



FENCEPOST

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Spring 2010

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Gift Goes to Good Use in CAFES

by Trista Gropp

In the spring of 2008 UW-River Falls' College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) received a generous gift from the estate of Lester E. Baribo. Baribo was a 1943 graduate from the then River Falls State Teachers College. At River Falls, Baribo earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture education before moving on to further education. The Baribo bequest is being used to support

a variety of projects across the college including: improvements to the colt barn classroom, educational technology upgrades, enhancements to a student interaction area, reconfiguration of a laboratory in the Agricultural Engineering Annex, and the addition of a mobile computer laboratory.

Project Update

The new mobile computer lab, a set of ten laptop computers in a mobile storage cart, is being used in a number of classes, including David Keuhl's site planning and development lab. Keuhl, a plant and earth science assistant professor, currently has senior Land Use Planning students utilizing the computers and 3-D mapping software. Keuhl states, "It allows students to take ideas and, with ease, graphically express them." He comments that having the computers is a much better teaching tool than previous drawings and this technology is being used in the industry.

In the Agricultural Education Department, students are benefitting from the purchase of an interactive display and wireless slate, digital lab data collection equipment, and a computer loaded with software, which builds interactive demonstrations, simulations, games and lessons for e-learning. In TED 440 - Techniques in Agriculture, Tim Buttles, associate professor of agricultural education, has his students use the technologies and explore how middle and high school agricultural education teachers could use each type in the classroom.

Instructional computer technology was added to one of the agricultural engineering labs, but that wasn't the only change to that lab space. The lab had been furnished with chairs and tables discarded from another room over fifteen years ago. New workstations were installed including custom workbenches with removable steel support structures, stools, and overhead electrical service. The steel support structures allow equipment



to be suspended above the benches, for instance when conducting lab exercises with simple machines such as pulleys and levers. The combination of the new instructional technology in the lab with the mobile laptop computers for the student teams has proven effective in AGEN 150 - Introduction to Agricultural Engineering. Agricultural engineering professor, Jerry Nechville comments, "The improvements are working out nicely, we have the technology right in lab to gather data and have more time to look at the data. Students also learn how to plot data (in lab)."

Out on the Campus Lab Farm, metal bleachers that were used by classes in the colt barn have been replaced with tablet armchairs, and the addition of a mobile instructor workstation, a laptop, projector and screen has brought about new teaching possibilities. Peter Rayne, animal science professor, states, "The changes improved

safety, practicality, and efficiency; for the students it's a more comfortable environment, a better learning environment."

Back on campus, the Baribo funds were used to create an informal student interaction area near the agricultural economics department. Electrical outlets were added to the plan for an arrangement of tall tables, stools and a cushioned bench, to accommodate the use of laptop computers.

The College is very grateful for the Baribo bequest. The renovations, modifications, and updates have been well received by faculty, staff and students. Dean of the College, Dale Gallenberg noted that, "To accomplish these projects through traditional channels, with the limited opportunities for funding, would have taken many years. It's been very gratifying to be able to improve the learning environment for so many students, so quickly."

NEWS

Dean's Corner



Greetings from the CAFES Dean's Office! It's been another exciting year in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences at UW-River Falls. Our enrollment numbers are up – again! We've welcomed new faculty and staff while saying good bye to others. Budgets have been tight, yet we continue to offer quality educational experiences for our students. The College has been a significant part of preparing for the

2010 Farm Technology Days in Pierce County. And there is our equipment lease agreement with Case IH and Value Implement which will provide significant opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. Overall, there is a lot going on here in CAFES – just the way we like it.

I mentioned CAFES enrollment is up again. We've provided you with some data below illustrating our growth over the past few years. Annual growth in the College increased each year from 3.34% in Fall 2006 to 8.95% in Fall 2009. This represents a total growth of 24.3% over the 4 years. This compares with University annual growth of between 0.59% and 4.0% over the same time frame for a total growth of 10.1%. CAFES has indeed been a major contributor to the overall recent growth of the campus.

