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BUFF BRIEF

A WEEKLY NEWS & EVENT UPDATE FOR THE PAUL ENGLER COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL SCIENCES

For the most up to date information from West Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University System about COVID-19, visit the University's [COVID-19 Information Page](#).

WT Paul Engler College of
Agriculture and Natural Sciences
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY™

Excellent Educators

Dr. Laura Greenhaw



Dr. Laura Greenhaw, a 2006 graduate with a B.S. in Agricultural Education, has completed her first year as an Assistant Professor for Agricultural Leadership at the University of Florida. After obtaining her undergraduate degree from WT, Dr. Greenhaw completed her M.S. and PhD from Texas Tech University. Prior to teaching at the university level, Dr. Greenhaw taught high school agriculture at Cooper High School in Abilene, Texas. Moving into higher education, Dr. Greenhaw taught for six years at Mississippi State University, before joining the faculty at the University of Florida. Dr. Greenhaw has taught a number of classes in agricultural leadership including Foundations of Leadership, Team Leadership, Contemporary Issues in Agriculture, Moral Leadership, and Volunteer Development in Agriculture and Extension Education. Currently, she teaches Communication and Leadership in Groups and Teams and Moral Leadership.

Dr. Greenhaw says her favorite part of teaching is connecting with her students, "I love to see those "ah ha" moments in the classroom when something clicks. I love to see them get super excited when they get passionate about their learning and success and the impact they can have. I really enjoy the advising and when I am able to connect students with professionals that can really advance them, whether that be for graduate school, internships, or a job post-graduation. And more than anything, I love keeping in touch with my students and watching them continue to learn and grow and do awesome things in the world."

Stellar Students

INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Scout Odegaard Interns In D.C.



Scout Odegaard, a May 2020 graduate with a B.S. in Agricultural Media and Communication, tells about her internship in Washington D.C.

Where did you complete your internship?

I interned with the Office of Congressman Mac Thornberry in the summer of 2019.

How did your internship help prepare you post-graduation?

Completing this internship helped me confirm that I wanted to pursue a career in public service and helped me identify connections that I could use in the future. I knew ahead of my internship that I was interested in public policy development, specifically dealing with food and agriculture policy, but this internship helped me realize that my goals were realistic and that I was on the right track to reach them. Since graduating in May, I have been accepted to the masters of public service and administration program at Texas A&M University Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Describe briefly what you did for your internship.

In my internship, I had the opportunity to help with day-to-day functions of a congressional office from answering constituent phone calls, to organizing mail from the district, as well as attending various hearings and other events on the Hill. I was also responsible for leading constituent tours of the US Capitol and even got to watch a few sessions of the House conducting business, such as the passing of the National Defense Authorization Act. The most exciting project I worked on was providing a fact sheet for legislation that considered the pros and cons of raising the federal minimum wage.

Stellar Students



Photo courtesy of Becca Grimes

Grimes wins American Meat Science Association award

Becca Grimes, a May 2020 graduate with a B.S. in Animal Science, was named as a recipient of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award. This award promotes meat science by recognizing outstanding undergraduate students with potential for a career in meats. The candidates may or may not have committed himself/herself to a career in meats but have demonstrated an interest in meat science and the meat industry. The Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award is sponsored by ADM. All students will be honored during the Virtual 66th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology and the AMSA 73rd Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) awards presentation.

Grimes recently began pursuit of her M.S. in Animal Science at WTAMU, and has hopes of obtaining a PhD to conduct research for the fed beef industry.

Johnson named to 2019-20 Academic Honors Court

Marshall Johnson, a senior Biology student, was honored for his efforts in the classroom as part of the 2019-20 National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Academic Honors Court. The NABC recognizes the talents and gifts that student-athletes possess on the court and the hard work they exhibit in the classroom.

In order to be named to the Honors Court, a student-athlete must meet a high standard of academic criteria. The qualifications are as follows: (1) student-athlete must academically be a junior or senior and a varsity player. (2) hold a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher at the conclusion of the 2019-20 academic year. (3) student-athlete must have matriculated at least one year at their current institution.

Johnson becomes the sixth Buff since 2014-15 to earn Honors Court recognition After appearing in nine games as a junior in 2019-20 and helping the Buffs to a 32-1 record and third straight Lone Star Conference Championship, Johnson becomes the sixth Buff since 2014-15 to earn Honors Court recognition. During his two-year career, the Clarendon native has appeared in 29 games scoring 16 points with 15 rebounds.



Photo courtesy of Trevor Fleeman

NATIONAL WELLNESS MONTH



Esdras Rodriguez pursues dream of becoming a M.D.

WTAMU Alumnus Esdras Rodriguez, B.S. Biology (2018), is pursuing his dream of becoming a medical doctor by working towards his M.D. at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, a member of the Texas Tech University Health Science Center, in El Paso. Being able to further his education in El Paso is important to Rodriguez, a first-generation college student, as it allows him to learn from a border health perspective that offers unique cases and situations. Esdras says the great culture and ability to advance his understanding of medical Spanish gives him the opportunity to prepare to help immigrant families, a strong desire of his.

Esdras credits his time at WT for giving him a strong educational foundation on which to build upon. Esdras recently completed his first licensing exam, and is currently working on his in-person clinical rotations. Esdras is scheduled to graduate in May of 2022, and while he is uncertain as to what he will choose to specialize in, he is leaning towards emergency medicine.

Events

2020 Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course
July 13-16



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

WT



“The Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador program strives to provide high school aged 4-H members the opportunity to develop and practice advanced leadership skills related to mentoring other youth, and to become advocates for animal agriculture.”

The Department of Agricultural Sciences had the opportunity to host the Texas Livestock Ambassador Short Course from July 13-16. On Monday, students began the short course by live evaluating and ultra-sounding different breeds of cattle. The same day, they participated in the harvest of the cattle they live evaluated. On Tuesday, Dr. Dan Posey, Clinical Professor of Veterinary Education, Research & Outreach, discussed diseases and treatments in show animals and completed a reproductive tract dissection with the Livestock Ambassadors. Beef fabrication and yield took up most of Wednesday afternoon. The students wrapped up the week by creating presentations to share what they had learned throughout the week.

Pond's Ponder

**“Nobody can go back and start a new beginning,
but anyone can start today and make a new ending.”**

~ Maria Robinson

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Go Buffs!
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