

CONNECTIONS

Spring 1999

Can you say
WAGYU BEEF?

Why you may want to, see page 8



FROM THE CAHE STUDENT AMBASSADORS' ADVISER

The CAHE Student Ambassadors is a student volunteer group working hard to boost enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. We're recognizable by our crimson and gray rugby shirts that we wear when we attend events statewide to further the WSU cause.

Ambassadors are a primary force behind recruitment for the college. Not only do we participate in WSU events, such as Cougar Monday, the WSU Preview, and the CAHE Career Showcase, but we attend career fairs all over the state, including Walla Walla Community College, College Knowledge for the Mind at Seattle Central Community College and in Tacoma, and the 4-H Career Fair in Spokane. We visit high schools in the state to promote enrollment in higher education, and we host students who visit WSU.

Our group is funded by the CAHE Alumni and Development Office and the Office of Academic Programs, but occa-

sionally members are asked to supplement certain expenses, such as jerseys, out of their own pockets.

CAHE Student Ambassadors represent every department in the college and range from freshmen to graduate students. They are from both in and out of the state. Many are involved in other school activities as well.

To become a member, a student must first meet a GPA requirement and then go through an interview process. If selected, they will do volunteer recruiting and are involved in workshops—they do not get paid for any of their work. Ambassadors are always busy, having about 15 or more events to attend each semester. Their method of "students recruiting students" is a very effective outreach system that quietly helps the college increase enrollment and spreads word of WSU across the state.

Our goals this year are to increase enrollment in the college, to strengthen relations with alumni, and to encourage high school students to pursue studies in agriculture, natural resources, and family and consumer sciences.

We always welcome alumni help and participation. If you would like to know more about our group or would like to participate in our activities, please call me at 509-335-4562.

Christa Vibbert, Adviser
CAHE Student Ambassadors



Dates to Remember

- April**
- 17 CAHE Award Banquet and 14th Annual Mom's Weekend Fashion Show
 - 28-29 Golden and Diamond Grad Reunions
 - TBA Crabapple walking tour, WSU Puyallup
- May**
- 7 Commencement, WSU Spokane
 - 8 Commencement, WSU Pullman
 - 9 Commencement, WSU Vancouver
 - 12 Bulb Growers Field Day, WSU Puyallup
 - 14 Commencement, WSU Tri-Cities
- June**
- 3 Weed Tour, WSU Mount Vernon
 - 17 Lind Field Day
 - 17 Strawberry Field Day, WSU Puyallup
 - 30 Vegetable Seed Field Day, WSU Mount Vernon
- July**
- 8 Raspberry Field Day, WSU Puyallup
 - 10 Tree Fruit Field Day (harvest: cherries & apricots) at WSU Mount Vernon
 - 14 Pea/Potato Field Day, and Blueberry Field Day, WSU Mount Vernon
 - 26 Cranberry Day, WSU Long Beach
 - 27 WSU/OSU Turfgrass Field, Lewis Brown Turfgrass Facility/Corvallis
- August**
- 14 Tree Fruit Field Day (harvest: peaches, pears, plums, early apple) at WSU Mount Vernon
 - 25 Potato Field Day, WSU Mount Vernon
 - 25 Cucumber Twilight Tour, WSU Mount Vernon
- September**
- 11 Tree Fruit Field Day (harvest: apple, pears, plums), WSU Mount Vernon
- October**
- 2 Land Grant Day (WSU Homecoming)
 - 9 Tree Fruit Open House (open house and harvest day), WSU Mount Vernon

Look for the new CAHE
Alumni and Development
Web Site at:
www.cahealumni.wsu.edu

Cover photo courtesy of KOBE Beef America™, with special thanks to Animal Sciences graduate student Antonio Elias Calles

A Record Year for Scholarships

The College of Agriculture and Home Economics awarded a record amount of scholarships in the 1998-99 academic year—both in dollar value and in number. Approximately \$356,000 in scholarships was awarded to 322 students. The scholarships ranged from \$100 to \$3,000, based on grade point average and essay scores.

Several of the newly endowed scholarships in the college are:

William H. and Stella M. Melville Scholarship

Bill and Stella farmed in Lamont, Washington, for over 50 years. During that time, they benefited from WSU's agriculture research and became life-long Cougar enthusiasts and supporters of the University. Since the beginning, they have enjoyed their association with WSU. They continue to make the most of University activities to this day. As WSU ambassadors, Bill and Stella organize family and friend get-togethers around Cougar athletic and alumni events, wherever they may be. Bill (who was a student at WSU) and Stella have been President's Associates and members of the Cougar Club. They also are Cougar parents. Their children, Dean and Milly Kay, both graduated from WSU in 1973 and share their parents' Cougar passion.

Dean and Milly Kay established the William H. and Stella M. Melville Scholarship Endowment in recognition of their parents' support and passion for WSU. The scholarship will be awarded to students majoring or minoring in an agriculture-related field in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Maynard H. Jones Scholarship

Maynard H. Jones earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering in 1950 from the College of Agriculture at Washington State College. Jones worked for the USDA, the Farmer's Home Administration, and eventually retired from



the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs after nearly 20 years of service.

The Maynard H. Jones Scholarship Fund will be used to provide scholarships to students in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. An annual scholarship will be awarded to a sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student of the college.

Raymond Harrison McKenzie Endowed Scholarship

The Raymond Harrison McKenzie Endowed Scholarship is a gift from Helen McLean to WSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics in memory of her father, Raymond Harrison McKenzie.

McLean is the great-granddaughter of Daniel Green McKenzie, considered a founder of Three Forks—or Pullman as it is known today. Her father, Raymond H. McKenzie, had a fruit orchard in the area and was the manager of the Almota Grain Elevator during the 1940s, where he worked until his death in 1950.

McLean said she remembers WSU professors visiting her father at his fruit ranch when she was young, and that her father loved to visit with people and share ideas about the world.

The income from this endowed gift will be used for a scholarship to a junior or senior majoring in an agriculture field.

—Joanne Buteau

CONTENTS

Around the College	2-5
Protecting Wheat Varieties	6
Safe Food Initiative	7
Cover Story	8-12
WSU Global leader in Wagyu Cattle Research	
Controlling Pests in a New Era	13
Alumni Notes	14
Honor Roll of Donors	15-20
Dean's Message	Inside Back Cover

CONNECTIONS

Issue Number Four

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Mission: The College of Agriculture and Home Economics Alumni Board of Directors is the catalyst for uniting prospective students, current students, the college administration, faculty and staff, industry, and alumni while upholding WSU's land-grant mission.

