

THE Stateley Oak

**Bain family
creates legacy
through
sugarcane**

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THE Stately Oak

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Our roots continue to grow

The LSU Campus is dotted with stately oaks. Their branches shade our students studying for tests, our faculty walking from the classroom to the lab and, of course, tailgaters celebrating on a fall Saturday.

Their roots weave beneath the campus, holding together the ground we tread.

The roots of the LSU AgCenter and the LSU College of Agriculture spread across the state. They stitch together the fabric of agriculture in Louisiana. We represent LSU in each parish of the state where we help farmers grow better crops and gardeners succeed in their endeavors, where we manage and protect natural resources and improve the lives of the people of Louisiana through innovation and education.

Just as the oak represents a strong presence on campus, both the history and tradition of the AgCenter and the college are deeply ingrained at LSU. Our legacy goes back to LSU's first graduating class, which included a planter as one of its five graduates. Many of the buildings that make up our majestic campus are named for early leaders in agriculture. Coates, Dodson, Sturgis, Knapp and Dalrymple are just a few.

Like the oaks, we still stand relevant, ready to answer the needs of a growing population — needs that can only be met with advances in agriculture. Through their research and scholarship, our faculty are



Letter to our readers

— **Bill Richardson**
*LSU Vice President for Agriculture
 and Dean, LSU College of Agriculture*

answering the call and finding solutions to the problems that a world population of 9 billion presents. These same faculty members are also providing a nurturing and attentive environment where our students can grow and learn.

Our donors and alumni are also stepping up to the challenge. In these pages you will read about the Bain and

Legendre families, whose separate gifts will ensure the vitality of Louisiana's sugarcane industry, which helped build several communities across our state. You also can learn about our alumni who are leaders in their industries and mentors on our campus.

Perhaps you will be moved by the story of the Finley family, who lost their son Kayne Finley to cancer last fall and are endowing a scholarship in his memory. While Kayne was only at LSU for a semester, his courage and determination had a profound effect on our students and faculty. If you are visiting Mike's habitat, look for the brick the College of Agriculture dean's staff purchased in Kayne's name.

Finally, our roots are moving into new places as the LSU AgCenter Global Network positions our institutions as the premier U.S. land-grant system for agriculture and related sciences in Central and Eastern Europe and in Central America and the Caribbean Basin.

In the past you may have received *Advances*, our annual newsletter, which detailed the wonderful philanthropy benefiting the LSU AgCenter and the College of Agriculture. This publication will take its place, and while it will continue the tradition of *Advances*, it will offer so much more. I hope you will enjoy the stories in the *Stately Oak* and that they will help connect you to the strong roots of agriculture in Louisiana.

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Global Network



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Project EXPLORE



Les Voyageurs



Ellis S. Martin Pavilion

cover story

Sterling Bain and his four siblings have endowed an LSU AgCenter professorship and LSU College of Agriculture graduate scholarship that will support research on sugarcane. See how the gifts honor their father, **Page 6**.



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Bunkie
family's
donation
to benefit

SUGARCANE RESEARCH

*The Bain family
has endowed an
**LSU AgCenter professorship
and LSU College of Agriculture
graduate scholarship that will
support research on sugarcane.**
The gifts are in memory of the
family's father, Sterling Bain Sr.*

LSU AgCenter endowed chair
to support sugarcane production,
■ **Page 8.**

By Tobie Blanchard

In an area considered the northernmost point in the world for growing sugarcane, the Bain family has been raising the sweet stuff for four generations.

"We are doing the impossible here," said Sterling Bain Jr., the oldest sibling in the Bain family. "There shouldn't be cane this far north."

Bain said his family can successfully grow sugarcane in Rapides and Avoyelles parishes because of research at the LSU AgCenter — research that has led to cold-tolerant sugarcane varieties and management practices that allow the crop to thrive in that area.

Bain and his four siblings have endowed an LSU AgCenter professorship and LSU College of Agriculture graduate scholarship that will support research on sugarcane. The gifts are in memory of their father, Sterling Bain Sr. ▶



The Bain family of Bunkie has been farming sugarcane for four generations. The family recently endowed a professorship and graduate scholarship with the LSU AgCenter and LSU College of Agriculture to support sugarcane research. Family members pictured are Will Bain, Roger Bain, John Bain, Mary Lou Bain, Edgar Bain, Tommy Webb and Sterling Bain Jr. Photo by Tobie Blanchard.

The family farm started with the Bain family's grandparents. Both maternal and paternal grandparents farmed the land surrounding their homes near Bunkie. The elder Sterling worked closely with his father-in-law to operate a cattle and cotton operation, which over the years shifted to sugarcane, soybeans and rice.

All five of Sterling and Mary Lou Bain's sons have worked the farm during the past 50 years.

Roger Bain said he and his siblings developed a strong work ethic from their father.

"He could not be outworked," he said. "He loved everything about farming — the planting, the harvesting, everything."

"No. 1 with dad is he taught us to go to church. Second on the list, he taught us how to work," said John Bain.

Their father was named the Louisiana Outstanding Young Farmer in 1961. He served as president of the Meeker Sugar Cooperative for years and was also a deacon at First Baptist Church in Bunkie.

Mary Lou Bain remembers as a child going out in the fields or to the syrup mill with her father and was eager to build a similar life for her children.

"I was a tomboy and was with him all the time," she said of her father.

The love of farming was passed on to her sons and several of her grandchildren. Today, four members of this fourth generation are farming the family's 5,000 acres.

"If it weren't for him and the work he did, we wouldn't have what we have today," Will Bain said of his grandfather.

The family said the endowment is a way to honor their father and grandfather and continue that legacy of farming sugarcane in that northernmost point.

"He would be proud, but he wouldn't think he deserved it," Mary Lou Bain said. "I wish he was here today."

"He was humble," Sterling Bain said. "He would want it to be named for someone else."

The family also sees the donation as a way to continue the research that has helped them stay successful for so many years.

"We've seen sugarcane yields double, and it's because of research, and our dad believed in it," Roger Bain said. ■

LSU AgCenter endowed chair to support sugarcane production

By Tobie Blanchard

The American Sugar Cane League has endowed an LSU AgCenter chair in sugar production.

The American Sugar Cane League Chair in Sugar Production will support faculty members who demonstrate excellence in research areas related to improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the production segment of the Louisiana sugar industry.

Jim Simon, general manager of the American Sugar Cane League, said research has always been an important tool for the sugarcane industry.

"We've essentially doubled our sugar production over the past 40 years. But to continue that success, we need to

have a hyper-focused research chair to stay abreast of new technologies in the digital age," Simon said.

Simon envisions the researcher who occupies the chair will work on issues primarily focused on developing new and improved sugarcane varieties by using genomics and other technologies no one could have dreamed of 40 years ago.

Before this endowment, the AgCenter did not have any chairs that directly support sugar production research.

"An endowed chair for a faculty member is one of the most prestigious appointments at any college or campus," said Bill Richardson, LSU vice president for agriculture. "Having an

endowed chair with the purpose of supporting sugar production research and innovation will allow us to recruit and retain the very best scientists."

The relationship between the LSU AgCenter and the American Sugar Cane League dates back to 1926, when an agreement was made among the league, the AgCenter and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"We've successfully grown sugarcane here for more than two centuries. Having LSU AgCenter researchers providing the scientific skill to improve the crop has been invaluable," Simon said. "There is no doubt the LSU AgCenter Sugar Research Station and Audubon Sugar Institute in St. Gabriel have delivered for Louisiana sugarcane."

Fluker scholarship set to encourage insect studies

By Amari Baker

David Fluker has an interest in insects that has been passed down through generations — and he wants to share his passion with others.

David Fluker, a second-generation cricket farmer and owner of Fluker's Cricket Farm Inc. in Port Allen, has created a joint scholarship with the LSU College of Agriculture and the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine aimed at encouraging graduate students who share that interest in studying insects.

The Fluker family started its farm in 1953 to supply crickets to bait shops for fishing. Fluker began working there at 11.

At just 19 when his father retired, Fluker took over the ownership of the operation and began investing heavily in the feeder insect research of the company. He expanded the farm's offerings to include other insects, such as mealworms and hissing cockroaches, as well as superworms.

Fluker said he created this scholarship because his company is working on a large insect project. Through bioconversion of food waste destined for landfills, Fluker plans to use protein sources to develop feedstock for fish, chickens, cows and other animals.

"It will take pressure off fisheries of the world for fish meal," he said.

The scholarship is directed at students with a degree in the agriculture, biological science or veterinary science fields.

Graduate students will receive "real life experiences working with insects at the front end of the food chain," Fluker said.

Fluker's advice to students interested in the field of entomology is motivational and enlightening.

"There's so much opportunity, and there's so much potential in this particular field," he said. "Think big. Insects, as far as food goes, are a frontier as a newly developing field."



Scholarship to benefit children of LSU AgCenter employees

By *Tobie Blanchard*

When Steve Linscombe retired in September 2017, he didn't want a retirement gift for himself. The longtime LSU AgCenter rice breeder was thinking bigger.

"We discussed retirement gift options, and I wanted to do something that could help people down the road," Linscombe said.

For his retirement gift, Linscombe requested donations to a scholarship aimed at helping children of AgCenter employees who enroll in the LSU College of Agriculture.

"I had a good career with the AgCenter, and I know how people struggle to put their kids through college, so I thought this would help," he said.

Linscombe spent 35 years at the LSU AgCenter and served as the

The scholarship gives preference to children of AgCenter employees, but if no students meet the criteria, the scholarship can still be awarded to another deserving student.

director of the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station. He is considered one of the top rice breeders in the world.

Bill Richardson, LSU vice president for agriculture and dean of the College of Agriculture, said this gift will benefit the people he worked alongside.

"He dedicated his life to building one of the best rice breeding

programs, and his legacy will live on in our state and now with our students," Richardson said.

Linscombe also is contributing to the scholarship so it can become endowed.

"I wanted to make in perpetuity," he said.

The scholarship gives preference to children of AgCenter employees, but Linscombe said he set it up so if in years there are no students who meet that criteria, they can still award the scholarship to another deserving student.

Following retirement, Linscombe became the executive director of the USA Rice Foundation and leads the foundation's Rice Leadership Program, which Linscombe went through earlier in his career. He said the program has helped develop many of the leaders in today's rice industry.

Make Your Mark

BEQUESTS

A gift made through your will using assets in your estate

BENEFICIARY GIFTS

Designate LSU AgCenter or LSU College of Agriculture as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan or other accounts

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

A gift that provides you and others with a lifetime fixed income stream

TRUSTS

Funded with assets that can provide funds for LSU AgCenter and LSU College of Agriculture and other beneficiaries



Whether you would like to see your gift to the LSU AgCenter or LSU College of Agriculture in action now or for future generations, there is a planned gift option available. We will work to find a charitable plan that is right for you.

