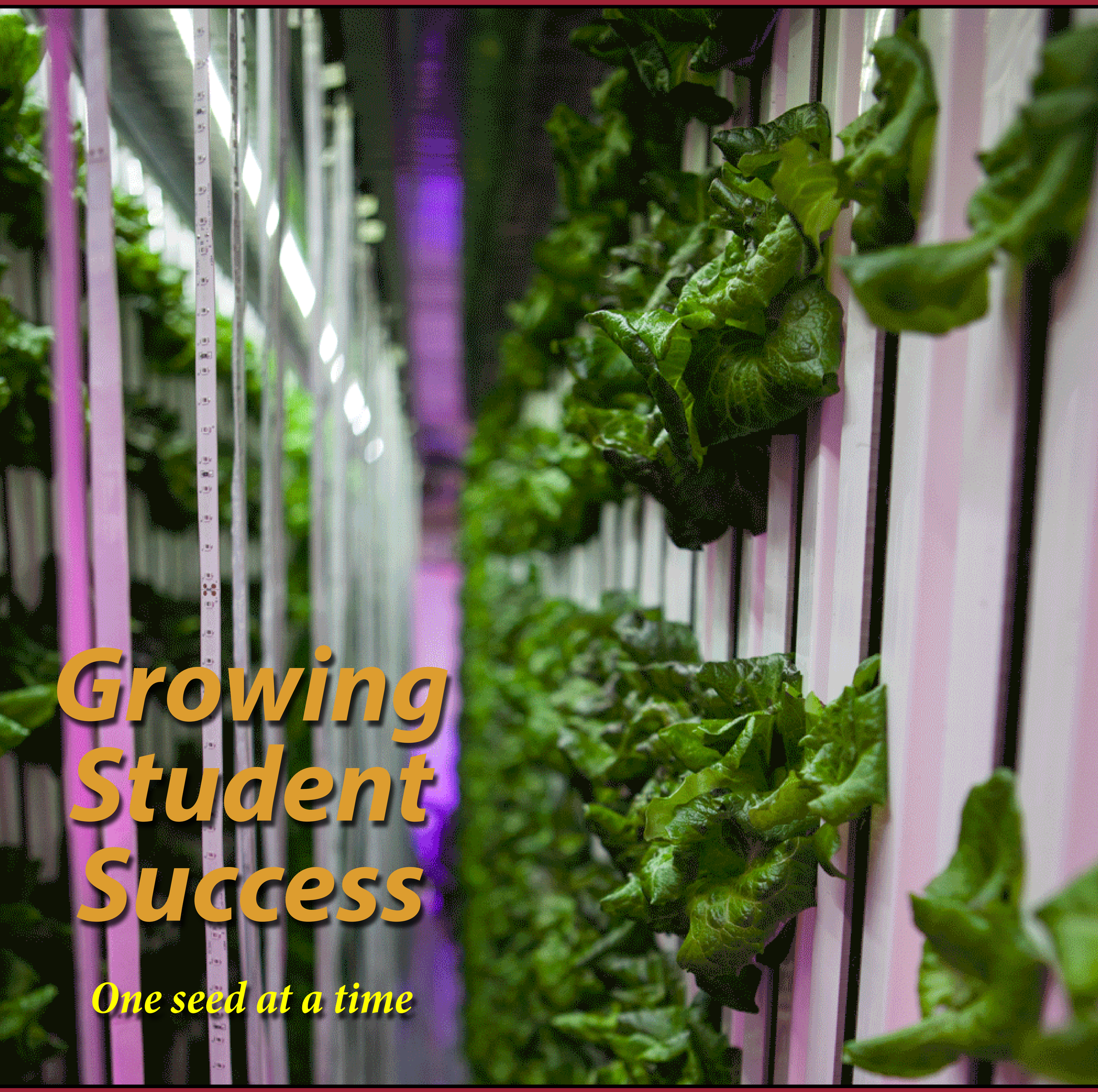
Issue 02 | Fall 2017

The Economic Elevator



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS | Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences

UofA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

The Economic Elevator

Issue 02 | Fall 2017

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences
Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness



Editor-in-chief: Ryan Ruiz

Layout and design: Ryan Ruiz

Cover photograph: Ryan Stackable

Contributor: Ashley Fitzsimmons

Contributor: Jacob Logsdon

Contributor: Gloria Flores Passmore

Contributor: Ryan Ruiz

Contributor: Nichole Russell

Contributor: Arley Ward

AEAB department chair: Steve Halbrook

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Coale Reflects on Atlantis Program, Slovkia



AEAB master's student Matthew Coale reflects on his experience with the Atlantis Program and discusses his time abroad in Slovakia and Italy.

Growing Student Success

One seed at a time.

BY NICHOLE RUSSELL

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From the AEAB Department Chair



Steve Halbrook
AEAB Department Chair

Welcome back to campus for the fall semester! We are excited to be joined by several new faces in our undergraduate and graduate programs. Currently, 298 undergrads and 29 grad students are enrolled in the department. This represents a 4% increase compared to the 2016 fall semester and continues our upward trend in enrollment. We expect that our gifted students will accomplish tremendous achievements this semester and beyond.

Over the summer, our department experienced a few exciting changes. First, we said goodbye to instructor Hannah Shear. Hannah joined our team after completing the Atlantis program, a dual-master's degree program offered in this department. She served as instructor and undergraduate recruitment coordinator for two years, before leaving this summer to pursue other academic endeavors. Thank you for your contributions to this department, Hannah, and best of luck to you moving forward!

While we are sorry to see Hannah go, we are thrilled to announce the additions to this department. A familiar face--Dr. Nathan Kemper--will be taking on the roles of clinical assistant professor and undergraduate program coordinator. Dr. Kemper completed his doctorate program over the summer, and we are all proud of his successes!

We are also welcoming Bradley Isbell to our faculty. Bradley completed his Master of Science in Agricultural Economics with us and accepted a role as instructor. We look forward to the enthusiasm in providing valuable job skills to our undergraduate students that he will bring to the classroom. Finally, Wei Yang joined our research support team, too. Wei finished his Master of Science in Agricultural Economics, as well, and will provide statistical data analysis for our department.

Looking forward, we have several exciting things happening. For one, I am teaching the course AGEC 402V - U.S. Agricultural Policy. What I like most about this course is the comprehensive survey of U.S. agriculture, cataloging its evolution through history to better understand the dynamics of today. Also, it is my pleasure to announce that Randall E. Pope will be our 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Mr. Pope has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment to this department and has more than earned this award. The ceremony will take place on Friday, October 20th at 3:30 p.m. in the AFLS Hembree Auditorium.

