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The 2015 Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus award was presented to Dr. Dwayne Driskill during the 2015 Agriculture Alumni Association’s Dean’s Circle Luncheon held in conjunction with MSU Homecoming activities.

Dwayne is originally from Grand Rivers, Kentucky and graduated from Livingston County High School. He received his bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Education/Agricultural Mechanization from Murray State University in 1976, where he was named the Outstanding Student in Agricultural Engineering. He served as a Graduate Assistant under Dr. Shelton and Mr. Cherry and received his Master of Science degree from Murray State University in 1978. Dwayne went on to earn a Doctor of Education Degree in 1983 from Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Driskill began his educational career as an instructor of Agricultural Mechanization for Western Illinois University. He joined the faculty at Murray State University in 1984 and has worked for 31 years, advancing through the ranks of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor. He has served as the Graduate Program Coordinator for the Hutson School of Agriculture, in addition to Agriculture Science Department Head and Assistant Dean. Dr. Driskill began a transitional retirement this fall and will officially retire from MSU at the conclusion of the spring semester.

Along with an impressive academic reputation recognized by his selection as a MSU Board of Regents Distinguished Teacher award winner, Dr. Driskill exemplified the term “University Service”, perhaps more so than any single faculty member in the history of MSU. In fact, he was the inaugural University Distinguished Faculty Service Award winner in 2013. He has been involved in several organizations, fulfilling a variety of advisor/co-advisor leadership roles within the Hutson School of Agriculture including: 31 years with the MSU Rodeo Club, establishing the Agricultural Engineering Technology Club and serving as advisor since 1988, 24 years with Alpha Zeta, and no less than 150 plus Service Committees of the University. An avid supporter of International Education, Dr. Driskill has accompanied 8 different trips to countries such as Ireland, Scotland, Hungary, and even one trip destined for Hungary that ended up in Hawaii.

Dr. Driskill is not just a member, but an active member of Paradise United Methodist Church in Livingston County where he regularly serves as a Lay Speaker, Sunday School teacher, and leader of various committees. Additionally, every Tuesday night for the past eight years, he has worked with the prison ministry in Benton.

Dwayne resides in Calloway County with his wife, and one of the area’s best crane operators, Tina.

Dr. Driskill has set the bar high for himself and also for MSU Agriculture. He is recognized for “clearing the bar” by being selected as this year’s Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus.
The 2015 Outstanding Young Agriculture Alumnus award was presented to Mr. Allen Besand during the 2015 Agriculture Alumni Association’s Dean’s Circle Luncheon held in conjunction with MSU Homecoming activities.

Allen received his Bachelor’s degree in Agribusiness Economics with teacher certification in Agricultural Education in 2004. While employed and working full-time, he completed his Master of Science in Agriculture at Murray State University in 2009.

Allen distinguished himself while at MSU by serving or being selected as: National 2nd Vice-President of Alpha Tau Alpha, Chairman of the Agriculture Ambassadors, Vice-President of Alpha Zeta, Outstanding Student Ambassador, Outstanding Alpha Tau Alpha member, and Student Teacher of the Year.

Upon graduation from Murray State, Allen accepted employment with AGCO Corporation in Duluth, Georgia where he worked in the combine division of Dealer Central and then as Territory Sales Manager for West Tennessee until 2009. In 2009, Allen accepted a position with Hutson, Inc. as a Commercial Application Account Manager and has worked his way up through the company as Large Ag Sales Manager, Integrated Solutions Manager, to his present position as Marketing Manager where he manages all the marketing and advertising for all locations across the territory.

He has been an instrumental leader of the Agricultural Alumni Association serving as President Elect, President, and Past-President. His support for the Hutson School of Agriculture has been outstanding. He serves as a continuing guest lecturer for Agriculture Business classes, and he was instrumental in solidifying Hutson’s support of the Hutson Harvest Gala that has become such a success for the Friends of the Arboretum.
The Distinguished Alumnus Award was established in 1962 and is meant to acknowledge the service of outstanding alumni who have made significant contributions to their professions on a local, state, and national level. The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest honor granted by the MSU Alumni Association. Mr. David S. Beck, Executive Vice President of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation was selected as a 2016 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Beck is originally from Eddyville, Kentucky, located in Lyon County. He graduated from Murray State University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. In addition, he received his teaching certification in science. While an undergraduate, Beck was involved in extracurricular activities including student government, Interfraternity Council (IFC), Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, MSU Ag Club, and was a resident advisor in his residence hall.

Beck has been with the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation for almost 40 years. His position at Farm Bureau has allowed him to be involved in all major state and national legislative and regulatory issues affecting agriculture and rural Kentucky for more than 39 years. Beck has used his position to lead organizational and leadership initiatives in other countries, and as served on numerous boards, commissions, and councils.

