



A bi-monthly effort to communicate the activities of faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences, this month's issue highlights activities from December and January.

Livestock Judging Team in High Gear

- ✓ The SHSU Livestock Judging Team recently competed in their first two national contests of the year – the Arizona National in Phoenix, Arizona and the National Western in Denver, Colorado. The team placed in the top ten at Phoenix and 6th in the Carload Contest at Denver. Two team members were individually recognized by placing in the top ten in the Carload Contest – Heath Woodall was 6th and Shane Jennings was 9th.

The team is led by first time head coach, Jo Jo Carrales. JoJo comes from Texas A&M University and Blinn College, where he was a part of extremely successful judging teams. He is also a graduate assistant for animal science labs. The team hopes to continue their success and progress as they travel to contests in Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, and the Dixie National in Jackson, Mississippi.

Ag Ambassadors Attend Annual Conference

- ✓ Six Ag Ambassadors were among 300 of our nation's future leaders gathered in Tucson, Arizona from January 4th-6th for the 12th annual National Agriculture Ambassador Conference. The Ambassadors participated in a series of professional workshops and heard from several speakers, each contributing to the theme, "A Vision Beyond Tradition." Workshops were conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture, Arizona Farm Bureau, Collegiate FFA, and the Bio 5 Institute. Workshops were aimed at professionalism, teambuilding and networking skills, recruitment, retention, communications skills, and working with diverse audiences.

Ambassadors perform services for their respective departments, colleges and universities, as well as the community at large. SHSU was represented by the participation of Ambassadors Jennifer Largent, Amy Wilson, Casey Brinlee, Monica McRill, Craig Meredith, and Kyle Anderson, along with coordinators Stanley Kelley and Lesley Rakowitz. The team (pictured, right) has new ideas and initiatives as they continue their recruiting and retention activities. They truly have a passion for their work and enjoy bringing in new Bearkats.



Poinsettia Sale a Success

- ✓ The Horticulture and Crop Science Club completed a successful poinsettia sale in December. According to club advisor Tim Pannkuk (pictured, right), 650 pots were grown – 80% were red and 20% were pink or white. Eighty-five pots were set aside and donated to a local retirement home as a community service activity. Profits from the club plant sales will be used to help club members travel to horticultural and agronomic events across Texas and the nation.



Lane Goes International for Nanotechnology

- ✓ Professor Bobby Lane (pictured, right) traveled to the Netherlands in early December and toured nanotechnology, biotechnology laboratories, and other agricultural research facilities. He also visited with several noted scientists at Wageningen UR, the country's premier agricultural university and research center. The Dutch are very interested in collaborating with SHSU on some applied research opportunities. Lane also visited with a sheep farmer in England and toured his agrotourism operation (near London).



- ✓ Lane also gave a presentation at the Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic in Milano on cutting costs without damaging long-term pasture productivity.

72nd Version of State FFA LDEs Held on Campus

- ✓ What began in 1931 as two contests has blossomed into 12 events, 131 schools, 240 teams, and approximately 1300 FFA members, agriscience teachers and parents traveling to SHSU to crown the best teams for their leadership skills. The 2006 Texas State FFA Leadership Development Events (LDEs) were held on December 2, marking the 72nd year that SHSU has hosted the events (four years included the events being held elsewhere or not at all). Students from Harlingen, Farwell, Iowa Park, Sonora, and many Texas points in between converged on the campus to showcase their abilities in parliamentary procedure, agricultural issues, public relations and other skills areas. The events may well be an extension of the agricultural science classroom, but the entire university has reaped the benefits as numerous students find a home at SHSU in criminal justice, business, and other academic disciplines in addition to agriculture. Faculty members Doug Ullrich and Dwayne Pavelock coordinated the activity.

Hamilton Journeys to Philippines for Research

- ✓ Phil Hamilton (pictured, right) traveled to Province of Palawan, Philippines in December to solidify four on-going research projects that are joint ventures with Palawan State University [PSU] and other governmental agencies in the province. The projects concern the economic viability of rubber, palm oil, cashews, and abaca [Manila hemp]. Along with faculty and administration of PSU, Hamilton toured the northern and southern parts of the main island of Palawan. The research entails structural analysis of the four tree crops and feasibility studies of commercial production. Economic multipliers, credit, and infrastructure needs will also be addressed, and similar research on seaweed, tourism, coffee, and cocoa is planned.



Block & Bridle Club Sponsors 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off

- ✓ Some 300 students and guests gathered at the Walker County Fair Grounds on December 7th for the SHSU Block & Bridle Club's 3rd annual chili cook-off. Eight teams competed for the coveted title of "Best Chili". The Ag Ambassador team of Jenni Largent, Nicole Coleman, Kyle Anderson, Monica McRill, and Craig Meredith captured top honors. Judges included Dwayne Pavelock, Stanley Kelley, Matt McMillan, Roger Hanagriff and Michael Lau.

