

THE

HARVEST

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL MAGAZINE

2019



Food for Thought

From the Dean's Desk



I remember the day a year ago when this annual publication, *The Harvest*, was printed and ready to mail. I remember it because I was sitting in an emergency meeting of campus deans and leaders as we planned how Chico State would support our students, faculty, staff, and community in the wake of the horrific Camp Fire. Those days and weeks following November 8, 2018, were some of the hardest of my career, and certainly for our community, as we all grappled with unimaginable loss. Many members of our college family including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends were evacuated or lost their homes. Nearly 100 addresses on the mailing list for this publication fell within Paradise, Magalia, and the surrounding communities. Our hearts go out to all those who lost so much.

We wondered, briefly, whether we should even send the mailing. How would the stories hold up in the wake of such terrible tragedy? Would it seem insensitive to publish a piece that celebrates the College of Agriculture when so many in our community were suffering? Ultimately, we decided to go ahead and mail it, and I have to tell you, I'm so glad we did. Holding that magazine in my hands and rereading the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff helped inspire and motivate me to keep moving forward. It reminded me of the great value of our mission here and the transformational work we do.

The past year has been challenging to be sure, but it has also been inspiring to see the College of Agriculture, campus, and community come together to support one another. And as you'll see from the stories in this year's issue of *The Harvest*, our good work of developing the future leaders in agriculture continues.

Wildcats do indeed rise.

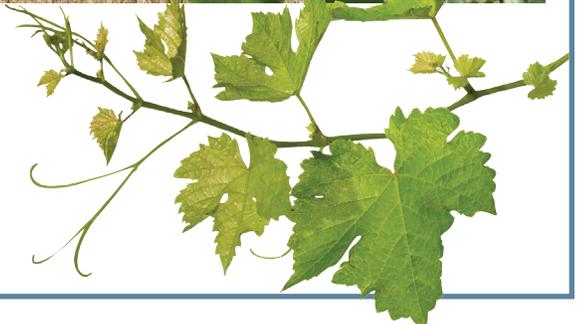
John Unruh, PhD
Dean

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SHARE YOUR STORY

Are you a Chico State Ag grad with a story to share about your Chico Experience? If so, please email sdeforest@csuchico.edu.



What's Growing On

News and Events

1 Students Compete in Academic Bowl

Four students traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, to compete at the Agricultural & Applied Economic Association (AAEA) Academic Bowl from July 21–23, as part of the AAEA Annual Meeting. Kristen Martin, Alberto Perez, Dniqko Stewart, and Rachael Wilson were accompanied by professor and coach Eric Houk. The team made it to the fourth round of competition in the Jeopardy-style quiz bowl featuring questions from eight agricultural- and business-themed categories. In addition to the academic bowl, students attended sessions of the annual meeting and research symposia, listened to guest speakers, and networked with industry professionals and academia from across the world. Students also visited the World of Coca-Cola and Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

1. From left: Kristen Martin, Rachael Wilson, Dniqko Stewart



1

2 Four Students Attend Career Pathways Program at PMA Foodservice Conference

On July 26 and 27, the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) brought new experiences and perspectives to four Chico State students at the organization's Foodservice Conference in Monterey. Jesus Barba, Kaitlyn Jochum, William Jones, and Shaelyn Poteet were accompanied by agricultural business professor Marnie Dalton to participate in PMA's Career Pathways program. With the goal of providing opportunities for young talent to explore the vast career options available in the fresh produce and floral industry, the program allows students to participate in educational workshops, engage in networking opportunities, and participate in a student project. Students were also assigned an industry mentor to answer questions and give advice for their future career.



2

2. Front row: Shaelyn Poteet, William Jones, Kaitlyn Jochum. Back row: Marnie Dalton, Jesus Barba



3. From left: Sara Vollmert, Noa Taipin, and Amanda Prentice.

3



4

3 Students Attend National Reciprocal Meat Conference

Six students traveled to Fort Collins, Colorado, in June to attend and compete at the American Meat Science Association's 72nd Annual Reciprocal Meat Conference. Noa Taipin, Jared Wolf, Kaitlyn Loomas, Amanda Prentice, Mikayla Duchi, and Sarah Vollmert represented Chico State with animal science professor Crystal Waters. All six students competed as a team in the undergraduate division of the processed meats contest consisting of various processed meat classes, questions, keep/cull, and processed meat defects. The team placed 6th overall. Wolf, Prentice, Duchi, and Lince made it to the fourth round in the Undergraduate Quiz bowl Competition. Students also competed in the Iron Chef Product Development competition at the JBS USA headquarters, where they teamed up with peers from other universities to develop, cook, plate, and serve a secret ingredient—in this case, chicken. Taipin's team placed first, Prentice's placed second, and Vollmert's team won the People's Choice Award.

4 Agricultural Summer Camp Host High School Students

The College of Agriculture hosted high school students from the Madera Community College district for an agricultural summer camp at the University Farm. The three-day camp aimed to expose the high school seniors to the diverse career opportunities in agriculture, with Chico State students serving as mentors and sharing their college experiences with each participant. Participants toured the University Farm, got their hands dirty in engaging activities like transplanting, and attended industry breakout sessions in which professionals in animal science, agricultural business, food science, and plant and soil science held workshops to guide students through the options in each field. On the final day of the summer camp, students toured successful agricultural companies.





5. From left: John Unruh, Kasey DeAtley, Savannah LaPant, Kelley Duggan, Tara Burrone, Taylor Lacey, Ellen Van Noy, Celina Phillips, Patrick Doyle

5 Undergraduates Present Research at Western Section Meeting

Five College of Agriculture students traveled to Boise, Idaho, to attend the Annual Western Section Meeting for the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS). Among these, Ellen VanNoy, Savannah LaPant, and Kelley Duggan presented research in the undergraduate poster competition, where VanNoy placed 2nd overall for her presentation on the economic value of feedlot performance traits in commercial Angus and half-blood, lowline-influenced Angus steers. The group, which also included Tara Burrone and Taylor Lacey, was accompanied by professors Celina Phillips and Kasey DeAtley, Interim Associate Dean Patrick Doyle, and Dean John Unruh. During the meeting, students took part in a beef symposium, student mixers and socials, and lunch-and-learn sessions, and listened to presentations on current research happening across the country.

6 10 Students Represent Chico State at Annual Plant and Soil Conference

Ten agriculture students traveled to Fresno to attend the American Society of Agronomy California Chapter's Plant and Soil Conference in February. Miriam Pacheco and Chloe Dugger placed first in the poster presentation symposium for their poster, "The Effects of Water Stress Preconditioning on Heat and Drought Tolerance of Corn in Northern California."

Amanda Cox earned third place in the poster contest for "The Effect of Salinity on Nitrogen Acquisition and Biological Nitrogen Fixation of Alfalfa." Additionally, Aaron Alvarez was one of two students awarded the California Chapter of Agronomy Scholarship.



Houk Receives Outstanding Professor Award

Agricultural Business Professor Eric Houk received a surprise visit from University President Gayle Hutchinson during his "Agribusiness Management" class in February. Surrounded by his family, students, and colleagues, Houk received the news that he was selected as the 2019 Outstanding Professor for the University. During her presentation, President Hutchinson commended Professor Houk for his excellence in teaching, research, and combining the two in the classroom.



Annual Report Details Ag's Economic Contribution

For the sixth year, the Agribusiness Institute (ABI) at CSU, Chico published *The Contribution of Agriculture to Northeastern California's Economy*. The annual report compiled by ABI director Eric Houk documents the significance of agricultural production, processing, and its related industries to the overall economy of Northeastern California. The latest report covering the 2017 production year shows that improved commodity prices and strong production levels helped boost agricultural production and farm income in the region after two years of decline from the peak of 2014. The report can be found on the ABI webpage: www.csuchico.edu/ag/about/agribusiness-institute.shtml.

Altier Recognized with Paul Persons Sustainability Award

Plant science professor Lee Altier was named the 2019 Paul Persons Sustainability Award Recipient at the speaker reception for the 14th Annual This Way to Sustainability Conference. The award was established in 2008 to recognize faculty at Chico State who embody the values and principles of Paul Persons, who worked tirelessly to establish sustainability as a core concern of Chico State and the entire CSU system. As director of the Organic Vegetable Project, Altier engages students and community members in his work around sustainable cropping systems and food security.



Excellence

In Agriculture

Wes and Jane Patton were inducted into the College of Agriculture's Hall of Honor during the Second Annual Excellence in Agriculture Awards Reception, May 10, 2019, at the Bell Memorial Union.