When Beck isn’t working to better Kentucky and agriculture policies, he enjoys time with his wife Nancy, son Matthew, and two daughters Allison and Natalie. He also enjoys golf, traveling, church mission projects, theater, and shooting sports.
• Dr. Tony Brannon was inducted as a Senior Fellow at the American Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) convention held in Kansas City, MO.

• Dr. Michelle Santiago was named the 2015-2016 MSU Faculty Advisor of the Year.

• Dr. Shea Porr was selected as the 2015-2016 MSU Researcher of the Year.

• Dr. Michelle Santiago and Dr. Alyx Shultz were granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

• Dr. Bill DeWees was promoted to Professor.

• Dr. Brian Parr joined the HSOA as Agriculture Science Department Head in August 2015.

• Dr. Naveen Musunuru joined the HSOA as Assistant Professor in Agribusiness in January 2016.

• Dr. Bill Payne was awarded a Certificate of Recognition and Laurel Wreath by Szent Istvan University (SZIU) in Budapest, Hungary on May 20, 2016 for his work in strengthening and fostering academic, scientific, and research cooperation between SZIU and MSU for the past 10 years.

• Dr. Dwayne Driskill retired from the Hutson School of Agriculture in May 2016 after 32 years of service.

• Ms. Kim Hill was recognized for 20 years of service and Mr. Jason Robertson was recognized for 10 years of service at the annual MSU Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

• Dr. David Ferguson was recognized for 20 years of service, Dr. Ramesh Gupta was recognized for 30 years of service, Dr. Iin Handayani was recognized for 10 years of service, and Mr. O.L. Robertson was recognized for 15 years of service at the annual MSU Faculty Awards Banquet.

• Dr. Kimberly Bellah received an Honorary State FFA Degree from the Kentucky FFA Association.
Altria - U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company awarded a $20,000 grant to fund the scholarship program for recipients of the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Scholarship.

Altria - U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company awarded a $3,000 grant to fund a tobacco field day at MSU.

The Arboretum at Murray State University hosted the 2nd annual Hutson Harvest Gala as a fundraising event to install a new children’s area on September 17, 2015. Over $10,000 was raised to help fund this new addition to the Arboretum.

Hutson, Inc. presented MSU with a sponsorship check of $10,000 that included the title sponsorship of the Hutson Harvest Gala, and will also help co-sponsor four additional events throughout the year for the HSOA.

James Jennings has endowed a fund that will assist the Hutson School of Agriculture with farm improvements, student scholarships, faculty development, programs, student activities, and much more.

Beck’s Hybrids, Delta Growers, River Bend Ag, and ADM provided support for the Soil Judging Team to host the Southeastern Regional soil judging competition at MSU.

The Lisa Kosmider Memorial Scholarship was established by her family and friends to assist students pursuing a degree in Pre-Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology.

The Betsy Ross Wilcox Foundation continues to support the Hutson School of Agriculture’s Rodeo Team and its members with an annual contribution of $20,000.

The Kentucky Corn Promotion Council gave $4,000 to support the Arboretum, as well as the annual Fall on the Farm Corn Maze.
Student Achievements

- **Luke King** (December 2015) and **Landon Gibbs** (May 2016) were named Outstanding Senior Man for December and May Commencement exercises.

- **Jackie Reed** (Horticulture) was presented the 2015-2016 Outstanding Graduate Student award during the annual MSU Student Leadership Awards Banquet.

- The **Agribusiness Club** was the recipient of the 2015-2016 Community Service Project of the Year during the annual Student Leadership Awards banquet for their annual Christmas toy drive.

- **Jan Beyke** (Senior, Animal Science) and **Melissa Schenck** (Senior, Agricultural Science) were selected as recipients of the Sigma Alpha Sorority 2016 Pioneer Leadership Seminar Scholarship. Seven Sigma Alpha members attended the Joint Leadership Seminar in Atlanta, GA February 19-20, 2016.

- The **MSU Crops Team** (**Megan Lawrence**, **Jay Green**, **Haden Smith**, **Mark Ledford**, **Keith Hamilton**, and **Dylon Barnett**) and assistant coaches **Katelynn Mollett** and **Cody Thomason** competed in the National Collegiate Crops contests in Chicago and Kansas City. At the Chicago contest, team member Jay Green placed 10th in overall contest scores and 8th in grain grading. At the Kansas City contest, the MSU team placed 4th in grain grading. Jay Green placed 7th and Hayden Smith placed 10th in grain grading.

- **Maggie Nawa** (Senior, Equine Science) was awarded a Research Scholars Fellowship by the MSU Office of Research and Scholarly Activity.

