Giving Back
Changing Lives

Oklahoma State University
Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
A Letter to the BAE Family

Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering is blessed with incredible generosity from alumni and friends. The purpose of this special publication is to highlight and celebrate the very important role that our amazing donors play in student and departmental success.

In direct support of the department, two substantial endowments provide funds for a faculty chair and for cutting-edge research in bioenergy. These much appreciated endowments support programs and activities that would not otherwise be possible. The department is grateful for many additional donors who are making a difference in the lives of students through scholarships.

With the cost of education on the rise, more and more bright and talented students are relying on financial aid to obtain a degree. Without the outstanding support of our donors, many of these students’ dreams of higher education would be much more difficult to achieve. BAE is fortunate to have 8 different endowed scholarship funds, and 4 more are in progress. Each year our generous donors also support many non-endowed, named scholarships. We have additional friends whose contributions are aggregated in order to award BAE Development Fund scholarships and to support student professional development activities. For the 2013-2014 academic year, BAE awarded 45 scholarships totaling $57,250!

Our donors are supporting some of the very best students on campus. BAE faculty get to see the ability and dedication of our students on a daily basis, but BAE student achievements have also been consistently recognized at the university and national levels.

Over the past five years, six BAE students have been named OSU Seniors of Significance, an honor bestowed upon only about 40 students per year. Our students are consistently recognized as seniors of distinction in both the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASN R) and the College of Engineering, Architecture & Technology (CEAT). As an additional indicator of campus leadership, a BAE student was the 2012-2013 President of OSU’s Student Government Association. BAE students also serve in elected, upper-level leadership positions on the executive teams of both the CEAT and CASNR student councils.

An incredible number of BAE scholarship recipients have gone on to receive elite national scholarship recognitions. BAE students have been awarded 1 Harry S. Truman Fellowship, 3 Morris K. Udall Scholarships, and 1 U.S. Student Fulbright award. In recent years, 8 BAE graduates have been awarded National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships! These are all prestigious and highly competitive programs that span across disciplines.

BAE donors have helped our students cut a wide swath within the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. Three of the past five recipients of the ASABE Preprofessional Engineer of the Year Award have been OSU students! Over the past 7 years, our students have won first place in the undergraduate student poster contest 5 times, and third place 3 times! Significant successes have also been achieved in the ASABE student paper award competition and with the Society’s Engineering Humanities and Global Learning Awards.

Our donors help alleviate the financial burden of students who are consistently talented, hard-working, and dedicated to making a difference. In every measurable way, BAE students represent our department and university exceptionally well. Each year at the BAE student scholarship banquet we recognize our students’ achievements. The banquet provides a unique opportunity to bring donors together with the students they are helping and to honor and express our gratitude for all that our donors contribute.

We hope that you enjoy reading through this special publication, and we would welcome any feedback or suggestions. We extend our gratitude to Jana Moore and Cortney Cowley for their many hours of dedication in turning this idea into reality, and to Laura Crutcher and Cassie Laxson for their expert work in writing, editing and layout.

Best wishes from the 2013/2014 BAE Alumni/Donor Relations Committee,
Ron Elliott, chair
Cortney Cowley
David Crossley
Garey Fox
Jana Moore
Marvin Stone
Randy Taylor
Inside this Magazine

6 James E. Bradley Renewable Energy Endowment Fund
8 Terry D. Allen Agricultural Engineering Scholarship
9 W.B. Johnston Grain Company Scholarship
10 AGCO Engineering Scholarship
12 Orville L. And Helen L. Buchanan Endowed Chair
13 James and Ruby Garton Scholarship
14 Jodie Whitney Scholarship
15 ConocoPhillips Scholarship
16 Greg and Kristen Hart Scholarship
18 Dudley Barefoot Memorial Scholarship
19 Lawrence O. Roth Scholarship
20 McKay Scholarship
21 Annette and Bill Barfield Scholarship
22 Don and Kim Yarbrough Scholarship
24 Tom and Jan Haan Scholarship
25 Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority Scholarship
26 Wendell Bowers Scholarship
28 Marvin Stone Scholarship
29 Gerald Brusewitz Scholarship
30 Si and Kay Grider Scholarship
32 Samuel Alton Clayton Memorial Scholarship
33 Jay G. Porterfield Scholarship
34 Sam and Sheila Harp Scholarship
36 Kennedy Family Scholarship
37 Leon Crain Memorial Scholarship
38 E.W. Schroeder Scholarship
39 Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association Scholarship
40 Ronald T. Noyes Scholarship
41 Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperative Scholarship
42 Glen Morgan Memorial Scholarship
Expanding Minds
Inspiring Purpose

COLLEGE OF
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
EMPOWERING STUDENTS
BUILDING THE Future
James (“Jim”) Bradley of Monte Vista, Colo., a 1955 Oklahoma A&M agricultural engineering graduate and Stillwater native, donated $100,000 to establish the James E. Bradley Renewable Energy Endowment Fund. Aside from the Buchanan Chair, this is the largest one-time gift in the department’s history. The uses for the endowment earnings are very flexible, as long as they contribute to work in renewable energy. The funds can go toward the purchase of new equipment, as student support, or for research and educational activities.

Dr. Ron Elliott, BAE Professor Emeritus, said, “Mr. Bradley is passionate about the need to develop and implement renewable forms of energy, and was enthusiastic about the work he saw here. We are most grateful to Mr. Bradley for this generous and exemplary gift.”

After working on his family’s cotton, produce, and alfalfa-producing farm, Bradley served in the National Guard where he was part of the 45th Division Thunderbird. He became a Master Sergeant at age 20 and served in Japan, but was eligible for discharge before experiencing combat. When he returned to Stillwater, he finished college on the G.I. Bill.

“Without that G.I. Bill, I would not have been able to
Finding a renewable energy source will empower us. It will change the dynamics of the globe tremendously.

A user will be able to view a general introduction to the technology or engage in classroom activities, such as lessons and examinations. Short video clips will feature faculty active in a particular technology.

Part of the support for the kiosk program will be a dedicated website where students can take exams and watch the material as if they were in front of the kiosk itself.

The website will also include training for educators to use the kiosk and associated materials. In some cases a state specialist or faculty member will accompany the kiosk and use it to navigate through a lesson while expanding on questions in person.

The kiosk will be used at most major public events such as fairs, eco-days, DASNR events, school events and any other where a BAE presence might be useful. The kiosk and programming will even be appropriate for STEM lessons at the K-12 level.

In this innovative and expansive way, Mr. Bradley’s wish to bring people together to consider renewable energy sources may be realized. It is but one of the ways in which his generous endowment will be used to educate, inform, and enlighten.
Terry Dale Allen grew up in Stillwater and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural engineering from OSU in 1971.

He later received a Master of Science in business administration from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and completed all of the coursework for a Doctorate of Education from the University of North Texas.

Mr. Allen passed away October 27, 2013, and his wife, Terry D. Allen, scholarship honoree, was an OSU agricultural engineering alumnus. Dr. Diane Allen, and sons Thomas and Terry Jr. created a scholarship to “honor Terry and to support a student who needs resources to complete his or her education.”

Dr. Allen said, “My sons and I created this scholarship in Terry’s name because we know he believed that education was essential for success.

“Terry loved his time at OSU and often talked about his experiences in agricultural engineering. It is important in honoring his memory that we get to know those who are the recipients of his scholarship. This is personal for us. We want to know that we are contributing to someone’s future and that the students who receive the scholarship know a little about the person for whom the scholarship is named.”

Terry Allen began his career as an engineer with Cargill, Inc. in Memphis, TN, and Fayetteville, NC. He left Cargill to buy into the family business, Payne County Implement, an International Harvester dealership, in 1975. Later, he worked in several legal offices in Denton, TX. He retired in 2009.

Mr. Allen also was a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Among his military awards were the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

When asked what one quality she hoped all of the scholarship recipients would possess, Dr. Allen said, “Terry was an excellent student who loved learning new things throughout his life. He so appreciated the doors that opened to him because of what he learned at OSU.

“He loved working with and mentoring college students so that they could achieve their goals. I would hope that the students who receive his scholarship would share both his love of learning and his desire to share that knowledge to help others.”

Dr. Allen explained why scholarships are so important: “I have been involved in higher education for over 25 years. Before that I was a classroom teacher for 12. Terry and I believed that every student who wants an education should be able to achieve that goal.

“Terry attended college on a scholarship so he knew how important financial support can be to a student’s access to college. I want to support students who are willing to commit to working hard to achieve a degree; hopefully, one day those students will repay by creating a scholarship themselves.”
A family business turns into a scholarship donor for BAE students.

