

News n' Notes October 2012

Alumni News

Sally & Randy Cutler, 1972 are training others in time-honored farming skills at their Milladore farm: Cutler Country Comfort. The Cutler's have managed their 230-acre farm since 1976. They are also supplying the demand for "local food" through the use of high tunnel production, managed livestock grazing, old-fashioned gardening and fruit production. Randy & Sally are also active in the Central Rivers Farmshed, a network seeking to create a local food economy.

Jim Wold, 1980 is the new Sales Manager for Legacy Seeds Dealer business. Wold has been with Legacy Seeds for 5 years and will continue in his role as corn product manager.

Jeff Hicken, 1998 Wisconsin State FFA Advisor reported that eight schools will be restarting their FFA programs within the year and two are chartering program this fall – Fall River and Milwaukee Vincent.

Nolan King, 2001 owner of King Architectural Concrete and Construction in River Falls, used his engineering and art background to create the UW-River Falls seal that is in front of South Hall.

Arlaina Meyer, 2002 is one of the four individuals selected as finalist for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Excellence in Agriculture competition. Her work as an agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor for the Cumberland School District was highlighted. In addition, she is active on the Barron County Ag in the Classroom committee. Meyer will compete in December for the top honor.

Adam Wehling, 2003 received the Outstanding Agricultural Educator award at the 2012 Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators held in Green Bay earlier this summer. Wehling has been an instructor at Mondovi High School since 2007. In addition to teach agriculture classes, he is the coordinator for the districts work release program and partnered with area businesses and other area schools to a start a career fair.

Dustin Williams, 2003 with the Agribusiness Specialist program at Blackhawk Technical College, received the Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Ag Education Program at the 2012 Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators in Green Bay earlier this summer.

Candice Olson, 2004 received the Outstanding Young Member award at the 2012 Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators in Green Bay earlier this summer. She teaches agricultural education at Badger High School in Lake Geneva where she developed an FFA chapter exchange program with an FFA advisor in Oklahoma.

University News

Several familiar faces in CAFES retired over the summer including **Bill Cordua, Mike Kaltenberg, Nate Splett 1974,** and **Laine Vignona.**

Dean Olson, professor of agricultural engineering technology and **Brenda Boetel,** associate professor of agricultural economics were named associate deans for CAFES, replacing long-time associate dean, Nate Splett.

Terry Ferriss, professor of horticulture was recently elected a Fellow of the American Society of Horticultural Science (ASHS) for her outstanding contributions to horticulture and the Society. The Fellows Award is the highest honor that ASHS can bestow on a member.

Brian R. Smith, professor of horticulture and state commercial fruit specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Extension was recently honored with the Paul B. and Robert A. Dykstra Faculty Excellence Award. The Dykstra Award supports the research, creative or scholarly activity of one tenured or tenure-track faculty member annually. Faculty members are nominated by their peers at UW-River Falls.

Dennis Cooper, professor of animal science and **Sylvia Kehoe**, associate professor of animal science traveled to China over the summer, along with a delegation from Wisconsin-DATCP. They connected with their counterparts at Chinese universities, provided some training sessions, and participated in the China Dairy Expo. As a follow-up to this visit, UWRF signed a collaboration agreement with China Agricultural University in Beijing earlier this month.

Justin Luther 2000, assistant professor of animal science spent three weeks in Nepal this summer assisting the Ministry of Agriculture in its efforts to improve Nepal's sheep breeding program, critical to maintaining their hand-woven wool carpet industry.

Brenda Boetel, associate professor of agricultural economics and UW-Extension agricultural marketing specialist, has been appointed director of the newly created Center for Agricultural Business Management and Engagement (CABME). The Center is made possible by a \$250,000 gift to the UW-River Falls Foundation by CHS, Inc. The vision of the CABME is to serve students and the agricultural community by providing and coordinating learning opportunities that develop knowledgeable leaders through teaching, research, and outreach.

Todd Hubbs, assistant professor of agricultural economics, will move into an Extension role starting January 1st. He will be 50% teaching and 50% farm financial management specialist with the Center for Dairy Profitability.