Visit lsufoundation.planmylegacy.org or call 225-578-7323 to learn more.



John Emory Walker one of first to receive 64 Parish Strong scholarship initiative

“Everything’s connected by agriculture, yet so many people don’t realize its importance.”

By Tobie Blanchard

John Emory Walker says his true calling is in agricultural sciences. The West Feliciana Parish freshman comes from a family of cattle ranchers, sweet potato farmers, game wardens, horticulturists, fishing captains and foresters.

“Everything to do with the land and outdoors is in my blood,” he said.

He knew he wanted to study agriculture, but it wasn’t until he attended the LSU College of Agriculture’s Louisiana Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences the summer before his senior year in high school that he realized his passion for wildlife ecology.

“Seeing the role that agriculture and agriscience plays in our everyday life is mind-blowing to me. Everything’s connected by agriculture, yet so many people don’t realize its importance,” Walker said. “The Governor’s School allowed me to immerse myself in all parts

of the college. Natural resource ecology and management really sparked my interest.”

Walker is the West Feliciana recipient of the LSU College of Agriculture’s 64 Parish Strong scholarship.

From beef production in Bossier to sugarcane in St. James to apparel design in Orleans, agriculture is a part of every parish of the state, and the College of Agriculture aims to have at least one student from each parish as part of the college.

To accomplish this, the college is offering 64 \$1,000 scholarships — one for a student from every parish.

Walker is benefiting from this scholarship.

“Every bit of money helps, especially with the uncertainty of TOPS,” Walker said. “I am grateful for the administrators of the scholarship because they understood what it means to study agriculture.”

Walker said he plans to join ROTC in LSU and go into the military after graduation and hopes to eventually have a career related to wildlife ecology.

John Emory Walker is a recipient of the LSU College of Agriculture’s 64 Parish Strong scholarship. Only half of the 64 scholarships were awarded in 2018 because of lack of applicants in some parishes. Applicants from all parishes are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.



John Emory Walker attended the LSU College of Agriculture’s Louisiana Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences the summer before his senior year of high school. There, he realized his passion for wildlife ecology.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

LSU is preparing for Louisiana's largest-ever capital campaign for higher education with a public launch slated for early 2019.

The university has an ambitious but achievable plan for a \$1 billion-plus philanthropic effort that will unite our campuses statewide to reach a transformational level of support, marking the first time LSU's eight campuses have jointly led a capital campaign. The eight campuses include the Baton Rouge flagship campus, LSU AgCenter, LSU Alexandria, LSU Eunice, LSU Health New Orleans, LSU Health Shreveport, LSU Shreveport and Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

The campaign will be guided by the bold vision described in LSU Strategic Plan 2025.

The campaign plans to engage LSU's wealth of human capital and our unmatched community of supporters to solve global challenges that are critical to this region. Philanthropy will bring this plan to life with support from a worldwide network of committed Tigers like you.

LSU's first two capital campaigns, the LSU Campaign (1997-2001) and the Forever LSU Campaign (2006-2010), were flagship-focused and exceeded the goals set for them. The LSU Campaign raised \$225 million, far surpassing an original goal of \$150 million, and the Forever LSU Campaign yielded \$763 million in private funding and an additional \$34 million in state-matching funds, exceeding its \$750 million goal.

Now is the time to build upon the success of LSU's first two campaigns, uniting campuses for a cause far bigger than the sum of LSU's parts. The campaign milestones celebrated together will be measured in outcomes for Louisiana, the Gulf South, the nation and our world.

Further, the success of the LSU campaign will set the course for the kind of university LSU will be, the quality of the education we will offer, the research we will conduct and the impact we will have.





FINLEY FAMILY

creates a scholarship in memory of their

FIGHTING TIGER



“Through their loss, the Finleys are able to provide an opportunity for students, and it’s a beautiful way to honor their son’s legacy. He was a pretty special student.”

— Leslie Blanchard, former assistant dean, College of Agriculture

By Hannah Venerella

A Kentucky native and Florida resident, Kayne Finley was passionate about attending LSU and eventually becoming a veterinarian.

But Kayne Finley was diagnosed with a rare pediatric brain tumor at 17 years old, and his time at LSU was brief.

Finley passed away at 18 on Nov. 24, 2017.

His fate only led his family to fight hard to honor his dreams. They worked to establish the Nathaniel “Kayne” Finley College of Agriculture Endowed Scholarship, and it was awarded to a College of Agriculture student for the fall semester.

“Through their loss, the Finleys are able to provide an opportunity for students, and it’s a beautiful way to honor their son’s legacy,” said Leslie Blanchard, former assistant dean of the College of Agriculture. “He was a pretty special student.”

The scholarship awards \$1,000 to a non-Louisiana resident who is a full-time freshman in animal sciences, agricultural business, or agricultural and extension education. Primary consideration is given

to Florida and Kentucky residents and then to animal sciences majors.

Creating an endowed scholarship versus an annual scholarship was important to the family. They wanted it to be given in perpetuity. It is also an opportunity for those who knew Kayne to donate to his scholarship.

The goal is to have a total gift of \$30,000 within the next few years.

Finley’s freshman year was challenging as he battled diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, a fast-growing tumor found at the base of the brain. It affects some of the body’s most vital functions — breathing, heart rate and blood pressure.

The tumors are difficult to treat, and patients who are diagnosed have a median survival rate of less than one year. It is rare that DIPG affects a 17-year-old as it is typically found in children age 5 to 9 with an average of 300 children diagnosed each year.

While there are over 120 different types of childhood brain tumors, DIPG is the most underfunded, the least researched and the most aggressive in children, according to Cannonballs for Kayne, the foundation founded by Kayne Finley. ▶



"Kayne just wanted to go to school and truly be a student and to graduate, and that's the biggest part of carrying out his legacy," said Keagan Finley, Kayne's older brother, who is transferring to LSU this fall as a junior studying accounting. He will join the LSU swim team as a distance freestyler.

Both brothers grew up swimming and continued with their passion in college. Kayne was the LSU assistant swim team manager, and Keagan swam at Florida State University.

The Finley family's intention to carry out Kayne's legacy has shown through their innovative ideas to help spread awareness of DIPG.

Kayne founded the Cannonballs for Kayne Foundation because he wanted to help find a cure, and he felt strongly about sharing of information within the medical profession, said Kirsten Finley, Kayne's mother.

The foundation provides research grants for hospitals. For families of a person suffering from

DIPG, the foundation provides financial assistance based on social worker recommendations.

In June, the foundation's first grant of \$30,000 was awarded to Cincinnati Children's Hospital and principal investigator Dr. Rachid Drissi of the Brain Tumor Center to better understand the radiation therapy response in DIPG. The research will study Kayne's tumor tissue.

Kayne's autopsy revealed he had the primary mutation H3 K27M, which is the main mutation among patients with DIPG. Although studies show this specific mutation is resistant to radiation, the standard treatment of radiation has not changed for over 45 years, Kirsten Finley said.

The family plans to fully fund the cost of the study, which is \$150,000, through a campaign called Cannonballs Across America, which includes a 40-day, 4,000-mile bicycle ride by four men, including Keagan, beginning on May 17, 2019, which is DIPG Awareness Day.

From San Francisco to Daytona Beach, the team will average around 100 miles per day and will meet with churches, hospitals and swim teams to reach their goal of raising \$1 million for the Cannonballs for Kayne Foundation.

Brain cancer is the top cause of death by disease in children, and the amount of money that goes toward childhood cancer research is minuscule compared to adult cancer research. Only 4 percent of federal government cancer research funding goes to study pediatric cancer, according to the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation.

An opportunity to make waves in the realm of childhood cancer arose when Finley's mother met Sandra Tillman, the mother of Devon Tillman, a sophomore at LSU who passed away from the rare cancer Ewing sarcoma.

The two flew to Washington, D.C., for a week and met with members of the House of Representatives to advocate for the Childhood Cancer STAR Act. Finley spent the latter part of the week working to recognize May 17 as National DIPG Day. Currently, 31 states recognize DIPG Awareness Day, including Louisiana, Kentucky and Florida.

The House of Representatives unanimously passed the Childhood Cancer STAR Act on May 22, 2018, calling it "the most comprehensive childhood cancer bill to ever pass Congress."

The Star Act authorizes \$30 million annually from 2019 to 2023 for childhood cancer programs and research through the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The bill requires the National Cancer Advisory board to have at least one member who specializes in pediatric oncology.

For a family who lives to give back, success seems to follow the Finleys in every project.

The Cannonballs for Kayne Foundation has raised \$130,000, with net proceeds of more than \$68,000 in its first year.

"There's lots of foundations out there people can choose from, but the thing about the Cannonballs Foundation is that it's an emerging foundation striving for excellence in research for the next generation," Kirsten said.

From their house in Ormond Beach, Florida, the family continues to fight for DIPG awareness by constantly updating the Cannonballs for Kayne's Facebook page and website with events and cancer research information. ■

Creating an endowed scholarship versus an annual scholarship was important to the family. They wanted it to be given in perpetuity.



PHOTO BY TOBIE BLANCHARD

Stephanie Legendre Pertuit, daughter of Benjamin Legendre, speaks at the American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists meeting on Feb. 6, 2018. She thanked the group for supporting the Benjamin L. Legendre Sugar Heritage ASSCT Professorship.

Legendre honored with professorship

By Tobie Blanchard

Benjamin Legendre devoted his career to Louisiana's sugarcane industry.

Legendre, who passed away in July 2017, spent more than 30 years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service Sugarcane Research Unit in Houma. He spent another 17 with the LSU AgCenter, serving as a sugarcane specialist, professor and head of the AgCenter Audubon Sugar Institute.



Legendre

Legendre's family and members of the American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) have created the Benjamin L. Legendre Sugar Heritage ASSCT Professorship, which will support LSU AgCenter faculty and LSU College of Agriculture students.

Stephanie Pertuit, one of Legendre's four children, said sugarcane was the world to her father.

"He ate, breathed and lived it," Pertuit said. "Almost every single memory of my dad involves sugarcane."

Pertuit said the endowment seemed like a natural way to honor him.

"He loved sugarcane, LSU and teaching. I couldn't think of a better way to combine these loves and leave an indelible mark that will benefit generations to come," she said.

Kenneth Gravois, LSU AgCenter sugarcane specialist and secretary and treasurer of the Louisiana Division of the ASSCT, said Legendre always had a close connection with the organization.

"He spent 30 years as the association's chairman at large, held institutional knowledge of the association and provided continuity and stability," Gravois said.

Legendre grew up in the shadow of a sugarcane mill, where his father was the president and general manager of Lafourche Sugars Corp.

Gravois said Legendre was an international authority on sugarcane breeding and quality and was recognized for his work on plant growth regulators as chemical ripeners for sugarcane.

