

# THE HARVEST

California State University, Chico College of Agriculture

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## Upcoming Events »

**June 9, 2008**

Superior Ag Golf Tournament

**September 4, 2008**

Welcome Back BBQ

**October 9, 2008**

Opportunity Day

**October 11, 2008**

Fall Festival

**October 18-19, 2008**

Chico State Northern Exposure Jr.  
Cattle Show

Visit our Calendar of Events at

[www.csuchicoag.org](http://www.csuchicoag.org) for more information.

## College of Agriculture Takes Discussion Meet by Storm

Students and staff from the College of Agriculture took top honors recently at the California Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting, and one student went on to win the national title. In December, College of Agriculture Outreach Coordinator Shannon Douglass took a seven-member team to compete in the Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet in Sparks, Nevada. The students competed in discussions about everything from water rights to the perception of the family farm.

The CSU, Chico team, consisting of Grace Berryhill, Callie Borrer, Sam Cooley, Garrett Driver, Sarah Hubbard, Jolene Moxon, and Jenny Williams, walked away as the 2007 State Champion Collegiate Discussion Meet Team. Additionally, Shannon Douglass

won the open competition for members 18-35 years old, and Grace Berryhill placed first in the Collegiate Discussion Meet. After winning at the state level, both Douglass and Berryhill had the opportunity to compete at the national level.

Berryhill competed against approximately 30 other state champions at the American Farm Bureau Federation Discussion Meet in Baltimore and walked away as the national champion. "I did not really know what to expect from the competition, but I knew that I wanted to do well, so I worked accordingly," said Berryhill.

When Berryhill is not practicing and competing in discussion meets, she is busy at school as an agricultural



**2007 Discussion Meet Team with Coach Shannon Douglass (far right)**

education and animal science double major with a minor in Spanish. Berryhill concluded, "I am thankful for the support of the College of Agriculture faculty and staff, specifically Shannon Douglass and the students who were on the state discussion meet team." 🌱



**Grace Berryhill (center) accepts her award as winner of the American Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet.**

*Photo courtesy of American Farm Bureau Federation.*

## Chico State Walnuts Go Gourmet



**Chico State Walnut Oil**

The College of Agriculture took a step into the gourmet cooking-oil market this year with the first press of Chico State Walnut Oil. The specialty oil is usually a product of France, but with the help of local walnut-oil maker Rick Cinquini, the college was able to produce a trial batch of the delicate, nutty oil using nuts grown on the Chico State farm.

The effort to press walnut oil was the initiative of Dean Jennifer Ryder Fox and CSU, Chico President Paul Zingg. "We were looking for a high-end specialty product that would be unique to Chico State," explained Dr. Fox.

When Chico farmer Rick Cinquini offered Dr. Fox a tour of Cinquini Farms, where he presses walnut oil in addition to olive and almond oils, Fox knew she had found a niche. "Since we already have a strong walnut program, and

with the growing interest in heart-healthy oils, walnut oil was a logical step for our college to take," Fox said.

Before walnut oil could be bottled for sale, the college first had to see if it could even be made. Using 300 pounds of walnut meats from the November 2007 harvest, the college was able to produce approximately 45 liters of oil. Staff from the University Farm bottled the oil by hand, then applied a

label that was designed by CSU, Chico's creative director, Alan Rellaford.

Limited edition bottles were auctioned at alumni events during the spring semester, bringing in \$200 at the Red Bluff Alumni Reunion and \$150 at the Colusa Alumni Breakfast. Since so few bottles were produced during the trial run, Chico State Walnut Oil is not currently available for sale. Dr. Fox has asked Agriculture Business students in the College of Agriculture to analyze the economics of producing walnut oil versus selling the raw nuts to determine if it is economically feasible. "If the financial benefit to the college is apparent, we hope to be able to add Chico State Walnut Oil to our retail product line in coming years," Fox said.

### How was Chico State Walnut Oil Made?

University Farm staff set aside 300 pounds of walnut meats from the November harvest. Cinquini Farms first ground the meat into a thick paste, then spread it over round cylinders fitted with a rope mesh. The cylinders were stacked onto a mechanical press, which slowly squeezed together until the oil was extracted from the meats and ran into a five-gallon drum. What was left on the cylinder was a dry cake of walnut flour.