We have a wonderful department, full of talented and highly-active academics. I encourage you to explore the pages of this newsletter to see what your colleagues have been doing!

Dr. Steve Halbrook

Upcoming Events

- **ABC Fall BBQ**
  Date: 9/13
  Time: 4:30 p.m.
  Location: Hawkins Terrace, AFLS

- **AEAB Breakfast Brunch**
  Date: 9/28
  Time: 8:00 a.m.
  Location: AEAB Conf. Room

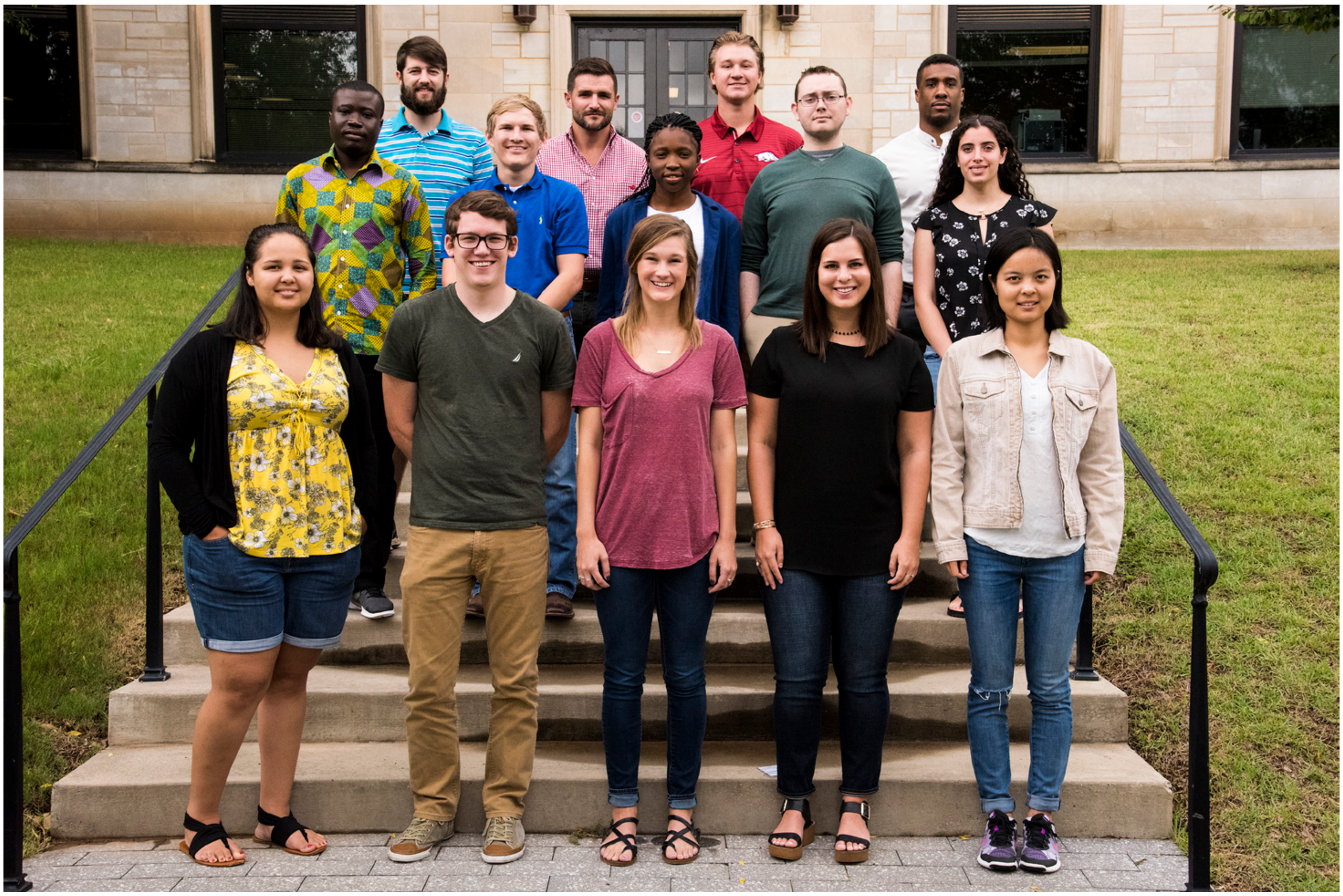
- **A Taste of Bumpers**
  Date: 9/29
  Time: 10:00 a.m.
  Location: Uark Campus, Fayetteville

- **Distinguished Alumni**
  Date: 10/20
  Time: 3:30 p.m.
  Location: Hemree Auditorium

- **Chili/Soup Cookoff**
  Date: 10/31
  Time: 11:00 a.m.
  Location: AEAB Conf. Room

- **Holiday Lunch Thursday**
  Date: 12/7
  Time: 11:00 a.m.
  Location: AEAB Conf. Room

Fall 2017 Graduate Students



Front: Karli Moore, Grant Wilson, Taylor Johnson, Anna Claire Travis, Siyao Ma

Middle: Simon Codjo, Jacob Clinton Moore, Glory Okpiaifo, Brian Wempe, Noussayma Njeim

Back: Lucas Head, Matt Cole, Rob Rosene, Davin Ryles

The Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Department of the University of Arkansas welcomes our Fall 2017 graduate students. We look forward to seeing you utilize your unique and diverse array of talents to develop professionally during your time with us!

GROWING STUDENT SUCCESS

one seed at a time

Taylor Pruitt is an agricultural business and hospitality innovation double major. She's a busy sophomore involved in her sorority, taking part in study groups, coffee breaks, and Arkansas football games. But between classes, instead of heading back to her room or chatting with friends, Pruitt heads over to a shipping container where she spends around 20 hours doing one thing – farming lettuce.

BY NICHOLE RUSSELL

Photo used with permission of Ryan Stackable



Almost 13,000 heads of lettuce have been harvested in the "Leafy Green Machine" on the Fayetteville campus.

Since August 2016, Chartwells has been growing lettuce in a shipping-container-turned-sustainable-farm called the Leafy Green Machine. The farm comes from an environmentally conscious, sustainability-minded company based out of Boston, Massachusetts, called Freight Farms.

