

College of the Ozarks Agriculture Department

February 2013

VOL. 1 ISSUE 7



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◇ March 2~ FFA Workshop 8:30-12:00
- ◇ March 1,2,4,&5~ Spring Musical "Into the Woods" 7:30pm Jones Auditorium
- ◇ March 3~ Spring Musical Matinee 2:30pm Jones Auditorium
- ◇ March 6-12~ NAIA Division II National Men's Basketball Tournament: Keeter Gymnasium
- ◇ March 18-22~ Spring Break
- ◇ March 29~ Good Friday No Classes
- ◇ April 22~ Annual Agriculture Awards Assembly 4:00pm upstairs Youngman Ag. Center
- ◇ April 25~ Awards Convo 7:00pm Jones Auditorium

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (NIV)

Faculty Spotlight

***This article is written in the words of David Prigel with slight editing from the Agriculture Office Assistants.*

I have been married to Becky for almost 9 years. I have one twenty five year old son Andy and Becky has a twenty nine year old son Ryan and a 26 year old daughter Lauren. Becky and I currently live in Republic, Missouri. Becky has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Missouri and she works for Cox Health Systems.

I was reared on our family's small subsistence farm in Johnson County, Missouri. My parents departed the family farm just recently after living and working there for 65 years!! Over those 65 years my family saw the farm grow from a small operation of 240 acres with 20 milk cows, 10 sows, a hen house full of chickens and a large garden to a much larger operation. At its peak we were milking about 80 Holsteins, running 450 Black Angus beef cows on 1500 acres and row cropping 500 acres of corn and soybeans.

I decided to attend college and in 1980 was admitted to Missouri State University where I spent three semesters. I then transferred to the University of Missouri, Columbia and continued the pursuit of my animal science degree with intentions to apply for admittance to Missouri's veterinary college. All that said, I graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree in May of 1986 from the University of Missouri - Columbia.

After veterinary school, I accepted a position in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After two years in Tulsa, I moved to Aurora, Missouri where I purchased and operated a general mixed animal veterinary practice for 10 years. In 1998, I sold the general mixed practice in Aurora and then worked as a veterinary consultant to many dairy farms in Missouri and other parts of the USA and a tiny bit outside our nation. I was able to work with dairy farmers and veterinarians in The Republic of Georgia.

The last 4 years, I have been an adjunct professor at Ozark Technical Community College teaching Anatomy, Physiology and Microbiology.

"Two of my teaching goals are to provide a dynamic learning experience with change being the "norm" and I strive to provide feedback to all students in as many ways as possible to improve and reinforce their learning experience."



Dr. Prigel

"Matthew chapter 5 verse 6 is my favorite verse of the Bible." While teaching the disciples Jesus said (GNV) "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires. God will satisfy them fully". It is easy to focus on the words "satisfied fully". God is fully capable and ready to provide complete satisfaction regardless of the circumstances. But, the best part of that entire verse for me is the statement "whose greatest desire". This tells me that God is not looking for a perfect performance - he is looking for my desire for a perfect performance."

Student Spotlight

Ben Sims is a Sophomore majoring in Animal Science. Ben was born in Marshall, Missouri and raised on a farm northeast of Sedalia. He attended a small private high school, Sacred Heart High School, in Sedalia, Missouri where he graduated with a class of 29 students.

Ben's current workstation is the dairy where he has worked for three semesters. He was recently bestowed with the honor of becoming a student manager, a herdsman, at the dairy. When asked about his position he stated, "This experience has been a great time and a huge learning experience for me. I really enjoy my job. It has provided me with skills in the care and handling of cattle, knowledge of dairy farm techniques, and has helped to improve my leadership skills. These skills will help me in veterinary school and when I am practicing veterinary medicine."

