Two Professors Bring Out “True Colors”

True Colors shone through when Dr. Celina Johnson, animal science assistant professor; and Dr. Carrie Whitcher, plant science faculty member hosted a leadership training seminar for the livestock management teams of the Agricultural Teaching and Research Center (ATRC). The Beef, Dairy, Swine, and Sheep and Goat units all have student-run management teams who maintain herd health and the daily care for livestock. Students have always been active at the ATRC but had never been trained on the variety of leadership styles.

Utilizing the True Colors Personality Assessment, Drs. Johnson and Whitcher guided students through personality assessments and a hilarious trust-building activity. Throughout the evening students learned about their own true colors, how they desire to be approached, and why each color group works differently. Topics discussed included time-management, leadership on and off the farm, and how individual needs and desires could be attributed to one’s “True Colors.”

The presentation focused on how utilizing each color would create a complimentary leadership environment. “So much happens during the first semester that students go away to college, and it is important to realize how we are wired and ways to best manage stress,” Dr. Whitcher remarked. Many of the students on the Sheep and Goat management team are freshmen or transfer students, making it all the more imperative that the team understand and utilize their personality and leadership differences. Besides the freshman, there are eight other additions to the ATRC…Goats! The ATRC is ever-changing, and for the first time in the history of the college we have goats. Now the Sheep and Goat unit houses eight does. The Boer goats were donated by Mike and Maureen Reis who are alumni of 1997. Donations were also made to the herd by Dr. Wes and Jane Patton of Glenn Land Farms. The goal is that the goats will compliment the already successful sheep program. Dr. Johnson and the Sheep and Goat management team are equally excited about the opportunity because “goats are cool.” Dr. Johnson believes there is a tremendous opportunity to have a positive impact on the community. “Our program is structured to sell meat goats to young students involved in both 4-H and the FFA, and with our dedicated management team there are no limits to where we can go,” Johnson stated.

The students are also aware of the impact on the industry. Senior Leah Miller shared her thoughts, “The College of Agriculture trains so many ag teachers that once they enter the school systems it is necessary to have experience with goats as livestock projects, and there is an ever-increasing demand for meat goats within our growing industry.”

An Education Experience Abroad

The College of Agriculture at CSU, Chico encourages students to take advantage of the many educational opportunities at their fingertips, while challenging them to expand their mindset to include a global perspective. A senior in the College of Agriculture, Karin Aschwanden, took the challenge to heart and spent six months in New Zealand.

After creating her Special Major in Agriculture Law and Policy Development, Aschwanden realized that an experience abroad would be the capstone to her education at Chico State. Three agriculture courses and an international relations course exposed Aschwanden to college life in New Zealand, but the studies in the classroom couldn’t compare to the experiences with local culture. “I chose to study abroad for the experience and opportunity to travel to another part of the world, become familiar with a culture other than my own, and to expand my mind beyond the view of the world through American eyes,” Aschwanden shared.

Only on a student visa, Aschwanden was unable to work while in New Zealand, but she plans to return with the hopes of taking part in the community she fell in love with there, and truly embracing the culture. Aschwanden concluded, “It was wonderful spending time with people who take pride in every aspect of their lives, and it is this experience that has broadened my scope of what is possible after graduation.”
What’s Growing On?

Students:
- Sarah Hubbard, an Agriculture Business major, has received multiple awards and recognition as a resident advisor, in the Agriculture Theme House at University Village.
- Outstanding Achievement (Gold Seal)
- Outstanding Programming (Gold Seal)
- Teamwork Award — awarded to RA’s of University Village
- Director’s Commendation Award presented by the director of UHFS
- Jennifer Williams was voted Western Region vice-president for the Student Section of the American Agricultural Economics Association
- Jessica Cook won first place at this year’s Student Research Competition. Cook’s research, titled “Optimum Phosphorus Concentrations Affects New Guinea Impatiens and Collus in a Top-Watering System,” was presented in the undergraduate category of Biological and Agriculture Sciences.
- Kari Bryan, an Animal Science student, spent the summer in the Yukon working at a dog sled kennel. She worked and trained 135 dogs and loved the experience!
- The Dairy Management Team traveled to Corvallis, OR in September for the Western Organic Dairy Producers Conference. The team represented the College with a booth in the trade show collecting survey data from producers, performing registration duties and taking minutes in the general sessions.