Legendre received many accolades throughout his career. He was awarded the Denver T. Loupe/American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists Sugar Heritage Professorship, was inducted into the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Fame and was chosen as an LSU College of Agriculture Outstanding Alumnus, among many other awards.

Legendre's daughter Nicole Flanagan said she was humbled that the ASSCT chose to keep her father's legacy alive with the endowment.

"I think he would be very pleased to be remembered this way," she said.

Elzer named executive associate dean

By Tobie Blanchard

The LSU College of Agriculture has named Phil Elzer executive associate dean.

Elzer also serves as director of the college's School of Animal Sciences and was formerly LSU AgCenter associate vice president for animal programs and natural resources.



Elzer

A professor of veterinary science and veterinary immunology, Elzer has conducted brucellosis research at the AgCenter for more than 22 years.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology and a master's degree and doctorate in veterinary immunology from Cornell University.

Elzer previously served as interim head of the Department of Veterinary Science and as assistant vice chancellor of the AgCenter and assistant director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station.

"It is an honor to be asked to serve as the executive associate dean by the faculty and administration of the College of Agriculture," Elzer said. "The college has made a lot of progress in recent years, and I will work to continue moving it forward."

Elzer plans to serve as a liaison between the dean and the department heads in the college, while developing strategic initiatives at the college and unit levels.

"I really like to empower people to think outside of the box," he said.

Elzer will continue in his role as director of the School of Animal Sciences.

CHAIRS & PRO

LSU College of Agriculture

Chairs & Professorships	Type	Recipient
G.D. Cain Endowed Chair of Agriculture	Chair	Vacant
J.C. Floyd Endowed Professorship in Agriculture	Professorship	Michael Burnett
George William Barineau Jr. Professorship	Professorship	Vacant
Martin D. Woodin Endowed Professorship in Agricultural Business	Professorship	Rex Caffey
Ola Cook Holmes Professorship in Horticulture	Professorship	Jeff Kuehny
Meryal Newsom Annison Professorship in Agriculture	Professorship	Phil Elzer
Mary Sandefur Tobin Professorship	Professorship	Vacant
Ann Armstrong Peltier Professorship in Dietetics	Professorship	Georgianna Tuuri
Dr. William H. Alexander Endowed Professorship	Professorship	James Fannin
Ralph and Leila Boulware Professorship	Professorship	Don Thompson
Dr. D.L. Evans Professorship in Dairy Science	Professorship	Cathleen Williams
Daniel Ivy Dupree Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Kenneth Bondioli
Austin C. Thompson Distinguished Endowed Professorship in Entomology	Professorship	Tom Reagan
F.O. Bateman Distinguished Professorship	Professorship	William Kelso
Doris L. & Jules A. Carville Jr. Endowed Professorship of Human Ecology	Professorship	Vacant
Dr. Alma Beth Clark Professorship in the School of Human Ecology	Professorship	Vacant
Adrienne Gravois Brazan Professorship in Human Ecology	Professorship	Vacant

LSU AgCenter

Chairs & Professorships	Type	Recipient
L.D. Newsom Professorship in Integrated Pest Management	Professorship	Fangneng Huang
Roy A. & Karen Pickren Endowed Professorship in Extension Water Resources	Professorship	Brian LeBlanc
Tom and Martha Burch and Delta and Pine Land Co. Endowed Professorship in Cotton Production or Genetics	Professorship	Daniel Fromme
Jack E. and Henrietta Jones Professorship	Professorship	Brenda Tubana
Floyd S. Edmiston Sr. Professorship in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management	Professorship	Jeff Hoy
Denver T. Loupe/ASSCT Sugar Heritage Professorship	Professorship	Kenneth Gravois
Doyle Chambers Distinguished Professorship	Professorship	William Ray McClain
R. Chabreck Professorship in Coastal Wildlife Research Management	Professorship	Vacant
Chalkley Family Endowed Chair in Agriculture	Chair	William B. Richardson
American Cyanamid Professorship for Excellence in Plant Biotechnology, Molecular Biology and Crop Pest Management	Professorship	James Oard
American Cyanamid Professorship for Excellence in Plant Genetics, Breeding and Variety Development	Professorship	Vacant
John B. Baker Professorship for Excellence in Weed Science	Professorship	Donnie Miller

F E S S O R S H I P S

AgCenter (Cont.)

Jack Hamilton Regents Chair in Cotton Production	Chair	Vacant
G & H Seed Company Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Roger Leonard
Warner L. Bruner Professorship in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness	Professorship	Kurt Guidry
Donald E. Welge Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Rex Caffey
J. Nelson Fairbanks Endowed Professorship in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness	Professorship	Matt Fannin
Gilbert J. Durbin Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Krishna Paudel
A. George & Mildred G. Caldwell Endowed Professorship in Agronomy and Soils	Professorship	Magdi Selim
Walker T. Nolin Professorship	Professorship	Steve Harrison
Lucien and Peggy Laborde Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Don Labonte
A. Wilbert's Sons Professorship in Biofuels	Professorship	Michael Salassi
Mr. & Mrs. Herman E. McFatter Endowed Professorship in Animal Science	Professorship	Kenneth McMillin
Doyle Chambers Professorship in Animal Science	Professorship	Vacant
Gerald A. Simmons Professorship in Animal Sciences	Professorship	Vacant
H. Rouse Caffey Endowed Professorship	Professorship	Adam Famoso
Paul K. Adams Professorship in Urban Entomology	Professorship	Claudia Husseneder
Horace J. Davis Endowed Professorship in Food Science & Technology	Professorship	Witoon Prinyawiwatkul
Grace Drews Lehmann Professorship in Human Ecology	Professorship	Iaon Negulescu
Luella Dugas Chambers Distinguished Professorship	Professorship	Vacant
Crosby Land & Resources Company Professorship in Forest Sector Business Development No. 1	Professorship	Richard Vlosky
Weaver Brothers Endowed Professorship for Excellence in Forestry	Professorship	Vacant
Roy O. Martin Sr. Professorship in Composites and Engineered Woodproducts	Professorship	Qinglin Wu
Bryant A. Bateman Professorship in Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	Professorship	Allen Rutherford
Crosby Land & Resources Company Professorship in Forest Sector Business Development No. 2	Professorship	Richard Vlosky
F. Avalon Daggett Professorship in Rice Research No. 1	Professorship	Herry Utomo
F. Avalon Daggett Professorship in Rice Research No. 2	Professorship	Eric Webster
F. Avalon Daggett Professorship in Rice Research No. 3	Professorship	Donald Groth
Mosaic Company Professorship	Professorship	Dustin Harrell
F.A. Eugene, Marcel & James Graugnard Professorship in Sugarcane Research at the Sugar Research Station	Professorship	Kenneth Gravois
Andrew P. Gay Professorship	Professorship	Collins Kimbeng
Pennington Chair for Wildlife	Research Chair	Lane Foil
Meraux Foundation Supreme Champion Livestock Professorship	Professorship	Toby Lepley
A. Wilbert's Sons Professorship in Biofuels No. 2	Professorship	Vacant



 **Jerry Peters: LSU
College of Agriculture
Outstanding Alumni**

Jerry Peters embodies the definition of the American farmer. Peters was born into an agriculture family in Crowville in Franklin Parish. He received a dairy science degree in 1963 and worked as an agriculture and mathematics teacher in the Franklin Parish school system before starting Jerry Peters Farms in 1973.

For nearly 40 years, he farmed a mix of cotton, soybeans, wheat, grain sorghum and corn.

Ashley Peters, one of Peters' sons, said his father never met a stranger and has always been willing to give the shirt off his back to help anyone.

"He experienced the highs and lows of production agriculture but continued doing what he loved," Ashley Peters said.

Peters served on numerous boards and committees throughout his career, including the Franklin Parish Farm Bureau Board, the Franklin Parish School Board, the Associated Producers Cooperative Cotton Gin Board, the Farm Service Agency County Committee and the Tensas Basin Levee District.

State Sen. Neil Riser said Peters "has shown outstanding leadership and made significant contributions to the community of agriculture through his hard work and public service."

He has been married to Sybil Ann Lambright Peters for 47 years and has two sons, Alan and Ashley Peters.

Peters retired from production agriculture but has a small peach orchard and home garden and enjoys farming on a smaller scale.



 **Reynold Minsky: LSU
College of Agriculture
Outstanding Alumni**

Reynold Minsky realized early on that one way to be successful in agriculture was by adding value to what he produces.

Minsky, a 1960 horticulture graduate from the LSU College of Agriculture, is the owner of Minsky Pecan Market and Providence Foods LLC.

Minsky farms pecans and produces food products, such as jellies, salsas and spices.

In the 50-plus years since graduating from LSU, Minsky continues to be involved in production agriculture as a crop consultant and landowner. In addition to his many business ventures, he is active in many community and church activities, including the Rotary Club and Farm Bureau, and he currently serves as president of the Louisiana Fifth District Levee Board and as a deacon in the First Baptist Church in Lake Providence.

"Mr. Minky's advice and wise counsel are sought by leaders at the state and national levels," said Rene Simon, director of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority and president of the LSU College of Agriculture Alumni Association.

Minsky lives in Lake Providence with his wife, Carleen. They have five children, 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

 **Tara Smith: Early Career
Alumni Award**

Dr. Tara Smith has quickly risen in the ranks of the LSU AgCenter. Smith started as a sweet potato specialist and assistant professor, eventually adding research coordinator of the Sweet Potato Research Station to her duties. Her work has contributed to the economic stability of the Louisiana sweet potato industry, and farmers she has worked closely with have said she serves the industry with professionalism and integrity.



Smith now serves as director of the northeast and central regions overseeing the efforts of extension agents and faculty.

Smith received her Ph.D. in entomology from LSU in 2006. She has a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and a Master of Science in biology from Louisiana Tech.

"Tara has been a source of inspiration and courage to all segments of the sweet potato industry, from one-on-one interaction with growers, shippers and researchers to promoting



economic investment from processors," said Matthew Garber, a sweet potato farmer.

Dr. Mike Strain, commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, said, "I have found her to be extremely knowledgeable and hardworking and always striving for what is best for the agricultural producers of Louisiana."

Smith is an active member of the College of Agriculture Alumni Association board, where she serves as president. Smith and her husband, Joey, have two children, Zoe and Parker.

GET INVOLVED!

Join the LSU College of Agriculture Alumni Association and Friends with an annual contribution of \$60 or more. Your contribution will automatically make you a member of both the COA Alumni Association and the LSU Alumni Association and provide you with benefits of both organizations.

Volunteer to become a member, to identify a student internship opportunity, or attend and help recruit other alumni and friends.

For membership and benefits information, please visit our website, www.lsu.edu/agriculture/alumni, or contact Lindsey Kelly at lkelly@lsu.edu or 225-578-2715.

