Christine Jumbeck, an agricultural education teacher at Cochrane-Fountain City (C-FC), received the 2006 Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturalist Award. She graduated in 1987 from UWRF with an agricultural education degree.

“Chris Jumbeck is highly energetic, friendly and a personable leader in the field of agriculture,” stated Gerald Matteson, emeriti. “It has been our experience that outstanding leaders, such as Chris, have a trait in common, a passion for what they’re doing. To Chris it is not a job, but a wonderful experience to become an outstanding high school educator.”

For the past 18 years, Jumbeck has taught agricultural classes at Cochrane-Fountain City. Jumbeck took the department and developed it into one of the best in Wisconsin, with 40 percent of the high school students enrolled in agricultural courses.

Her students have gone on to receive state and national recognition including five sectional vice-presidents and two state FFA presidents.

Jumbeck’s passion for agriculture extends nationally as well as internationally. She’s participated and toured agricultural farms and businesses in Alaska and chaperoned 30 Wisconsin FFA officers and members to Ireland. In 2000, she was one of 10 Wisconsin agri-science instructors selected to teach Russian students and participated in an agri-ecology tour in Costa Rica.

The Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturalist Award is selected by the CAFES Public Relations Committee. The award was first presented in 1970.

Dr. Nate Splett has been named the 2006 Distinguished Teacher, the highest award presented at UWR. Selection is based on nominations by graduating seniors and recent alums. Splett is professor of agricultural economics and has served as department chair, associate dean, and most recently as Interim Dean of the College. He received his B.S. in Agricultural Education and his M.S. in Agricultural Economics from UWR.

Nominating comments included: “I had a hard time in many of his classes and he always took extra time to make sure I fully understood. I credit him for helping me gain confidence over the last three years and for actually graduating. There were many times I wanted to quit. He fully deserves this award because he is not only a great person, but a wonderful teacher.”

“Dr. Splett is a seriously dedicated individual who spends countless hours working at school after hours helping to make our school produce quality students.”

In addition to his work at UWR, Splett has taught in the Barron and Turtle Lake High Schools, traveled nation-wide as a supervisor for the Farm Credit Administration and served as a Farm Financial Management Specialist for UW-Extension. Splett was the 2005 UWR Advisor of the year. Chancellor Betz presented Splett with the Distinguished Teacher Award at the Spring Commencement ceremony.

Chancellor Betz presented Dr. Nate Splett (l) with the Distinguished Teacher Award at the Spring Commencement ceremony.
Gravity table arrives at UWRF

Jude Harder

A gravity table used for sorting seeds was a recent donation from Oliver Manufacturing Company to the agricultural engineering department.

Kamal Adam, agricultural engineering professor, helped in orchestrating the donation. While teaching at Iowa State University, Adam gained eight years of valuable first-hand knowledge and experience with the machine. UWRF students have never worked with a gravity table and Adam felt the need for them to understand the benefits it brings to the seed industry.

“The machine is the backbone of the seed industry, and it is essential for students to know how to manage this machine,” says Adam.

The seed industry is a $50 billion a year business and continues to grow. Without the gravity table the seed industry would not be as prosperous as it is today. The gravity table, based on the seeds’ density, sorts the good seeds from the bad. The lighter seeds are discarded because they do not produce as well as heavier seeds.

The gravity table will be used by general farm machine classes, agronomy classes, and available for anyone interested in learning about the machine. Professor Adam hopes to offer workshops for local farmers and seed producers in the future.

Equine breeding program brings benefits to the university

Laura Stenroos

The reinstatement of the equine breeding program brought back the sounds and sights of foals to campus. This past spring Kris Hiney, assistant professor of animal science, and her students participated in foal watch over five expecting mares.

Through the breeding and foaling of the mares, students gained hands-on experience in addition to their classroom education. Eventually, Hiney hopes to offer a course in the animal science program that teaches students breeding management skills.

Students participated in foal watch for mares close to their due dates. Teams of two watched during the night and collected data during the foaling process. The milk was analyzed and the mare and foal were checked for proper health.

The foals will become useful learning tools as they age. As two-year-olds they will go through the colts-in-training program. Students will train and sell the horses at the spring auction.

“So, eventually the foals would put money back into the equine program,” Hiney said.

Generous donations from organizations such as the Wisconsin Agricultural Growth Foundation have helped support the breeding program; however, additional funding is still needed. Future donations will be used to update facilities, build safe fencing, and purchase breeding supplies.

“We appreciate the support and generosity from all of the mare owners, stallion owners, and friends of the university who have made this program possible,” Hiney said.

