

SCRIBE NOTES
OALP Class 15, Seminar 1
Theme: “Launch of the OALP Experience”
August 25-27, 2010

August 25, 2010
Scribe: Alisa Hines

INTRO TO INTRO

Orlin Nichols = nickels or lent
Blayne Arthur = Author from Blaine Co.
Todd Love = Loves toddlers/has a heart
Rhonda Regier = “Help, Help Me Rhonda”
Shannon Cunningham = that short Irish woman
Katie Reim = Communications Katie uses a ream of paper
Vickie Jo Stephens = Michael Vick/Step over hens/Grammy Jo
Shari Holloway = Sharing in the hallway
Amy Brown = Aiming Amy Brown
Jessica Wilcox = Guessing Jessica when Cox cable will come to Fairview
Alisa Hines = “Mona Lisa” smiles because she finally got ketchup
Kurtis Sears = Courteous Sears salesman
Kyle Dorton = Kicking Kyle kicks the door that weighs a ton
Monty Thornbrough = Monty Python/snake in thorns
Danielle Whaley = Determined Danielle the whale
Dustin Mielke = Dust the milk pail
Brian Arnall = Nail in the brain
Rodney Sutterfield = Rod sow the field
Job Springer = Job springs into action
Kurt Murray = Dirt in Lake Murray
Bryan Vincent = Roar like a lion/The Birds’ Vincent Price

THIS IS WHO I AM

Edmond Bonjour – Grew up in Monticello, IA where his grandpa had emigrated to from Switzerland. He is of Swiss/French and German decent. Edmond was the first baby born in the new wing of the hospital. He has a younger sister. Growing up Edmond was involved in 4-H, basketball and farming. Double majoring in Math/Biology at Wartburg College, he interned in the OSU entomology department studying squash bugs. A Swiss cowbell and hissing cockroaches are visuals of his family and livelihood. He has enjoyed being able to get to know his family in Switzerland. If you have problems with bugs in stored grain, Edmond is your man. He is also a certified fumigator. He has been at OSU for 27 years. Currently, his job consists of 75 percent OALP and 25 percent bugs. Rose is his wife and they’ve been married since 1989. They have 2 children: Sophia and Ean. In his leisure time, Edmond has fun with photography, genealogy, geocaching and attending/working at the First United Methodist Church.

Bryan Vincent – Grew up in Morrison where they won the state football championship and currently lives in Ponca City. He is married to wife Suzie who works with him and is active in their church. They have three sons (2 of which are twins) and a daughter. Bryan sells chemicals for Crop Production Services and loves what he does which is working for the farmer. He says he is on a mission for God to help feed the world by helping farmers do the best they can.

Kurt Murray – Grew up in Canton where he helped on the farm. In two years his grandpa’s farm will be a centennial farm. Kurt likes to collect logo golf balls to remember where he’s been. Currently an agricultural supervisor with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, Kurt started teaching in 1990 at Burlington. He met his wife at the department and they’ve been married for four years. Kurt has one son and a step-daughter.

Job Springer – Grew up in Iola where he was in FFA. His first job was delivering newspapers but he also worked on the farm where they had a cow/calf operation as well as hay production. Job started his own lawn care business and because of that he was a STAR Agribusiness man. Studying Ag Econ, Job graduated college from Kansas State. During his time there, he studied abroad in Australia. An avid scuba diver, his favorite dive so far has been to the Great Barrier Reef. Married for six years, he and his wife have one son. Currently, Job works for the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation where he works with farmers and ranchers.

Rodney Sutterfield – Lives in Seminole but grew up in Tanglewood with 11 brothers and sisters (one of which is his twin). A self-proclaimed dreamer, he was diagnosed with a learning disability early on but that didn't stop him. If someone tells him he can't do something, he will do it anyway but with his Type A personality, it may get done the hard way. Rodney graduated college with a Tech Ed degree and later went on to study cooking and meat science (he's even taught meat science at Eastern OSU). He now owns his own custom butcher shop. He and his wife live only 200 yards away from work. They have two teenage boys who keep them busy with show Herefords.

Dustin Mielke – Grew up in Montana where he was the oldest of four children. Dustin was active in FFA and when he “grows up” he wants to be a farmer. During his time in FFA, he was the 2001-2002 FFA 4th Vice President. Montana State is one university Dustin attended but OSU is where he graduated with an Ag Communications degree and an Ag Economics minor. He is currently a multimedia producer/writer for Farm Bureau. He loves photography and says that taking pictures has changed the way he looks at the world. Dustin was recently married to a woman from China.