LSU | College of Agriculture

Agriculture mentoring pairs

students, alumni

Interested in becoming a mentor to an LSU College of Agriculture student?

■ Mentors provide students with guidance and networking opportunities and help them develop professional career goals.

■ This year, 31 mentors will serve in the program.

■ To participate, contact Amanda Martin at amartin2@lsu.edu or 225-578-2266 or visit www.lsu.edu/agriculture/students/mentor.php.

By Tobie Blanchard

LSU College of Agriculture's Mentoring Program paired students with alumni and supporters of the college for professional development and networking opportunities. The program closing day, on March 22, 2018, brought together mentors and their protégés for lunch, a recognition program and the opportunity to participate in the college's Ag Week service project.

Mia Baker, a senior majoring in nutrition and food sciences, participated in the program because she thought it would help broaden her scope. Tara Smith, LSU AgCenter Northeast region director, served as Baker's mentor and introduced her to career opportunities in the AgCenter.

"I didn't know about the possibility of being a nutrition agent, but now, that is something I am very interested in," Baker said.

During the program, Baker visited Smith in Winnsboro, met AgCenter nutrition agents and learned about the sweet potato industry that is a vital part of that region.

Baker said the mentoring program prepared her for applying for internships. Baker has already accepted an offer to work in community nutrition with the AgCenter.

Melanie Netterville, a senior studying agricultural business, was paired with crop consultant Ashley Peters. Netterville said she benefited from the program.

"It was a good experience, and I know I will stay in contact with him," she said.

Netterville is interested in pursuing a graduate degree and potentially a career in crop consulting.

Jamie Bourg, an administrative manager with Louisiana Workers Compensation Corp., said the program helped facilitate conversations and activities between her and her protégé, Andrew Brechtel, a freshman majoring in agriculture and extension education.

"We met face to face a few times and communicated via email," she said. "He knows he can call me whenever he needs."

Phil Elzer, executive associate dean of the College of Agriculture, thanked the mentors for offering their time and expertise to the program.

"These are our future leaders," Elzer said of the students. "This guidance will help them serve the College of Agriculture, the AgCenter and agriculture in general."



2017-18 DEAN'S COUNCIL MEMBERS

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MEMBER BENEFITS

- Invitations to **events**
- **Recognition** on the website and in publications
- **Opportunities to network** with college leadership and other Dean's Council members
- College of Agriculture Alumni and Friends **e-newsletter**



Call 225-578-7323 or visit
<http://bit.ly/agdeanscouncil>
 for more information.

The LSU College of Agriculture and AgCenter adheres to the policies of the LSU Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) organization.



Join Now

Your contributions can help support the LSU AgCenter and College of Agriculture's programs, faculty, students and facilities.

WELCOME BACK

“If you are not here in service of humanity, what are you here for?”

— Nancy Williams

Alumni return to campus for Alumni Speaker Series

By *Tobie Blanchard*

Nancy Williams is using her background in horticulture to fight poverty. Williams, a 1990 graduate of the LSU College of Agriculture, is the CEO of No More Empty Pots, a grassroots nonprofit organization in Omaha, Nebraska.

Williams grew up in Coushatta, where her family grew a lot of their own food. She participated in 4-H and FFA, and those connections and several scholarships led her to the College of Agriculture.

“I felt competent in my horticulture class,” she said. “I like winning and was getting better grades in those classes.”

Williams was one of the pioneering students who started the college’s ambassador group, Les Voyageurs. She was also a member of the Horticulture Club, The Black Culture Club, the agriculture sorority, Sigma Alpha, and several other student organizations. As a representative

of Sigma Alpha, she helped to integrate LSU’s Panhellenic Council.

After graduation, Williams went to Cornell University for her master’s degree. She spent summers working for DuPont and was eventually hired full time.

Her path took a turn when she began working for City Sprouts, a nonprofit in Omaha focused on community gardens. She then started doing information technology for the Boys and Girls Club in Omaha. This eventually led her to the work she is doing now with No More Empty Pots.

Williams told her story to College of Agriculture students as part of the college’s Alumni Speaker Series, organized by the Agriculture Student Association.

“If you are not here in service of humanity, what are you here for?” she said.

Williams and her organization are helping to build a coalition in Omaha to help alleviate hunger, and, more importantly, to fight poverty, she said. ▶



"I believe in the power of good food and good nutrition," she said. "Good nutrition gives you options."

She credits LSU with teaching her how to learn in diverse ways — from research, hands-on experiential learning and in the classroom. She said her education prepared her for various roles in life.

Williams encouraged the students to be authentic and gave them advice on leadership and finding a moral compass.

"Know what are non-negotiables for you, so you won't waiver," she said.

She also said with everything LSU has given her, she is giving back and told the students to do the same.

"Even if you are not striving to change the world," she said, "at least try to make it better." ■

IN BRIEF:

■ In the 2017-18 school year, the LSU College of Agriculture hosted several alumni as part of the Alumni Speaker Series.

■ Visiting alumni included Paul Spillers, a tax attorney with Theus, Grisham, Davis and Leigh LLC.; Dr. Annie Daniel, director of veterinary instructional design and outcomes assessment at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine; Morgan Richard, a student in the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine; Jonathan Siebert, technical specialist for the agricultural division of DowDuPont; and David Wilson, the Louisiana division president of First South Farm Credit.

The LSU College of Agriculture Alumni Association would love to hear from you!

Join now and stay connected to your alma mater.

Did you recently get married? Get a promotion? Did you finally run that marathon?

We are interested in keeping you connected, so feel free to share updates — marriages, family changes and professional and personal achievements.

Email those updates to agalumni@lsu.edu and get more information about the association at www.lsu.edu/agriculture/alumni.

In addition, if you have suggestions for future speakers to invite to campus, please email Amanda Martin at amartin2@lsu.edu.

Dorothy Howell,
a passionate innovator,
remembered as

outstanding alumna



Dorothy Howell was the first female member of the LSU Tiger Band, a teacher and the mastermind behind the university's "Tiger Bait" cookbook.

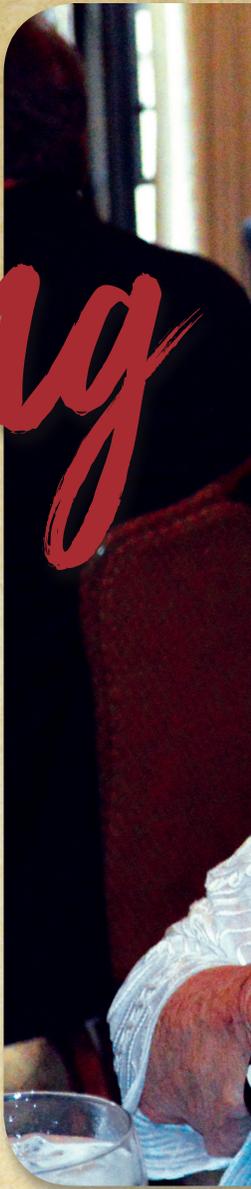
By Hannah Venerella

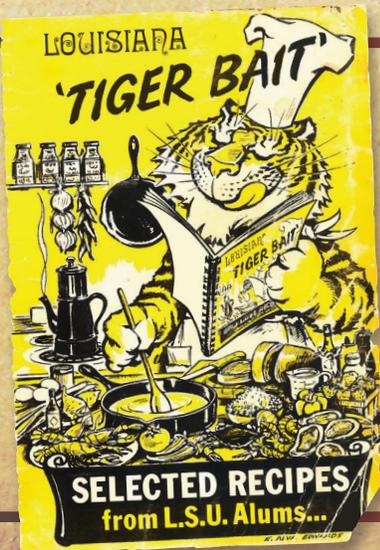
In the heyday of LSU's home economics program, students learned and cooked in the food lab. Beyond the lab was another kitchen and a dining room with three dining room tables hugged by wooden credenzas. Artwork gave the dining room character, and an intricately set table gave the impression someone cared for this space with a great attention to detail.

That someone was Dorothy Howell. Her hair carefully done and her posture upright, she was the quintessential, polished Southern woman.

She tried to make people's lives better, said granddaughter Shannon Hannaman. Howell would put fresh flowers in places you wouldn't expect, and she found that by creating a positive environment, people worked harder.

Howell is often described as a woman with great perseverance and passion. She was the first female member of the LSU Tiger Band and was a willful student who completed all of her coursework for her Ph.D. — except her dissertation. ▶





ON OCT. 9, 1976, HOMECOMING DAY, "TIGER BAIT," **THE FIRST COOKBOOK CREATED BY A UNIVERSITY,** WENT ON SALE. DOROTHY HOWELL WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR FOUR YEARS TO HELP CREATE THE COOKBOOK. PROCEEDS CONTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 125 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE STUDENTS.



She was also a teacher and the mastermind behind the university's "Tiger Bait" cookbook.

In 1962, Howell became a professor at LSU, where she taught home economics students the value of nutrition, meal management and food preparation up until her retirement in 1983 as assistant director of the LSU School of Home Economics.

Although the space in the Human Ecology Building has changed since her retirement, you can find past treasures of the mid-20th century scattered in today's food lab now overseen by instructor Judy Myhand, who was Howell's former student and beloved friend.

"I believe in the pleasures of dining, and that's something Dorothy believed in also, so I try to teach that to my students so that they spread the importance of the family table," Myhand said.

The home economics curriculum became important during the Great Depression through the domestic reform movement. This was a time when rural communities began to seek employment in larger cities, ultimately separating families. Fear spread that women would lose their domestic skills passed down from their maternal lineage.

During Howell's undergraduate years from 1939 to 1942, she learned to design furniture, make a blueprint for a future home, create a skirt out of an old pair of men's trousers and manage money.

As a senior, home economics majors were required to intern for nine weeks at one of two home management houses on campus — the Helen Carter and the Agnes Morris houses — where they were taught to clean, do laundry, cook meals and host guests.

"That's when home economics developed, to be able to make the most of family resources no matter what they were. ... We were taught to make do with whatever we had," Howell said in an Oral History recording of Hill Memorial Library's exhibition, "A Lady in the South."

While her boyfriend at the time was in the Air Force, Howell pursued a home economics master's degree at LSU from 1942 to 1944.

Upon her boyfriend's return from World War II, the two married and had two children. He subsequently left, "which was horrendous back then to be a single woman and not have a husband," Hannaman said. ▶



With a suitcase and her children in tow, Howell moved from Shreveport to Baton Rouge in 1962 and bought a house in University Hills and devoted her life to teaching, the university and her children.

"She was very persistent," Hannaman said. "She loved chemistry and to entertain, so I think her love of chemistry and bringing people together is what drew her to home economics."

Homecoming Day on Oct. 9, 1976, "Tiger Bait," the first cookbook created by a university, went on sale. For \$5.75 plus 75 cents for postage, you could have 617 recipes from more than 1,000 university alumni and friends.