Through determination and support, the breeding program, a beneficial learning tool, has been brought back to UWRF.
Bring on the rain

Alicia Reckard

UW-River Falls Horticulture Society paired with the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust spring semester to bring rain gardens to the River Falls schools. Rain gardens are gardens located in shallow areas and planted with native plants and wild flowers. These gardens are designed to soak up water runoff from hard surface areas and roofs, which provide water filtration and wildlife habitat, protection from flooding and erosion, and reduce the cost of water treatment.

Seven students volunteered to go into the local schools and assist students in planting and growing the vegetation for the gardens. Along with providing labor and knowledge, UWRF also donated labels and growing media to the project.

Senior horticulture student Erin Regan, Deerfield, Wis., commented “The rain garden seeding project was an excellent opportunity for the community, schools and university to interact and collaborate on one project.” Regan then added, “I had a fantastic time!”

Erin Regan was honored as the 2006 Outstanding Senior at the CAFES Awards Banquet. The Dr. Hildebrand Memorial Award is given to a graduating senior who has shown exceptional dedication and hard work throughout their college career. Regan, a horticulture major, is a very deserving recipient of this award according to her academic advisor Dr. Terry Ferriss.

“It was a pleasure to have worked with Erin. Watching students grow and develop over the years is one of the most rewarding parts of being a faculty member,” stated Ferriss.

Regan maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her college career and graduated Summa Cum Laude. She was active in campus organizations including intramurals, UWRF Chorus, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Pi Alpha Xi, Floral Evaluation Team and served as an officer in the Horticulture Society. She served as a student representative on the horticulture faculty hiring committee as well and the curriculum committee. Regan co-chaired the Horticulture Career Development event for the Agricultural Technology Contest.

She had several internships and studied in Spain.

“[Erin] is an outstanding role model for all of CAFES,” said Ferriss.

Regan will pursue her masters’ degree at the University of North Carolina.

Matt Cogger helping at Greenwood Elementary

Student volunteers were Matt Cogger, Washburn, Wis.; Brigitte Crawford, Jim Falls, Wis.; Katie Gerlach, Marshfield, Wis.; Michaela Molter, Cadott, Wis.; Johanna Olson, Taylor, Wis.; Alicia Reckard, Truman, Minn.; and Erin Regan.

The plants were transplanted into the gardens in late May and early June.
Dairy judging team brings home a win from Louisville

Jenna Wegner

The UW-River Falls Dairy Judging Team capped off their successful judging season by placing first at the North American International Livestock Exhibition in Louisville, Kentucky last November.

Coached by Dr. Steve Kelm, animal and food science chair, team members included Alexandria Cooper, senior, DeForest, Wis.; Daniel Lauderdale, junior, Elkhorn, Wis.; Leah Johnson, junior, LaCrescent, Minn.; and Charlotte Muenzenberger, junior, Coon Valley, Wis.

All team members excelled in different aspects of the competition. Cooper placed 5th in High Individual Overall, 3rd in Ayrshire and 10th in Guernsey. Johnson placed 8th in High Individual Overall, 2nd in High Individual in Oral Reasons, 6th in Brown Swiss and 7th in Guernsey. Muenzenberger placed 1st in Guernsey, 8th in Ayrshire and 11th High Individual Overall. Lauderdale placed 23rd in High Individual Overall and 11th in Guernsey. As a team they placed 4th in High Team Total Reasons.

Team member Leah Johnson feels there are many attributes in dairy judging. “It’s a great way to meet a lot of people, travel and connect with the dairy industry,” explains Johnson.

Kelm believes as students start searching for jobs, employers desire dairy judging experience because students understand dairy cattle and have developed public speaking skills.

“If you’re able to argue your point and persuade someone you’re right,” commented Dr. Kelm, “that’s the best life skill to have.”
UWRF Student is Wisconsin’s 40th Fairest of the Fairs

Ellen Tyson

Kimberly Schoessow, an Ozaukee County native, was chosen as the 2006 Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs on January 11, in Green Bay, Wis.

Schoessow, a graduate of Homestead High School in Mequon, Wis., was an active member of 4-H since third grade. Later she became a 4-H leader. Schoessow graduated with a marketing communications major with an agricultural emphasis.

Chosen from 30 contestants, Schoessow took part in a three-day interview process before being crowned the 40th Fairest of the Fairs. During the competition, the judges asked what she would do as Fairest to help keep older youth involved. She said she would try to create new programs that would be specifically designed for this age group.

