

The

# Fencepost



October  
2007

## 2007-08 Alpha Epsilon Sigma Club Officers

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- Vice President**  
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## From the Department Chair



Dr. Foy Mills

Welcome to the 2007 edition of the Fencepost. The ACU Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (A&E) is extremely blessed. Yet, as the quote below implies, A&E continues changing.

We just passed the mid-point of our 10-year reinvention process referred to as Project 2012. Major curriculum adjustments have been made. The new environmental science program enters its second year of existence and is now our largest major numerically. Our next phase, Phase III currently underway, involves rethinking and repositioning our animal science program. Our goal is to gain appropriate college and university approval this fall for the new animal science curriculum designed for the 21st century. Assuming approval, entering students in Fall 2008 may choose options from this program.

### Growth

After experiencing a 40 percent increase in A&E student majors last fall, we have maintained our gains this year. Our 2007 A&E entering freshman class is academically strong and the same size as our 2006 student cohort.

### Welcome

A&E welcomes three new members to our team. **Dr. Florah Mhlanga** joins us in the area of animal science. She most recently taught at Faulkner University in Alabama and before that was chair of the animal science department at the University of Zimbabwe. **Dru (Mayfield '07) Stevens** (AGRB) began her work as our full-time farm manager at the beginning of the summer. Administrative coordinator **Mandy (Van Rensburg '98) Scudder** (BIBM), stepped into the role vacated by **Janice Armstrong** in January. We are particularly blessed to have these fine people serving with us.

### Future

When Samuel raised the stone of help and named it Ebenezer as recorded in I Samuel 7:12, he reminded us, "Thus far has the Lord helped us." As you read the following stories, I hope you will hear how blessed we are in A&E and how "... the Lord helped us." He has truly provided us a great future.

*"Nothing endures but change."*

— Greek philosopher Heraclitus (540 B.C. - 480 B.C.), from *Diogenes Laertius, Lives of Eminent Philosophers*

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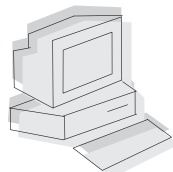
*The* **GREATEST** *HOME* **COMING** *—on—* **EARTH** ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**A&E and Alpha Epsilon Sigma Homecoming Barbeque**

**Oct. 20 • Noon**

Hillcrest Church of Christ  
Multipurpose Room  
650 E. Ambler Ave.



Visit our Web site at [www.acu.edu/agenv](http://www.acu.edu/agenv) and sign up for our e-newsletter!



## Faculty Recognition

**Dr. Foy Mills**, ACU professor of agribusiness and chair of agricultural and environmental sciences, received the NACTA 2007 Teaching Award of Excellence at the 53rd annual conference June 22 at the University of Illinois. The NACTA Teaching Award of Excellence is presented to one individual who demonstrates excellence in post-secondary instruction in agriculture.

**Dr. James Cooke** was commissioned by ACU president Dr. Royce Money to attend the Greening of the Campus Conference Sept. 5-8, 2007, at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

**Dr. Ed Brokaw** is serving as vice president for the National Block and Bridle Club and will be inducted as president at the October National Block and Bridle Conference which will be held in Kansas City, Mo., in conjunction with the American Royal Livestock Show.

## Students Attend DTA National Convention

This spring, two students from A&E accompanied **Dr. Kent Gallaher** to the 2007 Delta Tau Alpha National Convention hosted by Eastern Kentucky University.

**Marsie Clark**, environmental science major from Trent, and **Brenna Ellison**, agribusiness major from Dumas, represented ACU's DTA chapter. While at the convention, they competed in the quiz bowl and participated in the Ag Olympics. In addition, Ellison retired from her position as national parliamentarian, and Clark served as the voting delegate for Abilene Christian. The ACU group also toured the Minerich Cattle Company during its visit.

The 2008 DTA National Convention will be hosted by Fort Hays State University in Kansas.

## 2 0 0 6 A W A R D S

### OUTSTANDING A&E ALUMNUS **Dr. Glenn Gray Davis**

Dr. Glen Davis completed two years of pre-agriculture education curriculum at ACU before transferring to Texas Tech University to complete the Smith Hughes Certificate in Agriculture Education in 1959. He taught in public schools and at Lubbock Christian University from 1959-69. While teaching he completed his master's degree in agronomy-soils. In 1973 he earned his Ph.D. in agronomy-crops from the University of Tennessee.

