

Upcoming Events

February 25

“I want to Teach
Ag Day”

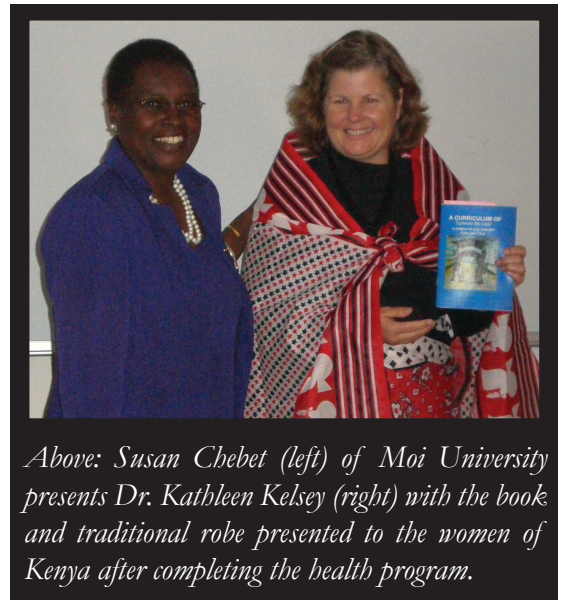
March 12-13

Transfer Days

A Fulbright-Scholarship Success turns into Learning Exchange

Dr. Kathleen Kelsey, professor and distance learning director for the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership, traveled to Kenya this fall on a Fulbright Senior Scholar Project. While in Kenya, Dr. Kelsey met with faculty at Moi University to enhance their skills for teaching classes at a distance. Over the three-week period Dr. Kelsey trained fifty faculty members on how to use software to build an online classroom, develop student activities, develop instructional content and media, understand online classroom management and copyright and fair use, and design and implement online assessment. Dr. Kelsey's training sessions were a great success. The Moi University faculty showed high motivation for offering online delivery of several traditional face-to-face courses they offer.

Dr. Kelsey's successful trip to Kenya was followed by a visit from Dr. Susan Chebet with Moi University to Oklahoma State. Dr.



Above: Susan Chebet (left) of Moi University presents Dr. Kathleen Kelsey (right) with the book and traditional robe presented to the women of Kenya after completing the health program.

Chebet was sponsored by OAES and Plant and Soil Sciences. While at OSU, Dr. Chebet spoke with several groups of students about Moi University, the research she conducts and a health program they've implemented for the women of Kenya.

Department's Distance Learning Program Proves to be Beneficial

The department is now in its fifth year of offering an online Master of Science and Master of Agriculture degree. Six faculty are dedicated to serving distance students, Dr. James Key, Dr. Bill Weeks, Dr. Penny Weeks, Dr. Shane Robinson, Dr. Cindy Blackwell, and Dr. Kathleen Kelsey, who also serves as the distance learning coordinator for the department. Over the past five years we have served over 160 students who have taken over 300 online courses. Fifty of these students are learning the majority of their time

online and 12 have graduated from the program. The program is 100 percent online requiring no travel to Stillwater. Courses are delivered using state of the art content management systems such as Desire 2 Learn and Moodle. These systems allow for interactive discussions, multimedia and content presentation all located at one website. If you are interested in earning a masters degree online please contact Kathleen Kelsey at kathleen.kelsey@okstate.edu or phone 405-744-8137.



Dr. James Keys

Comments from the Department Head

Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership Alumni and Friends:

With your support, 2009 has been a very productive year for our students and the Department. The increase in the number of undergraduate students has been about 22% (113 total for Fall) in Agricultural Communications and about 13% (144 total for Fall) in Agricultural Education. Agricultural Leadership student numbers have remained about level (30 total for Fall), as have the graduate student enrollments (Masters Degree 39 and PhD 15 total for Fall). Agricultural Education Scholarships, Inc. has supported our students with over 30 scholarships totaling over \$25,000 in addition to individuals supporting about 25 scholarships totaling over \$16,000. The Oklahoma Agricultural Education Teachers Association has also been generous with their scholarship support. All your support resulted in strong student performance. Four Agricultural Communications students were in the Top Ten Graduates for the University. There were 33 student teachers in Agricultural Education (Spring and Fall, 2009) who completed the program and about two-thirds of those are currently teaching, with others finishing certification, in graduate school or other placements. There were 16 Agricultural Leadership interns in 2009 and about two-thirds of those are currently employed, with others finishing, in graduate school or other.