Fall 2009 enrollment in CAFES was nearly 1400 undergraduate students spread across our 16 majors and interdisciplinary programs. Animal Science, Agricultural Business, Dairy Science, Conservation, and Horticulture remain the largest majors, each with over 100 students, and Agricultural Education just short of that number. Several other majors have also had significant

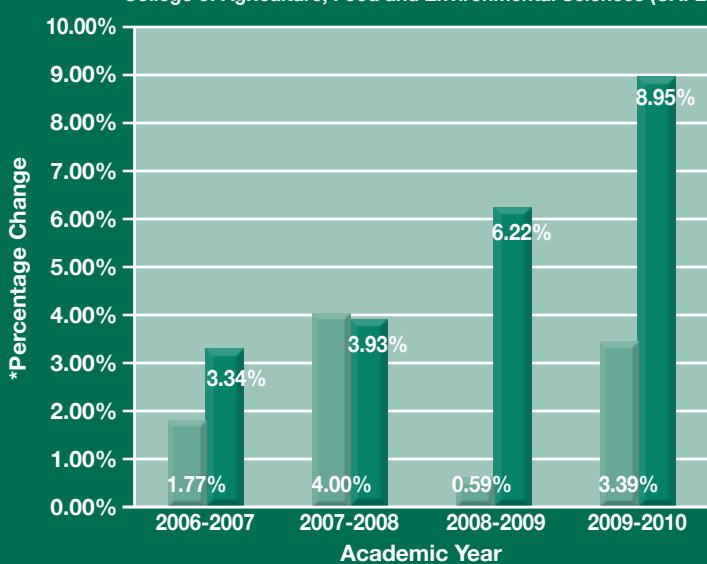
growth over these same 4 years. I believe these numbers illustrate at least two very important points. First, there continues to be strong interest in careers in agriculture, food and environmental sciences despite some of the press about the future of our industries. Second, it's obvious that students recognize the quality of our programs and believe CAFES is a good choice for them personally – just as you did.

It's a good situation to be in – increased interest and enrollment. But it's not without its challenges. We are having to make some serious choices about continued growth and where we allocate our resources. Some of you may know that we have capped our enrollments for next year in Animal Science and Dairy Science as well as set an overall target cap for the College. As we work with UWRF administration on filling vacant positions as well as procuring new positions we are mindful of our continued commitment to quality educational experiences for our students. Enrollment management is one piece of that.

In closing, on behalf of our students, faculty, and staff here in CAFES, I want to say thank you for your continued interest in and support of our programs in so many ways. CAFES is indeed special – made so because of special people like you.

Dean of CAFES

Undergraduate Enrollment Trends at
University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF)
Compared to
College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES)



*data gathered from Hyperion enrollment database February 10, 2010

Year	UWRF enrollment	CAFES enrollment
2005-2006	5600	1107
2006-2007	5699	1144
2007-2008	5927	1189
2008-2009	5962	1263
2009-2010	6164	1376

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6 *Farming Renewable Energy*

A symposium with keynote speaker Jeff Broin, CEO of Poet Energy and a 1987 graduate 2:30pm in the Kinnickinnic Theater at the University Center, reception to follow

June 12 *¼-Scale Tractor Team 10th Anniversary Celebration*

All ag engineering technology and team alumni and supporters are invited back for a luncheon, program and demonstration organized by the 2010 teams 11am at the Dairy Learning Center classroom on the Mann Valley Farm

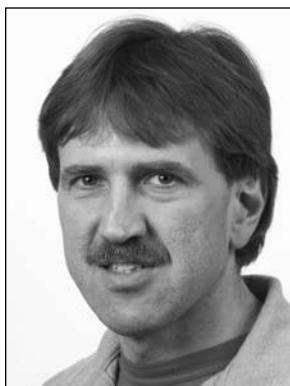
New faculty.... old friends

We are pleased to introduce you to the new faculty that joined CAFES this past fall.....as all three are old friends.....UWRF alumni. All three have something else in common right now... they are spending a lot of late nights in the office, gathering and preparing material for their courses. We appreciate their willingness to take a few minutes to tell us what they have been doing since they left UW-River Falls, and what motivated them to return.



Justin Luther

Institute and so he spent 2-1/2 years at the Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland. After completing his Ph.D., he accepted a position at NDSU as an assistant professor with a 65% research: 35% extension appointment working on small ruminants. However, it was teaching that interested Justin most and the reason he wanted to come back to UW-River Falls. Justin has a real respect for UW-River Falls and is glad to be able to contribute to maintaining and improving our strong animal science program. He credits three retired emeriti faculty, Dick Jensen, Dewey Wachholz and Tom Goerke, with instilling in him the desire to teach undergraduates. He stills uses some of the teaching techniques Jensen taught him. Justin makes his home in Hammond, WI with his wife Vanessa and 2 daughters – 4 year old Maria and 9 month old Olivia.



