



Agricultural Science Department Newsletter Truman State University

Truman Celebrates National Agriculture Week 2012

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While it may take some students a while to get back into the swing of things after Spring Break, Truman Aggies were beginning a week of activities for National Agriculture Week 2012. Throughout the week, students and faculty worked and played to bring agriculture to campus. Monday kicked off

Redmon). Farm Bureau speakers Dan Cassidy and Chris Chinn visited Truman on Wednesday to discuss the 2012 Farm Bill and the Child



Labor Law, as well as “your vote counts” and telling the story of agriculture through social media. Being in the age and generation of technology, social media can offer many benefits to help spread the word about what is going on today in agriculture. Thursday was spent on the quad, where students could milk a cow or see University President Dr. Troy Paino kiss a baby piglet to raise money for Heifer International. Friday finished off the week with Dr. Camp-

bell parading around Magruder in his cow suit after the results from Penny Wars had been announced (there was no contest as to who was going to win, Abdo made sure of that!) and a chili cook-off at the University farm between several of the agriculture professors and a few students. Dr. Wehner was awarded the prize for his “White Lightning” Chili. After dinner, everyone gathered around the fire to listen to a performance by the band Dandelions Roar and members of the Busted String Band. Ω



the week with milk and cookies, as well as the start of Sigma Alpha Penny Wars to raise money for Heifer International (and a little personal enjoyment for students and faculty at the opportunity to put a professor in a cow suit). Tuesday saw a very successful trivia night, where ag and non-ag students formed teams to answer questions about everything from food to film facts (and hoped to win the grand prize, a turtle cheesecake made by Marsha



Special points of interest:

- University President helps the Aggies raise money for Heifer International.
- TSU E-team at Nationals in Raleigh, NC.
- Cattle Team takes a heifer to Iowa for the 7th year.
- Collegiate Farm Bureau's Anna Lotts and Ryan Felling go to Washington, D.C.
- Future plans for students (and faculty) after they leave Truman



Truman Alumnus Justin Nash at Mizzou

Justin Nash graduated from Truman State University in May of 2009 with a BS in Agricultural Science and a minor in Biology. During his time at Truman, Justin was involved in the agriculture fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, as well as Delta Tau Alpha, Omicron Delta Kappa, and the Truman State Drumline. He also enjoyed getting the opportunity to work closely with the professors, and he spent the end of his junior year into his senior year performing an undergraduate research project under Dr. Wehner with the university cattle. Justin presented his project, "Determination of Time Difference between Two Commonly Used Heat Detection Systems in Gelbvieh Cattle", at

the Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2009. Just a short month after graduating from Truman, Justin began graduate school at the University of Missouri in Columbia, which is known for having one of the best Reproduction and Physiology programs. Justin recently graduated from MU in December of 2011 with a Master's degree in Animal Science and an emphasis in Reproductive Physiology. Since graduating from MU, Justin has been working as a senior research specialist, organizing and leading research. However, his next step in education recently became clear when Justin was accepted into the veterinary program at the College of Veterinary Medicine at MU. After

vet school, Justin is considering getting a PhD to go with his DVM. Eventually, he would like to do research with pharmaceutical companies. When asked about his favorite classes at Truman, Justin mentions Animal Reproduction and Bovine Reproduction Practicum, as well as Anatomy and Physiology of Domesticated Animals among many others. His advice for current and future Truman students is to make the best of their time here, to take the opportunities as they come, by enjoying time with friends and professors as well as taking advantage of the numerous networking opportunities that Truman has to offer. Ω

Alumna Receives Outstanding Teacher Award

***Truman memories:
Trail rides, breeding
and foaling seasons,
and climbing into the
hayloft in the dark to
thrown down hay.***

Congratulations to Truman Agricultural Science Alumna Dr. Joann Kouba (B.S. 1993), who received the Outstanding Young Teacher Award from the American Society of Animal Science and American Dairy Science Association Midwest Sections in Des Moines, IA on March 21. Dr. Kouba is an associate professor in the department of animal science and industry at Kansas State University, focusing on equine reproduction.

