Animal Sciences 2009 NEWSLETTER

Judging Teams place first at Intercollegiate contests

Animal Welfare, Dairy Challenge Teams Win!

Highlighting activities of 2008

Faculty Updates 3
Faculty and Staff News 4-5
Distinguished Alumni 5-7

Ambassador Updates 9
Undergraduate News, Awards 9-10
Graduate News, Awards 10-11

Team and Club Updates 12-14
Upcoming Events 16
And More!
Greetings from Purdue University Animal Sciences

Greetings from the Department of Animal Sciences!

On behalf of the Department of Animal Sciences, I am pleased to provide you with our annual newsletter that highlights a number of our activities of 2008.

Our student enrollment continues to be strong with over 600 undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees. Placement of our graduates is holding steady at 90% with nearly 40% continuing their education in graduate school or veterinary medicine. Animal Science students provide leadership and service to many extracurricular activities on and off campus. Some of these activities are described in the following pages.

You can also read more about our faculty and staff honors in this newsletter. Among the award recipients is Professor Alan Sutton, who is the inaugural recipient of the Spirit of the Land-Grant Mission Award, a new award at the University. Dr. Sutton’s work in nutrient management is an outstanding example of how an integrated research and extension education program fulfills the land grant mission.

In last year’s newsletter, I reported that our external reviews of the department have acknowledged the department’s progress, but pointed to major critical limitations in the quantity and quality of space for research and educational programs. This year, I am pleased to report to you that Purdue has made the construction of a new life sciences facility its top capital project proposal for the 2009-2011 State Budget Request. The facility will include significant improvement for Animal Sciences, with space for our research laboratories, classrooms, and teaching laboratories. This will also allow Animal Sciences to grow its basic and applied research programs and to create greater opportunities for the animal industry. Moreover, bringing animal sciences together with basic life science programs will help address animal industry issues and will allow us to continue developing our programs in which animal models are used for the study of animal and human health issues.

We envision the facility creating an environment that fosters our interdisciplinary research and funding, too. We have appreciated the tremendous support from our many stakeholders as they have worked with State and local leaders to emphasize the importance of the animal industry in Indiana and how this new life science facility will position the industry for the future.

Over the years, we have invested significantly in the recruitment of talented faculty and staff members, but to realize their full potential in serving the industry and our students, we must invest in new state-of-the-art facilities.

In closing, I thank all of you for supporting Purdue Animal Sciences. If you have an opportunity to visit Purdue in 2009, I welcome you to stop by the Animal Sciences Department to learn more about our faculty, staff, and students, and our many programs.

Go Boilers!

Orr Leads Book-Harmon Leadership Seminar

Dr. Don Orr, president of JBS United, Inc., spoke at the annual Book-Harmon Leadership Seminar on Sept. 23, 2008 to students, faculty and administrators on “The Importance of Leadership and Communication Skills in the Animal Science Industry.” Orr also discussed in his undergraduate presentation, “Leadership Needed to Succeed at Your First Job,” the world-wide opportunities in animal sciences and being an entrepreneur.

At a graduate student and faculty roundtable, he spoke on “Leadership Qualities Needed for Research and Industry,” which was followed by a question and answer session.

JBS United (formerly United Feeds) is a nutrition technology-based company involved in premix/base mix feed production and marketing, enzyme and probiotic marketing, swine production, and grain storage and marketing.

Founded in 1956, JBS United operates six premix/base mix feed plants in the U.S., along with a joint venture at Qingdao, China. Don has served as Corporate President since 1997, and led its Nutrition Division from 1997 to 2007. From 1984 to 2002, Don headed the company’s R&D program. Since 1993, he has led JBS United in marketing products in Asia.

Don received his B.S. in Animal Science from Purdue, an M.S. in Animal Husbandry from Penn State, and Ph.D. in Animal Husbandry (swine nutrition) and the Institute of Nutrition from Michigan State.

Don has been an invited speaker at swine meetings in 18 states, as well as Asia, Europe, Brazil, Canada and Mexico. Don was recognized as a Distinguished Agricultural Alumnus by Purdue University and is a recipient of the “Old Masters” Recognition. In 2006, Don was named Distinguished Animal Science Alumnus at Penn State University. Don was also selected as one of the 25 Pacesetters for the ’90’s by Hogs Today magazine.

The Book-Harmon Leadership Seminar was sponsored by The Department of Animal Sciences, The Office of Academic Programs, The College of Agriculture, Maple Leaf Farms, and Monsanto Company.

Acknowledgment

The Newsletter Student Editor is Ariel Case. The Newsletter Committee members include Chair, Donna Lofgren, Jennifer Croidian, Barry Delks, Pat Jonas, Mickey Latour, Diane Patterson, Monica Pittman, and Phil Reid.

We hope this Newsletter will increase your enthusiasm and ignite your pride in the exciting research, extension, and educational programs taking place in Purdue Animal Sciences. It is designed to provide information to our many alumni, students, staff, and special friends.

We would be delighted if you would send us your updates—see page 15.
Bidwell Focuses Studies on Callipyge Sheep Muscle Growth

By Alyssa Auer, Animal Sciences Ambassador

Dr. Chris A. Bidwell started as a professor of genetics in 1990 just as molecular genetics was being applied to animal agriculture. His Purdue experience started as an undergraduate in Animal Science and continued with his work for a Master’s degree.

At the University of California, Davis, Bidwell obtained a Ph.D. in genetics studying egg yolk genes in white sturgeon that are the main component of caviar. Upon returning to Purdue, the research in Bidwell’s laboratory has focused on the genetic mechanisms of animal growth that can ultimately lead to understanding and application for improvements in animal production. He has used a menagerie of animal species for research models, including catfish, sturgeon, medaka (a small killifish), quail, cattle, pigs, and sheep.

In 1999, Bidwell began collaborating with Professor Noelle E. Cockett at Utah State University on studies of muscle growth in callipyge sheep (Greek roots calli - beautiful and pyge - buttocks). Callipyge sheep have a naturally occurring mutation that causes a 30-40% increase in muscle mass predominantly in the hind quarters. The callipyge trait has an unusual mode of inheritance called “polar overdominance” and is caused by a change in a single base pair of DNA.

Although callipyge sheep are not widely used in lamb production in the USA, they are a good research model for muscle growth. The dominant nature of the mutation indicates that there is substantial untapped potential for muscle growth in most breeds of sheep and other meat animal species.

In addition to laboratory research, Bidwell teaches Animal Biotechnology (ANSC 514) which covers aspects of molecular genetics, genomics and genetic engineering in animals. Over the years that Bidwell has taught the course, the fields of genomics and genetic engineering have grown tremendously.

