2006 proves to be year of achievements for A-State

BY ALFRED BROWN

2006 was a spectacular year for Arkansas State University in terms of research achievements. It has provided ASU with both good regional reputation and financial resources.

With researchers working to areas ranging from environmental history to molecular bioinformatics and in all corners of the world, including Antarctica, ASU is becoming a regional research powerhouse.

The list of all those achievements would be too long to fit in an article like this, so here's just a few examples of ingenuity, innovative, and applications that ASU faculty and students have accomplished in 2006:

**Agriculture and Food**

Dr. Jennifer Boudin and her collaborators have been studying natural and man-made clothes, greenhouse tars, and the plants found in these settings. They have been able to show the advantages of growing pests in our clothes.

Dr. Tanja McRae and her collaborators have been conducting a series of experiments to determine whether or not poultry litter affects the bacteria and bioavailability of ground-dwelling organisms.

Dr. Maureen Dobin and her colleagues have been using DNA techniques to ensure labeling accuracy in animal feed and fertilizer.

**Health sciences**

Dr. Mathi J. Broussard has been looking at the mechanisms of salivary gland tumors. He has been able to show that these tumors can spread to the brain and cause death. He also has shown that these tumors can be treated with radiation.

Dr. D. A. Gillespie and Dr. Lisa Shedd have been keeping careful track of staphylococcal infections among ASU students and student athletes and concluded that the staphylococcal infections are becoming more difficult to treat with antibiotics.

**Energy**

Dr. Elizabeth Hood has developed technology that can be used to break down cellulose into glucose so it can be fermented into ethanol which is cost competitive with gasoline. While Dr. Chris Edgerton has developed a more reliable and efficient electrical apparatus called a switched reluctance machine that makes it efficient to be used for many "green power" applications.

**Environmental sciences**

Dr. Bethany Hunsaker has been studying the chemistry of water to identify the essential habitats of brown trout and walleye in central Arkansas.

Dr. Carolyn Dowling has been studying the quality of groundwater in Arkansas and elsewhere in order to make sure that this resource is not polluted or not suitable for drinking.

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**Arts and Humanities**

Dr. Greg Hansen has been comparing folk tales from the Mississippi Delta to those from the rural areas of Europe. He is trying to understand the connections between cultural creativity and natural environments by looking at how people of different cultures adapt to life in the South.

Dr. Julie Mavor has been excavating mastodons and paleohabitats in the Ozark Highlands, and she is looking at how people of different cultures adapted to life in the Southern United States.

Dr. Robert Findlay and his colleagues have found a new route leading to vitamin C formation in a plant known for its generic name as Antirrhinum. Dr. David Gilmore and Dr. Lisa Shedd have been keeping careful track of staphylococcal infections among ASU students and student athletes and concluded that the staphylococcal infections are becoming more difficult to treat with antibiotics.

**Psychology**

Dr. Amy Pearle, Dr. Irina Khramtsova, and collaborators in Russia have conducted a cross-cultural study addressing the differences between the American and Russian cultures in terms of their perception of happiness and well-being.

Dr. Steven Haws, a native of New York City, has been studying the effects of climate change on the health of New York City's parks and the impact of climate change on the health of New York City's parks and the impact of climate change on the health of New York City's parks and the impact of climate change on the health of New York City's parks.

Some of the wildlife research at ASU has brought international media attention. Dr. Stanley Trexler's work on the reproduction of nesting flamingos has been covered by a major national newspaper and television network.

Wildlife research

Dr. Jim Bednarz and some of his graduate students have monitored a wild population of red wolves near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They have been studying the effects of climate change on the health of New York City's parks and the impact of climate change on the health of New York City's parks.

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