Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff,

Merry Christmas! I wish you and your family a most wonderful Christmas and a Blessed New Year! May you enjoy this break and come back refreshed, ready for a bright new year! (And geared up to finish your RIV by January 15! Details coming soon.)

Warmest Wishes!
Barb
Happy December Birthdays…

- December 1 Jenan Rabi-Program Assistant, Hamilton County
- December 2 Sam Custer-Extension Educator, Darke County
- December 2 Drudy Yoakam-Office Associate, Union County
- December 3 Carol Bottoms-Information Associate, Northwest/Southwest Region Offices
- December 13 Rachel Stridsberg, Program Assistant, Montgomery/Clark County
- December 16 Amanda Raines-Program Assistant, Hardin County
- December 19 Jessica Bergman-Office Associate, Logan County
- December 21 Monica Jones-Office Assistant, Fayette County
- December 24 Pam Bennett-Educator/Director, Clark County
- December 24 Sheila Callicoat-Office Associate, Champaign County
- December 24 Carol Miller-Extension Educator, Clark County
- December 24 Joe Boggs-Extension Educator, Hamilton County

Southwest Region Forum

Funding Opportunity

First NIFA-AFRI RFP released for 2015

Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html) (Formerly the AFRI NIFA Fellowships Grant Program)

NIFA requests applications for the AFRI's Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI) for fiscal year (FY) 2015 to provide fellowships to undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral students in the agricultural sciences.

The current AFRI - Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences ELI was formerly known as AFRI NIFA Fellowships Grant Program.

The amount available for support of the AFRI - Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences ELI program in FY 2015 is Approximately $16.9 million.

The Program Goals are as follows:

* To promote research and extension experiential learning for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills
* To prepare the next generation of scientists through doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships.

Funded projects will encompass NIFA's AFRI Challenge Area and AFRI Foundational Programs, through well-developed and highly engaged mentoring and training activities.

The AFRI Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (AFRI ELI) focuses on developing the following:

* opportunities for undergraduate students at colleges and universities, including those from underrepresented ethnicities and economically disadvantaged groups at minority-serving institutions, community colleges, and other universities to obtain hands-on experience at land-grant and non-land-grant universities and USDA laboratories and obtain training to join the agricultural workforce or pursue graduate studies in food, agriculture, natural resources and the human sciences.
* technical and functional competence for predoctoral students; and the research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral students.

If you decide to move forward, please contact the Grant Development Support Unit (gdsu@osu.edu) to inquire about services that would assist with the application.

Thank you,
Lori

Lori Kaser, CRA
Grants and Contracts Administrator
FAES/OARDC Grants and Contracts Office
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center
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330-263-3647 Office / 330-231-7165 Mobile
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http://grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- December 22 Delaware/Campus
- December 23 Vacation
- December 24 Holiday
- December 25 Holiday
- December 26 Vacation
Our Words Are Seeds Planted
in Other People’s Lives
From An Enemy Called Average, by John Mason

What we say is important. Our vocabulary should be filled with words of hope and dreams. Be known as someone who speaks positively.

Recently I saw a sign under a mounted large-mouth bass. It read, "If I had kept my mouth shut I wouldn't be here." How true! Don't jump into trouble mouth first.

Let me pose this question for you: Starting today what would happen if you changed what you said about your biggest problem, your biggest opportunity?

I don’t know if you’ve had this conversation or not, but last month I turned to my wife Linda while we were sitting together in our family room and said, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state dependent on some machine. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

She immediately got up, walked over and unplugged the TV.

"Our words create our worlds," says Dean Sikes. Your words have the power to start fires or quench passion.

Don’t be like the man who joined a monastery in which the monks were allowed to speak only two words every seven years. After the first seven years had passed, the new initiate met with the abbot, who asked him, "Well, what are your two words?"

"Food’s bad," replied the man, who then went back to his silence.

Seven years later the clergyman asked, "What are your two words now?"

"Bed’s hard," the man responded.

Seven years later — twenty-one years after his initial entry into the monastery — the man met with the abbot for the third and final time. "And what are your two words this time?" the abbot asked.

"I quit."

"Well, I'm not surprised," the cleric answered disgustedly. "All you've done since you got here is complain!"

Don't be like that man; don't be known as a person whose only words are negative. If you're a member of the "negative grapevine," resign.

Contrary to what you may have heard, talk is not cheap. Talk is powerful!
JCEP/ESP Awards

Periodical Publication -1E
HM- Mark Light, Kathy Oliver, Mark Badertscher, Amanda Raines, and Carol Wagner

Television Interview-2B
1st – Patty House

Educational Exhibit- Internally Produced -4A
3rd – Mark Light

Promotional Exhibit- Internally Produced- 4C
1st – Amanda Douridas, Mary Griffith, Susan Mills-Wasniak, Nannette “Gigi” Neal

Newsletter-Internally Produced (Team)- 5A
HM – Nannette “Gigi” Neal, Amanda Douridas, Sam Custer, Deborah Brown

Newsletter-Internally Produced (Individual)- 5C
HM – Patty House, Rhonda Williams

Promotional Flyer- Professionally Assisted-6B
3rd – Christy Millhouse, Laura Norris, Rebecca Supinger, Rhonda Williams, Betty Wingerter, Demetria Woods

Promotional Package (Individual)- 6C
1st – Patty House
2nd – Pat Brinkman

Curriculum Package (Team)- 7B
3rd – Pat Brinkman
HM - Carol Miller

Fact Sheet- 8A
1st – Mark Light

Project Book- 8C
1st – Kathy Green, Pat Holmes, Kathy Oliver
3rd – Nadine Fogt
HM – Steve Brady, Kim Catchpole
HM – Kim Catchpole
JCEP/ESP Awards
Blog- 9C
  1st – Cheryl Barber-Spires, Patricia Brinkman
Social Networking Medium- 9D
  1st – Cheryl Barber Spires, Pat Brinkman, Kathy Green
  HM – Melinda Morrison
ESP Chapter Awards
Distinguished Team
  GAPS Team: Suzanne Mills-Wasniak
ESP Regional and National Award Winners for 2014
North Central Region Distinguished Team:
  Live Healthy, Live Well – Cheryl Barber Spires, Pat Brinkman, Jennifer Even
Service Awards
Program Area Winners
  Mid Career Service (10-20 years) – FCS – Pat Brinkman
  Early Career Service (2 – 10 years) – ANR – Amanda Douridas
National Association Awards
NACAA – Distinguished Service – 2014 – Amanda Douridas
NAE4-HA – Distinguished Service – 2015 Steve Brady