Joe Shakal

In 1998 he returned to the U.S. to work in the area of fluid dynamics at TSI, Inc. While at TSI, Joe worked in Research and Development, Engineering and Marketing and traveled over

The Animal and Food Science Department welcomed back Justin Luther. Justin first came to UWRF from Colby, WI, having grown up on his family's small sheep operation. He graduated in December 2000 with a major in Agricultural Education and a minor in Animal Science and went right on to North Dakota State University (NDSU) and earned his M.S. and Ph.D., in reproductive physiology. His Ph.D. project was a collaborative effort with the Rowett Research

most of the world meeting customers and channel partners. Joe was raised on a farm in Bloomer, WI on land that was settled by his family in the 1800s. He mentioned several items – besides hard work - that helped get him to where he is today. The scholarship he received from the Wisconsin Rural Rehabilitation Association (now the Wisconsin Rural Opportunities Foundation) was a key factor in his decision to get a four-year degree right out of high school. The second important factor was 'Doc' Bohn who wouldn't take no for an answer from Joe on an internship opportunity with Green Giant. Bohn even drove his Harley to the field worksite that summer to encourage him to hang in there. The following summer Green Giant offered Joe a seasonal industrial engineer position at their headquarters in Le Sueur, MN.



David Zlesak

David Zlesak, the new addition to the Plant and Earth Science department, first came to UW-River Falls from his hometown of Milwaukee, but credits time spent on his grandparent's farm near Black River Falls for his interest in plants. He graduated in 1993 with a major in horticulture and went on to work on white pine disease resistance at the USDA Forestry Services Laboratory in northern Wisconsin. He also spent time working in a garden center as a grower and salesperson before deciding to go on to graduate school at the University of Minnesota (UMN) to study plant breeding and genetics. After completing his Ph.D., David took an Extension position at UMN, working with the Master Gardener program and on educational programs for the horticultural industry. The time he spent teaching diverse audiences while in Extension has given him some different teaching techniques to use in the classroom. David started breeding roses as a hobby at age 13 and over the years has also bred heliopsis (false sunflower), ninebark and ageratum; he now has several cultivars on the market.

All three, noted how much they enjoy interacting and working with students, and that even extended to correcting student exams. In the near term, they hope to share their excitement and enthusiasm for their respective subject areas with students. Down the road, each already has ideas and opportunities they want to pursue. David would like to use our tissue culture lab as a tool and connect with Bailey Nurseries to do some plant development. Joe is excited about the new agreement with Case IH and the opportunities that offers for research projects on the lab farm and with colleagues in Madison. Justin is already thinking about a new course in reproductive management for dairy and beef. Their dedication and enthusiasm is very evident and has already generated many positive comments from their students. We are thrilled to welcome them back!

NEWS

1959 – 2009: Celebrating 50 years

Last fall we had the privilege of hosting a group of old friends.....28 members of the Class of 1959! It's a special group, one that has continued to stay in touch and get together every so often since they graduated 50 years ago. In honor of this special anniversary they chose to get together in River Falls, where their friendships began.

The reunion was held in conjunction with Homecoming so they could take part in and enjoy those festivities. But the group also toured the new University Center and saw much of the old (but new to them) Ag Sciences building when they spent Friday learning about some of the new and ongoing activities in the College. They toured the food pilot plants and enjoyed samples of Falcon Foods cheese and ice cream, learned how we're making biodiesel from the waste vegetable oil on campus, and visited the greenhouse and learned about the fruit breeding program. Despite the rain, the day was rounded out with some time on the Mann Valley Farm, where they had the opportunity to ride hands-free on a tractor that was steered by GPS technology, toured the Dairy Learning Center, and finally relaxed over dinner – roast pork sandwiches with fresh, roasted sweet corn, all courtesy of the farm.