After the oil sat for several days to allow sediment to settle, University Farm staff bottled the oil by hand into 375 ml bottles, which were then corked, labeled, and ready to be consumed.

Walnut oil's nutty flavor is delicious in salad dressings, tossed with cooked pasta, or brushed on steak or fish after it is cooked. It can also be used for baking or cooking, although the flavor of the oil changes slightly when heated. Since walnut oil is not as stable as some other oils, it should be stored in the refrigerator to prevent rancidity. 🌱

## What's Growing On?

### Student Achievements:

#### • Livestock Judging Team

The 2007 Livestock Judging Team, coached by Clay Carlson and consisting of Travis Heffner, Caley Heiman, Stephanie Horton, Katie O'Ferrall, and Jordan Parsons, capped off their judging season by placing 12TH at the North American International Livestock Exposition.

#### • National Beef Ambassador

**Michelle Wiggley**, an Animal Science and Communication Design double major, became the third consecutive CSU, Chico ag student to become a National Beef Ambassador when she received an honorable mention award at the 2008 National Beef Ambassador Contest in New Orleans.

### Community Service:

#### • Swine Day

More than 600 youth and adults attended the 2008 Swine Day on February 2. The educational event was organized by the swine management team (students Matt Barklow, Caley Heiman, and Rex Mendonza; faculty advisor Clay Carlson; and staff technician Don Sinnott).

#### • Sheep Day

The 2008 Sheep & Goat Day on February 23 was one of the most successful to date. The educational event was organized by the sheep and goat management team (students Michelle Coon, Stephanie Coryell, Leah Miller, and Laura White; faculty advisor Celina Johnson; and staff technician Gerald Darling) and run with the help of many student volunteers.

### Faculty:

• **Dr. Michael Spiess** was recognized by the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) with the Exemplary Online Instruction Award for his work with AGET 150: Agricultural Machine Systems.

• **Dr. Lee Altier** received funds from the Foor Foundation and the CSU, Chico Institute for Sustainable Development to develop an organic vegetable garden at the University Farm.

• **Dr. Patrick Doyle** received accreditation through the International HACCP Alliance for his ANSC 450 (Food Sanitation and Quality Control Class). The accreditation means that students who successfully complete the course can receive a certificate in Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point training.

## Contributors...

### The Harvest:

Is partially funded by Superior Ag, whose sole mission is to bolster programs at the college. *The Harvest* is published each spring and fall by the CSU, Chico College of Agriculture's Development Office.

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# "Food for Thought"

## ...From the Dean's Desk



No doubt you've heard about the budget cuts looming for the State of California, and CSU, Chico is no exception. Each college and division in the University has been asked to look at budget reduction scenarios from 2.5 percent to 7.5 percent. While it will be many months before the true impact will be apparent, we expect that reductions of any magnitude will be painful in the College of Agriculture, given our already lean operating budget. Staff and faculty searches that we had counted on to help us grow our college may have to be put on hold, and we are all looking at ways to cut costs throughout the college.

The financial situation was not helped by the storm on January 4 that affected so many in our industry in the north state. We lost approximately 20 percent of our almond orchard, which will hamper our revenue stream for several years and has created an increased workload for farm staff as they work to clean out and replace downed trees.

Despite the gloomy budget picture, I'm confident in the ability of our faculty and staff to continue to deliver relevant, integrated, active learning experiences for our students. Within the past year, Chico State students have taken top honors in no fewer than four state and national competitions. From the Western Food Marketing competition last spring where our teams swept first place in both the domestic and export divisions, to the successes of the entire Young Farmer's and Rancher's Discussion Meet team (see page 1), to our recent achievement at the California Association of Meat Processors meeting where the Chico State team placed first and swept the top three individual honors—Chico State ag students are making a mark around the state and across the country. It is the diligence and hard work of our faculty and staff that allows our students to demonstrate such excellence.

