

# THE AGEDUCATOR

# OSU

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## AgEd Graduates of Distinction recognized

On April 10, the department recognized Tony Brannon and Bob Terry for their outstanding achievements in agricultural education with the 2003 Agricultural Education Graduate of Distinction Award.

"I was quite shocked when I found out that I was to receive this award because I thought these awards usually went to older people," Brannon said. "I still consider myself to be young and on the journey to success rather than having reached the destination of success. As reality set in that I really was getting older, I was truly honored to receive this recognition and to join the ranks of the other 'Graduates of Distinction' from OSU Agricultural Education."

Brannon grew up on a corn, soybean, wheat and tobacco farm near Puryear, Tenn. After graduating from high school, he attended Murray State

University in Murray, Ky., where he received both his bachelor's degree and master's degree in agricultural education.

After teaching high school agricultural education for four years, Brannon moved to Oklahoma to pursue his doctoral degree in agricultural education at Oklahoma State University.

Upon completion of his doctoral work at OSU, Brannon joined the faculty in the School of Agriculture at Murray State University. Currently, he is the Coordinator of Academic Programs for the School of Agriculture at Murray State.



*Award recipients and friends: Bob Terry, James White, Wes Watkins, Tony Brannon and James Leising.*

Bob Terry also received this prestigious award.

"I'm humbled and greatly appreciative," Terry said. "It is especially meaningful to receive this award because it

*continued on page 3*

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

Collegiate FFA and Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow 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. The relay allows the opportunity to grieve for those lost to cancer and to celebrate the lives of the survivors. Many communities, including Oklahoma State University, now participate in this fundraiser.

Teams of 10 or more people complete the relay. Each member must raise a minimum of \$100, and during the all-night event, at least one team member must remain on the track at all times. The relay begins 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 participated in honor of Dr. James White, an agricultural education faculty member who is battling cancer, and in memory of Dr. Leising's wife, Linda, who recently lost her battle with cancer."

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

"At the OSU Relay for Life, the 'track' was the sidewalk surrounding the li-

brary lawn," said Katie Reim, ACT member and team captain.

At this year's event, 24 teams raised \$26,000. Approximately 250 team members and 150 guests attended the event.

"I consider this event a huge success," Reim said. "When so many students pull together 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."

The money raised from Relay for Life was donated to the American Cancer Society. The money benefits those who suffer from cancer, those who are in remission and cancer research.

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

# 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 depart-

ment. In fall 2002, 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 program.

An awards reception was held in April to honor outstanding students, distinguished alumni and scholarship recipients for 2003-2004. This issue features the names of many students and faculty members that were recognized.

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*

## Dune buggy helps students meet requirement

By building a dune buggy, agricultural education students at Waynoka High School met their agricultural education curriculum requirements.

The state of Oklahoma requires all agricultural students to participate in a supervised agricultural experience, and in past years, most students worked with livestock or crops.

"Now teachers need to be more creative to find a project for students," said Chris Kelln, Waynoka agricultural instructor. "I have students who work in ag-related jobs or have ag mechanics projects. This is where the buggy fit in."

The location of the town also supported the dune buggy project. Waynoka is home of the Little Sahara State Park in northwestern Oklahoma, a key source of revenue for this town of 800.

The tourist trade supports several retail businesses and restaurants catering to the dune-related activities that occur at the park.

"Since Waynoka has so much traffic related to the dunes at the State Park, the buggy was a logical project," Kelln said. "It was an original project that would really only work in Waynoka."

Students gain real-world skills through SAEs. According to Kelln, students utilized agricultural mechanic skills such as welding, cutting, bolting, electrical wiring and checking engines, brakes and steering.