The son of Northern California sheep ranchers, Wes "Doc" Patton first joined Chico State in 1963 as an undergraduate transfer student from Coalinga College. Patton went on to pursue his masters and PhD, both in animal science, from Oregon State University. It was there that he met and married his wife, Jane, a Hillsboro, Oregon, native studying food science and technology. In 1969, the couple returned to Northern California where Doc joined the faculty in the Department of Agriculture at Chico State.

For the next 35 years as a professor, Doc embodied the philosophy of student-centered learning. He took every opportunity to encourage, challenge, and nurture his students both in and out of the classroom. Meanwhile Jane taught part time, raised the couple's sons, Kevin and Matt, and produced and showed breeding sheep and project lambs for 4-H and FFA exhibitors across the country. Jane's talent in painting and crafting has taken the couple to countless craft fairs and special livestock events, where she sells her famous painted gourds, decorated wood, and metal creations.

In 2004, Doc retired from the University, and together he and Jane own Glenn Land Farm in Orland, where they raise registered white Dorper ewes and Dexter cattle. They are also proud grandparents to the children of their sons, Kevin, chair of the kinesiology department at Chico State, and Matt, executive director of the California Agricultural Teacher's Association.



Club of the Year

The 2019 Club of the Year is the **Collegiate FFA**, who was recognized for its leadership, service, and outreach with a \$500 award from Superior Ag.



Bell Family Presidential Scholars

The newest class of **Bell Family Presidential Scholars** received their signature Carhartt jackets at the 2019 Excellence in Agriculture Awards Reception. They are Peyton Yount (Animal Science) from Kerman, Callie Norton (Agricultural Education) from Atwater, Jaycee Harris (Animal Science) from Chico, Taylor Gallaty (Agricultural Business) from Cottonwood, and Angel De Trinidad (Crops, Horticulture, and Land Resource Management) from Orange, pictured with President Gayle Hutchinson (left).

Bell Family National Leadership Scholarship
Junior agriculture education major Breanna Holbert became the first recipient of the new Bell Family National Leadership Scholarship for prominent leadership in a national agricultural organization. Holbert served one year as the president of the 600,000-member National FFA Organization.

CSU, Chico

College of Agriculture

STAR STUDENTS

Each year, the Chico State College of Agriculture recognizes one exemplary student within each discipline as a Star Student. To view complete articles on all of our past Star Students, visit our website: www.csuchico.edu/ag/about/star-students.



TAYLOR LACEY

Major: Agricultural Science & Education
Hometown: Oroville

SETH MYRICK

Major: Crops, Horticulture, and Land Resource Management
Hometown: Galt

JENNIFER PEREZ

Major: Animal Science
Hometown: Colton

CASSIE MIGUEL

Major: Agricultural Business
Hometown: Davis

OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER

The 2019 recipient of the Outstanding Student Leader Award is Ellen Van Noy. Van Noy graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in agriculture business. She served as the College of Agriculture's student academic senator for the 2018-19 academic year.



Graduates of Distinction

Graduating seniors with exceptional academic achievement earned medallions to wear at Commencement.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR:

Amber Illescas, Animal Science
Savanna LaPant, Animal Science
Seth Myrick, Plant and Soil Science
Ellen Van Noy, Agricultural Business

CUM LAUDE

Dana Brady, Animal Science
Nicole Hobby, Agricultural Business
Keith Lipke, Agricultural Business
Jade Permenter, Animal Science
Ariel Young, Agricultural Business

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Aaron Becerra-Alvarez, Crops, Horticulture, and Land Resource Management
John Boyes, Agricultural Science and Education
Grace Christianson, Agricultural Business; Crops, Horticulture, and Land Resource Management
Savanna LaPant, Animal Science
Seth Myrick, Crops, Horticulture, and Land Resource Management

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Ashlyn Bartlett, Agricultural Science and Education
Theron Fumasi, Crops, Horticulture, and Land Resource Management
Sierra Todd, Animal Science
Anna Warta, Crops, Horticulture, and Land Resource Management

Faculty and Staff of the Year

The Faculty and Staff of the Year Awards are nominated and selected by students. They include donor-funded monetary awards for continued professional development.

Animal science professor **Kasey DeAtley** received the Richard and Marian Baldy Faculty of the Year Award. One of her nominators said, "Kasey is extremely passionate about her students, research, and teaching, both in and outside of the classroom. Through her mentorship, I have had the opportunity to work on research projects as an undergrad and have been enabled to travel to multiple conferences and conventions in order to learn about the beef industry, the rangeland management field, and the research field." The award was presented by retired faculty members Richard and Marian Baldy.

The Staff of the Year award went to **Mckynna Karolyi**. As the administrative support assistant in the College of Agriculture's Student Success Office, Karolyi was one of the first faces and voices students encounter when they begin their journeys at Chico State. One student said, "Every time I go into the office, she has a smile on her face and makes students feel welcome walking through the door. She is always so considerate and takes the time to make sure all my questions are answered. I always feel like I'm connected to the college and what's happening because of her."

KASEY DEATLEY



MARIAN BALDY



RICHARD BALDY



MCKYNNNA KAROLYI



BELL FAMILY PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP EXPANDS

“The Bell Family Presidential Scholarship also opened doors for me to meet people, network, and build a support system.”

—Holly Hockett
(Agricultural Education, '18)

Six years after establishing the Bell Family Presidential Scholarship Endowment at Chico State, Dan Giustina has added \$1 million to the endowment for a total of \$4 million, funding full tuition and fees for five incoming freshmen in the College of Agriculture each year.

“This kind of commitment to our students is unprecedented at Chico State, and it’s transformational,” College of Agriculture Dean John Unruh said. “Dan Giustina has made it possible not only to cement the Bell Family legacy at Chico State, but to change the life of each student who receives this scholarship.”

The Oregon businessman and philanthropist established the endowment in honor of his friends, Tom and Dorothy Bell, and Tom’s sisters, Claudine Bell and Helen Head. Although none of the siblings had children of their own, the Bell Family Presidential Scholarship ensures that their legacy continues to expand through the students who receive the four-year scholarship in their names.

Academic requirements are high for the scholarship. California high school seniors who plan to major in agriculture must have a 3.5 GPA and 1200 SAT or 27 ACT scores in order to apply. They must also demonstrate a

dedication to agriculture and a propensity for leadership. For those who meet the mark, the Bell Family Presidential Scholarship reduces their financial burdens, gives them an elevated profile in the College of Agriculture, and opens doors of opportunity throughout their college careers.

Holly Hockett (Agricultural Education, '18) was the first Bell Scholar to graduate from Chico State. She earned her teaching credential in 2019 and now works as an agriculture teacher at Galt High School. Hockett said the impacts of the scholarship continue to ripple through her life post-college.

“I was able to graduate college without student loans, which made a profound impact

support system that continues to impact me to this day.”

Cooper Davis, an agricultural business major from Sacramento, is just starting his college career, but he already sees the value in the scholarship beyond just the financial benefits.

“I’m really excited to be a part of this scholarship program and the networking opportunities it provides,” he said. “I’m excited to see how I will grow during my time here at Chico State.”

For senior animal science major Kelley Duggan, receiving the Bell Family Presidential Scholarship changed her life.

“This scholarship is the best thing that’s ever happened to me,” Duggan said. “It brought me to Chico State and opened up doors of opportunities that I never would have imagined. I’ve met so many great people, from professors to fellow students to alumni, and built relationships that will carry through my career.”

High school seniors who might qualify for the scholarship are encouraged to apply by contacting the College of Agriculture’s student success office at agoutreach@csuchico.edu.



Holly Hockett with Dan Giustina



2019 Bell Family Presidential Scholars

on my personal life because it makes it easier for me to live and save on a young person’s salary,” Hockett said. “The Bell Family Presidential Scholarship also opened doors for me to meet people, network, and build a

It took Taylor Ford several years and a circuitous path to find her calling as an agricultural teacher. Now, as the first National Teach Ag Ambassador to be selected from Chico State, Ford is hoping to make that pathway more clear for other students.

In an effort to recruit the future leaders in agricultural education, each year the National Teach Ag Campaign selects up to 14 undergraduate students to serve as National Ambassadors. Among these, Ford will have the opportunity to travel across the nation to educate and inform about the mission of agricultural education.

“A huge reason why I was so motivated to be a part of this program comes from my college journey that I went through to get to where I am now. I had the opportunity to see what my heart was truly calling me to do, and that is to teach,” Ford said.

Ford grew up in Laramie, Wyoming, where she loved riding horses on her family’s cattle ranch, but when she moved to California with her mother at the age of nine, her life began to take a turn away from agriculture. Although still involved in agriculture through 4-H and FFA, agriculture and education always seemed like a career possibility, but it wasn’t her first choice.

