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FALL 2010, VOL. 2, NO. 1

AGRICULTURE

AG ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Ag Alumni Organize, Name Board of Directors

Alumni of MTSU's School of Agribusiness and Agriscience have come together and formed a new association. An ad hoc planning committee was formed in 2009, bylaws were written, and a kick-off meeting was held. Now, the group has a board of directors. Ag Alumni are alive and well!

Ag Alumni Facts

- The name of the organization is Middle Tennessee State University's Ag Alumni.
- For now, there are no dues to be paid.
- The bylaws, as amended, may be viewed on the Agribusiness and Agriscience Web site at www.mtsu.edu/abas/
- The board has 13 members:

Cindy Ayers,
Christiana, Tenn.,
1978-80

Sam Dennis,
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
1979

Glen Beard,
Watertown, Tenn.,
1959

Will Jordan,
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
1982-85

Jonathan Black,
Knoxville, Tenn.,
2009

Brian Ladd,
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
2005

John Campbell,
Lewisburg, Tenn.,
1975

Charles McDonald,
Shelbyville, Tenn.,
1972

Jim Clark,
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
1994

Barbara
Sherman Sherrell,
Antioch, Tenn.,
2005

Ron Cooper,
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
1964

Robert Strong,
Gainesville, Fla.,
1996

Joshua Crain,
McMinnville, Tenn.,
2000

- Plans are underway for Ag Alumni activities in the fall.

A Message from the New MTSU Ag Alumni Chair

It's official! The Ag Alumni Board has met, elected officers, and dug in its heels to get started off right. Although we have met only once, we have been busy. Plans are being made to strengthen the organization and increase familiarity among all the members.

Although there are many challenges to be met, the biggest recurring concern we have discussed is communication. MTSU's Alumni Relations office has been an incredible resource for facilitating and advising the Ag Alumni on the most effective ways to get the word out, and we are thankful to that office and Paul Wydra, assistant director.

We understand that everyone is pressed for time and being pulled in several directions, so we are not asking for a great deal of time. Our main goal right now is to increase awareness and participation with a few fun events that many of our members already attend. And ALL MTSU Agribusiness and Agriscience alumni are considered members. There are still no dues or membership fees of any kind, so there is no cost to be an active part of this organization.

Finally, you should have already received an invitation to the Celebration Reception, but I would like to invite you again. It is going to be a great evening, so be sure to send in your reservations.

If you are unable to come to the reception, don't miss us at Homecoming. We'll be tailgating at the Ag building. And, as always, even if you are not on the board, we invite and welcome any and all participation, input, or constructive criticism from any member. I hope to see you soon!

Thanks you! We hope to see you at the Celebration and/or Homecoming.

Brian Ladd,
Chair, MTSU Ag Alumni



MTSU School of Agribusiness and Agriscience Announces Joe Jack and Jerry Dement and Robert R. (Bob) Garrigus Scholarship Endowments

Joe Jack Dement and Bob Garrigus were both beloved professors in the Ag School at MTSU for many years. It is an honor to announce the formation of two MTSU School of Agribusiness and Agriscience scholarship endowments in honor of these great men. We ask you to consider contributing to these endowments so we can make them truly honor Joe Jack and Bob.

Joe Jack and Jerry Dement Endowed Scholarship Fund

This endowment has been established by the family and friends of Joe Jack and



Geraldine (Jerry) Dement for the purpose of honoring Joe Jack for the many years of exceptional service he provided to students in the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience at MTSU. The service that both Joe Jack and Jerry have given to improve the lives of countless others through their devotion to the Farm Bureau, Farm Service Administration, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the AGR fraternity is unsurpassed.

Robert R. (Bob) Garrigus Endowed Scholarship Fund

Dr. Robert R. Garrigus, known as either Doc or Bob by hundreds of people, obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky and, after five years at Purdue, came to MTSU in 1967 and soon established himself as a popular and effective professor of animal science. He was the



advisor of the Block and Bridle Club, which was twice recognized as the most active chapter in the nation. His judging teams won more national (NACTA) championships than almost any others.

Visit www.mtsu.edu/abas and follow the links at the bottom of the page to learn more about supporting these endowments.

These scholarship programs will not be fully endowed until we reach \$10,000. We need you to respond today. Please let us hear from you soon so we can start awarding scholarships in honor of Joe Jack and Jerry Dement and Bob Garrigus.