Brian Arnall – Grew up in Wyandotte where he was an FFA member showing sheep and involved in land judging. He attended both NEO and OSU for agronomy and soil science. While attending OSU he worked for the Soil Testing Lab. In 2004, Brian obtained his Masters in nutrient management/fertilizer. While going to school for his PhD, he participated in 150 research plot trials and traveled quite a bit. Brian is married with one son. Currently, Brian works for OSU with 70 percent of his time taken up with extension work and 30 percent with teaching. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, biking, and swimming, basically anything outdoors.

Danielle Whaley – Grew up in Columbia, Tennessee which is known as the mule capital of the world. She lived on a dairy/tobacco farm and was a member of FFA. Danielle attended a Jr. College where she majored in Ag/Soil Science. She came to OSU where she interned with Monsanto and the USDA. Her love is horses, especially performance horses which she trains and sells. Danielle is married and claims to be cold natured. Currently, she lives in Cement and works for Natural Resources Conservation Service where she manages the highest workload in the state, located in SW Oklahoma.

Monty Thornbrough – Born the day John Wayne died, Monty grew up in Sayre where he was the oldest of three brothers. His family owns a centennial farm in Leedeey and they also did custom harvesting. He was only eleven days old when he attended his first wheat harvest. One memory he has of his youth is running a combine while listening to the “OJ SUV chase” on the radio - all day long. Monty enjoys hunting, fishing, spending time with family, and attending football games at OSU. Married with one daughter, Monty is currently employed by AgPreference where he is a real estate appraiser. He likes what he does.

Kyle Dorton – Grew up in Big Pasture on a cow/calf/wheat farm and custom harvested wheat. As a member of FFA, Kyle showed pigs and was the FFA President. Currently, he is an assistant vice president of lending at AgPreference and is married with one son. In his leisure time, Kyle likes to snow/water ski and hunt.

Jessica Wilcox – Grew up in Fort Gibson where she was a member of 4-H and showed cattle/goats/pigs. She is a history buff who loves to barrel race, but roping she's not so good at. Jessica is a graduate of OSU. She works for the Major County Assessors Office where she is a land appraiser and says she loves land values. Married, she and her husband farm 700 acres of wheat/canola/sunflowers. Her family farms spinach/greens/corn in Fort Gibson.

Kurtis Sears – Grew up in Nowata with one brother and enjoyed livestock judging. His family had a cow/calf operation and also a trailer dealership where they did repair work. Kurtis attended both NEO and OSU where he graduated with an Ag Economics degree and a Marketing Business minor. He wears a lot of hats but his main one is as vice president of Farm Credit Services. He actually worked for a farmer while attending OSU who recommended him to Farm Credit and the rest is history. Kurtis has been vice president of FFA Ag Boosters and

also their president and currently is the financial controller. He likes OSU ball whether it be football or basketball and will come to Stillwater to watch his team play. When he bought his “Pepto Bismal pink” house as a single male, he decided it was time to renovate and discovered he likes renovation. His Christian faith is important to him and he is a member of the First Baptist Church in Vinita. In his leisure time, Kurtis likes to fish, golf, and attend red dirt concerts.

Alisa Hines – Grew up in Perkins with one brother and one sister. Alisa is adopted and is looking to find her birth mother. Growing up on a farm, she was a member of 4-H and showed cattle/pigs but her memories are each 4th of July the whole family hauled hay from early morning to midnight and then took a midnight swim together. Married with two children, Alisa helps her husband with his “hobby” garden (1/2 acre of veggies). Currently, she is a producer/director for the Oklahoma Horizon TV show.

Amy Brown – Grew up in Gerard, Kansas with one brother and one sister. Her dad was an ag teacher and her mother worked for the extension office so she was in 4-H and FFA. Her family had a cow/calf operation and raised hay/corn/wheat/milo. Her extended family live very close to each other and most of their farms were wiped out in the 2003 tornado. Amy graduated from Kansas State where she was on the livestock and horse judging teams. While in college, she trained horses in New Jersey. She attended OSU to get her masters and was the assistant coach for the horse judging team. Amy worked for Farm Bureau where she was an insurance adjuster and was on the farmer’s catastrophe team. Currently, Amy is single and works for OSU with the White Tail Deer program. Her future goal is to teach at a university. In her leisure time, Amy likes to fish, golf, and play with her four dogs.

Shari Holloway – Grew up in Chattanooga on a limousine cattle ranch. Shari graduated from OSU with an animal science degree. She worked in communications for the Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association. Her Christian faith is very important to her and her son. Currently, Shari works with her dad but has started her own sales management/advertising business doing design and layout work and she also does sale catalogs for EDJE Technologies. In her leisure time, Shari likes taking pictures.

