Faculty News

ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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Recommended Citation
ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (2011) "Faculty News," STORIES in Agriculture and Life Sciences: Vol. 5 : Iss. 1 , Article 7. Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/stories/vol5/iss1/7

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HEARTY HELLOS

Nick Dolce joined the college development office as a director of development. Dolce comes from the University of Illinois at Springfield where he was associate director of development and assistant athletic director for development.

Joe Hanan was named the ISU Extension commercial horticulture specialist for central and western Iowa. Hanan, who is housed in the Dallas County Extension office, is responsible for providing commercial growers with educational resources and will conduct research at the Iowa State Horticulture Farm near Gilbert and the Armstrong Research Farm near Lewis.

FOND FAREWELLS

Rich Bundy, vice president of development at the ISU Foundation and former college development team leader, accepted a leadership position at the University of Vermont as vice president of development and alumni relations and CEO of the University of Vermont Foundation.

Rich Pirog, associate director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, became senior associate director of the Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Michigan State University in May. He will lead the new center’s efforts in the socioeconomic aspects of food systems, including production, marketing and economic development.

Les Lewis, chair of the entomology department, retired in December. He had served as chair since 2008. Prior to that he was a research leader and scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

HONEYMAN ADDS NEW DUTIES WITH BIOCENTURY FARM, LEOPOLD CENTER

Mark Honyeman, professor of animal science and coordinator of ISU Research and Demonstration Farms, has been named associate director of the BioCentury Research Farm where he will integrate biomass field research within the farm’s operations and help ensure compatibility of the farm’s activities with other ISU research farms. Honyeman also has assumed responsibilities of interim director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Former interim director Lois Wright Morton, sociology, stepped down to lead a regional research project on climate and agriculture. Honyeman has coordinated ISU’s Research and Demonstration Farms network for 26 years. He served on the original task force that helped define the Leopold Center in the 1980s.

FACULTY NAMED FELLOWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- Maynard Hogberg, animal science, chair and professor, American Society of Animal Science
- Bryony Bonning, entomology professor, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Steven Fales, agronomy professor, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Patrick Schnable, agronomy professor, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Jonathan Wendel, ecology, evolution and organismal biology chair and professor, American Association for the Advancement of Science

FEHR HONORED BY AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

Charles F. Distinguished Professor of Agronomy Walt Fehr is the recipient of the 2011 American Soybean Association Special Meritorious Service Award. Fehr was recognized for his “innovative plant breeding program utilizing traditional plant breeding methods along with biotechnology to enhance the genetic traits of soybeans.” Fehr’s research has produced more than 200 food grade soybean varieties grown throughout the United States, and he was the first to develop heart-healthy soybeans free of trans fat.

KENEALY RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL AGRICULTURE AWARD

Douglas Kenealy, the Harman Professor for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in the Department of Animal Science, received the Bouffault International Animal Agriculture Award from the American Society of Animal Science. Kenealy has led five international travel courses and mentored students from 11 countries on ISU exchange programs. Kenealy is a University Professor, professor-in-charge of the dairy science curriculum and section leader for animal science instruction. He is shown at right (in red) planting trees with ISU students while visiting Trakia University in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria.
In 1894, Alle Buck’s great, great grandfather got off the train near Rhodes, Iowa and bought a farm with his brother. Today, Buck calls it home. “We’ve farmed this land for over 100 years and it’s in my blood,” says Buck, a senior in animal science. Buck is proud of her fifth-generation farm and even more proud that she’s a third-generation Iowa State student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Her grandfather and grandmother met at Iowa State and together they raised six children who all attended Iowa State, but she’s the first woman to pursue a career in agriculture. “My three uncles and my dad majored in agriculture,” Buck says. “It wasn’t easy for women to pursue degrees in agriculture back then, like it is now.”

After graduation this summer, Buck plans to build and run a swine finishing facility with her brother-in-law. Raising livestock has taught her about life. The key, she says, is putting their needs first. “If you take care of them, they’ll take care of you,” Buck says.

She knows farming isn’t an easy business to get into, but it’s what she’d like to pursue. The Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative helped Buck understand the importance of global markets, creative thinking and innovation. The initiative also helped her apply for a Beginning Farmer Loan to rent grazing pasture for her cattle. “It’s not work to me,” Buck says. “All my life I’ve spent the day doing something else and then I got to go home and farm. It’s a way of life and it’s what I love to do.”

Her sense of community is evident. Walking across campus, she greets several students she’s worked with in clubs, learning communities and judging teams. She’s also a known volunteer. She has dedicated a lot of time to the Block and Bridle club, and this spring she served on the college’s strategic planning committee. She felt strongly about providing input, especially from the student’s perspective. “I really care about Iowa State and I have a vested interest in its future,” Buck says.

Coming to Iowa State opened doors for Buck. She credits the learning community experience for connecting her with lifelong friends. Last summer she traveled to Greece with the entrepreneurship group and also visited Rome, Paris, London, Frankfurt and Munich. “I’ve traveled to 15 states and five countries and I’d never been on an airplane before I came to college,” Buck says.

Buck says she’s found her college experience rewarding because she’s developed leadership and organizational skills, met with agricultural leaders and gathered a community of friends. It’s an experience and a community that she calls, “priceless.”