Protected from temperature changes and other environmental disturbances, the refurbished shipping freight is a fully functioning hydroponic farm that uses a vertical growing system. With approximately 260 hanging towers, over 3,000 heads of lettuce are growing in the Freight Farm at any given time.

Inside the container, LED light strips provide crops with shades of red and blue—the light spectrums required for photosynthesis. A hydroponic system delivers a nutrient rich water solution directly to roots, using only 10 gallons of water a day. Energy-efficient equipment automatically regulates temperature and humidity in the Freight Farm through a series of sensors and controls.

Overall, the Freight Farm project has the potential to shorten the food supply chain, cut emissions, decrease costs, and overall, significantly reduce the campus' carbon footprint.

While researching new ways to incorporate sustainability-minded projects into food service on campus, Andrew Lipson, resident district manager for Chartwells at UARK, became intrigued with the idea of locally growing food on campus and distributing it to the dining halls. Lipson realized the Freight Farm project would also allow for Chartwells to bring students into the farming process.

"Of course we want to be able to reduce waste and shorten the food supply chain on campus—we're always looking for innovative ways of doing that, but we also want to do work with students," Lipson said. "We want to bring them in however we can. I mean, we're here to serve them. They're the reason why we come into work every day."

"Working in the Freight Farm is one small way for me to make a difference."

With the global community concerned about the pervasive global warming and food and water security issues, teaching students about sustainable food options is vital to building tomorrow's innovators.

Outside of the environmental benefits of the Freight Farm and the delicious, leafy greens it brings to campus dining halls, the hydroponic farm is fostering a deep growth of interest in students for community engagement, food security, and social responsibility.

"We can't live in a world where we have people dying of starvation. People are dying because we can't figure out a way to provide food soon enough," Pruitt said. "Working in the Freight Farm, participating in that community and spreading that knowledge, I feel like is one small way for me to make a difference." ▪



AEAB faculty appearing with the “2017 Departmental Gold Medal” plaque.

2017 State and National Awards Reception

The AEAB Department was well represented at the 2017 Annual State and National Awards Reception. Notable achievements include the following items:

- As a whole, the AEAB Department was awarded the “2017 Departmental Gold Medal.” This prestigious award has only been earned by one other Bumpers College department since the award’s inception in 2003.
- Colson Tester and Luke Lane were recognized for their 1st and 3rd place Quiz Bowl performances, respectively.
- Victoria Maloch was awarded with both the “Truman-Albright Fellows Program” and “Truman Summer Institute Program.”
- Sam Harris was a “Truman Scholarship” recipient.
- Katelin Hyman, Anneeke Carr, and Roger Shirley all received recognition for their work at the Western National Roundup Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest. ■



Members of the Department of Agricultural Economics receive the Office of Sponsored Student Programs Appreciation Award.

AEAB Receives Sponsored Student Programs Appreciation Award

BY GLORIA FLORES PASSMORE

The faculty and staff in the Department of Agricultural Economics have been named the recipients of the annual Office of Sponsored Student Programs Appreciation Award for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Traditionally, the office names one outstanding faculty member and one outstanding staff member who have facilitated an aspect of the sponsored student process, encouraged or mentored sponsored students, and exemplified outstanding contributions to the sponsored student program. However, the amount of support the entire agricultural economics faculty and staff have shown to sponsored students at the University of Arkansas warranted a change in tradition.

(continued on page 8)



From left, Ms. Alicia Minden and Dr. Qiuqiong Huang receive the Office of Sponsored Student Programs Appreciation Award from Gloria Flores Passmore and Curt Rom.

"Agricultural Economics has had a long-standing commitment to supporting international students, in particular, sponsored students," said sponsored student programs director Gloria Flores Passmore. "The Office of Sponsored Student Programs would not be as successful a program without this commitment."

The Department of Agricultural Economics was recognized at an appreciation dinner held for sponsored students earlier this month.

In addition to honoring outstanding faculty and staff, sponsored students who have completed degrees or who are set to complete their studies at the university in spring or summer 2017 were recognized.

"One of the best experiences I've had at the university has been volunteering for different activities with institutions on campus," said Victor Tello, a Fulbright Scholar from Panama who will be graduating this spring with a master's degree in computer science and computer engineering. "I have participated in activities with the Fulbright Scholars at the University of Arkansas, in which we share our culture and learn from people from around the world. Here, we have not only learned about a specific field, but ways to use the knowledge we have gained to help our country. I think this is the most important part of being an international and sponsored student—the time after graduation."

"Agricultural Economics has had a long-standing commitment to supporting international students."

Sponsored students are those who are funded by foreign governments, the U.S. government, domestic and international agencies, private companies and corporations. These international students, upon completion of their degrees or study abroad experience, return to their home countries and serve as important links between the United States, Arkansas, and the University of Arkansas in business, government, education, and industry. ■

AEAB Scholarship Donation

Donations from businesses and alumni are of tremendous benefit to the programs and facilities we provide. Donated funds go directly to the scholarships that we offer our students. All contributions, large and small, allow us to present an opportunity to scholars who have the intellectual but not the financial means. Please consider making a gift to our program today. ■

DONATE NOW



Matthew Coale in Naples, Italy.

Master's Student Matthew Coale Reflects on His Atlantis Program Experience

Although study abroad programs have existed at universities in the United States for over 100 years, only about 1 percent of all students enrolled in higher education in the United States make use of such resources. While several factors contribute to this low level of engagement, funding and knowledge about the availability of these programs are two key factors hindering students from pursuing this opportunity.

Matthew Coale, a graduate student in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, hopes to dispel the myth that only a select few have access to this transformative option by sharing his experience studying abroad in Slovakia through the Atlantis Program.

An agricultural business undergrad with a poultry science minor, Coale cites his enrollment in Dr. Lanier Nalley's course "Global Community Development in Mozambique" for giving him a taste of rural development. Through the guidance of several AEAB department faculty (and a background check and letters of recommendation), Coale opted to enroll in the Atlantis Program, a double master's degree program in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas and in rural development issued jointly by five partner universities abroad. Coale had several accomplished partner universities to choose from, including Ghent University in Belgium and Humboldt University of Berlin in Germany, and ultimately decided on spending a semester in Slovakia's Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. This decision was life changing.

(continued on page 10)



Matthew Coale appears in Malafatra, Slovakia with others in his cohort.