In 1893, W.B. Johnston began supplying feed, seed, flour, coal, hay, livestock and grain to the early Cherokee Strip settlers. Through four generations of the Johnston family, the company has grown into Oklahoma's largest and oldest independent grain and seed dealer. The W.B. Johnston Grain Company began awarding a scholarship in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering in 1994, in recognition of Professor Ron Noyes' outstanding work on grain storage.

Recipient Jake Holloway received a Bachelor of Science in Biosystems Engineering in 2002 and is now Manager of Product Development at Enovation Controls.

"Receiving the scholarship helped relieve some of the financial burden of a college degree," he said. "Receiving this financial support was also confirmation that the degree I had chosen was important in the minds of others who had been where I was and who had gone to do great things."

Recipient Nick Jacobsen, who is currently a BAE junior, said, "Receiving this scholarship has helped me greatly in my educational endeavors. The recognition associated with this scholarship made me proud of the accomplishments I had achieved, and also inspired me to achieve more.

"Knowing I had the support behind my academic efforts helped fuel my drive to maximize success in the classroom. It continues to be a motivating factor throughout my college career."

Nicholas Jacobsen, recipient of the W.B. Johnston Grain Company Scholarship
Maynard Herron, Engineering Manager-Hay Tools at AGCO Corporation, was asked what scholarships mean to his company’s representatives. “Scholarships are a way of maintaining a meaningful relationship with the academic institutions preparing our future workforce, as well as a way to invest in our future workforce,” he said.

Herron said he hopes scholarship recipients possess “a passion for production agriculture that will inspire a lifelong commitment to improving how we care for our soil, water, and air to insure the ability to produce for the world’s population long term.”

Herron would advise current BAE students preparing for their careers to “identify the tasks they enjoy doing, then look for internship opportunities and full time jobs that offer those opportunities.”

Jeremiah Pine, a biosystems and agricultural engineering senior, was a recipient of the AGCO Engineering Scholarship. Pine said scholarships give many students the opportunity to pursue continuing education, while meeting scholarship representatives can lead to internships or even careers.

“Scholarships are important for a number of reasons, but the main reason is that many students would not be able to attend this university if it were not for the financial aid provided by these types of scholarships,” he said. “Meeting a representative of a scholarship allows students to make connections with companies for future internships or careers as well as getting to know that the people sponsoring the scholarship truly believe in the potential of Oklahoma State Biosystems students.”

Jared Kinder was an intern for AGCO Corporation around the time he received the scholarship. Now, as a Senior Design Engineer for the company, Kinder said, “I show my gratitude by giving my best to AGCO in all of my work. I look at their donation as an investment in me. They gave to me when I was a student and now I am able to give back through hard work.”

Kinder said his education was paid by a part-time job, grants, limited student loans and “most importantly scholarships from the very generous donors.”

“Many students, who are just out of high school, do not have the funds to actually pay for college,” he said. “If scholarships are not made available to students, the only other option is student loans or working long hours, which can cut into study hours. I was no different. I did not have a large sum of cash saved up to pay for my college education.”

Kinder expressed his gratitude. “I am thankful for not having a huge debt burden over my head upon graduation. Donors are extremely important for students striving to achieve the diploma that is required for most jobs.”

“Without these generous donations, for some students—including me--the debt accrued during college would not be worth the effort of going to college due to the time required to pay off these debts. I would like to give thanks to all past and present donors of the BAE department. Their donations have helped many students like me become successful engineers.”

Kinder said he hopes current BAE undergraduates understand the unique nature of their department’s scholarships. “I hope the undergrads realize that not all departments at OSU have the same scale of departmental scholarships.
AGCO Engineering Scholarship recipient, Jeremiah Pine, receives his scholarship from AGCO representative, Maynard Herron.

The students should not take the scholarships for granted.

“It is only due to the generosity of the donors that they are receiving these scholarships. Upon receiving the scholarships, students should show true gratitude to the donor for their gift.”

He spoke of the positive ripple effect education creates within a society.

“Scholarships are the backbone of a student’s success both during college and after,” he said. “Without scholarships, some students would not be able to finish college while others may spend the rest of their adult life paying off student loans.

“Scholarships are not just an investment into a single person but a college and even a society. The more educated a society is the more productive and successful that society will be.”
In 2008, Oklahoma State University received a gift from the Buchanan Family Trust in Los Gatos, Calif., to establish the Orville L. and Helen L. Buchanan Chair in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

The Trust was established by Orville (Lee) Buchanan, a 1947 agronomy graduate, and originally from Rush Springs, Oklahoma. He and his wife, Helen, had two children, Richard and Katherine. They gave generously to OSU, providing funds for the Orville and Helen Buchanan Endowed Scholarship Fund and ultimately the Orville L. and Helen L. Buchanan Chair in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

After graduating from OSU, Dr. Buchanan served in the military in the Army Air Corps as a flight instructor for B-24s and B-17s, served in the 8th Air Force as a Squadron Commander, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. After his military service, he continued his education and received a Doctorate in Education from Arizona State University.

Dr. Garey Fox was named the first recipient of the Buchanan Endowed Chair in July 2012.

"As the first Endowed Chair or Professorship in BAE, the appointment as the Buchanan Endowed Chair is a tremendous honor," he said. "I am greatly appreciative of the gift establishing this Chair.

"The Buchanan Chair position has provided me with the funds for expanding and enhancing my nationally and internationally recognized research program on surface water and groundwater interaction and integrating my research into educational activities at the local, state, and national levels."

Funds also support undergraduate and graduate research fellowships and travel to the national FFA convention to recruit high school students from across the United States into Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering programs.

Additionally, each April the endowment supports a national Student Water Conference on the OSU campus. Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit abstracts, and travel assistantship funds are provided to non-OSU students to support travel to the campus.

Student presentations are judged by a panel of faculty members for providing constructive feedback to students in regard to their presentation skills, and awards are given for outstanding presentations. The conference includes a keynote lecture, named the “Buchanan Lecture.”

In 2013, a total of 45 undergraduate and graduate students presented their research at the Student Water Conference. In addition to OSU, students from 11 other universities participated.

The holder of the Orville L. and Helen L. Buchanan Endowed Chair, Dr. Garey Fox
Dr. James Garton served on the faculty of the Agricultural Engineering Department from 1949 to 1985 and was a key contributor to its growth and success. He was a productive and innovative researcher and an excellent instructor known for injecting humor into the classroom.

A native of Oklahoma, Dr. Garton received his B.S. degree from the department. He established the James and Ruby Garton Scholarship endowment in 2007, and the first award was made in 2008 -- less than a month after Dr. Garton’s passing.

Larry Billen, a BAE alumnus and Tulsa business owner, has contributed to the Garton scholarship for the past couple of years.

Of Dr. Garton, Billen said, “He was a tremendous influence on my education and therefore career. He always knew when you needed a little humor. His greatest asset to me was a relentless positive attitude.”

Billen has a vivid memory of Dr. Garton asking a “very ignorant” student if this student wanted to write a paper and win the “student paper contest,” humbly noting, “I won the award in 1973.”

Mikayla Marvin Wagner has a bachelor of science and is pursuing a master’s degree. A recipient of the James and Ruby Garton Scholarship, Wagner said she hopes current BAE undergraduates understand that being selected as a scholarship recipient is an honor.

“It means that someone is investing in their education and their future, and they should not take this lightly.”

She said if she could speak to her donors today, she would thank them and tell them what she is currently doing with her life. Wagner explained the way in which scholarships benefit her academically.

“Scholarships are extremely important to me because they allow me to focus on being successful in my schoolwork without having to work extra hours to pay for my education,” she said. “I feel that I’ve been able to be a better student and perform better from not having the added stress of financial concerns.”
Dr. Jodie D. Whitney received his Ph.D. from the department in 1966. He then served as a distinguished faculty member at the University of Florida for 37 years, conducting pioneering research in mechanical harvesting of citrus fruit, methods of controlling tree size, and citrus management using precision agriculture. The Jodie Whitney Scholarship was first awarded in 2009.

“It gives me great satisfaction to give back to OSU, which did so much to provide me with tools to do my subsequent job as a citrus researcher at the University of Florida,” he said.

When asked what he hopes students gain from his financial support, Whitney replied, “I would hope it helps to provide them with the funds to complete their education in a timely fashion in the BAE Department at OSU. I would also hope that after they graduate, my scholarship would encourage them to give back, with whatever means they can, to the BAE program at OSU.”

Although a university is replete with teaching and learning, discovery and research, Whitney said he would encourage BAE students to continue learning, even after they begin their careers.

“BAE students need to appreciate and learn the technical aspects of their BAE major necessary to have a successful career, and the learning process should not end when they graduate. They should also appreciate and learn whatever subject matter they encounter outside the BAE major because they will surely encounter and need it in their careers.”

