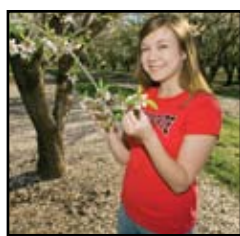


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E-mail: rkinney@csuchico.edu

To the right is a list of alumni we've heard from recently.
If you would like to be included in the next newsletter,
let us know!

Where Are They Now?

1994

Chase Cambron
Vice President of Operations
CLOS DU BOIS
19410 Geyserville Ave
Geyserville, CA 95441
707-857-1651
Chase_cambron@adsw.com

2001

Marc Breckenridge
Technical Sales Representative
Suterra
P.O. Box 8826
Woodland, CA 95776
530-406-0425
breckenr@suterra.com

2002

Carrie Merget
Production Data Supervisor
Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyards
4401 Slusser Road
Windsor, CA 95492
707-237-3479
carrie_merget@sonomacutrer.com

Eric Pooler
Viticulturist
HALL
401 St. Helena Highway South
St. Helena, CA 94574
707-967-2638
epooler@hallwines.com

Greg Gonsalves
Crop Advisor/PCA
J.R. Simplot Company
2929 W. Harney Lane
Lodi, CA 95242
209-369-1921
greg.gonsalves@simplot.com

2007 Distinguished Alumnus Larry Crabtree

True leadership is rare in society. Professional athletes and celebrities make the front page of the newspaper, but true role models are few and far between—except in the College of Agriculture. Each year the College of Agriculture at Chico State identifies one individual who best exemplifies leadership and commitment to the advancement of agriculture.

The 2007 College of Agriculture Distinguished Alumnus is Lawrence E. Crabtree Jr. Better known as Larry, Mr. Crabtree graduated from the College of Agriculture at then Chico State College in 1967 with a major in General Agriculture and minor in Crop Production. Larry Crabtree has since served as an agriculture instructor at Sutter Union High School for 36 years, and head of the department since 1982. "I believe teachers, in order to be effective, must demonstrate themselves as positive, enthusiastic, and caring role models," stated Crabtree.

It is clear that Crabtree's teaching philosophy and moral fiber enable him to



be not only an effective educator, but an advocate for agriculture. "Mr. Crabtree is an outstanding professional who always fulfills his commitments and has undoubtedly won the respect of his students, department, and community because of such selfless dedication," said Mr. Wayne Gadberry, Superintendent of the Sutter Union High School District.

Larry Crabtree's contribution to Sutter High School and the agriculture community is unparalleled. "Larry has had a major impact on the lives of many young people, due to his positive teaching methods," shared G.M. Skip King, CEO of the Yuba-Sutter Fair. Larry began his career with a desire to make a positive difference in the lives of students, the Future Farmers of America. That passion is still alive. "In my thirty years of working with community leaders, I can say without hesitation that few individuals have the character traits that Larry Crabtree possesses," said King. "He is a credit to his teaching profession, Sutter High School, and the Yuba-Sutter Community." 🌻

THE HARVEST

California State University, Chico College of Agriculture

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Upcoming Events »

June 11, 2007

Superior Ag Golf Tournament

October 13, 2007

Fall Festival

Nov 20, 2007

National FFA Convention

Chico Aggies Sweep Anaheim!

No longer a bridesmaid, teams from the College of Agriculture placed first with their marketing plans in a pool of tough competitors. March 7, 2007, was the culmination of a semester's hard work and dedication for the students who participated in the Western Collegiate Food Marketing Competition. Both teams won first place in their respective divisions against schools like Colorado State University, University of Nevada-Reno, Arizona State, Great Basin, Portland State, Cal Poly Pomona, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

This year teams represented Chico State in both the Domestic and Export Product divisions for the four-year school competitors. Bliss strawberries and chocolate, "purely for pleasure," was the domestic product designed and presented by Nicolina Prestininzi, Jeff Alves, Heather Clement, Erica Flores, Scott Cummings, and Jamie Crank. This conceptual product consists of three decadent strawberries nestled next to gourmet whipped dark chocolate and displayed in a luxurious package. "Bliss is a gift ready to open."