Warren Gill, director
MTSU School of
Agribusiness and
Agriscience



Thank You

As I retired I wanted to, on behalf of the many livestock judging teams of the past, recognize those livestock producers that have extensively provided livestock and their expertise to our program. Many of you have worked cattle sales, with money used to finance contest expenses. I used the leftover funds to purchase 53 plaques, of which I personally delivered 32, to give a small token of our appreciation for these producers' invaluable assistance.

Thanks for the efforts you made to build our livestock judging team program to a respectable level, and I hope that it was beneficial to your career. I would love to hear from you with my address being:

Dr. Bob Garrigus
2320 Pitts Lane
Murfreesboro, TN 37130



Dan, Phil, and Tim



Julie Vaughn, Rocky Glade Farms, hosting the Sustainable Ag class.



ABAS alumna and current faculty member Alanna Neely and her Interior Design class made the ABAS Awards Banquet more beautiful with displays like this one.



The MTSU horse judging team won all three divisions and the overall top award at the American Quarter Horse Congress horse judging contest held in Columbus, Ohio, on October 14.



Kim White from Lebanon won a national title at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Championships in Lexington, Kentucky.

MTSU Graduate Receives National Achievement Award

During the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils 2009 national meeting in Albuquerque, **Charlie Meek** (B.S. 1982, Plant and Soil Science) was recognized as Coordinator of the Year. This award goes to an applicant each year to represent the 375 RC&D councils from all fifty states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Basin. Charlie serves as RC&D coordinator in northwest Alabama. Charlie also worked in Georgia for seven years serving the Oconee River RC&D Council. Before RC&D, Charlie worked in several NRCS (formerly SCS) field offices in Tennessee, beginning his full-time career in 1982 as a soil conservationist and later district conservationist for a total of 14 years. In addition to thanking wonderful parents and many important mentors, Charlie also gives thanks and praise to MTSU for helping him lay a foundation that has led to a successful career. Charlie says he will never forget a conversation with Dr. Warren Anderson, who asked Charlie if he had ever thought about a career with the Soil Conservation Service. Charlie said that one conversation sparked an idea that led to an interview with SCS, an application and selection for the student trainee program, and, after graduation, a career with the USDA. What a blessing to have a professor who cares about students!



Charlie Meek and his wife, Judy, with the Coordinator of the Year award

2010 Ag Banquet Was a Success

Over 140 students, faculty, parents, and friends attended the 2010 Ag Banquet, held at the Community Center at Lane Agri-Park. All agreed this year's event was unusually successful.

The event was dedicated to Janet Kelly, who recently left the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience after 22 years of excellent service to assume a student advising position with the School of Nursing.

A major highlight of the event was the awarding of almost \$22,000 in scholarships to 21 deserving students.

Two new endowments were also announced: the Joe Jack and Jerry Dement and the Robert R. (Bob) Garrigus Scholarship Fund Endowments.

Sponsors for the event were Tennessee Farmer's Co-op, Bart Krisle (president of Tennessee Farmer's Co-op), Rutherford Farmer's Co-op, and Farm Credit Service.



Janet Kelly receives a gift from Cliff Ricketts

Homecoming Event for Ag Alumni: Saturday, October 23

The MTSU Alpha Gamma Rho alumni are holding their Homecoming tailgating event on the front lawn of the Stark Agribusiness and Agriscience Building, and they have invited all Ag alumni and friends to join them. Homecoming is Saturday, October 23, 2010. The Blue Raiders are playing conference foe Louisiana-Monroe. Also planned is a meet and greet for alumni that will include an update from faculty about agriculture programs at MTSU.

Game time has not been announced. MTSU is picked to win the SunBelt Conference this year, so each conference game will be critical to success.

MTSU Ag Alumni to Meet at the Celebration!

Thanks to a gracious donation of tickets from the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, the first official event of the newly formed MTSU Ag Alumni will be at one of the premier horse shows in the world. And we are meeting on World Grand Championship night!

Dr. Doyle Meadows, CEO of the Celebration, and Charles McDonald, MTSU Ag Alum and chair of the Celebration board of directors, extended the invitation, which the MTSU Ag Alumni board gratefully accepted.

What: Celebration Reception for MTSU Ag Alumni and Friends

When: Saturday, September 4, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., followed by the show at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Reception is in the Hall of Fame Room in Calsonic Arena on the grounds of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (1110 Evans Street, Shelbyville). Directions may be found at www.twhnc.com/

Cost: \$5 per person. Includes reception and tickets to the Celebration. What a deal!