So despite these tough budget times in which we will have to make some hard sacrifices, there is no doubt in my mind that the College of Agriculture will weather the storm as we always have—with confidence that our work, our mission, and our students matter. We will need your help more than ever, so I hope you believe these things matter, too. I look forward to meeting more of you in my travels, and please feel free to drop me a line any time at [jrfox@csuchico.edu](mailto:jrfox@csuchico.edu).

Until next time...

Jennifer Ryder Fox

## Scholarship Established in Memory of Chico State Ag Friend

Although the CSU, Chico College of Agriculture lost a dear friend in 2006 with the passing of Jack Henning, Jr., his memory will remain alive through a \$50,000 scholarship endowment that has been established in his name.

Jack Henning, Jr. grew up in Chico on an almond operation and attended Chico State College before completing his degree in journalism at Stanford University. He spent his career at Sunset Magazine in Menlo Park, where he started in the sales department and worked his way up to president. Henning and his wife of 59 years, Frances, raised their two sons at their home in Atherton, Calif., while spending every weekend that they could in Chico.

Henning became connected to the College of Agriculture in the early 1990s when he purchased a registered Red Angus bull from the University Farm. Over the years, his relationship with Drs. Dave and Cindy Daley developed into a friendship, which led to a partnership in which Chico State

students managed the Hennings' cattle on their ranch west of Chico in the Big Chico Creek Canyon.



**Melissa Green and Fran Henning in front of a painting of the Henning Ranch in Chico**

"Jack loved working with students," Mrs. Henning recalled. "We were both very fond of the University and enjoyed being a part of it."

Upon Jack's death in 2006, the University learned of two major gifts that Jack had made to benefit the College of Agriculture as well as the journalism department. The \$50,000 scholarship endowment to the College of Agriculture will allow for a \$2,000 annual scholarship to be given to a student employee of the beef unit, or to a student who has been active in the beef industry.

The first recipient of the Jack Henning Jr. Memorial Scholarship for the 2007–2008 academic year is senior Melissa Green from Arbuckle. Green served as the 2005 California Beef Ambassador and is interested in a career in animal science or agricultural communications. She is thrilled to have been selected to receive the Henning scholarship. "I had the chance to meet Mrs. Henning and learn about the legacy that Jack left on Chico State and in the College of Agriculture, and I consider it a deep honor to receive a scholarship in Jack Henning's name," Green said. 🌻

## College of Agriculture Partners with Elanco Animal Health

Elanco Animal Health recently partnered with the College of Agriculture to diversify their candidate pool and help students find jobs. Elanco Animal Health is a global research-based company that develops and markets products to improve the health and production of animals in more than 100 countries. Each fall the company visits California State University, Chico to interview qualified candidates for summer internships.

Additionally, each year Elanco Animal Health invites faculty to attend a retreat on Diversity in the Workplace, at their worldwide headquarters in Greenfield, Indiana. The objectives of the retreat include understanding what barriers are presented in the recruiting, interviewing, and retention process; identifying ways to increase the recruiting brand,

interact with students and make their presence known, and utilize technology to reach students; and implementing those same tactics. Celina Johnson, who attended the retreat in 2006, said, "They know that students gain many skills and knowledge by attending college, but they also want them to have core characteristics such as a passion for animal agriculture, conceptual thinking, and openness to change."

With about 90 graduates from the College of Agriculture each year, there is a great deal of emerging talent ready to find employment in the agriculture industry. By partnering with Elanco Animal Health, faculty from the College of Agriculture have a better understanding of the characteristics that the company is looking for and can better teach those characteristics to their students. 🌻

# Comings and Goings

## Dr. Baohui Song



Dr. Song

This year the College of Agriculture welcomed Dr. Baohui Song as an assistant professor in agribusiness. Song, who grew up in a rural community in Northeast China, received his PhD in agricultural economics from the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

Song began teaching in

the College of Agriculture in the fall of 2007. His course load includes Agriculture Production Economics Analysis, Agriculture Markets and Pricing, and a Special Topics course in International Agricultural Trade Business. He feels the need to tell his students about the importance of agriculture and the reason he chose to study agricultural economics. "It is a market that lasts forever," he said. "People have to eat, and that will allow those in the industry to continue to work."