Schoessow serves as the official ambassador of the Wisconsin Association of Fairs. She travels throughout the state educating people about Wisconsin’s agriculture and attends many of the state’s 76 fairs. Other events include the Governor’s egg hunt, June dairy breakfasts, and the Warrens Cranberry Festival.

Schoessow led a very active life on campus. She helped establish River Falls’ chapter of the Sigma Alpha sorority for women in agriculture, and was a member of the Alpha Zeta fraternity. She was also involved in the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) and helped produce television and radio programs and wrote for the FencePost.

When asked if there was one piece of advice that stayed with her through the years, Schoessow commented, “Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself.”

For more information on Wisconsin’s Fairest of the Fairs visit www.wistatefair.com.

Agricultural Technology Contest Scholarship

Jody Ewert

The Agricultural Technology Contest Scholarship, sponsored by the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association, has served as a College recruitment tool for the past 12-years. The $500 scholarship is awarded to an Agriculture Technology Contest winner who applies for the award. The Ag Technology competition consists of 14 contests and the winners in each is eligible to apply for the scholarship.

The 2002 through 2004 scholarships were awarded to students who are now enrolled in CAFES. The 2005 scholarship recipient, Tara Hauser, was a junior at Barron High School when she received the award. Hauser has been admitted to attend classes fall semester 2006 and will major in Agricultural Studies.

Amanda Huppert, River Falls, Wis., received the scholarship, which helped her decide to attend UWRF.

“Studying and practicing for the food science competition familiarized me with my current major and helped me decide my career path,” said Huppert.

Ag Tech Contest

Jody Ewert

The 46th annual Agricultural Technology Contest sponsored by the agricultural education department was hosted in April. Fifty-one schools and 772 FFA students from across the state competed in 14 different contests ranging from agricultural communications to soil evaluation. Those who win their event may progress to state and national contests.

New to the contest this year was the Power Tool Drag Race, which replaced the Rubber Band Tractor Pull. The uniquely designed vehicles consisted of one power tool, the only source of power, and each participant had three chances to achieve their fastest time. Dustin Grager, from Greenwood, Wis., won the contest and took first place award for the most creative vehicle.

Tim Buttles served as faculty chair with Andi Cooper and Steve Boe as student chairs.

Contest results are posted at www.uwrf.edu/ag-education/agtech.

FENCEPOST

Published twice a year for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, UWRF, 410 South Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022-5001 by the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow in conjunction with the CAFES Public Relations and Information Committee. Financial support from the CAFES Alumni Association. Editors: Alicia Reckard, Truman, Minn.; Mandy Arndt, Prescott, Wis. Reporters: Mandy Arndt, Prescott, Wis.; Marcus Bonde, Nerstrand, Minn.; Staci Bruder, River Falls, Wis.; Jody Ewert, Janesville, Minn.; Larissa Fildes, Colby, Wis.; Margaret Groth, Winon, Minn.; Jude Harder, Minneapolis, Minn.; Robert Hughes, River Falls, Wis.; Leah Johnson, La Crescent, Minn.; Jerome McNamara, River Falls, Wis.; Gena Polzin, Cadott, Wis.; Alicia Reckard, Truman, Minn.; Laura Stenroos, Hastings, Minn.; Jenna Wegner, Etrick, Wis.; Shane Westphal, Walworth, Wis. Photography: Jens Gunelson, UWRF Photo Services; Bonnie Walters, River Falls, Wis. Advisor: Tamia Trulson. Data Support: Laura Walsh, Charlotte Hamilton.
And the survey says….  
UWRF Survey Research Center is a hidden treasure  
Staci Bruder

Hidden away in the Regional Development Institute building near the edge of campus is a resource with a long reach.

The UWRF Survey Research Center (SRC) provides low cost, quality survey assessments and information gathering services for local units of government and organizations. Though it is affiliated with the campus, it is an independent commodity that brings positive attention to the university through its quality work throughout the region.

The SRC began in the mid-1990’s under the guidance of its first director, Larry Swain, former UWRF associate professor of agricultural economics. The center’s original mission was to provide rural communities and extension agents with affordable, reliable information based on solid surveying methodologies.

Currently directed by David Trechter, Agricultural and Natural Resources Specialist, the SRC has completed various survey projects to assist communities and the UWRF campus. Data collected from SRC surveys have been used to help determine school districts long and short term needs, inform policy makers of citizens’ opinions on issues such as land use, tourism, parking, library usage and quality of life issues, as well as providing economic development investigations.