With a love of science and caring for those around her, she planned to pursue a career in nursing. After graduating from Sutter High School in 2015, a scholarship to run cross country led her to Simpson University to complete her nursing pre-requisites. Missing her community, Ford decided to move home and attend Butte College, where she dabbled in some agriculture elective classes to reconnect with her roots.

While pursuing her certification as a nursing assistant (CNA) at the Sutter County One Stop Program, Ford got the clarity she needed to make a drastic change in her career choice. After giving a demonstration in one of her CNA classes, the instructor pulled Ford aside and praised her ability to teach her audience.

“She told me that she had never seen someone connect with students the way that I had and that although I’d be a great nurse, she couldn’t help but see a natural talent be wasted if I didn’t consider teaching,” Ford said. “After this encounter, the thoughts I always had in the back of my head began to surface, and I knew my heart was pulling me toward a new path in agricultural education.”

Since her venture into agricultural education, Ford has clearly made her mark within the program as a standout student. Raising money for students affected by the Camp Fire in 2018, leading workshops at the State FFA Convention, coordinating contests at the Chico State and Butte College FFA Field Day, educating youth at the Farm Babies Exhibit at the Silver Dollar Fair, volunteering at Wildcat Day on the Farm, and judging local speaking contests for local FFA members are just a few of the ways she has been involved.

Agricultural education professor Mollie Aschenbrener commended Ford for her strong desire to make a positive difference in the lives of those around her.

“Taylor is an amazing young lady who is professional, purposeful, and takes pride in her work,” Aschenbrener said. “She is clearly on the path to become a dynamic agricultural educator, and Chico State is fortunate to call her our own.”

Agricultural education professor Alyssa Schager agreed, adding, “Her unyielding dedication to people in need is so incredibly inspiring to me. She will leave a long-lasting impact on her community and future students.”

Managed by the National Association of Agricultural Educators, the National Teach Ag Ambassador Program seeks outstanding agricultural education majors to represent the profession. With a mission to raise awareness of the need to recruit and retain high-quality, diverse agricultural teachers and celebrate the positive contributions this profession deems the community, the competitive program requires a rigorous application process. Ford was selected to serve as a National Ambassador after completing several rounds last spring, including an application, resume, and interview process until she was finally notified in May that she was one of the finalists.

“It was a long process to get to where I am, but I am so thankful that I believed in myself and went for it. You never know what opportunities are out there if you don’t take them,” she said.

Throughout her service as a National Teach Ag Ambassador, Ford is attending national and state conventions, teaching workshops, and attending symposiums and career fairs in order to recruit the best and brightest to a rewarding career in agricultural education. With an updated blog with weekly posts, she aims to celebrate teachers for their hard work and keep the public educated about agriculture.

Just as she found her place in agricultural education, Ford hopes that throughout her service as a Teach Ag Ambassador she is able to encourage and inspire each person she encounters.

“For me, teaching goes beyond the classroom,” she said. “My goal is to be a champion for my students, to show them that they matter, and give them a place to call home.”



Taylor Ford to Serve as
National
TEACH AG
Ambassador

Written by Taylor Lacey

No Time to Waste

Students Spend **Summer Break** in Internships At Home and Abroad

Written By Taylor Lacey

After working at the University Farm's Organic Dairy Unit for a year, Emily Fuller thought she knew the dairy industry. But a summer spent on a pasture-based conventional family farm in a time zone 17 hours ahead of home exposed her to a whole new world of practices in dairy management and agriculture in general. Fuller spent the summer in Merrigum, Victoria, Australia milking 350 cows, performing pasture management, sorting and moving cattle, performing health assessments, and giving regular vaccinations, while also learning more about hay production through seeding oats and wheat, fixing machinery, and digging trenches.

From local farms and businesses to operations thousands of miles from home, students in the College of Agriculture fanned out all over the world during their 2019 summer break for internship opportunities that shed light on their future careers.

"I never thought going abroad was an option for me until I was sitting in Dr. (Tommy) Henderson's office next to my best friend, and he started talking about this program that would pay me to gain work experience in a new place," Fuller said. "Madison and I just looked at each other and I said, 'Could you imagine how amazing this would be?' Minutes later we were on a conference call with the program, and it all happened."

Fuller's classmate, Madison Redding, took the leap, too, signing her paperwork to leave for Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada, to work on a commercial cattle and crop operation. Redding's position allowed her to perform similar tasks as Fuller, working with beef cattle while also taking part in harvest season, running the swather, hay rake, and other heavy equipment at the hay ranch.

"It was great to be able to learn things in the classroom in Chico and then really put them to practice at the ranch," Redding said. "I learned something new every day and everyone was willing to teach me and was so welcoming."

Fuller and Redding weren't the only College of Agriculture students who took advantage of the experiential learning summer break allows for. Although a little closer to home, senior Garrett Hamilton's summer working with Grow West in Woodland gave him the experience he needed to affirm his career choice.

"I always knew I wanted to pursue my degree at Chico State for this purpose, but I wasn't exactly sold on becoming a PCA (Pest Control Advisor) yet," Hamilton said. "After interning for Grow West for two years, my path has really been affirmed and I've found a company that makes me feel valued."

Scouting countless fields of tomatoes, rice, alfalfa, sunflowers, and wheat was only the beginning of a career in crop production that Hamilton



Madison Redding left for Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada. Her job?

Produce beef cattle and hay.



Matt Bongiovanni interned in Washington, DC. His job? Advocate for our farmers.

Matt Bongiovanni (far right) and fellow interns met with US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue (center) in Washington, DC.

aimed to pursue. Working under PCA Todd Miller, he was able to consult with farmers every day, check traps, and monitor pests and diseases of crops across Northern California.

Although his feet still stood in the United States like Hamilton, senior Matt Bongiovanni's summer internship took place with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives in Washington, DC. His position as a public policy intern allowed him to represent farmer cooperatives across the nation voicing their concerns through advocating and lobbying with legislation.

"The first few weeks, I really got to jump in and help with lobbying events where we flew people into DC to learn their stories and voice their concerns. The big issues going on right now are with the USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada) trade agreements and immigration policy, so I got to use my passion for education to speak with legislators on behalf of agriculture," Bongiovanni said.

Each week, a new event or reception introduced Bongiovanni further and further into policy where his knowledge of agriculture across the nation was expanded.

"California is so diverse, so I came in with a lot of perspective, but then I got to hear from people in the Midwest experiencing drought and dairymen from New York," he said. "There's a lot of misconceptions about California, but I realized I came in with misconceptions about other regions, too, that I was able to disprove."

Similarly, Fuller went into her summer in Australia with expectations of what she hoped to bring home, but her experiences and the relationships she developed gave her new perspectives.

"I never knew how relevant traveling was for people outside the United States, and I really wish that was something more common in our culture. One of my coworkers was 30 and had traveled across the world, just working and living in other countries, so she brought a lot of stories and cool experiences to share," Fuller said.

Living with two strangers from Belgium and Vietnam brought its own experiences and challenges for Fuller.

"There was a language barrier between us, and [a fellow intern] Lisa really gave me the opportunity to practice my teaching. Each night, we would complete simple tasks, like baking a treat. I'd write out the directions in English and work through each step and action, teaching her English," she said.

Like Fuller, Redding's fellow intern hailed from Denmark, bringing along a wealth of knowledge.

"She was more familiar with beef than I was so I was able to learn a lot, and she'd walk me through tasks, explaining them step by step and when making management decisions, we could bounce ideas off of each other," she said. "We lived in a house 15 miles out of town, on the ranch, with some of the chutes right in our front yard so we could walk outside the front door and get to work."

Unlike the rural surroundings of Victoria that Redding woke up to outside her door each morning, Bongiovanni got out of his comfort zone living in the basement of a townhome in downtown DC alongside seven other interns.

"I got to know a lot of the interns really well, and we went to events and on adventures together when we had time off," Bongiovanni said. "Being in DC, I wanted to take advantage of it all, so I did what tourists do but also what the locals do and went to networking events to have coffee with legislators, talked with lobbyists, played on a kickball team, and even went to Philadelphia one day on a Philly cheesesteak hunt."

For Hamilton, most of the new experiences around him weren't social but through experiential learning instead. Although he grew up in a fifth generation farming family, his internship went beyond the basics of agricultural production.

"Throughout the summer, we all completed a research project and presented on a topic to our peers," Hamilton said. "They gave us actual valuable experiences in the field and built relationships with all of the interns, even though we were just seasonal employees."

Whether it is through exposure to new cultures and languages, advocating for the voices of small farmers, scouting endless acres of crops, or cultivating relationships with companies, policymakers, and constituents, summer internships provide students with the experience they are willing to take out of it.

