When an institution reaches 100 years, it is a grand accomplishment and cause for reflection, pride and celebration. The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Missouri leads the way in every facet of policy analysis and information through its long-running lecture series, project-focused centers, hands-on seminars, and leadership training for its students. Over the years the department has been known for its insight; looking to the future and identifying the resources and information needed for its students, outreach and extension programs and research.

The department has been reflecting on its centennial for nearly a year, and invites you to join in the celebration!

EXCELLENCE

The program was established in 1910 as the Department of Farm Management, at MU by D. Howard Doane. Initial work in management and accounts quickly expanded to include many other economic relationships involved in agriculture, including:

- Costs of farm operations and of production of commodities;
- Marketing farm products;
- Farm cooperatives;
- Legal aspects of property ownership, use, transfer and taxation;
- Farm organization and planning;
- Economics of conservation.

The development of agribusiness extended the economic relationships of agriculture much farther into manufacturing industries, and into the marketing, processing and distribution of farm products. Departmental research over the years always has closely followed trends – the Great Depression and drought years of the 1930s, years always has closely followed trends – the economic relationships of agriculture much involved in agriculture, including:

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That’s a fact
- Total living alumni: 2,700
- Spring 2011 graduates: Undergrad: 48, grad: 33
- Undergraduate degree programs: Agribusiness management, Agricultural economics
- Graduate degree programs: Agribusiness management, Public policy analysis, Resources and development

The department’s centennial was the main attraction at the CAFNR Ag Alumni Tailgate, Oct. 23, 2010. About 50 agribusiness and agricultural economics graduates were special guests at this year-long celebration. Featured were cakes decorated to highlight the centennial.

The department hosted a Centennial Open House Feb. 5, 2011, in Mumford Hall. The event welcomed alumni and friends and included tours of new technology classrooms, the J. Bruce Bullock Student Center and the Elmer Kiehl foyer. Attendees networked with faculty and fellow alumni and were treated to refreshments, games, demonstrations, a slideshow and memorabilia displays.

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Executive-in-Residence Program
Since 1997, executives like these have rewarded some students by sharing industry experience in the classroom as part of the Executive-in-Residence program. Enthusiastically endorsed by the generosity of the Reich family, this one-on-one interaction offers a rare life experience for students and the Executive-in-Residence.

Graduates of the department lead Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurial endeavors and government agencies

*William Jasper Spillman (B.S. and M.S. 1880), beginning as head of the USDA's new Office of Farm Management beginning in 1904. Was elected first president of the American Farm Management Association.*

*Glenn Grimes (B.S. 1951, M.S. 1965), alumnus and professor emeritus, was inducted into the National Pork Producers Council Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to the pork industry in March 2010. Grimes worked for the school for more than 58 years.*

*Readie Luinga (B.S. 1963) is former president of the American Soybean Association.*

*Donald L. Cupps (B.S. 1978). Was named to the University of Missouri Board of Curators in January 2011. Cupps practices law at Ellis, Cupps and Cole in Columbia.*

*Kenneth Haldford (B.S. 1980), served in the U.S. House of Representatives 1997-2009 for Missouri's 9th district. He was the Republican candidate for governor in 2008.*

*Thanks mizzou

The department supports world-class research through its Applied Research and Environmental Systems helps public and private parties learn about and manage resources.

Randall Westgren (standing, red shirt), professor of agribusiness management, is one of the leaders of the Entrepreneurship Project, a program funded by a USDA grant for beginning farmers and cooperatives. Each of the four modules in the program begins with farm tours. Participants listen closely to Randy Lee, of Lee Farms.

Impact

Extension through the years

Agricultural economics extension work includes educational programs in farm management, marketing and utilization of agricultural products. The department’s extension programs are well known for developing new offerings as the needs arise. Technology has had a large part in changes over the years; through the Electronic Bulletin Board more information is delivered online with fewer extension agents.

Eighteen regional AgBusiness Extension Specialists are an important link between the department and Missouri’s agricultural industry. Promotion is intensely focused and more interdisciplinary, including the work of the Commercial Agriculture Team, which specializes in fields such as hogs, beef and dairy. Extension teams organize the three-day Missouri Dairy Grazing Conference, Management Internship, series of AgBusiness Farm Tax Schools, Computers on the Farm Conference and the Ag Leaders School and seminar series, now in its 32nd year.

The department’s Graduate Institute for Cooperative Leadership (GLC) is a global, research-based leadership and professional development program for early-career professionals. Recognized for leading-edge thinking about cooperatives, GLC recently celebrated its 40th year, with more than 1,800 alumni.

Student opportunities

Students in the department receive a unique combination of quantitative and analytical skills in the classroom and beyond:

• Students in the Ag Econ Club annually visit the Chicago Board of Trade, through the support of key graduate and donor Steve Neumann.

• Returning to the Farm course prepares students who want to go back to the family farm. The class has been offered for close to 40 years, supporting more than 150 undergraduates.

• The department has generous scholarships dedicated to its students. Paul and Dolores Hanna have created a planned gift to support the Jerry West Scholarship. Dolores is the widow of Dr. West, former dean of the college, and professor emeritus, was inducted into the American Farm Management Association and professor emeritus, was inducted into the American Farm Management Association.

• Innovative scholar programs introduce students to the agribusiness community and professional requirements of this field.

• The John Brown Scholars Program was initiated in 1983 by John E. Brown, a prominent St. Louis agribusinessman. Since then, the program has allowed more than 475 upperclass students to spend a week visiting and learning from St. Louis agribusinesses. Read more at cafnr.missouri.edu/academics/brown-scholars.

• The Dickinson Scholars Program provides an opportunity for College sophomores to become acquainted with the Kansas City agribusiness community. Nearly 300 students have participated over the years. The program is funded by an endowed scholarship established by the late Gary Dickinson. For more information, go to cafnr.missouri.edu/alumni/dickinson-scholars.

Connections

Give back

• Contribute to the College of Agriculture and include the department in your annual contribution to Mizzou.

• Sponsor student and faculty tours like the John Brown Scholarships, trip to the Kansas City Board of Trade, and Midwest agriculture

Get involved

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