“I really like working with a broad variety of projects,” said Trechter. “We help the public by collecting data which allows them to make important decisions to help them function better as a community and region.”

The SRC employs 10-12 students with various majors from agriculture and marketing to chemistry and business. The students are responsible for handling logistics and calculations of surveys, as well as conducting focus groups to manage campus concerns such as alcohol consumption.

“We see this as an opportunity for students to acquire skills and abilities to help them in their future careers,” Trechter said.

Sale of the squealers  
Shane Westphal

What do you get when you combine good food, squealing pigs, and the rhythmic chant of an auctioneer? The first annual UWRF show pig auction!!

The swine enterprise sold 161 of its young show pigs at the April auction held at the Mann Valley Farm. All the pigs sold were sired by boars from Shaffer’s Goldrush located in Albany, Ind.

Success is the best word to describe the sale. “We had a total of 42 registered buyers with over 100 people in attendance,” said Jim Magolski, swine herd manager. The average sale price was $95.00 per pig.

When the swine enterprise started six years ago, the main focus was to supply quality show pigs to local youth at an affordable price. Magolski wanted to continue this tradition, but also thought having an auction would increase awareness of the UWRF swine herd and its show pigs and increase biosecurity on the farm.

“We wanted to do everything in one day, and let our customers see all the pigs we had to offer,” Magolski stated.

With the outstanding success of this first sale, you can be sure to hear that rhythmic call of an auctioneer next year at UWRF.

New agricultural sorority on campus  
Gena Polzin

Sigma Alpha, a professional agricultural sorority, was activated on the River Falls campus this semester. The effort to bring this sorority to campus began one year ago when Margaret Groth, Winona, Minn., sought ways to bring more opportunities to campus for women interested in agriculture.

“My goal is to expand the agricultural network while building camaraderie among the women of CAFES,” said Groth.

Amy Bengston, Pine City, Minn., agreed. “I wanted to grow professionally throughout the years that I am here. I was excited and willing to make the commitment.”

A professional sorority, Sigma Alpha, focuses on scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service within agriculture. The organization concentrates on agricultural awareness and literacy through agriculture in the classroom projects. The sorority also participates in community service, fundraisers, social and sisterhood activities.

This is the third Sigma Alpha chapter in the UW-System and the only agricultural sorority on the UW-River Falls campus. In order to ensure the sorority will grow and prosper, the women are in the process of creating a strong membership base. Their future goals include developing new activities, receiving national award recognition, and contributing to the campus and community.

For more information about Sigma Alpha visit www.sigmaalpha.org.
Bringing a part of history to River Falls
Marcus Bonde

How much time have you spent putting together a puzzle? Candace Hougo, a senior from Baldwin, Wis. took on the daunting task of assembling a 170 million-year old fossil.

Michael Middleton, professor of geology, discovered the fossil at Montgomery Ranch, Montana in 2004.

“I saw something sticking out of the ground, and I knew it was not a rock,” said Middleton.

Carefully the team extracted the fossil, making sure not to crack it. Unprepared for such a large fossil, they used dental plaster from a local dentist to encase this fragile piece of history.

Hougo, a geology and biology double major, took on this project last spring. When asked why she was interested in this project Hougo replied, “Dinosaurs have always been cool to me. Here in Minnesota and Wisconsin we don’t get to experience these things.”

Hougo used a crow bar and patience to extract the fossil from its casing. Using several household tools and knowledge shared by the Science Museum of Minnesota staff, Hougo pieced the giant puzzle together. After spending 65 hours on this brainteaser, she identified the fossil as the upper part of a spine from a triceratops.

“The unique thing about this fossil is that it is not missing a lot of pieces,” said Hougo.

Keepin’ It Soggy
Jerome McNamara

The release of O Brother Where Art Thou in 2000 sparked a wave of fanaticism for bluegrass music. While most viewers bought a CD or movie poster, a group of five high school wrestlers from Sun Prairie, Wis. formed a band.

Two band members are students at UWRF. Jim Kvalheim is a senior in Agricultural Education while younger brother Mike Kvalheim, junior, is a biology education major with a double minor in earth science and agricultural studies. Other band members include band leader and founder Kody Feiner, Luke Hallmark, and Tom Kazmerzak. The band’s instruments include acoustic guitars, banjo, mandolin, Do bro, stand-up bass, and four-part vocal harmony.

In 2002, the band formed as something of a lark for an FFA talent show. Appearing as the ‘Soggy Prairie Boys,’ they performed the bluegrass hit, “I am a Man of Constant Sorrow.”

