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2019 CFAES *Alumni Awards*



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

March 2, 2019
Fawcett Event Center
The Ohio State University

CFAES



2019 CFAES Alumni Awards

11:30 a.m.

Reception

Noon

Buffet Lunch

1 p.m.

Recognition Program

Alumni Awards

Young Professional Achievement Awards

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 Awards

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

Distinguished Alumni Awards

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 Awards

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 non-alumni who have been singularly significant in the college's quest for excellence.

Carmen Ohio

Adjournment

Young Professional Award



LEAH CURTIS
BS 2007
Agricultural Communications

After graduating summa cum laude from CFAES, Leah received both her JD from Ohio State College of Law and an MPA from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

While working at the Ohio Farm Bureau's policy department over the past eight years, Leah's efforts have helped Ohio's farm families and rural communities with pertinent legal information

to improve their agricultural operations. She has been promoted three times at Farm Bureau, now serving as policy counsel and senior director of membership engagement. Recently, one of her legal briefs was brought before the United States Supreme Court.

Leah was selected to take part in the 2014-2015 Ohio State Bar Association Leadership Academy. She was appointed to the Bar Association's membership task force and to the Women in the Profession Section Council. Leah also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Bar Association's Agricultural Law Committee.

In addition, she has served as a mentor and professional advisor to several CFAES students who have aspired to follow her footsteps into the legal or policy professions. Leah is a regular guest speaker at the meetings of the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. She also volunteers at Southeastern Ohio Legal Services and other agencies.



BO HARSTINE
PhD 2016, MS 2013
Animal Sciences

Bo had been a leader among graduate students in the Department of Animal Sciences, having served in a variety of positions, and he has continued to provide leadership as a researcher and trainer of students.

Upon obtaining his doctorate, Bo began working for Select Sires, Inc. as a research associate. After two years, he was promoted to the position of director of research. He took advantage of an opportunity to work for three months on a bull fertility project in Brazil and came back with a great appreciation for global beef cattle research and enough proficiency with Portuguese to serve as a connection between the United States and Brazil.

Bo enjoys facilitating and performing research related to animal agriculture and food production, and considers it the highlight of his career thus far.

Among the many presentations he has delivered, Bo has given several invited presentations at national symposiums including the Roy A. Wallace Memorial Symposium on Bovine Reproduction and the Annual National Association of Animal Breeders Technical Conference.

International Alumni Award



LEANDRO CRUPPE
PhD 2015, MS 2011
Animal Sciences

Through his position at Select Sires Inc. in Brazil, where he has been director of marketing for beef genetics since 2015, Leandro Cruppe maintains a network of expert consultants from academia in the United States. That network grew from contacts made when he was a graduate student at CFAES. Under his leadership, those U.S. experts have provided invaluable information as the Brazilian beef industry has turned its attention to improving quality. In

addition, thousands of F-1 Nalore-Angus calves have been placed in Brazilian feedlots.

Leandro grew up in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and earned a DVM at Sao Paulo State University before coming to Ohio State, where he focused on beef cattle reproduction. He later worked at Ohio State as a research associate in animal sciences endocrinology and reproductive physiology before Select Sires Inc. hired him.

His colleagues at Select Sires Inc. emphasized his great dedication in working with the beef producers in the areas of central and northeastern areas of Brazil, his superb capacity to coordinate personnel to complete projects, success as a liaison between the Brazilian beef and USA beef production sectors, and his success in integrating the two systems of beef production.



RICHARD EDEMA
PhD 2001
Plant Pathology

An eminent scientist, Richard is credited with making significant contributions to food security in sub-Saharan Africa over the past several decades.

Richard is the director and principal investigator of the Makerere University Regional Center of Excellence in Crop Improvement, which is funded at the \$6 million level by the World Bank and the government of Uganda. The center focuses on applied and molecular plant breeding research and development for major crops in Uganda and East Africa.

His work in large measure builds on the long-term collaboration between CFAES and Makerere University that began in 1983 and continues to present day. CFAES helped rehabilitate Makerere University's agricultural degree training and research programs and the national program of agricultural research and outreach during the 1980s and 1990s with substantial funding from USAID and the World Bank.

Richard says he is most proud of creating a unique training center in Uganda that is nurturing cohorts of the next generation of young scientists who are involved in finding solutions to end hunger in Uganda and Africa at large.