The group was very engaged at each stop, peppering the faculty and student presenters with questions, some related to the topic, others were more general seeking to understand how current students compare to themselves. Lunch and dinner offered time for reminiscing. Interestingly we heard comments that we still hear from students today – they didn't like those English classes! Although several in the group apparently had some writing talent as they wrote and edited the original College newsletter, the College Countryman, started in 1958 by the local FFA chapter. They were excited to see excerpts from the old newsletter on display and were pleased that we were able to provide them with

**Members
of the
Class of '59
in the
Homecoming
Parade (2009)**



**Gary Solum, junior
from Deer Park, holds
a sheep while his
animal husbandry
classmates judge the
class. (1958)**

electronic copies to share with their children and grandchildren.

After Friday's rain, Saturday dawned sunny, but cool and windy for the Homecoming parade and game. A number of the group chose to watch the parade from inside Main Street storefronts, but several hardy members of the class took us up on the offer to ride on a float in the Homecoming parade. They enjoyed waving to the crowd from the field wagon, being pulled appropriately enough by a 1959 Farmall 560. The comments and feedback we received from the group on the weekend event were very favorable, so much so that we intend to try it again with the 50th anniversary class this spring. The Class of 1960 should watch for their invitations!

and Value Implement that will give us access to the latest agricultural equipment and precision farming technology. Several tractors are already on campus; additional tractors, tillage implements, skid steers, a planter and combine will be arriving over the next few months and will be replaced each year thereafter.

Dean Olson, professor of agricultural engineering technology, is excited about the impact this agreement will have for students and programs across CAFES. He noted how precision agriculture is multi-disciplinary by nature, with agronomy, soil science, economics, engineering and environmental science all playing significant roles. Olson went on to say that access to state-of-the-art technology provides opportunities to demonstrate how efficient we can be - minimizing fuel, seed and fertilizer usage while maximizing production, in other words, sustainability in action.

We will be working with the local Case IH dealer, Value Implement of Menomonie and Osseo, WI. The Menomonie store is managed by Jerry Olson a 1980 graduate of UWRF; Jeff Rohrscheib, 1990, manages the Osseo location.

Going Red



If you visit the campus farm this spring you'll see red – in a good way! In early December UWRF signed an agreement with Case IH

What do these names have in common?

P. Kuenning - 1940

N.C. Noah - Greenwood, Wis

Esther Reinke

Mel Koenig

"Stan" Morgan

J. Oberstadt - 1950 - Shiocton

Elmer Beran

"Chuck" Freeman

Bob Pierce - 1948 and 49 Zoology - Cadott, Wisc

Arlyn Hollander – Brandon, Wisconsin - 1938

J.C. Lightfoot Bottany 7:50 lab period 1st semester

Bill Boyle - Mauston, WI

Lloyd R. Wilson – Clayton

Scooter

"Howy"

Donald Larsen

Frank Naemon – New Richmond, Wisconsin – 1930

Cliff Dan Noreen

Willy J

"Red" Brader – St. Paul, Minn. 1935

Philip Inase – Boyceville

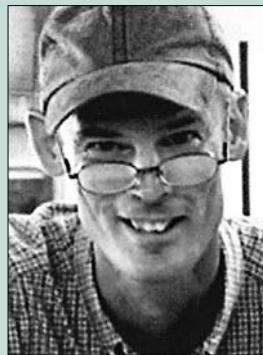
Ned Hadrow – Osceola

Roy Esser – Campbellsport – 48

These names and the associated dates and places were all found written inside a drawer of an old table in one of the lab rooms in the ag engineering annex. Do you know any of these folks? Are you one of them? We would love to hear any stories you may have from back in those days! Call our office at 715-425-3535. Read through them one more time... we did our best deciphering the handwriting but age and wear has taken its toll!



Profitability and Family



We lost(?) an extraordinary colleague and friend, Lee Milligan, in the awakening days of this year. The idiom of ‘odd bedfellows’ perhaps comes to mind in pairing ‘profitability’ and ‘family’ as an epilogue in remembering Lee’s life. However, the greater purpose and passion of Lee’s professional life was profitability, because he grasped its transcendental meaning. Lee moved it from a goal of the farm business

to the value of agricultural life inseparable from family, the passion of his personal life. When Lee taught it, he was teaching stewardship of the land, caretaking of the fragile resources of agriculture, and most importantly, family. Greg Andrews shares, “Lee and I worked closely together for 25 years and I never met nor witnessed a more dedicated and hard working Extension Agent. For Lee, family came first, but close behind was his unending trust in assisting farm producers.” Carl Duley adds, “Lee had a great balance of Family/Work/Life that really worked for him. He had a sincere passion for each aspect of his life and he expressed it openly.” Of course, Carl adds (for all of us), “When he would join your table at a district meeting all experienced agents knew to grab their coffee, because his long legs would hit the table legs.”

