My message last year was one of hope even in times of a dire budget crunch. Well, if enrollment numbers this year are any indication of reasons for optimism, I was on the right track. This year's enrollment in the College of Agriculture is up approximately 14 percent over last year's and is higher than it's ever been. It appears that our recruiting efforts have really paid off and we're becoming a college of first choice for many of our new students. We reinvigorated the Ag Ambassador program and had over 60 students enroll in that class this year (see article on pg. 5). What this means is lots of students want to spread out across the state and tell others about their “Chico Experience.” Let’s keep 'em coming.

The state budget remains problematic. Although the College of Agriculture budget will likely be even with last year's budget, it still represents an 11 percent cut since I arrived four years ago. Fortunately, furloughs are behind us and our faculty have returned to campus with a new enthusiasm even as we continue to tighten our belts to serve students as effectively and efficiently as we can. We have more and more students looking for hands-on experiences at the farm and continue to have thousands of community members use the farm as a resource. Our intentional efforts of informing the public about the best kept secret of the University’s campus, the University Farm, is probably one of the reasons we have more people stopping by the farm office than we’ve ever had to buy college merchandise such as hats and shirts, meat, vegetables, cranberry and yellow beans, olive oil (limited release), walnuts, and now eggs. Our inaugural participation in last year’s Sierra Oro Farm Trail, a local agritourism event in October, introduced even more people to what we have to offer at the farm, and we continue to get new requests to use the farm for different community events.

We are continually looking for ways to enhance the academic programs we offer to attract more students. Last year's freshmen and transfer students were the first to be able to enter into a BS of Animal Science degree program at Chico State, and we hope that in the next year or two, we'll be able to offer an online Masters of Agricultural Education through a consortium to which we belong known as AG*IDEA. Members of this consortium are among the premier research institutions in the country, such as North Carolina State University, Kansas State University, and Universities of Missouri. These universities offer online courses to members of AG*IDEA so that member institutions can increase programs they offer without having to hire additional faculty. Membership in the AG*IDEA consortium will help us make it possible to serve agricultural education students and credentialed teachers who want to pursue a master's degree from the convenience of their home and at a pace that may fit better in their professional schedules than that of a full-time student. We are working on an aggressive timetable for approval this year through the campus, the chancellor's office, and the WASC system, respectively. We'll keep you informed of our progress on this front.

In an effort to not only enhance our academic programs but to serve the local agricultural industry better, we’ve embarked on two initiatives to build a farmstead creamery and retail store complex on the University Farm and to develop a “Center for Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems” (CFAS), both under the strong leadership of Dr. Cindy Daley. As you can imagine, it will take a lot of creative effort and financial resources to build the creamery/retail store complex and a lot of academic talent to develop CFAS, but I'm betting on Cindy’s energy and willpower to pull them both off! To learn more about these efforts, please contact the college's development director, Sarah DeForest at sdeforest@csuchico.edu.

As always, we invite you to become engaged with the College of Agriculture, help us grow, and let us know what you’re doing—better yet stop by to see us.

Until next year,

Jennifer Ryder Fox

15
Chico State Wins Food Marketing Competition

The College of Agriculture’s Food Marketing team competed at the Western College Food Marketing Competition in Fresno, Calif., March 20–21, 2010. The Domestic team—consisting of Kylee Maben, Sara Spafford, and Tiffany Gomes—placed second in their division with their concept of marketing gourmet fruit cheese by industry experts. In addition, the International team of Janice Bridwell, Michelle Coon, Elizabeth Hunt, Marvulo Samaniego, Megan Stevenson, and Elizabeth Tutt competed against schools from all over the nation in a jeopardy-style competition that tests students’ knowledge and skill in agricultural business and economics. In the double-elimination tournament, the team of Samaniego, Hunt, and Stevenson made it into the top 10 but was eliminated in a very close round against Purdue.

Chico State Helps State FFA Officers Prepare for Busy Year

From the time they are elected to represent California FFA in April until their year of service ends the following year, the six students who make up California’s State FFA Officer Team spend 30 days on the road and travel 30,000 miles representing their association. Before they embarked on more than 100 school chapter visits in September, the state officers spent a few days in Chico preparing their curriculum and training for those visits. Dr. Brad Dodson, professor of ag science and education, and his team of faculty and students spent August 4–6 training the state officers on how to create and deliver an effective lesson plan.