"There's a whole world out there to explore and learn new things," Fuller said. "But if you're not willing to apply what you learned in your life, what was the point?"



Emily Fuller traveled to her internship in Merrigum, Victoria, Australia. Her job? Manage 350 milk cows.



Garrett Hamilton interned with local firm Grow West. His job? Monitor crops for pests.

ALLYAH PEREZ

BREANNA HOLBERT

HUNTER ANDRADE



Leaders of the Pack



Three College of Agriculture Students Elected to Student Government

Written By Taylor Lacey

With nearly 1,000 enrolled majors, the College of Agriculture makes up less than six percent of the total student population at Chico State. But with three of the seventeen elected officers of the Associated Students (AS) majoring in agriculture, the College of Agriculture has more than its fair share of campuswide student leadership.

“Every year, the College of Agriculture has a senator on the officer team, but it’s been a while since we’ve had anyone elected to other positions,” **Allyah Perez** said. “So to have three students from the College of Agriculture is amazing.”

This academic year, Perez is serving as the AS commissioner of Community Affairs. The senior agricultural education major’s job involves connecting campus administration with students by facilitating a student committee focused on safety, holding open forums, coordinating the annual safety walk on campus, and attending city council meetings on behalf of the student body.

“I enjoy advocating for students and facilitating community service events, so this role gives me that platform,” Perez said.

As a past Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE) and ‘Cats in the Community volunteer, community service is close to Perez’s heart. During her time in AS leadership, Perez hopes to foster more conversations with students to get their concerns heard. With past leadership experience in her sorority, Sigma Alpha, and as a resident advisor for University Housing, she hopes to connect students of all fields of interests.

On serving in AS, Perez said, “It’s not about your own opinion but the students’. My goal is to serve the students because that’s who put their trust in me in electing me.”

With the shared goal of serving students as advocates, junior agricultural education major **Breanna Holbert** was elected director of Legislative Affairs, and junior agricultural education major **Hunter Andrade** was elected senator for the College of Agriculture. Through past leadership experiences in the FFA at the state and national level, the two hope to bring unique perspectives and vision to the team.

“Student government serves as the mouthpiece of the students. When the student body can’t be in the room, we are their voice to faculty, staff, and administration,” Holbert said. “I’ve never been afraid to voice my opinion, and now I have this opportunity and responsibility to voice the opinion of students and be an advocate.”

Along with serving on the board of directors for AS, representing the campus within the Cal State Student Association, and leading the effort for student voter registration, Holbert has set her own goals for her year of service.

“It’s really important that we are able to inform students quickly when urgent matters arise, so I look forward to breaking down walls between administration, AS, and the students to increase transparency,” she said. “Students have the right to know what’s going on, when it’s happening, not hours or days later.”

In addition to her goal of increasing transparency for undergraduate students, Holbert hopes to increase voter registration, especially in the coming presidential election year.

“For me, legislative affairs is the opportunity to look at policy and connect it to people,” Holbert said. “I want to educate people on the power of their vote and their voice, because that’s the most powerful thing we can give.”

Serving as the College of Agriculture student senator, Hunter Andrade looks forward to highlighting agriculture in a positive light and working with other colleges to enact practices of sustainability.

“Chico State is such a beautiful campus that really has longevity in mind, not only in sustainability. Agriculture faculty provide us with relevant industry experience and create a personal environment,” Andrade said. “They treat us as individuals with support, encouragement, and opportunities for experiential learning.”

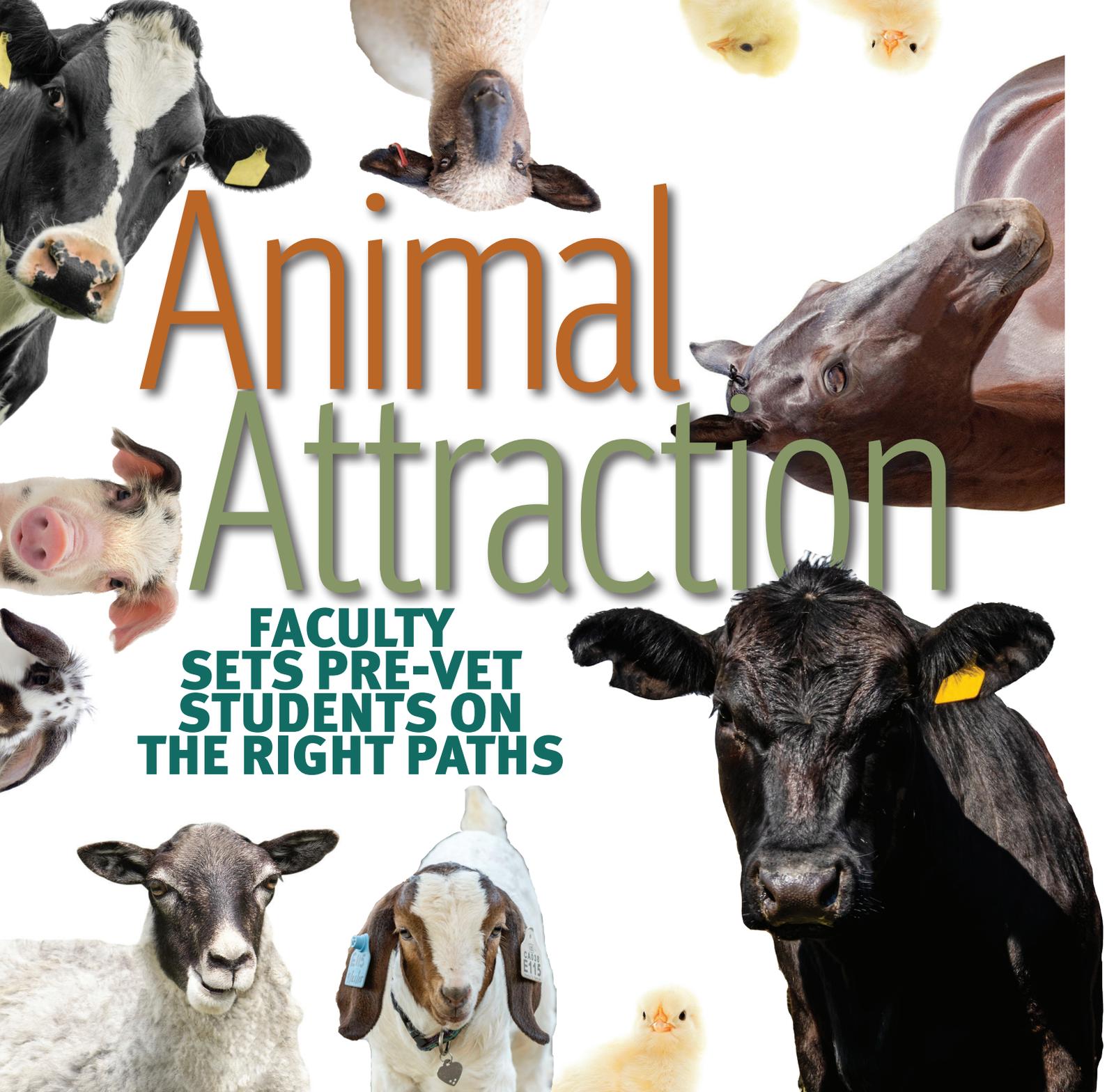
Andrade’s position allows her to help meet the needs of students in the College of Agriculture by holding office hours and meetings with students in order to convey their needs to the dean and University.

Although she has held leadership roles in the past through FFA, Andrade said she is no different than any other student, and that’s how she can relate.

“Anyone has the ability to advocate and be a voice, and I want to be able to share that,” Andrade said. “I’ve experienced campus from the student lens, so I know what students need and I want to fill those gaps.”

From their first day on campus (left at Wildcat Welcome), to graduation day (below), agriculture students have three of their own to be their voice.





Animal Attraction

FACULTY SETS PRE-VET STUDENTS ON THE RIGHT PATHS

When they hear that one of their former advisees graduated from veterinary school, the animal science faculty at Chico State proudly share the accomplishment with one another. When four College of Agriculture alumni graduate vet school in the same year, as it happened in 2019, it becomes a cause for celebration.

Four new licensed veterinarians may not seem like a lot among the 400 animal science majors in the College of Agriculture—most of whom

enter Chico State with vet school in mind—but when you consider the steep challenges of getting into one of only 30 veterinary schools in the United States, it gives “noteworthy” a whole new meaning. Not only does it show the tenacity and drive of the College alums, it also serves as a testament to the guidance that faculty advisors give students to help identify and pursue their career paths.

Emily Sutton graduated from Chico State with a degree in animal science in 2012. It took her four application cycles before she finally enrolled at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, where she graduated with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine on May 10.