For example, in the first few years, the course covered how the domestic animals’ genomes would be mapped for genetic improvement, to the present where the complete genomes of many species have been sequenced (human, mice, cattle, chicken, horse and dog) with pigs and sheep in progress.

With a strong understanding of the changes in biotechnology, Bidwell predicts that in the years to come genomics and genetic engineering will become more important tools to help animal production cope with the demands of an increasing world population, human health, animal well-being and concern for the environment.

Lay’s Leader of USDA-ARS Livestock Behavior Research

By Ariel Case, Student Editor

Dr. Donald C. Lay, Jr. came from Iowa State University, where he was an Assistant Professor specializing in Behavior Physiology, to join Purdue University’s research team.

Lay received a B.S. degree in Animal Science from Virginia Tech in 1985. To pursue studies in ethology, he went to Texas A&M earning his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Animal Science in 1990 and 1995, respectively.

Lay is now an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Animal Sciences and a Research Scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Services (USDA-ARS). Lay decided to join a bigger group in order to do greater things in the area of welfare. “It has positioned Purdue and ARS to make a significant contribution to the animal welfare area,” said Lay.

Lay is also the Research Leader of the USDA-ARS Livestock Behavior Research Unit, one of three ARS research units on campus. Lay exhibits expertise in his work on pre-natal stress, maternal behavior of sows, and Salmonella infection in swine.

The USDA-ARS Livestock Behavior Research Unit is comprised of two missions: 65% is dedicated to animal welfare and 35% is devoted to pre-harvest food safety. The team works with three species: poultry, dairy cows and swine.

“In order to address well-being, you cannot do it with only one discipline,” said Lay. Collaboration of his research with the Purdue Animal Sciences faculty, comprised of different disciplines, helps to address a variety of areas to determine an animal’s well-being.

Nennich Focuses Research on Improving Feed Management

By Katie Harrell, Animal Sciences Ambassador

Dr. Tamilee Nennich joined the Purdue Animal Sciences faculty in October 2007. Before coming to the Department, she held a Dairy Extension appointment at Texas A&M.

Currently her research focuses on enhancing the sustainability of Indiana dairy farms by improving feed management practices and implementing new technologies.

Some of her projects include providing strategies to reduce nutrient imports to farms and reduce environmental impacts. One goal is to improve the use of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium to maximize animal health and productivity. Studies include raising heifers on dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS), a project that began last summer, and a combination approach of feeding pasture and DDGS. She is also studying water usage for cleaning and cooling purposes on dairy operations.

The extension side of Dr. Nennich’s work is focused on nutrient record keeping with a goal of improving records for all types of animal producers. She is also a co-advisor for the Purdue Dairy Club.

Callipyge Sheep Muscle Growth

By Chris A. Bidwell, Professor of Genetics

Dr. Chris Bidwell’s research team who documented the growth and development of Callipyge lambs at the Purdue Animal Science Research Center. Front row left to right: Aurelia Skipwith, graduate student; Jennifer Smith, undergraduate; Tasia Taxis, undergraduate. Back row left to right: Jolena Waddell, graduate student; Ashley Meece, undergraduate; Dr. Chris Bidwell, professor; Lindsay Wilson, graduate student.

Callipyge sheep have an unusual mode of inheritance called “polar overdominance” and is caused by a change in a single base pair of DNA.

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For example, in the first few years, the course covered how the domestic animals’ genomes would be mapped for genetic improvement, to the present where the complete genomes of many species have been sequenced (human, mice, cattle, chicken, horse and dog) with pigs and sheep in progress.

With a strong understanding of the changes in biotechnology, Bidwell predicts that in the years to come genomics and genetic engineering will become more important tools to help animal production cope with the demands of an increasing world population, human health, animal well-being and concern for the environment.
Faculty and Staff International Participation and Projects

Dr. Layi Adeola served as external examiner to Ph.D. students from Australia and Canada. He visited France where he gave talks at the European Symposium on Poultry Nutrition in Strasbourg, chaired discussion groups at the Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition Conference in Vichy, and interacted with scientists from French National Institute for Agricultural Research in Rennes. He visited Egypt where he gave lectures to and had discussions with faculty and students from three universities (Tanta, Cairo, and Alexandria). Discussions included such topics as curricula, research planning, and opportunities for collaboration with Purdue Agriculture. He attended the British Society of Animal Science meeting in Southport, England. He went to Nigeria to give lectures at Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Ibadan, and Ladoke Akintola University aimed at collaboration, training graduate students, and visiting scientist exchange with the goal of improving human capacity for teaching and research. He visited Australia to participate in research meetings and give papers at the World’s Poultry Congress in Brisbane.

Dr. Todd Applegate hosted 16 Chinese students from Zhejiang University for the 2008 Summer Intern Program for Chinese Students. He has spent the remainder of 2008 and part of 2009 on sabbatical leave in Austria, working in conjunction with the Institute for Agrobiotechnology and Biomim, GMBH.

Dr. Heng-Wei Cheng gave a presentation entitled “Farm Animal Welfare” at the School of Animal Science and Technology, Zhejiang University. He and Dr. Alan Grant met with Dr. Liu, Dean of the School of Animal Science and Technology, Zhejiang University. Bilateral collaborations in research and education were discussed.

Dr. Mickey Latour visited Delhi and Bangalore, India in April to investigate the possibilities of agriculture student studies abroad.

Dr. Paul Collodi visited Japan in October where he presented seminars at the World Fisheries Congress in Yokohama and at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. He also spent some time visiting Professor Goro Yoshizaki’s laboratories at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology and the Marine Research Lab in Oizumi.

Dr. Shawn Donkin presented an invited lecture at the Brazilian Society of Animal Science held in Lavras; the title was “Glycerine: The New Corn for Dairy Cattle?” He interacted with faculty at Universidade Federal de Lavras (UFLA) to initiate programs to bring UFLA students to Purdue to become engaged in research at Purdue as part of a “sandwich grant” program.

Dr. Michael Schutz began collaboration with Vasile Maiuc of the faculty of Animal Sciences at the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Lasi, Romania. Collaboration is on genetic and immunogenetic evaluation of the native local cattle population.