"They also learned about teamwork,

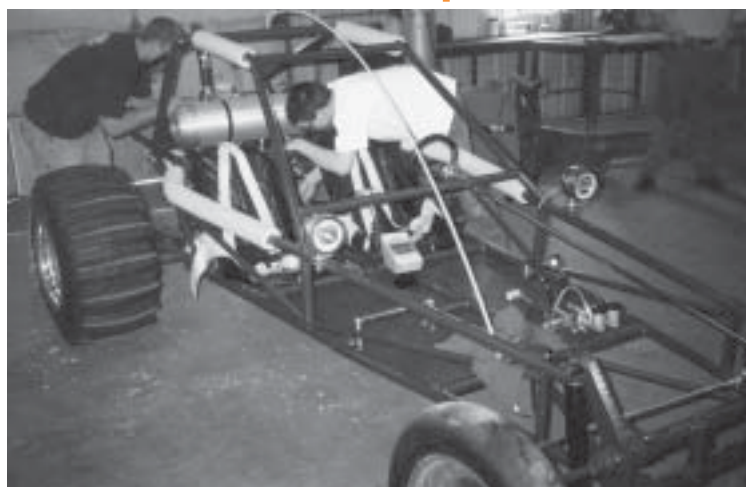
working on a deadline and building a quality project," Kelln said. "It is my experience that if the kids do the work, they take pride in it and will respect the project and the other people, regardless of their background."

Three agricultural education classes with a total of 24 students worked on this project. The public relations and community involvement generated by this cooperative learning project is ongoing. Students, school administrators and community business owners helped plan and implement it.

B&S Buggy Shop is a local business that specializes in dune buggies. Bruce and Shannon Koehn, the owners of the shop, provided project-specific training, skills and advice.

"Our community supports anything our kids do that is constructive. We had a lot of positive feedback from this project," Kelln said.

After gaining recognition for their dune buggy at their county fair, an area



*Waynoka agricultural education students adjust the fuel line on the dune buggy.*

car show and the State Fair of Oklahoma, the Waynoka FFA chapter conducted a raffle to pay for its costs.

"For a \$100 donation to the Waynoka FFA, a person got a chance to win the buggy. Seventy-seven chances were sold," Kelln said.

A former Waynoka FFA member won the dune buggy, and after expenses were paid, the \$2,300 profit was deposited into the Waynoka FFA account.

"This project gave students a sense of pride and accomplishment. This is one of those deals these kids will be talking about at their high school reunions," Kelln said. "The question now is 'When are we going to start on the next buggy?' The students are ready to do it again."

# NACTA awards AgEd and AgCom faculty

North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture recognized William Weeks and Shelly Sitton for their excellence in teaching and advising with a NACTA Teacher Fellow Award during its annual conference in June in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Weeks joined CASNR's faculty in 1989. He teaches a number of agricultural education courses and also provides leadership for the Residency Teacher Program.



William Weeks

"My role as a teacher is to help my students interpret their experiences and to help them an-

swer their questions," Weeks said.

Weeks helps students to answer questions, and he also teaches them skills to get through life.

"Dr. Weeks has been an asset to OSU and has been an aid in the preparation of agricultural educators and leaders in the past and will continue to do so in the future," said Brant Carpenter, agricultural education senior.

Sitton started as a CASNR instructor and academic adviser in 1992 and became an assistant professor in 2001. She has taught five different agricultural communications courses.

"I am passionate about my students and helping them learn," Sitton said.

Sitton has provided leadership to the college in the area of undergraduate teaching and advising.

"Dr. Sitton serves as a role model for what a professional mentor should be,"

said Christy Couch Lee, director of communications for the National Swine Registry.

NACTA also gives one journal article award each year, and Kathleen Kelsey, agricultural education assistant professor, earned the award with "A Case Study of Land Grant University Faculty Perceptions Toward Serving Stakeholders."

NACTA was formed in 1955 to focus on the promotion and recognition of excellence in teaching agriculture and related areas at the college level.



Shelly Sitton

## Graduates of Distinction cont. from 1

was a nomination from faculty, most of whom I have had the privilege of working with over a period of years.

"I had an outstanding experience as a high school vocational agriculture student and FFA member at Mountain View," Terry said. "My many trips to OSU, then Oklahoma A&M, for judging events and the State FFA Convention convinced me beyond a doubt this was my field of study and there was only one

place to get it."