“It can take some perseverance,” Sutton said. “It feels like it took just as much luck getting into vet school as it did hard work.”

While the getting into vet school proved difficult, her studies were extremely challenging. But Sutton, who works at Franklin Ranch Pet Hospital near Elk Grove, said that Chico State prepared her well for the curriculum.

“A lot of the animal science courses I took translated really well to vet school. We used the same textbook on reproduction in vet school as I did in the undergrad course with Cindy Daley,” Sutton said. “My nutrition

education with Dr. (Celina) Phillips gave me a solid background for the nutrition we did in vet school, and actually fed my special interest in veterinary nutrition I'm pursuing now."

Originally from Wildomar, California, **Donnielle Reynolds** (Animal Science, '15) spent two years at a community college before transferring to Chico State, where she found the faculty and the academic program to be a good launching pad for vet school.

"All of the animal science classes prepared me really well for the basic science that takes up the first year of vet school. A lot of my classmates didn't have an undergraduate nutrition class, so my nutrition class with Celina Phillips gave me a good foundation," Reynolds said.

Reynolds, who graduated cum laude from Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine on May 11, now practices veterinary medicine at Mountaineer Animal Clinic in Rock Springs, Wyoming, where she mostly works with small animals and horses, along with the occasional sheep and goats.

In addition to Sutton and Reynolds, **Nicole Corrao** (Animal Science, '14) earned her DVM from Ross University in Saint Kitts, and **Kalee Terrill** (Animal Science, '13) graduated from Kansas State University in 2019.

Part of the success of placing more students into veterinary school lies in the sheer size of the animal science program at Chico State, which has tripled in enrollment in the last 10 years. That growth has led faculty to become more strategic and creative in their advising process. Animal science professor **Celina Phillips** teaches a section of "The University Experience" (AGRI 180), a required course for all incoming freshmen in the College of Agriculture, made up almost entirely of animal science majors who are thinking about vet school.

"We're really trying to increase our support structure for these pre-vet students to help address any issues early on and try to get them on the right path as soon as we can," Phillips said.

If there are issues, they usually arise early in the student's educational career. Phillips said it's generally around the time they have to take their first physics class.

"We have a pre-vet advising checklist that we walk through with students, and phase one involves the basic sciences, biology, chemistry, physics. If they don't get through phase one with a minimum GPA of 3.5, then we need to have a talk and look at what other alternatives they might explore."

While the veterinary path isn't for every pre-vet who sets out, Phillips said the career exploration process is one of the joys of advising students.

"We've had a lot of success in placing students into graduate school who might have been interested in vet school to begin with," Phillips said. "A lot of these students really like the sciences, so perhaps specializing in reproduction or nutrition might be a good option for them."

Phillips and her colleagues have started a graduate student webinar where they invite former students who are now in graduate school to share their insights with undergraduates. Faculty also encourage students to explore careers in pharmaceutical and feed sales, meat science, and range management.

Professor **Kasey DeAtley** explained that part of the standard advising program with every pre-vet student involves an investigation of backup plans.

"The thing that I enjoy the most now is having conversations with students who think they want to be veterinarians about their 'Plan B,'" DeAtley said. "We have them map out at least two other alternative career plans to becoming a veterinarian, including salary potential, required skills and coursework, possible internships, and people they can interview to learn more about the opportunities."

For 2016 animal science graduate **Grace Woodmansee**, the career exploration and advising she received at Chico State led her to her passion.

"Growing up I loved working with livestock through my involvement in 4-H, but looking back I realize how little I knew about the opportunities available to animal science majors. Vet school felt like the only option available to me, and I committed to it more out of obligation than a true interest in the subject matter," Woodmansee said.

Although she felt intimidated in classes with students who came from ranching backgrounds, Woodmansee, who is pursuing her master's degree at UC Davis in agronomy with a strong social science component, decided to take risks and get involved in a wide array of activities on campus at the encouragement of faculty, which ultimately lead her down a career path that better suited her interests.

"That decision really paid off, because it allowed me to discover my passion for applied research and rangeland management," Woodmansee said. "Celina and Kasey played huge roles in that discovery. Celina connected me to a research opportunity at the Beef Unit, and Kasey encouraged me to conduct my own undergraduate research and introduced me to both range and cooperative extension. That encouragement led me to a career in range that is both a good fit for my skills and is truly fulfilling."

While she took what she describes as the "scenic route" through college, she wouldn't trade her circuitous path for anything.

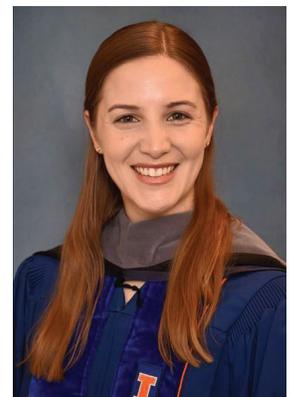
"I'd encourage all animal science majors to start their undergraduate career with an open mind. Say yes to every good opportunity, not just the ones that conform to what you think you want to do. Some of my biggest learning moments came from those experiences. Go to every conference and event you can, and talk to people while you're there. There's so much to learn, and professionals really want to help undergraduates find their place in agriculture," Woodmansee said.



Kasey DeAtley and Kasey DeAtley are two Chico State animal science alumni who now advise their own students in the College of Agriculture.



Grace Woodmansee channeled her animal science degree into a career in rangeland management.



Emily Sutton earned her DVM from the University of Illinois in May.



Chico State Establishes Center for
Regenerative Agriculture
and Resilient Systems

“People need to start wherever they can with practices that seem to make sense for them, whether that be cover crops, rotation, compost applications, biological inoculation, managed grazing, whatever.”

—Cindy Daley
Professor and CRARS Director

Two thousand nineteen was a banner year for regenerative agriculture at Chico State. It was the second year in a row that an interdisciplinary regenerative agriculture initiative topped fundraising charts within the University, bringing in more than \$1 million in gifts and pledges for research, education, and outreach. It was also the year that the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and

Resilient Systems (CRARS) was officially established. President Gayle Hutchinson formally approved the new center in May, after it was unanimously endorsed by the Academic Senate, making it one of 26 independent centers and institutes within the University.

“With the innovative and passionate spirit of our faculty, and the generous support of donors, we are taking a forward-thinking concept and becoming leaders for an agricultural future that is sustainable and resilient,” Hutchinson said.

Leading the multiyear charge to establish and build the Center is agriculture professor and CRARS director Cindy Daley. With faculty affiliates from the Colleges of Agriculture, Natural Science, and Communication and Education, and a team of more than 15 full-time students and staff, the goal of the Center is both ambitious and attainable.

“Agriculture is uniquely poised to provide an economically feasible, ready-to-roll solution to atmospheric CO₂ levels and the devastating impacts of global warming,” Daley said. “We all need to become more conscious of our soil as a valuable resource.

Management has a profound impact on the biological component of our soil. As the biology improves (in diversity and quantity), more carbon will be sequestered, which results in more efficient water utilization, nutrient cycling, and ultimately net profit. It makes sense environmentally, socially, and economically. That’s what the Center is all about.”

The term “regenerative agriculture” describes a variety of farming and ranching practices that aim to build soil organic matter and soil biodiversity with the benefits of reversing climate change by drawing down atmospheric carbon, enhancing soil fertility, and improving the water cycle. From studying a variety of on-farm practices, starting an interdisciplinary master’s degree program in regenerative agriculture, sponsoring

seminars, speakers, and events, and launching a new Journal of Regenerative Agriculture, the list of projects that Daley and her team are managing is extensive. The ultimate objective of the Center is to compile and translate best practices that agriculture producers can apply to their specific operations.

Daley said that a lot of scientific research has already been done around regenerative agricultural practices.

“What we need to focus on is adaptation and implementation,” Daley said. “Anyone can do this. You don’t have to completely change your production system all at once. People need to start wherever they can with practices that seem to make sense for them, whether that be cover crops, rotation, compost applications, biological inoculation, managed grazing, whatever.”

For Chico-based almond and walnut grower Nicolaus Nut Company, the first step was incorporating cover crops as an approach for supporting bee health. Improved soil health was an added benefit. A researcher before he became a farmer, chief operations manager Rory Crowley has created a number of test plots on the company’s Kittyhawk Ranch, where he can evaluate

various cover crops, irrigation systems, and biosolarization to reduce inputs, improve soil fertility and health, and reduce water use. Crowley met Daley while attending lectures sponsored by the CRARS, and after multiple conversations and a visit to his orchard, Nicolaus Nut Company became a demonstration site for CRARS.

As he speaks with students and other groups through the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems, Crowley exemplifies the philosophy that

there’s no single approach to regenerative agricultural production.

