

AGGIE ANNEX

OCTOBER 2016

SOUTHERN REGION NEWS

BY MAMIE POWELL

Hello from the Southern Region! As you read this report, hopefully it will bring back fond memories of a summer full of wonderful experiences like county and local fairs; Alyson Tulluch, at **Ramona HS** in the San Diego Section shared that she got married! The wonderful event and gorgeous ceremony was held on their family's summer pasture in Mount Laguna, California on July 9, 2016. She and her husband then left for two weeks to see Germany, Scotland, and Ireland to learn a bit more about their heritage. She says she saw "lots of cool things" but she admits, "...the ag geek in me had to visit local farm stores!" Something, I am sure none of US...all of US...do on our personal vacations. So, what does this have to do with county and local fairs? Alyson managed to squeeze this all in between TWO fairs, the San Diego County Fair at Del Mar (June 27 – July 5) and the Ramona Junior Fair (Aug 1-6). Awesome job Alyson! By the way, there won't be any more confusion between mom Tulluch and daughter Tulluch...Alyson is now Mrs. Connolly.

This brings us to fond memories of CATA Summer Conference; 100 degrees and windy. FFA officer retreats; region, section and local chapters, the workshops, presentations, ice-breakers, driving, camping, cooking, officer handbooks, Program of Work, etc. and professional growth; Rob Gaebe from **San Marcos HS** in the San Diego Section shared his experience at the Conservation Research In-service at the San Diego Zoo/Safari Park. He wrote:

If you ever have a free week in July to attend a Conservation Research In-service at the San Diego Zoo/Safari Park, you must take advantage of the opportunity. It was by far, the best one-week professional development workshop I've ever attended. Below is a list of just a few of the guest speakers, activities, and labs that were provided:

- ◆ California Condor Genetics Lab
 - ◆ NGSS Behavior Inquiry Studies of Gorillas, Lemurs, Elephants, etc.
 - ◆ Outdoor Education options studying native and invasive species
 - ◆ US Fish & Wildlife Guest Speakers and their resources for teachers
 - ◆ Tour of the Safari Park Veterinary Hospital
- The website sandiegozoo.org has many useful ideas/lessons that can be used in your classroom. The application process starts in February/March every year. For more information on how to apply, contact Kimberly Kutina at teacher-workshops@sandiegozoo.org.
- Angie Bacon of **Covina HS** in the Orange Section shared that construction has finally started to happen at the Covina HS Farm. The first phase (solar) is almost complete and the second phase of completely rebuilding the farm will start after that. The whole process to rebuild, modernize and enlarge, to double the current size, will take close to three years. This has been a project in the works for five years. She states, "...it is super exciting for me and the students to see it finally start."
- Indio HS** is looking forward to the completion of their long awaited new facilities. Yes, move in is scheduled for...wait for it...wait for it...WINTER BREAK!! Yay! Yes, you all know what we will be up to for the holidays. We are very excited and do look forward to our new digs.
- Memories of our Southern Region Fall Conference and Inservice held in Palm Springs by the Riverside Section. Tours of The Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Joshua Tree National Park Ecology Tour, Andreas Canyon Tour, Cabot's Pueblo Museum, Coachella Valley Preserve – Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve, Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Brewing Company, Grounds and Animal Handler Tour of the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa, Coachella Valley Water District, Ocean Mist and Coachella Valley Canal.
- Finally, fond summer memories of personal growth. I hope that all of you, now deep in the trenches of the business of being an agriculture teacher, found time to rest, reflect and
- ◆ Value of Biodiversity Speaker- Maggie Reinbold, Director of IFCR
 - ◆ Beckman Center Tour of the Institute for Conservation Research
 - ◆ Caravan Safari Tour and Behind the Scenes of the Tiger Trail
 - ◆ African Elephant Reproductive Endocrinology Lab
 - ◆ Desert Tortoise Spatial Ecology Lab

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regenerate. I hope you reconnected with family and friends and respected your time away from the profession. Hard to deny the ag geek that resides in all of our hearts and in that case, I hope you gave yourselves time to look at it and use it in a way to inspire your ideas for this new school year.

I am nearly to the end of my report. I just want to put out a message to Art Boster and his family that the Southern Region sends their thoughts and love.

CATA take very good care of yourselves and each other. Enjoy the new school year!

2016 CATA SUMMER CONFERENCE



2015-2016 CATA State Officer Team

Clay Freeman - Foothill High School,
Ralph Mendes - Kern ROC,
Robin Grundmeyer - Norco High School,
Dave Gossman - Atwater High School,
and Mike Albiani - Elk Grove High School

Captain Mooney welcoming all the passengers onboard at the Annual CATA Awards Banquet.



