Awards and Honors

- NC AAAE Conference-Michael S. Retallick, Elizabeth A. Foreman, Jennifer Bundy, Kelsey Powell and Miranda M. Morris received the 2020 Distinguished Research Paper award
- Dr. Nancy Grudens-Schuck and the Prairie Strips team have been named a recipient of the Conservation Innovation Award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society
- Emeritus Dr. Robert Martin was awarded the Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dr. Scott Smalley 2020 AAAE Outstanding Early Career Member

CALS Awards
- Scott Smalley -2020 CALS Early Adviser Award

What's inside this issue

- Letter from the Chair
- Department Renovation
- Enrollment Numbers
- Student Organizations
- CALS Council Awards
- Teacher in Residence
- Farewell
Greetings from the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies! 2020 has been a year for the record books. If you are like most of us, you are looking forward to when 2020 is hindsight.

This year has been challenging to all of us in so many different ways—health and safety concerns and the various disruptions of COVID-19, racial injustice, an ugly political climate, a Derecho and drought conditions that hit Iowa particularly hard, and storms and fires that have hit other parts of the country particularly hard.

Through all that 2020 has thrown at us, I am particularly proud of the way in which faculty and staff and our students have met the challenges head-on and in a determined manner. The level of grit and perseverance everyone demonstrated was remarkable. We are going to emerge from this pandemic in a much better in so many ways. We learned more about ourselves, teaching and learning processes, systems and delivery modes, communication across multiple platforms, and all that we can accomplish when challenged and set our mind to it.

This newsletter provides highlights a few of the things that have been happening within the department. Enjoy and on behalf of the faculty and staff in the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies, Season’s Greetings!

Happy Holidays from all of us in Agricultural Education and Studies!
Dr. Michael Retallick
Department Chair

Finalizing Department Renovation

The last phase of renovations focused on classroom and conference room technology and environmental branding through the department.

We also showcase some of the students’ photography work from Virginia Hanson’s AgEdS 327 course (Survey of Agriculture and the Life Sciences Communication) throughout the space.

While the pandemic slowed this process down, we are completing the finishing touches. Until you can visit us in person, please follow along as Dr. Retallick takes us on a virtual tour, which is posted on our Facebook page.  https://www.facebook.com/ISUAgEdS/posts
The freshman class has an average ACT score of 25 and an average high school GPA of 3.71. Number of Iowans attending Iowa State (56.3% of the student body).

**CALS Enrollment**
- Graduated students in 2019-2020 (4th largest enrollment)
- Percentage of CALS students that are women
- CALS first year retention is the best at IS

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<th>Department</th>
<th>Fall 2020 ISU Enrollment</th>
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**Ag Ed and Studies Department**
- Ag & Life Sciences Education Certification
- Ag & Life Sciences Education Communication
- Ag Studies

Congratulations to our graduates!

Spring and fall graduate events have been anything but normal. University commencement and the CALS convocations were presented virtually.

The department also shared a congratulatory video through our social media venues.

Click below to view the videos:

- Department Video
  - CALS Convocation - Fall
  - CALS Convocation - Spring
  - Fall Presentation of Graduates
Student Organizations

**Farm Operation Club**
The Farm Operation Club gives students many non-classroom opportunities for personal growth.

In this club students develop leadership skills, enjoy social activities, and build lasting relationships with students and faculty.

The club is open to any enrolled student at Iowa State that has an interest in farming and agriculture. Our meetings are held once a month with guest speakers and a meal.

Stuart Tiedemann, 2020 Farm Operations Club President

**AgEd Club**
The AGED club focuses on preparing agricultural education students for their co-teaching experience.

The club does this by giving students opportunities to reach out and connect to people in the ag field in the profession already. The club also allows for people to make bonds with other students that will someday be their colleagues.

The AGED club does several fundraising and outreach activities to be involved in the community.

Alex Zumbach, 2020 Agricultural Education Club President

**Professional Agricultural Students (PAS)**
PAS is a national student-led organization that allows students to build and sharpen their skills so that they are ready for the workplace. Through competitive style learning and real-life application, our members are skilled professionals and prepared to work in all areas of the agriculture industry.

PAS is one of the 11 career and technical student organizations that has been approved by the U. S. Department of Education as an integral part of career and technical education.

Our organization has been successful in competitions at the state and national levels, with many top-placing teams and individuals over the last four years. We have also had many students serve on the State PAS Officer Team and the National PAS Officer Team representing Iowa State.

Katelyn Zimmerman, 2020 ISU PAS Club President

This photo was previously taken before the mask requirement.
ISU CALS Council Senior Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following 2020 ISU CALS Council Senior Award recipients!

