



December 2018



Tarleton State University

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [December—WSES / Humane Society Donations](#)
- ◆ 12/6-12 [Finals](#)
- ◆ 12/7 [Holiday Showcase](#)
- ◆ 12/7 Ugly Sweater Day
- ◆ 12/8 [MOOvie Night @ The Dairy](#)
- ◆ 12/14 [Commencement Ceremonies](#)
- ◆ 12/24—1/2 Holiday Break — Offices Closed

A Message From Dr. Damron

Once again this newsletter is filled with an abundance of news about our students' successes and participation in learning opportunities. Thanks to all faculty and staff for making these opportunities available to our students and for supporting each other in these activities. What a wonderful testament to our learning by doing philosophy! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



DEAN'S CORNER

Updates on our building projects:

Animal and Plant Center: If you have been to the Ag Center lately, you are already aware of the building activities. While these early stages of construction aren't the most exciting, they lead to very exciting events. The concrete will soon be poured for the four greenhouses. The greenhouses will be the first structures "out of the ground." The utility poles will soon come down. There is good progress on the parking lot. Site prep work for the lab building and covered animal area is progressing. The good news is that we are still on schedule for a late spring completion for the complex. Keep your fingers crossed.

Farm Equipment Shop. The shop is well under way to a late January completion. The metal building should be delivered the end of December.

Becky and I wish you all a joyous holiday season with peace and cheer in the New Year! Our means and reasons for celebration may be different, but the opportunity to celebrate, to spend time with family and friends, and to renew, revitalize and rejuvenate is priceless. Thanks for all you do for our students, each other, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and for Tarleton State University. The best is yet to come!

WSD



Graduate Student wins at Texas A&M Pathways Symposium

Lauren Selph wins first place for Graduate Student presented a poster in the Agriculture Division at the Texas A&M Pathways Symposium held at West Texas A&M November 1 & 2. Lauren presented the poster on behalf of the co-authors Dr. Donald G. McGahan, Dr. Eunsung Kahn, and Dr. James P. Muir.

The playful research paper title “Feeding Better Biochar to Bermuda Grass” was penned when Dr. McGahan and Ms. Selph finished participating in a distance training delivered by the Tri-Society's Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), and Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) that was designed to instruct research paper presenters how to construct more engaging presentations.

Lauren and Dr. McGahan next take the research paper to the Annual Meetings of ASA and CSSA in Baltimore Maryland.

Dr. McGahan said he is very proud of the hard work his mentee put forth to gather the data but is especially pleased that Ms Selph paid attention to detail and crafted such a clean crisp, and compelling poster presentation.



*Pictured L to R: Dr. Donald McGahan,
Lauren Selph, Dr. Barry Lambert*



Congratulations!

Dr. David Frazier received the Texas A&M University System Chancellor's Academy of Teacher Educators Award

What's happening in... Agriculture & Consumer Sciences



LDE Invitational

Dr. David Frazier and the Tarleton Collegiate FFA hosted 2,000 high school FFA members on Thursday, Nov. 1, as part of the university's annual Invitational Leadership Development Event (LDE). Students travel to Stephenville from more than 120 schools across the state to compete in 14 LDE contests.

Pictured is the 1st place Senior Creed Winner and Two Texas FFA State Officers that are currently attending Tarleton.

National FFA Convention

Tarleton Agriculture assisted in the National Dairy Cattle, ENR, Quiz and Ag Mechanics Career Development Events. 51 Texans received their America FFA Degrees. 2 National Proficiency Finalists, 1 National Proficiency Champion.



We have visited with 1,000's of students and alumni from across this great nation.

The Hunt is Over

The ACS Department welcomed their student's home with a "The Hunt is Over" Camo themed day. Over 75 students wore Camo and Collated a Midterm Good Luck Package.





TSU Dairy Challenge Team



The Tarleton State University Dairy Challenge team participated in the Southern Region Dairy Challenge November 11th through the 13th in Knoxville, TN. Southern Dairy Challenge brings together teams of four, from different universities, to evaluate the operation of a real-life dairy, including production and farm economic records. Teams are tasked with evaluating records, the farm operation, and making recommendations to improve farm performance based on individual farm goals. Tarleton team members are Lily Martin, Maggie Moerman, Adrian Randle, and Ellen Schilderink. The team is coached by Dr. Barb Jones, Assistant Professor in the Animal Sciences and Veterinary Technology department and Director of the Southwest Regional Dairy Center. Please congratulate the team on a job well done! We will be participating in the academy portion of the national competition in Tifton, GA in April. Thank you very much to the Texas Association of Dairymen, Dairy MAX, Texas Animal Nutrition Council, COBA Select Sires, and Feed Components for sponsoring the team.