The 2010–2011 California FFA Officer Team consists of Vincent Pellegr, Galt, State President; Lindsay Anderson, Escalon, State Vice President; Jacqueline Garcia, Bakerfield-Fullerton, State Secretary; Ben Granholm, Grass Valley-Nevada Union, State Treasurer; Jessica Vázquez, Cottonwood-West Valley, State Reporter; and Casey Erickson, Porterville, State Sentinel.

What’s Growing on the Farm?

First Row: Graduating senior Erin Van Peer and Chico State Alumni give off their College of Agriculture pride at commencement Quiz Bowl Team, (left to right) Michaela Samaniego, Elizabeth Hunt, Janice Bridwell, Meghan Stevenson, Michelle Coon, and Elizabeth Tutt

Second Row: Food Marketing Team, (left to right) Coach Burreson, Samaniego, Sara Spafford, Tiffany Gomes, Elizabeth Hunt, Jillian Kehoe, Elle Karno-Palcic, and Coach Marnie Dalton. Elizabeth Stolp, College of Agriculture’s Hall of Honor Inductee


Quiz Bowl

CSU, Chico sent six students to the Academic Quiz Bowl held in Denver, Colo. July 25–26, 2010. Coached by Dr. Eric Hout, associate professor of agribusiness, the team of Janice Bridwell, Michelle Coon, Elizabeth Hunt, Marvulo Samaniego, Megan Stevenson, and Elizabeth Tutt competed against schools from all over the nation in a jeopardy-style competition that tests students’ knowledge and skill in agricultural business and economics. In the double-elimination tournament, the team of Samaniego, Hunt, and Stevenson made it into the top 10 but was eliminated in a very close round against Purdue.

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Kate Knutsen Elected AS Vice President of Facilities and Services

The College of Agriculture has had the honor of calling the Associated Students Government Affairs office home for the past two years with both Jesse Eller (2008-2009 AS President) and Erin Van Peer (2009-2010 AS Executive Vice President) holding positions therein. For agribusiness major Kate Knutsen, it seemed only natural to continue the legacy and pursue an officer position within the Associated Students.

The 20-year-old Chico local first learned the ropes of the Associated Students as a freshman and instantly knew she wanted to be a part of student leadership on campus. “I had the privilege of getting to know some of the past vice presidents of facilities and services. I took my time learning what the position was about and found that it was a perfect fit,” said Knutsen.

The vice president of facilities and services acts as a student representative to the two campus facilities owned by the Associated Students: the Bell Memorial Union (BMU) and the new Wildcat Recreation Center (WREC). When asked why she chose to run for that particular office, Knutsen said, “I liked this position because of its hands-on role with the facilities on this campus. I personally use the BMU daily and am an avid WREC user, so naturally I wanted to be more involved with them.”

The mission of the Student Government Affairs Office is to serve the students at CSU, Chico by raising their level of awareness on pertinent issues. Elected and appointed representatives serve as leaders and advocates, taking action to achieve educational, social, and political goals that are campus related.

Knutsen believes it is particularly important to increase student involvement in—and awareness of—the campus facilities, since students provide the funding for the buildings and their programs. During her campaign for office in the spring, Knutsen set out to do just that. “My biggest goal during my campaign was informing students of how much they pay in student fees each semester and where those fees go. These facilities on our campus are paid for by the students, and I believe these students need to have a strong voice in the uses of these facilities,” said Knutsen.

Campaigning proved to be one of the most stressful, challenging, and time-consuming things Knutsen had ever done, but looking back she knows the process was worth it. “It was able to learn a lot about myself. I proved to myself that I am capable of anything I set my mind to.” On April 22, 2010 Knutsen’s efforts paid off as she was elected to represent Chico State’s student body. “I reverted to scream and jump up and down,” Knutsen recalled, “but I kept my composure and called my mom to tell her the news, as she was the one behind me the entire time.”

Knutsen hadn’t planned on majoring in agriculture when she first came to Chico State. “I started as a Liberal Studies major pursuing a teaching career. After spending a year in the major and not receiving the support from the college that I needed, I knew it was time for a change,” said Knutsen. “I have always been involved in 4-H and FFA, so agriculture was not a big stretch for me.” Having already completed a general education introduction to agribusiness course, she realized that the College of Agriculture’s family-like atmosphere was just what she needed. “Switching my major was one of the best decisions of my college career,” said Knutsen.

