



Agriculture Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Student Profile: Catie Burke 2

Alumni Profile: Mike Greenwell 2

New Professor Profile: Dr. Abdo Alghamdi 2

New Student Picnic 3

Adair Farm Family of the Year 3

New Fire Pit 3

Summer Internship, Carrie Ostronski 3

Young Farmers Tour

Missouri's Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives Association provides adults interested in agriculture an opportunity to continue their education and to participate in leadership, community improvement and recreational activities. It is a state wide organization with no membership restrictions based on age or profession. Each year the Young Farmers conduct an educational tour of agriculture related businesses. The tour is held in different areas of the state each year so that participants can view different aspects of agriculture and see what is going on around the state.

This year the tour was held in Northeast Missouri. Participants arrived in Kirksville Sunday, August 3 to kick the tour off with a banquet held at the Kirksville High School. After a free breakfast Monday morning participants toured different area businesses including the Missouri Department of Conservation Building, the Depot Inn and Train Museum, KCS Angus

Ranch, Superior Truck Services, Burbaker's Sunny Side Dairy, Western's Smokehouse, Eric Davis Farm and Hollenbeck Honey.



Spectators learn more about agriculture at the Young Farmers Tour.

Tuesday morning all participants arrived at our very own Truman State University Farm. Dr. Glenn Wehner was the overall coordinator for the University Farm stop. There were five stations for the participants to visit. Dr. Michael Seipel, Agriculture Department Chair, gave an overview of the agricultural curriculum at Truman State University. Emily Costello, equine instructor and Equestrian Team coach, gave a

talk about the equine program and opportunities for involvement within the program. Dr. Mark Campbell, professor of agronomy, presented research opportunities in agronomy and discussed the agronomy program at Truman. Sheila Rustemeyer, a recent graduate, gave a general talk about the University Farm including how it fits into the ag curriculum and how it is used by both faculty and students as a learning resource, and current students Justin Nash and Suzanne Pitts both presented their summer research and talked about the cattle operation at the University Farm. The new provost Dr. Troy Paino addressed the crowd before the tour ended with a barbecue lunch banquet.



Alumna Sheila Rustemeyer (BS AgSci, 2008) gives a talk on the University Farm and the agriculture curriculum at Truman.

Upcoming Events:

- Equestrian Team Show: September 27-28
- Homecoming: Oct. 4
7:30 am—Breakfast
9:00 am—Parade
2:00 pm—Football game
- Midterm Break: October 9-10

New Student Picnic

Each year Sigma Alpha, the professional agriculture sorority, organizes a back to school picnic. The goal of the picnic is to bring new students and returning students together at a time when they might not otherwise get to know one another. Becca Pace, the organizer of this year's picnic,

says, "I have made it a personal goal to make the new additions to the agriculture feel welcome and begin to show them how much of a family we are."

The picnic was held Friday, September 5 at Thousand Hills State Park and there was a great

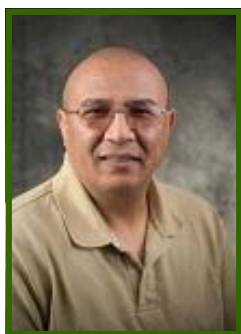
representation of all ages, including faculty. The picnic was a success with good food, good conversation, good weather and good company was sure to keep everyone smiling for the weekend. What a great way to start the year!

The event was a success with around 150 attendees. Diversity was the focus of the 2008 Missouri Young Farmer/Young Farm Wives summer tour and Northeast Missouri proved to be a prime example of today's agricultural diversity.

Up With the Chickens

Homecoming comes early this year: **Saturday, October 4**. So join us bright and early the morning of homecoming for an alumni pancake and egg breakfast at the University Farm **(7:30-9:00 am)**. Faculty, students, and alumni are all invited to attend.

New Professor Profile: Dr. Abdo Alghamdi



The Truman State Agriculture Department is pleased to welcome Dr. Abdo Alghamdi as a new Equine professor. Dr. Alghamdi has a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from King Saud University-Gassim Branch in Buraydah, Saudi Arabia. He

Dr. Abdo Alghamdi, Equine Professor moved to Minnesota in 1994 where he received his Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. He completed his Ph.D. in the summer of 2005 from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and did his postdoc in Swine Nutrition. This fall Dr. Alghamdi is teaching two sections of the Intro to Agriculture class for non-majors, Special Topics in Equine Science and Animal Reproduction.

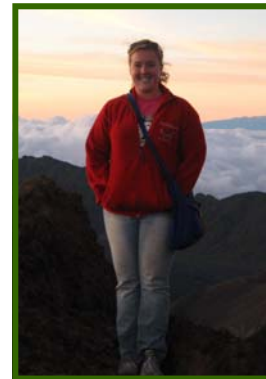
We Want YOUR Opinion!

This year the Agricultural Science Department will be undertaking its 5-year program review. As part of the review, we would like input from the alumni about your experience in the program and suggestions on areas for improvement. Be sure to watch for an email request to respond to an online survey. We hope that you will take a few minutes to give us your feedback!