“We are a conventional operation,” he tells them. “We aren’t organic, and we use synthetic controls where we need to. And we’re doing everything we can to be sustainable from an economic, environmental, and social perspective.”

Another resource the Center has helped develop is the Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration Lab (RAD Lab). With grants from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and the CSU Agricultural Research Institute, the RAD Lab provides the space and equipment to quantify physical, chemical, and biological soil health indicators as well as food quality metrics through a range



Staff research associates Seth Myrick and Chidimma Olewunne process soil samples in the RAD Lab.



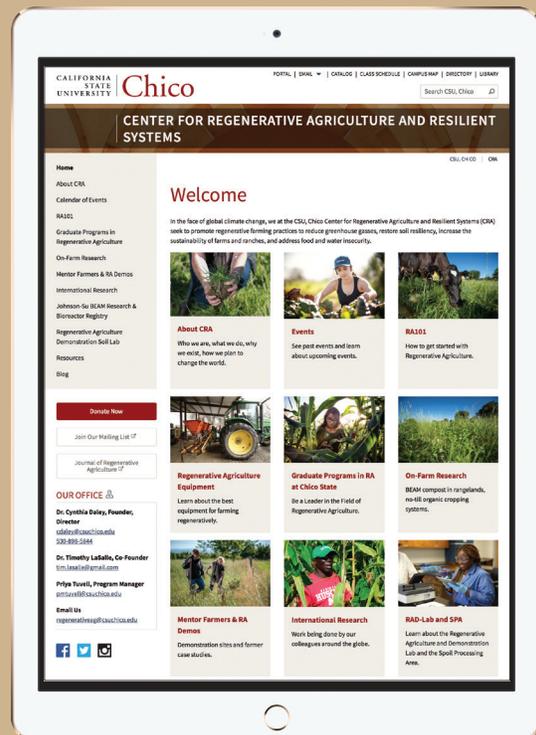
Soil science professor Garrett Liles gives tour of Soil Processing Area at the University Farm.

of existing and innovative approaches. Chico State soils professor Garrett Liles created the facility specifically to serve the North State region by making access to analytical services and data more affordable. The intention is to help demonstrate the best practices for soil health management, carbon sequestration, and providing the ecosystem services society requires.

From Biologically Enhanced Agricultural Management (BEAM) research on California rangelands and legume cover crops on orchard floors to no-till practices in vegetable cropping systems and full-circle food chain aquaponics food production, the CRARS collaborators say there's no limit to where regenerative agricultural practices can be incorporated.

"The only thing holding us back is our own imagination," Daley said.

To learn more about regenerative agriculture and the resources available through CRARS, visit the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems website at www.csuchico.edu/regenerativeagriculture.



1. Regenerative Farm Demonstration Site at the University Farm; 2. Students with mentor farmer Daniel Unruh; 3. Nicolas Nut Company's Rory Crowley tests regenerative agricultural practices at his family's almond and walnut ranches in Chico; 4. BEAM compost bioreactors; 5. Professor Cindy Daley inspects pasture forage.

Daley Named Rawlins Endowed Professor

Agriculture professor Cindy Daley was named the Rawlins Endowed Professor in Environmental Literacy in August after a competitive application processed managed by the College of Natural Sciences.

The overarching goal of the Rawlins Professorship is to promote environmental literacy and sustainability across the Chico State campus and beyond. The Rawlins Endowed Professorship in Environmental Literacy was established by Chico resident Jack Rawlins, who realized that environmental problems are complex and require an informed citizenry to work toward solutions.

Daley joined the College of Agriculture faculty in 1997. She is the founder and director of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems (CRARS), where she leads an interdisciplinary team of faculty and farmers who recognize the ecological benefits of regenerative farming practices on soil health and carbon sequestration. She also supervises and directs the organic dairy program at the University Farm.

The Rawlins Endowed Professorship is a three-year term.



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Milestones In Teaching Experience

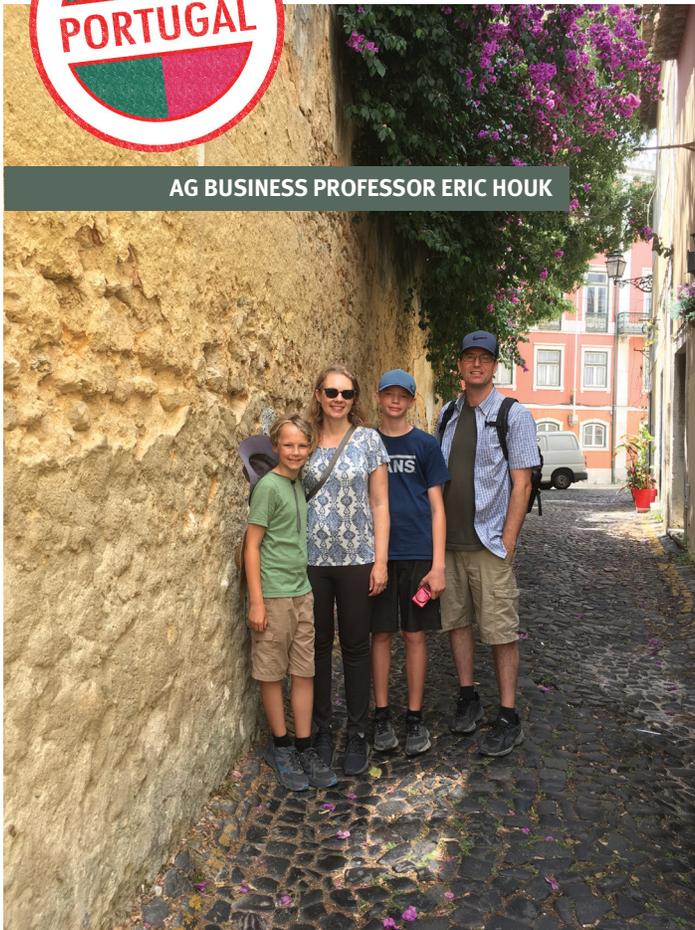
It's a Small World

Summer Travels Bring Global Lessons Home for Ag Business Faculty



Eric Houk and his family take time to explore Lisbon, Portugal, during his tour of professional conferences in Europe.

AG BUSINESS PROFESSOR ERIC HOUK



Just as students capitalize on out-of-classroom professional development activities to maximize their education, faculty in the College of Agriculture strive for continuous learning as well. Three agricultural business faculty members made the most of their 2019 summer breaks by engaging in various international professional development experiences.

“Agriculture is a global industry,” agricultural business professor **Eric Houk** said. “As faculty, interacting with peers outside of the United States and seeing international agriculture in person broadens our context and makes us more informed as we advise and educate our students.”

Research grants from the USDA and CSU Agricultural Research Institute allowed Houk to travel to Europe in June and July, where he presented at three separate conferences and visited agricultural operations along the way. His trip started in Spain at the 11th World Congress on Water Resources and Environment in Madrid. Houk presented the poster “Water Transfers from Agriculture: The Impact of Land Fallowing on Aquifer Conditions and Agricultural Production in Northern California.”

Among water researchers and academics from all over the world, Houk found the attendees most interested in his research to be from Australia and New Zealand.

“They face the same dilemmas with drought and agricultural water issues that we do in California,” Houk said.

Two days later, Houk was in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, for the 11th Annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies. Among the 800 attendees from 80 countries, Houk presented the farm business simulation game he developed with collaborators from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Wyoming to help undergraduates develop risk management competency.

The final conference in Houk’s European tour was in Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal, at the International Conference on Economic Modeling and Data Science. He presented the research “Modelling the Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Impacts from Groundwater Pumping and Land Use Changes in California.”

Between all three conferences, Houk, who traveled with his family, took the opportunity to visit agricultural operations along the way. On the drive from Madrid to Barcelona, they stopped at a 400-year-old olive orchard near Toledo, Spain, where they met a young couple trying to figure out how to make a living producing olive oil.

“They face the same challenges that many of our producers do, with the high costs of production and the need to diversify their income sources to make ends meet. They also face similar issues with water supply and drought that we do in California. It was interesting to be halfway around the world and feel like I could be looking at a farm just down the road from our University,” Houk said.

Although their paths never crossed, Professor **Jake Brimlow** spent time in Europe over the summer too, on a journey to explore various opportunities for students to study abroad. Brimlow, who has served on the campus’ study abroad advisory committee for three years, applied for a program through the California State University system to attend a faculty engagement seminar in Paris. He spent a week there with one other Chico State professor, Dean Fairbanks, geography and planning department, as well as faculty from across the CSU system. Coordinated and supported by the CSU International Programs (CSUIP) office, the seminar familiarized participating faculty with CSUIP’s year-long study abroad programs in Paris and beyond, equipping faculty to promote and share those opportunities with students on their home campuses.