Vicki Jo Stephens – Grew up on the family farm in the panhandle where they farmed wheat/corn/milo and had cattle. She is one of three girls. Vicki Jo graduated from OSU and has four children and one grandchild. She has taught school and English as a second language, worked for the Missouri State Department in migrant education, and also for National Geographic. In her leisure time, Vicki Jo likes extreme sports such as skydiving and whitewater rafting. She is also a shooting instructor and currently helps her dad on the farm.

Katie Reim – Grew up in Billings with one brother and one sister on a cow/calf/wheat farm. Katie graduated from OSU with a master’s in Ag Communications and currently works for OSU in Ag Communication Services where she writes and edits. In her leisure time, Katie is a runner and likes to read, spend time with family, and travel.

Shannon Cunningham – Grew up in West Virginia where she rode hunter/jumper horses. Shannon graduated from OSU in Animal Science and got her PhD in Ag Education. She is married and lives in Jay. For Shannon, faith, family, service, and health are her core values. Currently, she chairs the NEO Agriculture Department and is the coach for the horse judging team. In her leisure time, Shannon enjoys making things with her hands, like jewelry.

Rhonda Regier – Grew up in Ninnekah with two sisters and a brother, and her dad as the Ag teacher. She showed Hereford cattle and sheep. Rhonda graduated from OSU with an Ag Communications degree back when it was a “new” major and she loves agronomy. She has worked with crop dusters over the years and in fact, her husband is one. They have three boys and live in Fairview on an expanding cattle ranch. Rhonda and her family have a lawn mowing business. She makes jewelry in her leisure time as well as likes to read and crochet. Her faith is important to her and she works as a Jr. High youth sponsor at her church.

Todd Love – Grew up in Kearney, Nebraska/Omaha/Memphis and was a University of Tennessee graduate with a degree in Agronomy. Currently, Todd works for John Deere as a territorial customer service manager and works with John Deere dealers and has worked for John Deere for 31 years; his dad did too. He is married with two children. He enjoys fishing.

Blayne Arthur – Grew up in Chickasha with two sisters on a horse ranch where they raised quarter horses and POAs (Pony of the Americas). She graduated from OSU with an Ag Economics degree and works for Secretary Peach at

the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry as his administrative assistant/social media specialist. Blayne is married with a son and they sell Shorthorn show cattle.

Orlin Nichols, Jr. – Grew up in Sapulpa with his grandparents' home in Coalgate as his second home. He showed Hereford cattle from this grandparents' ranch. Orlin graduated from OSU-Okmulgee with an associate's degree in manufacturing. He is married and lives in Beggs where they have a cow/calf operation. In his leisure time, Orlin loves to travel the state and watch high school football. He also likes driving mule wagons and cooking. Orlin wants to participate in "Race for the Cure" and walk for his mom.

SETTING GOALS

Dr. Shannon Ferrell spoke to the group about the importance of setting goals. The highlights were:

Define Purpose

- a. Vision statement – write down dreams
- b. I was put on this earth to....?

Purpose is the why behind what we do. Use as:

- Touchstone
- Foundation
- Gatekeeper
- Judge

Fitting purpose in the picture (make it visual)

- Goals
- Mission – Tactical
- Purpose/Vision – Strategic foundation

Fulfilling purpose is a journey. A journey that takes concrete tasks/steps to fulfill. Goals are the directions/distances to get there. Goal setting is important because it creates a map/path and it works and enables you to prioritize.

SPAM:

Specific

Personal – your goals have to be YOURS

Attainable – the more challenging the goal the better the resulting performance

Measureable – if you can't measure it, you can't manage it. It updates you on how you're doing = fuel. It makes you accountable. It sets time limits. When you reach a milestone = PARTY!

Now what? Write your goals down. Take time to focus on the goal daily. Do something about it daily. Share them with someone you trust.

Dr. Ferrell also recommended a book to read called "I Dare You" by William H. Danforth.

In conclusion: Goal Setting/Time Management

- Time is the most precious resource (goals show where to spend it).
- Goals can fight procrastination.
- Goals help put first things first.

OVERVIEW OF OALP AND CLASS XV

Edmond Bonjour gave us an overview of why we are here:

- Leadership
- Networking/connections
- A goal to achieve
- More breadth/in-depth agriculture details
- Personal growth
- Learn the issues

He then gave background information such as the program's creator was Michigan State University with the help of the William K. Kellogg Foundation and was created in 1965. Oklahoma's program began in 1982 and was modeled after the original program. The objective was to develop future leaders in Oklahoma agriculture.

