

UofA **DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Dale Bumpers College
of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences

AGRICULTURE AWARDS CEREMONY

February 25, 2022

C.A. Vines 4-H Center | Little Rock

AGRICULTURE AWARDS CEREMONY

Welcome Chuck Culver
Interim Vice President for Agriculture

JOHN W. WHITE AWARDS:

Outstanding Research Award

Ioannis Tzanetakis – Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology
presented by Jean-François Meullenet
*Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture–Research
and Director, Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station*

Outstanding Teaching Award

Lanier Nalley – Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
presented by Deacue Fields
*Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Academic Programs and
Dean, Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences*

Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award

Jarrod Hardke – Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences
presented by Bob Scott
*Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture–Extension
and Director, Cooperative Extension Service*

Outstanding County Extension Educator Award

John Gavin – Bradley County
presented by Bob Scott
*Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture–Extension
and Director, Cooperative Extension Service*

Outstanding Team Award

Rice Breeding Team: Jarrod Hardke and Trent Roberts, (Department of Crop, Soil, & Environmental Sciences); Xueyan Sha, Debra Ahrent-Wisdom, Christian De Guzman, and Karen Moldenhauer (Rice Research & Extension Center); and Yeshi Wamishe (Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology)

presented by Chuck Culver
Interim Vice President for Agriculture

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AWARDS:

Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award

Troy Dillon – Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences

Don Hubbell – Livestock and Forestry Station

presented by Chuck Culver
Interim Vice President for Agriculture

Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award

Eloise Cole – Division Communications

Christa Littlefield – Franklin County

presented by Chuck Culver
Interim Vice President for Agriculture

BUMPERS COLLEGE AWARDS:

Outstanding Honors Faculty Mentor Award

Kathi Jogan – Department of Animal Science

Adnan Ali Khalaf Alrubaye – Department of Poultry Science

presented by Deacue Fields
*Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Academic Programs and
Dean, Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences*

Outstanding International Educator Award

Nilda Burgos – Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences

presented by Deacue Fields
*Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Academic Programs and
Dean, Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences*

Bumpers College Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award

Bryan Kutz – Department of Animal Science

presented by Todd Martin
Bumpers College Alumni Society Board Vice-President

Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence

Kathi Jogan – Department of Animal Science

presented by Deacue Fields
*Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Academic Programs and
Dean, Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences*

Spitze Land Grant University Faculty Award for Excellence

Mary Savin – Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences

presented by Deacue Fields
*Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Academic Programs and
Dean, Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences*

RECOGNITION OF ISSUED PATENTS

presented by Lisa Childs
Assistant Vice President for Technology Commercialization

- **Blackberry named 'A-2454T'** — John Clark, Department of Horticulture
- **Blackberry named 'Caddo'** — John Clark, Department of Horticulture
- **Blackberry plant named 'APF-2491T'** — John Clark, Department of Horticulture
- **Rice Cultivar RU1601030 'CLM04'** — Xueyan Sha, Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences
- **Rice Cultivar RU1601111 'CLL15'** — Xueyan Sha, Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences
- **Surge Valve Assembly** — Christopher Henry, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering

- **Trailer, Labeling System, Control System and Program for Field Implementation of Computerized Hole Selection for Layflat Irrigation Pipe** — Christopher Henry, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
- **Spray Nozzle System** — Jason Davis, Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences
- **Compositions and Methods of Enhancing Immune Responses to Eimeria** — Walter Bottje, Kimberly Cole, Billy Hargis, Young Min Kwon and Guillermo Tellez-Isaias, Department of Poultry Science
- **Compositions and Methods of Enhancing Immune Responses to Eimeria or Limiting Eimeria Infection** — Lisa Bielke, Olivia B. Faulkner, Billy Hargis, and Srichaitanya Shivaramaiah, Department of Poultry Science
- **Compositions and Methods of Enhancing Immune Responses to Enteric Pathogens** — Lisa Bielke, Olivia B. Faulkner, Billy Hargis, Sherryll Layton and Neil R. Pumford, Department of Poultry Science
- **Methods of Increasing Resistance of Crop Plants to Heat Stress and Selecting Crop Plants with Increased Resistance to Heat Stress** — Andy Pereira and Ramegowda Venkategowda, Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences
- **Novel Mucosal Adjuvants and Delivery Systems** — Billy Hargis, Marion Morgan, Neil Pumford, Srichaitanya Shivaramaiah, Guillermo Tellez-Isaias and Amanda Wolfenden-Bray, Department of Poultry Science
- **Rice Cultivar RU1401105** — James Gibbons, Karen Moldenhauer, Xueyan Sha and Debra Ahrent Wisdom, Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences and Rice Research and Extension Center
- **System and Method for Detecting Woody Breast Condition in Broilers Using Image Analysis of Carcass Features** — Juan Pablo Daldas Cueva, Casey Hanning, Andy Mauromoustakos and Xiao Sun, Department of Poultry Science and Department of Agricultural Statistics
- **Trichoderma Compositions and Methods of Using the Same** — Temesgen Mulaw and Yeshe Wamishe, Rice Research and Extension Center