Dr. William Muir taught a module entitled Principles of Quantitative Genetics for the International Institute in Statistical Genetics at Auckland University in New Zealand. He was invited to present at the Symposium of Canadian Society of Animal Science (CSAS) Annual Meeting on the topic of integrating animal behavior with other animal science disciplines held at the University of Guelph, Canada. He attended a meeting for Biotechnology Risk Assessment for Yorktown Technologies (Glofish) held in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. He worked with Hendrix Genetics (Boxmeer, Netherlands) to implement a genomic selection program in poultry layers. He served as an outside committee member for a student in the Animal Breeding and Genetics Group at Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

Twenty students from Zhejiang University in China and three students from National Taiwan University in Taiwan joined 12 students participating in internships with Novus for a 3-day industry tour. Dr. Heng-Wei Cheng and Barry Delks collaborated with Dr. Chris Knight (Animal Science Distinguished Alumnus) to organize a cultural and industry networking opportunity for the visiting students.

Faculty News and Updates

*Administrative Professional, Clerical and Service Staff Honored:*
Daniel Elston (40 yrs.), Daniel Kelly (35 yrs.), Richard Byrd (30 yrs.), Brian Ford (20 yrs.), Mike Booth (15 yrs.), Jeff Synesael (15 yrs.), and Matthew Claeyts (10 years).

Dr. Susan Eicher was promoted to Adjunct Associate Professor.

Dr. Jon Schoonmaker will be joining the Animal Sciences faculty July 1, 2009 as an assistant professor in beef cattle nutrition.

*Staff Departures:*
- Dr. Rebecca Krisher left the department to join the faculty of the Department of Animal Science at the University of Illinois.
- Dr. Scott Lake left the department to join the faculty of the Department of Animal Science at the University of Wyoming.
- Dr. Dave Gerrard left the department to become Head of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech.

*Staff Deaths:*
- Stanley A. Haglof, 57, passed away February 20, 2008. Stan was a long-time lab technician in the endocrinology area.

Earl Butz (B.S. 1932), 98, passed away February 1, 2008. He was on the faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics, and was Dean of the School of Agriculture from 1957 to 1967. He served as Secretary of Agriculture from 1971 to 1976, under presidents Nixon and Ford.

Kenneth MacDonald, 85, passed away May 2, 2008. He was a professor of Animal Sciences and a beef cattle extension specialist.

Mary Jo Julian, 72, passed away July 8, 2008. She was a long-time employee of the Indiana State Poultry Association.

*Alumni Deaths:*
- Thomas L. Cribetz, 61, passed away October 19, 2006. He received his Ph.D. in Animal Sciences in reproductive physiology. While a graduate student, he was assistant coach of the Dairy Judging Team. The team finished first at the North American Dairy Show, and second at the World Dairy & Food Exposition.
- Jerry Sinclair (B.S. 1971), 58, passed away September 17, 2008. He was the owner of Sinclair Genetics in Cloverdale, Indiana. He was active in the pork industry and supported swine youth programs.
- Joe Hatfield (B.S. 1947), 84, passed away June 21, 2008. He was a co-founder and CEO of Fieldale Farms in Baldwin, Georgia. The poultry company is the largest employer in northeast Georgia. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the College of Agriculture in 2005.
Faculty and Staff Awards

Dr. Alan Sutton received the first Spirit of the Land-Grant Mission Award on October 1. The award was presented by Purdue Agriculture in recognition of his contributions in developing an integrated research and extension program. Dr. Sutton has conducted research for more than 35 years in livestock nutrition and waste management. He developed a Purdue Extension program on animal waste management, which was the first in the nation created by a university animal sciences department.

Dr. Mark Russell was recognized as one of seven new 2007-08 University Diversity Fellows at the Third Annual Diversity Fellows Colloquium held April 10. This is a highlight of the University’s Diversity in the Classroom Project and the Diversity Fellows Program, which were created to provide support for faculty development, implementation and sharing of inclusive approaches to teaching, learning, and assessment in the area of diversity. Dr. Russell was recognized for including these diversity components into ANSC 381 Career Leadership.

Dr. Wayne Singleton was named a Master of the Pork Industry by National Hog Farmer in May. The Masters are recognized as leaders in their chosen fields, who are widely respected for their talents and mastery of pork production. Dr. Singleton was recognized for his contributions to the broad and successful adoption of artificial insemination in the swine industry.

Dr. Mike Schutz was presented with several awards at the Purdue annual extension banquet held September 16. Dr. Schutz was presented with the prestigious Eric G. Sharvelle Distinguished Extension Service Award for his significant contributions to extension. He, along with five of his colleagues, received the State Diversity Team Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi (the Extension Professional’s Organization) in recognition of innovative programming to reach diverse audiences. Epsilon Sigma Phi also presented him with a Certificate in recognition of outstanding service in Global Relations.

Dr. Terry Stewart was recognized by the National Society of Collegiate Scholars as an outstanding faculty advisor to the Purdue Chapter of the organization. The NSCS is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and extends membership invitations to first- and second-year undergraduates who are in the top 20 percent of their class and have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or higher. NSCS awards more scholarship dollars to undergraduates than any other honors organization nationwide. Faculty advisors work with chapter members in programs, community service opportunities, career resources and scholarship offerings.

Dr. Mickey Latour was inducted into the Purdue Teaching Academy in October. The Teaching Academy honors and supports excellence in teaching and works to strengthen teaching quality throughout the university. His induction brings to 24 the number of College of Agriculture faculty members in the Teaching Academy.

During the 2008 Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference in April, the Proceedings were dedicated to Dr. Timothy Johnson, former dairy extension specialist. Dr. Johnson was recognized for his many contributions to the founding of the Tri-State Conference and his commitment to this very successful event.

Outstanding Teaching Award
Dr. Mickey Latour’s teaching involves several courses, including the ANSC 102 Introductory Animal Science course and the ANSC 102V Distance Ed Virtual Introductory Animal Science course. Recently, he developed a University Honors course in Experimental Methods.

Outstanding Counselor Award
Dr. Shawn Donkin counsels 20 to 30 students annually. Recently, Dr. Donkin became the chair of the College’s Honors Program Committee and he coordinates the special projects component of the Honors program for animal sciences students.

Outstanding Service to Students Award
Barry Delks, Career Service and Alumni Relations Coordinator for the department, provides an important service to students and our industry. He provides career services and teaches extensively in the department.

2008 Distinguished Agricultural Alumni Award

The Distinguished Agricultural Alumni Award honors mid-career Purdue Agriculture graduates who have made significant contributions to their profession or society in general and have a record of outstanding accomplishments. One Animal Sciences alumus was recognized by the College of Agriculture and the Department of Animal Sciences on March 21, 2008.