Faculty have been very active in research, extension, and international programs, as well as, the extensive teaching load, both undergraduate and graduate. This involvement has been evidenced by national, state and university awards, grants and contracts, publications and international projects. Illustrative of this was a faculty member recognized as a Teaching Fellow and graduate students as outstanding graduate students nationally. We had the outstanding faculty adviser for the university. In all three areas, Agricultural Education, Communications, and Leadership faculty hold elected positions of leadership in their national professional organizations. Faculty earned the outstanding journal article awards in journals in all three areas also. Grants and contracts awarded faculty this past year have exceeded \$475,000. Faculty and graduate students have also been involved in cooperative projects in Mali, Kenya and Thailand this past year.

2009 has also been a year of transition and change for the Department. After Dr. Cox served as Interim Department Head for about 18 months, I agreed to serve as Interim Head until another search could be completed and a new person hired. Dr. Cox had the Centennial year of the 4-H Club in Oklahoma to help organize. Currently the Department Head position has been announced and applications are being accepted. Interviews will be scheduled the first part of the new year, and hopefully a candidate selected and hired before Summer, 2010. The Department is having to do more with less, as the nation-wide financial downturn has affected us as well. The faculty and staff are figuring ways to conserve, while still serving the students and conducting the research, extension and international programs. We look forward to a productive 2010, with your continued support.

Jim Key

Interim Department Head

Mission

The Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership is committed to preparing agricultural leaders of national prominence in the areas of education, leadership, and communications.

Ag Ed ranked No. 6 in the Nation

Oklahoma State University's Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership was named the sixth leading department of its kind in the nation.

A research team at The Ohio State University conducted a national survey of agricultural education department chairs to rank the top-10 departments.

Robert Birkenholz, chair of the Ohio State Department of Human and Community Resource Management said the ratings won't change as quickly as football ratings do, as long as the faculty stays stable so should the top ten.

Respondents cited the faculty, graduate program and research program as the department's outstanding features, with faculty being the most considered attribute in determining rankings.

The study's results were presented in May at the annual conference of the American Association for Agricultural Education in Louisville, KY.

The top ten schools are University of Florida, Texas A&M, Ohio State University, University of Missouri, Iowa State University, Oklahoma State University, North Carolina State University, Pennsylvania State University, Texas Tech University and the University of Arizona.

National FFA Convention Highlights

"I have been covering the annual National FFA Convention since the last 1970s – having followed the exploits of Oklahoma FFA members in Kansas City, Louisville and now Indianapolis. It's been exciting to see the achievements of those that wear the blue and gold jackets with Oklahoma across the back – but 2009 was the most incredible convention I have ever been a part of. Oklahoma went to Indianapolis with high expectations because of the large numbers of those members that had qualified to be at the 82nd convention as a participant. I think it's safe to say that those expectations were met or exceeded in almost all areas." -- Ron Hays

National Delegate Committee Chair
Amy Peel, State FFA President
Wetumka FFA Chapter
Global Engagement Committee

2008-09 National FFA Officer
(Served with distinction and made us all proud!)
Laila Hajji
Guthrie FFA Chapter

Star Farmer of America
(For the second year in a row and 8th Oklahoman to win!)
Slade Nightengale
Cordell FFA Chapter

The Oklahoma FFA Association
(One of only four states recognized!)
100 percent FFA Membership State

National Proficiency Award Winners
(A record 27 National Finalists!
A record 11 National Winners!)

