



Newsmakers

► Items of interest **about** and **for** members of our Angus family. *Compiled by Linda Robbins.*

IN THE NEWS

John Riffle, Col. USAF ret., Pleasant Hill, Mo., celebrated his 95th birthday Nov. 14, 2010. He was born on that date in 1915, the first child of John V. and Barbara (Sulser) Riffle, on the family farm near Pleasant Hill. He attended Pleasant Hill schools, graduating from high school in 1933.

A World War II veteran and life member of the American Angus Association since 1978, he looks forward to his 100th birthday.

The **Driscoll Family of Walridge Farms**, Williamsburg, Iowa, has been named Iowa's Seedstock Producer of the Year. The award, sponsored by the Iowa Beef Breeds Council, will be presented to the Driscoll Family Feb. 14 at the Expo Kick-Off Program scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the cattle barn foyer at the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

The Seedstock Producer of the Year is a coveted award among Iowa's purebred breeders. The purpose of the award is to honor outstanding cattle producers in

the seedstock industry. Each purebred breed association is given the opportunity to nominate one candidate for the award. Applications are reviewed by a Seedstock Committee, which gives careful consideration to producers' programs in their entirety, including recordkeeping, industry participation and leadership, merchandising programs, selection criteria and herd improvement over time.

Walridge Farms has been in the seedstock cattle business for 100 years, raising Angus cattle. The Driscolls currently manage 378 cows. Performance records have been kept for 100 years, and Walridge Farms has been a member of the Iowa Angus Association for 70 years and the American Angus Association for more than 80 years. Walridge Farms annually sells 60-80 bulls private treaty, providing their customers with all the performance data they have available and helping customers market their calves. In the 1970s, Walridge Farms was instrumental in starting one of the first black-hided

feeder-calf sales. In 1990 it was expanded to a pen show and sale in which consignors would enter pens of calves from the lots they brought to the sale. Walridge Farms genetics have been sold to 38 states and nine countries.

The foundation of this herd goes back to John T. Driscoll and his son, John V. Driscoll. They purchased their first purebred Angus bull in 1910. A few years later they began buying registered Angus cows. By 1923, the herd had become all registered cattle along with the addition of the third generation of cattlemen, John V. (Jack) Driscoll Jr. The fourth and fifth generation of Driscolls are actively engaged in the Angus business today, including C. Elliott Driscoll and Erle G. Driscoll. Elliott's first child was born in 1972 and his first son, John W., in 1975, making the fifth generation. John W.'s mother is the daughter of the late W.J. Leahy, another prominent Iowa County, Iowa, Angus breeder, making him a "doublebred" potential Angus breeder.

North Dakota Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Bismarck, Nov. 20, 2010

► The North Dakota Angus Ass'n officers and board of directors are (seated, from left) **Joel Opp**, Hebron; **Nathan Spickler**, Glenfield, secretary-treasurer; **Brad Tokach**, Saint Anthony, president; **Chad Ellingson**, Saint Anthony, immediate past president; **Richard Koski**, Wing; **Craig Burchill**, Page; and **Mike Wendel**, Lamoure; (standing, from left) **Julie Ellingson**, Saint Anthony; **Terry Carter**, Rocklake; **Zachary Hall**, Bismarck; **Matt Tastad**, Rolette; **Peter Best**, Watford City, vice president; **Steven Gilje**, Rolette; **Jonathan Marohl**, Solen; and **Troy Vollmer**, Wing.



PHOTOS COURTESY AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION



► **Left: Jallo Angus Ranch**, Fordville, was named as the recipient of the North Dakota Angus Ass'n Breeder of the Year Award. Accepting the award are (from left) Darrell, Debbie and Jason Jallo.



► **Right: Carl Miller** (right), Saint Anthony, was the recipient of the North Dakota Angus Ass'n Man of the Year Award. Accepting the award with Carl is his wife, Margaret.



► **Karen and Wayne Gerbig**, Amidon, receive the North Dakota Angus Ass'n Commercial Breeder of the Year Award.