Dr. Kouba attended Truman when it was still Northeast Missouri State University. She worked at the University Farm for 3 years and was a member of the Horseman's Association for 4 years. Back then, the farm had about 90 Quarter Horses,

including 4 stallions. Because there were so many horses, most of the equine students worked at the farm and the farm apartments were always full of (female) equine undergrads. Also, most of the equine facilities-including the indoor arena-were fairly new because it had only been about 9 years since the University had acquired the farm. Like many of the upperclassmen, Dr. Kouba helped with some of the classes out at the farm. Her first "teaching experience" in a University setting was assisting with Horsemanship classes during her senior year. Some of her fondest Truman memories were going on trail rides down to the lake, helping

with breeding and foaling seasons, and climbing into the hay loft of the main barn in the dark to throw hay down for chores during the winter. Ω



Truman E-Team Represented at Nationals

The Truman State University Equestrian Team has excelled this year in both the hunt and stock disciplines. The stock team placed 3rd in the region for the 2011-2012 season and 7 riders qualified for the Zone 7, Region 5 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Regionals at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo. Riders were: Beginner Horsemanship—Sophomore Leslie Ulm and Junior Caitlin Schaefer, Intermediate Horsemanship—Sophomores Cheyenne Dunham and Annina McMillan and Junior Christine Tosie, Novice Horsemanship—Sophomore Shelby Nail, and Advanced Horsemanship—Senior stock team captain Kaity Strand. From Regionals, Leslie Ulm moved on to compete at the IHSA Western Semi-finals in Harrington,

Delaware where she placed fourth in her division. Leslie will ride at the IHSA National Championships this May in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The hunt team also had another very successful show season, finishing in 1st place in the region and qualifying an entire team of riders for zones in Indiana. Several riders also qualified as individuals for regionals. Riders were: Walk/Trot Equitation- sophomore Megan LaFollette and senior Kelly Kohlhagen, Walk/Trot/Canter Equitation- Sophomores Alison Abbenhaus and Annina McMillan and Junior Jane Rademacher, Novice Equitation on the Flat and over Fences- Juniors Christine Tosie and Emily Fahey and Senior Sara Walker, Intermediate Equestrian on the Flat- Freshman Elizabeth Miller, Open

Equitation on the Flat and over Fences- Senior hunt team captain Stephanie Crece-lius, Alumni Equitation on the Flat and over Fences- Alumna Joanna Russell. Megan, Aliy, Emily (flat), Sara (flat), Elizabeth, Stephanie (flat), and Joanna (flat and fences) all qualified to compete individually at zones. Caitlin Schaefer, Melissa Colby, Annina McMillan, Danielle Witt, Sara Walker, Emily Fahey, and Stephanie Crece-lius competed for the team at the zones championship show for the chance to advance to nationals as one of the top two teams in the zone. Aliy, Sara, and Joanna ultimately advanced to Nationals as individual contestants. Ω



Collegiate Farm Bureau members to D.C.

From March 19th through the 21st, senior Ryan Felling (St. Louis, Mo) and sophomore Anna Lotts (Brooklyn Park, MN) of the Truman State Uni-

versity Collegiate Farm Bureau went to Washington, D.C. While there, they took a tour of the capitol with Congressman Graves and attended issue

briefings that discussed current issues in agriculture. The Farm Bill and the Child Labor Regulations proposal were just a couple of the many topics discussed. They also had an opportunity to visit the Canadian Embassy and learn about trade between Canada and the United States. The last day began with breakfast with members of Congress and staff, as well as a meeting with Senator Claire McCaskill's assistant and Senator Roy Blunt, where they had an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns about the future of U.S. agriculture. Ω

Truman's Collegiate Farm Bureau sent representatives to the capitol to listen and discuss current issues and topics in agriculture.





Above: Senior Susan Szaradics and sophomore Anita Snell sport the new shirts for SA 2011-2012 rush.

Right: Sophomore Anna Lotts and Junior Marianne Emery found a creative way to drive posts for the maze.



Sigma Alpha Update

As always, the ladies of Sigma Alpha have had a busy school year. Last semester, the Omicron chapter activated nine new sisters: Freshmen- Christina Iacovino, Melissa Colby, Shannon Heibeck, Kylee Short, Mickyla Mathews, and Lizzie Evers, Sophomores- Chelsea Krueger and Megan Wilson, and Senior Kelsey Mattson. The chapter also has seven girls currently working on their Membership Candidate season: Freshmen- Dillan Howe, Rebecca Sohn, Rachel Craig, Elizabeth Miller and April Johnson, Sophomore- Samantha James, and Junior- Katie Bruno. The new year also kicked off with elections for the 2012 Omicron Executive Board. As always, there were

too many well qualified ladies and not enough positions. The new officer board consists of President Jane Rademacher, First Vice President Cheyenne Dunham, Second Vice President Alaina Armentrout, Secretary Katlyn Niederecker, Treasurer Anita Snell, Rush/ Sisterhood Aly Perry, and Alumni Chair Dani Borja. This semester has seen a very active one, with five ladies attending the Alpha Gamma Rho/Sigma Alpha Leadership Conference in St. Louis, where ladies not only had an opportunity to meet members from other chapters, but also learned new ideas for promoting sisterhood, recruiting new members, and much more. The chapter also has another six ladies attending

the Sigma Alpha Regional Conference in Manhattan, Kansas. A little more locally, the chapter has been focusing its professional events on preparing its members for internships and careers after college, including having someone from the Career Center come in to speak to the ladies about setting up a college-level resume and Dr. Seipel talking about applying for internships and how to get college credit for them. As the semester winds down, the ladies of Sigma Alpha are far from done, with an etiquette dinner, Ag in the Classroom, formal, an alumni event, and a senior picnic send-off still to come. As always, look for Sigma Al-

Cattle Team: Bringing Home the "Bacon"

Cattle team lets the students gain hands-on experience in the preparation and sale of purebred cattle.

