

# ACTualities

Oklahoma State University • Agricultural Education, Communications and 4-H Youth Development

## Relay for Life fights cancer one step at a time

Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and Collegiate FFA members joined together in support of Oklahoma State University's second annual Relay for Life on April 4 and 5.

Relay for Life offers the community a chance to participate in the fight against cancer.

Teams of 10 or more people complete the relay. Each member must raise a minimum of \$100, and during the all-night even, at least one team member must remain on the track at all times. The teams begin walking after those who have survived a battle with cancer walk a survivor's lap.

To raise even more money, OSU sold luminaries in memory of a cancer victim or in honor of a survivor.

"Once night falls, the luminaries are lit, and a special moment of silence is held in respect for the individuals noted on the luminaries," said Jodi Nichols, ACT member and participant. "I think this relay was special because we par-

ticipated in memory of Dr. Leising's wife, Linda, who recently lost her battle with cancer," said Nichols.

The ACT and CFFA team purchased a luminary in memory of Mrs. Leising and in honor of Dr. James White. In total, about 250 luminaries surrounded the track.

"At the OSU Relay for Life, the 'track' was the sidewalk surrounding the library lawn," said Katie Reim, ACT member and team captain. "Each team had a member on the sidewalk at all times walking. After one was ready to rest, a new team member or members took over the walk."

At this year's event, 24 teams raised \$26,000. Approximately 250 team members and 150 guests attended the event. With the number of participants and the amount of money raised, students consider this year's Relay for Life an accomplishment.

"I consider this event a huge success. When so many students pull to-

gether to raise money for such an important cause, it shows how much we really care about finding a cure for cancer and remembering those who have experienced the disease," said Reim.

The money raised from Relay for Life was donated to the American Cancer Society. The money benefits cancer patients and cancer research.

"Everyone wanted to make a difference in someone's life," said Reim.

Participants competed in other events throughout the long night.

"During the relay, there was volleyball; Hot Relay Babe, where a guy dressed up as a girl; most spirited team, which we won; and lots of food and conversation. I think everyone had a good time," said Reim.

Relay for Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported and that one day, cancer will be eliminated. Relay for Life participants keep these hopes alive.

## AgCom student chosen in CASNR top five



The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources named Shannon Webb of Cordell, Okla., as one of its top five seniors for 2003.

"I was surprised and honored to be named a CASNR Top Five Senior. Words cannot begin to explain my excitement. I am glad to bring such an honor to my parents, teachers and department," said Webb.

Former Assistant Dean of Resident Instruction, Fred LeCrone, established this award before his retirement to inspire leadership and participation in collegiate activities.

"There is no monetary value with

this award. It is just a handshake and a pat on the back," said Dr. Linda Martin, assistant dean for academic programs. "Sometimes a handshake and a pat on the back count the most."

Throughout her college career, Webb was involved with Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Agricultural Student Council, Tri Delta sorority, Alpha Zeta, Phi Eta Sigma, Omicron Delta Kappa, Mortar Board, Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key, Orange Peel, National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Order of Omega.

"I wanted to make the most of my

*continued on page 3*

# ACT members receive honors at national contest

## Color Photography

5th Place - Whitney Ferris  
4th Place - Kristin Owens  
3rd Place - Nikki Davis  
1st Place - Shannon Webb

## Design & Layout Award of Excellence

Martha Ostendorf, Ginger Bright and Sarah Harris

## Video Production

2nd Place - Chandra Orr  
1st Place - Brian Bendelee

## Photography Award of Excellence

Kristin Owens

## Magazine Category

1st Place - *Cowboy Journal*

## Web Design

2nd Place - Nikki Davis

## Online Publication

2nd Place - *Cowboy Journal*

## Black & White Photography

4th Place - Martha Ostendorf  
3rd Place - Rachel Bobbitt  
1st Place - Afton Jameson

## Graphic Design

1st Place - Martha Ostendorf,  
Ginger Bright and Sarah Harris

## Digitally Enhanced Photography

2nd Place - Melissa Majors  
1st Place - Kristin Owens

## Page Layout

1st Place - OSU ACT Chapter

## Brochures & Pamphlets

2nd Place - Kristen Andrews

## Public Relations

2nd Place - Nikki Davis

## Photo Series

2nd Place - Rachel Bobbitt

## Advertisement Layout & Design

5th Place - Martha Ostendorf  
3rd Place - Ginger Bright  
2nd Place - OSU ACT Chapter  
1st Place - Codi Seeley

## Electronic Media Award of Excellence

Brian Bendelee

## Multimedia

1st Place - Jodi Nichols and Melissa Majors

## Long Feature Writing

4th Place - Nicola Xanthus

## Short Feature Writing

4th Place - Brian Bendelee

## ACT Scholarship Recipient

Jodi Nichols

## Causley receives AgCom Graduate of Distinction Award

The department of agricultural education, communications and 4-H youth development recognized Fred Causley for his outstanding achievements in agricultural communications with the 2003 Agricultural Communications



Graduate of Distinction Award at the departmental banquet in April.

“Having been on committees to help select this award in the past, my first thought was, ‘Somebody made a mistake!’ because I have been placed in a group of peers by this selection—but I’ll take it,” said Causley.

Causley graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in agricultural journalism. Even though he had a successful career in communications, he began as an undergraduate student with his eye on another field.

“Like many a student in agriculture, I started out for vet school,” said Causley. “When I realized I didn’t have the money to hang in there for vet school, I told my adviser, the late Associate Dean Fred LeCrone, that I wished I had started out in journalism because I liked to write. He fixed me up.”