"With the option to go to Italy or Belgium available, the Eastern European country of Slovakia may not be in a student's purview; however, I had heard several good things about it," says Coale. "The Slovak University in Nitra," he continues, "is extremely receptive to foreign students. Thanks to the welcoming professors and community, I felt more like a part of a family than just a number."

With funding assistance from Erasmus+ Program totaling over $5000, Coale spent his spring 2017 semester abroad, spending five months total in Slovakia. While pursuing his studies, he was able to find time to enjoy the region, too. Nitra, the oldest city in Slovakia and home to the Slovak University, is in a premier location. A town in the midst of rapid economic growth, Coale describes Nitra as an "Eastern European Fayetteville." Living in a dorm with students from 28 different countries, Coale was immersed in diversity. His cohort explored the region, traveling to at least 16 countries between February and July.

Following his stay in Slovakia, Coale traveled to Sillico, Italy, in the Tuscany Region, for the second leg of the Atlantis Program. While in Sillico, Coale gathered qualitative data for a case study project through the University of Pisa.

"[The Atlantis Program] exists and is a dream come true."

Reflecting on his experiences, Coale has several takeaways. "I had never heard about the Atlantis Program. It exists and is a dream come true. I grew up on a farm in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and most people wouldn't think this is doable," he said. "Students just have to look and ask for it. Funding is available, and faculty are willing to assist with the process. All I did was get the ball rolling, and by the end of the day I was going in the right direction."

Coale is currently back in Fayetteville finishing up his thesis, which focuses on quantifying the economic benefits of the public wheat breeding program in South Africa, under the supervision of Dr. Nalley.

Originally founded in 2008, the Atlantis Program has grown since its inception. Students from diverse educational backgrounds enroll in two terms at the University of Arkansas and two terms abroad. Students receive two degrees, a master's degree in agricultural economics and an international master's degree in rural development. The methodology consists of a combination of basic and specialized training in technical, economic and social sciences, a case study of one month, an individual master's thesis, and a high degree of student and scholar mobility. For additional details about the Atlantis Program, please follow this link. ▪



Connor Flocks and Victoria Maloch, the recipients of the 2017 Senior Honor Citations.

Maloch Awarded 52nd Senior Honor Citation

BY ASHLEY FITZSIMMONS

The Arkansas Alumni Association announced the winners of the 52nd Senior Honor Citation: Victoria Maloch and Connor Flocks were awarded the honor May 4 during the Cardinal & White Banquet at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House.

This honor recognizes the top two seniors on campus. The award was announced at the conclusion of the banquet by Chancellor Joe Steinmetz. Maloch and Flocks were part of the 71 students chosen in fall 2016 as the Class of 2017 Seniors of Significance. They were then chosen as two of the 22 Razorback Classic honorees before receiving the Senior Honor Citation. As the winners of the Senior Honor Citation, Maloch and Flocks received a life membership in the Arkansas Alumni Association, permanent recognition on a plaque at the alumni house and were invited back to campus to represent their class at events.

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Maloch Awarded 52nd Senior Honor

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Maloch is from Magnolia and graduated with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business with a pre-law concentration from the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences.

"Graduating with a class of 20 students in a town of 368 people, I never imagined I would become a Senior of Significance, let alone become a part of Razorback Classics or receive the Senior Honors Citation. During the last few years, however, I have discovered anything is possible when you become engaged in the Razorback community and honor the values it holds dear," Maloch said.

"Anything is possible when you become engaged in the Razorback community."

"During my time as a Razorback, my experiences have been shaped and defined by the history, traditions, and alumni of the University of Arkansas. From being an initiate of Chi Omega's founding chapter to one day having my name on Senior Walk and now on the wall as a 2017 Senior Honor Citation recipient, a piece of my heart will forever live within the University of Arkansas story. Like our land-grant university, my roots will always be in Arkansas and agriculture. But I will also follow the example the University of Arkansas and the Arkansas Alumni Association have set of bringing people together, continually learning and improving, and serving as a partner, resource and catalyst to Arkansas and beyond.

"The Senior Honor Citation is a great honor, but also a great responsibility. As the recipient of a lifetime alumni membership, it is my responsibility not only to be an active and engaged alumni member but to make sure all future students have the same opportunities to flourish as I did." ■

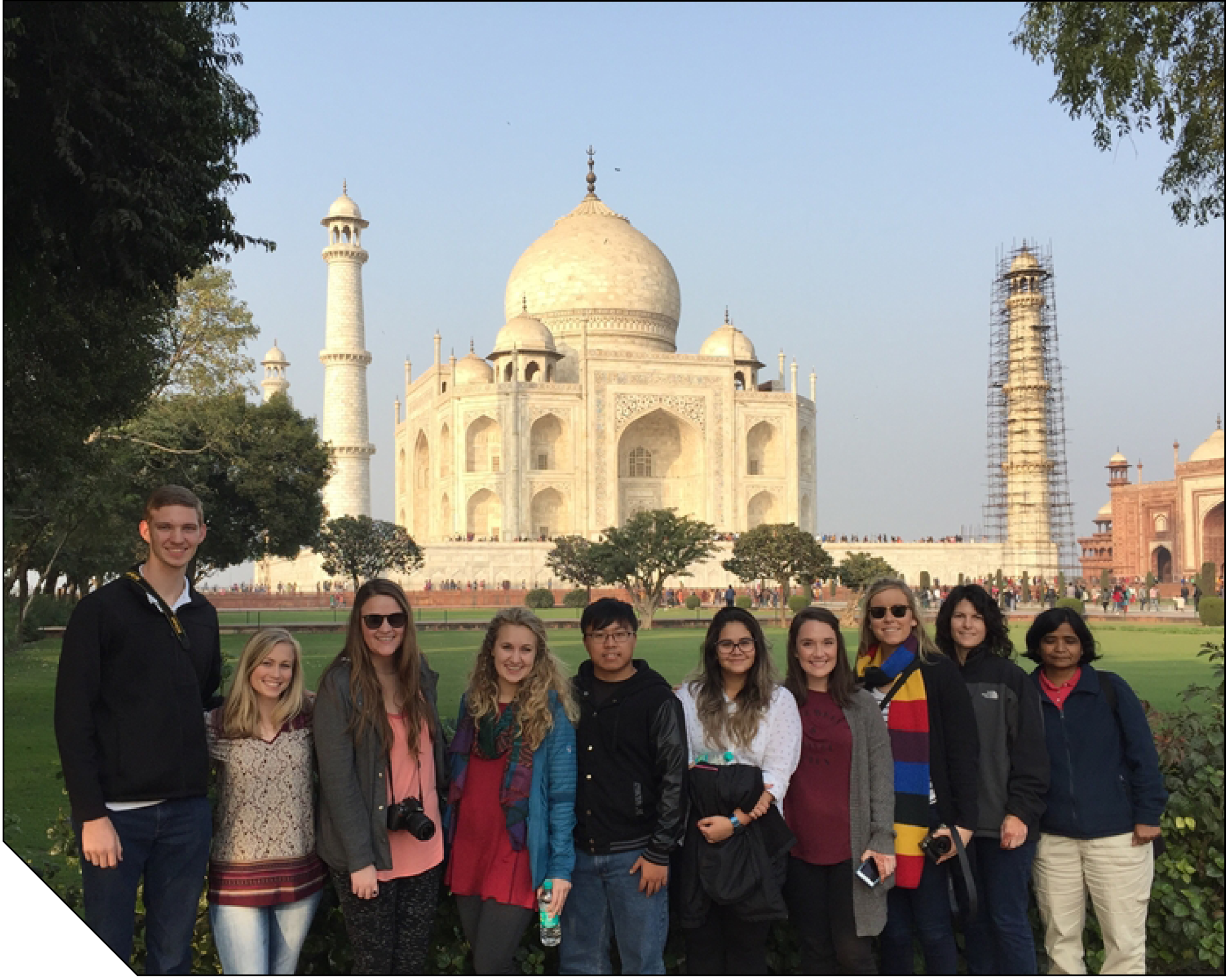
Did You Know?