When Knutsen isn’t in class, she can often be found participating in events in the College of Agriculture. She is an active member of the Young Cattlemen’s Association and has helped out at the farm with FFA and 4-H events. In the event that she has free time, Knutsen enjoys riding her horse and working out at the WREC.

As for the future, Knutsen hasn’t decided what she wants to do after graduating. For now she is concentrating on the present and serving Chico State students as the vice president of facilities and services. “I am most excited about the WREC this coming year. I want to make sure that every student knows that the WREC is there for them and that they should take advantage of having such a facility. I also want to carry on the tradition of leadership within the College of Agriculture,” said Knutsen.

Ag Ambassadors Travel the State for the College of Agriculture

A new outreach team and a new structure have attracted a record number of students to the College of Agriculture’s Ag Ambassadors. More than 60 students registered to represent Chico State at various events and in high school and community college classes throughout the state this fall.

“We walked into the classroom and were completely overwhelmed by the number of faces looking back at us,” recalled College of Agriculture Outreach Coordinator Audrey Dentney of the first day of school when she and lecturer Dr. Mollie Aschenbrener met with their new team.

In only its second year, the current Agriculture Ambassadors team was offered as a class in which students had the option to receive upper division elective units while gaining theoretical knowledge about facilitation and workshop development. The leadership-oriented class provided an opportunity for students to become familiar with the recruitment workshop and admissions policies as well as to share their “Chico Experience” with prospective students.

“The first and most important thing we want our ambassadors and prospective students to know about the Chico experience is that we’re a family,” said Dentney. To emphasize the family atmosphere of the college, the first item on the ambassadors’ agenda was a retreat held at recent alumna Hallie Mullen’s family farm, Full Belly Farm. Ambassadors focused on the basics of workshop facilitation and other skills necessary for a successful year.

The retreat allowed new and returning students the chance to mingle and bond as a group. According to sophomore agricultural education major Kattie Schmidig, this is a great hands-on experience for my personal career goals.”

With more leadership opportunities per capita than any other college on campus, the College of Agriculture prides itself on developing effective leaders. Kattie Schmidt, an agricultural education sophomore, said “I am proud to be part of such a great group of people and represent such an awesome university. I think it is important to have ambassadors. We are able to connect directly with students and put Chico State on the map while promoting agriculture.”

After a busy fall semester, the Ag Ambassadors are already planning their spring schedule. During the coming semester, Ag Ambassadors will be found promoting Chico State at events such as the Red Bluff and Colusa alumni reunions, FFA Field Day, Spring Tours, Chico Admitted Student Preview Day, and California State FFA Convention. ■
As an entomologist, I am delighted to work with a student who has a passion and curiosity for entomological research. Ultimately, it pays off for both of us. I get to share some of my knowledge with Joanna, while she develops skills through this research that will make her a competitive applicant for any future endeavors.

Bloese attributes much of her interest in agriculture to her father’s involvement in Michigan State University’s Forestry department. With her father’s influence and interest in forestry, Bloese started researching exotic pests, and her interest has now branched into the pest management industry. “Agriculture is vital. We all need to eat, don’t we? I think what makes pest management so intriguing is the fact that there is so little known and so much research left to find out,” said Bloese.

“I am all for sustainable agriculture, and if I can use my interests in research to help reduce our industry’s economic and environmental footprint, then I think that is really exciting.” Bloese plans to continue her research in pest management and hopes to enter graduate school. “I think I would really enjoy conducting research at the university level or doing developmental work overseas.”

On a Monday morning in late August, visitors were already waiting when the gate opened at 7 a.m. for the first day of U-Pick Peaches at the University Farm. “The cooler weather this year set our peaches back about three weeks in ripening, so there was a lot of pent-up demand when we finally opened,” said Dr. Dave Daley, associate dean and University Farm Administrator.

In fact, sales and attendance at the U-Pick peach orchard continue to grow after 20 years, which prompted the farm staff and students to plant an adjoining patch of corn for the 2010 season.

“There is definitely a demand for locally grown produce in the Chico community, and I think the fact that we are Chico State and our crops are grown by our students makes our products even more appealing,” said College of Agriculture Dean Jennifer Ryder Fox. “We have a unique opportunity to incorporate concepts of entrepreneurship, farmstand production, niche marketing, and local and regional food systems into our curriculum.”