Some interesting facts about Ben are that he was in 4-H for 11 years and was on the Missouri State 4-H council his second to last year. On the council, he served as one of the Central Regional Junior Executives. Furthermore, when asked which farm animal was his favorite, he replied, "The cow because a good, solid cow is such a hardy animal. They can go through a rough child birth and still pull through and be on their feet in no time. And I like cattle in general because I like steak."

In the summer of 2012, Ben did a 6 week internship with two different vet clinics in Sedalia. The first three weeks was spent at Advanced Pet Care, which is a small animal clinic. The second three weeks was spent at Sedalia Veterinary Center. This was a mixed animal clinic, but his position consisted of working primarily with large animals and the veterinary work that coincided with the Missouri State Fair.

After attending College of the Ozarks, Ben plans on applying to veterinary schools at University of Missouri-Columbia, Kansas State, and Colorado State. Upon completion of veterinary school, he intends to begin practicing veterinary medicine with a large animal practice.



Ben Sims

"Proverbs 3:5-6 is my favorite verse of the Bible." "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (NIV)." Ben chose this verse because he said, "that this verse lets me know that everything is always going to be okay and that God is there for me in all the good times and the bad times; I just need to do my best and leave the rest up to Him."

Featured Operation

This issue's featured operation is the Meat Processing Plant, managed by Adam "Tiny" Kimrey. There are 12 students (7 boys and 5 girls) who work in the Meat Processing Plant during the school year. At this workstation, students do everything from harvesting animals to preparing ready-to-eat products

Daily activities of this workstation depend on what needs to be done for that particular day, for example cutting, packaging, curing and smoking meat, as well as mixing recipes. Mornings usually consist of making summer sausage, jerky, and snack sticks, pumping hams, and grinding product. Afternoons consist of thorough cleaning of the entire facility and all equipment used during the day. When asked about the major responsibilities given **only** to students at the plant, Adam's reply was, "Students can basically run the plant. They are responsible for everything. If I had to choose one area that was most important, it would be the cleaning. Everything must be sanitary every day."

Historically, during the summer months, the plant only has one student worker and they do not harvest animals at this time. However, the processing plant continues in full production of jerky, snack sticks, summer sausage, and other finished products. Adam and the student also assist in the college's hay fields with tasks such as mowing, raking, baling and hauling hay.

The busiest time of year for the plant occurs from the middle of September through Christmas due to the preparation of hams, turkeys, and summer sausage for the holiday season. All of these products are sent to friends of the College at Christmas.

Campus-wide events the Processing Plant provides meat include: Mud-fest, outside dinners hosted by the cafeteria, and banquet meals for important campus visitors and dignitaries.

If you would like to visit our Agriculture Department, Meat Processing Plant, or have any questions, please call our office at (417) 690-3360.

Ham— 6,120lbs.
Pork Loin— 1,648 lbs.
Bacon— 1,916 lbs.
Ground Pork— 642 lbs.
Sausage— 1,200 lbs.
Pork Chops— 1,050 lbs.
Beef Jerky— 350 lbs.
Snack Sticks— 300 lbs.
Brats— 2,500lbs
Summer Sausage— 5,800lbs.



James Alberson, Daniel Mallette, Dakota Tucker, Katie Chadd

What have you learned at this workstation?

"With teamwork, collaboration, and hard work there is no task too big to be accomplished. Humane handling and harvesting of animals is a vital key in the future of agriculture and our livelihood. For future generations to enjoy the experiences of agriculture that we experience today, we need to spread the knowledge of what agriculture is truly about and how important it is to our society. At the processing plant, we experience firsthand lessons on the importance of each animal that we harvest to provide for others."