Davis joined the ACU faculty as an agronomy professor in 1985 and served as chair of the Department of Agriculture and Environment from 1993-2001.

He has been the recipient of numerous grants to support teaching and research activities. One of his greatest contributions to ACU was his reinforcement and expansion of the commitment of A&E department founders to use their expertise to improve food and fiber production throughout the world. He served as a consultant on numerous international development projects in 16 African and South American countries.

Davis has served as an elder and deacon in the church and has been involved in vocational mission work. He is married to Sue and they have two daughters, Suzanne, whom they lost in a plane crash in 1998, and Lanette, who lives in Chattanooga, Tenn., with her husband, William, and their three children.

### OUTSTANDING YOUNG PROFESSIONAL CO-RECIPIENTS **Bente (Osborn) Borland**

Bente Borland is a 1997 summa cum laude graduate with a degree in animal science. She came to ACU in Fall 1993.

Since graduation, Bente has worked for the California Department of Fish and Game and in 1999 began working as an agricultural appraiser for Professional Ag Resources, a group which does appraisals for banks, rural property, budget reviews, controller work and consulting for agricultural operations primarily involved in the California dairy industry.

Bente is married to Baldwin Borland, who is chair of the math department at the school in which he teaches.

### **Cindy (Beaver) Jouett**

Cindy Jouett is a 1997 graduate with a degree in agribusiness who is employed by the 6666 Ranch in Guthrie, Texas. She has been in the ranch's horse division since 1999, where she works with clientele domestically and overseas through the stallion breeding operation under the direction of veterinarian Glenn Blodgett. She also helps her husband, David, manage their small cattle and horse operation. Cindy is a Bible class teacher and secretary for the Aspermont Church of Christ. She served on the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Visiting Committee through 2007.



## Professor, student complete corn research in Honduras



In late July, **Dr. Kent Gallaher**, associate professor of agricultural and environmental sciences at ACU, traveled to southern Honduras to complete a five-month agricultural experiment.

For three years, Gallaher has been doing research on more than 30 types of high-yield, open-pollinated corn for Mission Lazarus, an organization that provides medical care, early childhood development and education and agricultural assistance to the poor and marginalized people of southern Honduras. Gallaher's research focuses on helping subsistence farmers who live on an annual income of less than \$600.

During the third week of July, Kent and his father, **Dr. Raymond Gallaher**, professor emeritus of agronomy at the University of Florida, traveled to Honduras to harvest research plots planted at Mission Lazarus. This concluded an experiment set up in March 2007 by Kent and Dr. Foy Mills, professor and chair of the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Science at ACU.

Raymond developed the different varieties of field corn from seed stock he brought to the United States from Central America in the 1970s. He donated the seed for the current project and will be working with his son to yield data on the experiments.

Kent's goal for this research project is to identify "a high yielding variety of open pollinated corn that can boost food production and possibly income for poverty-stricken families in the mountains that surround Choluteca, Honduras."

These poverty-stricken families, so lacking in technological capabilities that many are using sticks rather than any sort of tool to plant their corn, cannot be given seeds that require very fertile soil and careful use of pesticides.

"Open-pollinated is the key," said Kent. "Most agricultural research in Latin America caters to the wealthy land owners and is centered on expensive hybrid seed varieties out of reach for poor subsistence farmers. We seek to provide these people with improved varieties that are open-pollinated, which means they can save seed back each year for planting the next year while maintaining food quality and yield potential."

Helping him complete the research last summer was ACU senior **Dylan Wann**. An environmental science major, Wann worked as an agricultural intern with Mission Lazarus. He served as on-site coordinator for the research and will present the preliminary findings at the 109th meeting at the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists this winter.

## Welcome From the AES Club President

Howdy y'all! Well, another year has begun. Summer is over, and now it is time to get back to work and a little fun!

I welcome our returning students and especially our new freshman class. With the addition of bright new students to the already outstanding group of upperclassmen, the AES club will be full of fun and excitement. I am honored to be serving as this year's club president along with an awesome council of dedicated students and faculty.

The department has seen a lot of changes over the past year. **Dr. Florah Mhlanga** has joined us to teach many of the animal science courses along with Dr. Ed Brokaw.

**Mandy Scudder** is our new administrative assistant and

degree plan specialist, but she does so much more for our students.