- The **MSU Horticulture Club** competed in the Southern Region American Society of Horticulture Science Conference in San Antonio, TX in February. The club placed 1st in the Club Share contest, 1st in Greenhouse Floral and Foliage, 3rd in Woody Ornamentals, and 3rd in overall competition. Individuals placing include **Landon Gibbs** (1st place Greenhouse Floral and Foliage, 3rd place Woody Ornamentals, 5th place overall), **Dakota Moore** (1st place Greenhouse Floral and Foliage, 6th place overall), and **Kevin Goheen** (2nd place Greenhouse Floral and Foliage, 1st place Vegetable Crops, 7th place overall).

- **Kevin Goheen** (Junior, Horticulture) was elected Treasurer of the Association of Collegiate Branches of the Southern Region American Society of Horticulture Sciences.

- The **Agribusiness Team** competed at the 2016 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Student Judging Conference hosted by the University of Minnesota Crookston in April. MSU’s team placed 2nd in the Agribusiness competition, 3rd in the senior college division’s Ag Sales and Marketing competition, and 4th in the senior division of the Agriculture Knowledge Bowl.

- **Kathrine Ditmore** (Junior, Agribusiness) was selected as the 2015-2016 MSU Rodeo Queen. Ditmore represented MSU at the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant in Oklahoma City, OK in January.
• Kendall Gentry (Senior, Pre-Veterinary Medicine) completed the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association season with a 3rd place finish in Barrel Racing in the Ozark Region. Gentry represented MSU at the College National Finals in Casper, WY June 12-18 where she finished 7th in the NIRA National Standings for the 2015-2016 season.

• The MSU Equestrian Teams had a successful season, with three riders advancing to National competition. Kevyn Ann Cunningham (Junior, Agribusiness) placed 6th in Open Western Horsemanship, Brooke Smith (Senior, Animal Science) placed 9th in Novice Western Horsemanship, and Ashleigh Johnson (Class of 2014) finished in the top 12 in Alumni Hunt Seat Equitation.

• Caleb Brannon (Junior, Agribusiness) and Courtney Gerstenecker (Senior, Agricultural Education) were selected as Farm Credit Services Top 100 Fresh Perspectives Honorees in Entrepreneurship/Innovation and Youth Leadership.

• Sigma Alpha recently participated in the National Agriculture Education Challenge sponsored by Monsanto. Members of the chapter developed and presented lesson plans focused on educating students about GMOs to area 5th grade classes. The chapter was one of 5 chapters nationwide awarded top honors for their work in this challenge.

• Dylan Barnett (Senior, Agronomy), Ryan Lancaster (Junior, Agricultural Education), and Margaret Ruble (Senior, Agronomy) were recognized for their participation on the MSU Soil Judging Team.

• Rachel Ross (Senior, Agribusiness) was selected as the 2016 Ms. MSU.

• Landon Gibbs (Senior, Horticulture) received 2nd place for oral presentation and Chelsea Holleman (Senior, Agronomy) received 3rd place for poster presentation during the undergraduate research competition in Agricultural Sciences at the 101st Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science.

• Katelynn Mollett (Graduate, Greenville, IL) was awarded the Frank D. Keim Fellowship from the American Society of Agronomy.

• The MSU Collegiate FFA chapter was the recipient of the Outstanding Program of Excellence - Professional Development Award at the National Alpha Tau Alpha Conclave in October 2015.

• The Pre-Veterinary Medicine Program had 17 students apply to veterinary school. Ten of these students were accepted into 7 different schools across the country.

• Members of the MSU Horsemen’s Association attended the American Collegiate Horsemen’s Association (ACHA) National Convention in Stillwater, OK. Amberlyanna Filbern was elected as National Vice President, Julie Warren was elected as National Secretary, and Paige Chamerlik was selected as Representative. In addition, MSU will coordinate the 2017 National Convention to be held in Lexington, KY.
## 2015-2016 Award Winners