Upcoming Events:
- The California State Young Farmers and Ranchers are set to host their 2008 Leadership Conference March 14 through 16, 2008 in Monterey, CA. This year’s conference theme is “Riding the Wave of Change,” and will be focused on business skills and networking.
- On April 4, 2008 the College of Agriculture will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner and Auction at the University Farm. As I mentioned, enrollment numbers are up and we've broken 400. Can the next enrollment milestone be 500? I think the answer is yes, and we can do it in three years. We can do it by thinking of ourselves as ambassadors of the college and promoting it to every potential student. The more we let folks know about CSU, Chico College of Agriculture, the more students will apply to be a part of the great “Chico Experience” that we all know. My challenge is to all who read this is to help Us Grow by spreading the word.

“We welcome two new tenure-track Ag Business faculty this year, Drs. Baohui Song and Matt Chang from the University of Kentucky and the University of Utah, respectively.

Dr. Song brings with him import and export experience with a commercial enterprise from mainland China, and our expectation is that he will help us increase our emphasis on global agricultural trade issues. Dr. Chang’s specialty is ecological economics, and his expertise will help us capitalize on the economics of sustainable agricultural practices. Both faculty members bring the enthusiasm and curiosity that goes along with being new to campus and helps us all feel refreshed.

As we say hello to Baohui and Matt, we have said goodbye to Dr. Patrick Berenda who has returned to CSU, Fresno, to Dr. Tim Tripp, who is pursuing professional opportunities in Texas, and to Dr. Henrikus Jansen who will complete his teaching assignment in December and will be moving to England with his beloved wife. It is hard to imagine the college without Dr. Jansen, and naturally we'll miss him with his refreshing and candid perspective on the issues we deal with as a faculty. However, with these two exits from our plant science faculty comes the challenge and opportunity to take our plant science program in a slightly different direction, one on which we hope will help us attract more students. We will most likely be directing more attention to urban horticulture and/or sustainable landscape management than we have in the past, but we will continue to serve those areas that have made us strong in rosé crops, fruit and nut production, and plant protection. Having two plant science faculty positions to fill allows us to move in this direction.

Our students continue to be energetic, enthusiastic, dedicated, and fun to be around. I am looking for ways to get to know them better and plan to travel with all of our competitive teams at least on an every-other year basis in an effort to better understand their collective experiences. In addition to getting to know the students better, I think this experience will help me recruit more students to the college in the future.

When you come to Chico, please be sure to call ahead and stop by the office so we can have a chance to meet and visit. My assistant, Terri Fraser (530-898-4907) can schedule a time for us. And, as I travel around the state and country, don’t be surprised if you are contacted by Sarah DeForest, our new development director, to see if it’s possible for me to see you when I’m in your area. I’m serious about wanting to get to know as many of our alumni as I can.

Till next time,
Jennifer Ryder Fox

Retired Dean Establishes Scholarship

When departing Dean Charlie Crabb requested in 2006 that, in lieu of a retirement party, donations be made to enhance scholarships in the College of Agriculture, he had no idea that the response would be so strong. More than 70 people responded with approximately $6,800 in donations to the College of Agriculture Scholarship Endowment.

In typical fashion, Dr. Crabb and his wife, Jackie, decided to further the generosity of alumni and friends who contributed in his name by establishing a new scholarship endowment called the Charlie and Jackie Crabb Student Recruitment Scholarship. Dr. and Mrs. Crabb have committed to making ongoing contributions to the endowment until it reaches a level where it can sustain a scholarship on interest alone.

“Jackie and I are grateful that so many people have chosen to impact students with their donations,” Crabb said. “I hope this recruitment scholarship will help the College of Agriculture attract the best and brightest students to Chico State.”

Dean Charlie Crabb

A Quick Guide to Scholarship Accounts

Annual Accounts are scholarship accounts through which the donor funds a scholarship award through annual contributions.

Endowment Accounts are typically established through a major gift of cash, bequests, or appreciated investment. The funds are invested by the University Foundation Board of Governors, and four percent of the interest earned from the account is awarded each year in the form of a scholarship. The minimum amount for an endowment account is $10,000.