Since forming, the band has built an impressive résumé, opening for national acts including Jimmy Wayne, Rebecca Lynn Howard, and Sherrie Austin, and entertaining audiences of over 20,000 at the FFA National Convention in Louisville, Ky., in 2003.

The band recorded a CD at the Institute of Production and Recording in Minneapolis, Minn. The album titled, A Job Well Done, featured five original tracks and five bluegrass classics. Feiner did most of the writing for the album, Mike Kvalheim notes, “Most songs are about [Feiner’s] dad and growing up on the outskirts of town.”

While the Soggy Prairie Boys remain scattered at universities across Wisconsin, the band has an active schedule for summer, 2006. To view the band’s schedule, news, biographies, and further information, visit www.keepinitsoogy.20m.com.

Teaching students, training horses.
Mandy Arndt

On April 29, 2006 over 500 alumni, prospective buyers, family and friends attended the 30th annual Colts in Training Sale at Lab Farm 1.

Buyers came from as far as Texas and Oklahoma to participate in this year’s Colt Sale. “I’m here for Larry, this is the first colt sale I’ve been to since I graduated,” said Kris Hansen, of Menomonie Wisc.

The horses consigned to the sale were some of the highest quality, well-bred performance horses the program has sold. The event was very successful, with the high seller having brought in $17,500. The colts on average brought about $3,970.

For the first time, UWRWF worked with the nationally recognized equine sale company, Mid America Equine Sales. Their experience and ability to attract buyers was key for the event’s success.

In addition to increased attendance, the UWRWF Horse Program received national recognition through Mid Americas involvement at this event.

A large number of alumni attended to help celebrate the 30th anniversary and to recognize Larry Kasten’s retirement. Through relationships developed with alumni and industry leaders, the horse program will continue to grow and prosper on the River Falls campus.

Agricultural student’s run-in with the law
Robert Hughes

The Applied Law Challenge grant impacted 13 agricultural classrooms this past spring. The grant directed by Nate Spllett, professor of agricultural economics, focused on integrating agricultural law across the college curriculum. Juliet Tomkins, agricultural economics instructor, served as the expert on law. Tomkins organized an informational conference, several workshops and presided as judge over a mock trial.

“The Challenge Grant was a great project and was well received by faculty across the five departments in CAFES,” said Tomkins.
Dean’s Corner
Bob Baker, Associate Dean

Thanks to those who contributed to the CAFES Fund for Excellence campaign this spring. This is a significant fund-raising effort for the College. Over $31,000 has been pledged in the 2006 campaign. Your donations will support the following:

• $10,000 - CAFES student scholarships
• $5,000 - alumni support for events such as the reception at Farm Technology Days
• $5,000 - student support for summer research projects
• $4,000 - CAFES Dean’s reserve
• The remainder of the pledges will go into the CAFES Fund for Excellence account to build its base.

At our annual Awards Banquet in April, 161 scholarships totaling more than $112,000 were awarded. We will use the bulk of the 2006 Fund donations ($10,000) to endow another scholarship. This is the second scholarship endowed in as many years through your generous donations.

A portion of your donations are also set aside to support student research. This summer two students will each receive $2500 for projects involving our lab farms. One project is a nutritional study on lactating sows, the other is developing an improved record-keeping system for the various enterprises on the farm.

Your generosity is sincerely appreciated. Thank you!

Trulson named Outstanding Agriculture Mentor
Jenna Wegner

The Minnesota District 11 Agri-Women named Tamia Trulson the 2006 Outstanding Agriculture Mentor.

Trulson, an instructor in agricultural education, was presented the award by Minnesota Lt. Gov. Carol Molnau at the 8th Annual Women’s Agricultural Leadership Conference. This award recognizes individuals who have been positive mentors and role models for people in agriculture fields, especially women.

Leslie Shuler, Trulson’s nominator and a UWRF graduate, was appreciative of her guidance. “Looking back at all the teachers, guides and advisors I’ve worked with, Tamia stands out at the top,” said Schuler. “Tamia truly cares about the student she works with. When I was in school she was always willing to take time to meet, in or out of her regular office hours.”

Gallenberg named Dean of CAFES
Jenna Wegner

Dale Gallenberg was named the new dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences at the UW-River Falls.

Gallenberg began his new responsibilities on May 15. He replaced Steve Ridley, who retired as dean in January after 31 years with UWRF.

“I am very pleased that Dale Gallenberg will be joining us as Dean. Dale has a rich career of experiences and expertise with proven results,” stated Chancellor Don Betz.