## Dr. Matt Chang

Students in Plumas Hall were greeted by a new face this year as Dr. Matt Chang joined the faculty as an assistant professor in agribusiness. Chang, who grew up in Taiwan, received his PhD in economics from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.



Dr. Chang

resources, he enjoys the economics of agribusiness and the opportunity to teach students about the different aspects of the agribusiness field. "I like to teach with a balance," he said, "so that students get both sides of the issue, instead of the side they are commonly exposed to."

As an agribusiness professor at CSU, Chico, Chang has a course load that includes Agricultural Price Analysis, Agricultural Policy, and Agribusiness Management. While his area of study is in environmental

economics and natural

## Dr. Henricus Jansen



Dr. Fox and Dr. Jansen at the Faculty & Staff Holiday Party

The College of Agriculture said a bittersweet goodbye this fall to Dr. Henricus Jansen. Jansen retired from the College of Agriculture after 32 years of teaching. He and his wife plan to move back to England.

Jansen, who grew up in Holland, came to California to study

forestry. After moving around, conducting research, and working towards three degrees, he finally settled in the town of Chico.

During his span in the College of Agriculture, Dr. Jansen taught a wide range of courses, including Agricultural Ecology, Wildland Vegetation Ecology, Grasses and Grasslands of the Western US, and Vegetation Dynamics and Management. His interest in California's grasslands and land stewardship were evident in every course he taught, as he took materials from the textbooks and turned them into hands-on experiences.

Dr. Wes Patton, a colleague of Jansen's in the College of Agriculture, said, "Dr. Jansen was what a university professor should be; he was tough, he was fair, he challenged his students to learn, and he made them proud of what they learned." 🍷

# A Summer Abroad in Thailand

In the 12 years Dr. Lee Altier has worked in the College of Agriculture at CSU, Chico he has continued to raise the bar and challenge colleagues and students alike to expand their perspectives on global issues. Professor of Plant Science, Altier has taken a group of students to study in Thailand for the past three summers. It had been a three-week course focusing on resource management and ecology found in some of Thailand's most rural areas and is now expanding to a six-week program.

Dr. Altier is working in conjunction with Dr. Tony Waters, sociology professor, and Dr. Rob Burton, English professor, on campus. The goal of the collaboration is to create a theme section that will not only allow students to engage in the global experience of a lifetime but complete an entire theme requirement as well. "Each year the number of Chico

students interested has increased, as well as the number of students from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Burma who we meet up with in Thailand," Altier said.

While the rigor of daily life, hygiene, and demands of trekking to remote villages can be taxing on students early on, the life lessons and opportunity to gain a new perspective are priceless. Kristina DeMoulin, a senior kinesiology major and exercise science minor said, "It was a wonderful experience, and I wish it would have lasted longer. It's great to be surrounded by Thai culture or any other non-American culture at that, because you realize there are other ways of living a fulfilling life."

Altier is no stranger to the physical demands of life abroad, having spent two years in the Peace Corps in Nepal. "The pace of life has picked up since my first

**"It's great to be surrounded by Thai culture or any other non-American culture at that, because you realize there are other ways of living a fulfilling life."**



Students from Chico State and Chiang Mai University share a meal with local farmers in Northwest Thailand.

visit to Nepal 12 years ago; there is running water and electricity," Altier stated, "and the community is now turning towards utilizing market agriculture."

Altier is working with Burton and Waters to allocate the budget, logistics, and transportation for the trip in summer of 2008. 🍷

# Star Students of Agriculture

**Name:** Christy Baviere

**Program:** Agriculture Education

**Activities:** Alpha Tau Alpha agriculture education fraternity; Alpha Zeta agriculture honors fraternity; CSU, Chico Agriculture Ambassadors

**Career Ambitions:** After graduating in May, Christy wants to teach high school agriculture in Northern California. She wants to focus her curriculum on plant science and set up a functional greenhouse where her students can gain hands-on experience.



**Name:** Kallie Deatley

**Program:** Animal Science

**Activities:** University Farm Beef Unit student herdsman; CSU, Chico Dairy Unit; Young Cattlemen's Association; Pre-Vet Advising Group

**Career Ambitions:** Kallie graduated in December 2007 with a Bachelors of Science in Animal Science. She plans on pursuing a career in veterinary medicine, focusing on large food animals, especially beef cattle.