Student Profile: Catie Burke

From testing corn genetics in Hawaii to zip-lining through the canopy of Costa Rica, or from the back of a horse to tutoring students at Ray Miller Elementary, Catie Burke has many interests and passions that make her a well-rounded agricultural science student. With emphasis in both Animal Science and Crop Science, Catie has gained a vast array of knowledge in all agricultural fields. During the summer of 2007, Catie interned at Monsanto, a seed producing company, where she tested corn leaf tissue samples for the desired gene using different processes such as PCR, DNA extraction, dip-sticking, and herbicide resistance testing. This past summer, Catie spent nine

weeks studying abroad in Costa Rica with the program led by Vera Piper. She took five classes, including Spanish Civilization and Culture, Literature, Grammar, Composition, and Conversation. These classes will help Catie to complete her Spanish minor. To highlight a few of her extracurricular activities here at Truman, Catie is a member of TLS, a service sorority, a member of Cattle Show team, secretary of the Equestrian Team, Historian of DTA, the Agriculture Honor Fraternity. As devoted as Catie is to every task she takes on, she does manage to find some free time, in which she enjoys playing the



Catie Burke (St. Louis, MO) stands on top of a mountain in Hawaii.

piano, riding/training horses, and reading books. After Truman, Catie will either attend veterinary school, grad school for plant genetics, or become a sky diving instructor.

Alumni Profile: Mike Greenwell

This month's alumni profile features Mr. Mike Greenwell. Mr. Greenwell is a 1983 graduate of Truman State University with a degree in General Agriculture with an emphasis in business. While attending the Harvard of the Midwest, he was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho, the professional agriculture fraternity. He recalls this as his favorite memory of his undergraduate experience. His brothers kept him laughing throughout college. It was Dr. Wehner, other agricul-

ture professors, and his brothers of AGR who encouraged him to attend law school while most other professors advised him against it. They told him it was a waste of time because he was an ag major. It was this good fellowship he had with his brothers and others in the ag department that makes the degree so special to

him. After graduation, Mr. Greenwell did indeed attend law school at the University of Dayton School of Law, a Catholic school in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Greenwell currently resides in Shelbina, MO where he is a partner in the law firm of Greenwell & Wilcox, LLC in Shelbina. His wife Marcia is Truman graduate herself, also part of the Class of 1983. Mrs. Greenwell teaches middle school at South Shelby in Shelbina. The Greenwell's have 3 children. Mal-



Mr. Mike Greenwell

lory is a junior majoring in ag-business at University of Missouri-Columbia. Mitch is a senior at South Shelby and active in sports. Mason is a freshman and is also active in sports.

In February, 2008, Mr. Greenwell was appointed to the Board of Governors of Truman State University.

Continued on page 3

Adair County Farm Family of the Year

Alumni Profile, from page 2

Each year at the Missouri State Fair, a family from each county is chosen as the Farm Family of the Year. The 2008 Adair Farm Family of the Year is the Phillips family. Grant Phillips (BS AgSci, 2005), along with his wife Michelle and their 4 children, reside on their small acreage farm just south of Greentop, MO. The land was purchased two years ago and since moving there, the Phillips family have had cattle, but are currently running horses in the pastures. They have two

quarter horses and three miniature horses for the kids. Olivia, the oldest daughter, is involved with 4-H. Ashley, their middle daughter, enjoys taking care of the miniature foal. The two youngest, Brooke and Ethan, enjoy riding the minis. Grant says that his family enjoys the outdoors. Grant and Michelle let all the kids be part of using the land as well as taking care of it. As for future plans for the farm, Grant says that within the next ten years, they hope



The Phillips Family receives their plaque.

to have a sustainable orchard and some type of country store. The family is very honored to be named the Adair Farm Family and they feel they have a lot to live up to. Congratulations

Since becoming a member, he has enjoyed it, however it is more time consuming than he had envisioned. Commenting on the other Governors, he says they “are great and take their jobs seriously. I am impressed with the people who work for the university from top to bottom. Every person seems to have a love for Truman and wants to see the school prosper.” Since becoming a Governor himself, Mike has learned that they must fight for the students against all the other schools around the nation. The students are the reason he, along with all the other Governors, are there. Congratulations to Mr. Greenwell for his appointment and best of luck in everything!

New York, New York

While many Truman students have great opportunities in summer internships, not too many students leave the Midwest. Carrie Ostrowski (Sioux Falls, SD) spent the summer in Chazy, NY at the WH Miner Agricultural Research Institute in the Summer Experience in Equine Management program. Miner has about 30 Morgans and is an active training and breeding facility. As an intern,

Carrie was responsible for the day-to-day barn chores such as cleaning stalls, feeding, and turnout, along with the training of the young horses and reproductive management of the mares and stallions. Special opportunities outside of the barn included a riding clinic with Sue Hughes, trips to vet clinics around the area, working with the dairy program that is also on the farm, facilitating therapeutic riding, and a day at the races in

Saratoga Springs. Carrie would strongly recommend this internship to any equine major or minor looking for more hands-on experience with training and reproductive management. Carrie also highly recommends that all students participate in any internship program during their college years: “Agriculture is a labor-intensive industry and unless you grew up working on a farm or at a barn, there is not a better way than completing an internship in your field to see if it’s a lifestyle that suits you.”



Carrie rides a Morgan at Miner Institute. For more info on this internship, visit: www.whminer.com/education.html

A New Fire Pit

Over the summer, a fire pit was constructed at the University Farm. It is located between the classroom building and the duplex. The project was completed by alumnus Mike Doorack (BS



AgSci, 2008) of Masonry Forte, Inc, along with Farm Manager Bill Kuntz. The main purpose of this fire pit is to be able to host more social events at the farm and to have a nice place to have a bonfire!

From the Easy Chair

We are glad to continue the practice of an Alumni Newsletter into a second year. This has been a great vehicle to share departmental news and also has generated emails from many former students. We really do love to hear from you. Kaitlyn Sullivan continues as editor this year, and is joined by Kelsey Witte.

Things continue to stay busy in the department and at the Farm. The University welcomed a new Provost this summer, Troy Paino. Mr. Paino took a tour of the farm



during the Young Farmer’s Tour in August. Troy comes to Truman from Winona State University where he has taught since 1997. He earned his Ph.D in American Studies from Michigan State University.