We have already enjoyed a few of the many events that will occur throughout this semester. Thanks to everyone who attended our welcome back cookout at the Rhoden Farm. We had a good time and ate some very good food. Some upcoming events in the AES Club are the Homecoming Parade and the Homecoming Barbecue lunch Oct. 20 at Hillcrest Church of Christ. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

We expect to continue affecting the ACU environment and our world around us. Let us look forward to the blessings God has in store for us this year. God bless!

– Kanyon Brown

# Report from the Rhoden Farm Manager

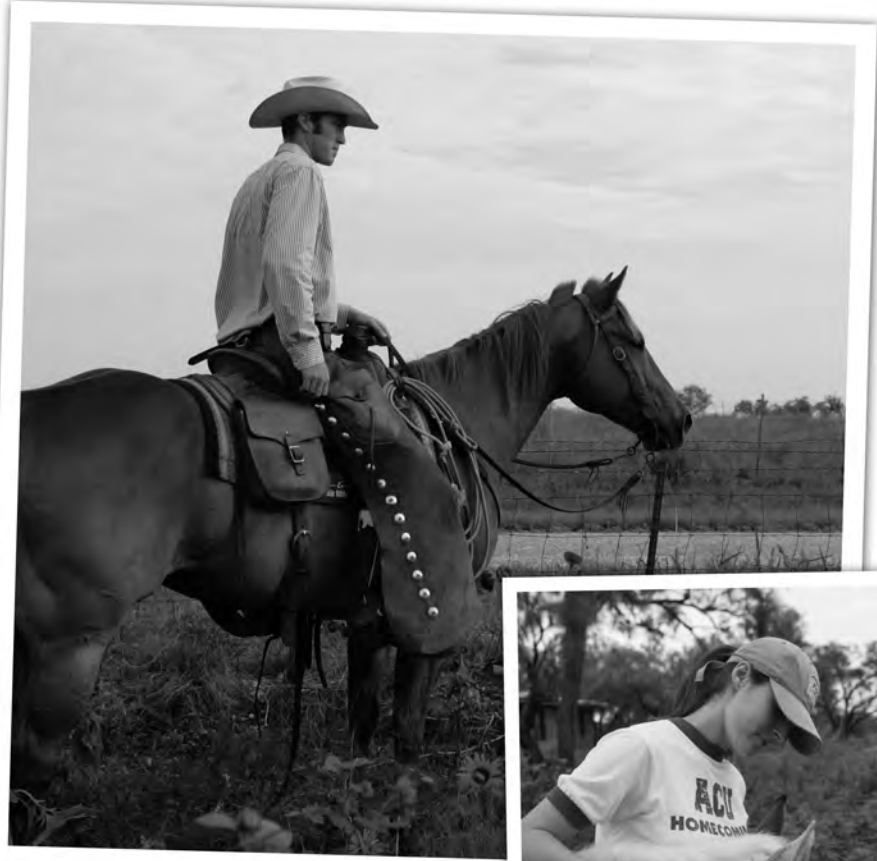
Over the past year, I served as the part-time student farm manager of the ACU Rhoden Farm. I have always loved agriculture and especially the farming and ranching part of it. This position has allowed me to learn continually while also getting to teach others.

I thoroughly enjoyed my position but found it difficult to accomplish the goals which needed to be completed within a 20-hour work week. I am excited to begin full time, making it much easier to finish current goals and begin new ones. The farm has a lot of potential to become a great facility for students and others to enjoy for educational and fun purposes. We hope to have the equine barn finished by the beginning of the next school year. I also plan to begin some much-needed mesquite control.

There are many projects going on that excite us about the next year. With all the rain, the farm is looking beautiful and has provided us with excellent grazing and crop production.

We have three new additions, including a registered Angus bull, a Chester boar, and a 2-month-old colt. The bull and boar will be used to improve our livestock herds. The bull was purchased through Brandon Horn, who owns Horn Livestock. Gus, the paint colt, will be used for our horsemanship labs in a couple of years.

– Dru (Mayfield '07) Stevens



## A&E Student Enrichment

ACU's endowment embodies the hopes and dreams of individuals whose vision largely exceeded their experience. The projected number of ACU students who will receive financial aid from endowments in 2007-08 will surpass 900, with the total projected dollar amount surpassing \$3.5 million.