Gallenberg holds a bachelor’s degree in plant pathology and horticulture from UW-Madison. He received master’s and doctorate degrees in plant pathology from Cornell University, where he also served for six years as a research assistant.

He joined SDSU in 1984 as an extension plant pathologist and faculty member. He held that post for 11 years, developing and implementing statewide educational programs in plant disease management.

In 1996 he was selected to serve as the head of the plant science department, which is the largest at SDSU. Gallenberg directed more than 100 faculty and staff members in crop science, soil and water sciences, entomology, plant pathology and weed science.

Gallenberg’s experiences include partnering with South Dakota’s crop commodity groups and other agricultural industry organizations. He also served as chair of the board of directors of the South Dakota Foundation Seed Stocks Division.

His many accolades included the Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota Extension Specialists Association, the ABS Dean’s Outstanding Service Recognition Award, and the Plant Science Graduate Student Association Faculty/Staff Outstanding Service Award.

Gallenberg looks forward to leading CAFES, with its emphasis on undergraduate education.

“I sincerely appreciate the opportunity being given to me to join the UW-River Falls family as the next dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. The institution is filled at all levels with people who are dedicated, energetic, effective and professional in how they conduct themselves and their programs,” stated Gallenberg.
May NACTA Fellow Award recipient
Alicia Reckard

Dr. Lewi May, agricultural economics, was awarded a North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teacher Fellow Award.

Several awards are given yearly to recognize exceptional agricultural educators who demonstrate an excellent teaching philosophy. Recipients are nominated by fellow NACTA members with reference letters submitted by peers, students and alumni.

At the center of May’s teaching philosophy, is the concept of revealing to students how smart they are. He truly enjoys this learning process.

Clark retires after 24 years of service
Larissa Fildes

Perry Clark, animal science professor, retired in May. He spent 24 years teaching animal science, advising students and the UWRF Dairy Club, and coaching the dairy cattle evaluation team.

“I’ve enjoyed watching students change and mature during the years they are here,” Clark said.

As an advisor, Clark was able to spend more time with students outside of the classroom. This allowed him to mentor and assist students in the application of their skills.

He commented, “Serving as an advisor has allowed me to see a different side of students.”

In 1995, the dairy cattle evaluation team, coached by Clark, took first place in national competition. This contest is held yearly at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. Attending the Expo was one of Clark’s favorite student activities.

Another highlight of Clark’s career was advising students through the internship program. For 15 years Clark traveled to visit students’ employers, networked with industry members, and helped provide an opportunity for students to gain practical experience.

“He was always joking and made learning fun,” said Travis Jordhal, a former student of Clark’s. “He helped make an introductory course interesting and seemed to care about each student individually.”

Clark has retired from teaching, but plans to remain active in animal science. Dairy nutrition is of particular interest to Clark.

Kasten hangs up his hat after 34 years at UWRF
Mandy Arndt

Larry Kasten, equine professor, who led the nationally recognized horse science program at UWRF for 34 years, retired in May.

Kasten taught many courses in his three decades at UWRF, including genetics, statistics, mono-gastric nutrition, horse production, equine evaluation, introduction to horsemanship, advanced horsemanship and colts in training. He also advised the Horseman’s Association and served as an animal science academic advisor.

Kasten’s favorite part of teaching was the riding labs where he had the opportunity to share his passion and love for horses with enthusiastic students.

“Working with horses as well as teaching young people to train horses has been an unforgettable experience,” he said.

Kasten said he took great pleasure in witnessing the success of his students; and many credit him for their successes. Kasten hopes his students will continue to utilize and develop the techniques he taught them, which will allow them to shape the horse industry for years to come.

In retirement, Kasten’s plans include buying, training and selling horses. He will spend a few more years in River Falls before alternating winters in Texas and summers in Wisconsin.

Onan named Outstanding Teacher
Printed with permission from the Falcon Daily

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences is pleased to announce that Dr. Gary Onan has been named the 2006 Outstanding Teacher for CAFES.

Onan joined the faculty in 1997. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Onan coaches the Meat Animal Evaluation and Livestock Team and is well-known and respected around the state for his involvement in livestock judging at county fairs and shows.

He has mentored students performing undergraduate research as part of the McNair Scholars Program and the USDA Undergraduate Summer Research Experience, and he serves as the advisor for the Association of Women in Agriculture. Onan also oversees the swine enterprise on the laboratory farm.