AG BUSINESS PROFESSOR JAKE BRIMLOW



Jake Brimlow and students completed a master class in Cava wines near Barcelona as part of their five-week immersion program in Spain.

From Paris, Brimlow and his family traveled to Barcelona, Spain, where they met up with eight agricultural business students from Chico State as well as seven students from Fresno State and their professor, former Chico State faculty member Todd Lone, for a five-week immersion program offered through Fresno State. After touring several wineries and completing a master class in Cava wines near Barcelona, the group flew to Ronda, near the southern Mediterranean coast of Spain. The students spent the next four weeks immersed in the culture and community of Ronda, living in apartments and taking Spanish classes while continuing their coursework. The students studied agricultural marketing, applying what they learned in a project that paired teams of students with local wineries. The teams reviewed their winery's online and social media presence, visited as tourists, and then met with winery management to hear about challenges the business was experiencing. Over the following several weeks the students developed recommendations for the winery and presented those recommendations to winery management. The student teams also competed in a blending and branding challenge in which they developed a wine blend, label, and marketing plan, then competed against the other teams in a presentation of their product to a panel of judges.

All the students earned six units of credit through Fresno State for their participation, and Brimlow said the two universities are working to design a collaborative study abroad program for future students.

"This program only worked because of the collaboration between Chico and Fresno State, and we are very excited about the possibilities of a joint-campus model for faculty-led study abroad," Brimlow said. "One of the biggest challenges for faculty-led programs is getting enough enrollment. By working together as sister campuses, we can share the enrollment obligations and bring expanded academic content to create a more affordable, transformative international immersion experience for our students."



Agricultural business professor **Baohui Song** spent the 2019 summer as he does every year, visiting several universities in his native country of China to develop collaborative research and teaching relationships and keep his finger on the pulse of agricultural trade and marketing. Song taught a one-week intensive course on production economics at Huazhong Agricultural University in Wuhan. He also visited Inner Mongolia University of Finance and Economics in Hohhot, and Shenyang Agricultural University in Shenyang. During his travels, Song reconnected with partnering scholars who have visited Chico State over the years, and he also had the opportunity to meet with potential visiting scholars to assess their fit for Chico State.

"As a teacher, there's nothing like visiting the country and interacting with people there to help me monitor and understand what's happening in China. It gives me case studies and perspectives that I can bring back into the classroom as we discuss world trade," Song said.

Baohui Song taught microeconomics at Huazhong Agricultural University.



Faculty Focus

2019



Hossein Zakeri

DR. Z

It took some time for Hossein Zakeri to gain his footing at Chico State. With a background primarily in research, Zakeri found it challenging to adapt to the expectations of a teaching-centric university. But five years into his career as a plant science professor, Zakeri has built an undergraduate research program that exemplifies the teacher-scholar model of education and opens doors for students' future career success.

Zakeri joined the faculty in the College of Agriculture in 2014 from the University of Missouri, where he was a postdoctoral researcher studying water use efficiency and the drought tolerance of soybeans.

"I came from a completely different background of row crops and legumes," Zakeri said. "Those crops are rare in this part of the country. We're in the almond empire here."

Initially Zakeri faced the dual challenges of adjusting to a heavy teaching load while building a research program around a crop family that is relatively nonexistent in the region.

"Dry beans used to be more common in Northern California, but they have dropped off over the years," Zakeri said. "There's so much agricultural benefit to be had by growing legumes, so my main focus is to incorporate legumes into our current cropping systems to



improve soil health, agricultural sustainability, and bring more economic values to the farmers."

He decided to start with a legume he consumed growing up in rural Iran, the humble fava bean. Also known as broad beans, fava beans are among the oldest plants in cultivation and the easiest to grow. However, if it's grown at all in California, it is mostly used as a cover crop. Fava beans are a staple across much of the world, but what draws Zakeri to the crop is its capacity for nitrogen fixation. Since arriving at Chico State, Zakeri has secured over \$1 million in research funding to study the potential for fava bean production in Northern California. From screening the

fava bean germplasm to better understand the species and quantifying the economic and ecological benefits of food and cover crop uses of fava beans to studying the nitrogen contributions (below and above ground) of the field pea—the fava bean's cousin, Zakeri has developed a robust portfolio of research projects in which students play a starring role.

Senior crops, horticulture, and land resource management student Chloe Dugger said joining Zakeri's research team has changed her career goals.

"I hadn't really planned on going to grad school, but Dr. Z lets us be a part of the entire process, from experimental design and layout to harvest and data analysis. Seeing the whole process of research has made me fall in love with research and made me want to go to grad school," Dugger said.

Dugger has traveled to two separate conferences, winning the undergraduate poster competitions at both the Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences Research Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Plant and Soil Conference in Fresno for her research on water stress preconditioning in corn plants.

"Most of the time when we take students to conferences, they come back and say, 'I want to go to grad school.' That's my next step I want to pursue is to see if we can create a

program here at Chico State to prepare students for graduate school,” Zakeri said.

The research experience he is providing his students is one step in that direction. Teaching is another. In addition to his research assistants, Zakeri identifies promising students such as Dugger and agricultural education major Amanda Cox and invites them to serve as lab mentors in his “Introduction to Plant Science” (PSSC 101) classes. At weekly mentor meetings, each student is given a topic and invited to develop their teaching skills by delivering a five- to ten-minute presentation on that topic during the week’s lab activities.

To help him manage his growing research program, Zakeri hired a postdoctoral researcher—the first in recent memory at Chico State. Kyle Brasier joined the College of Agriculture in June from Virginia Tech, where he completed his PhD in wheat breeding and genetics. Brasier had never heard of Chico State, but while looking for postdoctoral opportunities, he got a call from Zakeri.

“Hossein told me about this great project to work closely with regional growers and start solving some problems that agriculture faces,” Brasier said. “By looking at beans from both the varietal perspective and the management perspective, we hope to build soil organic matter and generate better yields for growers under a sustainable production system.”



Zakeri and students study nitrogen fixing nodules on fava bean plants.

In addition to leading research projects, Brasier is teaching two of Zakeri’s PSSC 101 labs and helping to mentor the student researchers who make up the Biological Nitrogen Fixation team.

“I really like just how focused Hossein and all of the faculty are on students,” Brasier said of Chico State. “We have a sizable group of undergraduates who are passionate about agriculture and excited to work on these projects.”

For students like Dugger, the encouragement and opportunities Zakeri provides make their Chico State experiences richer than they could imagine.

“As an introverted person, I came to Chico State with a plan just to get through it, but Dr. Z has pushed me out of my comfort zone to do things I never dreamed of, like speaking at conferences and networking with people,” Dugger said. “Now, I’m president of the Crops and Horticulture Club, which is something I never would have tried before coming here.”

Seeing his students succeed has given Zakeri a boost of confidence, too, as he develops his teaching and research program.

“When you love what you’re doing, nothing else matters,” he said. “When you start to see yourself in a more positive light, that motivates you to keep going, and I have seen that in my students as well as myself since coming to Chico State.”

New Faculty Join the College of Agriculture



JAMAL JAVANMARD

Professor Jamal Javanmard earned his bachelor’s degree in horticulture from Shiraz University, where he returned to teach after earning both his MS and PhD in horticulture from the University of Tehran. The first generation in his family to study agriculture, Javanmard’s interest in plants has been lifelong.

“I’ve always been interested in learning about how plants grow, and how we can manipulate and use plants based upon their nutritive and medicinal values,” Javanmard said.

Javanmard now brings his expertise in vegetable crops, greenhouse production, transplant production, and organic agriculture to Chico State, along with 15 years of teaching experience. While he will be teaching many of the same classes he has taught for years, Javanmard is excited to be teaching them at Chico State.

“California is the land for agriculture,” he said. “There are a lot of similarities between here and Iran, but California is the world leader.”

Throughout his teaching career, Javanmard has been known for encouraging and empowering his students’ research and career interests. At Shiraz University, this led to the start of a new enterprise.

“Most of my students were interested in starting their own businesses, but vegetable production is highly capital intensive,” Javanmard explained. “Mushroom production requires fewer inputs and can be done on a small scale, so we started a small mushroom project. Some students had higher aspirations and asked, ‘Can we do this on a larger scale?’ I went to the university, and they gave us a large area to build a mushroom facility. The students did all the work.”

Javanmard lives in Chico with his wife and two children.



JEFF DAVIDS

This fall, Jeff Davids became the first professor hired under a new partnership between the Colleges of Agriculture and Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management. As assistant professor of water resources and agricultural engineering, Davids will teach classes and develop cross-disciplinary collaboration in both colleges.