Dr. Glenn Wehner loaded up the truck and trailer with one of Truman's Gelbvieh heifers, NMSU TSU Midnight Fantasy 16Y (affectionately known to the Cattle Team as 16Y), along with six Truman students and headed for the Iowa Beef Expo. The students, ranging from freshmen to seniors, were Aly Perry, Brittany Early, Alaina Armentrout, Lizzie Evers, Jenna Moning, and Lauren Ross. Brittany, who has been going to the Expo for several years, paraded 16Y for the auction video while Aly and

Lauren took her into the ring for the auction and she was sold on Valentine's Day to a repeat buyer of Truman cattle. For seven years, Doc has been taking cattle and students up to Iowa for the Expo. The purpose of the trip is to let the students gain hands-on experience in the preparation and sale of purebred cattle, as well as to learn about other breeds that are at the Expo. While in Iowa, the team had time to eat lunch and visit with Kelsey Witte, a Truman alumna (BS, Ag. 2010) who is in her second year of vet school at Iowa State University. They also took RGV Hanchon 18U, a homozygous polled Gelbvieh bull that the University has borrowed from Doc for herd

clean-up, to Hawkeye Breeders in Adel, IA for a semen collection. While here, Aly Perry was amazed at the size of the Holstein bulls. Monday night was spent at the Iowa Gelbvieh breeders dinner and business meeting at Uncle Buck's-Bass Pro. Doc indicated that there were many other students on the Cattle Show Team that helped in the preparation of the heifer at the farm but were unable to make the trip north to watch her sell. He also stated that it was a tiring three days, with a tight schedule of activities but believes that the learning experience always outweighs the effort. The team is currently starting the search for next year's consignment from the new calves on the ground at the farm. **Ω**



Lizzie, Alaina, Aly, Lauren, Jenna, and Brittany with NMSU TSU Midnight Fantasy 16Y.



Thank you!

The Truman State University Agriculture Department would like to thank all the faculty and students that helped make National Ag Week 2012 possible. We would also like to thank Amy Schaefer for use of Joy the Jersey cow and the piglets, Dr. Troy Paino for being such a good sport about kissing the pig, Marsha Redmon for her help with the chili cook-off (as well as everything else she does for us), and the bands that performed after the cook-off. There were also several companies and businesses that donated door prizes that were awarded throughout the week, including: Sydenstrickers of Macon, Macon MFA, Kirksville Tractor Supply Company, Colton's Steakhouse in Kirksville, and Andy Sterling of Bridon Cordage. With everyone's help, we were able to donate money to Heifer International, to be put to use improving agriculture in developing countries.



Senior Send-off: Where are they going now?

Rita Jokerst

Hometown: St. Genevieve, MO
Plans: I intend to move to West Addison, VT for the summer and apprentice at Lakeway Farm. In the fall, I will attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO to seek a Master's degree in Horticulture. (*Rita will graduate with Departmental Honors and received the Distinguished Scholar in Ag Science Award.*)



Avinash Karn

Hometown: Birgunj, Nepal
Plans: I will be pursuing my Ph. D degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics at the University of Missouri-Columbia, starting in June 2012.



Garrett Grider

Hometown: Carrollton, MO
Plans: I will be staying here at Truman and taking up the position of Local Foods coordinator.



Kathleen Keough

Hometown: St. Louis, MO
Plans: I will hopefully be attending graduate school for equine nutrition but am still waiting to hear back from schools.



Brock Mashburn

Hometown: Dakar, Senegal
Plans: In July I start a year-long internship at ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) in Florida focused on training for agriculture, appropriate technology and community development in Third World nations with the intent of working full time overseas.



Zachery Sage

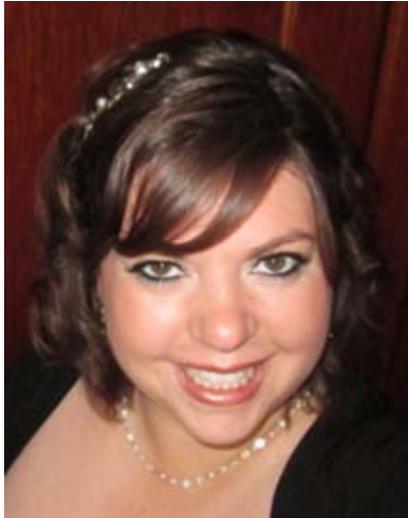
Hometown: Centralia, MO
Plans: I plan on entering the workforce.