Often considered a first point-of-contact at the UA, the Arkansas Alumni Association, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to connect alumni, friends, and students to the University of Arkansas. The Association is housed in the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House which is strategically situated on campus across from Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium.

Beginning with its founding in 1878, the Association has played a significant role in campus growth, marshaling financial support, establishing scholarships, providing inclusive alumni programs and encompassing students as future alumni. Traditional fixtures such as Homecoming, the UA Foundation, the Annual Fund, the University Ring and privately funded scholarships originated with the Association.

The Association is advised by a 33-member Board of Directors, which provides input on alumni policies and programming. In addition, the Association reports to and is a part of the UA's Division of University Advancement.

The Cardinal & White Banquet is held annually and is the pinnacle of the Arkansas Alumni Association awards programs. Students are judged on academic excellence, leadership, and campus or community involvement. ■



The Bumpers College group participating in the agricultural International Programs trip to India.

Nicols, Bumpers College Gain Global Insight While Touring India

BY JACOB LOGSDON

Students from various disciplines recently participated in the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences' experiential learning international program in India.

Jordan Nichols, Tara Harris, Macie Kelly, and five other students joined Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences professors Mary Savin and Vibha Srivastava on a faculty-led trip over the January intercession.

"India is nothing like any other culture," said Nichols, a master's degree student in agricultural economics. "India is a powerhouse in agriculture. It introduces students to the challenge of agriculture that you wouldn't see here in the U.S."

The India program was one of the few Bumpers College offered during the January intersession.

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Touring India

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The Bumpers College program combines lectures with hands-on learning experiences to give students an understanding and practical knowledge of the lifestyles within India, and the different methods within agriculture and society India is using to further develop the country.

"When I started this trip, my expectations were that India is dirty and overpopulated, but very rich in culture," Nichols said. "However, coming back, I have learned that the people there are unified in their pursuit to become a developed country. The people are very devoted. They finish what they start, and non-profits and religious groups are doing a lot of work to help."

"If you want a unique agricultural experience, this is the place to go," Nichols said. "This trip is perfect for agricultural economics students, plant science students, crop, soil and environmental science students, as well as agricultural communications students. If you want to learn about the world of agriculture, this shows scope, and that the dynamic is different from the U.S."

Experiences for the group included lodging at the Umaid Bhawan hotel, visiting the University of Delhi South Campus and Dayalbagh Educational Institute, touring an active sugar factory and a rug factory, visiting major landmarks such as the Taj Mahal, and riding elephants to the palace in Jaipur. ▪



Aaron Shew takes time from his field work in Bangladesh to appear with an unnamed bovine friend .

Shew Honored By GSC

BY ARLEY WARD

At the final meeting of the Graduate Student Congress on April 20, graduate students Ashley Whiting, Garrett Jeter, and Aaron Shew were among the recipients of the second annual U of A Graduate Student Congress Awards.

The Graduate Student Congress is a legislative branch of the Associated Student Government and represents the voice of all graduate and professional students. The primary mission of GSC is to promote programming that will directly benefit the lives of graduate and professional students at the University of Arkansas, on and off campus.

The GSC honored Aaron Shew for his impressive record of research at the University of Arkansas and beyond. He is one of the top students to progress through the Environmental Dynamics (ENDY) Program.

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Shew Honored By GSC

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Shew was one of few students to enter the program with a bachelor's degree and was also awarded a Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship.

While in the program he has obtained two master's degrees (geography and ag economics), was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, an American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowship, Sturgis Foundation International Study Grant, awarded the Burton Award in Geosciences for the best Geography student in the department and has been instrumental in multiple grants working in Africa and Asia.

He is presently working on dissertation research as a Visiting Scholar with faculty from Kansas State University under a USAID-Feed the Future Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab Grant and has set up monitoring equipment to collect data on the changing seasonal salinity in rural agricultural fields in Bangladesh enable to help small rural farmers increase the productivity of their fields. ▪

Did You Know?

GSC representatives serve on various committees focused on issues as diverse as our campus. Each representative has the power to propose bills and resolutions related to any area of campus life. ▪

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS®

DALE BUMPERS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD & LIFE SCIENCES

Four AEAB Students Graduate From Bumpers College Honors Program

The AEAB department has no shortage of gifted and committed scholars. To this point, four AEAB students graduated from the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Honors Program at the end of the 2017 Spring semester.

Josh Curtis Crystal, of Mounds, OK., is an agricultural business major, faculty mentor is Dr. Michael Popp, and his thesis title is "Cost Benefit Analysis of Genetic Markers in Cow-Calf Operations." Josh is graduating Cum Laude with Honors Distinction.

Sam Goll, of Fayetteville, is an agricultural business major, faculty mentor is Dr. Michael Popp, and his thesis title is "Putting Honey on the Table: A Business Plan to Create a Successful Part-time Beekeeping Operation." Sam is graduating Summa Cum Laude with Honors Distinction.