Cole Niblett, BAE Sophomore, said the Jodie Whitney Scholarship allowed him to attend OSU.

“This scholarship helped me in my educational endeavors greatly,” he said. “Primarily, it gave me a peace of mind knowing that money was no longer that big of an issue. With this peace of mind, I was able to put more of my focus into my studies and becoming a better student.

“Without my scholarships, I know that I would not be able to attend Oklahoma State, and this gives me all the more reason to thank donors like Dr. Whitney.”

Recipient Laura Merriman, who earned her bachelor of science in biosystems engineering in 2011, is pursuing a Ph.D. at North Carolina State University. She described meeting Dr. Whitney as enjoyable and interesting on several levels.

“I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Whitney one afternoon in Ag Hall,” she said. “I enjoyed hearing his stories about his educational endeavors at Texas A&M, Penn State, and OSU. However, his career at the Citrus Research and Education Center at the University of Florida really caught my attention during our discussion, and I found myself working with researchers at a UF Research and Education Center that very next summer.

“Meeting Dr. Whitney really made me appreciate my scholarship more, and I was thrilled I had the chance to convey my sincere thanks to him in person.”

She described the amiable nature of a departmental scholarship.

“Receiving a scholarship through the BAE department is a personal experience. Recipients meet their donors in person at the annual departmental banquet. Correspondence is sent through emails or letters. Stories, advice, and experiences are shared. No other scholarship organization does that. The department really puts effort into forging bonds among students, donors, alumni, and faculty. It’s quite remarkable.”
A large energy company reaches out to provide funding for Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering students.

One of the country’s largest integrated energy companies, ConocoPhillips has a strong legacy in Oklahoma and a proud history of supporting Oklahoma State University. The company has provided the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department with special funding to support professional development and enrichment opportunities for students, and the ConocoPhillips Scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2009.

Heath Hendricks, BAE 2013 graduate, Combustion Engineer for Zeeco Inc., and past recipient of the ConocoPhillips Scholarship, was very grateful to receive the scholarship. Like many others, he knew he would be applying for scholarships to help with the rising cost of tuition.

“Coming from a small town family with three brothers, my parents had to share their financial love three separate ways,” Hendricks said. “In order to obtain my education at Oklahoma State University I knew I would need to apply, and hopefully receive, scholarships throughout my time in undergraduate. After receiving the Conoco-Phillips Scholarship, I was overwhelmed with joy.”

Particularly in today’s economic climate, many vibrant and very smart students are looking for scholarships to help them gain a degree at an accredited university such as OSU. Overwhelmingly, these dedicated students greatly benefit from the financial support, are profoundly appreciative, and go on to make great contributions to the community.

“I hope and pray that students realize scholarships are blessings,” Hendricks said. “They have reduced either their parents’ or their own financial burden.”
Alumni of the BAE department give back to the cause that once helped them as students.
Scholarship donors Greg and Kristen Hart decided to give back to OSU due to their appreciation of scholarships they received while attending OSU. The Harts also had friends in college who struggled with funding their education, and commented that the difficulty is probably more pronounced today.

The Harts said if they could speak to alumni who want to establish a BAE scholarship, they would encourage them to provide any support possible.

"Making sure we honor those people, initiatives, and institutions that were crucial in our development and to provide support to those in need are responsibilities, and privileges, that we take as we move through life and are able," Hart said. "Everybody can do something, big or small, and all efforts are important to those in need."

Reese Hundley, BAE senior and Hart Scholarship recipient, was asked what would he say if he could speak to his scholarship donors today.

He replied, "I would tell them that I very much appreciate their investment to support me as a student and that the money is going to be used wisely."

Reese hopes current BAE undergraduates remember that the department supports their students.

"One thing that I hope current BAE undergraduates take away from being selected as a recipient of the department scholarship is that they should stick with their major, finish their degree, and remember that the department supports their students," Reese said.

Sarah Smith Fiegner, another Hart Scholarship recipient, said the scholarship came at a very important time in her collegiate career.

"I was starting my senior year, had depleted a lot of my savings and other scholarships, and needed a little boost to help me through. Classes and internships had worn me down and realizing that there is so much support in the BAE faculty, staff, alumni, and obviously donors, really helped me drive through and finish well."

"In addition, that year helped me define what I really love to do, which is product design and testing. Without this scholarship it would have been a lot more difficult for me to focus on classes and projects because of the financial burden. And I owe the BAE faculty and staff more than the monetary value of that scholarship. That year helped me define who I am and what I want to do with my life."

Fiegner said she hopes current BAE undergraduates recognize that being selected as a recipient of a departmental scholarship is an honor.

"It is a great honor. In order to receive such a distinguished scholarship, you must be at the top of your group and, with a group having as many successful people as BAE, that is saying a lot. Our students and alumni have done some amazing, impressive things. And the years that I spent with the BAE students made me a much better person intellectually and morally. I had some amazing peers to compete with. (For example, my group of peers consisted of three National Science Foundation Fellows.) To be selected out of that group for this kind of award is a true honor and made me feel like I had proven myself among the crowd."

Fiegner said scholarships are important because they free a student to focus on learning.

"The financial burden of college can be very distracting. This scholarship helped ease that burden and helped me to focus on why I was in college in the first place. It allowed me to excel in my classes and projects because I could spend time on them instead of trying to make ends meet. I can't imagine having to keep up with my class load and keep a job at the same time," she said.

Fiegner talked about what it meant for her to be able to meet Greg and Kristen Hart.

"It is important to be able to meet the donors personally and express your gratitude for their generosity. Thank you cards can never express what your facial expressions can."

Another Hart Scholarship recipient, Jessica Coryell, who is an Asset Integrity Engineer with Magellan Midstream Partners, said scholarships "give low income students the support that they need to complete school and become financially stable in the future."

She said her own scholarship came at a crucial time. "If I could speak to my scholarship donors I would tell them thank you for investing in me, a stranger. I could not have made it through school without the additional financial sponsorship. It gave me the boost I needed to complete my undergraduate and prepare for a great job."

Coryell would advise undergraduate students receiving such scholarships to appreciate their significance.

"Someone has gone out of their way to invest in you, so don't take this lightly!"

She would tell them to spend those four years wisely.

"It's all about who you know (and who knows you)," Coryell said. "The network you build of classmates, professors, and companies is what will get you a job. Build strong relationships and do good work."

"Consider your undergraduate degree a four-year interview. I was recommended for my first engineering job by one of my classmates, and the peers I have seen do good work are the ones that I have recommended for jobs since."
From Faculty to Honoree

Former OSU professor is honored in order to provide resources for students to complete their education.

Professor Dudley Barefoot was a popular faculty member who served as an advisor and friend to many students.

A native of Hollis, Okla., he earned two degrees from the BAE department and later served on the faculty from 1969 to 1986.

Following Barefoot’s passing in 2002, donations from colleagues and friends enabled a scholarship to be awarded in his memory. Since 2004, the Dudley Barefoot Memorial Scholarship has been funded through the generosity of former colleagues. And, as one of Barefoot’s former students--and current professor--Randal Taylor explained, he hopes to bring the scholarship to endowment level.

Taylor, a BAE professor and Extension agricultural engineer, said, “The goal is to endow the scholarship through the generosity of former students who have been impacted.

“My first exposure to the BAE Department as an undergraduate student was meeting with Professor Barefoot,” he said. “It didn’t take long for me to understand Agricultural Engineering was for me.

“Professor Barefoot was my undergraduate advisor, as he was for all agricultural engineering students at that time. He kept me on track as a student, but also as a young adult learning to live on my own. I think it is very fitting that the BAE department honors him with this annual scholarship.”

For Joe Biggerstaff, Senior Project Engineer-Combines, AGCO Corporation, receiving a departmental scholarship was uniquely satisfying.

“To receive the Dudley Barefoot Memorial Scholarship was very rewarding,” he said. “The Biosystems department has many students and the competition for scholarships is intense. Being able to obtain a scholarship amongst many qualified engineering students gave me a sense of accomplishment.”

If Biggerstaff had the opportunity to meet the donors, he would thank them for providing him with the resources to focus not only on getting good grades, but also on extracurricular activities.

“I would thank them for their generosity,” he said. “College is becoming more and more expensive and the job market is competitive. Having good grades and being involved in extracurricular activities are what sets one apart from other students. Being awarded a scholarship allowed me time to focus on both.”

Craig Spencer, Agricultural Engineer for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, said receiving the Dudley Barefoot Memorial Scholarship helped provide financial assistance for him during his time at Oklahoma State University. Spencer said he felt his hard work was noticed and it gave him motivation to reach his full potential. He added if he could meet his donors, he would tell them how they impacted his life.