Web Site: cahe.wsu.edu/~alumni/

AROUND THE COLLEGE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Gayle Willett, Cooperative Extension economist, retired March 1, 1999, after 24 years at WSU.

Danielle Bishop joined the department staff as technical secretary October 19, 1998. She has been at WSU since 1990 and previously was in the Vet Micro Path Department.

ANIMAL SCIENCES

The department will hold its alumni awards ceremony April 16. **Gary Smith** (M.S. Animal Breeding '62) is the recipient of the award for Animal Sciences Distinguished Graduate: Science, Educa-

tion and Technology. Smith currently holds the Monfort Endowed Chair in Meat Science at Colorado State University and has published 342 scientific journal articles. The Animal Sciences Distinguished Alumnus award will go to **W. Douglas Warnock** (M.S. Animal Sciences '68), now a retired livestock management consultant. The Animal Sciences Distinguished Service Award will go to **George Hatley**, director of the Appaloosa Museum and Heritage Center.



George Hatley

Professor and scientist **Sandra Ristow** is currently working in collaboration with the University of Idaho on a program in aquatic animal diseases and immunology. The program provides an aquatic animal health inspection service that is recognized by the USDA. The service is an integral part of the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

APPAREL MERCHANDISING AND INTERIOR DESIGN

Lee Koo, a junior in the department, won the National Kravet Textile Student Design competition for designing a new textile fabric. She received a monetary prize of \$1,000 and a trip to New York. She will also receive royalties when her design goes into production.

John Turpin, assistant professor, wrote a paper on Dorothy Draper, a pioneering member of the interior design profession and founder of the well-known design company Dorothy Draper & Company, Inc. His paper was accepted for presentation at the Interior Design Educators Council meeting in New York. Turpin also designed a new course around his research of Draper.

The International Textile and Apparel Association student chapter will be presenting their 14th annual Moms' Weekend fashion show April 17. The undergraduate chapter and Triticum Press are sponsoring a T-shirt design contest for Camp Yazoo, which is a WSU sponsored summer camp for people with disabilities. The group also is working with adviser **Carol Salusso** to put on a statewide Fashion Symposium open to all students studying apparel and textile design/product development and merchandising in Washington state. It will be held April 24 at the Interdisciplinary Design Institute in Spokane.

Student members of the American Society of Designers chapter in Pullman have had two fundraisers so far this year. The first was the "penny challenge," a contest that pitted the classes against one another and the other was

ANIMAL SCIENCES

Student Horse Club Volunteers Service

Fourteen members of WSU's Collegiate Horsemen Association and their adviser Betsy Greene, Cooperative Extension specialist, lent a hand in a community service activity last fall with local legend and horse historian, George Hatley.

Club members volunteered to help Hatley, an Appaloosa horse expert (alias Mr. Appaloosa) and University of Idaho alumnus, on his wooded land in Deary, Idaho. Hatley allows several local horse groups to use his land for training and events during the year. To reciprocate, students volunteered to help trim and thin trees on his land to promote a healthier forest environment and decrease fire danger.

Hatley explained to the students how to differentiate between the best trees and the rest, how to thin them so that the best are preserved, and

how to prune trees without damaging them. Student volunteers were then turned loose to trim, saw, clip, and drag trees, while Hatley and Greene wielded the chainsaw.

After lunch, Hatley treated club members to a tour of his collection of antique tack, buggies, and machinery, including a riding saddle that dates



back to the 1800s. At the end of the afternoon, group members received an unexpected wagon ride from local horseman Rick Fredrickson, who uses a draft horse team.

—*Jehan Moulton*

selling hand warmers at the Dads' Weekend football game. The group also invited several professionals to speak about careers in the design field.

BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Michael Swan, assistant professor, was elected president of the American Association of Agricultural Educators. Swan also is WSU's director of the Tri-State Agricultural Distance Delivery Alliance, a collaborative effort with WSU, University of Idaho, and Oregon State University. This group now offers a bachelor's degree in agriculture via distance education.

Claudio Stockle, associate professor, **Shulin Chen**, assistant professor, and **Joan Wu**, assistant professor, have teamed together to create a state-of-the-art watershed research laboratory allowing extensive computer analysis of watersheds.

The 1998-99 Outstanding Student Award winners are Outstanding Senior, **Alisa Miller**; Outstanding Junior, **Kimberly Priest**; and Outstanding Sophomore, **Katie Nyseth**.

Five Agricultural Education Club students were honored recently. **John Grubbs**, a senior, received the award for Outstanding Club Member. The Outstanding Academic Achievement Award went to **Kerrin Molton**, a sophomore. **Erin Murphy** and **Tony Toretta** shared the Outstanding Senior Award.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The Cooperative Extension Energy Program helped install a solar energy system for the finance office in Chuuk, Micronesia. Because of frequent power outages, the office was in need of a more reliable source of energy to keep its computers running. The system is the first solar electric system in Micronesia.

Van Bobbitt has left Cooperative Extension to accept a position as horticulture instructor and arboretum coordinator at South Seattle Community Col-

lege. Bobbitt served as WSU's Master Gardener and community horticulture coordinator for nine years and was located at WSU Puyallup.

Lori Carraway, Snohomish County Cooperative Extension agent, and several colleagues from around the state have developed a child care BASICS curriculum that gives child care workers the initial 20 hours of legally required training. Funding for the project came from the Washington Department of Social and Health Services. The curriculum includes three videos produced by the CAHE Information Department, as well as educational games and interactive activities. In addition, Carraway and **Mary Dean**, Cooperative Extension specialist from WSU Tri-Cities, have developed a 10-hour adult training curriculum required for trainers to teach child care providers. Both curricula are taught at WSU Learning Centers, community colleges in the state, and in Cooperative Extension programs.

CROP AND SOIL SCIENCES

Alan Busacca, soil scientist, and **Sandra Lilligren**, research technician, organized a three-day field tour and four-day conference titled, "Dust Aerosols, Loess Soils, and Global Change" in mid-October in Seattle. It was co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the International Union for Quaternary Research, the USDA, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The conference was attended by nearly 100 scientists from 15 countries.

Duane Moser, former department agricultural research technician, received the O. A. Vogel Washington State Crop Improvement Associate award for outstanding service in the Washington agriculture industry at the November annual banquet. Moser retired from the department December 31, 1998.

Fourteen WSU and eight USDA-ARS researchers are working on the 140-acre Cunningham Farm, located five miles northeast of Pullman, to develop a coordinated cropping systems project de-

signed to meet the needs of growers in the high precipitation region of the Pacific Northwest. The results of the research will represent some 2.6 million acres in Washington and 1 million acres in Idaho.