In August 1955, he enrolled in agricultural education at Oklahoma A&M College to follow that dream. He completed both his bachelor's and master's degrees at Oklahoma State in agricultural education.

Throughout his career, Terry was a professor of agricultural education at OSU, as well as head of the agricultural education department. He recently com-

pleted seven years as director of the Oklahoma Agriculture Leadership Program.

During his tenure, Terry was recognized as a Regents Service Professor, Alpha Zeta's Teacher of the Year, a Diamond Anniversary Award Recipient for his outstanding accomplishments as a graduate in agricultural education at The Ohio State University and received the Southern Region's Distinguished Service Award in Agricultural Education.

## Students recognized for achievements

### Ag Ed Outstanding Senior

Tyke Greer

### Ag Ed Outstanding Freshman

Joe Stafford

### Farm Credit Services Scholarship

Travis Bradshaw

### Leonard Hunter Memorial Scholarship

Brant Carpenter

### Don & Wilma Dean Ramsey Scholarship

Sarah Stewart, Mindi Luce and Jarrod Melugin

### Outstanding Collegiate FFA Senior

Terrell Buck

### Outstanding Collegiate FFA Freshman

Kevin Tinkle

### Outstanding Collegiate FFA Member

Brandi England

### Collegiate FFA Award of Appreciation

Jon Ulmer

### William E. Brown Memorial Scholarship

Jerrod Lundry, Brian Nekouian and Kyle Minyard

### Graduate Research Excellence Award

Jon Ulmer

### Ag Ed Scholarship Inc.

Jean Bond, Travis Bradshaw, Justin Bundy, Brant Carpenter, Brian Cunningham, Tyke Greer, Justin Hergert, Mindi Luce, Kyle Minyard, Jon Derek Mitchell, James Roller, Amanda Seidl, Joe Stafford, John Staude, Jeremy Teel, David Turner, James Wells and Natalie Wilson

# Spring 2003 student teachers

<u>Student</u>	<u>Teaching Center</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Dustin Beams .....	Guthrie .....	Kingfisher, Okla.
Kyle Beavers .....	Strother .....	Woodland, Okla.
Byron Bina .....	Waukomis .....	Lincoln, Kan.
Jean Bond .....	Chattanooga .....	Galatia, Ill.
Melanie Bryant .....	Cleveland .....	Wagner, Okla.
Marti Chambers .....	Claremore .....	King City, Calif.
Dustin Clardy .....	Wellston .....	Valliant, Okla.
Acie Conrad II .....	Calera .....	Spiro, Okla.
Sammy Drinkard .....	Oklahoma Union .....	Hugo, Okla.
Kris Ferguson .....	Pond Creek .....	Lindsay, Okla.
Wes Graham .....	Sulphur .....	Carter, Okla.
Tyke Greer .....	Waynoka .....	Blackwell, Okla.
Ryan Harrington .....	Oilton .....	Columbus, Kan.
Grant James .....	Hinton .....	Crescent, Okla.
Casey Jones .....	Fairview .....	Quinlan, Texas
Jeremy Krebs .....	Atoka .....	Heavener, Okla.
Deborah McIntosh .....	Norman .....	Morro Bay, Calif.
Joshua Quillin .....	Chandler .....	Cleveland, Okla.
Heath Rickman .....	Bristow .....	Purdy, Mo.
Donnie Scott .....	Guthrie .....	El Reno, Okla.
Elvin Southerland .....	Ripley .....	Latta, Okla.
Kelly Stephens .....	Chickasha .....	Fredonia, Kan.
Jeremy Teel .....	Amber-Pocasset .....	Lone Grove, Okla.
Kendall Whittington .....	Depew .....	Grandfield, Okla.

## THE AGEDUCATOR

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Julie Cox ..... Editor

Laura McKay ..... Contributing Writer

Do you have a story idea, announcement or award you would like your fellow alumni to know about? Send story ideas via e-mail to [coxjk@okstate.edu](mailto:coxjk@okstate.edu).

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448 Agricultural Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74078