National Chapter Award
(33 of 36 chapters received a Three Star rating ... most of any state!)
National Horse Evaluation Winning Team

The Locust Grove FFA Chapter
Bayley Bedford – 2nd Place Gold Individual
Robbie Williams – 3rd Place Gold Individual
Chance Cunningham – Gold Individual

National Agri-Entrepreneur Winner
Kela Kelln
Fairview FFA Chapter

National Job Interview Winner
(1st Oklahoman to win!)
Chacey Schoeppel
Fairview FFA Chapter

National Prepared Public Speaking Winner
(5th Oklahoman to win!)
McKenzie Walta
Kingfisher FFA Chapter

American FFA Degree
A record 203 Oklahoma's received their Degree!

Honorary American FFA Degree

Jon Ramsey
Oklahoma FFA Alumni
Council Member

Vision

The Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership aspires to become the preeminent agricultural program in the nation in the areas of education, leadership, and communications.

Departmental Awards

ACE 2009

Dwayne Cartmell -

Recipient of the 2007 Journal of Applied Communication Professional Development Article of the Year Award from the Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences, presented in June 2009

Recipient of the Award of Excellence in Academic Programs from the Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences, 2009

AAAE 2009

The Journal of Agricultural Education Editing-Managing Board Presents the Award for 2008 Author of the Year Journal of Agricultural Education, Volume 49, No.1 To **Brian Parr, M. Craig Edwards, and James G. Leising**

AIAEE 2009

Poster Presentation, 1st Runner-up (2nd place): "Delivering a Citizens' Exchange Program with a Professional Focus: Media Specialists from the Republic of Mali, West Africa and Faculty of Oklahoma State University (OSU), USA—Triumphs, Faux Pas, and Lessons Learned," **Shelly Sitton, M. Craig Edwards, D. Dwayne Cartmell II, Cindy Blackwell, Oklahoma State University, & James W. Hynes, Sam Houston State University**

Paper Presentation. 1st Runner-up (2nd place): "Using Modernized Relic Technology to Better Enable Sustainable Agricultural Practices in Developing Countries: A Philosophical and Practical Reorientation for Mali's Farmers," James W. Hynes, Sam Houston State University, **M. Craig Edwards, Oklahoma State University, & Theresa Pesl Murphrey, Texas A&M University**

"Journal Article of the Year Award 2008" Winner (Journal of International Agricultural & Extension Education): "Georgian Educators' Perceptions and Outlooks on Education, Agriculture, and Agricultural Education," Brian Parr, Auburn University, **M. Craig Edwards, Oklahoma State University, & Dennis W. Duncan, The University of Georgia**

Faculty and graduate students of our department were either lead or co-authors on 5 of the 31 posters selected for presentation and 6 of the 51 papers presented.

The papers represented research and work derived from 27 countries and regions.

NACTA 2009

Cindy Blackwell – NACTA TEACHER FELLOW AWARD

Jill Rucker – NACTA GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Traci Naile – NACTA GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

OSU

Jon Ramsey - CASNR Outstanding Faculty Advisor, AG Ambassadors, OSU, 2009

Dr. Kathleen D. Kelsey - Outstanding Faculty Member Phoenix Award Finalist, Graduate and Professional Student Government Association, Oklahoma State University, 2009

SAS/SAREC 2009

Award: "Outstanding JSAER Article Award," Volume 58 – 2008 JSAER = Journal of Southern Agricultural Education Research
Title of Journal Article: "Effects of a Math-enhanced Curriculum and Instructional Approach on Students' Achievement in Mathematics: A Year-long Experimental Study in Agricultural Power and Technology"
Authors: **R. Brent Young, M. Craig Edwards, & James G. Leising**

Traci Naile – Outstanding Graduate Student Presentation: Riley, K., Cartmell, D. D., & Naile, T. L.

Cindy Blackwell – 2009 Outstanding Research Presentation Award – Faculty Division

GRANT AWARDS

Kathleen D. Kelsey, Grant Award, 2010-2012: *Development of a Grape Community of Practice for the Extension System.* (\$430,333.00 total award, \$34,812.00 for evaluation study, Funded).

Weeks, W. & Pennington-Weeks, P., & Rohla, C. Theory to Practice: Developing Junior College Agriculture Faculty to Teach Agricultural Leadership. (Project funded at \$46,902)