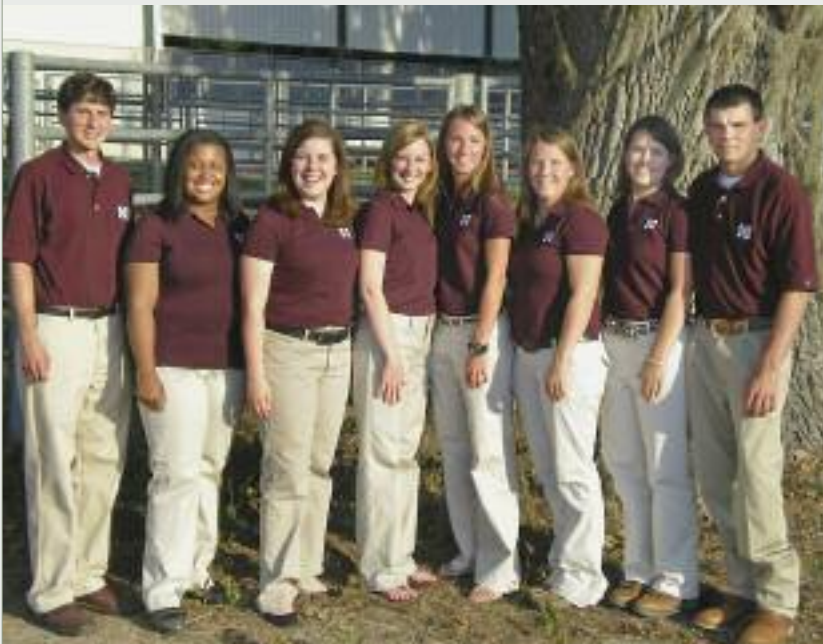


NEWS NOTES



Two undergraduate student teams from Mississippi State University with an interest in muscle foods placed first and second in the recent American Meat Science Association Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl. Participants included, from left, Jonathan Greene of Birmingham, Tribetta Spires of Jackson, Jenny Heath of Memphis, and alternate Becca Stiles of West Helena, Ark.; team coach and muscle foods graduate student Shollie Behrends; and Megan Bullard of Southaven; Emily Irwin of Carrollton, and Joe Buntyn of Union. Participation in the competition was a collaborative effort from students and faculty in the Departments of Animal and Dairy Sciences and Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion. They competed at the 2008 Reciprocal Meat Conference in Gainesville, Fla., June 22 and 23. (Submitted photo)

MSU Meat Science Teams Win Top National Honors

Two undergraduate student teams from Mississippi State University with an interest in muscle foods took top honors during their first appearance at the American Meat Science Association Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl.

The two MSU teams, a collaborative effort between the Departments of Animal and Dairy Sciences, and Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion, won first and second place among 20 collegiate teams from across the country. They competed at the 2008 Reciprocal Meat Conference in Gainesville, Fla., June 22 and 23.

The first-place maroon team included Joe Buntyn, a junior from Union; Jonathan Greene, a senior from Birmingham; and Emily Irwin, a junior from Carrollton.

The second-place white team consisted of Megan Bullard, a junior from Southaven; Tribetta Spears, a senior from Jackson; Jenny Heath, a senior from Memphis; and alternate Rebecca Stiles, from West Helena, Ark.

"This is only the second time a university has had two teams compete in the final round. That is a fairly historic event in itself, but it's especially remarkable since MSU has never competed before," said Benjy Mikel, head of MSU's Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion.

"The quiz bowl is a very intense and well-known competition. We were proud to have one team finish in the finals, much less two," Mikel added.

The quiz bowl is designed to encourage interaction among students from different universities, increase student interest in

the area of meat science and provide a field for friendly competition within academia.

Shollie Behrends, MSU muscle food graduate student and team coach, said the 20 teams were divided into a double elimination bracket. The teams were asked 40 questions per round to test their knowledge in meat science.

Topics included muscle biochemistry, nutrition, meats evaluation, growth and development, muscle contraction, harvest procedures, and rules, regulations and history of meat science.

Each team and each individual received a plaque.

MSU Employees Honored for Service to Agriculture

Several Mississippi State University faculty and staff members were honored for service at the July 18 summer celebration of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.

The division presented the 2008 Louis and Doris Wise Support Staff Awards, the Rosalind and Rodney Foil Teamwork Award and the William M. White Special Project Awards during the annual event at the Bost Center. Wise and Foil are former division vice presidents, and White was a dairy producer and MSU financial supporter.

Charles Burkhardt, supervisor of forest and facilities management for the College of Forest Resources, received a Wise award in the professional/nonfaculty category. Also receiving Wise awards were two Delta Research and Extension Center employees: office associate Evelyn Fratesi in the secretarial/clerical category and engineering technician Ronnie Lee in the technical/paraprofessional category.



Recipients of this year's Doris and Louis Wise Support Staff Awards, the Rosalind and Rodney Foil Teamwork Award and the William M. White Special Project Awards were honored at the annual division summer celebration. From left are Anna Chromiak, who accepted the Foil award for her late husband, Joseph; White award recipients Jeff Wilkinson, Ashli Brown, Gary Bachman and Diane Tidwell; Wise award recipients Evelyn Fratesi, Ronald Lee and Charles Burkhardt; and White award recipient Mengmeng Gu.

Brown Honored

Receiving the Foil teamwork award were associate professor Sylvia Byrd and assistant professor Brent Fountain, both in the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion, and the late Joseph Chromiak, former professor in the College of Education's Department of Kinesiology. The trio was recognized for a study of coordinated school health programs in the Mississippi Delta and Starkville.

The White awards fund research and Extension efforts that promote further development of agriculture and agribusiness in Mississippi.

Ornamental horticulturist Gary Bachman, coastal environmentalist Christopher Boyd, research horticulturist Christine Coker and ornamental horticulturist Mengmeng Gu received a White award for a project to establish a school seedling nursery program for habitat restoration. Bachman, Boyd and Coker work at the Coastal Research and Extension Center, and Gu is on campus in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

Research biochemist Ashli Brown and molecular biologist Jeff Wilkinson were honored with a White award for a project addressing bio-analytical concepts in agriculture. Both are members of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Nutritionist Diane Tidwell and food processing specialist Anna Hood were given a White award for a project exploring the nutritional qualities of kudzu. Both are members of the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion.



Ashli Brown

Ashli Brown, an assistant research professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, presented the AGRO Early Investigator paper at the 2008 American Chemical Society annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pa.

Brown joined the MSU faculty in 2006 and is conducting research focused on renewable alternatives to petroleum, including biodiesel and bioethanol. Her emphasis is on the use of feedstocks, including aflatoxin-contaminated corn, which do not compete with food crops.

Brown's research is in collaboration with a team from the Renewable Fuels and Chemicals Laboratory at MSU's David C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. She is assisted by her colleague assistant professor Jeffery Wilkinson and USDA-ARS scientist Paul Williams.

Brown earned her bachelor's in biology and a doctorate in chemistry at the University of South Florida. Prior to joining the MSU faculty, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship with USDA-ARS.

The AGRO Early Investigator award is sponsored by Dow AgroSciences.