ENTOMOLOGY

Jay Brunner was appointed director of the WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee. He is currently the president of the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America. **Elizabeth Beers** was recognized for the second consecutive year by the Pacific Branch of the ESA with a Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension. Her nomination was advanced to the national ESA meeting.

David Epstein received the Pacific Branch of the ESA's nomination for the Graduate Student Award for Leadership in Applied Entomology. The Department Scholarship Committee also selected him as the Outstanding Graduate Student for 1998.

FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION

Louise Peck joined the faculty in January. Peck, previously from Purdue, will be teaching several food science and human nutrition classes and will conduct research in diabetes management.

FSHN students **Kelly Devine**, **Rachel Holshue**, **Darice McCabe**, **Kristin Ogle**, and **Patty Regan**, together with faculty advisers **Stephanie Clark** and **Lloyd Luedecke**, have formed a Dairy Product Development Team. The team will enter a national contest announced by Dairy Management, Inc. called "Discoveries in Dairy Ingredients." The contest requires students to develop a product in any food category using dry milk or whey. Teams must formulate and manufacture the product and write a 20-page report. Four winning teams will be selected based on creativity and marketability. Winning teams will be awarded \$2,000.

continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

The Food Science Club, a student organization for both undergraduate and graduate students, recently took two van loads of students and several faculty members to the Northwest Food Processors Association annual meeting. They attended the three-day conference and toured several food-processing plants.

The Student Nutrition Awareness Club (SNAC) has doubled its active membership from 16 to 35. Members volunteer weekly to help at the Pullman Food Bank and work with Pullman Meals on Wheels. They raised more than \$2,000 at fundraisers.

HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Ken Struckmeyer, associate professor, has been named the new faculty ombudsman. As a member of the Landscape Architecture Department for 28 years, he has served on numerous college and University committees, and is chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. Struckmeyer also is a member of the WSU Summer Alive Advising Program and Planning Committee.

Kurt Schekel, associate professor/extension specialist and longtime Horticulture Club adviser, recently transferred to Vancouver after more than 27 years at WSU's Pullman campus. Schekel will be working to develop a four-year environmental horticulture program at the Vancouver branch campus.

Robert E. Thornton, extension/research horticulturist, was presented the National Potato Council's 1998 Meritorious Service Award at the 17th annual National Potato Council Seed Seminar in Seattle in December 1998.

A master's degree in landscape architecture has been approved and will be offered in Pullman and Spokane. The degree is research-oriented and focuses on landscape issues in the Northern Rocky Mountain bioregion.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Human Development Extended Degree Program plans to offer 15 courses through distance learning via high-production video with online support. Three faculty members, **Paulette Mills**, **Margaret Young**, and **Brenda Boyd**, have recently finished video courses for the project. Initially, there will be 40 students taking the distance education courses, leading to a degree in human development.

The Human Development Student Club was active last fall, participating in

the Back-to-School Bar-B-Q, Future Cougar Day, and Land Grant Day. This spring they assisted children and families at the Franklin School carnival and are currently conducting a food drive to benefit Pullman families. They also plan to have a "dime-a-dip dinner" fundraiser, will invite professionals in the human development field to talk with the club about careers, and are planning to attend the Eastern Washington Association for the Education of Young Children conference in Spokane.

RURAL SOCIOLOGY

Fiske Awarded Fulbright Senior Scholar Grant

Emmett P. Fiske, an organizational development specialist in the Rural Sociology Department, has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar grant for 1999.

Fiske, a member of the WSU faculty since 1979, will be affiliated with three Chilean universities during his exchange year.

He will teach courses on environmental conflict resolution to both graduate and undergraduate students.

Fiske and colleagues in Chile will be involved in converting various lecture subjects into Spanish and English and testing their use in distance education for future offerings by WSU throughout the world. Fiske also will offer workshops and intensive training sessions to representatives of Chilean nongovernmental organizations and governmental agencies.

Fiske first traveled to Chile in 1990 to assess university-level interest in collaborating with WSU. The response to the initial visit has evolved into a

broad-based program aided by a U.S. Information Agency grant to the WSU Program in Environmental Science and Regional Planning. During 1992-1994, Fiske was a Fellow in International Development in the Partners of the Americas leadership program funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

At WSU, Fiske recently began providing environmental conflict resolution training to students. His upper-division and graduate-level course allows students to apply negotiation principles to such policy issues as the siting of hazardous waste facilities, endangered species, and watershed pollution.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under congressional legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The program, sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency, is designed to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. More than 70,000 Americans have studied or done research abroad under the auspices of the program, and 130,000 scholars from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States.

— Jehan Moulton



Emmett P. Fiske

AROUND THE COLLEGE

IMPACT CENTER

Desmond O'Rourke, IMPACT Center director, testified at legislative hearings on the impact of the Asian financial crisis on Pacific Northwest agriculture. He also spoke to several Washington agriculture and business groups on the same subject. The groups included the Trade Development Alliance/Seattle Chamber of Commerce, WSU West, Pasco Farm Forum, Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association, Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce and Walla Walla Rotary, and Cooperative Extension group meetings for apple, cherry, cereal grain, and hay growers.

In addition, O'Rourke was on the organizing committee for the Ag Alternatives Conference held in Spokane in December.

INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

The Phytochemical Society of North America's 1998 annual meeting was held at WSU in July 1998. Over 200 participants attended the weeklong conference. Congressman George Nethercutt gave the keynote address via satellite broadcast from Washington, D.C.

At the conference, four graduate students received Best Graduate Student Paper and Best Graduate Student Poster awards. Three of the recipients were WSU students: **Aldwin Anterola**, **Sarah Keates**, and **Michelle Silva**.

The 1998-99 student recipients of the Loyal H. Davis Fellowship Awards are **Steven Halls**, **Kathleen Atwell**, **Halil Kavakli**, **Colette Sacksteder**, and **Angelique Walt**. These students will receive a \$1,500 cash award, a \$500

travel allowance to attend a scientific conference, and \$1,000 for supplies for their graduate research.

NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES

Final approval has been granted to extend a bachelor's degree in natural resource science to the WSU Vancouver branch campus, where demand is expected to be high.

Professor **Keith Blatner** will chair a regional meeting of the Empire Society of American Forestry in the Tri-Cities in April. The conference is titled, "Hybrid Poplars in the Pacific Northwest: Culture, Commerce, and Capability."

Last fall, department faculty partnered with the University of Washington, Washington Forest Protection Association, and Washington Farm and Forest Association to form the Private Forest Forum, an organization focusing on the needs of privately owned forests in Washington state.