**Name:** Ted Kingsley

**Program:** Agricultural Business

**Activities:** Society of Agricultural Managers; Young Cattlemen's Association; Associated Students sustainability movement

**Career Ambitions:** Ted plans on graduating from CSU, Chico in spring 2009. After graduation he wants to pursue a career in ranch management. His ideal position would be managing a vertically integrated ranch, from top to bottom, while being involved in international markets and trade.



**Name:** Luke Konyn

**Program:** Plant Science and Agricultural Business

**Activities:** Plant Science Club; Young Farmers and Ranchers

**Career Ambitions:** Upon graduation, Luke plans on pursuing a certification in plant protection by getting his Pest Control Advisor license. "I am excited to see what is out there in modern agriculture and researching new technologies." 🍷

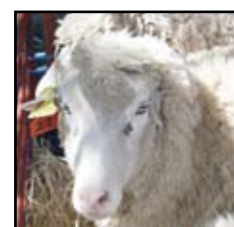


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To the right is a list of alumni we've heard from recently.  
If you would like to be included in the next newsletter,  
let us know!

## Where Are They Now?

2006

**Randee Prada**  
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**Nate Bisio**  
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**Adam Davy**  
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**Megan Huber**  
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2002

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UCCE Farm Advisor  
[JDavy@ucdavis.edu](mailto:JDavy@ucdavis.edu)

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Environmental Consulting  
Galloway Consulting  
[bre-owens@yahoo.com](mailto:bre-owens@yahoo.com)

1970

**John Jackson**  
Yolo County HazMat Specialist  
[jjcjack@wild!love.net](mailto:jcjack@wild!love.net)

1968

**Bruce Fraser**  
Fraser Farm  
[fraserfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:fraserfarm@hotmail.com)

1966

**Bill McMoran**  
Farmers Equipment Co., Sales  
[billmcm2@verizon.net](mailto:billmcm2@verizon.net)

## In Memoriam



### Jack Nolan 1920–2007

Mr. Nolan served as a teacher, advisor, and mentor in the agriculture department from 1958 to 1980. He was inducted into the College of Agriculture Hall of Honor shortly before his death.



## Dr. Mel George Named 2008 Distinguished Alumnus



Dr. Mel George

In 30 years as Range-land Management Specialist for the UC Davis Cooperative Extension, the College of Agriculture's 2008 Distinguished Alumnus has earned countless

awards and certificates; consulted in Morocco, Tunisia, China, and Albania; published more than 80 refereed research publications or journal articles; and led efforts throughout the country in grazing and watershed management. And the road to his laudable career began with a range management course at CSU, Chico.

Mel George grew up in nearby Gridley and became the first in his family to attend college, pursuing a degree in agriculture. It wasn't until the beginning of his senior year when George took the Principles of Range Management course that would determine his future career. The instructor, Roy Miller encouraged him to look into graduate school and helped George to obtain an assistantship in the graduate program at Texas Tech. After receiving his master's degree, then serving two years in the Army, George went on to earn a PhD at Utah State University. In 1978 he accepted the position of cooperative extension rangeland

management specialist at UC Davis, and he's been there ever since.

During his 30-year career with UC Davis, George has transformed the range extension program from one focused on agronomic improvements on rangelands to a broader focus on issues of ranch management and environmental quality. He has helped ranchers increase profitability through grazing practices, and led efforts statewide that enable landowners to proactively address water quality issues on their property.

Mel George was named Outstanding Alumnus at Utah State University in 2000 and received the prestigious James

H. Meyer Distinguished Achievement Award at UC Davis in 2007. Despite all that he has accomplished in his career, it wasn't until he began to receive such awards that he grasped what an impact his work has had. "That's when I realized that other people thought I'd done a lot of cool things," George recalled. "Up until then, I'd just been working."

With friends and family in attendance, Mel George accepted the 2008 College of Agriculture Distinguished Alumni Award at a dinner on April 25 in the Bell Memorial Union. 🍀