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Bumpers College Honors Graduates

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Luke Lane, of Taylor, is an agricultural business major, faculty mentor is Dr. Jennie Popp, and his thesis title is "An Assessment of Economic Considerations for Industrial Hemp Production." Luke is graduating Summa Cum Laude with Honors Distinction.

Victoria Maloch, of Magnolia, is an agricultural business major, faculty mentor is Dr. Jill Rucker, and her thesis title is "Effects of Prolonged Job Rigor on National FFA Officers." Victoria is graduating Summa Cum Laude with Honors Distinction. ■



Josh Curtis Crystal



Sam Goll



Luke Lane



Victoria Maloch

Brooke Taylor

Bumpers College Spitze Public Policy Legislative Intern Award

Brooke Taylor, a junior studying agricultural business with a concentration in pre-law, serves as the undergraduate coordinator for the Experiential Learning Lab within the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications, and Technology. She has participated in Planet Forward, a sustainability leadership development program in Washington, D.C., and serves as vice president programming for the Student Alumni Board and as social chair of Sigma Alpha, the Professional Agricultural Sorority. Taylor is also a member of the AECT REPS, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and Collegiate FFA, and has served as a R.O.C.K. mentor. After graduating, Taylor plans to pursue a J.D. and LL.M. in food and agricultural law at the U of A School of Law. ■





Victoria Maloch

First-Ranked Senior Scholar and John W. White Outstanding Student Awards

Victoria Maloch, a senior majoring in agricultural business with a pre-law concentration, has been actively involved on campus in the Volunteer Action Center's literacy and food recovery programs, Arkansas Alumni Association Student Alumni Board, Chi Omega Women's Fraternity and various clubs within Bumpers College and across campus. After college, she will pursue a graduate degree in public policy focusing on various cultural, social and economic challenges of policy implementation in rural America. ■

Victoria Maloch Named to 2017 Class of Razorback Classics

Victoria was selected by the Arkansas Alumni Association for her academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement. Listed below are a few of the accomplishments which secured this honor:

- White House Intern, Exec. Office of the President
- National Secretary, National FFA Organization
- World Food Prize Fellow, USDA Office of Comm.
- Congressional Intern, U.S. House of Representatives
- Harry S. Truman Scholar
- Inaugural Senior Walk Dedication Chair, Student Alumni Board
- Member of Chi Omega
- John W. White Outstanding Student Award ■





International Students to Benefit from Parsch Scholarship

Lucas and Janet Parsch, from Fayetteville, are committing $100,000 to Campaign Arkansas through a bequest to establish a scholarship specifically for international students at the University of Arkansas. Lucas Parsch, an emeritus professor of agricultural economics and agribusiness, and Janet Parsch, who is currently on the faculty for the University Libraries, are making this investment to assist students from other countries who encounter financial need.

"It taught us not only how people from another culture live and think but also gave us a new perspective on who we—as Americans—are," said Lucas Parsch. ■



2017-2018 ABC Officers. From left: Madison Lindsey (Treasurer), Taylor Pruitt (Secretary), Colson Tester (President), and Matt Hansen (Vice President).

2017 ABC Award Ceremony

The Ag Business Club held their annual award ceremony on April 13, 2017. We said farewell to last year's ABC officers who are moving on and welcomed the new members to this year's board.

In addition to naming this year's ABC officers, several AEAB students were recognized for their scholastic achievements. "Outstanding Student" award winners include William "Cody" Roebke (Freshman), Taylor Pruitt (Sophomore), Colson Tester (Junior), Matthew Hansen (Senior), and Luke Lane (Graduating Senior). "Academic Achievement" awards, which are presented to students from any class and carry a $500 award, were earned by Taylor LaCour and Taylor Johnson.

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2017 ABC Award Ceremony

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"Academic Achievement Award"

Taylor Johnson (Right) and Taylor LaCour (Below).





"Outstanding Student Award"

William "Cody" Roebke (Right).



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"Outstanding Student Award"

Taylor Pruitt (Top-left), Colson Tester (Top-right), Matthew Hansen (Bottom-left), and Luke Lane (Bottom-right). ▪