PLANT PATHOLOGY

The CAHE Team Excellence Award was presented to **Ted Alway**, **Elizabeth Beers**, **Jay Brunner**, **John Dunley**, **Gary Grove**, and **Tim Smith**, all Cooperative Extension specialists, for excellence in extension delivery innovations in tree fruit pest and disease management. The team, working out of Wenatchee and internationally recognized in electronic information transfer, compiled a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management text and developed a microcomputer-based disease forecasting network.

Warren Copes received an extension and research appointment as the new ornamental plant pathologist at WSU Puyallup. His research program will focus on developing disease control strategies. Copes obtained a doctorate from the University of Georgia and held a postdoctoral position as fruit pathologist for Georgia's Cooperative Extension.

—*Jehan Moulton*

New Facilities Planned for Ag Departments

Apparel, Merchandising and Interior Design (AMID), and Human Development's Child Development Center will be moving out of White Hall next winter.

As funds to begin renovating White Hall become available in January 2000, all current occupants will be moved either to permanent or temporary quarters. When complete, White Hall will house the University's new Honors College and a 126-bed residence hall for honors students.

Apparel, Merchandising and Interior Design will temporarily move into McAllister Hall, a former residence hall, while the new AMID/Landscape Architecture Building is being constructed. Currently it is in the pre-design stage, with completion slated for May 2003. The \$30 million, 80,000-square-foot building will be located near Johnson Hall.

Although plans are not definite at this time, the University hopes to move

the Child Development Center directly into the WSU Children's Center on the south side of campus. Approximately 7,500 square feet of unrenovated space in the Children's Center is scheduled to be finished by December 1999. Both the Child Development Center and the Infant Children Center, currently located in Commons Hall, will occupy that space.

"This is ideal, since it would put all of the University's child care activities under one roof," said WSU Space Planning Analyst Charles Hemphill.

Technically, WSU's Children's Center was not scheduled to be completed until spring 2000. In that case, the Child Development Center will move temporarily into Kruegel Hall.

"But we know that is not the best of circumstances and we don't want to move them twice," said Hemphill. "Upper administration is currently working on plans to start the renovation earlier."

—*Joanne Buteau*

Protecting WSU Wheat Varieties

The University has been breeding wheat for Northwest farmers for more than 100 years. In fact, researchers and USDA breeders on the WSU campus have introduced 69 wheat varieties since 1895.

Farmers have benefited enormously from the millions of dollars that state, federal, and grower associations have invested in wheat research over the years. New plant varieties have meant billions of dollars of gain to growers in higher wheat yields, quality, and disease-resistant strains.

In the Northwest, some of the most popular and successful wheat varieties developed at WSU, such as Gaines and Madsen, have been a product of numerous cross-breeding trials, planted test plots, and a multitude of other tests. Typically, it has taken 10 to 12 years to develop a single wheat variety.

Once varieties are released, the seed is free to all Washington growers. Seeds are available not only to growers, but also to anyone else who wants them, including seed and chemical companies. WSU varieties have never been protected and private enterprise has been free to use them as they wish. And therein lies the problem.

"Our research has been paid for by the public—the federal and state government and the growers for over 100 years," said WSU wheat breeder Steve Jones. "A private company can take what we've produced, put a single gene into it, patent it, and it's theirs. It is no longer available to farmers for a minimal cost and it is no longer available to us for further research. Basically, they have taken 104 years of taxpayer funded research and now they own it. This is a

problem and taxpayers need to be reimbursed."

That's the reason why WSU—and every other land-grant university in the country—is now registering new varieties under Plant Variety Protection, a federal law that allows seeds, plant tissue and plants to be, in a sense, patented.

"What it means," said James Carlson, associate dean and associate director of WSU's Agriculture Research Center, "is that we can now protect our varieties, license the material to a group or company if we want to, and get a royalty to recover some of our investment or to enhance our research program. Or, we may decide not to charge a royalty and make it available to growers in our area, but not to our competitors. There are many possibilities, but at least it gives us control."

The University has been discussing this issue with growers for the past several years. Having support from most growers, WSU is now entering the final stages of an agreement with Oregon State University, University of Idaho, and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service on policy and procedures for release of new publicly developed plant varieties in the Northwest.

"We plan to always keep the growers' interests in mind, however," said Carlson. "Most of the decisions to protect or not to, or to collect royalties will be made by a committee that will include growers and breeders."

Biotechnology and genetic engineering are indeed dramatically changing public wheat breeding programs, affecting the entire spectrum of research.

While plant protection laws now allow universities to protect the varieties that they develop, they also have made it far more difficult and expensive to obtain germplasm to conduct new research. Today, wheat breeders no longer have free access to germplasm—the material needed to propagate plants.

Since wheat is not native to the United States, WSU's research historically has hinged on obtaining germplasm from other countries. The success of Gaines wheat, for example, stemmed from genetic material brought back into the U.S. from Japan in 1947. Madsen wheat, another very successful variety, was brought into the country by researchers visiting France in 1957. All of these genes were freely obtained—it was the way research was conducted and how it progressed.

"It was not long ago when breeders here would ask for wheat seed plants from Spain, Russia, Turkey, France, and California and receive them free of charge," said Jones. "But today, that's all changed. There are great sums of money made off of plants today and wheat in particular because it's the main calorie source in the world. With all of these changes, our germplasm exchange has already been incredibly restricted. It is becoming very expensive for us to do research now."

By legally protecting plant varieties, WSU will be able not only to safeguard its wheat genetics, but to also raise the funds needed to support the burgeoning cost of wheat breeding.

"It's definitely something whose time has come," said Carlson. "We're trying to protect our investment and the investment of the state and growers. If we don't do this, our germplasm will be used by anyone for any reason. And the growers in the state would basically be subsidizing it. Protecting our varieties is necessary—it's the right thing to do."

- Joanne Buteau



Wheat plant growing in tube from immature embryo

Addington Estate
**Million Dollar Gift to
Wheat Research**

Washington State University's wheat research program recently gained another supporter.

Catherine Addington bequeathed half of the estate amassed by she and her husband Leo to WSU. The Addingtons were longtime farmers in Pine City, Washington. Catherine died September 2, 1998. Leo passed away in 1990.

Though neither were WSU alumni, the Addingtons were grateful to the University for their wheat research. According to neighbor and close family friend James Leifer, wheat yields went up almost 20 bushels an acre after the introduction of a new semi-dwarf wheat developed by WSU researcher Orville A. Vogel. Because of these new wheat varieties, farmers like Leifer and the Addingtons realized greater profits from farming. The Addingtons had met Vogel and invited him out to their farm several times to show him what his research had done for them.