Roy D. Riggs, of North Salem, Indiana, is director of Global Specialty Business for Elanco Animal Health. Riggs has a 28-year career with the company, and his role now involves developing the vision, strategies and teams for innovative products entering the pipeline that are outside Elanco’s core business. He is also active in industry groups such as the Center for Food Integrity and Indiana’s Grow America Project, and at Purdue, serving on the President’s Council and College of Agriculture Dean’s Advisory Council. He earned a Purdue bachelor’s degree in animal sciences in 1979.
2007 Distinguished Animal Sciences Alumni Awards

The Distinguished Animal Sciences Alumni Award honors lifetime, mid-career and early career Purdue Animal Science graduates who have demonstrated excellence in the animal science industry, academia or governmental service. Six Animal Sciences alumni were recognized by the Department of Animal Sciences on October 26, 2007.

Lifetime Career Award Recipients

Bob Cherry, of Greenfield, Indiana, earned his bachelor’s degree from Purdue in 1969. Upon graduation, Cherry was a vocational-agriculture teacher and then was a consultant in vocational education at the Indiana Department of Education. In 1976, Cherry started out as assistant county manager and by 1988 he became vice president of credit and marketing with Farm Credit Services. He is a member of the Elks, Kiwanis Club, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Murat Shrine and Farm Bureau. Cherry has received numerous “Legislator of the Year” awards from various organizations, including credit unions, small business and conservation officers. Cherry is currently State Representative for House District 53 since 1998 and the Director of Local Government Relations for Indiana Farm Bureau.

Martin Stob, of West Lafayette, Indiana, received his bachelor’s degree in 1949, his master’s degree in 1951 and his doctorate degree in 1953 studying animal sciences at Purdue. He has dedicated his life to the education of animal science students and individuals in the livestock industry. For approximately 40 years, he taught the course “Animal Reproductive Physiology” at Purdue and has influenced the lives of approximately 4,000 students. A large number of those students have been and are now successful and influential livestock breeders. Stob was named “Outstanding Teacher in the School of Agriculture” in 1964, 1966, 1969 and 1970 and “Outstanding Counselor in the School of Agriculture” in 1977. He was named to “Iron Key” as a Purdue teaching faculty in 1972. In 2006, Stob was selected to the Indiana Livestock Breeders Association Hall of Fame. Stob is professor emeritus from Purdue.

Robert Totusek, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, earned his master’s in 1950 and doctorate degree in 1952 in animal nutrition from Purdue. Upon completion of graduate studies, he accepted a faculty position at Oklahoma State University and advanced through the academic ranks to professor of animal science and was head of the Animal Science Department at OSU. His research interests span a wide range of topics related to nutrition and management of beef cattle. Totusek served as OSU livestock judging team coach from 1953 to 1961. During this period his teams compiled a record of 11 first, 7 second and 4 third place teams at major national livestock judging contests. Nationally, Totusek was recognized as an outstanding beef cattle judge. Totusek has received awards and recognition as an outstanding teacher by Alpha Zeta, Blue Key and the OSU Alumni Association. He is an author or co-author of 21 journal papers and over 100 Feeders Day and popular articles. Totusek is professor emeritus from Oklahoma State University.

Mid-Career Award Recipients

Christopher Knight, of St. Louis, Missouri, earned his master’s degree in 1977 and went on to complete his doctorate degree in 1981 in monogas nutrition at Purdue. In 1981, Knight joined Monsanto Company in the area of methionine nutrition and metabolism and later began development, regulatory and nutrition research efforts in the area of somatotropin applications for swine. In 1991 he became the Manager and Director of Nutrition Research at Novus International, Inc. and led the evaluation, development and commercialization of several new business projects. He went on to receive the St. Louis Technology Award in 2003 for economic impact and innovation. Knight serves the St. Peters Episcopal Church, as a youth sponsor, Sunday school teacher, and on the education commission. Knight is currently serving as Department Head of Research and Development for Novus International, St. Louis, Mo.

Jerry Malayer, of Stillwater, Oklahoma, received his bachelor’s degree in 1979 and master’s degree in 1986 studying animal sciences from Purdue. Malayer is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Society for the Study of Reproduction, and Phi Zeta, the honor society of veterinary medicine. He currently serves on the Editorial Board for Domestic Animal Endocrinology, the Advisory Review Board for Reproductive Biology and Endocrinology, and has been a scientific reviewer for numerous professional journals and funding agencies including the National Science Foundation, Department of Homeland Security, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In 2006, Malayer was selected for the American Council on Education Fellows Program, a national higher education leadership development program. Malayer is the associate dean for research and graduate education in the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at Oklahoma State University.

Early Career Recipient

Scott Thompson, of Sheridan, Indiana, completed his bachelor’s degree in 1993 and his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 2000 from Purdue. He currently serves as President of the Indiana Equine Practitioners Association, and is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, and the Veterinary Management Study Group VII. Thompson is on the Hamilton County Board of Health, and contributes to the local community through public speaking opportunities and hosting client education events at Janssen Veterinary Clinic. He has been invited to speak at the Indiana Horsemen’s Conference, the Hoosier Horse Fair, Trail Riders Association Conference and Purdue Equine Reproduction Workshop. Thompson has been recognized for his exemplary work by receiving the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association Excellence in Continuing Education Award, the Superior Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine Surgery Award, and was recognized by Pharmacia and Upjohn in 2000. Thompson is the owner of Janssen Veterinary Clinic.

Robert Totusek was not featured in the 2007 Distinguished Animal Sciences Alumni Awards in the 2008 Newsletter. The Animal Sciences Newsletter Committee regrets this error.
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Lifetime Career Award Recipients

Eddie Creighton, of Warsaw, Indiana, earned his bachelor’s degree from Purdue in 1954. Upon graduation, he went to work on his family’s farm, Creighton Brothers. He worked his way up to general manager in 1982 and by 1985, Creighton Brothers became the leading marketer of fresh shell eggs in the continental United States. Before his retirement in 1998, Creighton was instrumental in building the Crystal Lakes liquid egg processing plant, which produces 50 million dozens shell eggs and 45 million pounds of egg product. Creighton has served as a member of the Purdue Agriculture Dean’s Advisory Committee, director of the Purdue Agriculture Alumni Foundation, director for Ivy Tech Community College, Kosciusko County Commissioner, and has provided leadership in numerous local organizations. In 1966 he received the Golden Egg award—the highest award of the Indiana State Poultry Association.