■ **Nebraska Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Kearney, Dec. 11, 2010**

► The Nebraska Angus Ass'n officers and board members are (seated, from left) **Kory Ostrand**, Mason City; **Suzy Hebert**, Ashby, secretary-treasurer; **Lori Wagner**, Genoa, president; **Randy Pettera**, McCook, vice president; (back row, from left) **Leslie Hall**, Bassett; **Dru Uden**, Franklin; **Trevor Lienemann**, Princeton; and **Clayton Glause**, Fremont.



► **Schurrtop Angus and Charolais**, Farnam, was the recipient of the Nebraska Angus Ass'n Producer of the Year Award. Pictured are (from left) Kay and John Schurr.



► **James and Twila Johnson**, Frontier Angus Farm, Stockville, receive the Nebraska Angus Ass'n Pioneer Producer Award.



► **Ron Sabata**, North Platte, was honored for his dedication as Central District director.



► **Dick and Marcia Nelson**, Twin Mills Angus Ranch, Ansley, receive the Nebraska Angus Ass'n Pioneer Producer Award.



► **Joan and the late Richard Peterson** of Windmill Ranch, Haigler, were honored with the Nebraska Angus Ass'n Pioneer Producer Award. Pictured accepting the award are (from left) Alex and Joan Peterson.

Robert Schlutz, Columbus Junction, Iowa, has been named by the Iowa Beef Breeds Council as the recipient of the Friend of the Iowa Beef Expo Award. Schlutz will be receiving this award for his contribution and support of the Iowa Beef Expo, now in its 35th year. Schlutz will be recognized and presented with the award by the Iowa Beef Breeds Council at the Kick-Off Program scheduled for Feb. 14.

Schlutz has served on the Board of Directors for the American Angus Association and was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation in 2009. Schlutz and his wife, Marillyn, own and operate Da-Es-Ro Angus Farms in Columbus Junction and have been life members of the American Angus Association since 1952.

Thorstenson Gelbvieh & Angus, Selby, S.D., was named Breeder of the Month by Walter & Associates LLC, the Centralized Ultrasound Processing Lab (CUP Lab) for December 2010.

Vaughn and Wendy Thorstenson and their daughters, Gina, Kendra, Jana and Kara, manage around 750 cows, continuing a family tradition. Thorstenson cattle have been roaming Walworth County since 1885. Primarily a Shorthorn ranch in the early years, it turned its focus to Gelbvieh and the seedstock end of the business in the 1970s. The Thorstensons have been members of the American Angus Association since 1966.

They raise registered Gelbvieh and Angus, and Gelbvieh and Angus Balancers on the high plains of central South Dakota. They ultrasound all their heifers, saying it's a great tool when choosing replacement heifers. They also think it has helped with their end product. Steers sold to U.S. Premium Beef (USPB) now grade 85% Choice or better.

The Thorstensons also use DNA testing, though Vaughn Thorstenson says he prefers to use both DNA and ultrasound.

Leo McDonnell, Columbus, Mont., and **Vaughn Meyer**, Reva, S.D., American Angus Association Board members, were among the 40 appointments to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Dec. 7, 2010. All appointees will serve three-year terms.

The Board oversees the collection of \$1 per head on all cattle sold in the United States, and \$1-per-head equivalent on imported cattle, beef and beef products. In addition, the Board contracts with established national, nonprofit, industry-governed organizations to implement programs of promotion, research, consumer information, industry information, foreign marketing and producer communications.

The 106-member Board is authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985. The Secretary selects the appointees

nominated by beef, veal, dairy and importer certified organizations.

■ **IN PASSING**

James (J.V.) Heyser, 88, Cisco, Texas, died Oct. 26, 2010, at his home.

J.V. was born in Cisco March 14, 1922, to Beulah (Lambert) and James Heyser Sr. He was a graduate of Cisco High School and Cisco Junior College. He attended Texas Wesleyan University, where he played basketball.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and married Helen Britschgi April 27, 1946, in Berkeley, Calif. J.V. owned and operated Heyser Trucking and raised registered Angus cattle.