**Outstanding Senior Man in Agriculture:** Landon Gibbs & Luke King  
**Outstanding Senior Woman in Agriculture:** Victoria Mohon  
**Outstanding Graduate Student in Agriculture:** Desirae Peacock  
**Agriculture Leadership Award:** Kaitlin Ziesmer  
**Outstanding Undergraduate Research Scholar in Agriculture:** Vaughn Reed  
**Outstanding Senior in Agribusiness:** Haley Barfield & Sarah Bellingham  
**Outstanding Agricultural Education:** Ryan Buchanan & Victoria Mohon  
**Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Systems Technology:** John Board & Ira Wray  
**Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Science:** Melissa Schenck  
**Outstanding Senior in Agronomy:** Jay Green  
**Outstanding Senior in Veterinary Technology:** Amelia Hall  
**Outstanding Senior in Pre-Veterinary Medicine:** Joseph Schifano  
**Outstanding Senior in Animal Science:** Victoria Hedinger  
**Outstanding Senior in Equine Science:** Maggie Nawa  
**Outstanding Senior in Horticulture:** Kaitlin Ziesmer  
**Go Getter Award:** Chandler Christian, Shelby Fuhr, Michael Mann
Matthew Rehmer, Cody Thomason  
**Outstanding Agribusiness Club Member:** Matthew Rehmer  
**Outstanding Agronomy Club Member:** Haden Smith, Megan Lawrence - Senior  
**Outstanding Sigma Alpha Members:** Shelby Fuhr, Melissa Schenck - Senior
Kendall Gilkey - Alpha Gamma Class
Courtney Gerstenecker - Alpha Delta Class  
**Outstanding Block & Bridle Member:** Haley Fisher & Reneé Henert  
**Outstanding AHT/Pre-Vet Club Member:** Jacy Isaacs, Katelyn Jaqueway - Senior  
**Outstanding Alpha Gamma Rho Member:** Mark Ledford - Senior, Heath Durbin - Junior  
**Outstanding Horticulture Club Member:** Dakota Moore  
**Outstanding Agricultural Engineering Technology Club Member:** Brett Anderson  
**Outstanding Agriculture Ambassador:** Melanie Gale & Melissa Schenck  
**Outstanding Stock Seat Equestrian Team Member:** Kevyn Ann Cunningham & Brooke Smith  
**Outstanding Hunt Seat Equestrian Team Member:** Cassidy Gatlin & Stasha Hickey  
**Outstanding Dressage Club Member:** Katelyn Kirtley  
**Outstanding Horseman’s Club Member:** Paige Chamerlik  
**Outstanding Cowboy:** Hunter Scheerbaum  
**Outstanding Cowgirl:** Ellen Jarvis  
**Outstanding Senior in Collegiate FFA:** Justin Davis  
**Outstanding Man in Collegiate FFA:** Daniel Ingram  
**Outstanding Woman in Collegiate FFA:** Megan Terry
**Graduate Research**

August 2015, December 2015 and May 2016 Graduate Students participated in research projects as part of their Master’s Degree program.

**August 2015**
- Mindy Hopson (Henderson, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. David Ferguson, Professor, Agronomy
  Thesis: *Evaluation of Various Soybean Seed Treatments During a Drought in Western Kentucky*
- Aaron Lowe (Corbin, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Brian Hoover, Associate Professor, Agricultural Science
  Thesis: *Identifying Core Competencies for a Precision Agriculture Curriculum at Murray State University*
- Nichole Murdock (Hudson, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Ramesh Gupta, Professor, Veterinary Toxicology
  Thesis: *Therapeutic Efficacy and Safety Evaluation of Terminalia Chebula Extract in Moderately Arthritic Canines*

**December 2015**
- William T. Beam, III (Prospect, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Professor, Animal Science
  Thesis: *The Effects of Sulfur Applications on Canola Crop Yield (Brassica napus)*
- William B. Greer (Dyersburg, TN)
  Advisor: Dr. David Ferguson, Professor, Agronomy
  Thesis: *Multiple Fungicide Applications in an Intensively Managed Corn System in Western Kentucky*
- Justin C. Walker (Labelle, FL)
  Advisor: Dr. Jim Davis, Professor, Animal Science
  Thesis: *The Effects of Two Supplements Upon the Rate of Gain of Steers in Calloway County Kentucky*

**May 2016**
- Omoyeni Aderonmu (Ibudan, Nigeria)
  Advisor: Dr. Dwayne Driskill, Assistant Dean
  Research: *College Students’ Perceptions on GMOs*
- Katharine Case (Sparta, NJ)
  Advisor: Dr. Terry Canerdy, Professor, Veterinary Technology
  Thesis: *Safety Evaluation of Parastar Plus in Dogs and Assessment of Transferable Residue of Fipronil and Cyphenothrin From Dogs to Humans*
• Ziqi Chu (Bozhou, China)
  Advisor: Dr. Dwayne Driskill, Assistant Dean
  Research: The Conjecture of the Yield, Quality Traits and the Rice Balast Resistance of Hybrid Variety of Jinix 203 and Wufengyou T205

• Donald Heath Hoffman (Poseyville, IN)
  Advisor: Dr. Brian Hoover, Associate Professor, Agricultural Science
  Research: Presentation of Education and Experience for Master of Science in Agriculture