“The donors’ investment was more than appreciated and was not fruitless,” Spencer said. “Because of the investment the donors made, I and others have achieved good careers which have helped in living successful lives, building families and leaving legacies that will last for years.”
Dr. Larry Roth retired from the department in 1986 after 35 years of exceptional service as a teacher, researcher, and advisor. Soon thereafter, his former students and other family and friends established an endowed scholarship to honor his work.

Dr. Roth and others have continued to support the endowment over the years. In his retirement, Dr. Roth has stayed in close touch with the department.

The Lawrence O. Roth Scholarship was first awarded in 1987. Recipient Arvil Bass, who received a bachelor of science in biosystems engineering in 1992, is now a state conservation engineer with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Bass said if he could speak to his scholarship donor today, he would thank him for his dedication to students and advancing the field of engineering.

He added, "I have seen several of the professors that greatly impacted my life during my time at OSU be honored in the past several years with a scholarship named in their honor. I would imagine that Dr. Roth had those same impacts on the students that he taught during his tenure."

"I am truly thankful for the professors within the department who took an interest in ensuring my successful completion of my degree and in me becoming a technically strong engineer."

Bass explained why he thinks scholarships are important. "Scholarships probably mean different things to each recipient. When I was receiving them, the importance was the financial assistance they were providing. Now, looking back, it shows a significant investment from many individuals to 'pay it forward' and to honor an individual who impacted many."

Another Roth Scholarship recipient, David Bevill, said he would like to thank Dr. Roth for the contribution to his education.

Having received a bachelor of science in biosystems engineering in 2007, Bevill said, "To this day I still remember visiting with Dr. Roth at the BAE banquet the year that I was honored with the scholarship in his name and how much it meant to my family and me to be able to thank him and spend some time getting to know him at the banquet."

"If I could see him again today, I would express my gratitude for not only his financial gift in the form of the scholarship, but the words of encouragement to keep working hard to achieve my goals, and the recognition of my accomplishments as an undergraduate at that point."

"I would love to be able to share with him how wonderfully the BAE department prepared me for the engineering industry. I will forever be grateful for the opportunities afforded me by the BAE department and the wonderful impact the scholarship has had on my life both personally and professionally."

Bevill said he feels the departmental scholarships are special.

"I'm more proud of the BAE scholarships I received than any other scholarships I received, even if some of the others were of greater financial value. There is no comparison to the sense of pride I felt in being selected by the BAE faculty and staff on the scholarship committee."

"Recognition by your peers is an unbelievable honor and I hope that current undergraduates share similar feelings about being granted a BAE scholarship."

In addition to appreciating departmental scholarships, Bevill said he hopes students appreciate the many other advantages BAE offers its students.

"I hope they acknowledge the wonderful opportunities available to them in the BAE department such as studying abroad, attending an ASABE international conference, etc.," he said. "The department does a phenomenal job of not just supporting students with scholarships, but providing invaluable enrichment opportunities that provide great benefit to their development as an engineer. I sincerely hope they take full advantage of these wonderful opportunities."
OSU BAE alumnus faithfully gives back to the department to relieve student financial stress.

David McKay, BAE alumnus and a Resource Engineer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, said he knows by reading about his scholarship recipients that the money was well spent.

“As a scholarship donor, my hope is that the recipient will be able to have more time to study and make grades because they have a little less financial worry. Meeting and hearing from recipients lets me know that the money was appreciated and well used, not wasted. I would really enjoy hearing from someone after they have graduated to know that they got out and are enjoying their career. I enjoy reading about them in the BAE updates.”

Laura Christianson was a recipient of the McKay Scholarship. After receiving a bachelor of science in Biosystems Engineering in 2005, she went on to earn a master of science and doctor of philosophy from Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering.

The Conservation Fund Freshwater Institute now employs her as a Research Agricultural Engineer. She explained how her departmental scholarship offered her a unique opportunity to see others in BAE enjoying success first-hand.

“Though our interaction at the BAE annual scholarship dinner was brief, meeting my donor was the catalyst for my understanding that scholarship money also came from ‘real people,’ not just from billionaires sitting around a foundation’s boardroom somewhere,” she said.

“Perhaps even more importantly, the chance to meet face-to-face made tangible that professional ag engineers could be successful. These were happy, financially prosperous folks with the same degree I was pursuing – how encouraging! This scholarship was coming from someone who had been successful with the degree I was pursuing. What a testament!”

Another recipient, Benjamin “Kyle” Dollins, who received a bachelor of science in Biosystems Engineering in 2008, is now a Design Engineer for John Deere. He explained how receiving the scholarship helped him in his educational endeavors.

“Receiving scholarships and financial aid allowed me to be better focused on my course work,” he said. “It helped eliminate the financial strain of paying for college.

“I enjoyed the opportunity to work in the Biosystems Department while attending classes, but it was always secondary to my course work since I knew my financial needs were already taken care of.”

Dollins said meeting his donor made the scholarship a memorable one.

“I am very thankful for all the scholarships that I was awarded throughout high school and college, but the only named scholarships I still remember today are the ones where I was personally introduced to the donors. Whether it was just a grateful handshake or sitting through an awards ceremony together, the opportunity to meet the person and get to know the story behind the scholarship made it extremely memorable.”

What made the departmental scholarship different from other scholarships Dollins has received was the degree itself. “It is always a great feeling to have financial support from others who have gone through the same degree program that you are pursuing,” he said.
Making a Difference

Former BAE department head established a scholarship to support BAE students and honor his wife for her work in the department.

Dr. Bill Barfield, Emeritus Regents Service Professor and Head of the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department from 1992 to 2000, continued to conduct research and teach courses until he retired in 2003. A very effective leader by all accounts, Dr. Barfield established the Annette & Bill Barfield Scholarship in 2005 to support BAE students and to honor his wife Annette and all that she has done for the department over the years.

“The most important quality that anyone can have is a burning desire to make a positive difference in this world,” Barfield said. “That quality is a very strong curiosity about how things work in this universe, including the physical as well as social and spiritual world.

“Curious people develop a storehouse of real-world information and can call on that storehouse for insights on how to solve technical as well as people problems. These skills make them technically effective as well as good leaders.”

Barfield has experienced firsthand the importance of scholarships, as they were beneficial to him during his undergraduate years. Barfield said he now enjoys getting to meet Barfield Scholarship recipients.

“One of the greatest rewards is to be able to interact with our scholarship recipients,” Barfield said. “We have done that as much as we could and still communicate with many of the students. It is a real blessing to see the students and know that we had a small part in their education.”

Mary Elizabeth Womack Mach received her B.S. in biosystems engineering and M.S. in environmental engineering. Womack is now a Project Manager at Garver.

Womack knew the Barfields prior to receiving the scholarship and wanted them to know she took the honor very seriously.

“Knowing the scholarship came from Dr. Barfield made me feel more accountable. I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to do more with my time, make better grades, forge better relationships, get more involved in the department,” Womack said. “I wanted for not just a donor to feel their investment in me had been worth it, but specifically that Dr. Barfield and his wife’s goal for providing assistance to a student was truly realized.”

Mach hopes to start a scholarship one day as she gets further into her career.
Generosity

An OSU alumnus decides to give back to the department with appreciation for his own experience.

Current and past recipients of the Don and Kim Yarbrough Scholarship (left to right): Vincent Hobart; Ryan Johnson; Heidi Stair; Brian Biggerstaff; Jonathan Overton; Justin Ludwig; Drew Sutterfield; Peter Storm; and David Criswell
Don Yarbrough said that what made him decide to “give back” in the form of a scholarship was his appreciation for education in general and his experience at OSU specifically.

“I have always highly valued education,” he said. “I was lucky to have parents that also pushed education and could afford to give me my opportunity to attend OSU. My experience at OSU has been one of the best in my life. I hope that my support will give others opportunities that they might not have otherwise.”

He said he hopes his financial support will make it easier for students to achieve their education, adding, “I hope that my support goes to those in real need!”

Yarbrough stressed the importance of working with companies of interest while still in school.

His advice for current BAE students as they prepare for their future careers was, “Try to get involved with a company as early as possible,” he said. “A summer job and/or apprenticeship are so valuable when looking for a job once a student graduates. Experience, experience, experience!”

He said he would tell other alumni who were thinking about establishing a BAE scholarship, “Just do it with whatever you feel you can afford. Also be sure and check with your company. Many times the company will match to a point your contribution.”

Peter Storm, a BAE junior, was a recipient of the Don and Kim Yarbrough Scholarship. “If I were to talk with the Yarbroughs, I would first and foremost thank them for their belief in me,” he said.

Storm said the most important take-away for scholarship recipients should be gratitude. “I hope current undergraduates in the department are thankful for the network and support our department receives from its alumni.”