Lee grew up in Centuria and attended Unity High School. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Animal Science and Farm Management and master’s degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. He served as the UW-Extension Agricultural Agent for seven years in Pepin County and in St. Croix County since 1988. Bob Cropp shared, “I found out that following Lee as the agriculture agent in Pepin County was no small task. He had set the bar quite high and local farmers and their families shared stories for years about how Lee had touched their lives.” Lee and Debbie Anderson (UWRF, 1978) married in 1980. They shared their love and friendship, and life adventures of their daughters, Kari and Krista. Lee loved the Lord, and spoke often and longingly of spending eternity with Him.

In honor of Lee’s life, UW-Extension and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Area, the Center for Dairy Profitability, and UWRF – College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences have partnered in establishing a Memorial Scholarship Fund in Lee’s name. Debbie and family indicated it would be Lee’s wish to have an annual scholarship be provided to a UWRF – CAFES student. Those of us wishing to honor Lee with a donation can do so through the UWRF Foundation.

After January 10th we could no longer see his snowshoe prints in the snow and we thought we had lost him, but Debbie tenderly reminded us (John Piper), “How can we say we’ve lost someone when we know where he is?” Thank you, Debbie.

ALUMNI NEWS

Ralph Hendrickson 1982 was recently elected to the Heartland Country Co-op Board of Directors in Westby, WI.

Sonja Maki 1982 is working as an instructional academic staff member at her alma mater UW-River Falls. Maki is currently teaching Introduction to Plant Science and Plants and Society.

Kevin Roche 1990 is a "biological farmer" where he is trying to strive for healthier soil and crops. Roche and his family operates 4,000 acres of land and raises 1,300 head of cattle.

Mark Rueth 1990 was the official judge of the International Holstein Show during the 2009 World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Mark's farm, Rosedale Genetics was the recipient of the 2009 Governor's Export Achievement Award. In addition to judging in the USA and Canada, Rueth has judged numerous shows internationally.

Chris Malek 1991 was recently named as the Cooperative Director of The United Potato Growers Cooperative of Wisconsin, Inc. Malek has also been appointed as member of the Organic Advisory Council as he is involved in the newly formed Central Rivers Farmshed local marketing effort.

Shawn Bernick 1999 was recently appointed the President of Minnesota Turf And Grounds Foundation (MTGF). Bernick has been active on the MTGF Board of Directors for the past two years as Vice President.

Cristoph Nathan 1999 is working in research and development for the CLAAS company in Germany.

Regina Oldendorf 2001 has been named Executive Director/Treasurer of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association.

Dr. Maria (Ozarowicz) Krenz, DVM 2003 purchased the Zimmerman Veterinary Clinic in Zimmerman, Minnesota. Maria is married to Josh Krenz, also a UWRF 2003 graduate, who is the Brand Marketing Manager for WinField Solutions-a Land O'Lakes Company.

Christa Van Treeck 2003 joined the Marquette County UW-Extension team as the 4-H Youth Development Agent.

Tim Bowers 2004 was re-elected for his second term on the Accelerated Genetics Young Producer Committee.

Leslie Svacina 2004 is a first year graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse studying student affairs administration in higher education.

Brenda Cavanaugh 2006 and Erik Gilbertson were united in marriage on September 19, 2009 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Hollandale, Wisconsin. The couple makes their home in Hollandale, Wisconsin.

Carrie Hanson 2007 was united in marriage to Mike Hayne at The Mermaid Event Center in Mounds View, Minnesota, on January 17, 2009. The couple currently resides in North St. Paul, Minnesota.

Teresa Hanson 2007 is currently a nutritionist for Crystal Lake in Spooner, Wisconsin.

Leah Johnson 2007 is currently the Central Plains Area Representative for the American Jersey Cattle Association. The Central Plains includes Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Travis Jordahl 2007 is the new Northwest District Sales Manager for Channel Seeds in Baldwin, Wisconsin.