Bliss proved to be more than a product during the competition in Anaheim; it was truly an experience. "Our marketing team had faith in our product, and due to the passion we all share our team was able to successfully portray the worth and need to have Bliss in the market," stated Nicolina Prestininzi an Ag Business senior.

The Sprinx cookie toolkit was the Canadian export product designed and presented by Annie Maddalena, William Weese, Brian Greathouse, and Colleen Bartlett. The Sprinx toolkit is a creative alternative to lunchtime and on-the-go snacking for kids, containing shortbread cookies, delicious frosting, and colorful sprinkles. The best part is that Sprinx has less than 200 calories, contains no trans-fat, and is cholesterol free. Sprinx encourages children to be creative and independent. The cookie toolkit was designed to look like a toolbox and provide functionality and coolness that kids can carry with them on the go. "Sprinx, cookies have never been this fun!"

Dr. Anette Levi, coach for both marketing teams, attributes the success in Anaheim to intercollegiate cooperation. "This year we came in well prepared. Each team worked with Mr. Gregg Berryman's packaging class in the College of Communication and Education and Ms. Stephanie Bianco-Simeral of the Department of Nutrition and Food Science. By the time we left



The International and Domestic teams are all smiles after winning their first-place trophies!

for Anaheim each team had a custom detailed package, including nutrition labeling for each product," Levi shared.

No one expected to sweep the competition since it was the first year that Chico State entered a second team in the Export Product Division. "Each team was polished and professional in their presentation, representing Chico State in the best of form," Levi boasted of her marketing teams. Chico State placed first in both the Domestic and Export Product divisions. Not only did each student receive an individual trophy, but the teams returned to Chico with plaques and \$1,000 in tow.

What's next for our champion marketers? Dr. Todd Lone, professor of Agriculture Business courses, has been a judge for the past couple of years in the Domestic division and will take over the coaching lead for next year's teams. Many of the students will be graduating this May; however, Annie Maddalena and Colleen Bartlett are already planning for a comeback. "It was the most amazing rush to present our marketing strategy in front of the judges and fellow competitors. My fingers were crossed as the awards were announced, but I think this experience simply proves what student initiative and faculty support can achieve on behalf of the college," Bartlett said. 🍓

Ag Alumni Reunite!

There was no shortage of friends of Chico State in Red Bluff on January 26, 2007. One hundred and seventy alumni from Chico State's College of Agriculture traveled far and wide, some even from Oregon, to reunite with old friends and raise money for scholarships.

The Alumni Reunion, held during the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale, started off with a "welcome back" social followed by the live and silent auctions. Ears burned as old stories of the ag college were shared. While some did not want their memories of the good old days in print, one sentiment was constant throughout the evening: the College of Agriculture is successful because of its open-door policy.

Alumnus Ernest Bruce, from the class of 1965, returns to the reunion every year because it is one of the only times to catch up with long-lost friends. "My college years at Chico State provided a great learning experience and gave me a chance to break away from home," Bruce recalled. Ernest Bruce was a Farm Mechanics major and went back to the family's beef and hay ranch.

The annual reunion serves as the perfect venue to celebrate scholarship awards to the newest recipients while raising funds for future scholarships. The evening was a success, bringing in \$6,800 for Ag Alumni scholarships through the live and silent auctions. 🍓

What's New?

2007 Sheep Day

The 2007 Sheep and Goat Day was truly a student run event! Attendance was outstanding with over 500 participants and over 100 registering as buyers. Youth came from all over northern and central California for the event. The Chico State Sheep and Goat Management team (Annie Elorza, Grant Ermis, Laura White, Leah Miller, and Gerald Darling) dedicated time and effort to organizing this event. A crew of about 15 volunteer students in addition to students from the Stockdog Association and the Livestock Judging Team assisted with the event. There were 64 lots in the sale this year, which brought in a gross income of \$15,500.

Beef Day

The 2007 Beef Day, an educational event for commercial beef cattle producers, was held on February 17, 2007. The event updates participants on current topics in the beef industry with guest speakers from all across California. Highlights of the day included workshops and a trade show.