Flexible Endowment Accounts allow the donor to build an endowment account over time. The donor makes annual contributions to fund the scholarship award, plus additional contributions to the endowment until it has grown to a size where it can be self-sustaining. (The Crabb scholarship is an example of a flexible endowment.)

For more information on establishing a scholarship in the College of Agriculture, please contact Sarah DeForest at 530-898-3737 or e-mail sdeforest@csuchico.edu.

Food for Thought

…From the Dean's Desk

“We're off and running on another school year, and all indicators are that we're going to have a really great year. Enrollment is up, although only slightly, but it's a trend in the right direction! Our supporters are increasing in their generosity, and we have more and more visitors at the University Farm. As I mentioned, enrollment numbers are up and we've broken 400. Can the next enrollment milestone be 500? I think the answer is yes, and we can do it in three years. We can do it by thinking of ourselves as ambassadors of the college and promoting it to every potential student. The more we let folks know about CSU, Chico College of Agriculture, the more students will apply to be a part of the great “Chico Experience” that we all know. My challenge is to all who read this is to help Us Grow by spreading the word.

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Fall 2007  The Harvest
For years agriculture education students struggled to create a unique identity for their organization, the Collegiate Future Farmers of America (CFFA). Although an extension of students’ high school FFA activities, CFFA didn’t really enhance the agriculture program offered in the College of Agriculture. “We were looking to provide something different, a program with purpose,” stated Dr. Brad Dodson, Agriculture Education professor. Although CFFA no longer exists in the College of Agriculture, faculty and students are excited about the first Agriculture Education fraternity, Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA). ATA is a national professional fraternity for Agriculture Education students. Chapter Vice President Halle Muller is proud to be one of the first ATA members. “I am involved in Alpha Tau Alpha because it is an organization that will aid in my development as an agriculture educator” she said. And since it is a professional fraternity, students participate in professional development activities with other educators already in the field. The fraternity will supplement students’ educational program through professional development activities including workshops, guest speakers, and trips. Dr. Dodson believes ATA will help students prepare to face the reality of classroom instruction. “As a teacher, I can’t train them for everything, but we can continue to supplement the program.”

In reality, ATA is allowing the Ag-Ed group to work smarter with students in the forefront. Muller sees a great opportunity for recruitment, “I hope that Alpha Tau Alpha will have a positive impact on the College of Agriculture, and if ATA can provide students with a more professional experience the fraternity will become a motivating factor for people to choose Chico State.”

Dr. Dodson makes the goal clear, “It is our intent to build the reputation for our Ag-Ed students that they are the most sought after graduates in California.”

Two Longtime Faculty Inducted into Hall of Honor

Robert “Bob” Wallace

When Bob Wallace came to Chico in 1955, he had already lived a full and memorable life. As a high school graduate he had traveled the world in the Merchant Marines. By the age of 19, as a quartermaster on a large passenger liner that sailed the globe, he had helped steer the ship through the Suez and Panama Canals. After attending junior college in Marin, Bob earned a BS in forestry from UC Berkeley and a Master’s of Education at UC Davis.

Bob spent two years as a supervisor for the National Youth Administration, where he taught young people how to disband work skills as they constructed buildings. He went on to teach agriculture at Orland Joint Union High School. While World War II raged, resulting in the shortage of steel and parts, Bob established night school classes for local farmers to fabricate and repair their steel equipment. During that same time he helped the war effort by building and running the cannery in Orland that helped women save money by canning their own fruit. These examples of dedication to his community are evident throughout Bob’s career and life.

From 1947 to 1951, Bob taught ag mechanics at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. As a licensed contractor, plumber, and electrician, in addition to his teaching responsibilities at Cal Poly, he built nine homes and renovated numerous offices and private residences. In 1951, with the birth of their fourth child and with an unwavering belief that raising their children on a farm would teach desired life values, Bob and his wife, Irene, moved their family to an 80-acre dairy in Orland. They lived, worked, and raised their children Joan, Jan, Bob, and Bill there until 1971.

In 1955 Bob was tapped by Loren Phillips and the new agriculture department at Chico State College to help build the program. During the next 22 years he was very active and a strong leader, working closely with students and faculty. Under his supervision, construction and rural electrification students built 15 auxiliary buildings on the University Farm. Students repeatedly sought out Bob Wallace as an instructor because he brought applied expertise to his classes. Whether it was rural electrification, construction classes, pouring concrete, animal husbandry, or plant science, Bob had successfully made a living applying these skills to his work in the private sector.