Melissa Klein 2007 is the Agriculture Coordinator at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Sara Novotny 2007 BS & 2009 MS is the Monroe County 4-H Youth Development Agent.

Matthew Rahmlow 2007 and **Mandy Lisowe** 2009 were united in marriage September 19, 2009 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sheboygan. The couple resides in River Falls, Wisconsin.

Jon Metzig 2007 was recently named one of the up and coming food stars under the age of 30 in a recent issue of *Food Network Magazine*. After graduation, Metzig returned to the family's Union Star Cheese Factory in Zittau, Wisconsin.

Charlotte Muenzenberger 2007 relocated to Lakeville, Ohio to become the new *Daily Record* ag reporter. Muenzenberger interacts with county leaders to discover the unique qualities offered by Wayne and Holmes counties.

Amber Berning 2008 is currently working as a herdsperson for a 200-cow dairy in Darlington, Wisconsin.

Steve Boe 2008 is currently the Chief of Staff for Wisconsin State Representative Mark Radcliffe, a Democrat from the 92nd Assembly District.

Tracy Heinbuch 2008 is enjoying her first year teaching Agricultural Science at Denmark High School. Wildlife and Natural Resources, COOP, Horticulture, Landscape & Design, and Vet Science are the courses Heinbuch is teaching this year.

Brian Hoffelt 2008 is currently the livestock nutritionist for Crystal Creek located in Spooner, Wisconsin.

Jared Huber 2008 is currently a sales agronomist at Country Pride Services Cooperative in Bingham Lake, Minnesota.

Sonia Hubly 2008 recently joined the staff of Gilman High School as the Agricultural Education instructor.

Theresa Jeske 2008 will be receiving her Master of Meat Science degree in May 2010 from North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota.

Danielle Raether 2008 is the new Agricultural Sciences Instructor at Flambeau High School, in north central Wisconsin.

Kristen Rothe 2008 has joined the staff of the Oshkosh West High School Agricultural Department as an Agriculture Instructor.

Chelsey Saevre 2008 will be receiving her Master of Sheep Reproduction degree in May 2010 from North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota.

Jessica Anderson 2009 is pursuing her Masters degree in Nutritional Sciences with an animal emphasis at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Jill Becker 2009 has started her career at Domain, Inc. in New Richmond, Wisconsin in Sales, Marketing and Nutrition.

Danielle Begalke 2009 joined The Country Today as west-central Wisconsin Regional Editor. Danielle will cover news and features in all or part of the 14 county west-central Wisconsin region.

Jake Cramer 2009 accepted a teaching position as an Agri-Business instructor at Parker High School in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Ashley Franke 2009 is a new employee of Badgerland Financial.

Tim Gehling 2009 is an agronomist at Watonwan Farm Service. Watonwan Farm Service is the largest local farmer-owned cooperative in Minnesota.

Alyssa Janilla 2009 held an internship at the Smithsonian Institution in Fall of 2009.

Anton Kaltenberg 2009 joined Partners In Production, a new seed corn company based in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Krista Kasten 2009 is a new employee of Badgerland Financial.

Franni Kinnard 2009 is currently working with dairy nutrition and feed sales at Frank's Feed Mill, Inc. in Casco, Wisconsin.

Pete Kolpack 2009 is the new agricultural education teacher and FFA Advisor with the Athens school district.

Katie Mack 2009 is currently working for Land O'Lakes in the division of WinField Solutions. She also is one of five Seed Agronomy Advisor Associates across the U.S.

Carrie Mueller 2009 is currently seeking an advanced degree in Equine Nutrition and Exercise Physiology at Texas A&M University.

Michelle Murphy 2009 landed her first professional position with Kemps in Rochester, Minnesota.

Bobbi Schimmel 2009 has joined the staff of Ag Ventures. AgVentures is a seed, fertilizer, and chemical supplier for Northeast Wisconsin.

Ashley Sollman 2009 is currently an agronomy sales associate working for Western Wisconsin Ag Supply of Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

Tina Stigar 2009 is currently working at Linder's Greenhouse as seasonal greenhouse employee.