Distinguished Alumni Award



BRYAN GARTON
PhD 1993
Agricultural Education

Bryan is well-known as a teacher and mentor to graduate students in the areas of agricultural education and leadership.

Currently, as associate dean of academic programs for the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri, he oversees 250 faculty members and 15 degree programs.

Bryan said he is proud of his implementation of initiatives to enhance student access, affordability, academic success and career readiness at Missouri. Those initiatives have led to significant increases in the number of first-time college students. Furthermore, his college's retention and graduation rates are at all-time highs.

He has received prestigious awards including induction as a AAAE Fellow (top profession honor), Kemper Teaching Fellow (top teacher at MU), and many research journal article and conference paper awards.

Bryan credits his experiences at Ohio State for preparing him for success as a teacher and researcher. For the past 20 years, at his tailgate spot for University of Missouri football games, Bryan has flown two flags together: one black and gold, and the other scarlet and gray.



STEVE GOODWIN
BS 1973
Parks Recreation & Tourism Administration

During the past 40 years in Ohio, Steve has been a leader in the field of natural resources conservation and management.

While at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Steve helped build the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and helped establish the Ohio Scenic River Program. He was involved in the planning of three nationally-designated scenic rivers: the Little

Miami River, Little Beaver Creek and Big Darby Creek.

Following his successful career with the state, Steve focused his efforts on the non-profit land trust community, serving in a variety of capacities with Appalachia Ohio Alliance, among others.

In 2015, Steve was presented with the prestigious Wildlife Conservation Award at the League of Ohio Sportsmen/Ohio Wildlife Federation Convention Conservation Awards Banquet for "outstanding achievement contributing to effective management, control, restoration or replenishment of wildlife resources in Ohio."

He was one of the founding members of the Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society and has served actively on the ENRAS Executive Council and in other capacities over the years. All the while, Steve has displayed a passion for protecting Ohio water and land resources.



CHRIS HENNEY
BS 1998
Agricultural Education

With more than 20 years of experience in Ohio's agricultural industry, Chris has demonstrated a commitment to educating students in CFAES, notably at Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute. Whether sharing his own industry perspective with students, helping students interact with leading national and Ohio agribusinesses, or championing scholarships, Chris has made a difference in the careers of many.

As president and CEO of the Ohio Agribusiness Association, Chris has created a sustainable business climate through collaborative policy leadership, continuous education, and effective communication.

Before joining OABA in 2011, Chris held successive positions at the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, culminating as director of legislative relations. In that capacity, he represented OFBF before the Ohio General Assembly and state government. He holds an MBA from Capital University.

In 2015, Chris was appointed to the board of directors for The Fertilizer Institute, a national trade association. He has served as a chair on the Ohio FFA Foundation board of directors and on the Vice President's Advisory Council for CFAES.

He currently serves on the Ohio State ATI Business Programs Advisory Board, where he helps assure that curriculum materials are aligned with industry needs.



PHIL MINERICH
BS 1976
Food Technology

Phil earned his MS and PhD, both in food science, from the University of Minnesota, but he has remained a true Buckeye as an active supporter of Ohio State and CFAES.

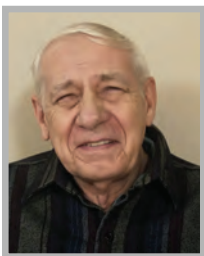
Throughout his 38-year career with Hormel Foods Corp., Phil strived to represent his company, universities, and professional organizations through business decisions grounded in science

and presented with honesty and integrity.

He retired as vice president – research and development in 2013. In that position, he managed all of Hormel's product, process and package development, applied research, microbiology, chemistry and sensory labs, and process authorities. He is credited with making significant contributions to Hormel Foods, including spearheading upgraded equipment design for food safety improvements and directing renovation of the SPAM can.

Described as a brilliant food scientist and compassionate humanitarian, Phil has leveraged his expertise to help improve access to nutritious foods in developing countries. Thanks to his efforts, more than 2.5 million cans of a fortified turkey spread called SPAMMY, which he helped develop, are distributed in rural areas of Guatemala. He and his wife, Gail, have volunteered at an orphanage in Jamaica.

He has served on numerous scientific boards relating to food safety and health.



FLOYD PORUBAN
MS 1964, BS 1961
Plant Pathology, Horticulture

Decades before the American Disabilities Act of 1990, at a time when few educational opportunities for the blind were available, Floyd blazed a trail in 1957 as the first blind person to be admitted to a science program at Ohio State.