Tilden Wayne Perry, of Van Buren, Arkansas, received his master’s degree in 1948 and his doctorate degree in 1950—both in animal sciences at Purdue. He spent 43 years serving the Purdue University Animal Science Department in research and teaching. Perry’s accomplishments include 150 published abstracts, 161 scientific papers, 323 departmental publications and 4 university text books. Perry served on the National Academy of Science/National Research Council Committee on Animal Nutrition, was active in the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and the editorial board of the Journal of Animal Science. He served as a charter member and historian of the American Registry of Animal Science. Perry has earned three ASAS awards for his work, including the Gustav Bohstedt Award for Minerals (1978), American Feed Industry Nutrition Research Award (1980) and the F.B. Morrison Award (1990).

Jesse Shively, of Franklin, Indiana, earned his bachelor’s in 1957 and his master’s in 1963 in animal sciences from Purdue. Upon completion of his doctorate from Iowa State in 1967, Shively began a 30-year research career with Pfizer. He began his tenure as a research nutritionist, became a project leader in 1974 and in 1988 was promoted to senior clinical research investigator. His research successes include the development of a feed additive and antibacterial product for swine and three U.S. patents. He was a member of the American Society of Animal Sciences and the Canadian Society of Animal Sciences. After retirement he provided consulting duties for Pfizer. In addition to his professional endeavors, Shively has served the Indiana Pork Producers, the Indiana Pork Producers Foundation, director for Ivy Tech Community College, Kosciusko County Commissioner, and has provided leadership in numerous local organizations. In 1966 he received the Golden Egg award—the highest award of the Indiana State Poultry Association.

Mid-Career Award Recipients

Malcolm DeKryger, of Demotte, Indiana. Upon earning his master’s degree in 1983, DeKryger spent one year as a Purdue Extension swine specialist followed by seven years in the feed and pharmaceutical industries. In 1991 DeKryger joined Belstra Milling Company, where he currently serves as Vice President and is responsible for business development, personnel recruitment, nutritional management and pig production. Under his leadership, Belstra has added nearly 11,500 sows and 40,000 dairy cows, and the feed mill has grown from 35,000 mixed tons to nearly 120,000. DeKryger also is a member of the Board of Indiana Pork Producers, president of the board, girls’ soccer coach for Covenant Christian High School and is a member of the First Christian Reformed Church of DeMotte.

Alan Mathew, of Knoxville, Tennessee, received his master’s degree in 1978 and doctorate in 1991 at which time he became an assistant professor with the department of animal science at the University of Tennessee. He assumed the role of Department Head in 2003 where he provides direction to the teaching, research, and extension missions for the department. Mathew has published 66 research papers, 51 scientific abstracts, and provided more than 40 invited national and international presentations. He has served on the editorial board of the Journal of Animal Science and as an advisor to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Veterinary Medicine. He currently serves on the U.S. Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, on the review board for the Research Grants and Scholarships Directorate, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and on two advisory groups for the National Pork Board. Alan and his wife, Ruth, own a family farm in Indiana and have since added a cow-calf beef production herd at their residence in Loudon County, Tenn.

Early Career Recipient

Pete Hanebutt, of Indianapolis, Indiana, completed his bachelor’s degree in 1993 and took a position as an area field representative for Indiana Farm Bureau in 1994 where he facilitated Agriculture in the Classroom programs and was heavily involved with local government. For the past 11 years, Hanebutt has been the political education specialist for Farm Bureau’s public policy team. His current duties include congressional and statehouse relations, grassroots lobbying activities, and facilitating Indiana Farm Bureau activities. Hanebutt has been involved with the Purdue Ag Alumni Fish Fry planning committee, volunteered with the Purdue Department of Animal Sciences and worked as the 4-H swine announcer at the Indiana State Fair. Along with his work in agriculture, Pete also is very involved in his church and community.
Miller Inducted into CSREES Hall of Fame in Washington

Dr. Larry R. Miller, Centreville, Maryland, was inducted into the Hall of Fame October 21, 2008 by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) at USDA in Washington, DC. The CSREES Hall of Fame recognizes individuals for their outstanding support for research, education, and extension in advancing knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities.

Larry’s professional career spanned nearly 38 years at USDA including the Agricultural Research Service, the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences, the Cooperative State Research Service, and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. His unique career included extensive experience with multi-State research, program reviews and organizing mini symposia or national planning meetings. Programmatic responsibilities included meat science and muscle biology, small ruminants, the Minor Use Animal Drug Program, the National Animal Germplasm Program (collaboratively with ARS), the Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration, the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD), statistics, and wool research among others. He routinely worked with numerous federal agencies, professional organizations, and university leadership throughout his USDA career.

Dr. Miller retired from CSREES in July 2007 after serving as the Acting Associate Administrator since 2005. He is currently the Director of the DISCOVER Conferences sponsored by the American Dairy Science Association and serving as a consultant for various food and agricultural related organizations.

Larry graduated from Western Illinois University with an emphasis on Animal Science, Biology, and Agricultural Economics. He worked in Illinois for FS Services, an agricultural cooperative, for nearly two years until he made the decision to pursue graduate education. Larry attended Kansas State University and Purdue University where he received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees respectively with an emphasis on Animal Breeding, Growth and Development, and Statistics.
Animal Sciences Ambassador Update

The Animal Sciences Ambassadors have geared up for another successful year promoting and serving the Animal Sciences Department. The fall semester began with the annual Welcome Back Picnic. Ambassadors and the department faculty and staff provided food and welcomed new and returning Animal Sciences students to campus. A couple of weeks into school, Ambassadors gathered for a weekend retreat at Historic Prophetstown near Battle Ground, Indiana. The retreat focused on team building, event planning and generating new ideas for ambassador lead programs. We were grateful that Kevin Eikenberry, President of Kevin Eikenberry Group, could come speak with us and share with us ideas to more effectively serve the department.

Ambassadors worked hard to make preparations for various events during the fall. A career seminar was held prior to the College of Agriculture career fair in order to aid students in sharpening their resumes and interviewing skills. Ambassadors helped the department staff in preparations for the Animal Sciences Reunion prior to the Homecoming Football Game. The Chili Dinner was held later in the fall as a time for those in the department to relax and enjoy fellowship before jumping into the busiest time of the semester for students. Other events the ambassadors were involved in included the Family Day-Omelet Brunch, Book-Harmon Leadership Seminar, Distinguished Animal Sciences Alumni recognition and Holiday Donut Farewell. The semester wrapped up with the annual ambassador Christmas party.

Spring brings several exciting events and activities. Boiler Barnyard planning is under way. Each year hundreds of people of all ages pass through our department’s tent. This is a great opportunity for community outreach. Ambassadors hosted three Preview Days to recruit and inform prospective students. Other events for the spring semester include the ANSC 181 Industry Tour, Ag Alumni Fish Fry, Young Alumni Reunion and Animal Sciences Ice Cream social.