STUDENT/FACULTY NEWS

STUDENT NEWS

Nine UWRF students from the Horticulture Society spent part of J-term 2010 touring Florida's Horticulture industry. They got their first taste of how horticulture is different in Florida as compared to the Midwest when they landed in Miami and spent some time visiting the plant inspection station at the airport and area import/export facilities. The group also visited Fairchild's Tropical Botanical Garden in Coral Gables, which has the largest collection of cycads and LNB Groves, in Homestead, a producer of diverse citrus fruits. In southern Florida they had the opportunity to see orchid and bromeliad production and visit Everglades National Park. A final stop were the greenhouses at EPCOT where experimentation is taking place on growing fruits and vegetables in a variety of media and using innovative cultivation methods. All of the companies the group visited offer internship opportunities to students.

UWRF students Nate Kringle, Lenny Polzin, Mike Reps, Londa Johnson and Sandra Kirchner traveled to New York during J-term 2010 for their Dairy Club Senior Trip. They spent 3 days in central New York state and toured six dairy farms, ranging from a 90-cow to a 3000-cow operation. The farms represented some of the elite production herds in the state and each offered a unique aspect such as a rotary parlor, methane digester, and robotic milker. Next they were off to New York City, to take in some of the typical tourist attractions, including the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, the Empire State Building, several museums and the NBC Today Show. On the morning of Monday, January 11th, if you were watching the Today Show, you would have seen Mike, Lenny and Nate in their matching Dairy Club sweatshirts which caught the attention of Al Roker, who visited with the group briefly during their live segment.

The UWRF Beta Zeta chapter of Sigma Alpha was recognized with the Founders Cup Award at the national convention in Indianapolis this past fall. This is the higherst honor a chapter can receive and signifies their excellence in scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. Sigma Alpha is a professional agricultural sorority founded in 1978, with more than 7000 members.

Members of the Crops and Soils club participated in the joint annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America. Five students presented posters on their research projects. Amanda Liesch 2009 and senior Betsy Oehlke took 1st and 2nd place respectively for their posters. Junior Jason Cavadini was named a Golden Opportunity Scholar which will pair him with a scientist-mentor and provide him opportunities for career development over the next year. UWRF students also received awards in the speech contest, manuscript contest and the Club Poster contest. Three UWRF students were named to national offices in the student affiliate organization. Tryston Beyrer, a junior, is vice-president; sophomore Kristi Thompson and senior Sammie Nyre were appointed national committee chairpersons and will help organize next years conference.

UWRF students fared well at the National Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA) Conclave and National Collegiate Agricultural Education Conference this past fall. The group took home awards in every contest area. UWRF teams placed 1st in debate, 2nd in quiz bowl, and 2nd in parliamentary procedure, competing against the 22 other universities represented. Represented by senior Katie Wirkus UWRF won the Program of Excellence contest recognizing the overall achievements of the student organization. Senior Kellie Claffin won the essay contest with her piece on the topic of agricultural education advocacy.

FACULTY NEWS

If you've already perused the Jungs catalog anticipating spring, you may have seen BlackIce™ (Lydecker cv. USPP 16621) developed by **Brian Smith**, professor of horticulture. This is a large California-type plum, blue-black in color, with sweet, juicy, yellow flesh. It has superior winter-hardiness and ripens in early August, about 2 weeks earlier than other plums typically grown in the Midwest. Smith was also just awarded a grant from the North American Strawberry Growers to continue his efforts to breed strawberries for Midwest growers.

Brenda Boetel, associate professor of agricultural economics and **Stan Schraufnagel**, professor of agricultural economics, were each awarded a USDA Risk Management Education grant. Schraufnagel is focusing on teaching basic accounting skills via the processing and reporting of cash records using QuickBooks; Boetel is sharing information and strategies with Wisconsin cow/calf beef producers to help them better manage their risk.

Kerry Keen spent fall semester 2009 as group leader for the UW River Falls semester abroad: Europe program. The nine students participating made contacts during spring semester 2009 and developed project proposals with the organizations where they spent their semester abroad. Of the nine students participating, four were CAFES majors. Katie Anderson found a position in an animal research facility at the University of Milan in Lodi, Italy working with equine breeding, genetics and stem cells. Tammy Kirjerski worked in a food science research laboratory in Burgos, Spain. Paul Lippert worked on projects related to genomics of dairy cattle at the Genes Diffusion company headquarters in Douai, France. Katherine Pederson worked in a veterinary clinic in Basel, Switzerland specializing in hydrotherapy for dogs.