Davids earned his master’s degree in geosciences and hydrology at Chico State before pursuing his PhD in civil engineering with a focus on water management from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. His PhD program took him around the world to Nepal, Myanmar, and Afghanistan, but his roots remained in the Sacramento Valley, where he grew up in a family of engineers focused on sustainable agricultural water management. He continues to work as a water resources engineer with Davids Engineering, Inc.

Davids’ research interests focus on how sustainable management of water, energy, and food are supported by education, innovative sources of data, integrated systems thinking, modeling tools, social engagement, and outreach.

Davids and his wife have three children. They enjoy traveling, trekking, music, theater, and being a part of a vibrant community.

Distinguished Alumni

2019



Dave Keyawa didn't want to go to college. Eugene Keyawa had other ideas for his son.

Growing up on the family farm near Glenn, California, he started working at a young age and figured he could learn everything he needed to know about farming from his dad.

"**S**on, if farming goes bad, you will still have that sheep skin to fall back on. Get an education," Dave recalled his father saying.

Dave Keyawa said he struggled through college at Chico State, trying to balance his job at the farm, attend classes, and squeeze in enough study time to actually pass his courses. The balance taught him perseverance, the very thing he would need most in his agricultural career.

Nearly four decades after graduating from Chico State with his degree in agriculture, Dave Keyawa was selected as the College of Agriculture's 2019 Distinguished Alumnus for his leadership, commitment, and contributions to agriculture.

Keyawa joined his father and brother Ron (Agricultural Business, '79) full time on the family farm in 1981. Together they persevered through long hours, low pay, and the stress of wondering if they were going to make it through the disastrous 1980s farm economy. With the help of their partners and clients, Dave and Ron now farm several thousands of acres of orchards, operate their own custom hulling and drying operation, and own several Napa Auto Parts stores in Northern California.

Beyond his career success, Keyawa stays active on industry

boards and commissions. He serves as a director of the California Walnut Board and Commission, where he chairs the Intra Industry Communication Committee. He is a former director of the Butte County Farm Bureau, Diamond Walnut Grower Advisory Board, and the Walnut Bargaining Association.

He also serves on the Chico State College of Agriculture Advisory Board, giving his time and expertise to his alma mater, where

most of his family also earned their educations. Dave's wife, Deanna (Liberal Studies, '82), and their daughters Lindsay Lynch (Criminal Justice, '10) and Kim Musselman (Communication Studies, '12) and sons-in-law William Lynch (Criminal Justice, '09) and Billy Musselman (Business Administration, '12) all graduated from Chico State, along with several extended members of the Keyawa family.

"Dave Keyawa is a great example to our students of the power of hard work, perseverance, and passion for agriculture," Dean John Unruh said. "We are proud to recognize him as the 2019 Distinguished

Alumnus for the College of Agriculture.

Keyawa received his award along with seven other honorees from each of the academic colleges and the Chico State Alumni Association at a ceremony held in the Harlen Adams Theatre on October 25, 2019.



Dave's parents, Gene and Dorothy Keyawa. His favorite quote from his father: "You have 365 days to not make the same mistake twice!"

Alumni News

Where Are They Now

Stay Connected

We'd love to hear from you!

1960s

Patrick McCartney (Agriculture, '68)
Agriculture Teacher, Lincoln High School—Lincoln
patmcc45@yahoo.com

John Pierson (Industrial Arts, '67)
Owner, Cherry Glen Beefmasters—Vacaville
piersons@castles.com

1970s

George "Hop" Estes (Agriculture, '72)
Owner, Estes Show Lambs—Sanger

Dan Jones (Agriculture, '72)
Owner, Jodan Ranch—Gerber
jodan@digitalpath.net

1980s

Chuck Mouwen (Agronomy, '80)
Consultant and Analyst, California Seed Consulting—
Simi Valley
chuckmoo1@att.net

Mark Thompson (Agronomy, '80)
Retired—Blaine, Washington
mht98230@yahoo.com

David Frye (Horticulture, '80)
Account Manager, Western Region, Eastman
Chemical—Salinas
Dfrye80@yahoo.com

Richard Breuer (Agronomy, '81)
Chief of Licensing, CalCannabis Licensing Division,
CA Department of Food and Agriculture—Sacramento
rich.breuer@cdfa.ca.gov

David Howard (Agriculture, '81)
Owner, H Bar Livestock—Orland
hbarlivestock@yahoo.com

**Louis Venturini (Agriculture, '80; MS,
Agriculture, '82)**
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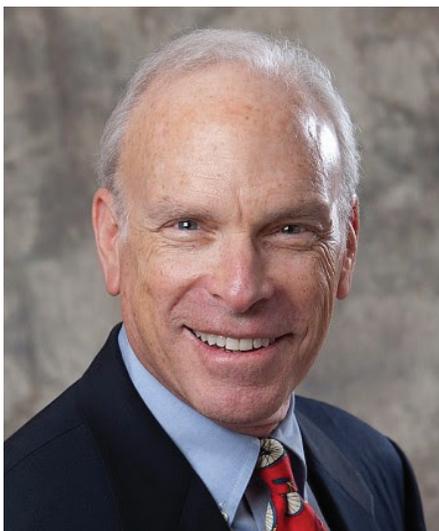
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In Memoriam

James Mark Atlas

Mark Atlas never attended Chico State, but he had an impact on the College of Agriculture and its alumni all the same. As an attorney in Willows for 43 years, Atlas led the formation of the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, served as general counsel for several local water districts, helped implement the Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project, and worked alongside clients and community members to protect and preserve agriculture in the Sacramento Valley.

Joe Conant (Agriculture, '78) recalled, "In the early 80's when we were young, I needed an attorney to help me with some water issues we were having in the Wheatland area. (My brother) told me to call Mark Atlas. For almost 40 years, Mark has helped us through tough battles. He has truly been our water warrior."

J. Mark Atlas passed away on February 19, 2019. The College of Agriculture is honored to have been included as one of the designations for memorial gifts in his name.

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Congratulations to the Class of 2019

Putting the fun in **FUNDRAISING**

THREE ANNUAL SIGNATURE EVENTS GENERATE SUPPORT FOR THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.



1 The **Red Bluff Social** held during the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale each January began in 2001 under the leadership of Shelley Macdonald (Agricultural Business, '93) and with a team of alumni volunteers, many of whom continue to organize the event to this day. The event will take place on **January 24, 2020**, from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Tehama District Fairgrounds auditorium. There is no admission fee, just good company, a no-host bar, Chico State sausage samples, and the chance to raise money for Chico State Ag Alumni scholarships through live and silent auctions and a raffle. Sponsorships and donations are also welcome.

2 The **Colusa Farm Show Breakfast** began in 2003 when alumni from Alpha Gamma Rho, the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation, and the Chico State College of Agriculture huddled around space heaters in a chilly tent on the Colusa Farm Show grounds. Nearly 500 people are expected to attend the 17th Annual Colusa Farm Show Breakfast on **February 5, 2020** in Saint Bernadette's Hall next door to the Colusa County Fairgrounds. The event is coordinated by a committee led by Ag Leadership program alumnus Les Heringer (Class 13). For sponsorships and ticket information, call Sarah DeForest at 530-898-3737 or visit agleaders.org.

3 The **Superior Ag/Tri Counties Bank Golf Classic** will celebrate its 25th year on **June 8, 2020**. The event is closing in on nearly \$1 million raised for Superior Ag scholarships and academic programs in the College of Agriculture in the past 25 years. Chair duties rotate among the volunteer committee members, and this year's chair is Matt Stone (Agricultural Business, '13). The tournament sells out fast, but sponsorships are always available. Contact Sarah DeForest at 530-898-3737 for more information.

The Orchard Machinery Corporation Team won the 24th annual Superior Ag/Tri Counties Bank Golf Classic on June 10, 2019. The team of Brady Myers, Glen Fry, Tim Harms, Dean Wilson, and Steve Vance topped 31 other teams with a score of 49.



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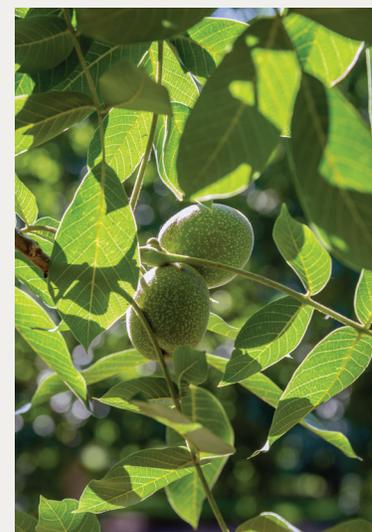
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