

Student Success in the Darr School of Agriculture

Excellence with the Care Factor

Student success is the number one goal for faculty and staff in the William H. Darr School of Agriculture. We don't want our students to merely succeed in our classrooms for four years; we want them to make a difference and lead successful and fulfilling lives. The unprecedented focus on students has gained Darr School national recognition for developing a quality program.



Endless Opportunities...

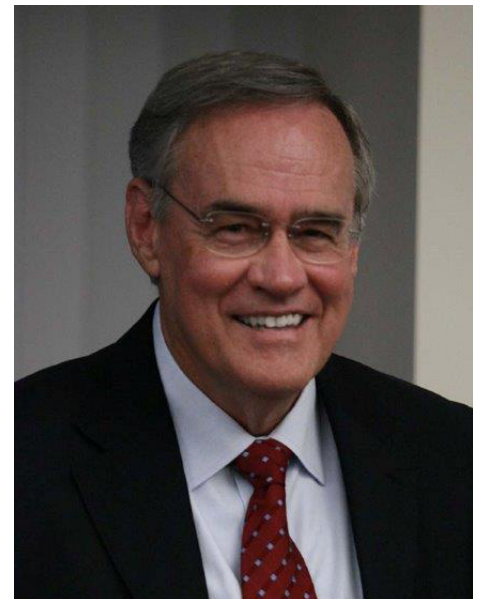
Our student focused mentality starts before students walk through the door to begin classes, by ensuring the best possible value for their education. The over-all value of an education, which is incomparable to other universities.

In addition, we offer numerous scholarships to students based on academics, financial need, work ethic and values. We award over \$55,000 to our students through scholarships each year.

Every student is required to enroll in a freshmen or transfer student orientation course to assist them in their transition to Missouri State University. Jim Bellis, Assistant to the Director, likes to tell our new students, "You'll have to work hard to fall through the cracks." This means that faculty and staff are always looking out for students and making sure they are succeeding in both school and life.

Even with our exponential growth, faculty members advise students in their realm of expertise. Our largest general agriculture classes are still just barely over 100 students in size. Major classes enjoy an average of 30 students (or less) per class.

A huge part of all agricultural courses is the hands-on experiences faculty members incorporate in their class. Internships, lab experiences and research opportunities, which



Dr. Anson Elliot Director of the School of Agriculture

are afforded through grants and partnerships forged with other institutions and agricultural organizations, create real-world experiences for undergraduate and graduate students alike.

When asked why they loved the School of Ag, an alumna said, "They tailor your education around your interests, so the classes you take for your degree are the ones you will use."

In addition to academics, we strongly encourage our students to become involved on campus. There are over fifteen different student agricultural clubs housed in Darr School, not to mention the campus-wide organizations our students are involved in. Those agricultural clubs provide students with professional networking and travel opportunities on the state and national levels. Farm Bureau, the National FFA Organization, Delta Tau Alpha, fraternities and sororities are some of the popular and active professional organizations.





We also have several students who like to engage their competitive side by participating in our collegiate equestrian, soil judging, and trap and skeet teams. Others want to broaden their horizons by traveling overseas. Regular study away trips are taken to China, Taiwan, Sri Lanka and Brazil through the School of Ag. Students are also encouraged to go beyond those trips. In recent years, students have visited Ghana and Ireland, while another is applying for an internship in Italy for the coming semester.



Amazing facilities...

The School of Agriculture has been fortunate to receive several very generous donations to augment student opportunities over the years. Thanks to our donors, we have resources other agricultural colleges with thousands of students would be jealous of.

Located on the main campus, Karls Hall serves as the hub for the School. Most classes are taught in Karls, and a majority of the teaching faculty are housed there. In addition to classrooms, Karls also boasts a meat freezer and rooftop greenhouse, which

are regularly used for research and hands-on classroom instruction. Also located in Springfield is the Darr Agricultural Center, a 90-acre



working farm in the middle of the city. The Darr Center is home to the Christopher S. Bond Learning Center, Pinegar Arena, agricultural research and demonstration center and numerous cattle and horses. By locating the Center in a metropolitan area, the Darr Agricultural Center



helps demonstrate to students, and the public, the unique role of agriculture and its traditional rural roots in supporting urban America. The Center exists not only to support students in their agricultural endeavors, but also to educate citizens about the essential function of agriculture in everyday life.

The Christopher S. Bond Learning Center houses offices, a laboratory, two classrooms and a large multipurpose space. The Bond Center is unique in the fact it has the ability to seat several hundred in a formal ballroom while simultaneously instructing students in a room capable of bringing animals directly into the classroom.



Pinegar Arena is a top-of-the-line facility used by students and the community. Each year a variety of events are held in the Arena such as cattle shows and auctions, equine workshops and competitions, animal judging contests, horticulture tours, and lessons by Therapeutic Riding of the Ozarks.

Journagan Ranch, located 10 miles outside of Mountain Grove, is a 3,300-acre working cattle ranch donated to the School of Agriculture by the Leo Journagan family. The donation is the

second largest ever made to Missouri State University. The Hereford herd on the Ranch is the largest purebred cattle operation associated with any university in the country.

The diversity of the land, with its forests, streams, and pastures also holds numerous opportunities for University faculty and student research in biology, forestry, geology, genetics, plant science, soil quality and wildlife management.



The Fruit Experiment Station, located on the Missouri State Mountain Grove campus, was established in 1899, acquired by the University in 1972 and became part of the School of Agriculture in 2005. It is dedicated to the advancement and improvement

of the Missouri fruit crop industry, and is home to world-renowned grape genetics researchers and award winning wine production.



Three additional land resources the School of Agriculture has been gifted are Baker's Acres, Shealy Farm and The Woodlands. Baker's Acres is located in Marshfield and shares spaces with Baker's observatory. It primarily supports cattle and helps with animal science research. Shealy Farm, located in Fair Grove, is one of our most recent gifts. It has allowed the School to develop a grass-based cattle-feeding operation. Cattle ear-marked for beef production

are transported from Journagan to Shealy to be finished on a grass-based diet. The farm also boasts a conference facility, which is used by Missouri State administrators and other members of the community for retreats.

The Woodlands is a very unique asset, as it is a natural woodland area. It hasn't been touched in over 50 years. Adding to its appeal is the location, bordered by I-44, two housing additions and Lowes; it is located on the north side of Springfield in the city limits. The research and hands-on classroom instructions opportunities are endless for this area.

The unique combination of facilities, resources, and caring faculty and staff who are leaders in their respective fields, allow us to provide large university opportunities to our students, with the feel of a small school. In the School of Agriculture, we believe in striving for excellence AND focusing on the care factor.

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