Tractor Technician Event Challenges Students

- ✓ Imagine a scenario in which you are presented a complex, technologically-advanced machine and are simply told to "fix it". How about a situation in which you encounter twenty of a possible two thousand parts, and only have your visual senses, a few minutes, and maybe a basic precision diagnostic tool to detect abnormalities and recommend correctional procedures? Finally, what if you were asked to answer 100 questions regarding the intricate details of every piece of equipment available to today's agriculturist? Now imagine completing these tasks as a high school student. This is exactly what was required of students who competed in the Tractor Technician Career Development Event (CDE) held at SHSU on January 19. Hosted by the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences, and conducted by the Agricultural Mechanization Club and the department's Spring 2007 student teachers, the event challenged students through various means and in a variety of situations. Winners advance to the state CDE to be held in February at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Texas Education Agency Grant and Research Project Concludes

- ✓ A \$150,000 grant project of the Texas Education Agency concluded in December in Austin as project directors presented evaluation findings to TEA staff. Dwayne Pavelock, Doug Ullrich, and Roger Hanagriff were co-investigators of the project that evaluated the effectiveness of the Career and Technology Education Programs under the Carl D. Perkins Federal Vocational and Technical Education Act. SHSU collaborated with the Region VI Education Service Center, the lead entity of the project.

Faculty Members and Alumnus Speak at Organic Conference

- ✓ To meet the growing demand by producers for information related to organic, sustainable, and locally grown agricultural products, Stanley Kelley and Bobby Lane served as invited speakers at the Annual Conference of the Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association on January 26 in Mesquite, Texas. They were preceded in their presentation by SHSU Agriculture alumnus, Gene Sollock, who received the SHSU Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award in 2006. All were asked to present aspects of producing forage-fed cattle and other meat animals. While Sollock spoke about his personal experience producing forage-raised beef in a management intensive grazing system, Lane discussed the legume component employed in Sollock's system and how legumes may be incorporated into any forage-based livestock enterprise. Kelley followed up with a demonstration using a live bull from the University's herd, illustrating the importance of various genetic traits when selecting animals that best fit in forage-based production systems. Dennis Stepp, Gibbs Ranch Manager, assisted in handling the docile 1,700 pound Angus bull during the well-received outdoor demonstration. Over 400 people were in attendance at the conference.

Pavelock and Hanagriff Provide Adult Learning Assistance

- ✓ The Texas Young Farmers Organization provides leadership, educational, and community service activities for adults engaged and/or interested in the field of agriculture. Dwayne Pavelock and Roger Hanagriff continued their long-standing service and affiliation with the group in January as the group met for its 53rd annual convention in Tyler. A member of the organization's state executive board, Pavelock also assisted the group at its 2007 meeting by conducting a round table discussion regarding improvement of the organization at the chapter and state levels. He further served as master of ceremonies for pre-convention activities. Hanagriff coordinates and conducts a professional development seminar pertaining to agribusiness management, in addition to a contest for convention attendees.

Ag Alumni Association Hosts Students at Gibbs Ranch

- ✓ The SHSU Ag Alumni Association held a social gathering at Gibbs Ranch on January 23 to welcome students back for the Fall 2007 semester. The focus of the activity was to simply provide some fun and fellowship for students while also informing students of the activities of the organization that benefit students prior to graduation. Ag Alumni board members Kelly Sullivan, Carl Collins, and Brian VanDelist provided food and drinks for evening, which also featured a 42 domino tournament. Faculty member Macy Beverly and graduate assistant Alisha Bullion coordinate the activities.

Did You Know...?

- ✓ A few facts and figures about the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences...
 - The department has 966 undergraduate students and 40 graduate students (Fall 2006), largest in the College of Arts and Sciences. Additionally, the department is one of the fastest growing and has increased its enrollment every year since 1993.
 - The SHSU Collegiate FFA chapter is the largest in Texas.
 - The Beef Cattle Show Team has won the Herdsman Award 10 times since the team's inception in 1996. The award is presented to the team that maintains the cleanest and most attractive stalls, exhibits professionalism, and represents their university well. Major livestock shows include the State Fair of Texas (Dallas), Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show (Fort Worth), San Antonio Livestock Exposition, and Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
 - The internship program has approximately 30 students interning each semester. Mentoring entities include public and private corporations, as well as local, state, and federal governments.
 - The Ag Ambassadors have traveled over 6,600 miles since September 2006 to recruit students and conduct professional development workshops.
 - Three of the last four national presidents of Delta Tau Alpha (DTA) have been SHSU students. DTA is the national agricultural honor society.