

ACTualities

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

Alumni can lend a helping hand to OSU grads

A hand up, not a hand out, is what Oklahoma State University is looking for from alumni.

Every semester hundreds of students begin the process of applying for jobs. Crisp, new diplomas await them as they perfect their résumés, practice their interviewing skills and compose cover letters, but relevant job openings are often elusive.

Connecting these future graduates with alumni who have positions available, or know of other openings, is one of many goals of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Career Services Office.

"There are a variety of ways we can help alumni through our offices," said Amy Gazaway, CASNR career development coordinator. "We can organize on-campus interviewing, we can post their job on our job board and our Web site, we can send it out on our listserv or we can do a résumé referral for them."

These services offer both potential

employers and alumni a number of ways they can fill positions from a large and diverse pool of students.

"An asset of our college as a whole is that, although we are the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, we have students in a variety of areas such as business, communications, science and research, in addition to production," said Gazaway. "The No. 1 benefit for alumni is getting someone who fulfills their needs."

Getting job information to career services is the first step for alumni.

"My first question will be 'Do you have a job description put together?'" said Gazaway. "It doesn't have to be an elaborate job description, just something that tells the basic qualifications they are looking for, the basic respon-

sibilities of the job and how the person would apply."

Once that information is gathered, it can be posted for students to access. However, the process does not stop there. Alumni who are unable to assist

in placing students can still assist them with a number of other job-getting concerns or help with the learning process.

Roy Lee Lindsey, Oklahoma Pork Council executive director, often returns to OSU to help. By conducting a mock press conference for the Communications in Agriculture class, Lindsey helps students practice their writing and interviewing skills.

"It puts me and my organization in front of these young people," said Lindsey. "It also allows me to talk about opportunities."

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*—Roy Lee Lindsey, executive director
Oklahoma Pork Council*

AgCom students in OSU top 10

Oklahoma State University named agricultural communications students Macey Hedges and Matt Panach Top 10 Freshman Men and Women for their involvement, academic success and leadership roles on campus.

Macey Hedges of Burden, Kan., is active in OSU Student Alumni Board, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Homecoming Steering, Student Academic Mentors for CASNR and Chi Omega sorority.

"I was honored to be named a Top 10 Freshman Woman at OSU," said Hedges. "The skills, experiences and friendships I gained through involve-

ment and services in my freshman year are critical to my success at OSU and down the road."

Matt Panach of Braman, Okla., is active in The Big Event, Homecoming Steering Committee, Orange Peel and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

"Being raised on a farm in northern Oklahoma, I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in agriculture," said Panach. "However, I also realized the importance of being able to communicate effectively. The communications skills that I am receiving at OSU will help me pursue my career goal of being an agricultural lawyer."



Top 10 Freshman Woman and Man Macey Hedges and Matt Panach received recognition for their dedication to OSU.

Kelton and Sitton selected for national team

Oklahoma State University's Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow brought home a national president and adviser this year.

Kendra Kelton, OSU agricultural communications/animal science senior, was elected the 2002-2003 national ACT president and Shelly Sitton, assistant professor, was selected as the 2002-2005 national ACT adviser.

The national convention was held in Reno, Nev., July 22-25, in conjunction with the Agricultural Publications Summit. Several OSU students attended the convention and were able to support Kelton throughout the election process.

"I was very excited to be elected national president," Kelton said. "I had an excellent support group with our local chapter."

Kelton has been involved with the local ACT chapter since she was a freshman. She served as freshman represen-

tative, secretary and president, along with being active in the planning of OSU's ACT regional conference last spring. In addition, she has participated and placed in the local and national ACT critique contests.

The idea to run for national president was fostered through her activities at OSU and her past internship at the American Angus Association.

"I decided to run for office early on in the summer and turned in my applications to participate in the election at convention," she said.

Kelton has attended the last two ACT conventions and believed it would be a great experience to serve on the national officer team.

"ACT is well known throughout the agricultural colleges, and numerous professionals can relate to this association and the benefits it offers students," she said. "I felt that being a national officer would be a rewarding

way to give back to ACT and the opportunities it has given me throughout my college career."

Along with Kelton's national recognition this summer, Sitton was appointed as the national ACT adviser.

Sitton has been an ACT member, chapter adviser and is now serving at the national level.

"I have been involved with the ACT organization since I was a student," said Sitton. "When I was a senior, I was able to understand the great importance of this organization and the contribution each person can make."

OSU's ACT chapter has a reputation for bringing home many awards at national convention, and this year was no exception. With the addition of a national president and a national adviser, agricultural communication students continue to demonstrate their leadership abilities.

ACT members receive honors at national contest

News Story

2nd Place – Kendra Kelton
4th Place – Sarah Fultz

Short Feature

2nd Place – Brian Bendele

Long Feature

1st Place – Tamara Beardsley
2nd Place – Kristina Gimbel-Gonzalez
3rd Place – Gina Cuiffetelli
5th Place – Travis Brorsen

Research Paper

1st Place – Tamara Beardsley

2002 William S. Sullins Memorial

Writing Award

Tamara Beardsley

Video Production

1st Place – Elizabeth Kinney
2nd Place – Julie Coulter
3rd Place – Brian Bendele
4th Place – Clinton Griffiths

Radio Production

2nd Place – Rachel Johnson

Computer/Multimedia Production

2nd Place – Sarah Harris and Clinton Griffiths

Award of Excellence in Electronic Media

Elizabeth Kinney

Advertisement

1st Place – Jackie Keesee
2nd Place – Clinton Griffiths
3rd Place – Kristina Gimbel-Gonzalez
4th Place – Tamara Beardsley

Graphic Design

1st Place – The OSU ACT Chapter
2nd Place – Shane Richey
3rd Place – Melissa Majors

