

CFAES



THE COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

2020

# ALUMNI AWARDS LUNCHEON



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

150 1870  
2020

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## **2020 CFAES ALUMNI AWARDS**

Reception: **11:30 A.M.**

Buffet lunch: **NOON**

Recognition program and alumni awards: **1 P.M.**

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### **YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Young Professional Achievement Award recognizes young men and women for their early professional accomplishments. This award provides recognition for these individuals and serves as a stimulus toward further efforts by younger alumni.

### **INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI AWARD**

The International Alumni Award is presented to outstanding international CFAES alumni representing, supporting, and promoting the college and Ohio State around the globe.

### **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**

The Distinguished Alumni Award gives public recognition to those men and women who have brought distinction to themselves and to the college through their commitment and leadership.

### **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

Individuals who have been instrumental to the success of the college are recognized with the Meritorious Service Award. The purpose of the Meritorious Service Award is to give public recognition to alumni and/or nonalumni who have been singularly significant in the college's quest for excellence.

**CARMEN OHIO**

**ADJOURNMENT**



**CLIFFORD GREER**

BS 2007

Construction Systems Management

In the words of his colleague, Bill Kramer, "(Cliff's) toolbox for life seems like a magician's hat with endless wonders at his disposal."

Cliff finds himself using what he learned at Ohio State, not only as an educator in the classroom but on the field as a football coach. Since joining the coaching staff, he has led the football team to eight district championships and four regional championships.

In the classroom, Cliff is a fierce advocate for engineering education. Specifically, he is credited with establishing the

Naples High Engineering Academy. With Cliff's leadership, the academy focuses on inspiring the next generation of designers and problem-solvers through work-based learning experiences that help reinforce what they are learning in the classroom.

In 2018, Naples High Engineering Academy was the only U.S. engineering academy that earned the Distinguished Academy status. Also in 2018, Cliff was one of 10 engineering teachers in the country to be recognized by Project Lead the Way as an Outstanding Engineering Teacher.

Cliff is known as an educator who strives not only to teach his students in the classroom or on the field, but also to serve as a mentor and role model for them in life.



**SARAH HERRINGSHAW**

BS 2007

Animal, Dairy, and Poultry Science

From working with the Wendy's Company to regulate animal welfare standards to speaking to current students about the importance of networking, Sarah is a young Ohio State alumna who has risen to great professional achievement.

She is an individual who holds up the accomplishments of those with whom she works, which is the cornerstone of her professional successes. In 2014, Sarah served as beef quality assurance product manager for the Wendy's Company. Within her first year, she was recognized as Manager of the Year within

the Wendy's organization. The following year, she was awarded Dave's MBA by Wendy's, in acknowledgment of her work performance embodying Dave Thomas' values.

Professional accomplishments aside, Sarah manages to find time to give back. She serves annually as a Meat Judging Official for the American Meat Science Association, provides guest lectures for the CFAES Department of Animal Sciences, assists with youth programming, and serves as a mentor and role model to young men and women within the Wendy's Company.

Above all, Sarah says her most significant contribution to the industry has been "to have the opportunity to mentor many students and young professionals who are now successfully contributing to the agriculture industry. Their success is what makes me most proud of my career so far."



**MAURICIO BITTENCOURT**

PhD 2004

Agricultural Economics

Though his work has been established in Brazil, Mauricio keeps Ohio State and the CFAES Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics (AEDE) close to his heart.

During his 24-year career at the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), Mauricio has held the titles of professor for the Department of Economics, director of the Graduate Studies Program in Economic Development, member of the Applied Social Science College Congregation, member of the

Departmental Council for the Department of Economics, member of the Strategic Planning Committee for the Department of Economics, and vice-chair for the Department of Economics. Because of his dedication, the UFPR Graduate Studies Program in Economics is one of the top six economics programs in Brazil.

Mauricio's strong connection to AEDE has led to speaking engagements hosted by the department, obtaining funding to send several UFPR students to AEDE, and bringing AEDE Professor Stanley Thompson to UFPR as a visiting professor.

Throughout his time in academia, Mauricio's contribution to the greater economics field of study for both UFPR and AEDE has helped bridge the gap between two different cultures with a common passion for economics.