Howell, along with the LSU Alumni Federation and LSU Home Economics Alumni Association, worked tirelessly for four years to create the cookbook, proceeds from which contributed to more than 125 scholarships for College of Agriculture students.

An innovator with a drive to serve others, Howell was also the force behind Hot Beverages from the Bayou Country, instant coffee and tea drinks with names like Swamp Fire and Creole Coffee, which were developed in 1973 by the LSU School of Home Economics alumni. Sales from the packages benefited the organization's scholarship endowment fund.

"Her mantra was that in all circumstances, regardless of the situation, be kind and considerate, consider others' needs, their origin — where they come from," Myhand said at the dining table in the modern food lab.

After her retirement in 1983, Howell worked as a chaperone for university students traveling to Europe and continued to be "a constant positive force," Hannaman said.

Howell was invited as a guest lecturer for 10 years at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine after she co-authored a nutrition curriculum guideline for elementary schools for the Louisiana Department of Education.

In 2015, the LSU College of Agriculture Alumni Association recognized Howell as an outstanding alumna.

Dorothy Lois Howell passed away on Feb. 26, 2018, at the age of 95. ■



WORLD

The LSU College of Agriculture offers many opportunities across the

HONDURAS

"The hospitality of the people was really impressive. They invited us into their homes and gave us food and fresh coffee."

— Morrill Scott,
Plant and Soil Systems



CZECH REPUBLIC



"My experience in the Czech Republic was quite positive. I feel welcomed by staff, have ample opportunities to explore the city as well as neighboring countries and enjoy the experiences of working and living with people from all over the world."

— Cameron Roig, Agricultural Business

GREECE

"This trip allowed me to see, experience and observe so much that I never would have if I hadn't gone in an academic setting"

— Lauren Martin, Nutrition
and Food Sciences



SWAZILAND

"Once I got there, I realized I never really thought about what I expected, but it exceeded anything I could have imagined. The people, the culture, the animals, it was amazing."

— Alexis Burruss, Natural
Resource Ecology and
Management



SLOVAKIA

"There is a lot of opportunity in that region for young students like us who want to go abroad and share our knowledge of agriculture."

— Alexis Agard,
Agricultural
Business

NICARAGUA

"It was a breathtaking experience that allowed a look in to agriculture and environmental policy, conservation efforts, fruit production and a hands-on encounter with a young spider monkey."

— Christen Wall,
Agriculture and
Extension Education



TRAVELS

globe including study abroad, internships and field study experiences.

POLAND



"Being able to study abroad in Poland has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life! I will never forget our time in Poland and the skills and knowledge gained while there."

— Peyton Arthur, Agriculture and Extension Education



CHINA

"There is so much art in the culture there, and for an artsy person there is a lot to pull from."

— Sakeenah Ashiru, Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising



THAILAND

"Traveling around central Thailand for three weeks studying sustainable agriculture was an incredible experience that plunged me into a completely foreign culture, landscape and way of life."

— Madelyn Smith, Natural Resource Ecology and Management

FIJI

"Life, I would say, is simpler. There's a saying I learned on my first day arriving and that is everything is on Fiji time."

— Sean Kelley, Environmental Management Systems



MOZAMBIQUE

"It was great to disconnect. The mentality there was so different and their resources so vast."

— Brandy Malbrough, Natural Resource Ecology and Management



AUSTRALIA

"The nature and wildlife environment here is insane — tons of different kinds of birds just on our campus."

— Chelsea Romph, Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Rector Symposium

By *Tobie Blanchard*

LSU AgCenter Global Network partnered with the Visegrad University Association to host the second international Rectors Symposium on the LSU campus April 16-20. The participants examined ways of diversifying revenue and private sector support for agricultural institutions of higher education.

Representatives from nine universities mainly in Central and Eastern Europe attended the symposium and learned about programs that promote public-private partnerships in sugarcane, timber production and ornamental horticulture. The second part of the symposium was hosted by the Hungarian Embassy to the United States in Washington, D.C.

The meeting highlighted the global impacts of the international collaborations.

The symposium will have profound effects on the LSU AgCenter and LSU College of Agriculture students and international partners. Some outcomes of the symposium include:

- The AgCenter signed three new memoranda of understanding with the Kyiv Cooperative Institute of Business and Law, Ukraine; Vinnitsia National Agrarian University, Ukraine; and the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Slovakia.

- The University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences offered an alternative to College of Agriculture graduates planning to study veterinary medicine. The program has U.S. accreditation, and classes are in English.

- The Hungarian Chamber of Commerce followed up with a private-sector representative visit to the LSU AgCenter seeking cooperation.

- European Union agricultural attaches are following up with a visit to further understand the LSU AgCenter Food Incubator.

- The LSU AgCenter sent three students to attend summer school at Mendel University.

CZECH IT OUT

Building relationships with an international partner

By *Tobie Blanchard*

The LSU AgCenter and LSU College of Agriculture are working closely with Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic. The institutions believe the relationship can make our students brighter, our institutions stronger and our world a better place.

Faculty and students are collaborating in teaching and research.

Cameron Roig, an agricultural business student in the College of Agriculture, took advantage of the student exchange agreement between the two universities and spent a year at Mendel University.

"Overall, my time spent in the Czech Republic has been quite positive," Roig said. "I feel welcomed by staff, have ample opportunities to explore the city as well as neighboring countries and enjoy the experiences of working and living with people from all over the world."

Celine Richard, a recent LSU graduate in plant and soil systems, spent a summer interning at Mendel University. There she worked with the school's horticulture program. Last fall, faculty from the program came to LSU and worked with the college's Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden to stage a floral fashion show, *Couture de la Fleur*.

Matt Fannin, professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, visited Mendel University and presented a lecture titled "Comparative Analysis of Agriculture and Rural Regional Economies Between the Czech Republic and Louisiana." Students in the Regional Development and Agrisciences colleges at Mendel University were invited to attend the lecture in person while Fannin's students in his rural resource and community development class at LSU watched online.



Celine Richard, a graduate in plant and soil systems, spent a summer interning at Mendel University. Matt Fannin, professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, presented a lecture.

"I believe there are continued collaborative opportunities," Fannin said. "Similar to Louisiana, there is a desire to increase value-added opportunities for agriculture that link in with other sectors of the economy. Also, issues of sustainability of land and water resources are common issues between the two regions that both faculty and students could address jointly through research scholarship and coursework."

The two universities have also collaborated with private industry on research projects. Two Mendel University students spent time on campus with LSU AgCenter and A. Wilbert's Sons, a Louisiana landowner and property manager, working on eucalyptus trees and essential oils from the trees for commercial purposes. Visiting scholars from Mendel University also worked on the first phase of an economic impact study of the LSU AgCenter Food Incubator.

Now, Mendel and LSU AgCenter teams are mapping out future projects.

Weeklong trip to **NICARAGUA** sparks students' interest in international work



LSU College of Agriculture students spent spring break, March 24-30, learning about agriculture in Nicaragua, including a stop at the Laguna de Apoyo water crater. Faculty members Kristin Stair and Mike Kaller (back left) accompanied students Chloe Christmas, Brooke Comeaux, David Baudoin, Preston Dumont, Adam O'Malley, and (front) Olivia Soler, Caitlin Holder, Hayley Jackson and Ashlyn Sak. John Russin (front right), director of LSU AgCenter Global Network, spent time with the students during their visit.

By Tobie Blanchard

Nine LSU College of Agriculture students traveled to Nicaragua during spring break for what most of the students described as a life-changing experience.

The trip, organized by Go Abroad Nicaragua, was aimed at freshmen in the college from any major to give them an initial weeklong international experience with the expectation that they would take part in another international experience later in college. Two graduate students studying agricultural and extension education also participated in the trip.

The students visited a coffee plantation, a cattle farm, a cigar company, and a volcano and took excursions to a water crater and Lake Nicaragua.

"Every aspect of this trip had a learning component," said Olivia Soler, a graduate student. "Just being immersed in something outside of your comfort zone is beneficial to everyone."

Brooke Comeaux, a freshman double majoring in agricultural and extension education and animal sciences, said all of the excursions offered something interesting.

"Go Abroad Nicaragua showed me and taught me things that I will use for a lifetime," she said.

Comeaux, who is from Crowley, a rice-producing area of Louisiana, also said she was interested in seeing how rice is produced in Nicaragua and some of the similarities and differences.

Chloe Christmas, also a freshman, said she was inspired by the natural resources of the country. The agricultural business major returned to campus and added natural resource ecology and management as a second major.

Christmas looked at future internship possibilities in Nicaragua.

"I now know what the companies we visited are looking for, so I have a leg up on other applicants," she said.

Preston Dumont, a sophomore studying plant and soil systems, said

he also networked while there and was looking for opportunities to return for research or an internship.

"Being a big plant guy, it was incredible to learn about coffee seed germination and plant breeding," he said.

A highlight of the trip for most of the students was a service project on their final day in Nicaragua. The students were each given \$20 to spend in the local market and buy food and supplies for families in the San Blas rural community.

"It was beyond one of the most fulfilling experiences in my life. I can't express what it felt like to help these people," Dumont said.

"It was so cool to see the looks on the faces of the people when we brought them the baskets," Christmas said.

Associate professors Kristin Stair, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and Evaluation; and Mike Kaller, Department of Renewable Natural Resources; accompanied the students in Nicaragua.

“Words cannot describe this experience.”

— McKaila Darden, senior

Eschewing the beach, Les Voyageurs spend spring break in **POLAND**

By *Tobie Blanchard*

Seventeen members of the LSU College of Agriculture Les Voyageurs organization traveled to Poland during spring break, making this study abroad experience the largest in the college's history.

The students spent time in Warsaw touring the Warsaw University of Life Sciences campus and research facilities. The students learned about majors, departments and organizations on campus and were able to sit on a lecture with the university's Faculty of Economic Services.

“During our tour of Warsaw, we were able to learn the effects World War II and communism had on Poland and visit landmarks from various time periods in Polish history,” said Peyton Arthur, a senior studying agricultural and extension

education. “The rich culture and the beauty of Warsaw has left our team in awe.”

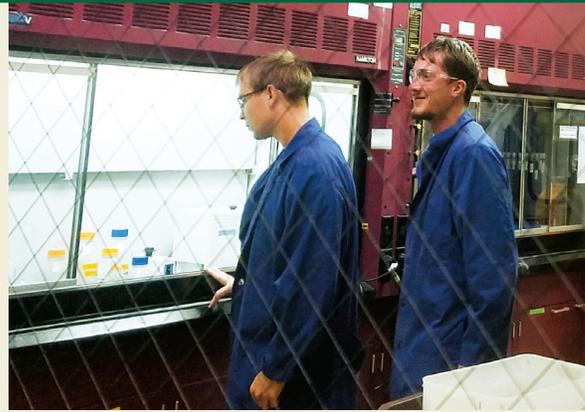
The group also traveled to Krakow, where they toured the Wieliczka Salt Mine, which is the oldest Polish company, dating back to the 13th century.