Prior to his death, Leo Addington expressed a wish that half their estate go to WSU's wheat research program. He and Catherine worked with their attorney and WSU's gift and estate planning office. They realized that a gift to WSU of their home and farmland, retaining a life estate for Catherine, would help them accomplish this goal while also having income tax benefits. The other half of the estate was willed to the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children.

In response to the gift to WSU, Leifer said, "They wanted to give back to the University for what had been given to them and to the entire Palouse area. They knew that a lot of the profit they made came from WSU research."

—*Jehan Moulton*

Outlook Positive for Safe Food Initiative

The College's \$7.5 million Safe Food Initiative (SFI) was moving through the state legislature as *Connections* magazine went to press. Its future prospects looked bright.

"The outlook is extremely positive at this point," said Pete Jacoby, associate dean for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. "We're very pleased with the kind of support it has received."

The initiative is part of the University's legislative request for the 1999-2000 biennium. It would allow WSU to hire 40 new faculty and support staff in three colleges to help fill key gaps in research and extension and to respond to a broad range of food safety, agricultural, and environmental issues.

The bulk of the positions would be in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics: 17 new faculty and 13 research technicians. The College of Veterinary Medicine would be able to hire three faculty and three technicians and the College of Sciences, four technicians.

Governor Gary Locke endorsed the initiative in December and included it in his budget at a two-thirds level of funding. "We hope the legislature will increase the funding level, but we are very happy to be in the governor's budget," said James Zuiches, dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Jacoby explained: "The governor was willing to allow the state to provide two-thirds of the funding—\$2.35 million in the second half of the biennium and \$4.7 million in future budgets—but he asked if it were important enough to us, that we redirect \$700,000 to the initiative and ask the agricultural industry to kick in an equal amount over a two-year period. Figuring that it would take a year or so to recruit the people, the governor would like to start the funding in the second year of the biennium."

Faced with large deficits in the Agricultural Research Center and Cooperative Extension, redirecting positions in the College could prove challenging.

"Rather than automatically filling openings as they come up, we would

have to weigh the new SFI positions against the vacancies," Jacoby said. "The new high priority positions would be filled before others, but that could leave us with some very glaring gaps in our College."

He said agriculture might be willing to come up with \$700,000, but the industry already provides more than \$4 million in support to the College of Agriculture and Home Economics each year. "That's five times the national average. They don't feel their contribution is recognized."

SFI was introduced as House Bill 1563 in January and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Ecology. Dean Zuiches and four supporters from agriculture testified before the Senate Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Committee in January. Questions and feedback from members of the committee were positive.

Support for the initiative has been growing in the state. 35 agricultural organizations and commodity groups, four daily newspapers, and the Capital Press, a regional agricultural weekly, have endorsed the bill.

"An increasing number of commodity commissions and statewide organizations have endorsed the Safe Food Initiative," Jacoby said. "We hear from new people and new groups every week."

"We have really mustered strength from both sides of the Cascades. Through some earnest discussions, recommitment, and refocusing of some of our efforts, we now have groups representing organic growers, farmers' markets, and small farm interests on the west side of the Cascades who have joined in our effort. It's really very positive to see this whole thing developing and agriculture getting behind it with one voice."

"The outlook is very positive for SFI," Jacoby said. "The final shape is yet to come."

—*Dennis Brown*

WAGYU BEEF

*The Most Tender and
Expensive in the World*

BY JOANNE BUTEAU



“Wagyu beef is the highest quality meat in the world,” said Jerry Reeves, WSU animal scientist. “This Japanese beef is the highest marbled and most tender meat that we have ever tasted in our lab.”

At \$200 per pound (in Japan), it is a highly valued culinary treat. In the United States, if you can even find Wagyu (pronounced Wah-gyou) beef, a steak would cost about \$40.

“It’s all in the marbling,” explains Reeves. The fat within the red meat and not the fat surrounding it. That is what determines its grade and price.

“Only about two percent of all U.S. beef today is graded prime, which is the highest grade “and it typically goes to restaurants,” said Reeves. “In Wagyu, 90 percent of it is prime or greater. We want to know why.”

A significant breakthrough was in discovering that marbling is a genetic factor. WSU scientists are now searching for the genes that are responsible for the high marbling characteristics in Wagyu beef. “Once we find that out, we can make tremendous selections and better decisions,” said Reeves. “We’ll know

which animals to keep for breeding, which ones should go to Japan and which ones should remain in the domestic market. These genes can also be cloned and put back into embryos of other breeds, increasing their quality.”

TAKING THE LEAD IN WAGYU RESEARCH

It began in the late 1980s in WSU’s Department of Animal Sciences. As Japan’s markets started opening up, allowing beef to be imported into the country, U.S. beef exports started flowing into Japan. “All of a sudden we were sending a couple billion dollars worth of beef to Japan a year, but were receiving relatively low prices,” said Ray Wright, animal scientist and chair of the Department of Animal Sciences. “So we started thinking how we could increase the value of our product there.”

That’s when WSU researchers became interested in Wagyu beef. Wagyu price averages about \$6,000 per carcass, two or more times that of other beef. Wagyu refers to all Japanese beef cattle. *Wa* means Japanese or Japanese-style and *gyu* means cattle.

“I thought if we could get Wagyu into the United States, we could eventually produce a Wagyu cross that would be a better product than what we were selling to Japan,” Wright said.

Getting the Wagyu, however, was not easy. The challenge proved to be quite formidable in fact—and at one point almost seemed impossible. The major obstacle was that Japan was not allowing any Wagyu cattle or genetics to leave the country. Even a trip to Japan proved fruitless, leaving WSU scientists disheartened. Wright recalls, “We came back feeling it was really going to be a tough road.”

The breakthrough came in 1989 when WSU researchers discovered a Texas rancher who had a small cross-bred Wagyu herd from four bulls secretly imported into the U.S. from Japan in 1976. With funds from WSU’s Impact Center, the Department of Animal Sciences purchased one bull, four steers, and two heifers from the Texas rancher.

Thus began WSU’s Wagyu cattle project and the beginning of a breeding program, feed trials, and embryo transfers. Eventually, some of the beef was

WAGYU BEEF *continued on page 10*

DONATIONS HELP SUSTAIN WSU'S WAGYU RESEARCH

The WSU Wagyu cattle project was initially funded by the University's International Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade—the IMPACT Center. Although most of that funding has been exhausted, a number of sizable donations to the program in the last three years have allowed the project to continue.

These gifts and private support have allowed WSU to maintain its momentum and leadership in Wagyu research.

The marbling, the fat within the red meat and not the fat surrounding it, is what determines Wagyu's grade and price. Photo courtesy of KOBE Beef America™

OLD GENETICS



Mazda and Fuji are two of the four original full blood Wagyu bulls imported into Texas in 1976 which marked the beginning of the breed into the United States.