The Ambassadors are looking forward to the rest of this year and working hard to ensure we do our best to promote and serve the department. We continue to strive to recruit quality students, engage and retain those students, and recognize and appreciate our excellent faculty and alumni. We look forward to seeing you all at future events!

Smithfield Internship Provides Food Safety and Quality Skills

During her internship, Purdue undergraduate Kaitlin Condron was one of four quality assurance interns in the Smithfield, Virginia facility. The main project for the interns was to help plan for the Safe, Quality Food Level 3 Certification.

Smithfield Packing Company is the largest subsidiary of Smithfield Foods. It has 10 meat processing facilities involved in fresh pork, smoked meats, bacon, cooked hams and hotdogs for retail, food service and deli channels. It was founded in 1936 by Joseph W. Luter and Joseph W. Luter, Jr. Joseph W. Luter, IV is Executive Vice President of Smithfield Foods.

Safe, Quality Food is a certification program for suppliers stating that their product meets food safety and that the quality management system complies with international and domestic food safety regulations.

“We made a process flow of each processing area and denoted our CQPs or Critical Quality Points. We had to review existing monitoring measures and if it was necessary, create new ones,” said Condron on some of her duties as an intern at Smithfield Packing Company.

The interns focus was to look for potential errors in processing that could effect the quality of the final product and also to find ways to prevent or limit them.

Horse Industry Tour Provides Educational Immersion

From May 13 to May 17, 2008, Purdue University students participated in an educational immersion in the horse industry of central Kentucky. Students learned about career opportunities and needs of the racehorse industry from top business, veterinary, and farm management professionals while visiting leading farms, veterinary facilities, training centers, race tracks, feed manufacturers and other support businesses in Lexington.

The group visited farms owned by companies from Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Emirates Arab Republic, and Germany as well as traditional Kentucky-owned historic farms including Claiborne, Overbrook, Calumet and the breeding home of Big Brown, Three Chimneys. In addition to farms, the group visited Keeneland, Fasig-Tipton, University of Kentucky, Kentucky Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center (KESMARC), and Kentucky Equine Research (KER) where Lynn Pezzanite (current senior) interned last summer. Students also attended a Kentucky Equine Managers Internship (KEMI) workshop on biomechanics of hoof movement with current KEMI intern Sara Kaniewski, who is at Trackside Farm.

They visited with Purdue alumni including Warren Giegold, Kristen Brodt, Nikki Holbrook, Sara Weed, Jennie Rhodes, Russell Wiggins, and Drs. Mike Hardy and Will Farmer. On the way home the group even visited a great American Saddlebred Farm, Willowbank Farm, in Simpsonville, Kentucky and attended the afternoon meet at Churchill Downs where some stayed and watched the Preakness. Overall, the students came away with a better understanding of the available careers and internships opportunities. Students increased their appreciation for the major challenges facing the future of the race horse industry in the U.S. and globally, including breeding selection, training, reproduction, feeding, and marketing. The group was accompanied by Barry Delks and Dr. Mark Russell.

From left to right: Dewey Hutchins, Kaitlin Condron, Kristin Jones, and Sarah Ellington. While interning at Smithfield Packing Company, Condron planned for the Safe, Quality Food Level 3 Certification.
Undergraduate Student Update

By Mark Diekman, Undergraduate Program Coordinator

For the 2008 fall semester, entering ANSC freshmen increased 23% for a total of 151 freshmen and a total undergraduate population of 605 students. Twenty-one transfer students also joined the Department this fall. The increase in enrollment is due mainly to the influx of pre-veterinary medicine students from the College of Agriculture as we enter a transition period of moving pre-vet students to a degree-seeking program during their freshman year. The demographics of our incoming freshmen continues to change. For the 2008 fall semester, 33% of our students indicated they came from a rural, farm background; 22% from a rural, non-farm background; 35% from a suburban background; and 10% from an urban background. Nearly 80% of the Animal Sciences undergraduate students are from Indiana.

During May and August, 2008, 74 students earned a B.S. degree in animal science with an additional 33 students graduating in December, 2008. Four students will receive an A.S. degree in 2008 with 4 students obtaining a minor in Animal Sciences. Sixty-eight Animal Sciences students will also graduate with a minor in biology, liberal arts or agricultural economics.

2008 Undergraduate Scholarship Awards

Outstanding Class:
Freshman - Amber Courter
Sophomore - Jennifer Jones
Junior - Nicholas Tharp
Senior - Lisa Hepworth

Balitzell Agri-Products Scholarships: Kathleen Alexander, Michelle Pollert, Chad Shoultz
Book-Harmon Leadership: Breanna Brash
Bratton-Webster Memorial: Alyssa Auer
Frank and Wini Clark Beef Industry: Erika Downey
Owen and Fran Crisman Family Award: Emily Robinson
Elanco Scholarship: Darius Starks
R. L. Hogue: Krista Allen, Kara Felix
Emerson J. Kuhn Scholarship: Jamie Pierce
Roy E. Parker: Danielle Bryan
Henry Mayo Scholarships: Kathryn Bailey, Kaitlin Condron, Julie Troyer
Paul E. Newman Scholarship Awards: Jennifer Jones, Brandi Kuntz
Richard A. Pickett Memorial Awards: Lindsay Flesch, Anna Goad, Sara Ludington, Seth Nahrwold, Cristin Sheldon, Brady Thompson

Elizabeth Legan received a Lois Britt Pork Industry Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Keith Lotz Memorial: Virginia Rybolt
John Henry Hinkle Memorial Scholarships: Amber Courter, Angela Gaesser, Erica Heideman, Thomas Hitzeman, Katherine Jardina, Shannon Kremer, Kathleen Lennon, Jennifer Lukeen, Morgan Mcclement, Lynn Pezzanine, Kathleen Prickel, Kathryn Simpson, Taylor Thompson, Hannah Wladecki, Anna Zike
Truman and Marjorie Martin Study Abroad: Jordon Dunham
Rothenberger Scholarships: Elizabeth Logan, Jared Roberts, Nicholas Tharp
The Eric B. Luckman Award: Dillon Etter
LOUJA Undergraduate Scholarships: Ian Barnard, Renae Davis
Smith-Nuerge Scholarship: Ashley Miller
Sandy Powers Indiana Sheep Industry Leadership Award: Erik Mrozinski
W.A. Rafferty Livestock Leadership & Citizenship Award: Kurt Fischer
Charles L. & Jean Ruffe Awards: Dylan Huff, Brad Reinbott, Emily Robinson, Aaron Slater
Thrasher Family Awards: Bradley Abnet, Nathan Kleefisch, Melissa Laws, Evelyn Nichols

Alyssa Auer received an Ag Research Fund Scholarship and SURF Fellowship for summer research in Dr. Amy Lossie’s lab.