Edmond then went over the purpose of OALP, who the donors/supporters are, history of directors, and related leadership associations.

Our responsibilities include:

- Be here
- Be on time
- Pay attention
- Be mentally prepared

The class then heard from three former participants (Jeff Ball, Pat Regier, and John Cothren) about the OALP experiences. We were reminded to:

- Get out of our comfort zone
- Ask questions
- Learn to function as a group
- Commit time
- Participate fully
- Learn to know each other
- Be willing to adapt
- Know who you are introducing and why they are there
- Be prepared to ask speakers questions
- Take notes even if you're not a scribe
- Be open to learn
- Respect presenter's time

We as agriculturalists are here to promote Ag.

August 26, 2010

Scribe: Katie Reim

On Thursday, August 26, the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Class XV went to the Oklahoma State University Challenge Course at Camp Redlands. The group started the day at 8:00 a.m. with camp leaders Scott Jordan and Nate Diekelman. Amy Brown served as the group's chairperson and Katie Reim served as the scribe.

The first group activity began with a get-to-know you session where the group was arranged in the shape of Oklahoma and stood where they were from, where they had lived, where they had their favorite meal, and also where they would like to live in the future. This activity allowed Class XV to learn a little more about each other. Next the group participated in a "have you ever" game. This again allowed the class to learn more about each other on a deeper, more personal level.

Amy Brown led the group with a powerful monarchy game of dodge ball. Each person that was tagged with the ball became part of the monarchy. Once more and more people got tagged, the group formed became stronger and more powerful.

The group then put on blind folds and had to rely on their partner's voice of direction to get them safely through a small maze of cones. This allowed the partners to use encouragement to build their communication and trust with one another.

Moving on from the blindfolds, the group was divided in half and placed on two separate wooden islands. Here they had to use boards to efficiently and effectively move each person from one island to the other without anything touching the ground – boards, people, etc. This taught the group the importance of building communication, teamwork and support.

Beside the islands swam peanut butter whales (imaginary!!) that the group tried not to smash while balancing on a large wooden balance board. To do this the group had to carefully communicate who should move where and when so the board would not waiver and be completely balanced. Once again, this showed the group how communication and teamwork are essential when working as a group.

Last of the morning activities included the “helium” stick which the group was to place on the ground. Rhonda Regier stepped up as the leader with this activity and guided the class to get the stick down successfully. The group learned that you must work as one and have teamwork and a leader to get to a common goal successfully.

The group then took a lunch break of Red Rock Bakery sandwiches and enjoyed conversation while they ate.

After lunch the group strapped on their safety harnesses and went out to tackle the high ropes course challenge. This course is designed to provide a physical environment that will assist in developing self-confidence by taking challenges never before tried. The group paired up with their partner and each took turns guiding one another through the challenging course that was approximately 60 feet high.

With the completion of the challenges at Camp Redlands, Class XV not only knew each other better but they had increased their development of teamwork and problem solving skills, physical coordination, and enhanced their self-confidence.

Following the ropes course the class went to the First United Methodist Church and served the community dinner. Vicki Jo Stephens read scripture and Bryan Vincent gave the blessing of the meal. There the class served food, drinks, and socialized with members of the Stillwater community. Approximately 230 meals were served. Members of the class appreciated the opportunity to interact and give back to the Stillwater community.

The day ended with dessert at the home of Edmond and Rose Bonjour. Here the class enjoyed wonderful desserts and had a time to socialize and reflect on the day’s experiences.

August 27, 2010

Scribe: Kurt Murray

Class XV of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program finished their first session together on Friday Aug. 27 by meeting at the Wes Watkins Center and walking to the Agricultural Communications studio to take individual and group pictures.

Upon return to the Wes Watkins Center at 9:00 a.m., Chairman Brian Arnall introduced our first speaker, and a very important one at that. Dr. Robert Whitson is the Vice President, Dean and Director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Dr. Whitson discussed the history and purpose of the division at Oklahoma State University. OSU is a Land Grant University made possible through federal funding of the Morrill Act of 1862.

Dr. Whitson talked about the three sided triangle that make up the Teaching, Research, and Extension.

The teaching is the **CASNR** – College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

The research is the **OAES** – Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station

The extension is the **OCES** – Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

The research is what helps provide the United States with the safest and most affordable food supply in the world.

DASNR employees make up 20% of the entire Stillwater Campus. There are 272 full-time employees and 1246 staff for a total of 1518. Many employees are joint appointments, i.e. 20% teaching and 80% research.