Brochure

3rd Place – Nicola Xanthus
4th Place – Shannon Webb

Magazine

2nd Place – The OSU *Cowboy Journal*

Page Layout

1st Place – Tamara Beardsley
2nd Place – Jackie Keesee
4th Place – Amber Lawles

Award of Excellence in Design and Layout

Jackie Keesee

Black and White Photograph

1st Place – Candace Dobson
2nd Place – Melissa Majors

Color Photograph

1st Place – Candace Dobson
2nd Place – Amber Lawles

Digitally Enhanced Photograph

1st Place – Tamara Beardsley

Award of Excellence in Photography

Candace Dobson

News from the department



It has been a busy fall for students, staff and faculty with lots of challenging activities! Student enrollment in the department continues to increase. A total of 344 undergraduate students (195 agricultural education majors and 149 agricultural communications majors) and 56 graduate students were enrolled during the fall semester. This means that 40 additional students (an 8 percent increase) have joined the department compared to fall 2000.

New courses have been added to the agricultural communications curriculum in the areas of Web design and photography. In the agricultural education curriculum, new graduate courses

in advanced qualitative research methods and grant seeking have been added. These courses have been introduced in response to emerging needs of students and employers.

More than 200 agricultural teachers were on campus during the summer for in-service education. Dr. Bill Weeks, professor in agricultural education, and Les Tilley, consultant with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, coordinated the workshops. Topics included the use of technology in the classroom, leadership, communications and technical agriculture workshops.

James White, senior professor, went on sick leave during the fall semester and has returned for the spring semester. Dr. White has been undergoing treatment for cancer and spending time at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Research Hospital in Houston, Texas.

ALUMNI cont. from 1

Career Services is developing a new program to foster this interaction between alumni and students. The CASNR Career Network is designed to provide a structured program for facilitating interaction between current students and alumni.

Through the network, alumni will have various ways to become involved at OSU.

“One of the ways is allowing us to do an interview and develop a profile to keep on record in our office so students can read about alumni and help answer the question, ‘What can I do with a major in ...?’ That is probably the most-asked question we get in our office,” said Gazaway.

Gazaway said students often think they can only follow one career path with their chosen major. Having profiles of alumni may help them see different career paths they could take.

Alumni can also allow students to shadow them, participate in alumni panels, conduct career-related work-

shops such as interviewing or business etiquette, or be available for students to ask questions about career paths and the industry in which they work.

While these activities provide students with contacts, resources and skills, the benefits reach both sides of the interview table.

“When I start looking for people to work, I have contacts,” said Lindsey. “That helps me draw a good-quality applicant who is interested in agriculture and the pork industry. I have hired four students out of the OSU ag communications program.”

The Career Services Office has the resources and technologies for assisting both alumni and students; they cannot do it alone.

“We need alumni who are willing to participate,” said Gazaway.

Alumni interested in helping students with job placement or joining the career network can call Amy Gazaway at (405) 744-5395 or send an e-mail at ajgaz@okstate.edu.

Cream of the photography crop 2002

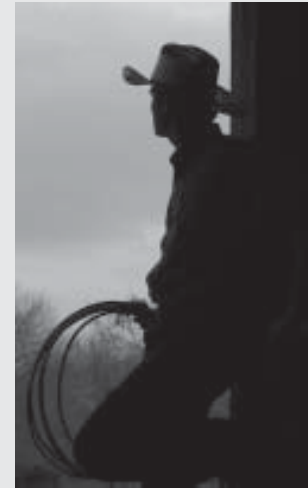


Photo by Robyn Ott



Photo by Seth Harrington



Photo by Whitney Ferris



Photo by Kristin Owens

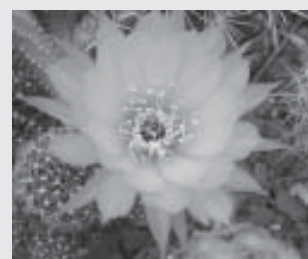


Photo by Nicola Xanthus

Check out the department's Web site to see additional photography from the new digital photography class.
<http://agweb.okstate.edu/agedcm4h>

Cowboys on the move . . .

Tammy (Shott) Swafford ('97) is the assistant editor for *The Bledsonian-Banner* in Pikeville, Tenn.

Kristi (Manning) Allison ('99) is the communications director for the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board.

Julie Cox ('99) is a lecturer and the outreach/Web coordinator for the agricultural education, communications and 4-H youth development department at OSU.

Danna Furman ('00) is the public information coordinator for Sundowner Trailers Inc. in Coleman.

Faces and places . . .

Kelly Adams ('93) married Brad Elliott Oct. 26 in Dallas.

Barbi (Rogers) Dauer ('98), husband Justin, and daughter Ashby welcomed a new son, Jared Paul, Oct. 30.

Amber (Moser) McNeil ('98) and husband Justin welcomed a new son, Gunner Brock, Sept. 13.

Traci O'Hara ('98) married Kent Morgan Aug. 10 in Elk City.

Mandy (Fritz) Gross ('00) is a communications specialist for agricultural communications services at OSU.

Sarah (Shaddox) Weeks ('01) is the education coordinator for the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board.

Amber Lawles ('02) is the agricultural marketing coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Clinton Griffiths ('02) is an eye-witness news reporter for KBSH 7 in Hays, Kan.

Jo Lynn Enlow ('01) married David Jeter July 6 in Sapulpa.

Kim Kisling ('01) married Eric Smith July 27 in Cherokee.

Kim Dibble ('01) graduated from the Oklahoma Police Corps 2nd Academy Oct. 4 in Ada.

Abby Payne ('01) married Charlie Cash Dec. 14 in Beaver.

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