He was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church in Cisco. J.V. was a member of the Texas Angus Association and a life member since 1967 of the American Angus Association. He was also a member of the Texas Cattle Raisers Association, Cisco Lions Club, Lake Cisco Country Club and Lakeside Country Club in Eastland. He was a Scout Master of Troup 101.

J.V. served as Justice of the Peace in Precinct 4 for eight years, and served on the Cisco ISD School Board for 12 years.

In addition to his wife, J.V. is survived by daughters Sheri and Sicily; sons Al and Joe; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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Rea Reid, 77, Lebanon, Mo., died Nov. 29, 2010, at his home.

Rea was born March 18, 1933, near Falcon, Mo., to Chester and Myrtle (Percy) Reid. He married Ida Mae Jones Oct. 18, 1952.

He began working as a civil service employee at Fort Leonard Wood, serving in several positions there. Later in his 30-year career as a civil servant he transferred to Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nev.

He and Ida co-founded Shepherd Hills Gift Shop in 1972, and saw that company flourish into the Shepherd Hills Factory Outlets of today, with locations in seven states. He was co-founder of a purebred Angus cattle operation known as Shepherd Hills XX Cattle Co. Rea had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1970.

He retired in 1980. He was a longtime member of First United Methodist Church in Lebanon. He was a member of Laclede County Masonic Lodge No. 83 A.F. & A.M. in Lebanon and was a 32nd Degree Mason through the Scottish Rite Valley of Joplin.

In addition to his wife, Rea is survived by sons Rod and Randy; brother Rick; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

J.C. Stair, 74, Drasco, Ark., died Dec. 5, 2010, at the Stone County Medical Center in Mountain View, Ark.

Born April 11, 1936, at Ben, Ark., he was the son of Clyde and Fern (Cochran) Stair.

J.C. and his wife ran a registered black Angus farming/ranching operation with the assistance of their son. He was a 55-year life

member of the American Angus Association; a member of the Northeast Arkansas Angus Association, affiliated with the Arkansas Angus Association; the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association; the Cleburne County Cattlemen's Association; and the Stone County Cattlemen's Association. He was a member of the Farm Bureau and had served on the Stone County Fair Board.

He served in the National Guard, Unit 172 Maintenance, in Heber Springs, Ark. He and his wife, Trudy, celebrated 51 years of marriage in August 2010. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and was a member of the Church of Christ.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by son Kevin; daughters Debra and Marla; brothers Calvin and Hayden; sister Frances; and six grandchildren.

Katheryn "Miss Kitty" Robertson, 87, Aldie, Va., died Dec. 6, 2010.

Miss Kitty was born Sept. 23, 1923. She and her husband, Marvin "Robby" Robertson, were joint owners of Whitestone Farm in Aldie.

In addition to her husband, Miss Kitty is survived by daughter Nancy and grandsons Robert and Michael.

Roger "Red" Brooks, 52, Tazewell, Tenn., died Dec. 10, 2010, at Mercy Hospital in Knoxville, Tenn.

Red graduated in 1980 with high honors from the University of Tennessee, earning a bachelor's degree in animal science. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of New Tazewell.

Red was a lifelong cattleman, a lifelong

member of the American Hereford Association and a member of the American Angus Association. He was a respected member of the purebred cattle industry and was loved by all who knew him. True to his vibrant spirit and generosity, he was an organ donor to other families.

Red is survived by his parents, Bill and Jean Brooks; brothers Richard and Robert; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and nieces and nephews.

Wythe Willey, 68, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died Dec. 19, 2010, after a two-year battle against cancer.

A tireless advocate for small family farms, healthy agriculture and effective government, Willey called himself a cattleperson first, and continued to run his family's century farm and ranch near Maquoketa throughout his life. His parents were F.E. Wirth Willey and Elfrieda (Carstensen) Willey. Willey & Son had been life members of the American Angus Association since 1957.

His love of agriculture took him from two championships for reserve cattle at the Iowa State Fair while in high school to two terms as president of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association to president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).

