

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 1/30/19 Last Day to Drop a 16-Wk Course with No Record
- ◆ 2/4/19 Summer Camp Job Fair
- ◆ 3/1-3/19 SHOT Show, Bryan, TX
- ◆ 3/2/19 Farm to Fork Run
- ◆ 3/2/19 Texan Tour
- ◆ 3/21/19 FFA CDE Invitational
- ◆ 3/21-28/19 Service Week
- ◆ 4/6/19 BioBlitz

A Message From Dr. Damron

I look forward to this newsletter every month. I learn so much about what our amazing people have going on. This edition is especially rich in events, milestones, and accomplishments. Whether teaching, research, or service, the College offers an abundance of opportunities for our students. It is gratifying that our students take advantage of those opportunities. *Learning by doing* works only if there are ample things **to do**. Thanks to all for making sure we walk the talk.

I hope your new semester and New Year are started well. The spring is always a busy time for the College. That will be especially true this year. Hold on to your hats! The best is yet to come!

Updates on our building projects:

Animal and Plant Center: Building activities are clearly evident. The greenhouses are going up. Concrete has been poured for the lab building. Site preparation continues at a rapid pace. So far, any glitches encountered (mostly rain) have not put the schedule in jeopardy. We are still on schedule for a late spring completion for the complex. Keep your fingers crossed.

Farm Equipment Shop. The shop has suffered some delays in getting the concrete poured.

Most of this was caused by rain. However, those delays seem to be behind us.

The building is scheduled to be put up beginning 2/11/2019. It should take about a week. The project is scheduled to be finished in early March.

I want to say a special thank you to the department heads and faculty for doing such good work on updating our curriculum. This was a complicated and tedious task. Yet, you took it seriously, took the time and effort to examine the current state of the curriculum and where you wanted it to go, and have made substantial progress toward those goals. It is also especially gratifying to observe the departments work with each other on items that were bigger than their individual needs. While the process continues, thank you for the fantastic work you have already accomplished.

WSD

DEAN'S CORNER



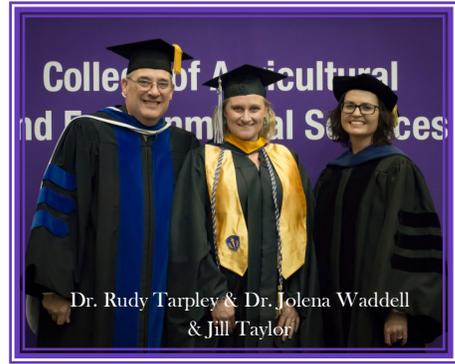
December 2018 COAES GRADUATE HOODING CEREMONY



Dr. Hemanta Kafley & Dr. T. Wayne Schwertner
& Joseph Wilson



Dr. Kim Guay & Dr. T. Wayne Schwertner
& Callie Zoeller



Dr. Rudy Tarpley & Dr. Jolena Waddell
& Jill Taylor



Dr. Frank Owsley
& Taylor Garcia



Dr. Kim Guay
& Abigail Christie



Dr. Wayne Atchley
& Corey Todd



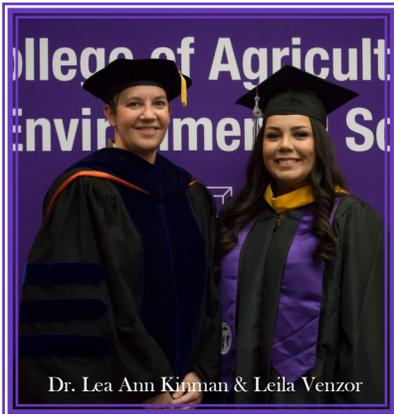
Dr. Rudy Tarpley
& Bailey Vickers



Dr. T. Wayne Schwertner
& a Lisa McAnally



Dr. Darrel Murray & Julia Shipman



Dr. Lea Ann Kimman & Leila Venzor



Dr. Rudy Tarpley & Justin Hale



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

TEXAS AGRIBUSINESS STUDY TOURS APPROACHING 25 YEARS

On the road to Austin, Waco and Fort Worth...
again, May 13-17, 2019

The Agribusiness Study Tour is an excellent chance for up-and-coming student majors to see the vast opportunities that agribusiness has to offer. During the tour, students will identify and understand the practices and strategies of agribusiness firms that appear uniquely positioned to prosper in the 21st century.

