

Student attends conference

Oklahoma State University students, including Amanda Jones, St. Francis, attended the annual National Agricultural Marketing Association Conference in Nashville, Tenn., on April 15 to 18.

The conference was an opportunity for the student chapters and business professionals to network in a structured environment. The conference included a student competition, career fair and seminars. Oklahoma State University students competed in the marketing team contest and attended the National Agricultural Marketing Association meetings.

"The National Agricultural Marketing Association Conference makes students more aware of potential job opportunities they never realized possible," said Robert Oehrtman, Association adviser.

The students competed with 35 student chapters from across the United States and Canada. The contest has grown over the last 23 years. Originally there were only three National Agricultural Marketing Association student chapters that competed, said Mr. Oehrtman.

Members of the Oklahoma State University marketing team included: Katherine Chandler, Lewis Cunningham, Amanda

Jones, Matt Mitchell, Bambi Sidwell, Jodi Stephens and Carrie Trentham. The team presented its marketing plan for a product developed at Oklahoma State University. The product, "P.B. Slices," is a peanut butter slice that is very similar in appearance to a traditional cheese slice. The marketing plan was presented to a panel of three judges. The team members each had their own segment of the plan to present.

"Preparing for the contest required student to do a vast amount of research about product and possible marketing techniques," said Mr. Oehrtman. "The students also gained the experience of working together as a team over a period of seven months."

The team started working on their marketing plan in August. They were responsible for learning the terminology and different aspects of the contest. The students interviewed P.B. Slice developer Stuart Kennedy, toured the research facility where the product was developed and designed a marketing plan based upon their research. The Oklahoma State University team was eliminated in the first heat of the contest.

"We were very competitive," Amanda said. "Unfortunately, we ended up in the same heat as the first place team Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo." "You are always disappointed

when you don't win but the students learned very valuable lessons," said Mr. Oehrtman. "Working on the plan brings together topics they learn in many classes during their time at Oklahoma State University."

The career fair gave students the opportunity to meet business professionals in the agricultural marketing field. There were about 40 companies represented at the career fair, said Amanda.

"The networking opportunities available for the students are the most impressive part of the National Agricultural Marketing Conference," said Mr. Oehrtman. "The business professionals work very hard to include the students in all the conference activities."

"The student chapters are the jewel of National Agricultural Marketing Association," said Jim McGough from *Successful Farming*. "The business professionals understand how important the students are to the association."

The National Agricultural Marketing Association conference offered the Oklahoma State University marketing team the opportunity to compete on a national level, network with leading business professionals, and meet students interest in agriculture from across the country.

Patriotism in time of drought could be costly

This July Fourth will be the first celebration of Independence Day since the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York. It is only natural that citizens want to make this the best celebration ever!

Unfortunately, the traditional way we choose to celebrate this special day is through fireworks. People can expect that the public displays throughout the state and nation will be spectacular. They can also expect that many families and individuals will choose to mark the event by firing off a greater amount of their own fireworks.

However, this year, because of the drought in much of the country's heartland, this traditional celebration of national pride may need to be postponed or celebrated in another way. The county is now under a burn ban and no fires will be started including the lighting of fireworks.

Firemen and law officers will be on high alert as the day arrives as the threat of property loss is with injury and loss of life long a threat if people do not use extreme caution.

Adults and parents should be especially aware of where children are lighting fireworks and warn children

ahead of time of the potential danger. The burn ban established by the commissioners should also help if people will just follow the resolution and not burn.

"I urge government officials, fire service professionals, and fellow citizens to remember the tragedy of Sept. 11 and on July Fourth to celebrate the fact that our country remains strong and united. I also urge that every effort be made to avoid detracting from this great holiday by the careless use of fireworks," said State Fire Marshal Gale Haag.

Occasion Class of '62

The class of 1962 gathered at the firehouse beginning at 6 p.m. Friday evening with lots of good food and fellowship! Attendees at this 40th year celebration came from the east coast to the west coast! Sondra said "We truly had so much fun and enjoyed just being together."

Those who came were: Glenn Zwegardt Alfred, N.Y.; Spencer Graves San Jose, Calif.; Carol Schield Whipple, Mesa, Ariz.; Jacquie Ewing Hayes, Las Vegas, N.M.; Kathleen Habersbosch Wolfram, Arlington, TX; Janet Evins Carman, Dallas; Don Hall, Loveland, Colo; Chuck Wilson, Atlanta, Ga; Laurene Crabtree Rohl, Lawrence; Shirley Cramer Younts, Merriam; Carol Blume Redding, Waverly; Loretta Raile Touslee and

Jim Touslee, Robertsville, Mo; Janice Orth Durant, Lakewood; Phil Hinz, Medicine Lodge; Fred Isernhagen, Aurora; with the following St. Francis residents, Margaret Cooper Bucholtz, Sondra Dorsch Bracelin, Thad Douthit, Jr., Charles Mickey Graves, Ronnie Krien, Sandra Price Bandel, Gary Rogers, Danny Schlittenhardt, Eddy Schultz, Danny Siegfried, Myra Walz Douthit.

Saturday was devoted to playing golf, visiting the museum and visiting friends and family. The class again gathered at the firehouse in the afternoon for snacks, conversation and telling old stories and fessing up to several pranks which happened during our school days. In the late afternoon the class went to the high school for those famous pictures and

the wonderful meal, after which we returned to the firehouse for more conversation accompanied with a wine tasting event supplied by Fred Isernhagen, who is continuing the Isernhagen wine making tradition.

Sunday morning several gathered at the Dusty Farmer for breakfast, again enjoying each other's company. All had a wonderful time and shared e-mail addresses so that maybe we'll keep in closer contact with each other.