Another Yarbrough Scholarship recipient, Kelsey Turner Criswell, hopes to pay it forward.

Earning a bachelor of science degree in biosystems engineering this year, Criswell said if she could speak to her donors today, she would say, “Thank you for your support of young agricultural engineering students. For me personally, your generosity has allowed me to graduate with a degree I am very proud of.

“I am excited to use my degree and skills learned at OSU to help others in the developing world. I truly appreciate your giving hearts, and I hope that someday I may be able to give to aspiring engineers as you have. Thank you again.”
Lightening the financial load

Dr. Tom Haan, Professor Emeritus and former department head, establishes scholarship to reduce financial worries for students.

When Dr. Tom Haan, Professor Emeritus, started the Tom and Jan Haan scholarship, he didn't want the primary criteria for the scholarship to be GPA and activities. The Haans wanted their scholarship to be available for students so they could look toward a degree without being worried about finances.

Dr. Haan attended Purdue. He said he had to work and borrow money while he was in school. However, he also received scholarship assistance, and that helped reduce both the amount of time he had to work and the debt he had incurred once he graduated.

Meagan Armstrong Smith, Water Resources Engineer--Riverside Technology, was grateful not to have had a large debt to repay after college. She spoke of her appreciation for the scholarship.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you!” she said. "As a non-traditional student paying for school on my own, any and all financial help was greatly appreciated. Each penny I received in scholarships was one penny less I had to take out in loans. Several years later, it was in great part that lack of student loan debt that allowed me to return for a graduate degree in engineering.

“I hope current BAE undergraduates understand it is an honor to receive any scholarship,” she said. “They should be proud, but also grateful. I also hope they will know how much the donors and the department wish for them to succeed. I take great pride in being an OSU BAE graduate and I hope they will, too.”

Smith also said receiving a scholarship can “reduce stress and free up some time,” both of which are important to undergraduates.

“I hope to one day pay it forward by also becoming a BAE donor,” she said.

Another Haan scholarship recipient, Ryan Woolbright, Civil Engineer--Natural Resources Conservation Service, spoke of how the scholarship helped him. Like Smith, he appreciates the way in which the scholarship alleviated monetary strain so he could gain more from his undergraduate experience.

“Scholarships take away some of the financial burden and stress placed on the students,” Woolbright said. “This allows them more time to focus on their studies and be more active in campus and community organizations.”

In fact, he said networking and being involved were crucial to that first job search. He said he would tell current BAE scholarship recipients, “This is a gift from someone who believes in you and believes in your potential. Be sure to put it to good use.”

To his donors, Woolbright would say, “Your generosity allowed me to further my education and in turn see and do things I never even imagined before my freshman year at Oklahoma State.”

Tom and Jan Haan awarding their scholarship to recipient, Kelsey Turner Criswell at the BAE banquet
In 1981, the Oklahoma Legislature established the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority in order to provide an adequate, economical and reliable source of electrical power for cities that owned their municipal electric system. The OMPA helps these cities obtain and manage their wholesale power. The Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority Scholarship has been awarded in the department each year since 1993.

Drake Rice, Director of Member Services for the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, hopes that the recipients will accomplish their academic goals while attending OSU. Rice said scholarships recognize students for their academic accomplishments and efforts among their peers.

"The Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA) appreciates the opportunity of providing a scholarship to worthy students in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering," he said. "OMPA believes scholarships are important to students in furthering their education goals by assisting with financial support.

"Scholarships are a way to recognize students for their outstanding academic accomplishments and efforts to distinguish themselves among their peers. OMPA feels it is very important for the Authority to maintain this level of support for students who in achieving academic excellence will provide a positive impact on our society."

Rice said commitment is the one quality OMPA feels all scholarship recipients should possess.

"This commitment would be toward achieving and maintaining academic excellence in their chosen field and a goal of future service to mankind. OMPA hopes that students who receive the financial support from the Authority will be able to accomplish their academic goals and be able to apply their skills to the betterment of society," he said.

Rice talked about meeting with recipients in person.

"To be able to meet with the scholarship recipient and sometimes with their parents provides the opportunity to learn more about the student's background and their goals, both personal and professional, for the future," he said.

"Through this interaction, OMPA realizes the importance of its scholarship in contributing to the professional goals of the recipients."

Rice added, "OMPA also appreciates the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering in its efforts to make the recognitions a special time for the students and their families and for including the Authority in that effort."

Becca Hoey, Graduate Production Engineer at BHP Billiton Petroleum, was a recipient of the OMPA Scholarship. Hoey expressed her thoughts about current students in the BAE department and the OMPA Scholarship.

"I hope that current undergraduates appreciate the pride and dedication scholarship donors have for the program by investing in the future of the program," Hoey said.

She then spoke about what the scholarship meant to her. "Receiving a scholarship removed some of the financial burden of paying for my classes. This in turn allowed me to spend more time focusing on my course work and not having to work multiple jobs."

Lastly, if she could speak to her donors, Hoey said, "I would thank them for believing in me."
Former BAE faculty member, Wendell Bowers, assists students in accomplishing their educational goals.

Professor Wendell Bowers, an extension engineer, was a key member of the departmental faculty from 1967 to 1985. He also served as Assistant Director of Agricultural Programs for the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. Now retired and living in Arizona, Professor Bowers has been widely recognized for his leadership in volunteer programs assisting young people in the community. The Wendell Bowers scholarship was first awarded in 2007.
Professor Bowers said he believes scholarships can foster a healthy competition which may lead high achievers to reach impressive career heights.

"With today’s college costs and competition for employment, scholarships become even more important," Bowers said. "Providing scholarships is a win-win situation. Besides the financial aid, the competitive environment it creates among the students helps bring out their best. Surely some of my scholarships will lead to career successes similar to mine."

Meeting his scholarship recipients has only reaffirmed his decision to become a donor.

"My wife and I really enjoy attending the annual student banquets," Bowers said. "Meeting with my scholarship recipients and their families only reinforces why awarding scholarships is so important."

Bowers said those who receive his award are well-deserving.

"I love to hear the students speak with excitement about their career plans. The quality of these students confirms my confidence in providing scholarships. Then, the sincere letters I receive after merely confirm that my funds are well deserved."

He talked about the value of being a donor. "Besides the direct benefit of the scholarships, I hope I can encourage others to make similar contributions. There is virtually no limit on how any and all scholarships can be well justified."

David Criswell, BAE senior, mentioned how receiving the Bowers Scholarship helped him focus more on his school and extracurricular activities.

"This scholarship has helped me greatly by reducing my need to work while in school," Criswell said. "This has given me time to not only do my homework, but to be involved extracurricularly, as well.

"I was able to learn so much by becoming involved with Engineers Without Borders, where I learned things such as project management and evaluation, technical report writing, and the effects of social issues within engineering."

Cortney Timmons Cowley, Ph.D. candidate, found it motivating to meet her donor.

"The awesome thing about receiving a BAE scholarship is that you typically get to meet and personally thank your scholarship donor at the banquet," Cowley said. "Putting a face to a name that has helped you so much is really motivating.

"While in the department, I knew I had the support of my fellow students, professors, and staff. But once you receive a scholarship from an alumnus, former faculty member, or corporate partner, it gives you a whole new sense of encouragement."

Like many, Cowley saw her educational opportunities expanded by not having to work while obtaining her degree.

"Receiving this scholarship allowed me to focus on school, not money. Having that kind of freedom allowed me to take full advantage of every opportunity that OSU and the BAE department have to offer in an undergraduate education."

"Because I did not have to have an outside job, I was able to focus on my studies and take part in campus leadership and service organizations. I also completed undergraduate research projects and studied abroad."

She said she would send the message to current BAE undergraduates that they are part of a very special group.

"I hope they realize, like I did, how special the BAE department is to so many people," she said. "Many of the scholarship donors have sat where you sit and have walked the same halls that you walk every day. They care enough about you to give back, not only financially, but with their time.

"That kind of loyalty demands respect and appreciation. I hope students understand how lucky they are to be in a department that cultivates and encourages that kind of commitment."

Although Cowley has gotten to meet and thank her donor, she would have even more to say to him today.

"If I could speak to Mr. Bowers today, I would try to express what his scholarship did for me, not just in the year that I received it, but even throughout my whole collegiate experience," she said. "Scholarships like his create a type of ‘snowball effect.’ Having money to help me pay for school was very empowering.

"I was able to take advantage of so many opportunities that enhanced my undergraduate experience and opened up opportunities for post-graduate work that I would have never thought were possible."
Generosity at its Finest

One of OSU’s Eminent faculty members and his wife enjoy supporting the success of BAE students by donating scholarship funds.