Superior Ag Golf Classic

The 12th annual tournament will be held Monday June 11, 2007 at Butte Creek Country Club. For the sixth year in a row, Wittmeier Ford will be the tournament's main sponsor, joining others such as Bell Carter Foods, Durham Pump, Harris Bank, Larrabee Farms, Riverwest Processing, Inc., Interwest Insurance, Matson and Isom, Northern California Farm Credit, Sacramento Valley Farm Credit, Silgan Containers, Tri Counties Bank, and Zenith.



The golf tournament has raised over \$400,000 since its inception in 1995. This year's tournament sold out earlier than ever before. We hope to see many of you at the tournament.

Alpha Zeta Gives Back

On April 3, 2007 the Chico State chapter of Alpha Zeta's new recruits gave back to the community. Just in time for Easter Sunday, AZ chose to conduct a canned food drive for their service project. The new recruits were inducted to the fraternity in late April. All proceeds benefited the homeless men, women, and families of the Jesus Center.

Contributors...

The Harvest:

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Writer & College of Agriculture Editor:

Colleen Bartlett, Public Information Intern

Design by:

Tim Gatto, IMC Graphics Studio at CSU, Chico

University Copyeditor:

Casey Huff

Printing

University Printing Services

College of Agriculture External Relations Office

Plumas 317, CSU, Chico

Chico, CA 95929-0440

Phone: 530-898-4597 Fax: 530-898-5845

Or e-mail: piintern@csuchico.edu

"Food for Thought" ...From the Dean's Desk



It's hard to believe I've almost completed my first academic year at CSU, Chico. I am often asked how I like being at Chico and my response is always the same, "It's great." I really appreciate the enthusiasm of the students and the efforts our faculty and staff give to support the educational mission of the college, and I'm proud to be associated with this university.

We've hosted several successful alumni events at which we raised over \$10,000 for scholarships, and we're looking forward to the 12th annual Superior Ag Golf Tournament on June 11 at Butte Creek Country Club. Speaking of alums, Larry Crabtree was selected as this year's Distinguished Alum. Larry spent 36 years as a high school ag teacher and positively influenced literally thousands of young people in his career. He serves as an example of excellence in the classroom, and it seems fitting that we recognize his contributions to the agricultural community. See the profile of Larry in this issue to learn more about him.

We've had some personnel changes this year which always presents a challenge, but the flip side of a challenge is an opportunity. First, we have a new provost, Dr. Sandra Flake, who started on April 2, 2007. Dr. Scott McNall, the former provost, will take a more active role in sustainability efforts on campus as he serves as a special assistant to the president on this issue. A little closer to home, Dr. Lal Singh is now fully retired, and Dr. Patrick Berends will be taking a position at Fresno

State University starting fall 2007. As we wish them well in their new endeavors, we move forward to fill both of their positions. By the time I write next fall it is our sincere hope that two new tenure-track ag business faculty members will have joined our faculty. The farm administrator's position is being capably filled in an interim capacity by Lau Ackerman. We anticipate conducting a nation-wide search for this important position and plan to fill it with someone who understands the need to connect the curriculum with the practical hands-on experience afforded our students because of the University Farm.

We hired Sarah DeForest as our new development director, so don't be surprised if she contacts you to see how the College of Ag can connect to you in a meaningful way. Debbie Lundberg was hired in February to support our development efforts and to coordinate the golf tournament. Both Sarah and Debbie have hit the ground running and are very positive additions to our staff.

Our faculty continues to engage students in research projects that help students apply what they learn. One of those projects is the organic dairy that will serve as an entrepreneurial project, a living classroom, and a research laboratory, thus providing a vertically integrated experience for our students to learn about milking to marketing right on our farm. 🌱

Until next fall...

-Jennifer Ryder Fox

Students Striving for Change



From December 17-22, 2006, Alpha Zeta students from across the United States met at Vermillion Parish in Abbeyville, Louisiana to

build fence for the cattle ranchers whose operations took a significant hit from Hurricane Rita. Alpha Zeta is an organization within many agriculture colleges that participates in a national service project every semester. With help from Ag alumni and her Alpha Zeta sisters, Marie Ussery, a senior Animal Science major in the College of Agriculture, helped ranchers refocus their efforts toward beef production.