Soon after that meeting Causley changed his major to agricultural jour-

nalism and has worked in this industry ever since. He was an agricultural specialist in agricultural communications services on the OSU campus for 26 years before recently retiring.

Before returning to OSU, he was beef editor for *The Farmer* magazine in St. Paul, Minn., and was an associate editor and feature writer for what is now the MISSOURIAN, the statewide magazine of the rural electric cooperatives.

Causley has been an integral part of the agricultural communications family, as he has helped numerous students pursuing a degree in this area.

Even though he has achieved great accomplishments throughout his career, he credits his success to others.

“Starting out with two children and no money to go to college, I credit our Lord for looking out for us,” said Causley. “Also, I had a perfect wife who worked very hard to help me get through college.”

# News from the department head

As the academic year comes to a close and we prepare for the new year, it is good to reflect on the many rewards and challenges facing the department. Student enrollment continued at record numbers with approximately 400 students enrolled. Faculty members were challenged with increasing class sizes and integrating technology to improve the quality and efficiency of teaching. The department Web site continues to evolve and it is a great way for prospective students, current students and alumni to keep abreast of the progress of the department.

Leadership education has evolved as an important component of the department. A minor in leadership education was approved by the College and will be implemented in 2003-2004. Students from across the College are expected to engage in this minor. Drs. Penny Pennington, William Weeks and

Wesley Holley are leading this effort.

A new master of science graduate program in agricultural communications was approved for fall 2003. This program will include an emphasis on both the theory and application of agricultural communications, will integrate existing graduate courses in agricultural education, and will support research efforts by both students and faculty members. Drs. Dwayne Cartmell and Shelly Sitton are providing much of the leadership for this new graduate program.

Student enrollment in agricultural communications and agricultural education for fall 2003 looks promising, and we look forward to the fall term. If you are in Stillwater, please do not hesitate to stop by the department; visitors are always welcome.

*Jim Leising  
Professor and Head*

## Webb cont. from 1

college experience. When I look back on my time at OSU, I will never say 'I wish I would have gotten involved,'" said Webb.

Students submit applications to CASNR including an essay explaining why they are a top senior.

A scholarship and awards committee decides who will receive this prestigious award. CASNR selects members of this committee through departmental nominations. Both faculty and students are nominated and involved in the selection process.

## Students honored for achievements

### **National ACT First Vice President**

Laura Bodell

### **National ACT Editor**

Rachel Bobbitt

### **NACTA Teacher Fellow Award**

Shelly Sitton

### **Dr. Alexander Magruder Memorial Scholarship**

Marcy Grundmann

### **Herb Karner Agricultural Journalism Scholarship**

Ashley Bridges, Darby Cochrane, Laura McKay and Erin Harris

### **Outstanding Senior**

Shannon Webb

### **Outstanding Freshmen**

Rachel Bobbitt and Macey Hedges

### **Farm Bureau Internship Scholarship**

Marcy Grundmann

### **Ernest Shiner Memorial Scholarship**

Kyla Hollister, Allison Richard, Lacy Bangert and Jeremiah Allen

### **Laubach Scholarship for Leadership**

Robyn Sites and Tracy Smith

## Cream of the photography crop 2003



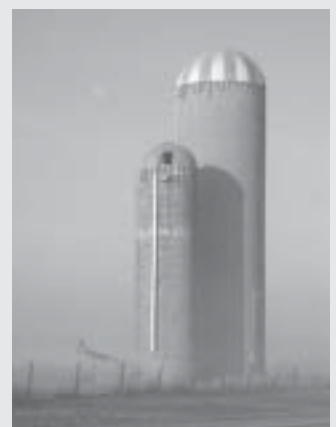
*Photo by Candace Dobson*



*Photo by Ben Humphrey*



*Photo by Erin Harris*



*Photo by Macey Hedges*

# Cowboys on the move . . .

**Rick Purnell** ('85) is the senior public relations counselor at NKH&W Inc. in Palm Springs, Calif.

**Brandon Covey** ('97) is a rehab specialist at Southwest Counseling in Las Cruces, NM.

**Jill (Mason) Wagner** ('98) is a cooperative education teacher at Meridian High School in Meridian, Miss.

**Christy (Couch) Craig** ('99) is the director of communications for the National Swine Registry in West Lafayette, Ind.

**Sheena (Grote) Silas** ('01) is a 4-H extension agent in Acadia Parish in Crowley, La.

# Faces and places . . .

**Shandee (Smith) Harrell** ('94) and husband Wade welcomed a new son, Griffith Edward, Dec. 4.

**Erica Goss** ('97) married Scott Irlbeck March 29 in Lubbock, Texas.

**Christy Couch** ('99) married Craig Lee April 5 in Evansville, Ind.

**Jennifer (Simonson) Dahl** ('99) and husband Enoch welcomed a new son, Isaiah, Feb. 13.

**Jackie (Boyd) Francis** ('01) is an account representative for KPAN AM/FM radio in Hereford, Texas.

**Clay Francis** ('01) is a customer service representative for Lextron Animal Health in Hereford, Texas.

**Amy Morris** ('02) is the tourism development assistant for the Murray County OSU Extension Service in Sulphur, Okla.

**Martha Ostendorf** ('02) is a public relations writer for Bader Rutter and Associates in Lincoln, Neb.

**Sheena Grote** ('01) married Silas Cecil (animal science '02) June 14 in Tyler, Texas.

**Jackie Boyd** ('01) married **Clay Francis** ('01) July 19 in Guymon, Okla.

**Nikki Davis** ('02) married Ira Brinlee Dec. 28 in Edmond, Okla.

**Kristin Owens** ('03) married Ben Zollinger (horticulture and landscape architecture '03) May 24 in Ft. Supply, Okla.

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