NEW GENETICS



The taste demands of the Japanese market has put pressure on American breeders to further improve marbling.



At \$200 per pound (in Japan), Wagyu is a highly valued culinary treat.

WAGYU BEEF *continued from page 8*

sold back to Japan. “The quality of it encouraged us,” said Wright. “The Japanese accepted it quite well and didn’t believe it came from the U.S. We got three times the U.S. prime price. It was a pretty exciting time.”

With such positive results, University researchers started investing more time

into the project and producing high percentage offspring. To help finance the expanding project, WSU held a Wagyu auction in 1994—the first auction of Wagyu cattle outside Japan. Several hundred people from around the world attended, leaving \$110,000 in the program’s coffers. “That opened a lot of

people’s eyes and gave us enough money to continue,” Wright said. “It was another major turning point for us.”

In 1994, full-blood Wagyus were allowed to be imported into the U.S. and WSU could now crossbreed using pure-breds. Research continued on genetics, crossbreeding, feedlot performance and calf maturation time, producing high-quality restructured steaks (using the lower cuts) for the domestic market, and testing the biochemistry of Wagyu fat. Tests indicate that the fat from this breed has a healthier fatty acid profile and an unsaturated-to-saturated fat ratio of 2-to-1, instead of the 1-to-1 ratio characteristic of U.S. beef.

In 1995, WSU purchased 120 crossbred Wagyu steers and heifers to continue its research. The University was clearly becoming the leader in Wagyu cattle research in the country—taking the lead over Texas A & M, Colorado State University, and the University of Illinois, the only other U.S. universities looking at the breed. WSU sponsored two international Wagyu symposia drawing up to 400 people worldwide.

NORTH AMERICAN WAGYU BREEDERS





WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

A GLOBAL LEADER

IN WAGYU CATTLE RESEARCH

Every year, anywhere from 50 to 100 Japanese visit WSU to learn more about its Wagyu project. Nine WSU faculty members are now working on the project in four areas: animal science, food science and human nutrition, agricultural economics, and rural sociology.

A DECADE LATER

Today, 35 producers in Washington state raise approximately 8,000 Wagyu-cross cattle—an enormous leap from the seven animals brought into the state from Texas 10 years ago. Because cattle contractors offer Angus producers a \$75 premium for each Wagyu-Angus crossed calf, some commercial Angus ranchers find that enough of an economic incentive to test this niche market.

Ellensburg rancher Gerry Pittenger, one convert, is now the largest Wagyu producer in the Northwest. “Of all the meat I’ve eaten over the 33 years I’ve ranched, I’ve never eaten better beef than Wagyu,” Pittenger said. “It has

tremendous merit. We now know we can produce it. The next step and challenge is to be able to distribute and market it, both in Japan and domestically.”

Desmond O’Rourke, director of the WSU IMPACT Center, concurs. He stressed the importance of a marketing system for Northwest Wagyu growers. “I think Wagyu needs a sponsor to help get grade rules established, coordinate efforts of producers and packers and fund generic promotion,” O’Rourke said. “We need some sort of formal mechanism, such as a commodity commission, to sponsor Wagyu aggressively both in Japan and in the U.S.”

Agri Beef of Boise, Idaho, one of the largest U.S. Wagyu buyers and exporters, is building one link in the marketing chain. The company started slaughtering, packaging, and exporting Wagyu beef to Japan in 1993 and plans to export more in the near future. “We are progressively increasing our numbers,” said Shane Lindsay, Agri Beef’s export marketing manager. “By the year 2000, we hope to double the

number of Wagyu crosses in our feedlots, from 5,000 to 10,000 calves.” He adds that obstacles exist, but his company has overcome many of them. “A lot of the ground work is done and our efforts are now coming to fruition. By increasing our numbers, we hope to get economies of scale so we can be more competitive.”

Although a number of barriers plague the market, such as high import duties, a depressed Southeast Asian economy, poor exchange rates, and growing competition from Australia, Wagyu offers an opportunity as a niche market for some Northwest ranchers.

“We know the Wagyu beef market is very large in Japan, accounting for one-third of beef consumed there,” said O’Rourke. “It’s a huge niche market for us. We know that we can produce quality. If we can get our prices in line and establish a marketing system, we should eventually be able to compete in this market. And particularly as Japanese import duties drop through the GATT process.”



Tamamaru (top) and Big Al are two of the full blood red Wagyu sires imported into United States in 1994 introducing red Wagyu into the U.S., Canada, and Australia.



An Australian Wagyu cattle operation. Australia is a growing competitor in the Wagyu market.

Donations to WSU Wagyu Research

Max and Thelma Baxter Gift

Max and Thelma Baxter donated their 360-acre ranch, the Flying-T Ranch, near Centralia, to Washington State University in spring 1996 to conduct beef cattle research and to provide students with internship experience.

Max learned about WSU's Wagyu research at a 1994 workshop in Pullman. "When I found out they had a good program going with the Wagyu cattle and WSU expressed an interest in working with me, it gave me a sense of destiny," Max said. "The program is an opportunity for me to see a quality of beef develop that everyone has asked for, but nobody has done beef that is good to eat and cattle that are practical to raise."

Including the ranch, equipment, and 400-head of Murray Grey and Limousin cattle, the gift is worth about \$2.5 million.

WSU established a breeding program at the ranch to cross WSU's Wagyu cattle with Baxter's cattle. The research conducted at the ranch will help identify specific genes that are responsible for the Wagyu's superior marbling. WSU has two employees stationed at the ranch and sends student interns, who gain practical experience working on a ranch and participate in research.

Max Fernandez Gift

Max Fernandez, a Centerville rancher, donated 38 Wagyu crossbred cattle to WSU in 1998. The animals now form the nucleus of WSU's research herd at the Flying-T Ranch, donated by the Baxters in 1996. Proceeds from the sale of calves have helped pay some of the bills at the ranch. According to Ray Wright, animal scientist

and chair of the Department of Animal Sciences, the gift has amounted to about \$100,000.

Fernandez, who spent most of his career exploring for oil in South America and is now retired from British Petroleum, divides his time between his ranch and a home in Anchorage, Alaska, where his wife teaches.

Willis Smith Gift

Willis Smith is a WSU alumnus, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in business in 1934. Willis married Claire Siler-Smith, who was a 1933 WSU graduate in home economics. After she passed away, Smith established a scholarship in Claire's name in WSU's College of Business and Economics.