The cattle industry was greatly affected in Louisiana. Many farms were under 3-12 feet of water. Ranchers in the area previously had a diversified production of cattle and rice, but due to the salinity of the seawater that flooded the area, most productions have ceased. In the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, one rancher found 25

cows on his front porch, and others floating by on round bales. Ranchers are still trying to build back up to where they were before the storm, but it will be a long time before they can regain some of the momentum lost.

Every year Alpha Zeta members meet to lend a helping hand to those in need. The Louisiana Farm Bureau matches farmers in need with Alpha Zeta volunteers who are looking to make a difference. "It was inspiring to see so many people coming together for those in need and a truly eye opening experience," stated Marie Ussery.

"It was inspiring to see so many people coming together for those in need and a truly eye opening experience..."

Faculty members from the College of Agriculture hope to see a "snowball" effect of student service. "In recent months there has been a push to get students involved and give back to the University and the community in general," stated

Dr. Fox. "I was proud to hear that one of our own students had taken such encouragement to heart." Dr. Jennifer Ryder Fox is the dean of the College of Agriculture.

The story gets better. Marie isn't just another student looking for some

community service hours, because the plane ticket to Louisiana was her Christmas present. When so many college students are going crazy for the newest Nintendo system, i-pods, and designer handbags, students such as Marie forgo the usual holiday indulgences for the chance to leave a positive impact on society. "I'd do it again in a heart beat," said Marie, "you don't see a lot of good deeds every day, but that doesn't mean the need isn't there."

It is one thing to watch the damage done to America's heartland on television, but it's another to witness it firsthand. "There is no self pity in Louisiana. We saw farmers pulling themselves up by their bootstraps determined to make it through," Marie shared of the Louisiana ranchers.

Hoping to make it as a large animal veterinarian, Marie values the College of Agriculture at Chico State for imparting on her an appreciation for the agriculturist's way of life. "It takes such dedication to succeed in the production sector of the agriculture industry," Marie said, "I think I had a greater understanding of the impact and loss the ranchers were struggling with because I have a background and education in agriculture." The College of Agriculture lives by an open-door policy, and Marie Ussery is helping to keep the door open for future students. 🌱

“Advancing Our Mission”



From the day I stepped on to the Chico State campus as a freshman, to the day I graduated in 2000 with a degree in agriculture, I found a home here where I could be nurtured, challenged, educated, and “socialized.” Now that I’m back on campus, I am flooded on a daily basis with memories from those formative years...reminders of rushing to get out to the farm on time for lab; of grabbing a quick coffee with friends at Sylvester’s Café between classes; the weekly field trips in Dr. Jansen’s Ag Ecology class; the first sign of leaves turning colors in the fall; the joyful shock at seeing that passing grade in Genetics.

It is this incredible sense of place and purpose that has drawn me back to work in the College of Agriculture, not once, but twice now. In 2003 I had the opportunity to return as Outreach and Retention Director for a couple of years before moving to Modoc County, a job which I loved. Then on February 5, 2007 I came back to Chico as the director of advancement for the College of Agriculture. In this new role I will be working with faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends, and

industry partners to look for ways in which to grow the capacity and maintain the excellence of the College of Agriculture.

I’m sure it’s no secret to you that state funding now accounts for only a portion of what it takes to run an agriculture program. And here at Chico State, we pride ourselves on having one of the best agriculture schools in the West. Thanks to the generosity of our many friends and supporters, we have been able to maintain a focus and consistency in educating and graduating agricultural leaders who have the knowledge and skills to be successful in today’s rapidly changing industry, despite several years of declining state budgets.

So, my fellow alumni and friends, I would like to hear from you. I want to hear about your memories of Chico State. I want to learn what path your career has taken since graduation. I want to hear your thoughts on the direction of the College of Agriculture, and what ideas you might have to improve our programs. Please drop me an e-mail at sdeforest@csuchico.edu; or give me a call at 530-898-3737. I am tremendously excited to be back in the College of Agriculture, of which I’m so proud, and I look forward to working with you to make our college even better. 🌱

—Sarah Deforest

Organic Dairy Opens first in the West

History was made on April 26, 2007 when the CSU, Chico College of Agriculture held the grand opening of the organic dairy at the Agriculture Teaching and Research Center (ATRC).