John W. White Outstanding Research Award



Ioannis Tzanetakis

Dr. Ioannis Tzanetakis' research focuses on identification, characteristics and control of virus spread in berries, ornamentals and soybeans. In addition, he is director of the Arkansas Clean Plant Center for Berries, one of four centers for berries in the USDA-funded National Clean Plant Network (NCPN).

The impacts of Dr. Tzanetakis' research have ranged from the discovery of multiple virus species that are new to science, to understanding how important pathogen complexes are spread in plants. His research has developed tools for virus detection that help growers and scientists. He has developed updated best management practices for the NCPN that implement next generation sequencing and increase the number of samples analyzed to ensure clean berry plants are distributed to growers and nurseries. He has also developed a rapid detection assay used by the ornamental industry to assess the incidence of rose rosette disease and eliminate infected plants in the propagation pipeline to minimize disease spread.

Dr. Tzanetakis' lab also developed strategies for virus and vector control in response to soybean vein necrosis. He has conducted extensive work on characterization of strawberries. Resulting information is used as a guide for nurseries and growers, including a regional map of endemic viruses and easy tests to determine those present in each area.

Dr. Tzanetakis is among the most productive researchers in the Division of Agriculture, and he is highly respected by colleagues worldwide. His lab has been recognized by USDA as a Center of Excellence in Berry Virology. He serves on numerous editorial boards for peer-reviewed journals and serves on several leadership committees. He has hosted seven visiting scholars from other countries and directed the research of nine post-doctoral scientists and other scientists.



Lanier Nalley

John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award

Dr. Lanier Nalley is a native of Georgia where he was raised outside of Atlanta. He received a B.S. degree in agricultural and development economics with minors in development studies and European history from Ohio State University. He received his M.S. degree in agricultural economics from Mississippi State University, focusing his research on experimental auctions. He earned his Ph.D. from Kansas State University in 2007 in agricultural economics with an emphasis on international policy.

While at Kansas State, he conducted research at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, in Mexico City, on the welfare analysis of international public wheat breeding. He also served as a volunteer in Ghana, surveying women's cooperatives in regards to microfinance loans. Dr. Nalley has worked with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Accra, Ghana, and the International Rice Research Institute in Los Banos, Philippines, on international development related issues.

He earned the Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence in 2018, the 2017 Outstanding Teaching of a Course award (for AGEC 4163) by the Southern Agricultural Economics Association and the U of A Agribusiness Club Excellence in Teaching award in 2009 and 2010. He was the U of A faculty award recipient of the Hoyt H. Purvis Award for Service in International Education and was named a Fellow by the National Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, both in 2018. Dr. Nalley's current research emphasis is on rice production, international agricultural policy, the economics of plant genetics and international development.



Jarrod Hardke

John W. White Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award

Dr. Jarrod Hardke first joined the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture in 2012, serving as an assistant professor of rice agronomy in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. He became an associate professor in 2016 and a full professor in 2020 in that field. He currently serves as the Division of Agriculture's extension rice agronomist.

Over the past decade, Dr. Hardke has authored 33 book chapters and reviews, co-authored 43 peer-reviewed journal articles and authored nearly 1,000 articles in the popular press, among many other publications.

Dr. Hardke's current focus within extension is the facilitation and development of recommendations for Arkansas rice production, focusing on variety and hybrid yield performance, cultural management practices, fertility management and more.

In 2015, Dr. Hardke helped establish the Arkansas Rice College, a biennial school designed to be a "hands on" course for attendees, allowing them to become much more involved than in traditional field days. In 2017, he developed the Rice Management Guide, which combined resources from as many as 10 different publications to form a single concise source for commonly used recommendation references. And in 2020, Hardke co-developed Arkansas Row Crops Radio, an episodic podcast series that has been downloaded more than 6,000 times in 2021 alone.