The popularity of the University Farm’s Meats Lab, which is open Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., has grown over the years through word-of-mouth advertising. And the University Farm has set aside a portion of its walnut crop every year for packaging and marketing under the Chico State name. But during the past two years, the University Farm has expanded its line of branded and direct-to-consumer products to help teach students about niche marketing and its capitalize on the value of the Chico State name. One of the newest endeavors is a student-driven project to raise pasture-based, free-range chickens for egg production. The project was the vision of Eileen Whitcomb, a 2010 graduate in animal science who saw an opportunity to develop a niche market for the farm while using chickens for fly larave control. Whitcomb presented the idea to the Associate Students’ Sustainability Fund Allocation Committee and received a grant to launch the project. The hens began laying eggs in late summer, and the eggs are available for purchase at the University Farm.

In 2010, the University Farm launched two more new products: an unfiltered “field blend” olive oil and two varieties of dry beans. The olive oil comes from a small University of California variety trial that was planted on the farm in the 1990s but had never been harvested until 2009. The olives were harvested using a prototype of a new mechanical olive harvester developed by faculty in the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management. The farm is also selling 10-pound bags of cranberry beans and yellow beans, which were grown as a rotational crop in 2009 on the ground along Hegan Lane that previously held an almond orchard. Also in the spring of 2010, the Organic Vegetable Project (OVP), which occupies a little over an acre of organically certified ground at the University Farm, became a cornerstone of a new weekly student market that takes place on campus every Wednesday in front of the Student Services Center.

“Our biggest following so far has been staff and faculty. They really like the convenience of the market, and they look forward to coming out each week and buying something for dinner that night,” said OVP Student Manager Lynn Hayes, a senior majoring in agriculture with an option in crops, horticulture, and land resource management.

Currently, sales of all the University Farm products take place at various times and locations depending on the product. The college’s next step will be to develop an online farm store where customers can view and purchase products from their own computers. The goal is to launch the online farm store in 2011. The long-term vision is to build a farmstead creamery and store at the University Farm where visitors can learn about agriculture, watch dairy products being made, and purchase their Chico State University Farm products online.

People don’t always associate a university with entrepreneurship, but Dean Fox said that is really one of the distinctive features about the College of Agriculture at Chico State, as evidenced by the 2008 Excellence in Agribusiness Award presented by the Chico Economics Planning Corporation. “We are always looking for opportunities and encouraging students to be creative in developing marketing channels for our products. Our hope is that many of our students will take what they learn here and be able to design value-added production systems on their own farms, ranches, and businesses that meet the needs of local and regional food networks.”

Elizabeth Dowling, a University Farm marketing and education assistant, helped launch the online store. The store will feature Chico State products delivered via a safe and secure website. The online store makes it convenient for students, employees, and faculty to access the University Farm products.

Despite the challenges of the current economy, the University Farm’s future looks bright. The college’s plan is to continue to build on its success and expand its offerings in the coming years. The University Farm is a testament to the power of sustainable agriculture and the opportunities it offers for education, research, and community outreach.

Photograph credit: Adrienne De Bruyn, College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, University Farm, Fall 2010.

Undergraduate Research Award

Student Receives Funding to Research Invasive Pest

After visiting with Assistant Professor of Plant Science Betsy Boyd about her research on the destructive navel orangeworm’s presence in Northern California orchards, Chico State junior Joanna Bloese had some questions of her own. The two women decided to pursue the University’s Undergraduate Research and Creativity Summer Stipend Award so Bloese could conduct her own research into the trapping system that Boyd and her research colleague Justin Nay are testing. Bloese is one of 20 undergraduate students who received $2,000 each in the competitive summer research grant administered by the Honors Program.

Bloese’s proposal was titled “Evaluating a Sustainable tactic for Navel Orangeworm Management in California Almonds,” and she sought to investigate the sex, mating status, and fecundity (egg-laying potential) of navel orangeworms captured in baited traps deployed in almond orchards throughout the Central Valley.

Her research required her to dissect the moths trapped in almond orchards in Tulare and Colusa counties to determine their sex and whether or not they had mated. Although data collection was still in progress as of this writing, all moths captured thus far have been females, and most of them carried fertilized eggs. Bloese’s findings have been exciting so far, and all need to eat, don’t we? I think what makes pest management so intriguing is the fact that there is so little known and so much research left to find out,” said Bloese.