Dr. Marvin Stone, Emeritus Regents Professor and recipient of OSU’s Eminent Faculty Award, said he and his wife Bonnie share the joy in their scholarship recipients’ success.

“Bonnie and I are thankful to be able to participate in supporting a scholarship to OSU BAE. One of the big pleasures for Bonnie and I has been to see students succeed after graduation.

“We have seen many successes. Their success is ours! They remind us that higher education and particularly BAE continues as an opportunity for students to become lifelong difference makers. We hope our contributions in scholarships play a role in students succeeding in the BAE program.”

Ryan Johnson, earning a bachelor of science in biosystems engineering this year, talked about what it meant to him to meet his donor.

“Spending the evening interacting with my donor, Dr. Stone, allowed me to learn more about previous projects the department had worked on and how these advancements or failures brought about some of the items I was working on at that time.

“It also has given us personal interaction time to get to know others tied to the Biosystems Engineering field, connections that have already proved very valuable in my career endeavors.”

Sarah Smith Fiegener, a Marvin Stone Scholarship recipient who received a bachelor of science in biosystems engineering in 2009, is now a design engineer at BS&B Safety Systems, LLC. She, too, is immensely grateful for the scholarship.

“Scholarships help make things possible,” she said. “They allow students to learn and take advantage of all higher education has to offer. Scholarships make it possible for anyone to attend college and better themselves. And Dr. Stone’s generosity helped me achieve my goals and dreams, and begin the career I am in now. I wouldn’t change a thing. Thank you Dr. Stone. Your generosity is truly appreciated.”
Dr. Gerald Brusewitz served on the departmental faculty for nearly 33 years, retiring in 2002. He then continued to teach for several years on a part-time basis.

An excellent researcher and educator, Dr. Brusewitz rose to the rank of Regents Professor. Donations made at the time of his retirement, along with continuing support from Dr. Brusewitz, have enabled the awarding of his scholarship each year since 2003.

Karl Garbrecht, Environmental Specialist at Chevron Corporation, was a recipient of the Gerald Brusewitz Scholarship. Garbrecht received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biosystems engineering in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

Garbrecht said he was encouraged by meeting the people who had supported his education. Garbrecht said scholarships were important to him because they showed him that his donors wanted to encourage his success.

“It was motivating to meet the people who were offering support for my education and taking an interest in the success of my academic career,” Garbrecht said.

Another Gerald Brusewitz Scholarship recipient was Kristin Stephens Holden, a Senior Technical Professional with Halliburton. She explained what was unique to her about receiving a departmental scholarship.

“I always felt receiving a departmental scholarship had a much more personal connection than receiving a scholarship from other, more general sources,” she said. “While all scholarships were greatly appreciated, much more honor was felt in receiving a scholarship such as the Gerald Brusewitz Scholarship.”

She said the concept of “giving back” has changed for her since she is now an alumna.

“As an undergrad, not only did I not have the means to ‘give back,’ but my focus was on getting my own self through college,” she said. “As an alum, I realize how much value, not just monetarily, that scholarships can provide students, and I feel that it would be rewarding to participate, even if just a small amount, in helping a future engineering graduate in the same way.

“Giving back is not only a way to stay connected to the roots where you got your education, but it’s also a way to make a positive and valuable impact on a student’s education and sometimes also their life.”
A family comes together to provide support for students interested in study abroad opportunities.
The Si and Kay Grider scholarship is for students who are interested in study abroad. It was established by Bill Barfield and Annette Grider Barfield with additional donations from the Grider Family and friends of the family to honor the impact of Si and Kay Grider on international sales of US agricultural products.

The Barfields, in concert with the Griders, decided to provide a study abroad scholarship because they have witnessed changes in student lives by having the opportunity to travel outside of the U.S.

“We participated in two trips to Europe with students from three universities, some of which had not traveled outside the U.S. and some that had not traveled from the borders of their state,” the Barfields said. “Their lives were enriched and changed by interaction with international students and families. Since the U.S. companies that hire our graduates compete in a global market, these graduates will likely be required to travel internationally many times in their careers. Having some international experience is extremely helpful.”

The Barfields and the Griders feel that giving back is important because they have the opportunity to enrich the lives of students.

“We all stand on the shoulders of past generations as we go through this life,” the Barfields and Griders said. “The selflessness of these past generations allowed us to experience lives that have been and continue to be rich with opportunity. We now have the opportunity to help enrich the lives of those who will be following us by being generous and giving to programs like these scholarships.”

After participating with students abroad, Rachel Carson Felice, E.I.T., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said that it provided her with a new perspective about their cultures and history. Felice also mentioned how study abroad helped her have a bigger understanding of engineering.

“Visiting a renowned university and conversing with the students about their cultures and history provided a new perspective,” Felice said. “Also, visiting many historical sites such as the Canal Du Midi showed concrete examples of the engineering innovations that are a basis for many things we use today.

“We also saw recent feats such as the Viaduc de Millau and the Airbus facility in Toulouse, where they were assembling their biggest jet to date. Studying abroad helped me see how far we have come in engineering, and how much further we will be able to go.”

A piece of advice that Mary Elizabeth Womack Mach, Project Manager at Garver Engineering, would give current students is to study abroad. Mach says that you learn more about yourself in a foreign country.

“The biggest regret I commonly hear graduates say is that they did not study abroad,” Mach said. “College, especially in engineering, often focuses on learning the technical material. Students, especially engineering students, often only worry about getting A’s in this technical material.

“There are so many more ‘non-technical’ things to learn before you take a job, and you learn a lot about the world and yourself in a foreign country. You will never be able to spend that much time in another country as cheaply and with as few responsibilities as you can while in college. Take care of business, but have fun, too!”
Creating a Brighter Future

The Samuel Alton Clayton Memorial Scholarship had an interesting beginning. Mark Farabee is a B.S. and M.S. graduate of the department. Samuel Alton Clayton, the brother of Mark's grandmother, graduated from OSU in engineering and had a successful career.

Mark established a scholarship in Mr. Clayton’s memory and also in honor of Mark’s grandmother. The scholarship was first awarded in 2004.

Jonathan Overton, BAE junior, talked about what he would say if he could thank his donors today. “I would express my most sincere gratitude,” he said. “Every donor of every scholarship I have received has made an impact on my life, and has eased the stress of putting myself through college. It is truly wonderful that they are making such a valuable investment into my future.

“Scholarships are important because they reduce the financial strain on a student, or their family, to pay for college,” he said. “The cost of college continues to increase, and more and more teenagers are unable to get a college education because it’s becoming financially riskier to make the investment in college.

“Scholarships help to reduce the risk, as well as give the student practice in applications and promoting themselves.”

Overton said the scholarship provided him the gift of time. “Receiving the scholarship helped me pay for the school year without having to take on another job. This allowed me to put more of my time and energy into my studies while also reducing my overall stress.”

He said he felt grateful to have been chosen. “Not everybody in the department is guaranteed a scholarship and it is very special that a panel of faculty members have distinguished you from your peers as being worthy of one,” he said.

Another recipient, Kevin Roewe, said he would tell current undergraduates to both appreciate and make good use of the scholarships. “I would hope they would not take these scholarships for granted, and not disappoint those who have awarded the scholarships,” he said.

Like Overton, Roewe said scholarships are important because they help lower the cost of education, reducing the burden on students.

“The Samuel Alton Clayton Memorial Scholarship helped me graduate from the OSU BAE department with a useful degree, without loans or debt,” he said. “If I could speak to my donors I would say ‘Thank you.’”

Samuel Alton Clayton Memorial Scholarship recipient, Jonathan Overton
Professor Jay Porterfield served with distinction on the departmental faculty from 1952 to 1982 and also served as Department Head from 1974 to 1978. Professor Porterfield had a strong record of excellence in research and instruction. Beginning at the time of his retirement, he provided funding for the Jay G. Porterfield Scholarships. Professor Porterfield passed away February 2012.

Jacob Hamburger, who in 2005 received a BS in Biosystems Engineering, discussed how the Porterfield Scholarship helped him.

“As a college student, any financial assistance is beneficial. Receiving scholarships like the Jay G. Porterfield Scholarship, allowed me to focus more on school work and classes instead of trying to work a part-time job and handle the same school load.”

Hamburger is now employed at Charles Machine Works. Another grateful recipient of the Porterfield Scholarship is J.D. McElhaney, currently employed at ExxonMobil Oil Corporation as an Environmental Advisor. McElhaney earned his B.S. in Biosystems Engineering in 2009, and said the scholarship changed his life.

“As a non-traditional student, this scholarship allowed me to stay in school and make ends meet,” he said. “Prior to this year of school, when I was awarded this scholarship and some other academic opportunities, I had to work three jobs to maintain my responsibilities.

