

# EGGS & "RIBBING": IT'S THE CHUCKWAGON TRADITION

By Melea Reicks Licht

**T**HE CATHEDRAL WINDOWS OF THE LIVESTOCK pavilion glow warm amber as day breaks on Iowa State campus. Within, a quiet roar of conversation builds as alumni, faculty and students gather for the annual Chuckwagon Breakfast. Animal science professors don aprons to fix omelets and chat over steaming camp stoves.

According to animal science lore, the event dates back to the mid-1970s when department chair Bud Ewing had the idea to host a social for the department at Brookside Park.

Doug Kenealy, University Professor of animal science, recalls the early days at Brookside.

"It was cooked on the Block & Bridle homemade charcoal grill, a monstrosity that could hold hundreds of bratwurst or pork chops, which were typical fare for early Chuckwagon Breakfasts," says Kenealy. "Inclement weather caught us more than once and umbrellas and parkas were seen on the cooks. So, at some point more than a decade ago, we moved to the Farm Bureau Pavilion, also known as the old ISU Meat Laboratory."

The Chuckwagon Breakfast has since become a staple on Homecoming morning on ISU campus. Bringing together 400-plus animal science students, alumni, faculty and friends, the event offers a chance to catch up on where life has taken them, share successes, solicit advice and do a bit of good-natured ribbing.

"People search out their favorite faculty to fix their omelet. Waiting for the omelet to cook gives us time for visiting,"

**"PEOPLE REALLY HAVE FUN WITH IT."**

says Steve Lonergan, professor of animal science and event chair. "I think its key to success is the relaxed atmosphere, the conversation and the slow pace of the event. People really have fun with it."

Lonergan jokes that faculty and staff volunteer to fill the cooking slots, but not everyone has what it takes. He says a few have been asked to "greet" rather than fix omelets. Maynard Hogberg, professor and chair of animal science, likes the way faculty and staff work together on the event.

"It is good for our faculty to work together in a social setting. It brings them together to get to know each other and build esprit de corps, or camaraderie," Hogberg says. "It also gives us a venue to share noteworthy occasions with our friends like recognizing past judging teams or honoring retirees."

The 2009 breakfast honored retirees Lloyd Anderson and Al Christian, who each served Iowa State for 50 years. The event also included the announcement of Marvin and Janice Walter's lead gift towards building a new Agriculture Pavilion. ⑤



Photos: Bob Elbert



**STORIES ONLINE EXTRA:**

For a slideshow of photos from the 2009 Chuckwagon Breakfast visit: [www.ag.iastate.edu/stories](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/stories).



**KENEALY EARNS NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD**

**Douglas Kenealy** ('69 dairy science, '74 PhD animal nutrition), professor of animal science, received the annual USDA Food and Agricultural Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award. Kenealy was one of two people to receive the national award, which encompasses all the food and agricultural disciplines. The award is based on teaching quality, philosophy and methodology; service to the profession and students; and professional growth and development.

**MILLER SERVES AS INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTENSION**

Longtime ISU faculty member and administrator **Gerald "Jerry" Miller** has been appointed interim vice president for extension and outreach, effective June 1. Miller ('71 MS agronomy, '74 PhD) will succeed Jack Payne, vice president for extension and outreach since 2006, who accepted a position at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Miller recently stepped down as the associate dean for extension programs and outreach and the director of Extension to Agriculture and Natural Resources in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

**AGRONOMY PROF NAMED AAAS FELLOW**

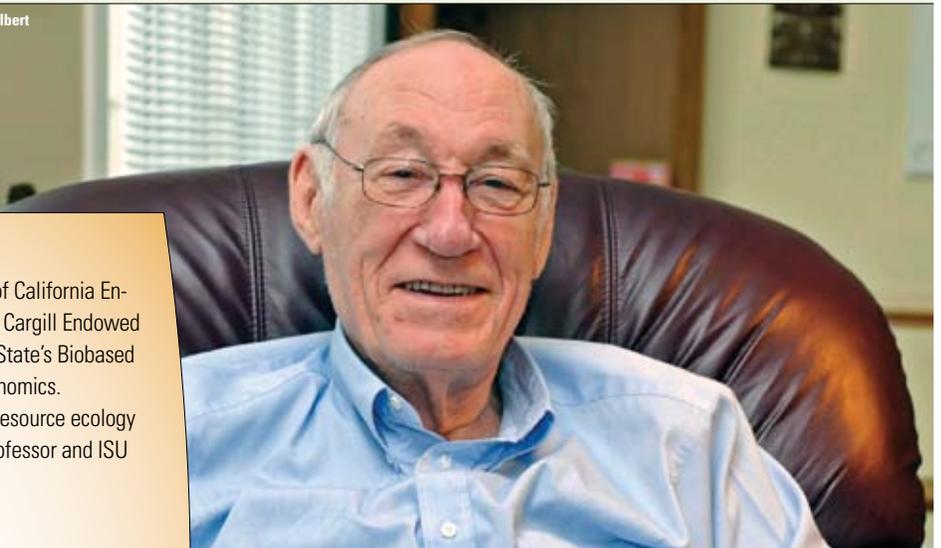
**Michael Thompson**, professor of agronomy, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is studying the environmental applications of soil science, including the molecular-scale interactions of organic chemicals with soil minerals and organic matter.



**LAWRENCE NAMED CALS ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR EXTENSION**

John Lawrence, economics, has been named College of Agriculture and Life Sciences associate dean of extension and outreach and director of Extension to Agriculture and Natural Resources. Lawrence ('84 animal science, '86 MS economics) replaces Gerald Miller who stepped down in March. Lawrence previously served as director of ISU's Iowa Beef Center.

Photo: Bob Elbert



**HEARTY HELLOS**

**James Bushnell**, formerly of the University of California Energy Institute, has been named Iowa State's first Cargill Endowed Chair in Energy Economics. He'll also lead Iowa State's Biobased Industry Center as an associate professor of economics.

**Rebecca Christoffel** has joined the natural resource ecology and management department as an assistant professor and ISU Extension wildlife specialist.

**FOND FAREWELLS**

**Jerry DeWitt** has retired after more than 30 years with ISU. DeWitt joined the entomology faculty in 1972. He worked in administration for ISU Extension, the National Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program of the USDA, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and, most recently, at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

**Roger Ginder**, professor in economics, has retired after 32 years of working with and for Iowa cooperatives. His research focused on agribusiness finance and management, cooperatives and agricultural marketing.

For a complete list of all new faculty and staff in the college from the past year, visit [www.ag.iastate.edu/stories](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/stories).

**IN MEMORIAM: LEE KOLMER, FORMER DEAN OF AGRICULTURE**

Former Dean of Agriculture **Lee Kolmer** died Jan. 18 at Kavanaugh Hospice in Des Moines from congestive heart failure. He was 82. Kolmer ('52 MS ag economics, '54 PhD) began his tenure as dean in 1972 and led the college through the farm crisis of the 1980s. Kolmer served Iowa State for most of his career. First as an Extension economist, then as Extension's state leader for agricultural and economic development, then as assistant dean of University Extension. His 14-year tenure as dean is especially remembered for his focus on increasing financial investment in agricultural research, expanding the college's international efforts and securing funds for scholarships and several college facilities. Kolmer was featured in the Spring 2008 issue of STORIES in Agriculture and Life Sciences. To read the story visit [www.ag.iastate.edu/stories](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/stories).