When Bob retired in 1977, he continued to work in agriculture, running an almond operation in Durham that he and his wife had purchased in 1971. Bob built a new home and would continue to manage and work the orchard in partnership with their daughter, Jan, her husband, Pete, and their three boys, until his death in 1994.

Never expecting more of others than he did of himself, Bob Wallace was a mentor and father to not only his own four children and nine grandchildren, but to all who had the honor and privilege of knowing him. By his example he taught love of family, industry, self-motivation, giving one’s best at all times, a kindness and concern for others, integrity, and the satisfaction of accomplishment.

Bob Wallace is remembered fondly by his colleagues and former students as a man of integrity, strength and kindness. “He was the most honest man I have ever worked with,” said fellow instructor of 22 years Jack Nolan. “Everybody respected and enjoyed working with him.”

Jack Nolan

Jack Nolan made quite an impression on the College of Agriculture and the community himself. Jack was born in 1920 in Pleasanton, Calif., where his father worked as foreman of a hay and grain business. Jack’s interest in agriculture was sparked at an early age as he accompanied his dad and various farmers on grain deliveries. While Jack was in high school, the Nolan family moved to San Simeon, Calif. where his father went to work on the Hearst Ranch. Jack’s dad wanted his son to attend a larger high school than existed in nearby Cambria, so he sent Jack to live in San Luis Obispo, a decision Jack fought, but later came to appreciate.

Upon graduating from San Luis Obispo High School in 1938, Jack enrolled in college at Cal Poly to study animal science. His college career was halted in December of 1941 when Jack, like many young men at the time, enlisted in the army for the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Jack became an Artillery Observer in the 3rd Infantry Division and landed in French Morocco in 1942. From there, Jack and his regiment fought with distinction through North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. Somewhere between Naples and Monte Cassino, Jack was awarded the Silver Star for combat in action. During another offensive near Rome, Jack’s division found themselves trapped by German forces for 90 days, and almost all of the 15,000 men were injured, killed, or fell ill. Jack was hit with artillery fire and later received the Purple Heart.

After taking possession of Rome, the 3rd Infantry landed in Southern France and made their way up the Rhone Valley. Ever the agricultural scientist, Jack conducted soil studies while digging foxholes along the way, and he took advantage of the opportunity to study grapes and vineyards, “mainly by picking them!”

After traveling as far as Germany, Jack was honorably discharged from service in 1944 and made his way back to San Luis Obispo, where he married his high school sweetheart and resumed his studies at Cal Poly. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in animal science, and a teaching credential, Jack took a job teaching agriculture at Colusa High School, where he remained for 12 years. During his summers, Jack earned his master’s degree at UC Davis.

In 1958, Jack was hired by Loren Phillips to teach animal science and ag mechanics in the new agriculture department at Chico State College. Jack and his wife, Faye, made Chico their home, raising their children Nancy, Cathy, and John.

During the next 22 years, Jack helped make the ag department what it is today, working alongside his friend Bob Wallace and other faculty to acquire and build the college farm. Jack managed the sheep unit for 12 years, and led the ag mechanics program. He was very active in FFA and other youth-related activities, and judged parliamentary procedure, public speaking, and livestock contests all over the state.

“I enjoyed every minute of my teaching in high school and college. I actually thought I should be paying them instead of the other way around,” Jack said.

Men of Quality and Dignity

The 2007 College of Agriculture Distinguished Alumni Larry Crabtree remembers both men for their impact on his life as a teacher. “Whatever success I’ve been blessed with was directly influenced by these two incredible men,” Crabtree said. “It is my wish that each person is touched by someone in their life with such quality and dignity.”

Jack Nolan and Bob Wallace were inducted into the Ag Hall of Honor during the College of Agriculture’s Fall Festival Celebration on October 13, 2007.
Where Are They Now?