From meeting with local dairymen to Agricultural Commissioner Sid Miller and State Representative J. D. Sheffield as well as organization representatives in Austin, there are many chances to create valuable contacts for the future.

Throughout the tour experience, there is one common denominator, a deep passion for agriculture. The week-long opportunities to meet with so many men and women that play pivotal roles in Texas agriculture reminds students of the reason that they have fallen in love with the industry in the first place. Tarleton students, no matter their major, should take advantage of this opportunity so that they too can feel the impact that the experience has in store for them.

Juniors, Seniors, and graduate students are encouraged to participate. It is a May mini-session class offered as a summer class. Undergrads receive 3 hours of credit through AGEC 4086 and graduate students receive 3 hours in AGEC 5333. Contact Dr. Ashley Lovell for additional information at lovell@tarleton.edu or 254-968-1984.



Commissioner and Tarleton Alumni Sid Miller
and Catherine Rutan, May 2017



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

The Spring 2019 AGSD Block is off and running with 38 students from Agricultural Industries & Agencies, Agricultural Communications, Horticulture and Interdisciplinary Agriculture majors. Dr. Laura Huebinger, Texas AgriLife's 4-H and Youth Development Specialist from District 8, facilitated leadership training activities and simulations. Students expanded their personal networks, gained problem solving skills and built communication skills at the Cowboy Church of Erath County.



Additionally, under the direction of Tarleton Outdoor Pursuits Coordinator David Meyers, students pushed themselves to new heights through the use of high and low elements at the Tarleton Challenge Course. Here facilitators provided a safe, unique, and innovative opportunities to promote group and personal growth. Over the course of the five week block, students build a strong professional foundation as they learn a greater understanding of experiential learning process, secure internships, finalize job resumes, grow their industry network and prepare for full time employment.



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

Career Spotlight: Devin Erxleben of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

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

There are so many vital parts of our Texas Parks & Wildlife Department that keep the outdoor opportunities, that we as Texans love, sustained and available. I had the pleasure of speaking with our own Devin Erxleben of TPWD about his experience with the agency, as well as some of the other jobs available.



Devin Erxleben studied at Texas Tech University for both his Bachelor's in Range, Wildlife, & Fisheries Management and Master of Science in Wildlife Science. He stayed involved in the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at TTU. He also took advantage of field experience opportunities by working internships and seasonal jobs for TPWD during and between college semesters. He gained experience conducting

research on Rio Grande Turkeys and Lesser Prairie Chickens, utilizing road-based surveys, and evaluating vegetation and habitat use. Working multiple jobs for TPWD helped him see what the agency had to offer and gave him the opportunity to meet new people in the process.



Devin (left) teaching plant ID in the field.

His main piece of advice to undergraduates is to do the same, "get active and stay involved!"

Being inspired by the variety of projects going on within the Wildlife Division of TPWD, Erxleben returned and has been working with them for over 10 years. Over the years, he has worked on multiple projects at Wildlife Management Areas including the Gene Howe, Matador, Mason Mountain, Kerr, Roger R. Fawcett, and the McGillivray and Leona McKie Muse WMAs. Starting as a Wildlife Biologist for private lands and Assistant Area Manager, he kept track of inventory, wildlife surveys, and research projects to help get the Muse WMA started.

Now, working as the Project Leader for the Cross Timbers and Prairies Ecosystem Management Project, Erxleben oversees staff and operations of Muse and Roger R. Fawcett WMAs. The project consists of habitat management, research between the WMAs, and maintenance of the areas and equipment used. Erxleben says "approximately 70% of everything they do is on their WMA properties." Different Wildlife Management Areas have different goals and projects established. For example, some are used purely for research and some are used for public outreach and may depend on the region.