To continue growing our scholarship funds for A&E Student Enrichment, please complete the form at right and mail it to **A&E Department, ACU Box 27986, Abilene, Texas 79699-7986**

Mail checks payable to **A&E Student Enrichment** or to the ACU named scholarship of your choice.

- It is my intent to make a **one-time gift** of:
- \$5,000    \$1,000    \$500    \$100    \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Check enclosed** or
- I **authorize ACU to collect my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ through my:**
- VISA    MasterCard    Discover    American Express
- Name (as it appears on my credit card) \_\_\_\_\_
- Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature \_\_\_\_\_
- Credit card billing address, if different from above \_\_\_\_\_
- Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_  work    home    cell
- It is my intent to **pledge** a gift totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid by May 31, 2007.
- This pledge will be paid:  monthly    quarterly    semi-annually    annually
- Please send reminders starting \_\_\_\_\_ (date).
- I would like information about establishing a monthly electronic fund transfer (EFT) or monthly credit card gift to fulfill my pledge.

## Did You Know?



The Texas FFA Association has many claims to fame. It is one of the nation's largest FFA state associations with more than 62,000 active members and nearly 7,000 junior members. More than 1,500 young men and women are honored each year for their FFA projects and activities, and nearly \$2 million in scholarships are awarded each year. Many of our students at A&E benefit from these scholarships.

## Doc DuBose Student Scholarship Endowment



Dr. Edwin DuBose

At the A&E/AES Homecoming Banquet in October 2006, we recognized **Dr. Edwin DuBose** upon his retirement by announcing a scholarship endowment in his honor. The decision was met with resounding approval.

We are pleased to report we have reached the \$25,000 threshold required to establish this endowment.

A student, professor, friend and mentor, DuBose has been involved with ACU and the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences for more than 50 years. The scholarship in his honor was created to recognize his love for and extraordinary service to students pursuing degrees in A&E. The scholarship is designated for an undergraduate in one of the A&E degree programs, with preference given to those pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science.

We welcome additional gifts to this endowment. Gifts also can be added to the corpus of other endowed scholarships or A&E student enrichment funds. Growth in the corpus ultimately provides the department with more expendable dollars to underwrite student scholarships and student development opportunities.

For more information about the DuBose scholarship fund, call 325-674-2401.

## Student News

**Dru Stevens** was the recipient of the Willard Paine Award for 2007, which goes to an outstanding senior involved in service and leadership within the department, university, community and church. Freshmen of the Year were **Alex Wann** and **Cason McInturff**.

**Christy Parker Rutherford** was accepted to the University of Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine in College Station. After the completion of her first year she will return to ACU to graduate with the class of 2008.

## A&E Hosts Agricultural Conferences

A&E hosted the joint annual meeting April 11-13, 2007, of the Agriculture Consortium of Texas (ACT), Texas Junior College Ag Association (TJCAA) and Texas Collegiate Agriculture Student Association (TxCASA).

ACT comprises all Texas universities offering degrees in agriculture. During the conference, educational issues facing higher education were discussed. Concurrently, the host ACT school administered competitive events for students from TJCAA schools (about 12 junior colleges offering programs in agriculture). TxCASA is composed of student representatives from four-year universities.

Thursday evening concluded with an awards banquet. Winners of various TJCAA events were recognized. During the banquet, **Mandy Scudder**, **Dr. Ed. Brokaw** and **Dr. Foy Mills** were each presented a gift from TJCAA officers for service rendered during the annual conference.

On Friday, students and faculty engaged in tours of local sites, including the USDA-AMS Cotton Division Classing office, Fehr Foods, and Frontier Texas. A&E thanks each of these host sites and financial support from ACU, ARAMARK, ACT and Ag Workers.

## Faculty Attend NACTA Conference

**Drs. Ed Brokaw**, **Kent Gallaher** and **Foy Mills** attended the 53rd annual NACTA conference June 20-22 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The theme of the conference was "The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning."

Gallaher presented a paper authored by him and Mills, "The Interdisciplinary Expansion of a Baccalaureate Environmental Science Program: Preliminary Outcomes." The presentation generated considerable conversation among participants considering curriculum changes at their respective institutions.

Brokaw serves on the *NACTA Journal* Board as a reviewer. Gallaher is a member of the Book and Media Review Committee, and Mills continues service as Southern Region director.