Thanks to a grant from the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) **Kris Hiney** will be making a third trip overseas this summer. With the assistance of several students, she will be conducting clinics for horse enthusiasts that will cover basic horsemanship, horse behavior, nutrition and care. In the past two summers groups have held clinics in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Germany.

You can always check the news releases on the UWRF website for details on these stories and more!

CAFES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUPPORT

Name(s) _____	(please include maiden name if married since graduation)	check if new _____
Address/City/State/Zip _____		
Email Address _____		
Telephone _____	Year(s) of Graduation _____	
Premier Supporter (formerly Lifetime Member): Individual - \$400 or Family - \$600 _____		
Donations:		
General Fund (FencePost, Dairy Expo, Receptions, etc.) _____		
CAFES Alumni Scholarship Donation _____		
Other (specify) _____		
TOTAL _____		

Clip and return to:

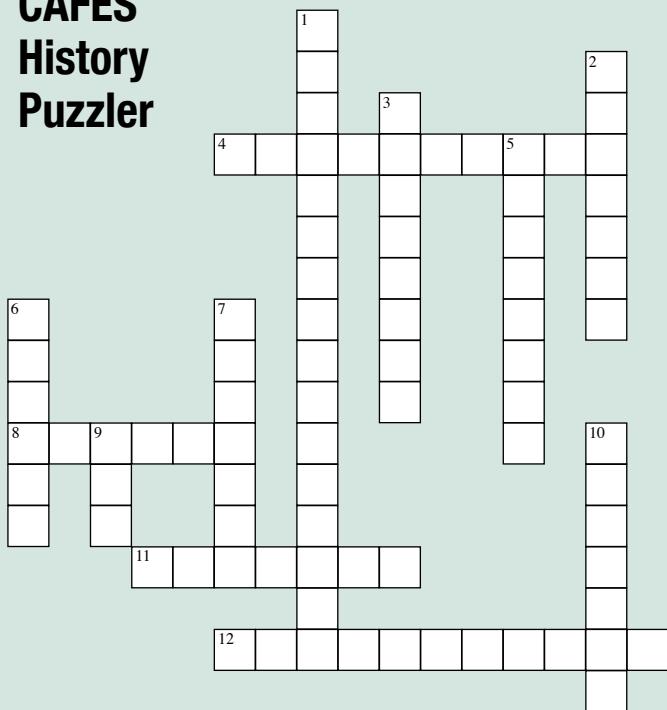
CAFES-Dean's Office
210 AGS, 410 S. 3rd St.
UW-River Falls
River Falls, WI
54022-5001

Please make checks payable to: UWRF Foundation-CAFES Alumni Association
(Your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowable by law)

Please check: If you are interested in serving as a CAFES Alumni Board Member.

If your company has a "matching funds" program for which you have obtained a form and included with your donation.

CAFES History Puzzler



The answers are posted on our website:
www.uwrf.edu/college-of-agriculture

ACROSS

- 4 The _____ built by the Ag Mech Club in the late 1980s was considered unique because the chain drive and electric motor were connected to a variable drive transmission, producing rotational speeds from 0 rpm to very fast.
- 8 The annual _____ contest celebrates its golden anniversary this spring.
- 11 Faculty member who authored a 1970 textbook on weed seed identification said by a representative of USDA to be a major contribution to the field and a milestone in the extensive use of color photography.
- 12 The name of the 28-passenger bus, owned by UWRF and primarily used by athletic teams, but also used for the regional geology field trip.

DOWN

- 1 Besides his long and storied tenure at UW-River Falls, Dr. Gerald Matteson also had an impressive military career, rising to the rank of _____.
- 2 In Spring 1978 Alpha Zeta and Block & Bridle conducted the first _____ on the lab farm.
- 3 The first sole advisor to AGR when the colony became a chapter.
- 5 From 1960-66, this faculty member offered the "Idea of the Month" plan service to high school teachers.
- 6 The first president of the UWRF Ag Alumni Association which was formally organized in 1983.
- 7 The first dairy processing plant was located in this building.
- 9 The number of female students that graduated from UWRF in 1973 with an agricultural degree.
- 10 A food science club newsletter from 1998 contained this general rule of thumb: Most food cannot be kept longer than the average life of a _____. Keep a _____ in your refrigerator to gauge this.

0218