The College of Agriculture set the wheels in motion in 2004 to create the first university-based organic dairy teaching facility in the West. The purpose of the unit is to promote sustainable practices through the organic, grass-based dairy model. The unit will provide a “hands-on” learning experience for students and transitioning dairy producers. In addition, the Organic Dairy Advisory

Board, composed of seasoned veterans, will guide the applied research program to develop meaningful research projects and educational seminars that will ultimately benefit the organic dairy producer.

The organic dairy houses 50 heifers, but the plan is to increase to 100 milking cows over the next three years. Dr. Cindy Daley, professor of Animal Science at CSU, Chico, has dedicated a great deal of her time outside of the classroom to ensuring the success of this project. Dr. Daley views the development of the organic dairy as a wonderful opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience working in an ever-evolving industry. “This is a unique opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with a growing niche market,” Daley stated.

With the theme Honoring Our Partners in Sustainability faculty, staff, and students from California State University, Chico as well as members of the community joined in celebration for the dedication of the new organic dairy. The dedication program was lead by Master of Ceremonies, Provost McNall. Even Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, A.G. Kawamura, took notice of the momentous occasion. Secretary Kawamura shared his view of the importance of Organic Education to California Agriculture in his keynote address.

Other highlights of the day included remarks on CSU, Chico’s commitment to agriculture from

President Paul Zingg, and mission for the new organic dairy from Dean Jennifer Ryder Fox. “The College of Agriculture at CSU, Chico is very proud to be the first university in the western United States and only the second in the nation to provide its students with the opportunity to get hands-on experience in an organic dairy operation as they learn about production practices and the value of a niche market,” declared Fox.

Organic Valley CROPP (Cooperative Regions of Organic Producer Pools) gave a presentation regarding partnerships in organic education, the Cows Go to College Program was presented by Adam Azevedo of Double T Acres Organic Dairy, followed by a presentation from invited lecturer Jerry Brunettie. Brunettie, dairy nutritionist for Agri-Dynamics, lectured on the topic of “Food as Medicine.”

The day was action-packed with informational booths, hourly tours, and even free samples of milk and cheese provided by Organic Valley CROPP.

“As an educator, I think it vital that we teach our students to think out of the box and learn to change as the agriculture industry continues to evolve,” Daley stated. The organic dairy has the support of the College of Agriculture behind it, and with such a dynamic combination of faculty and students it’s no wonder CSU, Chico has become the best in West! 🌱



Our lovely ladies enjoying an all-organic lunch!

College Hosts Fourth Annual Career Fair

The College of Agriculture hosted its 4th Annual Career and Internship Fair at the Farm Pavilion February 28, 2007. From 10 am until 2pm all students from Chico State were encouraged to stop by and visit with industry personnel regarding summer internships and post graduation placement.

Each year representatives from more than 30 agriculture-related companies are available at the Farm Pavilion. The Career and Internship Fair provides the opportunity for students of all majors to network with company representatives such as Dave Ellis, Elanco Animal Health; Jeanette Sturzen, California Department of Education; Julie Houtby, American Ag Credit; Michelle Jackson, Lundberg Family Farms; and many others.

It isn’t a surprise to see graduates of the CSU, Chico College of Agriculture at the fair. Joe Green, a graduate in Agriculture Business, returned with his employer River Partners because of the pride he takes in supporting fellow agriculture students. “This is the best way to network with representatives from your chosen profession and figure out what you’re really meant to do,” Green stated.

Over the past four years the Career and Internship Fair has become a staple in the professional development of the students in the College of Agriculture. Susie Funk, of the Outreach Office, shared her opinion of the benefits of such an event, “I feel this event is one of the most valuable services we provide our students. Students that take advantage of this opportunity starting their freshman year are more prepared and competitive professionally, with networking skills and opportunities they would not receive elsewhere.”

Students who participate in the Career and Internship fair gain experience in resume building, job placement, and strengthened interviewing skills. Students know exactly what to expect upon entering the work force due to the preparation,

practice, and skills they received from the fair. “The positive feedback from our business participants was assurance that this event must continue,” stated Susie Funk. 🌱



Animal Science major Heather Clement encouraging her fellow classmate, Michael Sanden, to make an impression with the visiting professionals