

Agricultural Alumni Association Honors Three at Spring Event

# Innovation



Greg Zolnerowich (L-R), professor of entomology; Justin Gilpin, CEO of Kansas Wheat; and Steven Hunt, co-founder of U.S. Premium Beef; were honored by the College of Agriculture Alumni Association on May 4 during Wild for Ag Weekend activities.

Steven Hunt, one of the founders of U.S. Premium Beef; Justin Gilpin, CEO of Kansas Wheat; and Greg Zolnerowich, professor of entomology, were honored for their innovative contributions to agriculture and Kansas by the College of Agriculture Alumni Association during its 12th annual Wild for Ag festivities.

## Distinguished Alumnus

During a May 4 reception at the K-State Alumni Center, Hunt accepted the Distinguished Alumnus Award from board member Kelli Ludlum (BS '99 agricultural economics), Arlington, Va.

Hunt, Liberty, Mo., is an adviser to U.S. Premium Beef LLC. He helped found the company in 1996 and served as its CEO from its formation until January 2013.

After completing a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics in 1981, Hunt worked in many areas of

commercial banking, including direct agricultural lending, credit training, finance, international and commercial lending, and pursued his lifelong interest in production agriculture.

Hunt has held a seat on the National Beef Packing Company Board of Directors for 16 years and is active in various trade and civic organizations.

He was named the college's 2001 Outstanding Young Alumnus and the 2002 Distinguished Alumnus for the Department of Agricultural Economics. *Beef* magazine listed Hunt in its "Beef Top 40" of individuals who influenced the beef industry over the last 40 years.

Hunt credited his parents Don (BS '56 animal science) and Barbara, and his wife Mary as well as K-State faculty for his success.

"Bryan Schurle, professor of agricultural economics, and other teachers provided me with a sense of what I could accomplish and the tools to succeed," said Hunt.

# Rewarded

## Outstanding Young Alumnus

Kelsey Holste (BS '05 agribusiness, MS '09 agricultural economics), Manhattan, presented the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award to Justin Gilpin, a 1998 milling science and management graduate.

Since 2009, Gilpin has led Kansas Wheat, a cooperative agreement between the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

He also serves as chairman of Heartland Plant Innovations and as a member of the Wheat Quality Council Board of Directors. Gilpin also holds an adjunct faculty position in K-State's Department of Grain Science and Industry.

Before accepting the CEO position, Gilpin worked at General Mills, Inc., where he coordinated logistics for three flour mills. From 2000 to 2006, Gilpin was an international marketing specialist for the Kansas Wheat Commission.

Gilpin has been involved in a number of U.S. Wheat Associates committees and is past-chair of the Kansas City Board of Trade Cash Basis Committee. He was recently recognized as an outstanding alumnus by the grain science and industry department.

"As a K-Stater, this award truly means a lot," Gilpin said. "I feel that I share this with the entire Kansas Wheat Innovation team because it is a true partnership between wheat farmers and K-State that is making a big difference in production agriculture."

Gilpin's family, many of them K-State graduates, were on hand for the award presentation.

## Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award

Former Associate Dean Dave Mugler's favorite quote is, "They don't care what you know until they know you care." Since 1999, the college has presented an annual award to a teacher who emulates Mugler's philosophy.

K-State professor Shannon Washburn (BS '95 agricultural education, MS '99 secondary education) recognized entomologist Greg Zolnerowich with the David J. Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award.

Zolnerowich joined the K-State faculty in 1999 and currently teaches seven undergraduate and graduate courses. He is best known for the course Insects and People. His enthusiasm for the subject matter and creative teaching style consistently earn high evaluations from students.

"I actually get paid to play with insects," Zolnerowich said. "Today's population is more removed from nature, so it's important for students to know the good things that insects do."

He quoted W.B. Yeats as his inspiration, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

Zolnerowich received the 2012 K-State Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the 2005 Commerce Bank Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching.

In addition to teaching, he serves as curator for the K-State Museum of Entomological and Prairie Arthropod Research in Waters Hall. He also has earned \$1.3 million in grant funds for his research program on insect systematics.

## Alumni Awards Nomination. Nominate someone or several for:

• Distinguished Alumnus Award • Outstanding Young Alumnus Award • David J. Mugler Teaching Award

### Criteria

#### To nominate someone for the Distinguished Alumnus Award or the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award:

- Submit a one-page nomination letter that describes how the nominee meets the award criteria.
- Include a resume, vita, or short biography.

#### To nominate someone for the David J. Mugler Teaching Award:

- Submit a one-page nomination letter describing how the nominee demonstrates Mugler's philosophy of dedication and caring for students in his or her teaching and advising roles.
- Two additional one-page letters of support also may be submitted.

*Please include your contact information, in case additional information is needed.*

Submit all nominations by Nov. 15, 2013, to:

Don Boggs, Agriculture Academic Programs, 117 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-4015 or [dboggs@ksu.edu](mailto:dboggs@ksu.edu)

Previous winners are listed on the College of Agriculture website.

Go to [www.ag.k-state.edu](http://www.ag.k-state.edu), click on Alumni & Friends, then Ag Alumni Awards.