2016 Retirees

Seated (L-R): Steve Obad, George Green, Roy Beck

Standing (L-R): Cindy Brown, Monica Bianchi

Not pictured: Jaime Farao, Pj LoCoco, Roy Swift, Chuck Carson, Rose Krueger, Bruce Ritchey, Linda Todd, Luke Larson, Rob Norwood, and Susan Young.

CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY COLLEEN LAWSON

It's back to school and back to cool here in the Central Region! From fairs, officer retreats, and CATA Summer Conference; it's been an exciting summer. Here's what has been going on:

Delta-Cal Section

The **Bret Harte Agriculture Department** is thrilled to announce their new hire: Trevor Ariola. Also, Carrie Phillips has stepped into the role as the new department chair.

The **Tokay Agriculture Department** welcomes Daniel Barrett to their program. Daniel is returning to his Delta-Cal roots as he is a graduate of Escalon High School. Tokay is excited to have him on board! Tokay is also thrilled to welcome their student teacher, Stacy Stroing from UC Davis.

Excitement is in the air at **Lathrop High School** as they have also been able to add a new teacher, Katie Milam. Katie is originally from Ripon High School and served as their chapter president for one year. She is a proud alumna of Fresno State. She taught at Laton for one year before moving to Lathrop. Her position will allow the program to grow by about 180 students. Lathrop is also ecstatic to have their first American Degree recipient. Being a young program with 99% of the students living in town, an American Degree is a major accomplishment!!!

At the **Manteca Unified School District** school farm, the sheep and goat co-ops bought two new bucks to enhance their program. They have started raising wether sires and one of their own babies placed first in his class at the San Joaquin County Ag Fest. A special thank you goes out to Gypsy Stark from Escalon for helping them along the way. The MUSD school farm is also starting a pig co-op with direction from Chris Livengood and Heather Nolan. Exciting stuff taking place and the farm is becoming a busy place!!!!

It is bittersweet that **San Joaquin Delta College** announces the retirement of Michael Toscano. He has been with the college since 1995. After 21 years of dedication and a focus on Ornamental Horticulture, Mr. Toscano plans to retire in May. On behalf of the Central Region we wish him a very relaxing and happy retirement.

Merced-Mariposa Section

Gustine High School would like to welcome Sarah Thommen to the Gustine ag program. We are excited to add an additional teacher with the knowledge and experience that Sarah brings. Sarah has a love for plants and flowers and is excited to start up the floral program along with teaching

Introduction to Ag and Ag Biology.

Sacramento Section

The **Galt Agriculture Department** is excited to welcome JessaLee Goehring to their program. JessaLee is originally from Lodi where she taught at Lodi High School for the past 12 years. She is a Teacher of Excellence bringing expertise in Floral Design, Vegetable Crops, Agriscience and various SAE and CDE areas. She will be teaching the Ag Soil Chemistry and Floral classes and is a welcome addition to the program!

There are many new additions and exciting change happening at the **Elk Grove Agriculture Department**. Courtney Wright, alumna of Chico State, was hired to teach Introduction to Agriculture and Earth Science this year; she also got married this June. Elk Grove also welcomed student teacher Raven Castro. Raven is from Winters but earned her undergraduate degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and is earning her credential through UC Davis. She will be teaching Ag Biology as she finishes her student teaching program. Finally, they welcomed the newest edition to the ag family as Colleen Lawson welcomed her baby girl Evie Marie - born July 6th!

Stanislaus-Tuolumne Section

Mark Bender is formally retiring from **CSU, Stanislaus** on May 31. We wish him a marvelous retirement!

Tri-Rivers Section

Turlock High School is happy to announce their new hire, Chad Booth. Originally from Idaho, Chad is a graduate of CSU, Chico and will teach Animal Science, Ag Engineering, and Ag Geoscience. This new addition brings Turlock's agriculture staff to five instructors!

Several of our Central Region colleagues were recognized at the CATA Summer Conference this year. Those awarded were: **Teacher of Excellence**- Marlene Hepner (Tracy - Merrill West HS), Celeste Jones - Morino (Ripon HS), Mandy Garner (Galt - Liberty Ranch HS), and Sonia Falaschi (Los Banos HS).

Outstanding Teacher -- Dr. Lynn Martindale (UC Davis).

Congratulations to all of our outstanding programs and educators! Finally, we wish all of the individuals and programs competing at this year's National FFA Convention the best of luck in Indy!