Smith has had a longtime affiliation with WSU. In the mid-1990s, he was introduced to the University's Wagyu beef program and started raising Wagyu on his own cattle ranch, Riverside Land and Cattle Co., in Coos Bay, Oregon. He and his wife Connie have been very involved with the Wagyu Association and the WSU Wagyu program. In addition to ranching, Smith also is the former president and CEO of Coos Head Lumber and Plywood, a company he founded in 1946.

Last year, Riverside Land and Cattle Co. donated approximately \$150,000 worth of Wagyu semen, embryos, and cattle (125 head) to the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. The herd will be used for both research and resale to help support the Wagyu cattle project.

Managing trustee Elsie Marks said, "The gift is a wonderful end to a story that Willis Smith didn't have the years to finish."

Richard and Marcie Hammond Gift

Richard and Marcie Hammond, cattle ranchers in Silverton, Oregon, are firm believers in and supporters of WSU's Wagyu research program. Last year, they gave three purebred Wagyu bulls to the University. More recently, they donated 151 Wagyu embryos. The two gifts combined are worth approximately \$142,000.

Richard, who retired from electronics in Orange County, California, 15 years ago, said cattle ranching was a lifelong dream of his. When he retired, he and Marcie, who grew up on an Angus ranch, bought a cattle ranch in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

WSU's 1994 Wagyu cattle auction caught the Hammonds' attention. They left the auction with a heifer and that same year bought a full-blood Wagyu bull imported from Japan. They subsequently launched into embryo transplants. "We have been successful at this," said Richard "and wanted to give WSU some of the embryos for their research."

The Hammonds are supporters of WSU because they feel the University has been instrumental in Wagyu's success. "Washington State is the leader in the Wagyu program in the United States," said Richard. "They've been responsible for the success we've had so far and their research will continue to lead the way in the future."

The WSU Wagyu program wishes to thank all donors for their generous gifts.



*Norm Ehmann Endowed Chair
in Urban Pest Management*

Controlling Pests in a New Era



Norm Ehmann

The endowed chair will be named after Norm Ehmann, current vice president emeritus of Van Waters and Rogers. Ehmann has worked more than 50 years in the pesticide industry. "He is recognized internationally and is considered to be the father of the structural pest control industry throughout the entire world," said Chafe.

Ehmann pioneered the concept of industry education and supported it throughout his career. He conducted thousands of pest control seminars and wrote manuals and other educational materials. Van Waters and Rogers, with Ehmann's help, has compiled one of the most comprehensive entomological slide collections in the world. A copy of the collection was recently donated to WSU.

For additional information or to pledge your support contact Patrick Kramer at 509-335-2243 or email at Patrick_Kramer@gocougs.wsu.edu

Carpenter ants, termites, rodents, yellow jackets, and spiders are pests many Northwest homeowners know well. Controlling them is an ongoing battle—one that may become even more difficult in the wake of new stricter environmental legislation.

"The Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 is a federal mandate that will restrict or eliminate many of the pest control products we currently use," said Pete Jacoby, associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. "The Act allowed for a three-year period to review pesticides before restricting or banning any of them. It definitely puts everyone on a fast track to come up with alternatives. If we don't have a dedicated person to deal with this, homeowners, business owners, applicators and others in the industry will soon find themselves without the means to effectively deal with pests."

In response to the increase in federal regulations for safe pest control and pesticides, several industry leaders and the Northwest Pest Control Association joined together to propose establishing a permanent endowed chair in urban pest management at WSU. Bevan Cates, vice president of Van Waters and Rogers (an international pesticide and industrial chemical distributing company), and Gene Chafe, trustee of Pacific Northwest Pest Management Conference, initiated the partnership with the University in the fall of 1997.

"I don't think a lot of the pest control legislation coming out of D.C. is based on good science," said Cates, who is spearheading fund-raising for the WSU endowed chair. "What we need is an outstanding research individual to generate good science so that any laws or EPA regulations will be based upon solid documented research. We need research on the chemicals we're using today and on those we develop in the future. That is our challenge."

The immediate need, according to John Brown, chair of WSU's Department of Entomology, is to look at pest chemicals used today and at possible alternatives. "As we look at the Food Quality Protection Act, we realize some of these chemicals will be lost and we need to

look at true alternatives," Brown said. "We need to do this as soon as possible."

The Norm Ehmann Endowed Chair in Urban Pest Management will be held by an international or national expert in structural pest control, whose focus will be in three key areas: research, outreach, and curriculum development.

Research will include scientifically analyzing current urban pesticides and creating a database that will determine how much pesticide exposure actually exists in urban environments. "We'll

"WSU was a natural choice for this position... The University's entomology background is unquestionably the strongest of any university in the three-state region."

GENE CHAFE

also develop a whole new pest control strategy toward development of delivery systems for chemicals, insect growth regulators, and pathogens," said Brown.

In addition, an extension or outreach program will be established to train homeowners and those in the industry on how to use products safely and more effectively, and to educate them in integrated pest management. The endowed chair will collaborate with Oregon State University and the University of Idaho in developing a regional urban pest management degree program to be located at WSU in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Continuing education opportunities for pest control operators also will be available.

The goal is to raise \$1.5 million for this position. Organizers hope to have all pledges in hand by July 1999, and the position filled by 2000.

"We have reached over a third of our goal, with about \$600,000 pledges made by eight companies," Cates said. "And we have many more companies in the industry to contact. I'm confident we will be successful in raising the money."

—Joanne Buteau

ALUMNI NOTES

Elizabeth E. (Thompson) Arcamo ('82 Interior Design) and her husband Angelito have a son, Kevin Thompson Arcamo, born December 14, 1997, in Renton, Washington.

Tanya (Johnson) Bennett ('85 Home Economics) and her husband Terry had their third child July 16, 1998, in Laguna Hills, California. Christian Eric joins his brother Ryan, 5, and his sister Nikkole, 4.

Doug Butchart ('50 Animal Science/'54 Veterinary Medicine), a self-styled "computeraholic," retired from a long career in veterinary medicine. He would like to hear from old Cougar friends at cougar@narrows.com.

Clement G. Fitzgerald ('83 Agricultural Science) just finished a corporate expansion of the dairy he owns with his brothers (4 Bros. Dairy, Inc.), bringing their milk herd up to 2,600. His wife, Karma, gave birth to their first child, Kathryn Josephine, in July.

Ella Wollenberg Frantsen ('36 Human Development) took a 10,010-mile

road trip with her dog Brandy in April 1998, from California to Maine and back. She attended her 60th reunion, where she related stories of the old days to Dean James Zuiches.

Ellen (Weber) Hein ('92 Food Science and Human Nutrition) and her husband David Hein recently moved to Bremerton, Washington, after spending 18 months on the East Coast.