Willey won critical legislation that ensured equal opportunity for the beef industry in the marketplace and successfully advocated to bring a state-of-the-art beef packing facility to Iowa. His law practice focused primarily on agricultural interests, in particular, property rights issues.

Willey served for 10 years as chief of staff to former Iowa Gov. Robert Ray, and ran Iowa field operations for Sen. Chuck Grassley. It was while on Sen. Grassley's staff that Willey met his wife of 25 years, Susan, who served as tax counsel.

President George Bush appointed Willey to his advisory committee on trade policy. He was one of five appointed by Gov. Terry Branstad to redraw congressional districts in Iowa following the 1990 census.

His interest in politics began while he earned a bachelor's degree at Iowa State University (ISU) and continued while he was a law student at the University of Iowa Law School, where he graduated in 1967. He was active in the Young Republicans and ran the campaign for the Republican congressional candidate in the district that included Cedar Rapids.

In addition to his wife, Willey is survived by their two children, Katherine and James; his three children, Joe, Audra and Jeff, and their mother and his first wife, Ruth Burton; sisters Madeline, Sara and Carla; uncle Ingwer Carstensen; and six grandchildren.

Glen Eikmeier, 74, Pipestone, Minn., died

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Dec. 24, 2010, at his home on the family farm where he was born Aug. 5, 1936, to Earl and Edith (Young) Eikmeier.

He was baptized and confirmed at Salem Evangelical United Brethren, a country church near their farm. He attended Dailey Country School in Moody County for grades 1 through 7, and then rode with his brother and cousins to Jasper, where he graduated from high school in 1954. He attended South Dakota State College (now SDSU) in Brookings, receiving a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry in 1958.

Glen and Karen Thielsen were married Aug. 9, 1957, at the United Methodist Church in Flandreau, Minn., and have attended there ever since. He returned to the farm after college graduation and worked for the partnership of his dad and uncles, Earl and Harry, Eikmeier Bros., also known as Elmdale Farms. They raised registered Angus cattle. Glen started his farm business, Eikmeier Livestock Systems, in 1982. Health problems forced him to quit in 2000.

Glen was a member of the United Methodist Church, Alpha Zeta Fraternity, SDSU, and past president of the Minnesota Angus Association. He had been a life

member of the American Angus Association since 1972. He was the Pipestone County 4-H volunteer livestock judging coach for many years. He earned the American Angus Association's certified judging award and judged many shows.

In addition to his wife, Glen is survived by sons Gary and Alan; daughters Linda and Mary; brother Dale; and 10 grandchildren.

Ed Lidvall Jr., 87, Maryville, Tenn., died Dec. 26, 2010, at the Shannondale Health Center in Maryville.

Ed was born Aug. 5, 1923, in Fort Dodge, Iowa, the first of two sons of Ed and Hattie Lidvall. He grew up on the family farm, where he developed a lifelong appreciation for agriculture and animal science.

After volunteering for military service in the Army Air Corps in 1943, where he was a bomber pilot and flight instructor, he received a bachelor's degree from ISU in animal science in 1948.

It was during his college days that he met Dorthe (Dee) Hausmann, who became his wife of more than 60 years.

Ed received a master's degree from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UTK) in 1952, and went on to become a tenured professor of 39 years. He earned many distinguished teaching awards, including

the 1978 University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award, the 1969 College of Agriculture Outstanding Teacher Award and the 1980 Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Merit Award.

"Prof," as he was called, was a nationally recognized livestock judge, winning national championships as both a team member at ISU and as coach at UTK in 1962. Prof also served as national grand president of his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho.

Progressive Farmer magazine named him Man of the Year in 1988.

In addition to his wife, Ed is survived by sons Van, Dale and Ned; five grandchildren; and the countless students and friends whose lives he touched.

Flynn Stewart, 95, CPA, Wichita Falls, Texas, died Dec. 31, 2010, in Wichita Falls.

