each senior by name and each student stood and informed those attending about their future plans. Dr. Seipel then presented Sheila Rustemeyer with the Outstanding Agriculture Student award and Kaitlyn Sullivan with the Distinguished Scholar award. Dr. Wehner then explained the



final award of the night, the Bonine-Gillig award which was given to Carl Duncan for extraordinary service to the department. Finally, Sarah Shipley and Carl Duncan were acknowledged for obtaining Departmental Honors.

Senior award students pictured at left, from left to right: Sheila Rustemeyer (Centertown, MO), Kaitlyn Sullivan (Verona, WI), Carl Duncan (Fillmore, MO), and Sarah Shipley (Burlington Junction, MO).

Bulldog Biodiesel

The biodiesel project started in the Ag Practicum class has been a success on the farm (biodiesel in the tractors and pickups) and on campus (a new student group called Bulldog Biodiesel). Be on the look-out for a special mailing from Bulldog Biodiesel. The club is sending out letters to alumni to help raise funds for the purchase of equipment and supplies. They would appreciate your support!

From the Easy Chair

It's hard to believe that another academic year is coming to a close, but the last finals of Spring 2008 are being taken as I write these words. I would like to congratulate students and faculty on an outstanding year and welcome our new graduates to the 'alumni ranks'. We also appreciate the continued alumni support and great response we've received to the newsletter this year. You will see another newsletter in September. Remember the Ag. Alumni Homecoming Breakfast on Oct. 4, 2008, 7:30-9:00 at the University Farm. Have a great summer! ~Michael Seipel