“Due to the scholarships, I was able to enjoy and focus on a year of school, with being a student as my primary occupation, and not be completely burdened by life’s distractions. I owe it to these generous donors the opportunities presented post-graduation.”

He said current undergraduates who are chosen as a departmental scholarship recipient should take away that “We live in a broken world, but that it only takes one generous person to positively change the lives of many.”
OSU alumni, Sam and Sheila Harp, donors of the Sam and Sheila Harp Scholarship, pose with their grandchildren.

OSU alumni, Sam and Sheila Harp, donors of the Sam and Sheila Harp Scholarship, pose with their grandchildren.

Reaching out

Giving Back

OSU alumni play a role in the successful completion of BAE student education.

Sam and Sheila Harp of Perkins, Okla. worked at OSU while obtaining their BS and MS degrees. After earning his master’s, Sam became an Extension faculty member and was instrumental in building a number of programs.

For example, his leadership in establishing the OSU Applications Engineering Program, which provides technical support to Oklahoma’s small businesses and manufacturers, achieved $1 billion in impact in 2011 after only 15 years of operation.

Additional work with the New Product Development Center for small manufacturers and energy utilization/conservation for Oklahoma are still creating impacts to this day.

Sheila also was instrumental in the success of Oklahoma State University programs, having served 30 years working in various academic and administrative areas, including Com-
puting and Information Systems, the Agricultural Engineering Department, the Agriculture Dean’s Office and, the last 20 years before retirement, in the OSU President’s Office.

The Harps said they decided to give back in the form of a scholarship because of what OSU and BAE have brought to them.

“My whole family has benefitted greatly from our association with OSU and BAE: three bachelor’s and three master’s degrees from OSU,” Mr. Harp said.

He said his hope in providing financial support is simple: “I hope it will encourage a young person to enroll in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.”

One such young person was Harp Scholarship recipient Logan Nightengale, a BAE senior.

“Without scholarships and other financial aid, I would likely not be attending Oklahoma State University nor working towards an engineering degree,” he said. “I am very grateful for the scholarships that I have been awarded and I know many other students are also thankful for the opportunity to earn awards based on need and academic merit.”

Nightengale enjoyed the opportunity to extend his gratitude in person.

“It was a pleasure to meet Mr. Harp at the banquet,” he said. “I was excited to get to know him and to thank him for an award that was very beneficial and important to my education at OSU.”

The Harps, too, appreciate being able to meet those they’ve helped.

When asked what it means to them to meet their scholarship recipients, Mr. Harp said, “It is always a pleasure to meet some of our best and brightest young people.”

Nightengale has the following sentiments for the Harp family: “I would like to personally thank my scholarship donors Sam and Sheila Harp for the scholarship that I was awarded. Because most of my education is funded through scholarships, I am very grateful for the financial aid I have received while being a student in the BAE department.

“To me, scholarships are important because they help me pay for my schooling without student loans and help from family.”

For the Harp family, a spirit of mutuality may be innate. Mr. Harp said, “I think it is a natural instinct to repay at some level for the good fortune that you have received.”

Nightengale does not take that generosity for granted. He said, “I hope other BAE scholarship recipients realize the impact scholarship donors have on the department’s future growth and students’ present and future accomplishments.”
Kennedy Family Scholarship recipient, Flint Holbrook, CEO of American Remembrance native of Oklahoma, Steve Kennedy received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the department in 1980 and 1983.

He has had a very productive career in industry and is currently employed in Production Technology at EOG Resources. Kennedy established this scholarship to support students in the BAE department and to honor his father, an OSU alumnus.

The Kennedy Family Scholarship was first awarded in 2008. Kennedy hopes those being awarded a scholarship would consider it a well-earned reward.

“Scholarship recipients should consider a scholarship a reward, not an entitlement,” Kennedy said. “Students that are dedicated to their studies and strive to excel should be rewarded for their hard work. Students do not necessarily have to set the curve, but they need to work with the effort that is required to do so.”

Kennedy hopes that all scholarship recipients will be satisfied in knowing they did the best they could.

“Students who receive scholarships should learn that if they are passionate and work hard it will pay dividends,” Kennedy said. “The dividends will not always be monetary, but simply the satisfaction of knowing they did their best. When they enter the job market they will be successful knowing how to give each assignment their very best.”

Receiving a Kennedy Family Scholarship has led some recipients to impressive achievements.

Flin t Holbrook, CEO -- American Remembrance, was an out-of-state student when attending OSU. The Kennedy Family Scholarship helped Holbrook pay for his out-of-state tuition. He said with student fees, housing, and tuition, scholarships are more important to students than ever.

“I would tell the Kennedy Family, ‘Thank you for believing in me and the BAE department,’” he said.
Leon Crain graduated in 1939 from Oklahoma A&M College with a degree in Architectural Engineering. He then enjoyed a successful career applying his engineering skills in a farm environment.

Mrs. Pearl Crain established a scholarship endowment in memory of her husband in 1991, and the first Leon Crain Memorial Scholarship was awarded the following year.

Mary Crawford Campbell received the scholarship in 2001 and now resides in Georgia. She said she would advise current BAE students as they prepare for their career to be as involved academically as possible.

“Utilize all of the resources available to you within the department. Be sure to get to know your professors and take advantage of any hands-on work, extracurricular activities, or project opportunities in the department as well as on campus.”

Campbell said scholarships are important for at least two reasons. “Scholarships are extremely important to allow students the time to focus on their academic studies and to give them the confidence to succeed.”

The concept of “giving back” has changed for Campbell since graduation. She knows that students who are bright, accomplished, and eager to succeed in their community will use their education for that purpose. For that reason, she is committed to supporting the department and its current undergraduates.

“I have an even greater appreciation for the scholarship contribution to my educational experience,” she said. “This in turn keeps me more involved in helping return the favor by giving back to the department as an alumna.”

Campbell wants scholarship recipients to realize they are selected from a pool of applicants for a reason: their hard work, dedication, and perseverance have been noted. She said if current undergraduates take away one thing from being selected as a recipient of a departmental scholarship, it should be to “understand the value they bring to the department.”

Leon Crain Memorial Scholarship recipient, Mary Crawford Campbell, and Dr. Dani Bellmer testing peanut butter
Professor E.W. Schroeder served as Head of the Agricultural Engineering Department for 27 years (1947 through 1974). He was an effective leader and advocate, and was largely responsible for the post-war growth and success of the department.

The Schroeder Scholarship was initiated on the occasion of his retirement in 1974. Professor Schroeder, who remained active and lived into his 90s, established an endowment in 2002 to support the scholarship in perpetuity.

Schroeder Scholarship recipient Chase Vencl earned a bachelor of science in 2011 and is now a product development engineer with the Crosby Group. He said if he could speak to his donor he would say, “Thank you for supporting and trusting me in my educational development in my academic curriculum. You provided financial support to aid my obtaining of an engineering degree, which I am using fully today as an engineer who has created financial security for my family.

“Your investment in my education has given me the opportunity for a successful and prosperous future, and I am forever grateful.”

Recipient Clint Imel, who received a bachelor of science in biosystems engineering in 1997, now works for Heavy Equipment Components & Standards, Halliburton Energy Services.

“The scholarships that I received to attend Oklahoma State University were the difference between me going to this great college or having to attend a lower priced school, like a junior college,” he said. “I am truly grateful that I was able to receive the E.W. Schroeder Scholarship, along with other scholarships in my college career.”

He added, “I hope that all students realize the honor and blessing it is to receive these scholarships. Ultimately, these scholarships were sacrifices by other people or organizations, and it should be considered a true honor to be selected to receive them.”

E.W. Schroeder, former Head of the Agricultural Engineering Department and creator of a BAE scholarship endowment
The Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association (OGFA) is a non-profit trade organization headquartered in Enid. The OGFA effectively promotes the interests of the state's grain, feed and seed businesses. Mr. Joe Neal Hampton serves as the Association’s President and Chief Executive Officer.

The OGFA has awarded a scholarship in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering each year since 1995.

Dr. Sherry Hunt, Acting Research Leader, HERU, USDA-ARS, said that receiving the OGFA scholarship gave her “a boost of confidence.”

Dr. Hunt received her BS in Biosystems Engineering in 1999 and her MS in 2000, then went on to Colorado State University to earn a Doctor of Philosophy in 2008.

“When you think about scholarships, the first thing most people think of is the money,” Hunt said. “Having money, of course, alleviates the financial burden and stress of the bills piling up when pursuing an education.

“However, scholarships can provide much more than that. I received the Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association Scholarship through the BAE Department, and receiving a scholarship like this gave me a boost of confidence.