Senior Send-off: Where are they going now?

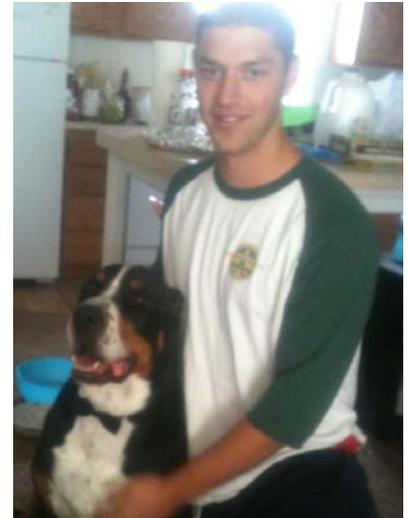
Kelsey Mattson

Hometown: Rolla, MO
Plans: I plan on working in the swine industry after graduation.



Ryan Felling

Hometown: St. Louis, MO
Plans: I am working with Monsanto this summer and going to the University of Missouri-St. Louis next year to finish my Finance Degree.



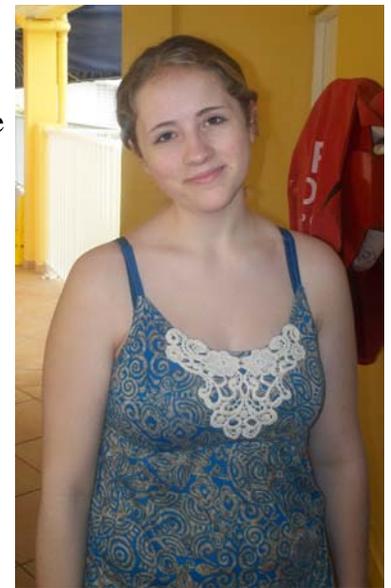
Susan Szaradics

Hometown: House Springs, MO
Plans: I will be taking a year off from school and working to gain field experience.



Jenny Ann Jobe

Hometown: Kansas City, MO
Plans: I will be enlisting in the Air Force as a Munitions Systems Specialist.



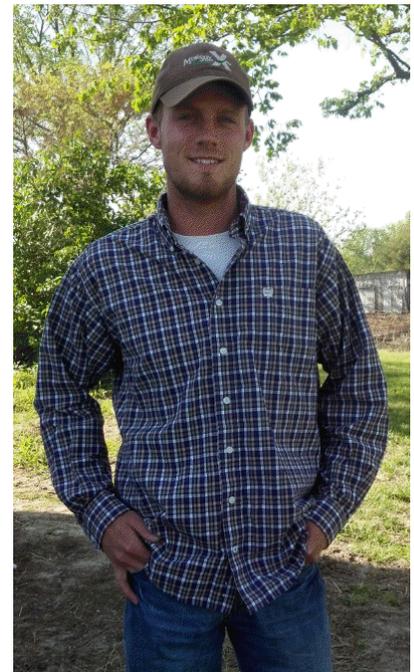
Cory Creed

Hometown: Willard, MO
Plans: I will be attending graduate school at Missouri State University in the fall, with an assistantship in the Integrated Pest Management program.



Tyler Rodman

Hometown: Novinger, MO
Plans: After graduation I will be moving to Broken Bow, Nebraska and working on an internship for Adam's Land and Cattle.



Senior Send-off: Where are they going now?

Emily Mauch

Hometown: Bondurant, IA
Plans: I will be interning with Pioneer Hi-Bred Inc. for six months in Princeton, Indiana working closely with maize breeding and product development. Following the internship, I plan on attending graduate school.
(Emily will graduate with Departmental Honors and was the Outstanding Student in Ag Science.)



Claire Zimmermann

Hometown: Overland Park, KS
Plans: This summer I will be moving to Kansas City to start a job at Powell Gardens working in the Heartland Harvest Garden, a 19-acre edible landscape. I will also be working at Drumm Farm with Will Erker, a Truman alumnus.



Other graduating seniors (not pictured): Amber Allen, Amanda Cunningham, Randall Hoehn, Danielle Sandbothe, and Kaitlyn Strand.

We will miss you Abdo!

Professor Abdo Alghamdi came to Truman in August 2008. Drawing on a background in vet science, reproductive physiology, and immunology, Abdo has taught a wide range of courses in animal and equine reproduction, exercise physiology and animal health and advised students interested in Equine Science as a degree emphasis and career choice. After the Spring 2012 semester, Abdo will be leaving Truman to accept a position in Equine Science at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. We wish him all the best.