Many thanks to Gary and Carol Rogers for making arrangements for the firehouse and all the extra work they did. It was a very special reunion for all of us who were there.

If anyone has current addresses for Danny Smith, or Geraldine Johnston Durfee, please let one of us know.

Obituaries

Francis Edward Neville
Dec 14, 1914 - June 13, 2002

Francis Edward Neville was born December 14, 1914, in Eddyville, Neb. He was one of five children born to William and Jane (Wallace) Neville. His life of 87 years and 6 months ended on June 13, 2002, at the Sarah Ann Hester Memorial Home in Benkelman, Nebraska.

His early childhood days were spent in rural Eddyville, Neb., where he completed school through the eighth grade. At age 14, he moved with his parents, brothers, and sisters to Haigler, Neb. During the depression years, he worked in farm fields and at various other jobs - wherever work was available.

Francis was united in marriage to Velma Isabelle Myer on June 26, 1940, in Benkelman, Neb. Two children were born to this marriage: daughter, Barbara (Barby) Jane; and son, Edward (Eddie) Allen.

From September 1, 1944, to January 19, 1946, Francis served in the United States Navy. He achieved Seaman First Class and served on the USS Flagstaff Victory. Francis was awarded the American Area Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, and the World War II Victory Medal. He received his honorable discharge at the Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago, Ill. When he returned to Haigler, he worked many years as a mechanic for the Vic Stasser Garage and Dealership in Haigler. Francis and Velma also managed the Modern Motel in Haigler for several years. In 1963, Francis went to work for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission where he served for 17 years until his retirement in 1980. Through this work with the Nebraska Game and Parks, he and Velma moved from Haigler to Loup City, Neb., and then to Minatare, Neb. He received a 15 year service award from the Game and Parks Commission for his work in these state recreation areas. Fol-

lowing his retirement, he and Velma returned to the Haigler community to spend their retirement years.

Francis was always an "outdoors man." He had much love for nature and animals. Through all of his years; he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and the life of a sportsman. During his early retirement years, he was able to enjoy these activities even more. He especially liked to go elk hunting with his son in the Colorado Mountains, returning with many stories and pictures to share with the rest of his family.

In the 1990's Francis began to have health problems; and in 1994, he was taken to the Sarah Ann Hester Memorial Home in Benkelman. Suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, he was a resident of the Hester Home for the past 8 years, where he received excellent care from all the staff at the rest Home.

Francis was preceded in death by his parents, William and Jane (Wallace) Neville; one sister, Mary; and three brothers, Donald, James, and Wallace. Survivors include his wife, Velma, of Haigler; his daughter, Barbara of Denver; his son Edward and wife Dawn of Fleming, Colo; brother, Martin Neville and wife Frances of Chehalis, Wash; grandchildren, Bob Neville and wife, Delinda of Alliance, Neb; and Deb Wright and husband Brandon of Plainview, TX; great grandchildren, Beau and Carlie Neville of Alliance and nieces, nephews, and other rela-

tives.

Funeral services for Francis were held at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 17, 2002, at the Forch Funeral Chapel in Benkelman. Interment, with military honors, at the Haigler Cemetery.

Raymond Hilt
June 26, 1943 - June 11, 2002

Raymond Hilt, son of Emil and Lydia Hilt, was born June 26, 1943 in Cheyenne County, Kansas. He died June 11, 2002 in Colorado Springs. He was baptized and confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church. He attended rural grade school.

He was a resident of Cheyenne County, most of his life except for several years living in Denver and Grand Junction. He left Denver and came back to Cheyenne County to farm.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father. He is survived by his sisters, Martha Sletto and husband, Owen, of Denver; Lydia Bonnell of Arvada; Elsie Hilt Graham and husband, Frank of Morrison, Colo; and Loretta Gann of Laverne, Calif; brother Elmer Hilt and wife, Margaret; and Stanley Hilt of St. Francis.

The memorial service was held June 22 at the Knodel Funeral Home with Pastor Chris Farmer officiating. A special music tape was played with the songs "In The Garden" and "Near The Cross"

Interment was in Hope Valley Cemetery in Rural St. Francis, Kansas.

Postal rates to raise June 30

Another hike in postal rates will be in effect on June 30 when the cost for sending a first-class letter will go from 34 cents to 37 cents. It will now cost 23 cents for a first-class post card and the flat rate for 1 pound of Priority Mail will be \$3.85.

With the raise in rates, the postal service submitted to Congress a "Transformation Plan" for operating in the future. The postal service is

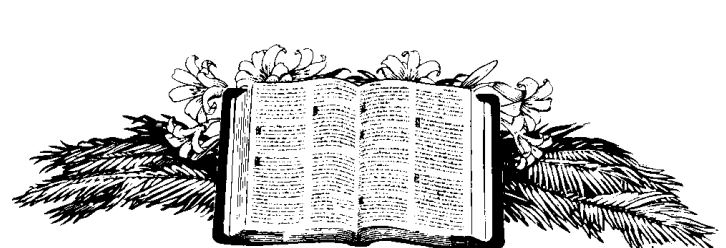
committed to saving \$5 billion over the course of the next five years, enabling them to hold prices steady until 2004. In the long term, the service is working with Congress to create a new business model that will redefine the nature of the postal service for the next 20 to 30 years.

Postal operations are not subsidized by tax dollars but, instead, revenue is generated from the sales of postal products and services. People in Japan pay the equivalent of 62 cents to mail a letter within their own country.

Steve Schultz, St. Francis postmaster, reported that 3-cent stamps can be purchased so people can use up the 34-cent stamps they have purchased in the past. The new stamps will be on sale on Monday, July 1.

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Independence Day Celebration

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