2006
Jessica Harris
Event Coordinator, Earthbound Farm
1721 San Juan Highway
San Juan Batista, CA 95045
(831) 623-7880 x 2355
jharris@ebfarm.com

2001
Sadie Smith
University of Connecticut Center for Regenerative Biology
1392 Storrs Rd. Unit 4243
Storrs, CT 06269
(860) 486-8716
Sadie_lyme@hotmail.com

1993
Shelley Macdonald
Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer/Ag Specialist
Cornerstone Community Bank
705 Jefferson Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 529-1222
smacdonald@ccbca.com

1989
Mark Lowrie
Range Specialist
Ely District Bureau of Land Management
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, NV 89301
(775) 289-1888
mlowrie@nv.blm.gov

1978
Wayne Elias
Assistant Vice President
Farm Credit West, ACA
1178 Tama Ln.
Santa Maria, CA 93456
(805) 922-7991
Wayne.elias@farmcreditwest.com

In The Spotlight—Ag Alum Tom Krauss

Tom Krause graduated from Chico State in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Krause grew up in Red Bluff and was involved with agriculture from an early age, although he was not a member of 4-H or the FFA. Both of his parents graduated from Chico State, so it seemed only natural that he follow suit.

During his time at Chico State, Krause worked for Dr. Everett Southam at the University Farm Meats Lab. Also a member of Phi Kappa Tau, the first fraternity on the Chico State campus in 1922, Krause’s education embraced all the opportunities Chico had to offer. Krause credits the ag department for helping him to develop professionally and enabling him to explore several career opportunities.

“The general education I received at Chico State, complemented by my experiences within the College of Agriculture, allowed me to launch into my current profession as well as other management opportunities,” Krause stated. Krause has been a pest control advisor (PCA) since graduating in 1975 and has also worked in other sectors of the agriculture industry. Krause currently works for Helena.
CSU, Chico College of Agriculture Says… Thank you for Your Support!

College of Agriculture Supporters, Fiscal Year 2006–2007

The faculty, staff, and students would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who have supported the College of Agriculture with financial gifts or in-kind donations in the past year. Private gifts support the advancement of research and the maintenance and operation of an exceptional one. Thank you to the following sponsors who have helped us create an exceptional College of Agriculture here at California State University, Chico!

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Mr. Will Cockrell

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Mrs. Mary A. Azevedo

B & L Auctioneer
Mrs. Nancy Williams
June 11, 2007 marked the 12th Annual Superior Ag/Wittmeier Ford Golf Classic. The most successful to date, the tournament was full by the end of April, with 31 teams. The tournament raised $84,482 for scholarships and educational programs for students in the College of Agriculture. The winning team was the Pebble Beach Flight, Larrabee Farms Team with a score of 50. Team players include: Eric Larrabee, Scott Larrabee, Jonathan Murphy, John Lany, Keith Larrabee, and Dale Jones. The Grand Prize raffle winner was Kathy Stone from the ECO Resources team. She won a round trip for four aboard the Tri Counties Bank Executive King Air C-90, to play at Tahoe Mountain Resort’s Jack Nicklaus Signature Course, Old Greenwood, and $700 in cash.

The tournament was a true success, and everyone had a great time playing a round of golf in the sun and raising money to fund student success. Next year’s tournament will be held at Butte Creek Country Club on Monday, June 9, 2008, so start practicing your putting skills.

Your Contributions Support Tomorrow’s Ag Leaders Today!

The College of Agriculture
Tees Off

CSU, Chico Superior Ag/
Wittmeier Ford
12th Annual Golf Classic

2007 Superior Ag Golf Tournament Sponsors.

The following people and businesses sponsored this annual event, which provides scholarships to promising agriculture students at CSU, Chico. Thank you to all the sponsors and participants of the Superior Ag/Wittmeier Ford Golf Classic at Butte Creek County Club.

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Riverbank Processing
Road Community Insurance Services
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Sun Valley Company
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Tri Counties Bank
USF Master
USF Reddaway
Vally Rubber & Gasket
Valley Tractor, Inc.
Wittmeier Ford
Whitney Brothers
Zenith Insurance

Tompkins Electric Company, Inc.
Tri Counties Bank
USF Master
USF Reddaway
Vally Rubber & Gasket
Valley Tractor, Inc.
Wittmeier Ford
Whitney Brothers
Zenith Insurance

Tompkins Electric Company, Inc.
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USF Master
USF Reddaway
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USF Master
USF Reddaway
Vally Rubber & Gasket
Valley Tractor, Inc.
Wittmeier Ford
Whitney Brothers
Zenith Insurance