Most recently he collaborated with Brenda Boetel on a USDA grant incorporating direct marketing material into the curriculum which culminated in the Campus Chops sale.
Evolving Alumni Association

I recently finished serving two terms as a board member on the CAFES Alumni Association. It has been my pleasure to serve in this capacity. During the past six years, the Alumni Association has changed in many ways.

First, it has become an association where everyone becomes a member upon graduation. The activities of this organization are largely supported by generous donors to the CAFES Fund for Excellence Campaign, UWRF Alumni Association, and other funds.

Secondly, the association largely focuses on smaller events that can bring alumni together. This is partly due to ideas from members. In addition to the World Dairy Expo reception, we now have a reception at the Wisconsin Fertilizer and Ag Lime Show, and have added smaller luncheon type gatherings. We continue to look for more Minnesota sites for gatherings. If anyone knows of opportunities to do this, please contact a board member or the college.

Finally, the method of communication is changing to focus more on e-mail. This not only saves money, but is faster, easier, and preferred. We will continue to publish the "Fencepost", but make sure you keep your e-mail address updated with the college by going to www.uwrf.edu and clicking on Alumni Relations to update your personal info. By keeping this updated, the association will be better equipped to inform you of upcoming events in your area.

The CAFES Alumni Association will continue to evolve.

Keep in touch,

Greg Lefebvre
Class of 1981

News N’ Notes

Alicia Reckard

Kristin Pronschisnke ‘04, ’05 has been appointed as Central Livestock Association’s new marketing and advertising specialist. Her responsibilities include public relation activities for Central Livestock markets and order buying business in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.


Lucy Drinkall ’88 has been selected as the president of the Fillmore County Pork Producers. Besides her duties as president, Drinkall daily tends to 6,000 hogs and raises four children on the Drinkall family farm outside of Ostrander, Wis.

Jenny Russell ’01 a recruiter and career counselor at the Agricultural and Food Science Academy in Vadsnis Heights, recently took first place in a national discussion meet. Participants were judged on their knowledge and ability to draw others into the discussion and reach a consensus. As grand prize she won a 2006 Dodge Ram.

Houston County High School’s 169-member FFA chapter was featured in December’s issue of Holstein World describing the details of the program. Instructor Ronnie Thomas and agriculture teacher Cheralyn Boetcher ’97 arranged the details for the article and cover photo showing two Holsteins in front of a jet fighter at Robins Air Force Base.


Michael R. Jacobson ’88 of Spring Valley, Wis., is the Director of Innovation/Product Development for AFP advanced food products llc. On May 17, 2005, he was issued his first U.S. patent for Acidified Shelf Stable Cheese Sauce and Puddings.

Grace Roberts ’99 was selected as the 2005 National Winner for John Deere Outstanding Young Agriculture Teacher for Region II. This award was presented to her at the National Association of Agriculture Educators Conference in Kansas City, Mo. in December, 2005.

George M. Roberts Jr. ’41 passed away on December 17, 2006. He served as agricultural teacher, FFA advisor, and substitute teacher prior to his death.

Randy Meyer ’87 is up for election on the Edina Board of Election. The term will be for four years and the position includes budgeting the school’s funds and ensuring high-quality programs for students.

Jenna Wegner, Ettrick, Wis., was named Outstanding Girl at the 2006 Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention. Having grown up on a 350-cow dairy, she is currently a CAFES junior majoring in marketing communications with a dairy science minor. She will be competing for one of the National DJM Finalist titles at the national convention in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Several UWRF students have been honored with the Wisconsin Holstein Association’s 2005 Distinguished Junior Member Award. Recipients include Victoria Cooper, DeForest, Wis.; Amber Elliot, Marshall, Wis.; and Sam Kuhaupt, Slinger, Wis.

Catherine Carrier, DVM a UWRF 2002 graduate, and 2005 UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine graduate is a certified Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Diagnostician after completing the 2 week hands on course in Feb 2006 at the Dept of Homeland Security’s Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Plum Island, N.Y. She is currently a Captain in the US Army stationed in Bethesda, Md.

John Wesley Hanson ’82 of Waldo, Wis., passed away on February 18, 2006. He worked in agricultural research in Juneau, followed by working for the Adell Co-op before his death.

Gary Mork ’82 has been hired as a business banker specializing in agricultural banking at Associated Bank in Green Bay, Wis. Mork has been in this type of work for more than 20 years and has worked with Farm Service Agency, Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development, and the Small Business Administration.

Margaret Wall-Slanina ‘38 of Wyoming, Minn., died on March 12, 2006. Before her retirement, she was an elementary school teacher. She was previously married to Mel Wall, a CAFES faculty member, who died in a plane accident during a humanitarian mission in Vietnam in 1967.