Melissa Hilmes ('98 Interior Design) married **Brad Christianson, Jr.** ('97 Horticulture) November 21, 1998. Melissa works at D.O.R Architecture, and Brad works for the USDA. They now reside in Yakima, Washington.

Steven W. Howes ('72 Range Management) was recently named Regional Soil Scientist with the US Forest Service in Portland, Oregon. He leads the soil management program on 19 national forests in the Pacific Northwest Region (Oregon and Washington).

Ricardo A. Menendez, Ph.D., ('85 Horticulture) was promoted to Global Marketing Manager, Plant Growth Regulator Products, at Abbott Laboratories in January 1998.

Amy P. (Kohler) Olson ('95 Horticulture, '97 Landscape Architecture) recently accepted the position of junior landscape architect with CityScape Urban Design. She and her husband **Karl** ('93 Music, '98 Computer Science) have relocated to Ft. Collins, Colorado. Karl is a software engineer for Hewlett Packard's Unix Development Laboratory.

E. Gerry Pond ('62 Forest Management) retired in 1991 and is enjoying tree farming, fishing, and traveling. He is interested in hearing from other early 1960s graduates.

Duane Sharp, Ph.D., ('69 Animal Science) retired from the faculty of the Animal and Veterinary Science Department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, on July 1, 1998. He served on the faculty at Fort Hays Kansas State University and as superintendent of the College Farm from 1969 to 1976. At Cal Poly Pomona, he chaired the department and coached the livestock judging team. He and his wife Roberta currently reside in LaVerne, California.

—Jehan Moulton

IN MEMORY

Accident Claims WSU Cereal Chemist

Zuzanna Czuchajowska, 55, a nationally and internationally acclaimed cereal chemist at Washington State University, died January 23 in an automobile accident on U.S. Highway 95 south of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Czuchajowska was born January 2, 1944, in Gruszow, Poland. She held a master's and doctoral degrees from the Agriculture University at Krakow, Poland. She joined the WSU faculty as a program associate in 1987 and became head of the WSU food science and human nutrition department's cereal chemistry program in 1996.

Last spring she received the Faculty Excellence in Research Award from the college. She received the International Wheat Gluten Association Award in 1989, 1990, and 1992.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH CLASSMATES!

What have you done recently? Share your news with classmates by filling out the form below and mailing it to: Connections, CAHE Alumni & Development Office, Washington State University, PO Box 646228, Pullman, WA 99164-6228. Or email your information to: nitcy@wsu.edu
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IN MEMORY

First Chair of WSU Food Science Department Dies

John V. Spencer, 80, first chair of the Food Science and Technology Department at Washington State University, died Saturday, February 6 in Olympia.

Spencer, a member of the WSU faculty from 1955 to 1965 and from 1966 to 1980, served as chair of what is now the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department from 1973 to 1978.

He did research on factors affecting the shelf-life and flavor of poultry meat and eggs. Before he was named department chair, he was a professor of food science and technology and a poultry scientist.

Spencer earned a B.S. in 1952 and an M.S. in 1954 from Washington State College and a doctorate from Purdue University in 1961, where he was a sponsored fellow by the Institute of Food Technologists General Foods Funds.

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◆ = Deceased

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Creating the Next Generation of Alumni

Part II: Student Successes

Student activities and successes in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics continue to grow. Today, there are 30 student organizations in the college including clubs, judging teams, cooperative groups, and honorary societies. Each has representation in the Agriculture and Home Economics Student Senate (AHES), which assists in recruiting students, recognizes faculty with student awards, and serves the community through food drives, Christmas gift giving, and cleanup activities.

As part of a leadership organization, students in AHES have an opportunity to influence the college. This year, I invited AHES to nominate two students to serve on the CAHE Advisory Council. Clint Adamson, agricultural economics, and Danielle Munson, animal sciences, have actively participated in council efforts, including meeting with state legislators in Olympia. Such experiences will help prepare our students to serve as student representatives on the WSU Board of Regents.

Leadership in two of our major student organizations changed with the spring semester. In December, AHES and CAHE Student Ambassadors elected new officers: Erica Brueckner and Erika Howell, respectively. These students and their colleagues carried out a democratic process of nominations, speeches, and voting. The new leadership is already organizing the April 17 CAHE Awards Banquet on Moms' Weekend and conducting recruiting sweeps throughout the state high schools.

When I was a college student, I was involved in the school newspaper, an honorary society, and worked part time, but I never needed a day planner and I never traveled to professional develop-

ment meetings. Now all student leaders seem to carry a planner, and travel is part of their academic experience.

Travel for leadership training, judging and competitive events, professional development, and recruiting students is an integral part of an undergraduate's life today. Travel support comes from the clubs, departments, AHES, ASWSU, the Dean's Office, and occasionally President Sam Smith, as well as from the students themselves.

Students have taken the following trips: four collegiate 4-H students to Savannah, Georgia; two National Ambassadors to San Luis Obispo, California; six students from the Livestock Judging Team to Denver, Colorado; 15 to a Postsecondary Agriculture Students conference in Joplin, Missouri; two students attended the Agricultural Economics Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois; four to National FFA in Kansas City, Missouri; and 10 students representing WSU went to the Western Association of Agricultural Councils in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Students often return with trophies and awards. An important result for us is the recognition we receive for our quality programs when our students succeed.

We also are proud of another group of our students—our student teachers. In January, over 100 faculty and students celebrated the achievements of 22 agricultural education seniors as we sent them off to high schools throughout Washington. They will return to graduate May 8, then will return to teaching Monday, May 10.

Finally, although agricultural education majors are now student teaching, they and other seniors will be seriously looking for jobs this spring. The WSU/



James J. Zuiches, Dean

UI Careers Showcase held February 17 brought 27 companies and agencies to campus. Although success will be measured in the number of internships offered and new students hired, I was impressed by the opportunities available and record of hiring.

Companies were seeking graduates in all 29 majors of our college. Organizations and firms present this year represented agriculture, natural resources, human services, apparel merchandising, fashion design, food management, landscape and nursery, food processing, seed and animal production, land management, banks and federal agencies. One large firm was interested in recruiting students in 23 of our majors.

More important, CAHE graduates who are now managers were here recruiting. I met alumni who had been hired by their companies from one to 16 years ago. In one company, the top two sales reps were WSU grads. Recruiters spoke of their satisfaction with CAHE graduates.

Courses, extramural activities, and participation in leadership roles all help provide a solid base for careers and productive lives—creating the next generation of CAHE alumni.

Editor's note: If you would like more information on WSU's Extended Degree Program (EDP), call 509-335-3557 or 1-800-222-4978; or, e-mail: edp@wsu.edu.

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