He met his wife, Ann, while volunteering as an escort for students walking the campus at night. When told that a blind person couldn't be an escort, he responded by pointing out that no one would be able to tell if a person was blind at night!

After graduation, he applied for dozens of jobs, but found no one willing to hire a blind person. So Floyd started his own business, Poruban Nursery, a successful family-run nursery in Avon that specializes in broad-leaved evergreens, shrubs, and other ornamentals.

In 1969, Floyd and Ann received the very first horticultural enterprise loan in the U.S. so that they could expand the nursery. In addition, they have followed practices that allowed the nursery to reduce fertilizer use by over 90 percent. Also, they obtained a patent for identifying and culturing certain beneficial fungi.

Most recently, the nursery supplied a large number of rhododendrons and azaleas for new plantings at Holden Arboretum.



KRISTI-WARREN SCOTT
BS 2003
Agribusiness and Applied Economics

No matter where her career has taken her, Kristi has made an impact and been a valuable asset, focusing her efforts on helping people to make better decisions about food.

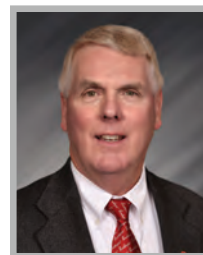
She has an MBA from Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill. and a PhD from the University of Georgia, where she researched the relationship between obesity and food access, a topic that arose out of a personal interest in issues affecting the African-American community.

Currently, Kristi works as an economist in the Social Security Administration in Washington. Prior to that she was a prevention effectiveness fellow/health economist for the Center of Disease Control and Prevention.

She is the recipient of multiple awards, including the Buckeyes 40 Under 40 by The Ohio State University Black Alumni Society in 2016, the UGA Amazing Students Spotlight in 2014, and the NAACP Outstanding Campus Leader Award from The University of Georgia in 2013.

Kristi is involved with the American Council on Consumer Interests and The Ohio State University Alumni Association. Kristi has been a loyal supporter of CFAES and of MANRRS.

Meritorious Service Award



BOB BIRKENHOLZ

In September 2018, Bob retired from Ohio State and was named professor emeritus, following a 42-year career dedicated to agricultural education and leadership.

He holds a PhD, MS, and BS in agricultural education, all from Iowa State University. Like a cyclone, he stormed through the Midwest, teaching and mentoring students. He began working as a vocational ag instructor in Wellsburg, Iowa. Bob also spent two years as an instructor at Iowa State in 1980 followed by two years as an agribusiness coordinator at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas.

From 1984 to 2001, he held numerous academic positions at the University of Missouri, including professor, department chair, interim associate dean, and faculty fellow in the provost's office.

Then, in 2002, Bob came to CFAES, assuming the role of professor and chair of what was known at the time as the Department of Human and Community Resource Development. He is credited with providing important leadership during a time of real financial struggles for Ohio State; those were difficult years for a department that was finding its identity during a consolidation of academic units.

"Bob approached his time in the role with great care, diligence and steadfastness. Bob was the consummate professional and an inspiring leader during this time for the department," said Tracy Kitchel, professor and ACEL chair, in a nominating letter.

And L.H. Newcomb, former CFAES senior associate dean, said that Bob distinguished himself as an academic leader by being principled, even-handed, unbiased, patient, and stable. "He was a great blessing to the string of interims and successive chairs who followed him."

Bob stepped out as department chair role but still led as a professor, where he developed the proposal and secured approval for the undergraduate interdisciplinary minor in leadership studies. That minor now has over 100 students across Ohio State. He also was instrumental in the creation of what is now called the community leadership major.

His skills and devotion as a mentor were evident in comments made by one of his former students at a retirement reception held in Bob's honor:

"I tell students you used me as your guinea pig to figure out the leadership major! Yet, I remember feeling like you were a rock star when the leadership major and minor began to flourish because MY advisor did it. You have created a legacy at OSU that will outlast all of us through the leadership major and minor. You let me choose my own thesis topic. I did not realize how rare that was until I chatted with other graduate students who were bound by the interests of their advisor. You have been my first reference on applications. You were my guide whenever my heart became restless." —DUSTIN HOMAN, former ACEL undergraduate and MS advisee, now a program manager for Ohio 4-H.