**LUIZ LUCCHESI**

PhD 1997

Agronomy

Luiz has had a long-standing commitment to sustainable agriculture in Brazil, where his research has focused on the effective recycling of rural, urban, and industrial wastes as sources of organic matter and nutrients in agricultural production systems.

His commitment to sustainable agriculture has been recognized worldwide, and his work has been published in Brazil, Austria, Argentina, Australia, and the United States.

At the heart of his work is an endless ambition to connect Brazil and the United States. Specifically, Luiz took leadership in developing a formal memorandum of agreement between the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) and Ohio State, and he has worked closely with the Ohio International Intern Program of CFAES' International Programs in Agriculture to recruit young Brazilians to participate as interns with agribusinesses in the United States. In 2014, Luiz played a vital role in the establishment of the Greater Columbus Sister Cities International relationship between Columbus, Ohio, and Curitiba, Paraná, to help promote the continuation of cross-cultural exchange activities between the two cities.

Through his cross-cultural collaboration, Luiz says he has been able to "educate hundreds of professionals to the agribusiness industry, propose the equation of complex community problems, and improve national and international recognition of the UFPR Agronomy Program."



**JEFFREY DICKINSON**

BS 1981, MS 1982, PhD 1995

Horticulture, Horticulture, Entomology

Jeffrey is known as an advocate for children's agricultural and environmental education, and he is dedicated to educational programs that are hands-on and experimental. Having served since 1991 as the executive director/farm manager at Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware, Ohio, Jeffrey helps educate over 8,000 children annually.

As one of Stratford's founding members, Jeffrey has been integral to the establishment of the organization within the community. He has been at Stratford from the start, and for

nearly 30 years, he has continuously elevated Stratford's educational programs.

Prior to his time at Stratford, Jeffrey devoted his skills at Innovative Farmers of Ohio, where he led the Ohio Working Group for Whole-Farm Planning, working in farm-tour development and fundraising. He has also worked with the CFAES Department of Entomology's Sustainable Agriculture/Soil Ecology Program to conduct on-farm research, and he has served as horticultural director at Meadowcreek, Inc., in Fox, Arkansas.

These experiences have led to what Jeffrey calls his most significant contribution to the community: his nearly 30-year commitment to the collaborative development of Stratford.

**ELIZABETH GUERTAL**

BS 1984, MS 1988

Agronomy

Beth has had an accomplished career in crop and soil science, and she is a great example of the contribution of women in agriculture.

She began her career at Auburn University, where she has conducted research and taught on the subject of soil fertility with a particular focus on turfgrass management. Today, Beth is one of very few women who work in turfgrass science, and she is regarded as an expert in speaking to golf course superintendents and sports field managers around the world.

Beth has held many impressive positions in her career. Specifically, she is the first woman to have the role of editor-in-chief for the American Society of Agronomy. She was also elected chair of the Crop Science Society of America's Turfgrass Division, and currently, she is the president of the Crop Science Society of America. Beth is a tri-fellow of her research societies, a multiple-fellow honor obtained by only 140 scientists in the United States.

Her biggest contribution to the agronomy community, she believes, is the education and career readiness that she teaches her undergraduate students. Her colleagues at Auburn University agree; she received the university's highest teaching award, the Leischuck Award, in 2010.

**ROBERT JOSEPH**

BS 1968, MS 1970, PhD 1975

Horticulture

A strong supporter of 4-H programming, Bob has served as major gifts chair and president on The Ohio 4-H Foundation Board. He is currently an ex-officio board member and supports 4-H in every way that he can.

Bob has been active in multiple Ohio State alumni groups, including the CFAES Alumni Society Board and the Ohio State Board of Trustees' Army ROTC Alumni Association. He has also worked diligently with the Alpha Zeta fraternity, now known as Alpha Zeta Partners. He can be found at area nursing homes, the Ohio State Fair, and CFAES events as a member of the Scioto Ridge Boys Gospel Quartet.

Professionally, Bob worked for 28 years in Abbott Laboratories' nutrition division. He developed adult nutritional products including milk-protein-based beverages, powders, and bars. He holds 10 patents for food-based products, and he is to thank for the technology that helps scan entire pallets of packaged products such as Similac for spoilage before shipment.

