

Animal Science Weekly

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Former Animal Science student named one of Texas A&M's Outstanding Agriculture Alumni



Charles "Doc" Graham



Joe Swinbank



Bob McCan

COLLEGE STATION – A veterinarian, an entrepreneur and a rancher have been named as 2010 Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Science Outstanding Alumni.

Dr. Charles Graham of Elgin, Joe Swinbank of Houston and Bob McCan of Victoria were honored Oct. 28 with a reception in The Zone Club at Kyle Field on campus.

Graham earned his bachelor of science degree in animal husbandry in 1953, his bachelor of science degree in animal science in 1954 and his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1961.

In the early 1960s, he and Dr. W. H. Cardwell built the Elgin Veterinary Hospital and grew the practice into one of the largest equine veterinary facilities in the nation. Graham is now owner of a number of other businesses, including the 1,300-acre Southwest Stallion Station in Elgin, that has bred some of the top stallions and broodmares in the quarter horse industry.

The numerous awards Graham has received include his 2009 induction into the American Quarter Horse Hall of

Fame. He is the only individual to serve as president of both the Texas Quarter Horse Association and the Texas Thoroughbred Breeders Association, and is the only individual to be selected Horseman of the Year by both organizations. He also has been named Outstanding Alumnus of Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Graham has served on the board of directors of the Elgin Independent School District and as a member of the Elgin Kiwanis Club and the Thorndale Masonic Lodge. He participates in numerous youth stock show events to support youth involved in 4-H, FFA and other agricultural organizations. In 2005, the Star of Texas Rodeo of Austin named their new offices for Graham.

He serves on key college and university advisory committees, contributes to programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and provides educational tours and learning experiences at his equine and beef cattle facilities.

see **Outstanding Agriculture Alumni** page 3.



<http://www.facebook.com/tamuanimalscience>

Texas A&M University represented in Kentucky



Representing Texas A&M is Leah Ward who graduated with a degree in Animal Science with an Equine specialty. Ward is from Terrell, Texas where she grew up on a cutting horse ranch.

She is a member of the Texas A&M eight-time National Championship NCAA Equestrian Team and the Texas A&M Stock Horse Team.

She is currently breaking yearlings at Juddmonte Farms and is looking forward to finding an equine job within the horse industry.



LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY - Texas A&M University is among 20 universities represented in the Fall 2010 Kentucky Equine Management Internship (KEMI) program.

The KEMI program is an internship about the vast Thoroughbred industry in Central Kentucky. Interns tour the area farms, veterinary clinics and racetracks and work on area Thoroughbred farms.

Dr. Howard Hesby Atrium Update

Texas A&M has contracted with an interior design firm to provide concept renderings, schematic interior design concepts, etc. for the Atrium. Over the next few weeks the firm will be seeking input from faculty, staff, students and stakeholders. We are still targeting September, 2011 for completion of the project. The "Big Hands: Big Heart" book led by Chris Boleman is on track for completion by late this year.

ASGSA hosts bowling party for all Animal Science graduate students



COLLEGE STATION - The Animal Science Graduate Student Association (ASGSA) held a bowling party on October 21st at Grand Station Entertainment. Members enjoyed unlimited bowling at half price (ASGSA paid for half the cost) while catching-up with old friends and welcoming new graduate students to the department. ASGSA is an organization open to all Animal Science graduate students. Please join us at our next meeting, November 10th at 5:15 PM in the Kleberg faculty lounge, to find out how you can become involved.

Outstanding Agriculture Alumni *continued from page 1*

Swinbank paid his way through college with part-time jobs and credits this “mixed curriculum of work and academics” with giving him the foundation to become a self-described “serial entrepreneur.”

While still in school, he served as president of Petroleum Express Co., a wholesale and retail petroleum product sales company. After graduating in 1974 with a bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics, he built a company that installed self-serve gas pumps at convenience stores.

Swinbank next co-founded Sprint Sand and Gravel to supply materials to ready-mix concrete producers in the Houston area. He and his business partner later formed the Sprint Waste Disposal Co. They continued their acquisitions and expansion in the 1990s by co-founding Sprint Industrial Services, an amalgamation of several transportation and industrial companies.