On their last full day in Poland, students visited Auschwitz concentration camp.

“Words cannot describe this experience, but it truly showed the persistence and resilience of people,” said McKaila Darden, a senior studying natural resource ecology and management.

Les Voyageurs is planning its 2019 study abroad trip to Cuba. If you are interested in supporting this opportunity, please contact Amanda L. Martin for more information on how to donate toward this student experience: amartin2@lsu.edu.





LEFT: Radek Klíč examines eucalyptus cuttings in a greenhouse at A. Wilbert's Sons in Plaquemine.

RIGHT: Patrik Růžička, left, and Klíč work on a eucalyptus project in the LSU AgCenter Department of Agricultural Chemistry residue analysis lab. Both are graduate students in forestry at Mendel University in the Czech Republic. They recently completed internships coordinated by the new AgCenter Global Network.

PHOTOS BY ALEXIS AGARD

LSU AgCenter retools international programs to help private sector

By Olivia McClure

The LSU AgCenter is retooling how it does international outreach, putting a greater focus on endeavors that aim to improve the Louisiana agriculture industry.

A new unit called the LSU AgCenter Global Network was formed, replacing the Office of International Programs.

The Global Network needs to expand beyond the conventional role of coordinating exchanges with other universities, John Russin, the network's director, said. He hopes to work more closely with local companies and harness international expertise to help solve their problems.

"We want to cultivate not only partners at universities for exchange students, but we also want private connections, embassies and internship opportunities that bring international students to our Louisiana companies," Russin said. "It's a much more comprehensive program that will touch faculty, staff and students in a way that we've never done before."

A just-completed project is an example of how Russin envisions the Global Network to function. Two forestry graduate students at Mendel University in the Czech Republic were in Louisiana during October and November for a one-month internship with Plaquemine landholding company A. Wilbert's Sons.

The company has been exploring growing eucalyptus trees for biomass. The students, Patrik Růžička and Radek Klíč, developed a series of mathematic equations that can be used to estimate the merchantable volume and value of timber in eucalyptus plantings.

"Because of these students' visit, this company now has a tool that can enhance their bottom line," said Russin, who also holds the A. Wilbert's Sons Professorship in the AgCenter.

Růžička and Klíč also studied ways to propagate eucalyptus without seed through a method known as vegetative propagation. And they worked with Mark LeBlanc, head of the AgCenter Department of Agricultural Chemistry, to look at possibilities for extracting and marketing oil and compounds from eucalyptus leaves.

"We owe much of our nearly 150-year existence to innovations and discoveries made by university-led research and development," said Klein Kirby, chairman of A. Wilbert's Sons. "Our company is committed to supporting and promoting agricultural education and research in any way possible. Introduction to the new international program by Dr. Russin was a very attractive way to get involved. We could not have asked for better partners than LSU and Mendel University."

Mendel University has been a partner of the LSU AgCenter and College of Agriculture for a few years now. The institutions regularly offer opportunities for students and faculty to visit each other's campuses.

"This is real people-to-people collaboration," said Miroslav Kravka, vice dean of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology at Mendel University. "This makes LSU a very special place in the world, where you feel at home just on the first day of your stay."

More initiatives along the lines of the eucalyptus project are in the works with Mendel and other universities, said Ivana Tregenza, associate director of the AgCenter Global Network and director of College of Agriculture International Relations.

"We want to bring some value back to Louisiana," she said, both by addressing local needs and by engaging companies in international collaborations.

INTERNS EXPLORE CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Story and photos by Amari Baker

Summer can be a break from the stresses of student life.

But some students take advantage of this time off to gain valuable experiences in their fields of interest.

Twenty-one students from LSU, Southern University and Baton Rouge Community College spent their summer as interns for Project EXPLORE — a grant-funded program through the LSU AgCenter.

LSU AgCenter and the LSU College of Agriculture provide the students with faculty mentors who helped the interns experience agriculture-related research, extension and teaching.

The 10-week internship included opportunities in a variety of fields, such as beef cattle DNA vaccine construction, softshell turtle conservation genetics, value-added dairy, community horticulture and agricultural communications.

The experiences the students faced throughout the summer with these internships were exciting and educational.

I was honored to be an intern for this amazing opportunity, and I interviewed several of my fellow interns in order to get a behind-the-scenes view of their experiences.

Kristy Trahan, an LSU junior in animal sciences, spent her summer as an intern in the beef cattle DNA vaccine construction internship with Richard Cooper, a professor in the School of Animal Sciences.

I was surprised with the knowledge Trahan displayed through her lab technique skills and her eagerness to learn how to culture cells, transfect them and then test for antibodies.

I asked Trahan if she had any advice for her peers, and she shared some of her motivation.

“Try to get the most out of the experience, ask questions and learn,” Trahan said.

A couple weeks later, I was able to drive a golf cart for the first time. It was an adventure to get action shots of Layni LeBlanc, a junior in animal science at LSU, and Sarah Thomas, a senior in natural resource ecology and management, while conducting field work. I tagged along with them to the LSU Golf Course to pick up turtles for sampling.

LeBlanc and Thomas are the two interns selected for the softshell turtle conservation genetics study with Sabrina Taylor, associate professor in the School of Renewable Natural Resources.

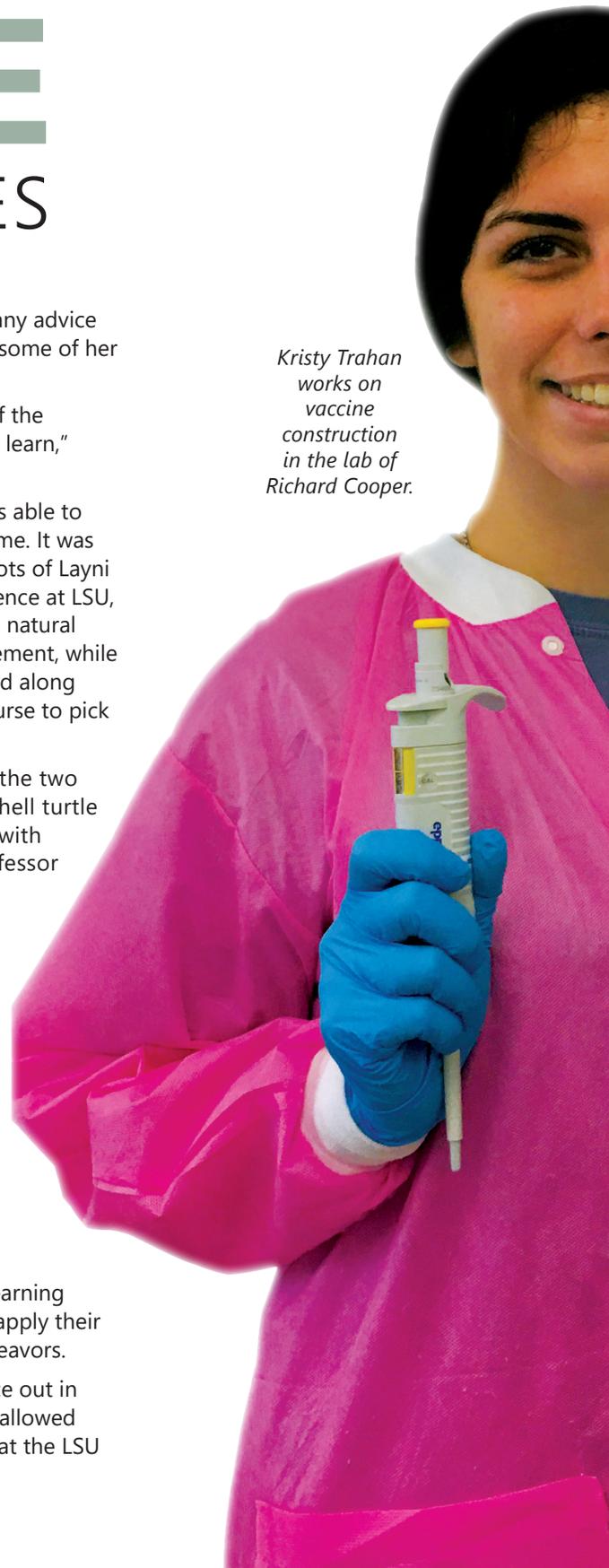
Their internship required both fieldwork and lab work.

Upon returning to the lab, I witnessed the efficiency of teamwork between LeBlanc and Thomas. They collected DNA from their turtles through swabs and blood samples.

It was easy to see through their work that they viewed this internship as a valuable learning experience, and both plan to apply their new knowledge to future endeavors.

Shortly after my experience out in the sun with the turtles, I was allowed to cool off behind the scenes at the LSU AgCenter Dairy Store. ▶

Kristy Trahan works on vaccine construction in the lab of Richard Cooper.



Andrea Messi flips cheese to compact curds together before they are cut into smaller pieces.



Sarah Thomas and Layni LeBlanc compare the shell designs of two red-ear slider turtles.

Jesse Pierce, Rodney Purdy and Conan Escajeda assist a camper at the LSU AgCenter nature camp with building a birdhouse.



the School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, was a diverse internship with many aspects to it.

Jesse Pierce, LSU sophomore in horticultural sciences, and Conan Escajeda and Rodney Purdy, both Southern University seniors in urban forestry, never had a boring day during the internship. They were constantly on the go with Fontenot.

One trip took them up to West Monroe for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Logging Council conference that lasted three days. A highlight of their internships was putting on a weeklong nature summer camp at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

Some days they would be in a cooled air-conditioned room, and then the next they would be at a research station in the summer heat assisting with fieldwork.

I am a senior in LSU Biological Engineering, and I interned in communications for the LSU College of Agriculture and LSU AgCenter with Tobie Blanchard, director of communications for the LSU College of Agriculture and assistant director of communications for the LSU AgCenter.

When in the office, my time was spent designing social media posts for the College of Agriculture's Instagram and Facebook pages.

As you can see, this internship took me out into the field to document the internships through photography and interviews.

It's not hard to understand that communication is a crucial part of the workforce. But actually seeing it in action and all the components that go into it is fascinating. ■

Andrea Messi, a junior in biomedical sciences at Baton Rouge Community College, invited me to take pictures of the cheese-making process and her internship in value-added dairy with Charles Boeneke, associate professor in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences.

From the moment I stepped into the cheese-making room, Messi's enthusiasm and excitement hit me harder than the summer heat.

"I've learned so much. I've learned the entire cheese-making process. I've learned how to pasteurize milk and how to get everything together for production," Messi said. "We're doing a canning class and sanitary methods, because there is so much that goes into making sure that our food is sterile and clean. It's so much more than I could ever could have imagined."

It amazed me to see how an internship could greatly affect a person. Messi said she found an interest in something she barely gave a second thought to previously.

