2011

Student Achievement

ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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FOOD PANTRY FOR STUDENTS, BY STUDENTS OPENS ITS DOORS

As part of a class assignment, students in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition Transfer and Major Change Learning Community were asked to think about ways to help support food assistance needs in the community. The result was planning an on-campus food pantry. The SHOP (Students Helping Our Peers) opened in February in the Food Sciences Building. Pictured are the organization’s officers (front to back) Andrew Pugh, Sarah Schwanebeck, Hailey Boudreau, Melissa Van Norden, Kelsey Webb, Kara Moss, Amanda Haffarman and Tania Lee. The opening of the SHOP garnered national television coverage and a spot in an Inside Higher Ed article. Watch the video and read more about the SHOP at www.ag.iastate.edu/stories.

STUDENT JUDGING TEAMS RANK HIGH

- **Turf Club**, first place, Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (ninth win in 10 years)
- **Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Team**, first place, Accelerated Genetics Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest
- **Livestock Judging Team**, high team overall Northern Lights Contest, high team honors Sioux Empire Farm Show, and second high team overall at Aksarben
- **Crops Judging Team**, first place Ag Knowledge Bowl, second place Crops Contest North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture
- **Soil Judging Team**, first place, American Society of Agronomy Region 5 Collegiate Soil Judging Contest
- **Dairy Products Evaluation Team**, second in team all-product at the 89th National Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest
- **Food Product Development Team**, fourth in the American Association of Cereal Chemists product development contest

AG AND LIFE SCIENCES MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Elizabeth Baudler, senior in animal science, and Jacob Hunter, senior in agricultural and life sciences education, were named the 2011 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Ag Man and Ag Woman of the Year as part of the Ag Day celebration in March. Awardees are selected by their peers on the college student council based on “recognizing a true ambassador of agriculture that positively promotes agriculture through college clubs and industry relations and shows a passion for the agricultural and life sciences industry.”

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Dakota Hoben (left), senior in agricultural business, was elected president of the Government of the Student Body in March. He and Vice President Jared Knight, junior in political science, won the executive slate with a platform focused on “The Three ‘Cs’: clubs, classroom and community.”
LEGACY OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

“Our agriculture and life sciences alumni have begun an entrepreneurial tradition at Iowa State University. Twenty percent of our alumni have started for-profit businesses. Part of our challenge and opportunity is instilling that tradition in students by connecting them with alumni and one other.”
—Kevin Kimle, Director, Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative

A recent survey of Iowa State University alumni who graduated between 1986-2006 proves the tradition exists.
- 16 percent of ISU grads started at least one business
- Most common: Firms serving agricultural markets followed by retail and information technology.
- Undergraduates from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Design had the highest entrepreneurship rates
- The entrepreneurship rate among Iowa State University graduates is more than double the rate of the general population
- On average, alumni founded their first business 10 years after graduating
- Nearly 79 percent of all businesses were still in operation (this is a much higher survival rate than the national average of 31 percent)
- On average, entrepreneurs and former entrepreneurs earn more than their non-entrepreneur counterparts
- Nearly 20,000 businesses were created (223,000 jobs). About 72 percent established in Iowa or Midwest.
- These companies had 2007 revenues of $64 billion.

FARMER ENTREPRENEURS IMPROVE COMMUNITY VITALITY

A substantial number of Iowa farm families start and operate businesses in addition to their regular farming operations, according to an ISU Extension study conducted in 2007. From equipment repair and construction to seed sales and financial services, farmers were finding numerous ways to increase their income and improve their community’s social and economic vitality. Responses from 144 farmer entrepreneurs who participated in the 2007 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll show more than half of their businesses had been in operation for more than 20 years, and 25 percent of the businesses were construction or retail companies. The farmer entrepreneurs reported their businesses provided 369 full-time and 201 part-time jobs in their communities. About one-third of the proprietors were interested in growing their businesses to have an impact locally, statewide or nationally.

LICENSING POWERHOUSE

Agriculture and life sciences play a central role in Iowa State University’s reputation for moving research discoveries into the marketplace.

In 2007, a national report on technology transfer called Iowa State a “licensing powerhouse” and a model of economic development activity. A key reason: ISUs long-established service to agriculture and other industries through extension, outreach and research partnerships that resulted in personal, trusted relationships.

Those diverse relationships pay off. The ISU Research Foundation maintains a portfolio of 482 active license and option agreements—two-thirds are plant germplasm and most are products of soybean breeding. In fiscal year 2010, the top licensed technologies for discoveries in agriculture and life sciences included:
- A sweet, disease-resistant watermelon variety
- A natural pre-emergence weed control for lawns and gardens
- A method to increase and maintain muscle mass in humans
- A precise fertilizer application system, the Impellicone, that reduces anhydrous ammonia used on crops
- Genes and genetic markers for improved reproductive traits in animals

In fiscal year 2010, agriculture and life sciences faculty were issued six patents and filed five others, for technologies that included:
- A genetic test to identify dwarfism in cattle
- Alternatives to antibiotics in animals
- Genes to protect soybeans from disease caused by Phytophthora
- Genetic traits to improve pork tenderness
- Mobile RNA signals to enhance plant growth and development

Since 2003, 42 percent of all Iowa State University patents (81) have been issued for discoveries in biotechnology, life sciences and agriculture.