(From left) Drs. Kent Gallaher, Foy Mills and Ed Brokaw

# Welcome to Dr. Florah Mhlanga and Mandy Scudder

**Dr. Florah Mhlanga** is a native of Zimbabwe, a small country in southern Africa, from a family of nine children.

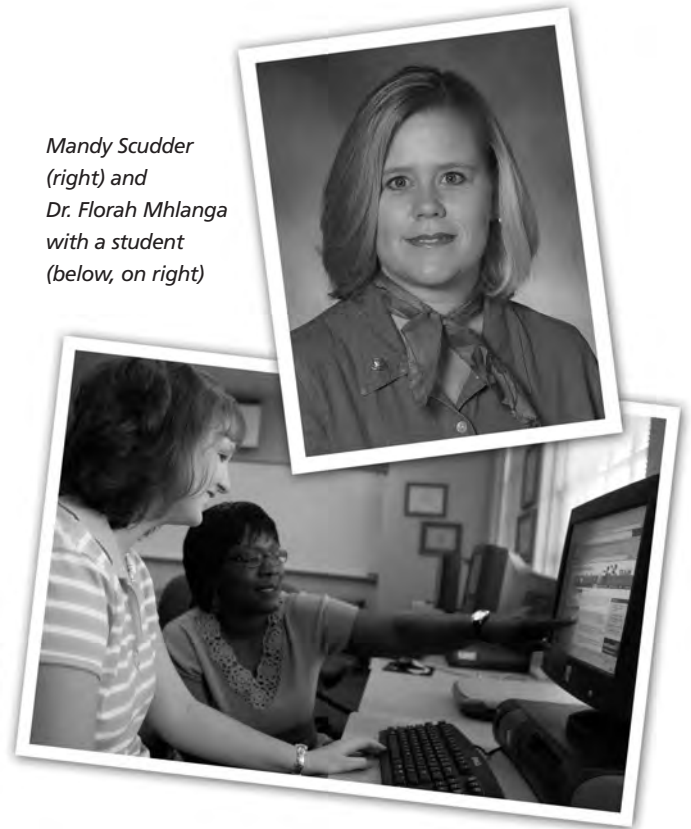
From the time she was a young girl, Mhlanga has been passionate about animal sciences. Her parents were subsistence farmers who raised a small herd of cattle and a few chickens, and grew corn, sweet potatoes and ground nuts. Florah always wondered why the milk yield of their cows was so low. Her family could never get enough milk for household consumption or to sell for cash. This concern inspired her to study animal sciences. From this, emerged her expertise in the improvement of milk yields of dairy cattle.

She obtained a B.S. with honors in animal sciences from the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) and worked as a dairy officer in the Research and Specialist Services of the Zimbabwe Ministry of Agriculture before leaving for Michigan State University to earn her M.S. and Ph.D. in animal breeding and genetics. She received her doctorate in 1994 and returned to Zimbabwe to teach in UZ's Department of Animal Science for eight years, including three as department chair. During her tenure at UZ, she was actively involved in research and fostering institutional linkages. Her work on methods of genetics evaluations were the basis for all subsequent work on test-day modeling in southern Africa.

She married Fortune Mhlanga in 1995 while at UZ. They have two boys, Carl and Craig. The family left Zimbabwe in October 2002 so the Mhlangas could teach at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. She taught several biology courses, including genetics, cell biology, microbiology, environmental science and zoology.

Florah and Fortune have a heart for missions, targeted at development. They were members of the Missions Vision Team for Landmark Church of Christ in Montgomery, Ala. They have participated in mission work towards construction of an orphanage in Zimbabwe. Prior to coming to work in the U.S., they attended Avondale Church of Christ in Harare, Zimbabwe.

*Mandy Scudder  
(right) and  
Dr. Florah Mhlanga  
with a student  
(below, on right)*



At the beginning of the 2007 spring semester, **Mandy Scudder** came to the A&E family as administrative coordinator.

Scudder is originally from South Africa but has a long history with ACU. She graduated with a degree in Christian ministry in 1998, worked a year as secretary in the Dean's Office of the College of Biblical Studies, and from 1999-2005 in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. In 2005, Mandy left ACU to become administrative minister at University Church of Christ.

She and her husband, James, have been married for 10 years. They have two daughters, Jaime and Amberly.

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Abilene Christian University  
Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
ACU Box 27986  
Abilene, Texas 79699-7986

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