Bob is a U.S. Army veteran, having retired after 26 years of service from 1970 to 1996. He served as a U.S. Army Reserve officer in Columbus, Ohio, and as a U.S. Army officer/instructor and food adviser in Fort Lee, Virginia.

**BRUCE KETTLER**

BS 1987

Agronomy

Bruce's passion for agriculture started from an early age in western Ohio, where he was a member of Ohio 4-H and served as the Ohio FFA president as well as the National FFA vice president.

Bruce has a 30-year career in agricultural leadership, serving in positions ranging from production to community and industry relations. His work at Beck's Hybrid has been integral to the relationship between Beck's and CFAES. His work created a \$1 million commitment from Beck's to support the college's water

quality efforts and Farm Science Review. A fervent supporter of CFAES, Bruce's dedication to Ohio State stretches beyond the college. Specifically, he has served since 2015 as the CFAES representative on Ohio State's Alumni Advisory Council.

His agricultural service also reaches to Indiana, where he graduated in 2012 from the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program. Bruce is a current board member of AgriNovus Indiana, and since January 2018, he has served as the director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

According to Bruce, his most significant contribution to the greater agricultural community has been "an improved understanding and advancement of agriculture's promise, economic potential, and societal benefits to new and traditional audiences throughout the Midwest, the United States, and the world."



**LOU KOZMA JR.**  
BS 1992  
Horticulture

Hard work and tradition go hand in hand for Lou. He is a fourth-generation family member of Hirzel Canning Company & Farms in Luckey, Ohio.

As the current president of Hirzel Farms, Lou supervises 30 tomato farms in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, and he works with 300 acres of trial varieties of tomatoes every year, looking at new planting methods and plant nutrition.

Because of his horticulture education, Lou has been able to implement sustainable farming practices at the farms he manages. Specifically, the growers who Lou manages are giving back more to the soil than they are taking from it, and they are focusing on maintaining healthy soil, managing water, developing biodiversity, and composting.

Lou collaborates on critical components in food safety with CFAES' Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State University Extension, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service. This collaborative energy is at the heart of Lou's career, and it is how he continues to advance a company that has been part of his family for nearly 100 years. In his words, his work is about "establishing strong connections—between and within—the organic and vegetable crop production, growers, processors, researchers, and Extension."



**DAVID RICHARDS**  
ASC 1981  
Nursery Management Technology

Dave is a strong supporter of Ohio State ATI and has been an instructor in horticulture at Auburn Career Center in Painesville, Ohio, for over 20 years. Experiential learning is a focus of his teaching strategy, and he incorporates many different forms of hands-on education into his student lessons.

To help prepare students for what will be expected of them in the industry, Dave has worked to change Ohio FFA's testing to be similar to the professional certifications in Ohio's nursery and landscape industry. He continues to work with Ohio FFA and

National FFA to offer apprenticeship programs in which students can participate.

One of the highlights of his experiential teaching strategies is a display at Cleveland's Great Big Home + Garden Show where, with Dave's leadership, students create a competition-level garden that is 1,600 square feet.

In his words, Dave's greatest contribution to the landscape industry is "a passion for excellence in all endeavors both personally and for my students. I am particularly proud of the partnerships developed with business and industry which led to aligning classroom/lab curriculum with industry certification credentials." It is through his students that Dave's legacy will live on.



**JERRY BIGHAM**  
Professor Emeritus

Jerry has been a steady member of CFAES leadership for the past 43 years. Through his many roles, Jerry has always possessed an unwavering drive to find solutions that meet the needs of those around him, and he finds joy in the success of others.

He has studied and taught soil science and agronomy at CFAES. He has also served as interim director and director of the CFAES School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR), interim associate chair for the CFAES Department of Animal Sciences, interim associate director for CFAES' Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, and interim associate dean for research and graduate education at CFAES. Few others can boast an association with so many departments and specialties within the college.

During Jerry's time as director of SENR, he stressed that citizenship was critical to the long-term success of the SENR community, emphasizing that how people do things is just as important as what they do. Because of this mindset, SENR currently has a culture of respect, tolerance, and curiosity that allows the multidisciplinary community to succeed.