“I admit I was not always on the President’s or Dean’s Honor Roll like some of my classmates. So when I received this scholarship, I felt truly blessed and thought, ‘Hey, there is someone out there who believes in me.’”

Dr. Hunt described her commitment to helping others.

“Giving back is one way I can thank those who believed in me. Giving back is one way I can pay it forward and make a difference in a student’s life. Giving back makes me feel good because I get the opportunity to boost the confidence of someone else. As I said, it gives me the opportunity to pay it forward!”

An Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association Scholarship recipient, Dr. Sherry Hunt, the Acting Research Leader, HERU, USDA-ARS
Dr. Ron Noyes is a native of Leedey, Okla. He received both his bachelor of science and master of science degrees from the department.

Following a successful industry career, he returned to his alma mater and served as a very productive extension faculty member from 1985 through 2003.

It was that rewarding career which prompted Dr. Noyes and his wife Zona to establish the Ronald T. Noyes Scholarship in support of BAE students. The scholarship was first awarded in 2005.

Ron Noyes, Emeritus Faculty, established the scholarship for both practical and emotional reasons.

“Giving back is something I feel strongly about,” Noyes said. “Today’s students need the support and encouragement. I want part of my legacy to be as a supporter of the OSU biological engineers of the future.”

Taber Midgley, a recipient of the scholarship, is now a Staff Consultant at Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. in the greater Boston area.

Midgley earned his master’s degree in environment and natural resources in the BAE department under Dr. Garey Fox. He completed his bachelor’s in the department in 2010.

In addition to his current work, Midgley has served as a Project Engineer for Aquaterra Environmental Solutions, been a Visiting Engineer for the USDA-ARS National Sedimentation Laboratory, and was an NSF Fellow at OSU from June 2011 to May 2012.

Midgley said, “The education I received from the BAE department prepared me well for my career. This would not have been possible without the assistance I received during college, especially the Ronald T. Noyes Scholarship from Dr. and Mrs. Noyes.

“The individuals and families who contribute to scholarships such as these make an enormous difference in the lives of many young adults.”

Ron Noyes awards his scholarship recipient, Taber Midgley
Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Scholarship representative, Sid Sperry, awards scholarship recipient, Kristin Stephens Holden.

Scholarships are important to Sidney K. Sperry, Director of Public Relations, Communications and Research at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), because the OAEC recognizes funding college is important.

“The cost of accessing post-high school education today is at an all-time high,” Sperry said. “Our Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Board of Trustees recognizes that funding college scholarships is one of the best ways to ensure our electric cooperatives are helping educate and train future employees.”

“Providing student scholarships can help support the future of our industry, plus assist students financially.”

Sperry said he and others with the OAEC hope that students who are recipients of their scholarship take employment in rural or suburban areas.

“We at OAEC view our financial support via scholarships as one of the best ways of helping those students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to move forward with their educational endeavors,” Sperry said. “Since we are mostly a rural organization, it’s important for us to know the scholarships we fund are making their way into the hands of students that have a rural or suburban background, because it’s those students who are more likely to seek professional employment in areas where our cooperatives serve after they graduate.”

Kristin Stephens Holden, Senior Technical Professional at Halliburton, said if she could speak to her OAEC scholarship donors today she would thank them for investing in her education.

“I would thank them for investing in my and others’ educations,” Holden said. “Not only did you help pave the way for the education I received, but you were an inspiration for me to participate in doing likewise for future BAE graduates currently facing the challenges and opportunities that I did at one time.”

OAEC funds students in the BAE department to help meet the rising cost of education.

Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Scholarship representative, Sid Sperry, awards scholarship recipient, Kristin Stephens Holden.
Dr. Ron Morgan, Technical Applications Manager for Halliburton Energy Services, established the Glen Morgan Memorial Scholarship to honor the memory of his father. The first scholarship was awarded in 2000.

“I hope receiving the scholarship would inspire each recipient to give back,” Morgan said. “The true quality of life is all about two things: relationships with family, friends and colleagues, and how much of your time and resources you give to benefit others less fortunate than you.”

Dr. Morgan said BAE provided him “a home away from home” while he attended OSU. Funding the Glen Morgan Memorial Scholarship is a way that Morgan shows gratitude toward the department.

“I cannot express how fantastic my experience was with the OSU BAE faculty and staff,” Morgan said. “They treated me like family, and those relationships and experiences are the fundamental underpinning to my career path.

“So funding the Glen Morgan Memorial Scholarship and contributing to the Halliburton Power of Six BAE Scholarship Fund are my commitments to attempt to begin to give back to a department that provided me with a home away from home, a great education, a job, and a wonderful network of many professional friendships and colleagues.”

Jessica Lay, who is pursuing a master of science in biosystems engineering after receiving her bachelor’s degree in 2010 discussed what being a recipient of the scholarship meant to her.

“Scholarships are important for many reasons, the most obvious being the financial help they provide to students,” she said. “The less a student has to stress about paying for school or having to work extra hours to pay the bursar bill, the more time they can devote to schoolwork.

“Scholarships also help increase a student’s self-confidence and are another way to show a student their hard work is literally paying off. Also, as students apply and receive scholarships from the departmental level, they can gain the confidence to apply for national scholarships.”

Although a snow storm precluded Lay from meeting Ron Morgan at the annual banquet, she relished the opportunity to spend time in his company on several other occasions.

“It was a great opportunity to meet the family behind the scholarship and to give them my gratitude in person.”

Lay, who has received multiple accolades throughout her collegiate career, discussed the special significance of a departmental scholarship.

“It’s encouraging as an undergraduate to meet successful professionals in the field who have graduated from your department and share stories on how similar or different each other’s experiences were,” she said. “I feel like there is more significance behind a scholarship if you are given the chance to meet the person who is helping you attend school financially, especially when it is someone who graduated from the same department. They know about your experiences in the department, having gone through it themselves.”

Lay discussed another reason having a donor from one’s own department makes the scholarship uniquely impactful.

“Receiving this scholarship showed me the department had confidence in me and in the work I was doing both inside and outside of the department, and they had no doubt about my ability to finish the program and graduate. It was a definite morale booster!”
The concept of “giving back” has changed the lives of many...

I’D LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT OSU BY SUPPORTING BIOSYSTEMS & AG ENGINEERING:

Name ____________________________ Spouse Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________ City ____________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Home phone __________ Call phone __________ Email __________ Employer __________

I would like to make a gift of:

☐ $1,000       ☐ $500  ☐ $100  ☐ Other $ __________

Please designate my gift to:

☐ Terry D. Allen Agricultural Engineering Scholarship (21-76500)
☐ Dudley Barefoot Memorial Scholarship in Biosystems & Ag En (21-64300)
☐ Leon Crain Endowed Scholarship Fund (21-40300)
☐ Dr. James and Ruby Garton Endowed Scholarship Fund (21-60700)
☐ Si & Kay Grider End Supporting Intl Experiences/Biosys Eng (21-60300)
☐ Tom & Jan Haan Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering Scholarship (21-42600)
☐ Halliburton Power of Six Scholarship in BAE (21-43000)
☐ Sam & Sheila Harp Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering Scholarship (21-74100)
☐ Greg and Kristen Hart Scholarship Endowment Fund (21-62000)
☐ Larry Roth Endowed Scholarship (21-01800)
☐ Ervin W. Schroeder Biosystems Engineering Endowed Scholarship (21-43000)
☐ Dr. Marvin Stone Endowed Scholarship Fund (21-48000)
☐ BAE Student Development Fund (Scholarships) (21-24000)
☐ BAE Student Professional Development Fund (21-48000)
☐ BAE Faculty Fund (21-05000)
☐ Other: __________

Fulfillment Options:

I want to fulfill my gift: ☐ one-time ☐ in installments of $ __________ beginning __________ mm/yyyy
☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annually
* Pledge reminders will be sent based on your fulfillment schedule

Payment Options:

☐ My check, payable to the OSU Foundation, is enclosed.
☐ My credit card information is below:

Card Number __________ Exp. Date __________
Name on Card __________
3 Digit CVV __________ Signature __________

*Gifts to the OSU Foundation may be tax deductible.

Have you:

☐ Looked to see if your or your spouse’s employer will match your contribution and double your impact? See a list of matching employers at OSUgiving.com/matching.
☐ Included Oklahoma State University Foundation in your estate plan?

Please detach this card and send your payment to the OSU Foundation using the address below.
You may also make a gift over the phone at 800.622.4678 or online at OSUgiving.com/BAE.

Oklahoma State University Foundation Office of Annual Giving
400 S. Monroe | Stillwater, OK 74074 | 800.622.4678 | annualgiving@OSUgiving.com
Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering Department
Oklahoma State University
111 Agricultural Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078-6016