Dr. Hardke has served in multiple committee roles for both the Rice Technical Working Group and USA Rice, and in roles for the International Certified Crop Advisors and the American Society of Agronomy.



John Gavin

John W. White Outstanding County Extension Educator Award

Officially, John Gavin is the Bradley County Extension Staff Chair. However, he may be better known as "Mr. Tomato." In his letter of recommendation, Cleveland County Extension Staff Chair Les Walz told how

Gavin is THE guru for vegetable and tomato production and has been the go-to source for many years for not only diagnosing tomato issues but also taking time to walk through the steps needed for a diagnosis. Gavin was even inducted into the Bradley County Tomato Hall of Fame in 2014, no small feat in a county that is the epicenter of tomato production in Arkansas. Ouachita District Director Carla Due praised the strength of Gavin's relationship with county government, which —

among other things — facilitated moving the extension office to a location with more space, better parking for clients and a kitchen for demonstrations and meeting space for local use.

Gavin's work with his 4-H program has also yielded good fruit. Among the feathers in that county program's hat are 4-H Forestry teams that have won both the National 4-H and FFA championships several years in a row. He has been lauded by clients for his community involvement, being active on local boards and committees. Gavin has been honored with distinguished service awards for Bradley County Industrial Development, the National Association of County Agents and the Arkansas Association of County Agricultural Agents.

John W. White Outstanding Team Award

This year's John W. White Outstanding Team Award goes to the Division's Rice Breeding Team made up of Jarrod Hardke and Trent Roberts, (Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences); Xueyan Sha, Debra Ahrent-Wisdom, Christian De Guzman, and Karen Moldenhauer (Rice Research & Extension Center); and Yeshi Wamishe (Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology).

A total of 12 rice varieties have been developed by the Rice Breeding Team and released to Arkansas rice growers during the past 10 years. In that time, on average, about 25 percent of Arkansas' annual rice acreage has been planted with cultivars developed by this team, and the state average rice yields have increased more than 10 percent to 7,500 pounds per acre in 2020, according to the latest USDA-NASS.

Dr. Hardke helps evaluate promising breeding lines in the Arkansas Rice Performance Trials (ARPT). Since 2012, when Hardke began directing the ARPT, the program has been expanded and the total number of replications has increased to improve performance data collection.



Dr. Roberts, associate professor and Extension soils specialist and holder of the endowed chair of Soil Fertility Research, is actively engaged in the evaluation of agronomic traits and response to fertilization of all the Division's rice releases.

Dr. Sha carries on Moldenhauer's role as senior rice breeder. The four new varieties of medium grain rice he has released since 2012 account for almost all the medium grain rice acreage in the South, and he continues to expand the program with hybrid and new herbicide technology Provisia rice.

Wisdom has been an assistant breeder specializing in jasmine-type aromatic rice since 2010. She is also the accounts manager for the Foundation Seed Program, which sells the rice and soybean seed developed and released by the Division.

Dr. De Guzman took over as leader of the long grain rice breeding program in September 2020 and is also responsible for developing new aromatic rice varieties. He has helped accelerate the breeding cycle, initiated the genetic transfer of heat tolerant traits in Arkansas germplasm, and explores the potential of genomic selection for improving yield and grain quality in rice.

Dr. Moldenhauer, who retired in 2020, left a strong legacy with the Rice Breeding Team. During her tenure, the Division released 38 rice cultivars in 38 years, helping boost the average rice yield from 95 bushels per acre in 1982 to as high as 168 bushels per acre in 2013.

Dr. Wamishe is the leader of the Extension Rice Program and supervisor of Breeding-Pathology Tech Support. Her work is used by rice breeders across the South to aid in the selection process.



(left to right)
Jarrod Hardke,
Trent Roberts,
Xueyan Sha,
Debra Ahrent-
Wisdom, Christian
De Guzman, Karen
Moldenhauer and
Yeshi Wamishe



Troy Dillon

Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award

During his 34 years with the Division of Agriculture, Troy Dillon has exemplified the Cooperative Extension Service's mission to strengthen agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to the adoption of best practices. As a weed science program associate, Troy has assisted with over 2,500 field trials for industry research, federal research, and state commodity board research. He played an instrumental role in the testing and evaluation of the Clearfield herbicide tolerant trait for rice production, which has been used on approximately half of Arkansas rice acres over the past decade: this equates to roughly 6 million acres of rice. Troy has also been on the front lines of Palmer amaranth resistance work —the number one weed problem across Arkansas field crops — allowing the Division of Agriculture to map this problem and identify alternatives. He has also helped secure millions of dollars in grant and industry research funding for the Division of Agriculture.