Graduate Student Association Update and Awards

The 2008-2009 Animal Science Graduate Student Association officers are as follows:

President: Brianna Gaskill
Vice President: Collette Thogerson
Secretary/Treasurer: Jean-Loup Rault
Fundraising: Jessica Guerney
Social: Stacey Enneking, Staci Weedman
Computer: Josh Jendza
Graduate Programs: Heather White
Program Development/Seminar: Stacey Enneking
Workshop For Youth: Catalina Troche, Lindsey Jones
Student Outreach: Ryan Schroer
Departmental Newsletter: Monica Pittman
Philanthropy Chair: Nicole Schmelz

Lancaster Wins Silver in Paralympics

Kendra Lancaster, a junior in Animal Sciences, was a member of the U.S. Sitting Women’s Volleyball Team, which won the silver medal at the 2008 Paralympic Games in September. The team lost to defending champion China in the gold medal match in front of 5,500 spectators at the China Agricultural University Gymnasium in Beijing.

In sitting volleyball, players are required to keep some part of their upper body in contact with the ground when hitting the ball. It is much quicker than the traditional game. The U.S. Sitting Women finished the Paralympics with a record of 3-2, with their only other loss coming to China in pool play. Gold medalist China, which did not lose a set in the competition, was 5-0. Netherlands defeated Slovenia in the bronze medal match.

Kendra joined the national team as a 17-year-old high school student, after playing standing volleyball for Westfield High School for four years. She has now played in two Paralympic games. She won a bronze medal in the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. Kendra is also on the Purdue Western Equestrian Team.

The most popular program is the science major (423 students) with the majority (70%) specializing in pre-veterinary medicine. Thirty-five students are enrolled in the production major and 67 students are enrolled in the agribusiness major. Enrollment has remained steady in the biotechnology concentration (8 students). There are 72 enrolled in the behavior/well-being concentration, and several incoming freshmen for fall 2009 indicated that they will be enrolling in this concentration.

The Department of Animal Sciences leads the College of Agriculture in the number of students that study abroad (23%). Participation in undergraduate research projects increased by 7 students over 2007. The Animal Sciences Department offers more than 60 courses with an annual enrollment of over 2,600 students.
Graduate Student Association Highlights

By Monica Pittman

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) had another great year in 2008. The Chili Cook-off was held in January where staff and students competed for the title of “Animal Science Chili Cook-off Champion.” Jeb Stevens took home the trophy in 2008. Jason Fields won the cookoff in January 2009.

Coffee and donuts continued this year in the spring and fall semesters. This event offered a great opportunity for students and staff to mingle and enjoy a sweet treat on a Friday morning.

GSA also participated in Spring Fest where they had a booth in the Boiler Barnyard. Graduate students sold animal science merchandise and had great success with face painting. Additionally, the Barnyard Olympics (part of Workshop for Youth held in the spring) was a fun experience for 4-H students to play games and learn about animal-related topics.

Seminars geared to assist graduate students focused on enhancing interviewing skills and finance management were held in the spring semester.

The Fall Picnic was held in October and provided the opportunity for staff and students to come together and take in the beautiful fall leaves in Cumberland park.

The 2008 awards for participation in GSA activities and a leadership were awarded to Brianna Gaskill (GSA President) and Mandy Horn, respectively.

The philanthropy committee organized GSA involvement in the Wabash river cleanup held in the fall and Winterization, which aids the elderly in preparing their homes for the winter. Additionally, GSA made a donation to Adopt-A-Child for Christmas.

Many of the activities that were hosted by GSA would not be possible without your support. GSA looks forward to another great year and hopes to see you at some of this year’s events.

Graduate Student Awards are as follows:

2008 LOUJA Awards: Danielle Sholly, Brianna Gaskill, Brett Dufour, Katherine Baumgarner, and Rosangela Poletto
Book-Harmon Leadership Scholarship: Brianna Gaskill
W.R. Featherston Off-Campus Training Fellowship:
Christine Johnson
W.R. Featherston Early Graduate Career Award: Tracy Scheffler
W.R. Featherston Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award:
Collette Thogerson
W.R. Featherston Outstanding M.S. Award: Collette Thogerson
W.R. Featherston Outstanding Ph.D. Award: Melissa Paczkowski

Collette Thogerson won a PSA Student Certificate of Excellence Award for a presentation in the Behavior and Well-being Section of the Poultry Science Association’s 97th Annual meeting in Niagara Falls, Canada in July 2008.

Rosangela Poletto received a grant from the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) for conference attendance in 2008 and a Conference attendance award from the Humane Society of the United States to attend ISAE in 2008.

Katherine Baumgarner received a travel grant to attend the Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics at the University of Washington in 2008.

Rachel Dennis received the Graduate Student Excellence Award from the Purdue Graduate Student Government.

Erin Cedeno received first place in the graduate student competition at the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference held in Fort Wayne, IN.

At the Midwestern ADSA/ASAS meeting, C.J. Fleenor placed second in the Graduate Student Paper Competition, M.S. Poster Division. Also, Jeffrey Bewley was one of six 2008 Young Dairy Scholars who made an invited presentation at the meeting; this program showcases the efforts of recent or finishing Ph.D.’s from Midwestern universities.

Graduate Student Association Highlights

Pittman Recognized in Dublin for Sow Motivation Poster

Graduate student Monica Pittman was recognized at the International Society of Applied Ethology conference in Dublin, Ireland in August 2008. The poster, “The motivation of gestating sows for an enriched group pen and their behavior after 24 hours of deprivation,” placed third. Co-authors include Joe Garner, Brian Richert, Richard Kirkden, Anna Johnson and Ed Pajor.

The poster competition included all levels, from students to senior scientists, and numbered over 140 posters in total. Monica’s poster was recognized at the closing ceremony. The Dublin meeting was the largest ever in the history of the Society with over 400 attendees.

Johnson Runner up in Embryo Transfer Society Presentation

On January 6, 2009, Christine Johnson was named the runner-up in the student presentation competition at that 35th Annual Conference of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) held in San Diego, California.

Christy’s presentation focused on some of her recent work with histone methyltransferases and the cleavage stage porcine embryo. Her major advisor for the project was Dr. Ryan Cabot.