VIRGIL STRICKLER

Virgil has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to educating families as well as providing opportunities for young people to excel in agriculture.

With a lifetime of experience in the agriculture industry, Virgil serves as the longest-running general manager in the history of the Ohio Expo Center and State Fair. For many, his name is synonymous with the fair.

Beginning his career in 1979 at BancOhio National Bank in Circleville, Virgil worked with rural farmers as an agricultural lender, helping them to fund their farm and commercial operations. From 1980 to 1993, Virgil served as credit manager and manager of the livestock feeding program for Producers Livestock Association. In that position, he managed credit and budget as well as assisted with community ag events that included working with the State Fair's market lamb show and auction. Virgil also served as Clearcreek Township (Ohio) Clerk from 1986 to 1989.

Virgil was hired at the Ohio Expo Center as agriculture director in 1993, and he still serves in this capacity along with his general manager role.

He is most thankful to be able to collaborate with Ohio State, 4-H, and FFA to create the Ohio State Fair Youth Reserve Program in 1995, which awards Junior Fair youth not only for their animals, but also for the knowledge of the species' nutrition, genetics, and anatomy.

The program places a cap on the animals sold in the Sale of Champions and simultaneously reallocates those funds into a robust scholarship program. To date, the program has awarded more than \$3.5 million to more than 40,000 Ohio youth exhibitors.

This has resulted in the creation of five scholarship endowments through the Ohio 4-H Foundation to award outstanding youth who are either current or incoming CFAES students.

Virgil is credited with implementing Junior Fair Skillathons in nine animal species so youth would have the opportunity to test their knowledge. This demonstrates his commitment to making the Junior Fair an educational experience for exhibitors.

That commitment, along with talents and strong feelings for CFAES and Ohio State, is clear in this letter written in support of the nomination for this award:

"I have been working in some capacity through OSU Extension with the Ohio State Fair since 1978, and have had various association with all of the general fair managers during that time. There has been no other fair manager more dedicated to and successful in offering educational opportunities for youth in agriculture than Virgil Strickler! His support of 4-H and FFA members through educational experiences and scholarship programs have all benefitted the college.

"In every meeting I am in with Virgil, he speaks so highly of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. While not being an alumnus of OSU and CFAES, he certainly believes he is a part of CFAES, and is honored to be able to offer opportunities in agricultural fields for our youth." —**DR. LUCINDA B. MILLER**, extension specialist, 4-H Youth Development, Companion & Small Animal Programs.

Alumni Board

Alumni Board

President – Nick Rettig

Vice President – Yolanda Owens

Secretary – Hayley Beck

Treasurer – John Kellis

Past President – Cyndi Brill

Director of Alumni Engagement – Claire Badger

Alumni Engagement Coordinator – Molly Berger



Department Representatives

Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership – Ellen Zimmerman

Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics – Nathaniel Kramer

Animal Sciences – Ryan Conklin

Agricultural Technical Institute – Mary Ann Frantz

Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering – Kaley Orr

Food Science & Technology – Lynn Wischmeyer Moore

Horticulture & Crop Science – Dr. Peg McMahon

Plant Pathology – Katherine Wolfe

School of Environment & Natural Resources – Open Position



At Large Representatives

Ohio At-Large – Yolanda Owens

Central Region – Sandy Kuhn

Northeast Region – Mark Evans

Northwest Region – Derek Snider

Southeast Region – Hayley Beck

Southwest Region – John Kellis

Out of State – Adisa Aarons

Out of State – Craig Miller



Class Representatives

2016 Class – Abby Waidelich

2017 Class – Rishona Headen-Brown

2018 Class – Celena Ritchey

Thank You!

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science is proud of our more than 43,000 alumni spread throughout the world.

While we pay special recognition to these twelve 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, CFAES and The Ohio State University.

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 they will end this summer:

Dan Boysel
Sandy Kuhn
Abby Waidelich

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 2020 CFAES Alumni Awards.

Nominations for 2020 will open this month and run through July 1. Email cfaesalumni@osu.edu for more information.

The next CFAES Alumni Awards celebration will be on March 7, 2020. We hope to see you there.



CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.

Carmen Ohio

OH! COME LET'S SING OHIO'S PRAISE,
AND SONGS TO ALMA MATER RAISE;
WHILE OUR HEARTS REBOUNDED 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.

CFAES