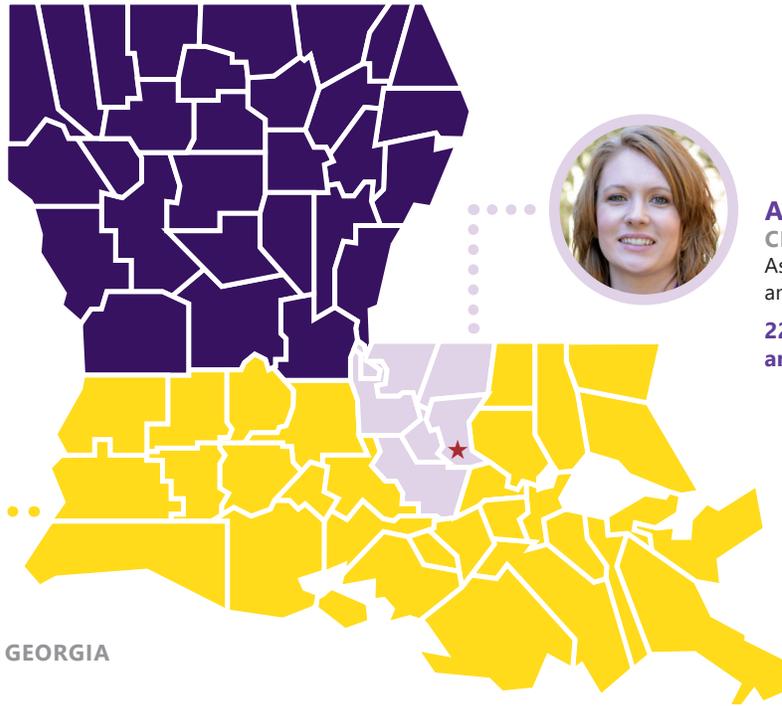
Her experience extended to outreach as well. She worked with dairy farmers to show them ways to efficiently market their product themselves to increase profit, and she educated youth about dairy and nutrition facts and how to make cheese.

The community horticulture internship with Kiki Fontenot, associate professor in





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LSU | College of Agriculture

OPENING DOORS

Step onto campus. Bask in the shade of a stately oak. Take in the smell of a magnolia flower. Experience the LSU College of Agriculture firsthand with a visit that starts at Woodin Hall but lets you see all we have to offer.

Through on-campus recruitment events, individualized campus visits and group tours, students are able to learn about student life, academics, college diversity, clubs and the family feel that compose the College of Agriculture.

Group tours:

598

participants from middle school to high school

Prospective student visits:

189

individual and family visits

Information requests:

609

requests for information packets

IN ONE YEAR

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Interested in a visit, tour or more information? Contact Amanda L. Martin at 225-578-2266 or amartin2@lsu.edu.

64 PARISH STRONG

64 Scholarships for LSU College of Agriculture Freshmen

From beef production in Bossier to sugarcane in St. James, agriculture is a part of every parish of the state, and we want students from every parish to be a part of the College of Agriculture! We are offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one eligible student from each parish.

Scholarship Criteria:

- Must be accepted to LSU
- Must be majoring in agriculture
- Must submit a College of Ag scholarship application
- 3.0 GPA preference

Apply here: <http://bit.ly/64parishstrong>

Applications open November 1

The College of Agriculture will start inviting admitted freshmen to apply for scholarships beginning November 1. Deadline to submit the College of Agriculture scholarship application is February 1.

For more information, contact:
Deana Meredith at deana@lsu.edu
225-578-2065

For giving opportunities, contact:
Lindsey Fussell at lfussell@agcenter.lsu.edu
225-578-7323

64 Parish Strong is supporting the land-grant mission at Louisiana's flagship university





For Mollie Foxley, the farm is a sanctuary

By Haley Rupp

Mollie Foxley didn't have much farm experience before coming to LSU. Foxley, a senior in the LSU College of Agriculture majoring in animal sciences, now spends her mornings, afternoons and even some free time at the LSU AgCenter Ben Hur Central Research Station.

Foxley's interaction with livestock began back in her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, a state where cattle outnumber people 3 to 1. Her grandfather owned cattle feedlots, so "interest in cows runs in the family," she said.

Coming to Baton Rouge, Foxley originally planned to pursue a degree in animal science and attend veterinarian school. After a change of plans and a meeting with her adviser, Foxley expressed

interest in a student-worker position within the College of Agriculture. Her advisor then reached out to the staff at the Ben Hur Research Station.

"A couple days later, I got an email from Mr. Tony Bridges, the research associate coordinator and manager, inquiring about my potential interest in working on the farm," Foxley said. "I've been working over there ever since."

With all the stresses of being a senior, "the farm is actually my sanctuary from busy Baton Rouge life," Foxley said.

She said she can step away from the hectic schedule of classes to work on a few of the research station's 3,000 acres. From calf watch, palpations and operating machinery to working cows, she views all the duties it takes to care for the farm as relaxation. ►

Since working on the farm for a little over a year and a half, Foxley sees herself doing similar work in the future.

"Cattle production is meant for me," she said. "I found something I really enjoy and have a desire to do the rest of my life. The hands-on experience I get there is exceptional and allows me to work daily on the facility preparing me for the future."

Even with two jobs, classes and taking care of her three dogs, Foxley is also active in several student organizations. Foxley participates in Block and Bridle at LSU, the LSU Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and is a social chair of Les Voyageurs, the student ambassador group for the College of Agriculture. She will travel to Poland later this semester with the Les Voyageurs.

Foxley was recently selected to be a recipient of the College of Agriculture Dean's Award Scholarship.

"Besides the financial help, the scholarship gives me even more motivation to succeed and to accomplish my goals," Foxley said. "It's an amazing feeling to know that LSU and the College of Agriculture believe in me to invest in my future." ■



"Besides the financial help, the scholarship gives me even more motivation to succeed and to accomplish my goals."
— Mollie Foxley

\$259,000 AWARDED

Over \$259,000 in scholarships was awarded to students this past year by the LSU College of Agriculture.

237 SCHOLARSHIPS

The LSU College of Agriculture offered 237 scholarships in 2018. Of those, 141 were granted to incoming freshmen.

\$500 TO \$3,000

The smallest scholarship size awarded was \$500 while the largest amount was \$3,000.



Some students are considered for multiple scholarships. The application process requires both freshmen and current students to fill out only one application in order to be considered for the scholarship candidate pool.

35 STUDENTS RECEIVED MULTIPLE SCHOLARSHIPS

66% WENT TO FRESHMEN

Of the total \$259,000 awarded, about \$171,000 went to freshmen. The remainder, around \$88,000, was given to continuing students.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SARAH CATHERINE LEBLANC

Sarah Catherine LeBlanc wades into a stream with tools to measure water quality as part of research she did interning with A. Wilbert's Sons.

Researching effects of streamside management zones

By Amari Baker

Over two semesters, Sarah Catherine LeBlanc often found herself in deep water. The senior, studying natural resource ecology and management, was waist deep in streams observing water quality and other issues as part of an internship with land management company A. Wilbert's Sons LLC.

LeBlanc's research focused on the effect of streamside management zones — areas near waterways that are managed to protect the stream from forestry operations — on land managed by A. Wilbert's Sons. She was looking at the effect these zones have on the aquatic ecology in Louisiana bottomland hardwood forests.

"I have always been fascinated with how different ecosystems work and how we as environmental specialists, researchers and students are able to manage and learn about how certain systems work," LeBlanc said.

William Kelso, professor in the School of Renewable Natural Resources, served as LeBlanc's faculty adviser and said the project was a great opportunity to prepare LeBlanc for scientific research later in her career.

Under Kelso's guidance, she set out to determine if the management zones are effective in the preservation of water quality.

"It made me realize I had a lot to learn about the specific parameters that take place in these ecosystems," LeBlanc said about the project.

She focused on four sites near Ramah. Two of the sites were streamside management zones, and two were used as controls. She worked in the side channels of the area until decreased water levels forced her to move to the main channel.

In four-to-five-week intervals, LeBlanc collected her data using instruments that measured basic water parameters such as pH and dissolved oxygen levels, the light available to reach the surface of the stream and the canopy density over the stream.

Leblanc concluded that the streamside management zones do not differ significantly from the controlled sites and that A. Wilbert's Sons is doing an effective job of managing their land.

LeBlanc presented her results to managers of A. Wilbert's Sons and LSU College of Agriculture faculty members.

Klein Kirby, president and chairman of A. Wilbert's Sons, was impressed by the depth and caliber of LeBlanc's research.

"The purpose of this internship is to support the undergraduate program and show what students are doing and what they get out of it," Kirby said.

LeBlanc and Kirby both see potential in continuing the research through future internship opportunities.

LeBlanc said through the work she learned to embrace her mistakes and learn from them.

"If you make them now, you won't make them later," she said. ▶

Creating a health-focused environment

By *Tobie Blanchard*

At the Baton Rouge headquarters of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, two LSU College of Agriculture students worked to create a healthful environment for the system's employees and the public.

Lauren Martin, a senior studying nutrition and food sciences during the time of the internship, worked with Healthy Lives, the health system's corporate wellness program. She was tasked with starting a nutrition-focused guided grocery store tour program aimed at helping people make better food choices.

Kaylee Deynzer, a junior studying plant and soil systems, took a plot of land at the headquarters and turned it into a thriving garden.

"The hope was that we gain from them and they gain from us," said Pete Guarisco, vice president of mission with FMOLHS. He said he wanted to build a partnership with the LSU College of Agriculture through gardening and nutrition education internships.

Both interns were creating new programs and learning on the fly.

"I've never had this much autonomy in a job," Martin said.

Martin said she is passionate about food and helping people, and this internship allowed her to explore that passion in direct and indirect ways. She developed content for grocery store tours, collaborated with stores to set up the tours and recruited people interested in taking them.

Martin also worked with the organization's Farm to Work program, which allowed employees to sign up for produce boxes delivered to their offices. She developed nutrition facts and recipe cards to go along with the boxes.

"She really helped us execute projects that we wouldn't be able to accomplish without the extra set of hands," said Marcy Bowman, a registered dietitian with FMOLHS. "Her fresh, new perspective was a gift for us."

Martin said strong communication skills, time management and knowing your own strengths and the strengths of her colleagues were important for the job.

She said she thrived in the family atmosphere at FMOLHS and felt supported in her work.

"To realize that this is about the people we serve really helped center me on my most hectic days," Martin said.

Martin graduated in May and attends Oregon Health and Science University pursuing a Master of Science and dietetic internship program.

For Deynzer's project, she wanted to create a peaceful spot for employees while also creating a bountiful harvest.

"The main issue was getting soil up to par," Deynzer said of the land she gardens.