Mert Timmerman ’41 of River Falls, Wis., passed away on March 15, 2006. As a longterm steward of the land, he entrusted 70 acres of his land to the Western Wisconsin Land Trust before his death.

History of the college

Do you have photographs that would help illustrate a comprehensive history of CAFES? If you have materials to share, please contact the Dean’s Office (715) 425-3841.
Mamie Henderson ’05 of Zumbrota, Minn., is the new 4-H Program Coordinator in that area. Before receiving this position, she had taught at Rushford-Peterson Schools and served as 4-H intern in Wabasha.

Steve Wilson ’84 of Lake City, Minn., is running for State Senate in District #28 in Minnesota. Prior to running for office he founded and directed a non-profit organization focusing on social issues as well as worked at Land O’Lakes Inc. focusing on economic development.

Mark Konlock ’04 has been named the new director of horticulture at the Green Bay Botanical Garden.

Michelle Prosser ’05 has recently been named as the district administrator of Hubbard County’s Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Her duties will include overseeing and initiating programs to protect natural resources and educate the public.

Greg Murch ’71 has been elected to the Meeker County Memorial Hospital foundation board which is in charge of the fundraising efforts.

Jim Graham, assistant professor of agricultural education, was selected to participate in the Leadership Education Institute for Faculty in Colleges of Agriculture. Ten participants were selected from across the country. Funded by a USDA Challenge Grant, this project was designed to assist faculty members in addressing future needs in agriculture.

Purnendu Vasavada, food science professor, recently led a workshop session, titled Developing Sanitation Programs that will Stand Up to Third-Party Auditing: Creating Programs that Meet and Exceed Industry Demands, at the Food Safety World Conference and Expo in Washington D.C.

Karl Franson ’91 of Amherst, Wis., was recently featured in Agri-View for combining rotational grazing and more-traditional management in a hybrid system on his dairy farm.

Adam Danzinger from Alma, Wis., has been selected as the “Student of the Year” for the Wisconsin Section of American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

Several CAFES’ students participated in the Animal Welfare Judging Competition and won first place in the Team assessment scenario. Team members included Genevieve Grammer, Colby, Wis., Lynn Noegel, West Bend, Wis., and Patrick Wiltzius, Ripon, Wis.

UWRF junior, Dan Lauderdal, Elkhorn, Wis., was selected as the first recipient of the Dairy Farmers of Walworth County $1,000 Scholarship.

Steven A. Van Natta ’86 is the GCSAA golf course superintendent at the Owatonna, Minn., Country Club. He has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. This award recognizes outstanding and progressive superintendents. Currently 1,900 golf course superintendents from around the world hold this status.

Sandra Cordes ’94 has been named a 2006 Herb Kohl Fellow winner. This award recognizes outstanding educators and schools.

Keep In Touch!

Feel free to e-mail CAFES your career changes and professional achievements and awards to be published in the FencePost. Send it to cafes@uwrf.edu with FencePost News as the subject/title.
Patty Edelburg ’98 was featured in the March Agri-View for speaking at the Heart of the Farm conference in Eau Claire, Wis. Throughout her speech she encouraged women to get more involved in agricultural occupations and leadership roles on and off the farm.

Eugene Romsos ’64 retired in 2005. Prior to retirement, he worked for 20 years with International Harvester, 9 years with A.O. Smith, and 12 years with Thermal Design. He is now living in Long Lake, Wis.

Brad Mathson ’82 competed at the National No-Tillage Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., and won the consulting category of the competition. He was honored as a No-Till Innovator.

Edwin Wade ’66 was recently recognized for his development of the state’s potato industry and was inducted into the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association Hall of Fame.

Dr. John Clemons ’57 is a renowned surgeon who outlined his life in an autobiography “Tending my Flock.” Part of his life involved student teaching agricultural classes prior to med school.

Bob Johnson ’80 was inducted into the Ag Business Council of Rock County’s hall of fame. This honor was given to him for an outstanding job of teaching agriculture at Milton High School and leading the local FFA chapter.

UWRF student Jennifer Breuer, Hartford, Wis., and Gary Onan, associate professor of animal science, were recently quoted in the American Airlines in-flight magazine ‘American Way’. The article focused on women in agriculture and CAFES was featured as a strong agriculture college.

Brandon Schafer ’94 was featured in the National Hog Farmer Magazine. The article focused on Schafer expanding his family’s farm located in Goodhue, Minn., to include a large swine unit, which emphasizes good genetics for higher production and quality.

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