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Photograph credit: Adrienne De Bruyn, College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, University Farm, Fall 2010.
College of Agriculture Laboratories Feature Latest Scientific Technology

ON THE cutting edge

“Any person familiar with the CSU, Chico College of Agriculture knows about the Agriculture Teaching and Research Center (University Farm) on Megan Lane and its use as a living laboratory for agriculture courses and programs. Whether it is the site of a youth educational field day, industry meeting, U-Pick peach orchard, general education laboratory, student crop project, or faculty research study, the University Farm is the very public and multi-purpose face of the College of Agriculture.

But the University Farm is not the only laboratory facility that is critical to the educational mission of the college. Tucked away on the third floor of Plumas Hall on the main Chico State campus is a series of classrooms, labs, and closets that house some of the most advanced scientific equipment available for agricultural research. The lab facilities serve a wide range of agricultural classes, offering faculty and students a unique learning space to expand upon classroom concepts, practice laboratory skills and techniques, and find answers to some of agriculture’s most pressing research questions.

“Our students really need some kind of lab-based skill development to be competitive,” said Animal Science Professor and Program Coordinator Cindy Daley. “Whether they go to work in research, quality assurance, feed safety, or attend graduate school or vet school, they will need to have these skills.”

Dr. Celina Johnson, assistant professor of animal science, agrees that students will need laboratory skills and experiences whether they expect to work in their careers or not. “In my animal nutrition, genetics, and soil science, but students who choose to go deeper may do so as they carry out their own or facility research in the laboratory. Krista Cooprider graduated with a BS in agriculture in 2007 and went on to earn her master’s degree in animal biology from UC Davis. Her selection for a graduate assistantship at UC Davis was based in part on the solid laboratory skills she had developed at CSU, Chico. Cooprider gained lab experience both in her agricultural classes and as a research assistant to Dr. Patrick Doyle, associate professor in animal science, during which she tested the concentration of omega-3 fatty acids in grass-fed versus grain-fed lamb. “Not only was I familiar with the lab equipment, but the experience taught me to be meticulous, follow procedures, and take notes,” Cooprider said. “I think Alison (Van Eenerenam, graduate advisor at UC Davis) picked me in part because of my lab experience.”

Dr. Johnson, a CSU, Chico alumna herself (Agriculture, ’96), had a similar experience when she entered graduate school at the University of Florida. “I was the only master’s student who had ever run some of the equipment, so it gave me a head start. For those who do go on to graduate school, some are ahead of the curve.”

Johnson is one of several faculty members using the laboratories to conduct research funded by the Agriculture Research Initiative and supported by the agriculture industry. Johnson spent much of her summer break in Plumas Hall running samples of goat meat through a gas chromatograph to analyze the fatty acid profile of two dietary treatments: goats fed only grass versus those fed grass and grain. Her research was conducted in cooperation with the Northern California Meat Goat Association and has implications for the marketing efforts of its producers.

Johnson and her colleagues are excited to start using the latest equipment and get students working with its state-of-the-art technology. The new real-time PCR cycler, for example, has applications in a number of classes. Where previous polymerase chain reaction labs were only able to identify whether a specific gene was present (such as in a genetics laboratory where students were tasked to determine whether a corn sample contained a genetically modified gene or not), the new real-time PCR equipment can quantify gene expression, which will tell researchers how much gene product is present in a plant or animal tissue. This type of testing goes beyond simply knowing whether a gene is present. Real-time PCR will quantify a specific gene sequence as well as provide clues as to whether that gene is being actively expressed.

Johnson continues, “It teaches students about the latest molecular tools available in the industry to help identify specific gene sequences.” Dr. Cindy Daley said. “In a diagnostic lab these techniques may be used to identify and track disease. In a food-quality lab you may be looking for E. coli, or you may be trying to find fungus in a batch of seed. There are lots of applications in industry. It is important that students can understand and do it.”

Helping faculty and students learn how to use and develop applications for the new equipment is a team of two technicians whose job it is to master and share the scientific capabilities of the labs. Chuck Sellers, lab manager, and Kathy Berry-Garrett, instructional support technician, have each been with the College of Agriculture for more than a decade and have seen significant progress during that time.

Sellers, a 1990 graduate in agriculture, started using the labs as a student and found his niche. “I liked working with the lab equipment, but I noticed there were a lot of things that weren’t being used, so I would play around with them and get things going again. That led to some equipment upgrades, and now we’ve probably moved all the lab equipment up 30 years.”