-Dalton Hunter



FFA Workshop

The Annual College of the Ozarks FFA Workshop will take place on Saturday, March 2, 2013. This will be the workshop's 40th year of operation. The workshop brings in approximately 2,500 students from 81 high schools from Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The event aids in recruiting of the next generation of students to be admitted to our Agriculture program. It also serves as a good opportunity for high school students to sharpen their judging skills. The workshop has continued due to the dedication of the department and the hard work of many people including other academic departments for the past 12 years. The running of the workshop has been steered by the hands of agriculture professor Dr. Donn Russell. Importantly, the management of the workshop depends upon the agriculture office assistants who function as co-managers of the workshop. The student co-managers this year are Emilee Akins and Lauren McDaniel. These student managers have the responsibility of corresponding with the high school agriculture teachers, registration of all schools, overseeing the running of the workshop the day it is held, delegating tasks to other students, consulting with all faculty, staff and helpers involved, and numerous other tasks. We are expecting this year to run just as smoothly as last!

Agriculture Career Symposium



The 2012 Agriculture Career Symposium was held the evening of November 13th. This biennial program has been a part of our Agriculture department for the past 25 years. The event is for the benefit of the Agriculture department's student, faculty, and staff. The panelists this year were Duane Melton, Brad Jump, Carrie Crews, Jason Spurlock and David Prigel. The entire agriculture student body was in attendance and many interesting and informative topics were discussed. Panelists reflected on useful information about what students can do to improve their chances of employment and promotion, getting the most from their college years both in and out of the classroom, graduate school, getting started in farming, and the importance of relationships, including the one with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As has been the tradition over the years, the DTA Agriculture Honor Society hosted the event. Daniel Mallette, DTA President, was the moderator for the evening. It was a valuable and helpful experience for all in attendance.

Agriculture Alumni Association Featuring President Justin W. Stephan

***This article is written in the words of Justin W. Stephan with minor changes by Agriculture Office Assistants*

"Greetings my fellow Ag. Alumni! For those of you that do not know me, please allow me to introduce myself – my name is Justin W. Stephan. I am originally from and presently reside in Appleton City, MO where I am actively involved with my family's six-generation beef and row-crop farm.

I graduated in 2005 with a double emphasis in agriculture business and animal science. During my time at C of O, I worked in the Dairy for Tom Smith, where I was a herdsman and for some time, I had what I considered to be "the best job on campus" – the campus milk man. It was a great deal of fun, and I got to know pretty well everyone.

Since graduation, I spent six years in accounting and transportation management at an oil company in Clinton, MO, and then I had an opportunity to transition into a financial management position with a small healthcare company, which would allow me to work out of my home and have more time to work with the farm. In addition to that, I am also about to start my 7th year on the Trinity Lutheran Church Council, currently serving as President of the Church. In addition to this, I am also presently serving as the Mayor of Appleton City, a post that I was elected to this past April.

As I look back on my time at C of O, I recall



very fondly the experiences I had in the Ag. Department, and the College as a whole. There is one particular experience that stands out in my memory. At the beginning of my sophomore year, I had gotten sick and for a time, was unable to work at the Dairy. Tom and Dr. Davidson got together and apparently, the Print Shop was in need of help, so Dr. D sent me over there to help out. I still recall how kind the Print Shop folks were to me, and I remember one of the students took me on a tour of the building, and in the hallway there was a bronze plaque that read "WORK IS LOVE MADE VISIBLE". The student who was taking me around indicated to me that that is the motto that they try to run the Print Shop by, and based on what I saw while I was there, that was very evident.

We have all been blessed by our time at S of O / C of O, and the great blessing that it was in each of our lives. One of my favorite hymns is "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" which is based on Lamentations 3: 21-23 *"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."* The founders of the school understood the Faithfulness of God, and it is through that Faithfulness that so many generations have been and continue to be blessed.

At Homecoming this year, the decision was taken to re-organize the Ag. Alumni Chapter. As we move forward in this process, I think we need to consider how we, the Alumni, can strive to support the Department and the College. One big way is by joining the Alumni Association. If you are not a member, I would encourage you to think about it.

Thank you for your support of our school. I wish each of you a safe winter season."

Agriculture Alumni Officers:

President – Justin W. Stephan

President Elect – Dawn Cope

Vice President – Jeff Holder

Secretary – Andy McNeil