A regular week for Erxleben may consist of a few days in the office and a few days on site in the field checking on projects, assigning habitat management tasks, and maintaining things like inventory and reports needed for the WMA. With the help of wildlife technicians and biologists like Colton Nolen, recent TSU graduate, the WMA stays productive.

ERXLEBEN CONTINUED..

Nolen works on the Fawcett WMA managing habitat projects, public hunts, sample collecting for Chronic Waste Disease monitoring, and participating in various outreach events. Vegetation, bird, and reptile surveys also keep everyone busy throughout the year. One project, at the Muse WMA, involves Texas Horned Lizards. This ongoing effort with the Fort Worth Zoo has already seen success in the local populations of released lizards.

The great thing about these jobs is that they are always changing and keeping things interesting!

Devin Erxleben encourages all undergraduates that may be interested to go check out the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department website (<http://www.tpwd.texas.gov>) and explore the resources. The agency is structured into 13 divisions that include Wildlife, Law Enforcement, State Parks, Communications, and Coastal Fisheries, so there are a variety of jobs to consider. There are many components that keep this agency running!



Devin enjoying the outdoors with a successful hunt.

Erxleben recommends reaching out to TPWD, whether it's to a biologist or a game warden. He wants to remind students to not be afraid to interact and ask questions. Let them know you are interested. Make sure to volunteer, sign up for workshops, and apply for internships. He highly recommends the TPWD internship program, which can also be found on the website. Most importantly, he says "study hard, do well in school, and try to balance that with being involved on campus." Getting involved on campus includes the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, which may lead to great networking opportunities, volunteering, and contributing to projects.

If you apply for a job and don't get it right away, don't give up. Erxleben says, "most of us that are biologists had to go through 6 or 8 interviews before we landed a full-time position... be open and stay positive and good things will come."

For more information about the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, go to <http://www.tpwd.texas.gov>, or reach out to Devin Erxleben at devin.erxleben@tpwd.texas.gov for questions on internship and job opportunities.

TFB Awards Student Teaching Scholarships

TEXAS FARM BUREAU
**STUDENT
TEACHING**
AWARD WINNERS
ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Matthew Nanny, an Agricultural Services & Development undergraduate student & Jolee Seabourn, an Agricultural & Consumer Resources graduate student for being named two of the four Texas Farm Bureau Student Teaching Award scholarship recipients!

College students from TFB member-families who are pursuing a degree in agricultural education applied for the \$2,500 scholarship last fall. The funds will be used during the spring semester for student teaching.

[Full Article](#)

2019 Scholarship Deadline: March 1

[Opportunities](#)



TEXAS FARM BUREAU®

RESEARCH & PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Edward Osei, an Assistant Professor of Ag Economics in the Agricultural & Consumer Sciences department made a presentation titled "The Cost of Being Different" at the annual American Economic Association/Allied Social Sciences Association Conference in Atlanta: January 3 - 6, 2019. After that he also attended a continuing education session on Time Series Econometrics on January 6 - 8th.



ANSC alumni earns DVM

Congratulations to COAES Alumni Dr. Lauren Bessert on passing her boards and officially becoming a DVM. Lauren was the founding member of the Tarleton Equestrian Team. She graduated from Tarleton in 2015, earning a double major in Animal Science and Biomedical Science and attended Midwestern State University for Veterinary School.

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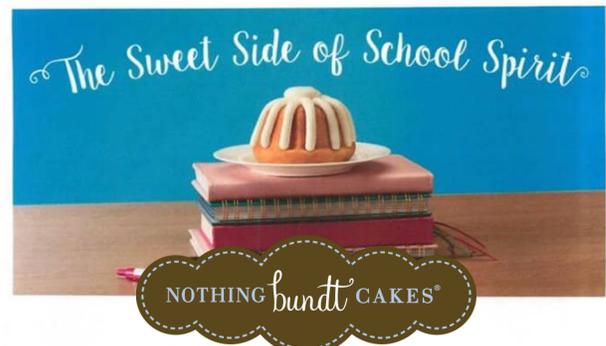
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Bundlets will be pre-sold,
 must pay when ordering

January 23-February 7, 2019

Bundlets are \$5 each
CASH only

Contact Desa Rowe to order by
 February 7th at rowe@tarleton.edu

- Tarleton Cheer Fundraiser**
- Carrot
 - Chocolate-Chocolate Chip
 - Confetti
 - Lemon
 - Marble
 - Pecan
 - Vanilla
 - Red Velvet
 - White Chocolate Raspberry
 - Pumpkin Spice

Welcome to COAES!