Troy has gone above and beyond the duties of his position, assisting in countless projects at both the Jackson County Extension Center and the Lonoke County Extension Center, as well as his landscaping work at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center. As the only individual in his department with a commercial driver's license, Troy has hauled equipment all over the state, not only for weed science but also for agronomy and plant pathology. Troy has also been a dedicated mentor to graduate and undergraduate students, many of whom have gone on to have successful careers in the agriculture industry.



Don Hubbell, III

Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award

Don Hubbell has been involved with agriculture all his life. He grew up on a 1,500-acre beef cattle and timber ranch in Baxter County and was active in 4-H and Future Farmers of America. After receiving a bachelor's

degree in animal science from the University of Arkansas, Don landed a job as a dairy research assistant at what is now called the Livestock and Forestry Research Station in Batesville.

Over the years, Don was promoted to other positions at the Livestock and Forestry Research Station before being named resident director in May of 2004. As resident director, Don was responsible for maintaining the integrity of research projects and managing budgets, personnel and infrastructure. Don oversaw many successful programs and projects in this role including developing a matching fund program to encourage research at the station, hosting annual livestock and forestry field days, and overseeing numerous research and demonstration projects.

Livestock projects like the “300 Days of Grazing” demonstration garnered national attention and made an impact on the beef cattle industry in several states. Under Don’s leadership, the station also saw a renewed emphasis on forestry research and demonstrations. In 2019, the station’s forest management plan was awarded the Tree Farm of the Year award for public lands.

After 39 years of service with the Division of Agriculture, Don retired on Jan. 3, 2022. Through his dedication and diligent work, Don has made a lasting mark on the Livestock and Forestry Research Station and the Division of Agriculture.



Eloise Cole

Agricultural Experiment Station Classified Support Personnel Award

Eloise Cole joined the Division of Agriculture in 1983 as a clerk for the agricultural publications department.

Over the nearly forty years since Eloise joined the Division of Agriculture, she has seen many changes and taken on new responsibilities, including assuming accounting duties for three departments: AAES Communications, the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, and the Agricultural Statistics Lab.

As accountant for these three departments, Eloise plays an important role in serving the Experiment Station’s mission to “conduct research and achieve scientific discoveries that benefit Arkansas citizens.” Eloise has

acquired a truly immense knowledge of accounting procedures for both the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and the Division of Agriculture, which she uses to help keep the departments running smoothly.

Throughout her career, she has gone above and beyond to get the training she's needed to learn the skills to succeed in her roles. As a Workday Coach, she took on the extra responsibilities of learning the ins and outs of Workday, worked through its shortcomings, and became a first-line resource for all things Workday. Eloise is always ready and willing to help others.

Through her years of service and impeccable work quality, Eloise has proven her dedication to supporting the Division of Agriculture's mission. Her commitment and enthusiasm for serving the people of Arkansas remain just as strong as when she first joined the Division.



Christa Littlefield

Cooperative Extension Service Classified Support Personnel Award

As the administrative specialist in Franklin County, Christa Littlefield has gone above and beyond the scope of her responsibilities for the Cooperative Extension Service. January of 2022 marks 30 years of Christa's employment with Extension, and during that time she has been a valued source of support and knowledge for not only her own county, but also for staff chairs and administrative assistants throughout her district. When Crawford County found itself without an office administrator, Christa volunteered to help with administrative duties during the interim. After two successive new hires left the position after a short time, Christa stepped up once again by volunteering to help with administrative duties, including Workday tasks, assisting with orders, county finance transactions, and more. She also developed the CES Administrative Support Handout for New Employees to provide guidance and resources for new office administrators.

Christa has been a very active member of Chi Epsilon Sigma, the

Beta Chapter of the National Extension Support Staff fraternity, for 25 years and was the organization's Employee of the Year in 2000. She served as Ozark District director for Chi Epsilon Sigma from 2014-2016 and has served on many committees during her membership.

Her commitment to excellence in her position, and to Extension at large, has earned her the respect and admiration of her community, including its leaders and elected officials. At the end of 2021, Christa had voluntarily assisted Crawford County with administrative duties for over six months, exemplifying her dedication to going above and beyond in her work for Extension.



Kathi Jogan

Outstanding Honors Faculty Mentor Award

Dr. Kathi Jogan, instructor of equine science in the Department of Animal Science, completed her Ed.D. from the University of Arkansas in 2014 with her dissertation focused on strategies to improve teaching and learning, and to evaluate student improvement. In addition to teaching, she is co-chair of the animal science Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, a member of the assessment, scholarship and curriculum committees, and co-advisor of the college's International Student Organization.