Continued on page 10

“We are really on the cutting edge.”

—Cindy Daley
While Sellers handles purchasing, paperwork, lab safety, and facilities management, Berry-Garrett helps faculty create and set up their weekly labs. Whether she is researching and writing techniques for a new research project, helping a faculty member develop a food safety course, or teaching students the safe and meticulous laboratory skills necessary to gather sound, publishable data, Berry-Garrett views her role as a facilitator. “Faculty and students truly have ownership over this lab, and Chuck and I are here to support them. If students or faculty come to us with a research idea, we’ll figure out what it takes to make it work. It’s really a place where anything can happen.”

As technology progresses, Berry-Garrett works to keep up with the science so she can help faculty incorporate new advances into the curriculum. “I’m continually taking upper-division science classes across all fields, including plant pathology, immunology, and instrumental analysis,” Berry-Garrett said. “The College of Agriculture must keep current with science and technology, so I’m constantly learning in order to help us do that.”

With a tight budget and restricted resources, the College of Agriculture takes an integrated and strategic approach to keep current with laboratory and instructional needs. “We have an ongoing wish list to help us make purchasing decisions,” said Sellers. “As a college we prioritize our needs based on what will benefit the entire program rather than just one person or discipline. As money comes in we have already made the decisions, so there is no delay to be able to take advantage of them.”

Dean Jennifer Ryder Fox said that since the latest round of purchasing was able to secure most of the items on the lab wish list, faculty and staff are already back to the drawing board, researching the latest laboratory technology so they can be prepared the next time resources become available. “We will continue to pursue the strategic allocation of resources to serve the broadest constituencies,” Fox said.

Due in large part to its facilities, equipment, and personnel, CSU, Chico is taking a leading role in laboratory and instructional needs. “We have the College of Agriculture takes an integrated approach to keep up with the science so I’m constantly learning in order to help us do that.”

A three-year study of crossbreeding Hereford and Angus cattle under range conditions has led to phone calls and speaking engagements nationwide for the principal investigator and resulted in the donation of Hereford cattle and embryos to establish a Hereford program at California State University, Chico. Angus cattle have been effectively marketed to the consumer for such things as marbling and tenderness. Crossbred animals, however, are generally expected to exhibit hybrid vigor resulting in advantages in traits like longevity, health, and reproductive fitness. The benefits of heterosis, or “hybrid vigor,” have been well-established for decades. But in the era of breed-based marketing programs when producers often received a higher price for cattle with black hides, some industry leaders decided it was time to take another look at the value of crossbreeding. They approached Dave Daley, PhD, animal science professor, associate dean, and University Farm administrator, to investigate which breeding system provided the greatest economic return to the producer.

Daley partnered with Lacey Livestock in Independence, Calif., Harris Ranch Feeding Co. in Coalinga, Calif., and Harris Ranch Beef Co. in Salma, Calif, to lead the research project, which was conducted as a “field trial” under real-world range conditions on ranches in central and eastern California. Angus cows were mated to both Hereford and Angus bulls under typical western range conditions. The hypothesis of the study was that there would be an economic advantage to crossbreeding, especially in the finishing phase. Daley followed the purebred and crossbred calves from birth through the finishing stage and compared the longevity, health, reproductive fitness, and economic return to the producer.

The results of the study are probably no surprise to anyone who has taken genetics or beef management from Daley or his predecessors in the College of Agriculture. The researchers found improvements in feed efficiency, animal health, and net economic return in the crossbred cattle versus the straight-bred Angus cattle. “The economics of the beef industry have changed so much in recent decades that producers need current data under real-world conditions,” Daley said. “From my perspective we need to look at the economics back to the cow-calf level to see the return to the actual producers.”

The following individuals and organizations have helped launch a Hereford breeding program at CSU, Chico:

Aaron Willbourne Cattle Co. and W. Herefords
Allflex USA
Alt Hemolds
American Hereford Association
Graham Elyeg
Joe Brazil
California/Nevada Hereford Association
California/Nevada Polled Hereford Association
DeForest Livestock
Paul and Karin DeForest
Gagnon Herefords
Gen-O-Livestock
B.L. and Melissa Macfarlane
Bob Macfarlane and Laura Allender
Matt and Michelle Macfarlane
Maxx Hemolds
Michelle Ranch
Bobby Mickelson
Morel Hemolds
Pedretti Herefords
Schloer Herefords
Sonomi Mountain Herefords
Marshall and Linda Walker

The study has generated significant national interest in establishing crossbreeding programs. As a result, the American Hereford Association and other breeders donated cattle and embryos to help launch a Hereford program at CSU, Chico.