Jerry's involvement on boards and societies is as numerous and impressive as the variety of roles he's held throughout his career. He has been involved with the Soil Science Society of America's Clay Minerals Society; the Ohio Association of Professional Soil Scientists; the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission; and the American Battlefield Trust for Preservation of Historic Battlefields from the American Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the War of 1812.

In his own words, Jerry's most significant contributions to education, preservation, and regulation have been "advancements in land conservation and management through 20 years of work with the Ohio Soil Survey Program, research and teaching on the restoration of lands and waters impacted by mining, and the training of many students who have engaged in successful careers with industry and with various conservation organizations and regulatory agencies."

Jerry's legacy is one that will continue through the works of the many students, faculty, and staff who have served under his leadership.





**WILLIAM HILDEBOLT**

BS 1966, MS 1967, PhD 1969

Food Technology, Horticulture, Horticulture

Bill is known for being a strong advocate for students' financial stability while earning their degrees, and he hopes to encourage current CFAES students to pursue their own futures with the help of financial support. As a student, he used money from selling his 4-H steers to pay for his first two undergraduate years at Ohio State.

Following his time as a CFAES student, Bill established three separate funding endeavors benefiting current and future CFAES students: The Hazen and Anna Jane Hildebolt Preble County Scholarship; The William and Sandra Hildebolt Food Science and Technology Hall of Distinction Endowment Fund; and the Show Me the Data! endowment, which enables and benefits CFAES' acclaimed, student-run, campuswide "Citation Needed" speaker series.

Bill dedicated a significant portion of his career working for the Campbell Soup Company, where he rose to the rank of vice president of research and development. He is credited with roughly 20 patents, and he was the leader of the development of Prego spaghetti sauce. Bill also served as the vice president of research and development for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. He currently uses his experiences from his family farm and his composting research for Nature's Select Premium Turf Services, Inc., which he founded and owns.

In 2014, Bill was inducted into CFAES' Food Science and Technology Hall of Distinction and was named on the "100 Buckeyes You Should Know" list by Ohio State's Alumni Association. He also received the CFAES Distinguished Alumni Award in 2017 and the CFAES Department of Food Science and Technology Meritorious Service to Students Award in 2018.

Amidst all of this, Bill co-authored a book titled *It's In There!*, which is based on his experience in the product development department at Campbell Soup Company. Proceeds from his book sales directly support student scholarships.

Bill says college students need to develop critical thinking skills and gain experience beyond the classroom to promote science. For it is through the students of today that, as he calls it, "pseudoscience and urban mythology" regarding genetic products will be combatted. "Whether it is landscape, lawn care, or farming, everyone's a critic," he says.

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**CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

**2017 Class**

Craig Berning

**2018 Class**

Celena Ritchey

**2019 Class**

Marie McConnell





### **THANK YOU!**

We at CFAES are proud of our 43,000-plus alumni spread throughout the world.

While we pay special recognition to these 12 outstanding individuals today, we are grateful each and every day for our alumni and friends who advance their professions and bring honorable recognition to themselves, to CFAES, and to Ohio State.

Our work is only possible through the power of our community.

In addition, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for CFAES Alumni Society Board members whose terms have ended or will end this summer: Craig Berning and Cyndi Brill.

### **WHO COULD BE NEXT?**

We hope that you are inspired by these amazing people being honored today.

**Help CFAES recognize more exceptional alumni and friends next year by nominating someone for the 2021 CFAES Alumni Awards.**

**Nominations for 2021 will open this month and run through July 1. Email [cfaesalumni@osu.edu](mailto:cfaesalumni@osu.edu) for more information.**

The next CFAES Alumni Awards celebration will be on Saturday, March 6, 2021. We hope to see you there.

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**CARMEN OHIO**

Oh! come let's sing Ohio's praise,  
And songs to Alma Mater raise;  
While our hearts rebounding thrill,  
With joy which death alone can still.  
Summer's heat or winter's cold,  
The seasons pass, the years will roll;  
Time and change will surely show  
How firm thy friendship O-hi-o!

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