• Rama Krishna Medicharla (India)
  Advisor: Dr. Dwayne Driskill, Assistant Dean
  Research: Integrated Farming Systems in India

• Tanner McIntyre (Indian Mound, TN)
  Advisor: Dr. Iin Handayani, Associate Professor, Agronomy
  Research: Effects of Various Land Uses on Selected Soil Properties: Study in Stewart County, TN

• Desirae Peacock (Philpot, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Terry Canerdy, Professor, Veterinary Technology
  Thesis: Client Preference and Satisfaction in Western Kentucky Veterinary Clinics

• Jaclyn Kay Reed (Murray, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Dwayne Driskill, Assistant Dean
  Thesis: Soil Temperature Effects on Hemp Germination

• Hannah Robbins (Murray, KY)
  Advisor: Dr. Iin Handayani, Associate Professor, Agronomy
  Thesis: Evaluating Soil Quality Indicators in Kentucky

• Natalia Vega Barreto (Jeffersonville, IN)
  Advisor: Dr. Ramesh Gupta, Professor, Veterinary Toxicology
  Thesis: Human Exposure to Permethrin and Pyriproxyfen From Dogs Treated With Vetguard Plus™
Undergraduate Research

Three Hutson School of Agriculture students prepared posters for Posters at the Capitol held on February 25, 2016 in Frankfort, KY. In addition several other undergraduate students presented their research at conferences across the U.S.

- **Bioenergy Crop Production and Combustion in Agriculture**
  Vaughn Reed (Greenville, KY)
  Faculty Mentors: Dr. Tony Brannon & Mr. Jason Robertson

- **Efficacy of an Oral Joint Supplement in Exercising Horses**
  Maggie Nawa (New Lenox, IL)
  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shea Porr

- **Stress Mitigation Techniques in Shelter Cats: Effectiveness and Usage**
  Christina Sherman (St. Louis, MO)
  Faculty Mentor: Dr. William DeWees

- **Evaluation of Soil Physical Indicators in Natural vs Agricultural Ecosystems**
  Mary Derting (Murray, KY)
  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Iin Handayani

- **Infiltration Rate and its Dynamics in Six Land Management Systems of Western Kentucky**
  Landon Gibbs (Washington Court House, OH)
  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Iin Handayani

- **The Efficacy of Soil Sampling Methods for Kentucky Soils**
  Chelsea Holleman (Louisville, KY)
  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Iin Handayani

- **Identification of Pedestrial Compaction Variation Over Varying Playing Surfaces in Calloway County, KY**
  Gunner Dekker (Salem, IL)
  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Iin Handayani
Personnel:

- Dr. Brigetta Hughes was hired as Case Coordinator. Dr. Hughes has previous experience in avian laboratory work, private practice, and teaching.
- Dr. Ailam Lim joined the BVC as head of Virology. Dr. Liam has experience working in a veterinary diagnostic laboratory in Michigan, has extensive training in PCR, and will be working closely with the Molecular Diagnostics section as well as Virology.
- Ms. Laura Clark retired from the Virology section after 37 years of service.

Laboratory Improvements:

- Grants from USDA and the FDS in excess of $100,000 were utilized to upgrade equipment and purchase service contracts for items in the BVC. Some equipment purchases will wait until the completion of the new Breathitt Veterinary Center this fall; others have been made to replace outdated equipment.

Operations:

- The BVC accepted in excess of 12,000 cases and completed over 21,400 individual tests during RY 2015-16.
- Technicians in every section completed Proficiency Tests and passed with flying colors. PTs in Leptospirosis, Anaplasmosis, Avian Influenza, Johne’s PCR, Foot and Mouth PCR, Classic Swine Fever PCR and others were completed.
- Personnel attended training in Quality Management and Avian Influenza testing, and also attended the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, American Veterinary Microbiologist, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, and American Veterinary Medical Association meetings during the past year.
MSU College Rodeo:
- 14 Regional Colleges Participating
- Saddle Bronc, Bareback Riding, Calf Roping, Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, Goat Tying, Barrel Racing, Bull Riding, Steer Wrestling

Bull Blowout:
- 2 night bull riding and barrel racing event held in October and February
- Participants: 150+ per night
- Spectators: 1,500+ per night

Outlaw Tractor and Truck Pull
- Open 2 & 4 wheel drive trucks, Pro-stock 4-wheel drive trucks, Super-stock tractors
- Spectators: 2,000 per night