DASNR has 9 academic departments:

1. Animal Science (Largest of the departments)
2. Agricultural Economics

3. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
4. Agricultural Education, Leadership and Communications
5. Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
6. Entomology and Plant Pathology
7. Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
8. Natural Resource Ecology and Management (Newest)
9. Plant and Soil Sciences

DASNR students receive over \$1 million dollars in scholarships annually, the largest of any college. **DASNR** students are consistently honored as distinguished scholars and top 10 annually.

Other important programs in DASNR are:

The Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center – Provides a service to entrepreneurs who want to build a business, expand, or develop new products.

Bio-based Products and Energy Center – Conducts switchgrass research as an alternative fuel. They have patented microbes that break down cellulose. (One round bale of switchgrass can produce 55 gallons of ethanol).

Water Research and Extension Center

Institute for Agricultural Biosciences in Ardmore, Oklahoma

The funding sources for DASNR are \$118.64 million dollars. They come from:

- 66% State funds
- 9% Federal funds
- 12% Grants and Contracts
- 11% Station Sales and Carryover
- 2% Endowments (this area is growing)

Our next speaker was Dr. Jonathan Edelson. Dr. Edelson is the Assistant Director for the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station (OAES).

Vision of the **OAES** was started with Justin Smith Morrill who was one of the authors of the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 – this established a college to “teach all people” in each state. It was signed into law on July 2, 1862. Part of the act required that each college would teach agriculture and mechanics as well as liberal arts.

A second act in 1890 required the education of minorities. These colleges were mainly in the south. In Oklahoma, the college established was Langston University.

The origin of the **OAES** began with the Hatch Act of 1887. This is what would be the research arm of the university. The State Experiment Station Act of 1890 developed permanent agricultural industry funds annually. The scope of the research is broad and gives flexibility for local and regional concerns.

The dollars invested in the **OAES** are well worth it. The return on investment in OAES is 56%. In comparison, the S&P 500 has had a return of only 8.5% lately.

The Smith–Lever Act of 1914 is federal law that established a system of cooperative extension services connected to the land grant universities in order to inform people about current developments in agriculture, home economics, and related subjects.

The first **OAES** barn was erected in 1902.

State funds are 51% of the funding of **OAES**, which are a total of \$53 million dollars.

Specific areas of research and services include:

- Foundation Seed Stock
- Water Resources
- Turfgrass Research – (Riviera grass developed at OSU was used at the 2008 Olympics)
- Wheat Improvement
- Molecular Genetics – particularly in wheat
- Precision Sensing – animal I.D. and tractors
- Food Safety
- Alternative Energy (switchgrass – Cimarron variety developed at OSU)

Finally, Dr. Mike Woods, Department Head of Agricultural Economics spoke about the **Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES)**

The **OCES** is “Taking the university to the people” and there are four areas:

- Agriculture – Very diverse in Oklahoma
- Family and Consumer Sciences – Marketing and Merchandising
- 4-H and Youth Education
- Rural Development – Works with communities to diversify their economic base

Some of the key focuses today are:

- Retail trade
- Economic impact
- Broad band access and use (probably the most crucial today)
- Economic trends
- Sustainable communities

The key future challenge is that about 33% of the Oklahoma population lives in rural areas. That means that 60-70% live in urban areas.

Dr. Whitson returned to reiterate that in extension there are four districts and he described how information channels from research to extension to the consumer or customer.

Tuition only supports the teaching arm of the college.

Our last speaker of the morning was Dr. Penny Weeks, Associate Professor in Agricultural Education, Leadership and Communications.

Dr. Weeks challenged each of us to define what a leader was and what leadership was. Some of the traits that the group thought a leader should have were:

- Confidence
- Supportive
- Willingness to listen
- Ability to serve

In addition:

- Communication
- Influence
- Attitude
- Character = Respect

In a survey that Dr. Weeks had, her top four traits were:

- Honesty
- Inspiring
- Forward-Looking
- Competent

But it was stressed that credibility was the key.

The group was then challenged to define leadership. After many interesting requirements, the group was close on many aspects. Dr. Weeks shared her definition to the group as:

1. A process
2. Of influencing
3. A group of people
4. To a common goal

The last session of the day was a trip to Meditations west of Stillwater for dining etiquette training. Ms. Debby Strickland gave all of us a few pointers on the proper techniques to eating, drinking, and presenting ourselves as true professionals. Most importantly we learned the difference between etiquette and manners. Etiquette is the specific code of behavior and manners is the process of carrying out those behaviors. All came away with something new.

After a debriefing of the week's activities, discussion of future plans and future expectations, Class XV of the **OALP** was dismissed.