“The breeding program offers one more area of field experience for students,” said Daley, “and gives students the opportunity to interact with an additional segment of industry professionals.”

The research was funded by the Agricultural Research Initiative, the American Hereford Association, Lacey Livestock, Harris Ranch Feeding Co., and Harris Ranch Beef Co.
As a Chico State student in the mid-1960s, Charlie Hoppin scoffed at the school motto. “Today Decides Tomorrow,” and lived by his own personal motto instead: “Today is the tomorrow I decided on yesterday.” He had decided on his future long before entering college, and as far as he was concerned, he couldn’t wait to get out of school and get on with his life. Now looking back on an ag-plus years in the agriculture industry, the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus for the College of Agriculture has changed his opinion about the school motto. He marvels at the path his career has taken and credits Chico State for helping him develop some of the skills he needed to navigate it.

Until 2006, Charlie Hoppin was living his dream as a farmer. After a couple years working for ag-related businesses, Hoppin considers himself fortunate to have been able to start farming full-time in the early 1970s. “I was able to start a farm because my business models, Hoppin considers himself fortunate for his decision as the University’s Outstanding Faculty Service Award winner. In the typical Patton fashion of giving and service, Doc and Jane used the windfall to create a flexible endowment in the University Foundation that would allow them to fund their award each year while making regular contributions to the endowment. By gradually building an endowment rather than relying solely on annual contributions, the Pattons are guaranteeing that generations of students will benefit from the legacy they have established—a legacy of lifelong learning more than 40 years in the making. The Pattons established the award in 2000 when Doc received a small monetary stipend for his selection as the University’s Outstanding Faculty Service Award winner. In the typical Patton fashion of giving and service, Doc and Jane used the windfall to create a flexible endowment in the University Foundation that would allow them to fund their award each year while making regular contributions to the endowment. By gradually building an endowment rather than relying solely on annual contributions, the Pattons are guaranteeing that generations of students will benefit from the legacy they have established—a legacy of lifelong learning more than 40 years in the making.

SUCCESS for More Than 40 Years

From the time he returned to his alma mater as a young animal science professor in 1969 until he retired in 2004, Dr. Wes (Doc) Patton and his wife, Jane, developed a reputation for truly caring about student success. The Pattons’ focus on helping students achieve their dreams is no less evident in retirement. The Wes and Jane Patton Student Advancement Award is given each year to help an undergraduate further his or her educational experience by traveling to present a paper at a scientific meeting or visit graduate schools. The 2010 recipient of the Patton Award is Daniel Louie (in picture below with the Pattons). The Siskiyou County native and animal science major graduated in the spring and has started veterinary school at Washington State University. Louie was nominated and selected by faculty for his academic achievement at CSU, Chico, his involvement in the college, and his commitment to furthering his education and ultimately impacting agriculture. “I feel so fortunate to have received this award,” Louie said. “Although I missed out on Dr. Patton’s teaching, since I started school after he retired, I know what a huge impact he had and still has at Chico State.”

The Pattons established the award in 2000 when Doc received a small monetary stipend for his selection as the University’s Outstanding Faculty Service Award winner. In the typical Patton fashion of giving and service, Doc and Jane used the windfall to create a flexible endowment in the University Foundation that would allow them to fund their award each year while making regular contributions to the endowment. By gradually building an endowment rather than relying solely on annual contributions, the Pattons are guaranteeing that generations of students will benefit from the legacy they have established—a legacy of lifelong learning more than 40 years in the making.
The Harvest

College of Agriculture Dean Jennifer Ryder Fox participated in the Farm Journal’s Legacy Project by appearing on “Leave a Legacy ’10,” a program that airs on AgDay and U.S. Farm Report. In episode 6, which aired June 13, 2010, Fox visited with host Kevin Spafford and an Indiana farming family who is working on the succession planning they need to keep their farm in the family. That episode and others can be found at www.agnesweb.com/legacyproject.