Kentucky High School Rodeo
- Participants from 5 states
- Held in April and May

Western Rivers Livestock Show
- Livestock show and judging clinic

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION SHOWS

SELECTED 2015-2016 EXPO EVENTS

Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Shows
- Antique Tractor Show
- Ag Construction and Safety Days
- 4-H Horse Camp
- FFA Field Day
- Ranch Rodeo & Jackpot
- Regional Farmer's Expo
- Laser Tag Events
- MSU Shopping Bazaar
- Live Nativity
- Mid-America Arenacross
- Pony & Horse Pulls
- MSU Pig Sale
- Kentucky Bluegrass Invitational Cattle Show
- Circus
- Jackpot Barrel Races & Team Ropings
**Twilight Tobacco Tour**

The Twilight Tobacco Tour was held on Thursday, August 13, 2015. This yearly event sponsored by the Hutson School of Agriculture and University of Kentucky Extension Service allows area tobacco producers to tour the University’s West Farm complex and observe ongoing tobacco research plots. Research conducted during the 2015 growing season included variety trials, herbicide trials, and sucker control trials. Dr. Andy Bailey was on hand to discuss ongoing tobacco research, and all participants were treated to dinner following the tour.

**Back to School Picnic**

The Hutson School of Agriculture hosted its annual Back to School Picnic on August 25, 2015 at the West Farm complex. Over 300 agriculture students, faculty, and staff attended “A Taste of MSU Agriculture” and sampled a variety of agricultural products including pork chops, steaks, and chicken strips. This annual event is a great way to kick off the Fall semester and welcome our 200+ incoming freshmen to the Hutson School of Agriculture family.

**Racer Roundup**

Murray State University’s Collegiate FFA hosted its 21st annual Racer Roundup Leadership event on September 11, 2015 in the MSU CFSB Center. In attendance were 703 high school freshmen and seniors from 24 chapters in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Illinois. More than 60 MSU students were involved in presenting this year’s edition of *Green Means “GO!”: A Greenhand Experience*, a series of leadership workshops for high school freshmen. Workshops included 1) *Where the Gravel Meets the Pavement* (how FFA experiences can make career goals possible later); 2) *Experience the Experience* (exploring different types of SAEs available); 3) *Communicate With Caution* (appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication skills and attention to social media image); and 4) *Positive Passengers Wanted* (how positivity in personal and professional actions helps the individual and the group as a whole). In addition, a special seminar was offered for seniors, which focused on assisting senior FFA members with making the transition from high school into post-secondary opportunities.
The Hutson School of Agriculture and the Agriculture Leadership Council hosted the twelfth annual “Fall on the Farm” September 23-26, 2015. Over 1,200 area elementary and pre-school students and more than 1,000 members of the community attended this event. Students and teachers from North Calloway Elementary, Murray Head Start, Christian Fellowship (Marshall Co.), Central Elementary (Marshall Co.), Northside Baptist Christian Academy (Graves Co.), Jonathan Elementary (Marshall Co.), South Marshall Elementary, Mother’s Day Out, Murray Elementary, Farmington Elementary (Graves Co.), Benton Elementary (Marshall Co.), Southwest Calloway Elementary, East Calloway Elementary, and Murray Home School Group attended this year’s event.

Fall on the Farm strives to provide both an educational and entertaining agricultural experience to children and adults. Returning events included a corn maze, corn pit, pumpkin painting, hay loft slide, climbing walls, water balloon slingshot, inflatable horse races, pedal tractors, rubber duck races, butter making, and milk cow demonstrations as well as educational sessions presented by the Kentucky Soybean Association, Hutson Inc., Kentucky Poultry Federation and Hutson School of Agriculture students. This year’s event also featured Animal Tales live animal show. The event continues to grow each year and is made possible through the support of our faculty, staff, and students, as well as numerous corporate and private sponsors.
Alumni Picnic - Homecoming 2015

The 53rd annual Agriculture Alumni Association Picnic was held in conjunction with MSU Homecoming activities on October 9, 2015. Special recognition was given to graduates from the classes of 1965 and 1990 to commemorate their 50th and 25th anniversaries. Over 100 MSU Agriculture Alumni and their families attended this year’s event at the Wm. “Bill” Cherry Expo Center.

Dr. Dwayne Driskill was presented the Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus during a special Dean’s Circle luncheon. Mr. Allen Besand was named the 2014-2015 Outstanding Young Agriculture Alumnus.

Hutson School of Agriculture students Daniel Cole Bell (Paducah, KY), Courtney Gerstenecker (Carlyle, IL), Jonathan Curd (Murray, KY), Joel Reddick (Bardwell, KY), Matthew Rehmer (Lenzburg, IL), Angelia Reed (Danville, IL), Jessica Murch (Henderson, KY), and Taylor Gray (Harrodsburg, KY) were presented with Alumni Association Scholarships during the event as well.