Deynzer organized a volunteer workday where FMOLHS employees came out and helped work in the garden. She planted bush beans, tomatoes, peppers, purple bell peppers, eggplant, squash and zucchini.

Deynzer plans to put the harvest in four locations where FMOLHS employees can help themselves to the fresh produce.

"It's nice to teach people who don't know as much about gardening," she said.

Deynzer said she is interested in local food systems and sustainability and would like to work with student-run farms or in gardening education after graduation.

She said the work she did fit with the mission of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System's namesake saint.

"St. Francis loved to garden," she said. "It was part of his ministry." ■

Lauren Martin, left, was a nutrition intern working with Marcy Bowman, right, health coach dietitian at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health Systems.



Trista Galivan,
president
of Les
Voyageurs



A 30-year voyage for agriculture

By Tobie Blanchard

In the fall of 1987, the College of Agriculture recruited a team of students to serve as ambassadors for the college. The group became Les Voyageurs. The college envisioned the team making speeches to civic clubs and agricultural industry meetings, attending state fairs and high school career fairs, presenting agricultural career and education information to 4-H and FFA organizations, and assisting with the overall enhancement of the College of Agriculture.

Thirty years later, the modern-day Les Voyageurs has new tools and technology to promote agricultural studies, but their mission remains the same.

Trista Galivan, president of Les Voyageurs, said being a member has made her more involved at LSU.

"I have become very active in my department, campus events and volunteer opportunities," she said. "I owe my knowledge of agriculture and enhanced leadership and communication skills to Les Voyageurs organization."

Galivan says her plan as president is to continue efforts to educate students on what agriculture really is and how the college gives students opportunities to improve not only their lives but to better their world.

Highlights from 2017-2018

■ Les Voyageurs Reunion, Sept. 29, Tin Roof Brewery in Baton Rouge

Former and current Les Voyageurs gathered for an evening of food with friends.

■ Les Voyageurs Service Trip, Jan. 12-14, New Orleans

The group conducted service projects at Second Harvest Food Bank and City Park. Participants packaged 10,000 pounds of food at the food bank and helped City Park staff remove strands of lights from the park. They also visited Grow Dat to learn about youth and urban agriculture and delivered Ag in the Classroom activities at KIPP Believe Primary School in New Orleans.

■ International Voyage, March 24-29, Poland

Seventeen members of the Les Voyageurs traveled to Poland during spring break, making this study abroad experience the largest in the college's history.

For more information, contact:

■ Henry Hebert, Manager of Recruitment, henryh@lsu.edu

■ Lindsey Kelly, Director of Alumni Relations & Stewardship, lkelly@lsu.edu

■ Amanda L. Martin, Assistant Dean of Recruitment and Student Development, amartin2@lsu.edu



2018-19 Les Voyageurs

Peyton Arthur: Agricultural and Extension Education

Kaylee Boswell: Agricultural Business

Abel Caillouet: Animal Science

Brooke Comeaux: Animal Science/Agricultural Extension and Education

Katie Costanza: Animal Sciences

McKaila Darden: Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Madie Easley: Agricultural and Extension Education

Molli Foxley: Animal Sciences

Trista Galivan: Nutrition and Food Sciences

Elijah Hanzy III: Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Colt Hardee: Agricultural Business

James Harper: Plant and Soil Systems

Alexandra Haynes: Agricultural and Extension Education

Haley Jeneske: Animal Sciences

Bianca Jones: Nutrition and Food Sciences

Victoria Kilbert: Nutrition and Food Sciences

Kacie Martin: Plant and Soil Systems

Tate Roussel: Agricultural Education

Marisa Saladino: Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Madison Sharp: Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Allison Sommers: Agricultural and Extension Education

Ansleigh Thibodeaux: Animal Sciences

VISIT WITH A LES VOYAGEUR AT ONE OF OUR MANY RECRUITMENT EVENTS:

Forever LSU Fridays

Tiger Careers Day

Ag Fellows Program

Ag on the Geaux

For more information on these events and to register, visit: <http://bit.ly/lsuagrecruit>



LSU
TIGER STADIUM

LSU Agriculture Student Association

ASA Executive Board

■ **Ansleigh Thibodeaux:**
President, animal sciences

■ **Nick Uzee:**
Vice President, animal sciences

■ **McKaila Darden:**
Special Events Chairwoman,
natural resource ecology and
management

■ **Colt Hardee:**
Secretary and Treasurer,
agricultural business

■ **Caroline Cantrelle:**
Public Relations Chairwoman,
textiles, apparel and
merchandising

■ **Marina Cole:** College
of Agriculture Student
Government Senator,
nutrition and food sciences

The Agriculture Student Association serves the students within the College of Agriculture through weekly meetings, regularly scheduled events and by representing each club in the association.

Ansleigh Thibodeaux, senior in animal sciences, serves as president of ASA.

"I am honored to serve as the Agriculture Student Association president this year! ASA's job is to plan events for College of Ag students that range from social events like our annual Cookies in the Quad to professional development opportunities like our Career Prep Week. We are always planning new events, and this year we hope to add even more fun to the College of Agriculture calendar!"

Lagniappe FOR Tigers



Interested in giving a little lagniappe? Visit www.lsufoundation.org/lagniappefortigers.

Lagniappe is a little something extra. Extra like the spice on our crawfish. Extra like the humidity in our air. Extra like the warm smile from a stranger. And with all that spice and heat, extra can be the cool refreshment of ice cream.

The Lagniappe for Tigers program gives donors an opportunity to sponsor an ice cream for prospective students who visit campus. With a donation, you can share a personal message with a future LSU College of Agriculture student about your experiences and what shaped your time at LSU.

This year, over \$600 was raised in a crowdfunding campaign for Lagniappe for Tigers. These are the experiences that help students begin to make their LSU memories. If you are interested in supporting this program and sharing words of encouragement with future LSU Tigers, consider donating today!

LSU | College of Agriculture

CAREER FAIR



60

employers attended

15

graduate and/or professional programs represented

292

students attended

EVENTS

Events for current students are hosted throughout the year to add to the LSU College of Agriculture student experience. The events planned for this year include:

Alumni Speaker Series	Monthly from September-March
Career Prep Week	Oct. 29-Nov. 2
Cookies in the Quad	Nov. 27
Smooch the Pooch	Feb. 13
Ag Week	March 11-15

For more information on the events, visit: bit.ly/lsuagstudent.

LSU | College of Agriculture



Jonathan Martin (third from left) accepts the 2018 Louisiana 4-H Legacy Award at the 4-H University Donor Recognition and Awards Banquet at Lod Cook Alumni Center on June 19. Also pictured are Ann Keene, Maggie Martin, Jonathan Martin, William Vincent, Amanda Vincent, Denise Hymel and Ruby Miller.

PHOTO BY JOHNNY MORGAN

4-H'ers display Camp Grant Walker spirit after an assembly in the Ellis S. Martin Pavilion at Grant Walker Educational Center. The pavilion serves as a gathering space for all campers, a shelter from bad weather and a premier conference space for the LSU AgCenter.

PHOTOS BY XAVIER BELL

Creating a legacy by contributing to Louisiana's youth

By Tobie Blanchard

Among the decades-old bunkhouses 4-H'ers have called home for one week each year is a beautiful new structure that can hold a whole week's worth of campers.

In 2015, The Ellis S. Martin Pavilion added 10,000 square feet of multipurpose indoor space for campers — the perfect shelter when those afternoon summer showers pop up.

The building was made possible largely by RoyOMartin, a company recently named the 2018 Louisiana 4-H Legacy Award honoree.

"Starting with my grandfather, Roy O. Martin Sr., we've been involved in 4-H and Louisiana agriculture for 95 years," said Jonathan Martin, chief executive officer of RoyOMartin.

Martin accepted the award at the 4-H University Donor Recognition and

Awards Banquet at Lod Cook Alumni Center on June 19.

RoyOMartin is the brand name of Martin Companies LLC, a group of family-owned companies. The corporation owns 570,000 acres of Louisiana timberland, making it one of the largest private landowners in the South.

"The legacy award is intended for donors who have supported us over a long time," said Patrick Tuck, executive director of the Louisiana 4-H Foundation. "RoyOMartin's support is more than just financial."

Tuck noted that RoyOMartin was instrumental in helping get additional donors to complete the pavilion, which Tuck said is more than just a camp building. It also has become an in-demand conference space for the LSU AgCenter.

"Because we are in the forest products industry, we gladly support the youth of our state to get involved in agriculture in whatever form they may, and we're just honored that we could make this donation," Martin said.

The company also donated 18 acres of land for the camp.

This is the second Louisiana 4-H Foundation Legacy Award. Previous awards were made in 2017 to the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation and Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company.

Tuck noted that the Louisiana 4-H Legacy Award honorees are woven into the life and culture of Louisiana 4-H.

"They're right there beside us in our school and community gardens, at camp, in our fundraising efforts and leadership development programs serving the most urgent needs of our communities and families," he said.

New La. 4-H program leader named: Toby L. Lepley

By Johnny Morgan

The LSU AgCenter has named Toby L. Lepley as the new associate vice president and program leader for 4-H youth development. He began the position on April 1.

Lepley comes to the AgCenter from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, where he served for the past 24 years, the past four as assistant state 4-H leader.

Prior to holding that position, he served as associate professor, county 4-H extension agent and 4-H program specialist in various locations in Texas.

Lepley said while serving in these positions he strived to ensure that he was conducting the most effective, relevant and timely programming possible.

"A strong team is built on the ability for one to reach the next level and

then lend a hand to catapult the others up beside you," he said.

One of the highlights of his career has been working with his 4-H mentor and former state 4-H director as editors on a book of 4-H stories, Lepley said.



Lepley

He said he has seen the dedication of LSU AgCenter 4-H agents and feels the future is bright.

"With more than 199,000 youth engaged in the Louisiana 4-H program, it is imperative that the program remain a prominent leader in the area of youth development," he said.

Lepley said he had an opportunity to work with many of the Louisiana agents from 2013 to 2016 as one of

four chairpersons for the 2016 National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference in New Orleans.

"Serving in this role allowed me to witness the passion and desire the Louisiana agents have for the work they do and the youth they serve," he said.

Lepley sees his career in the extension service as an opportunity to broaden his leadership abilities and skills through the participation in advanced leadership experiences both within and outside of the agency.

"At the end of the day, working with youth involves placing yourself at their level and engaging them in the theory of life and how to grow within in order to grow forever," he said.

Lepley has a doctorate from Texas A&M and master's and bachelor's degrees from Sam Houston State University.

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- **Dec. 14:** Graduation Breakfast and Fall Commencement
- **Nov. 2** – Alumni Speaker Series: Suzanne Perron St. Paul
- **April 4** – Alumni Awards Ceremony
- **April 5** – Dean’s Council Dinner
- **April 6** – Alumni Crawfish Boil and Baseball Tailgate Party
- **April 8-13** – Ag Magic

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