Fall 2020

Justin Swanton (animal science, agriculture and life sciences education), Leadership Excellence Award

Heidi Fichter Mandt (agriculture and life sciences education, global resource systems), Outstanding Ambassador of Agriculture and Life Sciences Award

Spring 2020

Maddy McGarry (ag and life sciences education, international ag), Outstanding Ambassador of Agriculture and Life Sciences Award

Laura Mincks (ag and life sciences education), Distinguished Service Award
Thanks to a gift from Dr. Richard and Mrs. Jane Carter, the department hosted its inaugural Agriculture Teacher-in-Residence in October. Dr. Carter is Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the AgEdS department. The program is designed so the department can host a practicing agriculture teaching on campus to engage with students, faculty, and staff as a mentoring and networking opportunity.

Jacob Hunter, agriculture teacher at North Scott Community Schools in Eldridge, IA, was the inaugural teacher-in-residence. He was a state FFA officer, student taught at the Chicago HS of Ag Science (CHSAS) and worked for the World Food Prize until the draw of teaching became too much. He taught in Des Moines ag program for two years before moving closer to home. His accomplishments at North Scott since 2016 are impressive. Its FFA Chapter was identified as one of the top 10 programs in the country though the National FFA Model of Excellence award. To read more about the Teacher-in-Residence program please click here.

Recruit for the Department

Do you know a junior or senior in high school, or a student looking to transfer schools, who would be a great fit as a future student at Iowa State? Encourage them to consider a visit with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. We are still conducting virtual visits and some on-campus visits are taking place. You, as alumni, serve as our largest group of recruiters of future students to Iowa State University. Help us find the next members of the Cyclone family.
Graduate School

Have you ever considered graduate school? The AGEDS Department offers multiple programs to meet the experience you might be looking for. Not available to come to campus? Not a problem. We offer a completely online master's program! Check out our website for details.

For several years, a group of alumni and ag communication stakeholders have conducted an annual fundraising drive to support student travel to events like the Ag Media Summit and the National Association of Farm Broadcasting Convention.

This group has recognized the need for continuous support, especially when the program has increased by 45% in the past 6 years. This type of support builds upon the resources the college and the university offer and provides the margin of excellence that will set the Agriculture Communication program up for sustainable growth and advance our long-term goals of establishing a major in agriculture communication, creating an endowed professorship and educating future industry leaders.

The annual goal is to raise $5000. If you would like to learn more or provide support, visit the Ag Comm FundISU site: https://fundisu.foundation.iastate.edu/AgComm2020

Scholarships provide students the opportunity to have a meaningful experience at Iowa State. Without them, attending college might not be possible for some students. In the past, we have hosted a large department event recognizing departmental clubs and scholarship recipients. Like many things, a large department gathering was not possible. Seeking to be creative, we hosted five successful virtual scholarship sessions for students and donors to connect. These sessions provided a unique experience for students to share stories of their success at ISU and appreciation for their scholarship. It also gave donors an opportunity to meet students and share their perspective as a contributor to the department. More than 50 students, donors, faculty and staff participated in these wonderful events.
In Memorium

In 2011, as part of our departments 100 year anniversary, we honored him with the naming of the Harold and Rachel Crawford Agricultural Teacher Education Complex. During that event he shared his personal motto: “To teach is to serve, to serve is to give, and to give is to live.” Those who knew Harold, know that his motto rang true. He was one of the most positive, up-beat individuals who was genuinely interested in anyone he met, especially students.

He was an ambassador for those things for which he had a passion and there were many.

He would want us to celebrate his long and immensely rewarding life and career, rather than mourn. So, please celebrate with us the life of Dr. Harold R. Crawford. As time permits, please read about the high points of his life as shared in this obituary.

The family video recorded a celebration of life this fall. A link to Dr. Crawford’s memorial giving page

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Please help us celebrate the extraordinary life and careers of Drs. Harold R. Crawford and Julia Gamon.

**Dr. Harold R. Crawford** passed at the age of 95, nearly a week shy of his 72nd wedding anniversary to his lovely wife, Rachel. He had an immense impact on Iowa State University and Agricultural Education.

Dr. Crawford spent 15 years as a high school agriculture teacher and 42 years on staff at Iowa State University, retiring in 2007. Although, we never really knew that he retired because he would be in the office most days until just a few years ago.

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**Dr. Julia Gamon** died on October 30, 2020 at her home in Washington, Iowa. She had a long career as an Extension educator and was a faculty member in the department for nearly 20 years. She had a great relationship with Extension staff throughout the state serving as major professor for many of them who worked on their master’s degree in agricultural and extension education. After retiring in 1998, she spent her life on the family farm in Washington, IA. View her obituary here.

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Agricultural Education and Studies

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