Toys for Tots Toy Drive

The Murray State University Agribusiness Club sponsored the eighth annual Toys for Tots toy drive this year in memory of former agribusiness professor, Dr. Ken Bowman, who passed away in 2006. This project supports the efforts of the Calloway County Family Resource Center Santa Project and the Murray Family Resource Center Tiger Christmas.

Students collected over 1000 toys to help fill Christmas wish lists for Children in Murray and Calloway County. In addition, the club sponsored a glow-golf scramble to help raise funds for the toy drive. The toys and $1600 in cash donations were delivered by Agribusiness Club members and advisors Mr. Ryan Morrow and Dr. Michelle Santiago on December 11, 2015.
**Agriculture Appreciation Week**

The Agriculture Leadership Council hosted its first Agriculture Appreciation Week November 16-18, 2015. The goal of the event was to spread agriculture awareness throughout the MSU campus community. Activities included a free cookout for all MSU students, informational booths on current issues in agriculture, and hosting the “Drive to Feed” tour on campus.

**Excellence in Agriculture Luncheon**

The annual “Excellence in Agriculture” luncheon was held December 1, 2015. This marked the 11th year for the event designed to recognize outstanding students in the Hutson School of Agriculture. Students in attendance were nominated by faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication to both the University and the Hutson School of Agriculture.

Mr. David Beck, MSU Agriculture Alumnus and Kentucky Farm Bureau Executive Vice President served as keynote speaker for this year’s event.

**Soybean Promotion Day**

The Hutson School of Agriculture and the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board sponsored the 12th annual Soybean Promotion Day on January 19, 2016 at the MSU CFSB Center. This event provides area farmers and agribusinesses with an opportunity to attend informational sessions focused on current trends and developments in agriculture as well as soybean production.

Mr. Randy Dowdy, record winning corn and soybean producer opened the program with discussion relating to yield maximization.

Troy and Stacy Hadrick, ranchers and strong advocates for agriculture served as keynote speakers for the evening. Their session focused on the importance of producers and others involved in the agriculture industry presenting a positive image of agriculture and advocating for their industry.

**Career Fair**

The Hutson School of Agriculture and the Agriculture Leadership Council hosted the Agriculture Career Fair on February 3, 2016. Thirty-four companies were represented this year at the career fair, and approximately 230 agriculture students attended the event. This annual event gives MSU Agriculture students the opportunity to interact with representatives from companies covering a wide range of agriculture-related careers. Many companies also conduct on-site interviews for open positions and summer internships.
**Alpha Zeta Awards Banquet**

The Hutson School of Agriculture hosted its annual awards banquet on April 6, 2016. Approximately 340 students, parents, and MSU faculty, staff, and administration attended the banquet. Clubs and organizations take this opportunity each year to recognize their outstanding members. In addition, the Hutson School of Agriculture also recognized its scholarship recipients and outstanding seniors for the 2015-2016 academic year.

**FFA Field Day**

The 64th annual Murray State University FFA Field Day was held April 13, 2016 at the Wm. “Bill” Cherry Expo Center. Over 1,200 students representing 46 high schools from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Illinois competed in events including livestock judging, tractor driving, tobacco judging, nursery and floriculture contests, seed and weed identification, small engines, goat tying, roping, auctioneering and horsemanship. In addition, FFA Field Day hosts the Kentucky State Poultry Judging Contest. Calloway County High School not only received top honors in the State Poultry Contest but finished first in overall field day competition for the eleventh consecutive year.
Institute for Future Agriculture Leaders

The Hutson School of Agriculture hosted the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders (IFAL) Conference June 12-16, 2016. IFAL is a five day leadership conference for high school seniors sponsored by Kentucky Farm Bureau. Forty-one students from across the state attended this year’s IFAL, where they participated in team building and leadership development exercises. Participants traveled to Ft. Campbell, KY to participate in team building exercises at the Outdoor Recreation Challenge Course and visited Lowe Farms in Murray to learn how MSU Alumnus Scott Lowe and his family have succeeded as first generation farmers. Students also worked together to research current agriculture issues and prepare for a Discussion Meet modeled after the annual KFB contest. Other activities included a photo scavenger hunt highlighting MSU campus landmarks, Barnyard Olympics, a special presentation by Missy Jenkins-Smith, victim of the 1997 Heath High School shooting, and an opportunity to meet with Hutson School of Agriculture faculty, staff, and MSU Office of Recruitment personnel to get a firsthand account of college life at Murray State.
**Racer Academy**

**2015-2016 Academic Year Enrollment Report**

Seventy-seven Kentucky high schools, with an enrollment of over 550 students, participated in the 2015-2016 Racer Academy of Agriculture. Courses offered by the Hutson School of Agriculture included AGR 100 Animal Science, AGR 130 Introduction to Agriculture Economics, AGR 133 Field Applications in Agriculture, AGR 140 Plant Science, AGR 182 Introduction to Pre-Veterinary Science, and AGR 199 Contemporary Issues in Agriculture.