For more information about dairy challenge please visit <http://www.dairychallenge.org/>

TSU Dairy Judging Team

The Tarleton State University Dairy Judging Team, coached by adjunct instructor and alumnus Barry Cavitt ('85 and '86) with assistance of Tarleton and team alumnus Morgan Cavitt ('17), competed in the North American International Livestock Show Senior College Dairy Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky on November 4th. Both the team and individuals placed very well with their top placings as follows:

Team:

2nd Place Team in Brown Swiss

10th Place Team in Guernseys

11th Place Team Overall

12th Place Team in Reasons

Individual:

Ellen Schilderink

6th High Individual in Brown Swiss

Ashley Willits

9th High Individual in Brown Swiss

10th High Individual in Jerseys

Individuals are only allowed to compete in most collegiate contests for one year so this was not only the last competition of the season, but was also most likely the last for each of these individuals. This team has represented Tarleton well and with much pride over the past year while another group of Tarleton Texans is currently working diligently to follow in their footsteps in the coming year. Thank you to all who continue to support this valuable program and to cheer these great students on as they work hard to compete and represent Tarleton on a national level!



(Team Members Pictured L to R): Ashley Willits (Senior Agricultural Communications major from Copenhagen, NY), Landry Vieth (Junior Agribusiness major with concentration in Dairy Business Management from Windthorst, TX), Ellen Schilderink (Sophomore Agribusiness major from Nazareth, TX) and Billie Nail (Sophomore Animal Science Pre-Vet major from Killeen, TX)



Tarleton Student Chapter Encourages Members to Stay Active

By Kathryn Burton, Historian for the Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Dillion McAuliffe setting up game cameras at Caprock Canyon State Park to assist with an on-going survey of wildlife in the park.

predator surveys. They also participated in a deer capture with the East Foundation in South Texas, gaining experience in assessing deer health. The Wildlife Veterinary committee organized a donations drive for Erath County Humane Society.



Student Chapter members visited the East Foundation ranches in South Texas to assist with their annual deer capture. The purpose of the deer captures is to obtain information on the health of their deer population.

For more information, contact Advisor Dr. Heather Mathewson at mathewson@tarleton.edu or SCTWS Historian Kathryn Burton at kathryn.burton@go.tarleton.edu.

As the end of the semester closes in, the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society wraps up on November 27th with their last meeting. The Student Chapter officers provided food and a trivia game to test the members' wildlife science knowledge! Congratulations to Samantha Metts, who won first place!

This semester students have attended cookouts, animal surveys, weekend trips, outreach events, and workshops. The officers of the Student Chapter continue to offer opportunities for members to become active and obtain

professional experiences related to wildlife. Members have already had successful trips to places like Caprock Canyon State Park, assisting with their ongoing



Student Chapter members hiking at Caprock Canyon State Park.

The Student Chapter encourages members to join them next semester to keep up with upcoming events and guest speakers. These meetings allow members to network and learn more about the diverse wildlife career field. Spring semester will bring more chances for students to connect with the Student Chapter and attend events. Some upcoming events include Tarleton Outdoors, more Caprock Canyon State Park trips, working days at Erath County Humane Society, Wild Wednesday coffee breaks, outreach programs, and fundraisers.

Stay updated by checking the Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society Bulletin Board on the second floor of the Agriculture building or join us on Facebook!



Taylor Breeden, Wyatt Bagwell, and John Palar-ski at the Wild Wednesday Coffee Break. The students highlighted Wild Turkeys and previous coffee breaks highlighted wolves and bats.



Donation Box
Outside WSES
Office

Join

Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

In their Thanksgiving drive for...

Erath County Humane Society

Donations Needed:

Cat Litter, Pedigree or Purina Dry Puppy Food, Canned Dog Food

Gently used Collars, Leashes & Toys

Blankets & Bath Towels (the weather is getting colder!)

Paper Towels, Dawn Original Blue Dish Soap & HE Laundry Soap

Hand Sanitizer, Heavy Duty Long Rubber Gloves, Gift Cards

Questions? Email sara.boggan@go.tarleton.edu



On the home front



Harvest season at The Keith Farm

Have something to share? Please submit articles, pictures and ideas to jcamp@tarleton.edu



ASVT Office



Dean's Office



SWRDC Office



the
magic
of
Christmas
never ends and its
greatest of
gifts
are family and
friends.



AGCS Office



WSES Office



COAES Ugly



Sweater Day



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