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Send a check payable to MTSU Ag Alumni to
 School of Agribusiness and Agriscience
 MTSU Box 5, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

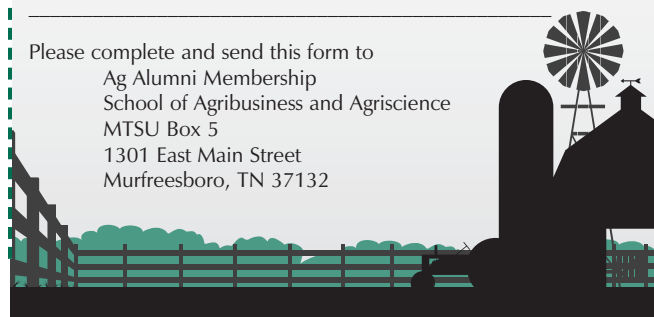
You may also call Kym Stricklin at (615) 898-2523 or e-mail kstrick@mtsu.edu to RSVP and make arrangements to pay at the door.

MTSU Ag Alumni Active Membership Form

Submission of this form indicates your desire to become an active member of MTSU Ag Alumni. Interest is growing in this group. No dues! Join now!

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Grad year/years attended _____
 Major _____
 Current work/career position _____
 Would you be interested in serving on the board?
 Yes _____ No _____
 Would you recommend anyone else to serve on the board?
 Name/Contact info _____

Please complete and send this form to
 Ag Alumni Membership
 School of Agribusiness and Agriscience
 MTSU Box 5
 1301 East Main Street
 Murfreesboro, TN 37132



2009 MTSU Ag Field Day Successful: Next Planned for September 23

MTSU's School of Agribusiness and Agriscience (ABAS) hosted a September field day attended by over 150 people at the MTSU Agricultural Laboratory farm on Guy James Road.

Highlights included a tour of the new student gardens and nursery led by Nate Phillips, a composting demonstration by Warren Anderson, an update on haylage production by Warren Gill and Jessica Carter, and a tour of newly established, native warm-season grasses and alfalfa by Tim Redd and Danny Troup.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program (TAEP) was featured. John Hood, former state representative and current MTSU director of Community Engagement and Support, kicked off the event by introducing Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Givens. Givens pointed out the important role of the millions of dollars that the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program has played in improving Tennessee's competitiveness in the agricultural economy.

Several aspects of the field day were related to the Ag Enhancement Program. It was announced that a packing shed for student garden produce as well as the haylage study discussed by Dr. Gill would be supported by TAEP.

At the end of the day, Justin Gardner presented a short presentation about marketing. Dr. Gill recognized the hard work of the Farm Lab staff, under the leadership of Tim Redd, in preparing the new MTSU Farm Lab for Ag Enhancement Field Day.

Important sponsors of the event included CPC (Jody Blankenship and Jerold Cook), Destron Fearing (Randall Morris), Farm Credit Services (Jim Clark), Boehringer-Ingelheim Vetmedica (Stacy Turner), Hooper Supply (Bruce Hooper), Rutherford Farmer's Co-op (John Henderson and Brian Ladd), Shering Plough-Intervet (Beth Jones), Tennessee Farmer's Co-op (Keith Harrison), Tri-Greene/John Deere, (Richard Miller and Davey Britton), Tru-Test Scales and Speed Rite Fencing (Jason Jones), and W-W Livestock Systems (Brian West).



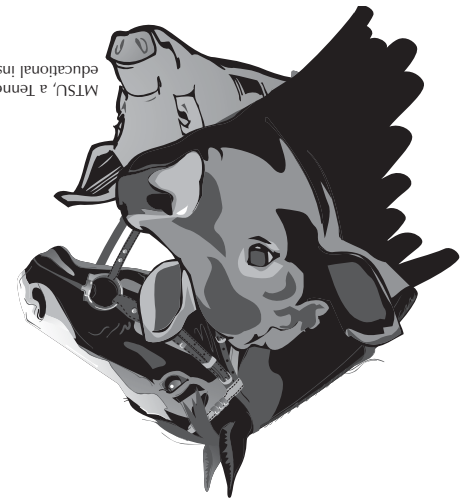
Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Givens, Dr. Warren Gill, former Rep. John Hood, and Tennessee Farm Bureau President Lacey Upchurch

Rutherford Extension assisted with several aspects of the program, including planning and implementation of the warm-season grasses demonstration, and they also provided the sound system.

Plan now to attend the next Field Day starting at 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 23. You will be pleasantly surprised at the changes since last year!

Prepared by Warren Gill, director, School of Agribusiness and Agriscience, MTSU.

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MTSU Alumni Association
P.O. Box 104
1301 East Main Street
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37132

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