### Participating Schools

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One characteristic of a Murray State graduate is to have some understanding of cultural diversity and alternative economic and political systems. On January 2-15 Hutson School of Agriculture students participated in an agricultural and cultural tour of the Queensland and New South Wales in Australia. The experience abroad was the culmination of an international study course taken by 16 undergraduate students during the fall semester. Students visited various agricultural production and processing units to interact with owners and managers. This included the Sydney Fruit and Vegetable Markets, Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization, Cattle Council of Australia, AgriFood Skills Australia, Rosnay Organic Vineyards and Orchard, Moxey's Dairy, Egabala Merino stud and cattle farm, Printhie Winery, Tattykeel Stud, sugarcane farm, irrigated and dry land cropping facilities, a local seed and chemical retailer, Kerwee Feedlot, Dalby prime cattle sale, Boonara Performance Horses, freshwater crayfish farm, Garglen Brahman Stud, the Ginger Factory, and Piñata Farms, a mango, strawberry, and pineapple producer and packing facility. Students also visited Bondi Beach, Sydney Harbor, they Sydney Opera House, Parliament House, the U.S. Embassy, Parkes Observatory, and the Waradah Aboriginal Centre. In addition, participants were treated to surfing lessons and the opportunity to interact with native Australian animals including koalas and kangaroos at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

MSU faculty and staff members leading the tour were as follows: Dr. Michelle Santiago, Agribusiness Economics; Dr. Tony Brannon, Dean HSOA; Ms. Rhea Ann Holland, HSOA Academic Services Coordinator.
On May 15-25, ten Hutson School of Agriculture students travelled to Budapest, Hungary to participate in an educational program that awarded them the opportunity to become more familiar with a variety of agricultural practices and cultural experiences. In addition to time spent in Budapest, students also travelled throughout other regions of Hungary and Slovakia. The group visited a wide variety of Hungarian agriculture-based production and processing facilities as well as several cultural and historic landmarks. These included a tour of downtown Budapest and the Central Market, Hungarian Parliament, the Szechenyi Thermal Baths, Pitze-Nage Kft. mushroom and biogas facility, a commercial vegetable and fruit seed producer, Szarvas Freshwater Fishery, DuPont Pioneer Szarvas, Arpad-Agrar Greenhouse facility, a farmer expo where students met with representatives from Alltech, Auchen Hypermarket, Syssy Castle, Somlo Winery, Henred Porcelain Factory, Lake Balaton, Szentendre city center, Esztergom Basilica, a cave church, Monsanto Hungarian Kft., Balbona Arab Horse Park, Biocentrum Slovakia, and a Hungarian folk dance. Students also toured the campus of Szent Istvan University and interacted with faculty and staff over dinner. Additionally, throughout the week students and faculty experienced uniquely Hungarian foods such as goulash and strudel.

Hutson School of Agriculture faculty leading the program included: Dr. Michelle Santiago, Agribusiness Economics; Dr. Bill Payne, Agribusiness Economics; and Dr. Brian Parr, Agricultural Science Department Head.
## Special Recruitment & Retention Events 2015-2016

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Calloway County High School
Carlisle County High School
Christian County High School
Clarksville High School (TN)
Crittenden County High School
Edmonson County High School
Franklin County High School
Fulton County Ag Day
Harpeth High School (TN)
Harrison County High School
Hickman County High School
Kaskaskia College (IL)
Livingston County High School
Louisville Reception
Marshall County High School
McCracken County High School Career Fair
Memphis FFA Field Day (TN)
Muhlenberg County High School
Northeast Dubois High School (IN)
Oklahoma Animal Science Trip
Owensboro Career Fair
Rend Lake College (IL)
Section 19 FFA Leadership Training Career Fair (IL)
Thomas Nelson High School
Trigg County High School
Washington County High School (KY)
Western Hills High School
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## Hutson School of Agriculture

### Freshmen Enrollment History

**Fall 1995 - Fall 2015**

### Hutson School of Agriculture Retention - All New Freshmen

**Began Fall 2014 - Returned Fall 2015**

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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<td>66.7%</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHT</td>
<td>Pre-Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Veterinary Technology</td>
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<td>56.0%</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
<td>72.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>86</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>61.6%</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Agriculture Total</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
<td>64.4%</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
<td>76.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSU Overall</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,508</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
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Hutson School of Agriculture
Total Enrollment History
Fall 2005 - Fall 2015

Hutson School of Agriculture
Degrees Conferred
2005-2015