Today, their investment portfolio includes businesses in the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast area in transportation, landfills, garbage collection, sand mining, tank leasing, pipeline maintenance and commercial real estate.

Swinbank routinely participates as a “prof for a day” in the department of agricultural economics rural entrepreneurship classes and serves as a mentor for students and former students interested in start-up operations. He and his wife, Shirley, have endowed the Rural Entrepreneurship Seminar Series, a graduate

teaching assistantship to support the rural entrepreneurship program, and have donated funds for the new Agriculture and Life Sciences Building.

An active supporter of Texas A&M athletics, Swinbank is a former board member of the 12th Man Foundation. He has served on the boards of Prosperity Bank of Houston, Fort Bend County Habitat for Humanity, the Economic Development Board of Fort Bend County and has donated land to create parks and charter schools.

Fifth-generation Texan Bob McCan lives and works on the McFaddin Ranch in Victoria, Refugio and Bee counties, where he oversees the cattle, recreational hunting and wildlife operations for McFaddin Enterprises, Ltd.

After spending his freshman year at Victoria College, he transferred to Texas A&M where he graduated in 1980 with a bachelor of science degree in range science.

McCan has served the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association as a board member, second vice president and president. Since 1993, he has served the National Cattleman’s Beef Association as vice chair of the private lands and environment committee, chair of international markets committee, regional vice president, member of the executive committee and currently as vice chair of the policy division.

He has chaired the Fire Ant Research and Management Account Advisory Committee, and was member of the Farm and Ranch Lands

Conservation Council and the Coastal Coordination Council. In 2001, the Society for Range Management honored McCan with the Outstanding Rangeland Management Award for the State of Texas. In 2007, he received the Lone Star Land Stewardship Award for the Gulf Prairies and Marshes Region from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

McCan also has served as chair of the Victoria Soil and Water Conservation District, as member of the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management Council at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and as member of the First Victoria National Bank board of directors.

Equine Reproductive Management Short Course Nov. 30 - Dec. 2, 2010

COLLEGE STATION - The Texas A&M University Equine Reproductive Management short course is designed for owners and breeding managers who want to learn the most efficient methods for ensuring the success of their breeding programs. The course content includes a broad range of topics that are useful for horse owners in any segment of the breeding industry.

Previous attendees have indicated that the knowledge they gained from similar workshops has strengthened their confidence level and improved the relationship with their veterinarian concerning horse breeding activities.

Instructors are Dr. Martha Vogelsang, Dr. Clay Cavinder, Dr. Josie Coverdale, Mr. Dave Golden, Ms. Krissy Johnson-Schroeder, and graduate students in Equine Reproduction.

For more information visit <<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/workshops/equine-repro-short-course.htm>> or contact Dr. Vogelsang at 979-845-7731 or by e-mail at <m-vogelsang@tamu.edu>.

Upcoming events

Animal Science Graduate Student Association Meeting (Nov. 10, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - 5:15 p.m.) - For more information, contact Lauren Hulsman at <lhulsman@tamu.edu>.

Pasture to Plate: Mainting Consumer Confidence (Nov. 11, 2010 - Pearce Pavillion - 5:30-8 p.m.) - Dinner provided. For more information contact <extansc@tamu.edu>.

2010 Aggiefest Livestock Judging Contest (Nov. 13, 2010 - Pearce Pavilion) - For more information contact Jake Franke at <jfranke@tamu.edu> or go to http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/10_aggiefest_ad.pdf.

2010 Aggiefest Horse Judging Workshop (Nov 13, 2010 - Freeman Arena) - For more information contact Teri Antilley at <tjantilley@ag.tamu.edu> or go to http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/workshops/aggiefest_horsejudging.htm.

Department of Animal Science Seminar Series (Nov. 17, 2010 - Kleberg Faculty Lounge - noon) - Mr. Jim Schwertner, President and CEO of Capitol Land & Livestock, and member of Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, will present, "An Industry Perspective." For more information, contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham at <tryon@tamu.edu>.



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Please forward additions to the mailing list and future requests and events to Callie Whitworth <cwhitworth@tamu.edu>