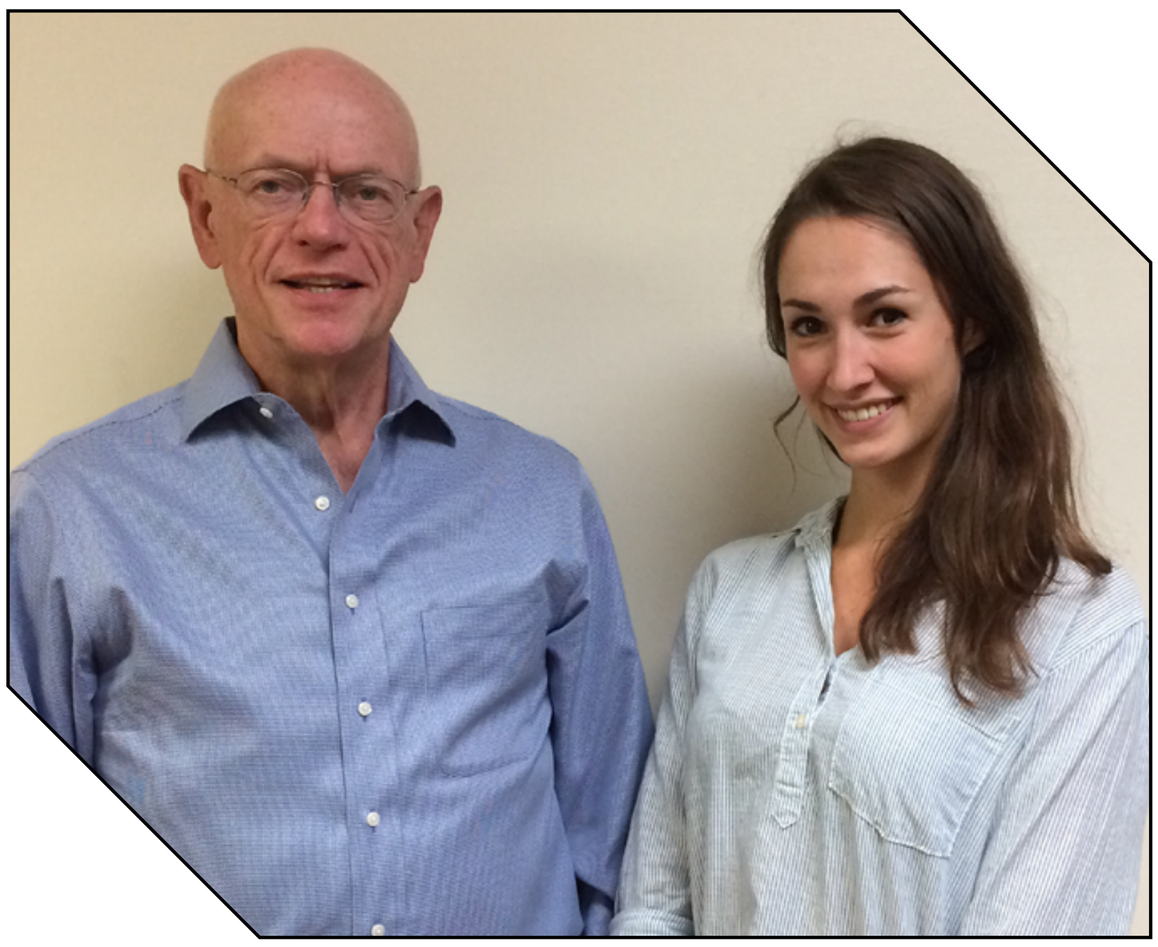
2017 Completed Thesis Defenses



Jordan Weil

Advisor: Dr. H.L. Goodwin

"Evaluating the Impact of an All-Vegetable Protein Supplement Containing Fat Emulsifiers and Probiotics on Broiler Performance"



Valerie Kilders

Advisor: Dr. Eric Wailes

"Qualitative Analysis of Social Capital in Arkansas—A Case Study Based Approach"



Bradley Isbell

Advisor: Dr. Andrew McKenzie

"The Cost of Forward Contracting in Mississippi River Barge Freight and CIF NOLA Markets"

Dr. Eric Wailes
ICFA Conference

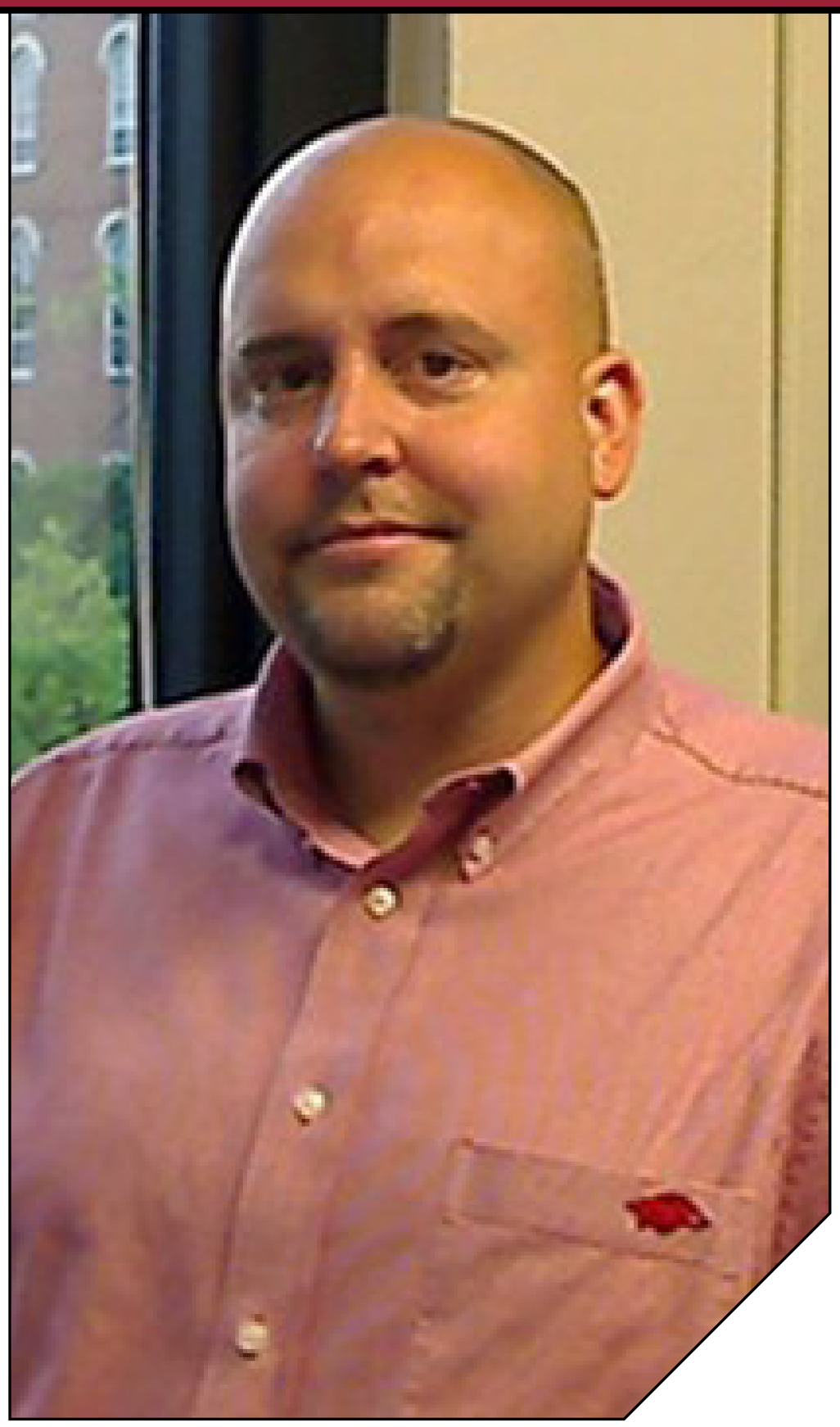


Dr. Wailes was a plenary speaker at the International Conference on Food and Agriculture at the University of Phillippines, Los Banos. His presentation for the event was titled "Global and Regional Opportunities, Challenges and Implications for Agricultural Development: 'Make America First.'" Dr. Wailes appears to the right with former AGEC M.S. student Reynold Tan, now a professor at the University of Philippine, Visayas. ■



Dr. Michael Thomsen
OER Award Winner

University Libraries and the Global Campus partnered this year for the first time to offer awards to faculty for adopting and creating open educational resources. The goal of this initiative is to lower textbook costs for University of Arkansas students. Dr. Thomsen was recognized for developing his own course materials in webMathematica. He continues his efforts to provide students with access to effective, affordable class materials and is currently working to transfer his materials into a free, open source platform. ■



Congratulations, Dr. Nathan Kemper!

