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## Sitton Receives Exemplary Faculty Award

Shelly Sitton, assistant professor in agricultural communications, was awarded a College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Exemplary Faculty Award during a surprise ceremony earlier this month. A formal ceremony during the Homecoming Ag Alumni Association Barbecue Oct. 16, recognized the recipients before the alumni who nominated them.



This was the first year for the award, and CASNR alumni chose recipients based on an alumni questionnaire. They were asked to name a faculty member who stood out among all others as having had extraordinary impact on their personal, professional and academic growth. CASNR alumni named more than 70 faculty members for this honor. The 10 most frequently listed were given the honor of being named a CASNR Exemplary Faculty.

“What means the most is that our agricultural communications alumni, professionals I dearly care about, are the ones who selected me by virtue of the alumni survey,” Sitton said. “It means somewhere along the line I made a difference for my students, and that’s what this job is all about.”

Cathy Herren, agricultural communications graduate students, said Sitton was very deserving of this honor.

“Shelly is the type of professor who takes a personal interest in her students,” she said. “She strives to go beyond her job description to make sure students gain the skills and experiences necessary to meet their goals.”

Sitton has been a faculty member in the department of agricultural education, communications and 4-H youth development since 1992, and her efforts have helped the agricultural communication program grow from 25 undergraduate students to nearly 150. She also launched the capstone course, which produces the nationally recognized *Cowboy Journal* magazine.

“She refuses to let her students settle for second best,” Herren said. “Shelly is the type of professor who encourages students to strive for perfection, and that comes across in the work she does both in and out of the classroom.”

Other recipients were David Buchanan, animal science; Jeff Hattey, plant and soil sciences; Mark Johnson, animal science; Bob Kropp, animal science; Tom Kuzmic, forestry; Bob Oehrtman, agricultural economics; Joe Schatzer, agricultural economics; the late James White, agricultural education; and Joe Williams, agricultural economics.

“I am humbled to part of this group of faculty, gentlemen I have know and respected for years and view as some of the best advisers in the country,” Sitton said. “I actually was a student of Dr. James White and Dr. Bob Oehrtman in either my undergraduate or graduate courses at OSU. What an honor! I don’t see myself in that same class of faculty.”

For more information about the department of agricultural education, communications and 4-H youth development, contact James Leising, department head, at (405) 744-8036.

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Sitton was awarded the CASNR Exemplary Faculty Award during a surprise ceremony during her *Cowboy Journal* class earlier this month. Pictured (left to right) are Linda Martin, CASNR assistant dean for academic programs; Herren; Sitton; Ed Miller, CASNR associate dean for academic programs; and agricultural communications students after the presentation.