Jogan has developed study manuals, tip sheets, course guides, a manual for teaching assistants, and implemented curricular changes based on feedback from students and potential employers. She has also developed internship opportunities for students both inside and outside of the United States. Since 2019, she has obtained the Online Teaching Certification from Quality Matters, presented research and conducted 10 workshops nationally and internationally, and is annually invited to provide a keynote address in Perú at the Perú- TESOL Convention for 300 Peruvian teachers.



Adnan Ali
Khalaf Alrubaye

Outstanding Honors Faculty Mentor Award

Dr. Adnan Alrubaye was born and raised in the South region of Iraq, traveled to the U.S. in 2008 and became a U.S. citizen in 2017. He completed his bachelor's degree in veterinary medicine from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Baghdad in 2000. He earned his master's degree in medical microbiology from the College of Medicine at the University of Baghdad in 2003. Dr. Alrubaye is now an assistant professor of poultry science and biological sciences with dual appointment to Bumpers and Fulbright colleges, and the associate director of the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program. Dr. Alrubaye holds a doctoral degree in cell and molecular biology, and a second master's in science education. He teaches general microbiology, domestic animal microbiology and domestic animal bacteriology. He is a poultry microbiologist interested in identifying the bacterial causes and mitigation measures for bacterial chondronecrosis with osteomyelitis in broiler chickens.

Most recently, Dr. Alrubaye received the University of Arkansas Imhoff Award for outstanding teaching and student mentorship, the Fulbright College Master Teacher Award, the Collis Geren Award for excellence in graduate and international education, the Hoyt H. Purvis Award for Service in International Education, the Outstanding Faculty Member from the Office of Sponsored Students Programs and the U of A Most Outstanding Faculty Member award from the Associated Student Government.



Nilda Burgos

Outstanding International Education Award

Dr. Nilda Burgos, professor of weed physiology and molecular biology in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, was a member of the University of Arkansas faculty team which conducted a community needs assessment in Dangriga, Belize, in 2006. The group developed a service learning experience for undergraduates across the university. Students from various Bumpers College departments have assisted in building an irrigation system,

rain catchment structure for irrigation and shade structures for seedlings; backyard gardening container gardens and planted shade trees; and prepared lessons for elementary students.

In 2012, she began focusing on international research opportunities in which students work with faculty members and local mentors. Her efforts led to the creation of the International Research Internship, a three or six-hour course. Students have been transformed professionally and personally, and have become more confident and capable by experiencing project planning and implementation with University of Arkansas and international mentors, working with students at foreign universities, planning logistics of traveling, and learning and experiencing a foreign culture and environment. They have learned how to diagnose and solve problems, and become better scientists and communicators.

Dr. Burgos' goal is to provide students with international experience and education so they can better confront local and global challenges, broaden their educational experience, and become graduates who are highly competitive in the job market, productive citizens and better leaders. Dr. Burgos has secured more than \$16,000 funding for students to participate in the international research experiences.



Bryan Kutz

Bumpers College Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award

Dr. Bryan Kutz, teaching assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, earned his bachelor's degree in animal science from Oklahoma State University, a master's degree from Western Kentucky University and his Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas in breeding and genetics.

Dr. Kutz currently advises 46 undergraduate students, has been on committees for four master's degrees and two honors undergraduate students, and is the faculty advisor/coach for the intercollegiate livestock judging team, which competes in 12 contests annually. Dr. Kutz is responsible for teaching 10 undergraduate courses and one graduate course along with providing leadership for special problem and internship opportunities. He is also a member of six departmental

and college committees, and provides leadership in state youth extension activities through the department.

His youth programs include beef cattle genetics, the State Youth Beef Quiz Bowl, and 4-H and FFA Selection and Showmanship programs and livestock judging activities. He is also the faculty coordinator of the North Farm and supervisor of the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center.



Kathi Jogan

Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence

Dr. Kathi Jogan, instructor of equine science in the Department of Animal Science, has a varied teaching load with seven undergraduate courses, three study abroad courses cross-listed with biology, one course with an embedded trip (Comparative Studies in Panamanian and U.S. Agriculture), a service-learning course (Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies) and six courses with graduate sections.