Flynn was born Jan. 26, 1915, in the Rock Hill Community south of Bowie, Montague County, Texas, to Cap and Annie (Bell) Stewart. He attended the Rock Hill School and graduated from Bowie High School in 1930. He worked on the family farm after graduation before enrolling in Draughon's Business College in Wichita Falls.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls from 1939 until his

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passing, and served as a Deacon. In 1938, he moved to Clinton, Okla., as the first accountant for a young company, White's Auto Stores. He became their chief accountant, and, while working in Clinton, he met his future bride, Dewey Adeline Hatchett, also employed by White's. In 1939, White's moved their headquarters to Wichita Falls, and Flynn and Dewey were married in 1940.

During World War II, Flynn worked as an auditor for Consolidated Vultee Aircraft, a Fort Worth manufacturer of aircraft for the war effort. He remained at Consolidated Vultee until the end of the war, when he returned to Wichita Falls and White's Auto Stores.

He left White's to open his own certified public accountant (CPA) practice in Wichita Falls in 1946. His accounting practice grew to become the firm of Stewart, Davis, Mathis and West. When that firm dissolved in 1970, he formed the firm of Stewart and Rariden, later Stewart, Rariden and Miller. In his later years he had a private practice until his retirement in 2001.

He was a widely recognized tax accountant, and served on the National Livestock Tax Committee, an industry group, and testified before the House Ways and Means Committee on behalf of livestock industry interests. He was involved in several important Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Tax Court rulings.

During the late 1940s and 1950s, he accumulated property around the old family farm in the Rock Hill Community, which had remained under family ownership, with only a short break, since 1886. He raised registered Angus cattle, and was president of

the Texas Angus Association. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association in the early 1960s, served as president of the Association in 1969, and represented the American Angus Association overseas in several world conferences. He had been a life member of the Association since 1950.

Flynn was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He had a passion for family, and had done extensive genealogical research, which he could recite up until his death. He took great pride in knowing the ages and birthdates of even his great-grandchildren.

Flynn is survived by sons Thomas, Flynn II and James; daughters Nancy and Elizabeth; 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

ANGUS ARRIVALS

Tosha and Perry Powell, Olathe, Kan., announce the birth of their daughter, **Ella Mackenzie**, born Oct. 24, 2010. She weighed 7 lb., 11 oz., and was 21 in. long.

Grandparents are Dennis and Cindy Turner of Amber, Okla., and Bill and Claudia Powell of Sapulpa, Okla.

Tosha is a former assistant editor for the *Angus Journal* and the *Angus Beef Bulletin*.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Lara Wurtz has been added to the staff at the CUP Lab as an operations assistant.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced 40 appointments to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board Dec. 7, 2010.

Newly appointed members representing cattle producers are: **Eric Smith**, Ala.; **Weldon Wynn**, Ark.; **James Maxey** and **Manuel Rodrigues**, Calif.; **Harold Wick**,

Colo.; **James Lefils**, Fla.; **Dan Hinman**, Idaho; **Jeanne Harland**, Ill.; **Donald Gurtner**, Ind.; **William Frazee** and **Kent Pruismann**, Iowa; **Brittany Howell** and **Steve Irsik**, Kan.; **Julianna Jepson**, Ky.; **Paul Kent**, Minn.; **Howard Hardecke** and **Brenda Black**, Mo.; **Albert Davis** and **David Wright**, Neb.; **Patricia Bikowsky**, N.Y.; **Elwood Barth**, N.D.; **Peter Guglielmino**, Northwest Unit; **Davis Denman**, Ohio; **Brett Morris**, **Brian Healey** and **Terry Detrick**, Okla.; **Patricia Venable**, Ore.; **Daniel Kniffen**, Pa.; **Linda Crumley**, Southeast Unit; **Ronald Yeargin**, Tenn.; **Charles Kiker III**, **Charles Ezer**, **Anne Anderson**, **V. Anne Wirtz**, and **Jackie Means**, Texas; **Joseph Guthrie**, Va.; and **Alvin Bartz**, Wis. The newly appointed member representing importers is **Lawrence Bryant**, Va.

All appointees will serve three-year terms.