Welcome Dr. Adam Mitchell



Dr. Adam Mitchell is a new faculty member for the department of Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences, serving as an Assistant Professor of Entomology. Dr. Mitchell received four undergraduate degrees at the University of Delaware: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Entomology, Plant Protection, and Wildlife Conservation. He received an MS in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University while conducting research in south Texas on restoring native plant and arthropod communities following plant invasion. Afterwards, he returned to the University of Delaware to complete a PhD in Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, where he worked on quantifying changes in arthropod trophic structure in landscapes dominated by invasive plants in the Mid-Atlantic. He was hired at Tarleton State University after completing his doctorate.

Dr. Mitchell will be teaching WSES2301 (General Entomology), WSES4302 (Habitat Management), and WSES4309 (Plant-Animal Interactions). He will also be developing courses on Pollinator Ecology and Insect Conservation for the upcoming academic year.

Dr. Mitchell's research interests include understanding how arthropods, especially insects, respond to anthropogenic (human-induced) changes in the environment, as well as how insects impact ecological processes. He is also interested in enhancing the Tarleton insect collection to introduce future entomologists to the fascinating world of insects and to improve our understanding of biodiversity and natural history in North-Central Texas.

Welcome Dr. Cheyenne Runyan

Dr. Cheyenne Runyan is an Assistant Professor of Reproduction for the Animal Science and Veterinary Technology department. She completed her undergraduate training at the University of Arizona, after which she began her graduate studies at Oklahoma State University in the Animal Science department where she investigated ovarian physiology in cattle. Recently she completed her Ph.D. at New Mexico State University where she studies early pregnancy in sheep.

This Spring Dr. Runyan will be teaching:
ANSC 3408 – Reproductive Physiology

Dr. Runyan's future research goals are to continue the investigation of early communication between the dam and fetus, with the long term goal of reducing infertility and improving overall reproductive management in animal production systems.



SERVICE WEEK 2019

MARCH 21ST – MARCH 30TH

Week at a Glance:

Service Day: Thursday March 21st

19 FFA CDE Events
Hydroponics & Nutrition

Service Fest: Thursday (evening) March 21st

Celebration of Service Day

Share your Service Story: Friday March 22nd

Social Media Push of Service- Share your story through Facebook/Twitter

Transformative Learning Expo: Monday March 25th

Come and Go Expo focusing on Study Abroad and Organizations within the College

Transformative Learning Conference: Tuesday March 26th

Keynote Speaker Peter Felton will be speaking on serving others

Excellence in Service Reception: Wednesday March 27th

Awards Reception honoring the engaged scholars winners (invitation only event)

6 Minute Service Station: Thursday March 28th

Quick 6 minute service stations, set around campus

Service Showcases: Friday March 29th

A short 5 minute presentation over service within the College (limited to 3)

If you would like to submit a presentation please let Michelle Damerau know

Tarleton Round Up: Saturday March 30th

Service for ALL student organizations

Contact Erin Warner, ewarner@tarleton.edu if you have a student group that would like serve



TARLETON DAIRY JUDGING TEAM

The Tarleton Dairy Judging Team, coached by Barry Cavitt with the assistance of Tarleton and team alum Morgan Cavitt, competed in the Southwest Dairy Cattle Judging Contest for Senior Agricultural Colleges at the Fort Worth Livestock Show on January 20, 2019. The team had a very successful day with results as follows:

Team

4th Place Team Overall
1st Place Team in Jersey
1st Place Team in Holsteins
2nd Place Team in Reasons