After acquiring his Master of Science degree in agricultural economics right here in Fayetteville, Nathan Kemper worked for the Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Department as Research Associate for five years, focusing on economic impact analysis, direct marketing, local food systems, and life cycle assessments.

Beginning in 2010, he served as the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Coordinator, directing a training program that delivered technical assistance and business planning services to over 6,000 farmers and fishermen in the Southern Region.

In 2014, Kemper began teaching courses in the department while continuing to further his education and pursue his doctorate in Public Policy with a Food Policy concentration. He completed his program in November 2016 and accepted a promotion to the role of Clinical Assistant Professor shortly after.

In this new position, Dr. Kemper will continue working in the classroom and will assume the duties of Undergraduate Program Coordinator for the department.

Dr. Steve Halbrook, head of the AEAB Department, spoke highly of Dr. Kemper's talent and commitment: "Dr. Kemper has been among us for several years in a variety of different positions. He has excelled in every assignment. This new assignment makes him a permanent part of our group and gives us a heightened ability to build our undergraduate program. I look forward to his work as part of the departmental leadership team."

Through his effective teaching and dedication to his students, Dr. Kemper has demonstrated that he is invaluable to the department. In addition to his roles as professor and undergraduate coordinator, Dr. Kemper also serves as the faculty mentor of the Agricultural Business Club, the AEAB Department's student-led organization. ▪

Did You Know?

The Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Department has gone through several changes throughout its history. It was established in 1925 with the original name "Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology." The curriculum expanded during the 1970s and again in the 1980s, adding a course in agricultural law. The program was revamped in the early 1990s to transition primary focus to agricultural business. Reflecting this change, it was renamed in 1996 to the title currently used today. ▪

The Backpage

The Backpage contains blurbs contributed by our audience—including current students, alumni, and others. Letters to the editor are welcome, but they are limited to 200 words. The author's name will be printed with the letter. Additionally, letters should not contain obscene or libelous language. Submitted letters are printed pending editorial approval.

Submissions should be contributed to the editor-in-chief:

Ryan Ruiz
ryanruiz@uark.edu
218C AGRI BLDG.

***The Economic Elevator's* Purpose.**
To broadcast University of Arkansas' AEAB Department news to the community.

Corrections.
The Economic Elevator corrects its mistakes. If you believe the *The Economic Elevator* made a mistake in this or a previous issue, please let us know by contacting the editor-in-chief at ryanruiz@uark.edu

Contact Us.
Facebook: AEAB, Uark
Twitter: UA_AgEcon
Email: ryanruiz@uark.edu
Snail mail: 1 University of Arkansas / Fayetteville, AR 72701 / AGRI BLDG.

RIDDLES

1. How many seconds are there in one year?
2. What has 13 hearts, but no other organs?
3. Where is the ocean the deepest?
4. What do pandas have that no other animal has?
5. Why can't someone living in Maine be buried in Florida?

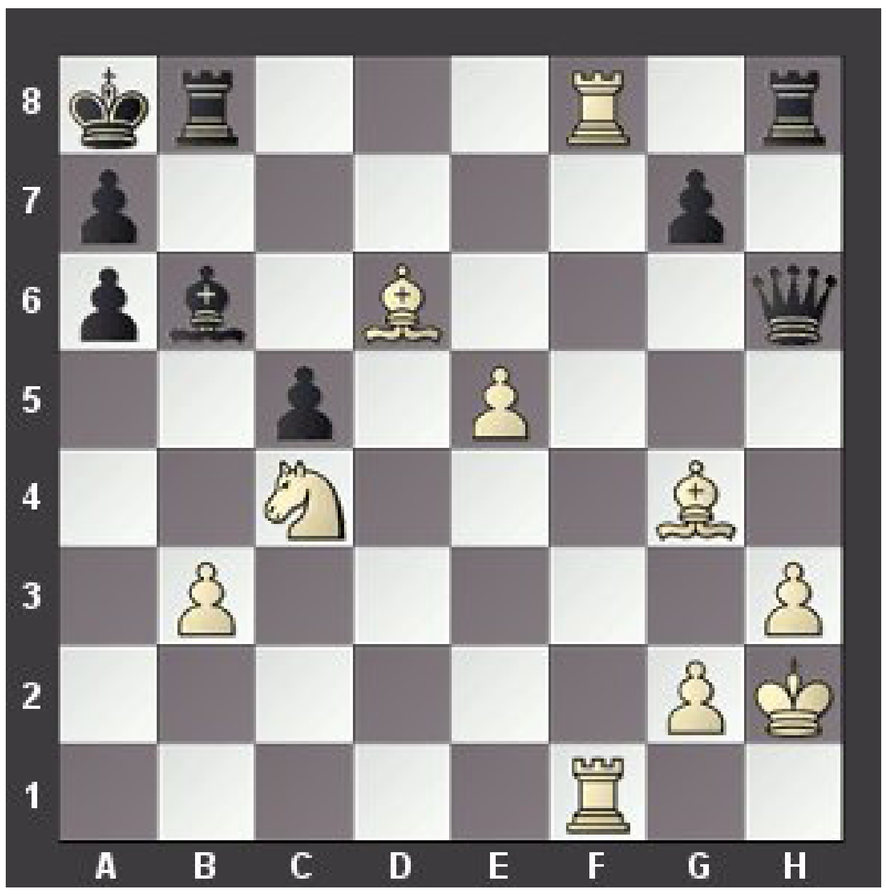
PUZZLES

1. Alice came across a lion and a unicorn in a magical forest. The lion lies every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and speaks the truth on the remaining days. The unicorn lies on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and speaks the truth on the remaining days of the week.

- The Lion told Alice, "Yesterday I was lying."
- The Unicorn told Alice, "So was I."

Which day did they say that?

2. White can put Black in checkmate using *one* move. What is that move?



RIDDLE ANSWERS: 1) 12 (January 2nd, February 2nd, etc. 2) A deck of cards. 3) At the bottom. 4) Baby pandas. 5) Because he/she is still living.
PUZZLE ANSWERS: 1) The Lion and Unicorn said their statements on Thursday talking about Wednesday. 2) Move White's Bishop from G4 to F3 (Bf3#).