Traci Bruckner, assistant policy director at the Center for Rural Affairs, has been elected chair of the recently reconstituted USDA Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. Secretary Vilsack appointed 11 new members to the 20-member board in August 2010, with the stated purpose of advising the Secretary on the development of programs that provide coordinated assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers while maximizing new farming and ranching opportunities.

In addition to Bruckner, the nine incumbent members of the committee are **Ray Ellenberger**, Madison, Wis.; **Lisa Koester**, Wadesville, Ind.; **Karen Kritz**, Pemberton, N.J.; **Ryan Luter**, Morison, Okla.; **Maria Moreira**, Lancaster, Mass.; **Mary Peabody**, Burlington, Vt.; **Amarjit Sohal**, Yuba City, Calif.; and **Jeffrey Ward**, Windsor Height, Iowa.

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The 11 new members of the committee are **Luciano Alvarado**, Fayetteville, N.C.; **Bryan Barrett**, Gering, Neb.; **Francis Benton-Gibson**, Manning, S.C.; **Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant**, Greenview, Ill.; **Duncan Chembezi**, Madison, Ala.; **Dalton Henry**, Manhattan, Kan.; **Barbara Norman**, Covert, Mich.; **Rebecca Padilla**, Clovis, N.M.; **Anusuya Rangarajan**, Freeville, N.Y.; **Peter Scheffert**, Northfield, Minn.; and **Maykla Yang**, Carthage, N.C.

Vilsack has named 20 individuals to serve two-year terms as members of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (see page 169).

Committee members are **Mazimiliano Fernandez**, a cattle and sheep rancher from Wash.; **John Fischer**, a professor of wildlife disease for the University of Georgia in Athens; **Andrew Goodwin**, professor of aquaculture at the University of Arkansas; **Vicki Hebb**, member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe who raises cows, calves and bucking horses; **Howard Hill**, a veterinarian and pork production virologist from Iowa State University; **Donald Hoening**, a state veterinarian from Maine; **Morris Johnson**, a livestock framer from Arkansas; **John Kalmey**, a dairy, corn and alfalfa farmer from Kentucky; **Charles Massengill**, former epidemiologist and animal health laboratory director for the Missouri Department of Agriculture and Animal Health; **David Meeker**, senior vice president of Scientific Services, National Renderers Association from Virginia; **Judith McGeary**, a sustainable farmer and attorney on agricultural law from Texas; **Boyd Parr**, state veterinarian from South Carolina; **S. Gennell Pridgen**, a small farm livestock producer from South Carolina; **Willie Reed**, dean for the school of veterinary medicine at Purdue University in Indiana; **Charles Rogers**, a livestock dealer and marketer from New Mexico; **Philip Stayer**, a poultry veterinarian from Mississippi; **Gilles Stockton**, a ranch operator and farmer from Montana; **Brian Thomas**, a cattle producer from the Duck Valley Reservation; **Elizabeth Wagstrom**, a swine veterinarian from Minnesota; and **Cindy Wolf**, a sheep and cattle farmer and ruminant specialist from Minnesota.

Ken Grecian of Palco is the new president of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA). **Frank Harper** of Sedgwick is the new KLA president elect for the 5,500-member organization.

Fred Davies Jr., who has been with Texas

AgriLife Research since 1979, was named Regents Professor by the Texas A&M University (TAMU) system's board of regents. Regents Fellow Service Awards were presented to **Robert Chapkin**, 21 years with AgriLife Research; **Gary Clayton**, 31 years with Texas AgriLife Extension Service and recently retired; and **Travis Miller**, 31 years with AgriLife Extension.

Aidan Connolly, vice president of corporate accounts at Alltech, has been appointed as associate professor at University College Dublin (UCD) School of Business, for a five-year period until November 2015.

Sherry Duvall Ford has moved into the newly created role of head of community engagement for Syngenta. In this position, Ford will be responsible for building the company reputation through community and corporate partnerships, developing business-driven community engagement strategies, and overseeing corporate sponsorships and donations.



Editor's Note: This column is compiled by Assistant Editor Linda Robbins. To submit your "Newsmaker" item, e-mail lrobbins@angusjournal.com or call 816-383-5245.