She has developed study manuals for three study abroad courses, 35 tip sheets for equine management, a course guide for the Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies class, a manual for teaching assistants helping with the Equine Behavior and Training course and implemented curricular changes based on feedback from students and potential employers of those students. Dr. Jogan has integrated students from other colleges on campus into Bumpers College classes and collaborated with faculty and programs across campus, including music, nursing, the indigenous food and agriculture initiative, social work, recreational therapy, biology, agricultural communications, and environmental, soil and water science.

THE SPITZE LAND GRANT UNIVERSITY FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



2022 AWARD RECIPIENT

Mary C. Savin

Dr. Mary C. Savin, professor of microbial ecology and soil biology in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, researches the microbial ecology of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Her focus is the ecology of various systems and microbial and food web communities, biogeochemical properties and physiological responses to anthropogenic changes and management practices, and the consequences for the health, quality and sustainability of ecosystems and natural resources.

Dr. Savin teaches courses in soil science, applied ecology, microbial ecology, environmental science, and a capstone, communication and self-development colloquium. Dr. Savin has 80 career peer-reviewed publications. Undergraduate students have published four and graduate students have published 17 peer-reviewed manuscripts. Eleven honors students have been mentored to degree completion, written nine *Discovery Journal* articles and two peer-reviewed journal articles, and five received SURF grants. Dr. Savin has mentored six non-honors undergraduate students in projects and served on multiple honors advisory committees.

Dr. Savin has garnered over \$4 million in research support as PI or co-PI, mostly through regionally and nationally competitive grants. Five graduate students have received funding from competitive programs. Dr. Savin is the Faculty Senate chair and has previously

(Continued on pg. 18)

held the positions of Campus Faculty chair, Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center co-director, Teaching Academy president and ASA Education and Extension Section chair positions. She was also a Gamma Sigma Delta (Honor Society of Agriculture) Arkansas chapter officer. She has served as associate editor for *Natural Sciences Education*, as editor of *Discovery Journal* (Bumpers College's student research publication), and served on many college, Division and departmental committees.

Spitze Land Grant University Faculty Award for Excellence Recipients

1995 – James N. Moore	2009 – Park Waldroup
1996 – George E. Templeton	2010 – Eric J. Wailes
1997 – Justin R. Morris	2011 – John R. Clark
1998 – Ronald E. Talbert	2012 – Donna L. Graham
1999 – Fred Stephen	2013 – Yanbin Li
2000 – John Kirkpatrick Skeeles Sr.	2014 – Navam Hettiarachchy
2001 – Robert D. Riggs	2015 – Pengyin Chen
2002 – Lawrence R. “Dick” Oliver	2016 – Fred Bourland
2003 – Terry J. Siebenmorgen	2017 – Michael Richardson
2004 – Max V. Meisch	2018 – Larry Purcell
2005 – Derrick M. Oosterhuis	2019 – Don Johnson
2006 – Sung Man Lim	2020 – Kristofer Brye
2008 – Duane Wolf	2021 – Jason Norsworthy

THE SPITZE LAND GRANT UNIVERSITY FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



Robert G.F. Spitze, Ph.D.
BSA 1947



Hazel Taylor Spitze, Ph.D.
BSHE 1943

The Spitze Land Grant University Faculty Award for Excellence recognizes meritorious and comprehensive scholarly performance in the areas of academic responsibility unique to the Land Grant mission: teaching and advising, research and

publication, extension and public service, and participation in professional associations and faculty governance. Tenured faculty members with at least 10 years of continuous service with the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences or the Division of Agriculture are eligible for consideration.

The award includes an unrestricted cash award of \$6,500 from a fund established by the late Robert G.F. Spitze and the late Hazel Taylor Spitze. The Spitzes have also provided generous endowments for student scholarship funds. Bob Spitze, a native of Berryville, and Hazel Spitze, a native of DeQueen, were both graduates of the college with B.S. degrees in general agriculture and home economics, respectively. They went on to earn doctoral degrees, hers in education from the University of Tennessee and his in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin. As professors at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, they have made lasting, nationally recognized contributions through the Land Grant University System.

ADMINISTRATION

Interim Vice President for Agriculture Chuck Culver

Senior Associate Vice President
for Agriculture – Extension &
Director, Cooperative Extension Service Bob Scott

Senior Associate Vice President
for Agriculture – Research &
Director, Arkansas Agricultural
Experiment Station Jean-François Meullenet

Senior Associate Vice President for
Agriculture – Academic Programs &
Dean, Dale Bumpers College
of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences Deacue Fields

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Christina Miller
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Mary Poling
Dianne Vaughan
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Division Communications Team

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