Calvin Morgan

9th Place Individual Overall
2nd Place Individual in Holsteins
2nd Place Individual in Jerseys
7th Place Individual in Reasons

Taylor Pursley

1st Place Individual in Jerseys
9th Place Individual in Holsteins
11th Place in Reasons

Autumn Lippy

5th Place Individual in Reasons
10th Place Individual in Holsteins
17th Place Individual Overall

Kendall Johnson

5th Place Individual in Brown Swiss
13th Place Individual Overall
13th Place Individual in Reasons

Breanna Bowen

13th Place Individual in Jerseys
15th Place Individual in Brown Swiss

The team's next competition will be in April in Stillwater, Oklahoma at the Oklahoma State Collegiate Dairy Judging Contest held in conjunction with the Southern Spring National Holstein Show. The Tarleton Dairy Judging Team wishes to thank all who have supported them and cheer them on as they compete and represent Tarleton!



(Pictured L to R: Morgan Cavitt, Calvin Morgan of Woodway, Texas, Breanna Bowen of Como, Texas, Taylor Pursley of Waco, Texas, Autumn Lippy of Union Bridge, Maryland, Kendall Johnson of Arlington, Texas and Barry Cavitt)

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ON THE HOMEFRONT

The COAES Family



The Rowe's at Hurts Donuts in Branson

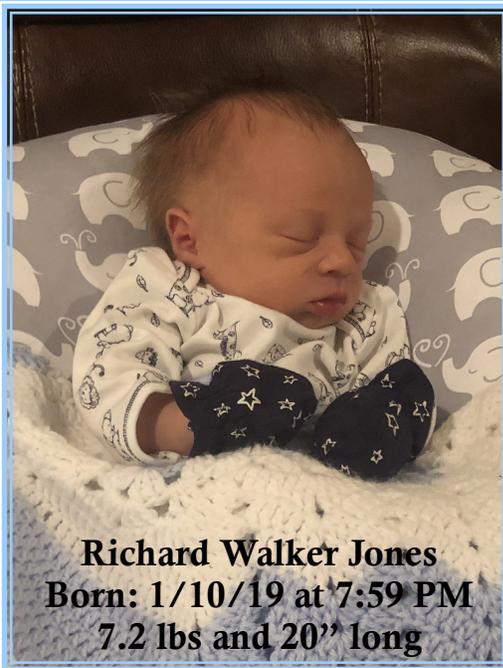
What do COAES students do on Christmas break? Buy a Pikachu costume and go to school Christmas parties. Lauren Spivey is a COAES student, her mom teaches at Gorman ISD. Lauren came to all the class Christmas parties, including my boys'. - Dr. David Roper



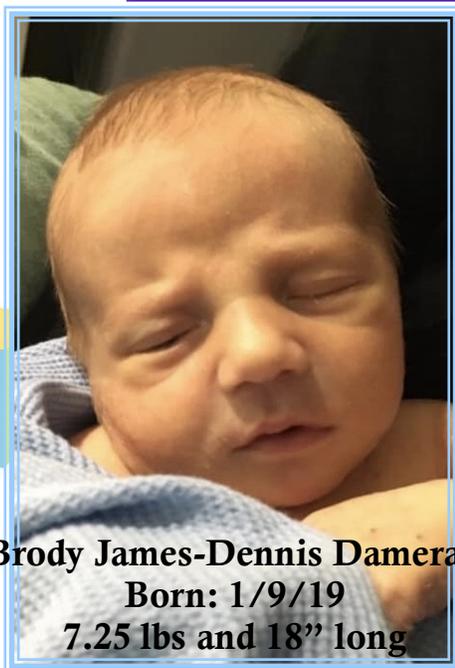
Kim Hart with her Grandkids

W e l c o m e

B a b y !



Richard Walker Jones
Born: 1/10/19 at 7:59 PM
7.2 lbs and 20" long



Brody James-Dennis Damerou
Born: 1/9/19
7.25 lbs and 18" long