In a study published in the Nutrition Journal in March, animal science faculty members Drs. Cindy Daley and Patrick Doyle, along with colleagues at UC Davis, synthesized 50 years of research on the effect of grass-finished beef on the nutritional content of beef. The results of their study show that grass-fed beef has a nutritional advantage over grain-fed beef when looking at antioxidants such as omega-3 fatty acids, conjugated linoleic acid, vitamin A, vitamin E, and some key cancer fighting compounds. The study has generated significant interest, including a post on the Runner’s World blog on March 11, 2010.

Kevin O’Brien (Agriculture, ’99) was featured in the May 2010 issue of Runner’s World, which can be found online at http://runnersworld.coversleaf.com/runnersworld/201005#pg91. The article titled “Work Hard, Run Hard” profiled four athletes and the impact their careers have on their running. O’Brien is an assistant manager of McArthur Farm Supply in Fall River Mills, Calif.

Two Chico State alumni are entering their second year in the California Agricultural Leadership Program, which will take them on a 10-day international travel seminar to Egypt, Turkey, and Tunisia in February. Two Chico State alumni are entering their second year in the California Agricultural Leadership Program, which will take them on a 10-day international travel seminar to Egypt, Turkey, and Tunisia in February. Kandi Manhart, executive officer for the Glenn County Resource Conservation District, received her agribusiness degree from CSU, Chico in 2009. Matt Jones, dryer manager and field representative for SunSweet Driers in Live Oak also attended CSU, Chico, majoring in agrilbusiness. Manhart, Jones, and 22 other agriculture professionals from throughout California make up Class 40 of the California Agricultural Leadership Program, an intensive two-year fellowship that prepares and motivates men and women in California agriculture for more effective leadership. For more information about the fellows and the Ag Leadership program, visit www.agsleaders.org.

Kevin Reed (Agribusiness, ’03) Sales/Production Manager—Christopher Ranch, Hollister, CA clipea@hotmail.com

Sarah (Cumber) Lose (Animal Science, ’02) Environmental Scientist—California State Parks, Rancho Cordova, CA scumberr@park.ca.gov

Leah Taylor-Boyd (Agriculture, ’02) Production Manager—Nestle Prepared Foods USA, Gaffney, SC. leah.taylor-boyd@nestle.com

Chris Van Egmond (Agribusiness, ’04) Aftermarket Development Manager—Delaval Inc., Turlock, CA Chris.vanegmond@delaval.com

Casey Stafford (Plant Science, ’02) and Regina Zapponi Stafford (Animal Science, ’05) Casey and Regina manage CICC Outdoor Adventures for the Colusa Indian Community Council. Part of their wildlife habitat effort includes planting sufficient fields to feed wildlife and fuel hunting vehicles (photos on page 1). The Stafford’s has been in business with their own, Cades (2), and daughter, Quinns (1).

John Pearson (Agribusiness, ’81) Agriculture Teacher—Socorro High School, Socorro, NM Owner—Farmer Shops, Bernardo, NM johnshops@aol.com

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Where Are THEY NOW?

2000s

2019s

1980s

1970s

Olive Arias (MS Agriculture, ’93) Associate Scientist—Syngenta Seeds Hawaii, LLC, Kunia, HI olivia.arias@gmail.com

Olive Arias (MS Agriculture, ’93) Associate Scientist—Syngenta Seeds Hawaii, LLC, Kunia, HI olivia.arias@gmail.com

Greg Brandt (Animal Science, ’76) President—Agrio Sales LLC, Fort Wayne, IN brandtguy@zentron.net

1990s

2000s

1990s

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Front-end loader
• Fork lift
• Portable (or stationary) feed mill
• Smaller/mower—pull behind rather than self propelled.
• Small tractor (30 hp) for organic vegetable project
• Front-end loader for 40 hp tractor
• Hay squeeze
• New cultivator
• Drum trailer or set of doubles
• Pipe and cable for fencing
• Small farm implements for smaller pastures
• Gator/mule type vehicles
• Brilliance seeder
• Gated aluminum pipe

E-mail  ______________________________________
Company ____________________________________
Name:  ______________________________________

Where Are THEY NOW?

1970s

1980s

1990s

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2000s

2019s

1980s

1970s

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For more information about making a donation to the College of Agriculture, contact Sarah DeForest at 530-898-3737 or sdeforest@csuchico.edu.
Thank you for Your Support!

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Private giving means the difference between a great educational program and the outcome of an exceptional one. Thank you to the following donors who have helped us create an exceptional College of Agriculture here at California State University, Chico.