“I wanted to analyze where this important enzyme localizes during cleavage development in the pig, which may suggest the importance of its role at this developmental time point,” said Johnson.

Some of the seminars presented were by world-renowned scientists, including Dr. Ian Wilmut, who is famous for his success in cloning Dolly.
Purdue Dairy Challenge First at 7th Annual NAIDC

Purdue University’s Dairy Challenge Team received a First Place Platinum Award at the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC) held in April 2008 in Madison, Wisconsin. The team consisted of Brandon Miller (Animal Sciences, Brazil), Rob LaFollette (Animal Sciences, Rising Sun), Steven Hein (Agricultural Systems Management, Crown Point), and Craig Blough (Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Middlebury). Team members were students in Animal Sciences 495e Dairy Farm Evaluation. They were coached by Dr. Mike Schutz. Dr. Tamilee Nennich and graduate student Jeffrey Bewley, before completion of his degree requirements, assisted with preparing the team.

The 7th annual NAIDC had participants from 32 Universities around the U.S. and Canada. Teams competed with 7 other teams at 1 of 4 host farms, thoroughly evaluated the farm, studied the farm’s production and financial records, prepared a presentation of recommendations, and presented those recommendations to a panel of judges and the dairy farm owners over a two-day period. They were judged for the thoroughness and practicality of their observations and recommendations and their presentation style and effectiveness. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to interact with industry sponsors and tour other dairy farms and businesses. This year, the Big Ten swept the first place Platinum Awards with Michigan State University, University of Illinois, and University of Minnesota winning at the other farms.

In February 2008, Purdue University hosted the Midwest Dairy Challenge in Merrillville, Indiana. The success of the Midwest program in preparing students was attested to by the fact that all eight First and Second Place Award Winners were from the Midwest region. North Dakota State University, Iowa State University, The Ohio State University, and Kansas State University received Second Place Platinum recognition at the NAIDC.

Animal Welfare Judging First in Intercollegiate Contest at MSU

Purdue's Animal Welfare Judging Team placed first at the Intercollegiate Judging Contest held the first weekend in November at Michigan State University.

This year was the largest competition ever, with six universities including Missouri, Iowa, MSU, Guelph, Wisconsin and Purdue sending teams.

Purdue’s Animal Welfare Judging Team members included undergraduates Melissa Elischer, Christine Erlandson, Ashley Kelly, Laurie Mason, and Faith Shields. The coaches for the team were graduate students Monica Pittman and Stacey Enneking. Dr. Ed Pajor was the team’s faculty advisor.

The plaque picturing four animal faces (featured on the cover) was awarded to the Animal Welfare Judging Team. The artist wanted to represent how we see the animals through a window, they pause for a moment to look at us, and in that moment of wordless communication we share a respect for them and all animals. The artist felt that this is the core of the concept of animal husbandry. Colorado State animal ethicist, Bernie Rollin, who recently visited Purdue to lecture on ethics, found this interesting because the department used to be called Animal Husbandry.

Heifer Chapter Plans Domestic Heifer Project Trip

Heifer International Purdue Chapter has had a very active inaugural semester. We had our first fundraiser, “Halloween to End Hunger,” where we sold and carved pumpkins, caramel apples, and hot chocolate.

Members also attended a colligate workshop held at the Little Rock, Arkansas headquarters to learn more about the organization and the role the Purdue chapter can have. We also participated in “Christmas Around the World” held in the union during winter break.

This spring we will be participating in Spring Fest and are in the process of planning a spring break trip to a domestic Heifer Project. Also, we will be having informational sessions during the spring semester for those interested in joining. Please visit http://purdueheifer.com for more information.

ICAN New Club to Join Purdue

The Purdue ICAN Club is a new organization as of the Spring of 2008 to support the Indiana Canine Assistant Network through fundraising and publicity. As a club, some of the members have participated in furlough training allowing them to be a volunteer canine trainer for ICAN. The organization hopes to impact Purdue this year through many fundraising events, social events and volunteer opportunities.

ICAN is a non-profit organization located in downtown Indianapolis that focuses on training dogs for those with disabilities through the use of trained offenders in Indiana Correctional Facilities. The organization creates many opportunities to change people’s lives through the training and placement of assistance dogs. ICAN places three different types of dogs: assistance dogs, facility dogs, and therapy dogs. Assistance dogs are provided to people with mobility challenges or adults who use wheelchairs. Facility dogs are incorporated into work with professional caregivers and their clients. Therapy dogs work in the home of the recipient.

The Purdue ICAN Club is the first campus club to support ICAN. The club is advised by Barry Delks, the Coordinator of Career and Alumni Services. One of the ICAN program’s fundraisers is called “ICAN Dine” where anyone can donate part of a dinner purchased at specific restaurants in Indianapolis. Watch ICAN’s website http://www.icandog.org for ICAN Dine and other opportunities to contribute to this amazing program.
Dairy Judging Team Competes in Three National Contests

The 2008 Purdue Dairy Judging Team competed in three national level contests this year. Team members were Megan Kron (Evansville), Ashley Biller (Napanee), Jordan Eby (Goshen) and Andrew Kuehnert (Fort Wayne). With workouts every weekend to prepare for the contests, the team made a strong commitment and worked extremely hard.

The first contest was at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg. Jordan Eby was sixth individual and averaged 48.2 on ten placing classes. The team was fourth in Brown Swiss, fifth in Guernsey and seventh overall for 24 teams participating.

The second contest, The National, was held in Madison, Wisconsin during the World Dairy Expo. The team struggled with some placing classes and placed twelfth out of 25 teams. They were also eighth in oral reasons, which was impressive after giving reasons on some missed placings.

The NAILE contest in Louisville, Kentucky concluded their season with a disappointing sixteenth placing. The team lacked consistency in some breeds and gave up too many placing points or maybe the officials did not agree with the team’s placings.

Valuable lessons are always learned through success as well as struggles and that will help groom these young men and women for future endeavors. Decision making, oral presentation skills and teamwork are important tasks that they will continue to develop after graduation in a career or graduate school. Congratulations to the Dairy Judging Team for all their hard work.

Dairy Club Attends American Dairy Science Conference

A trip to Minnesota, the Boilermaker Heifer Sale, and a tour of Fair Oaks Dairy: all of these and more include activities the Purdue Dairy Club participated in throughout the past year. The club also attended the American Dairy Science Association-Student Affiliate Division conference held at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Other spring semester activities included achieving great results at its fundraiser, the Boilermaker Heifer Sale, hosting the “I Milked a Cow” booth at Spring Fest, and holding a judging invitational for 4-H and FFA members. For its efforts and success, the Purdue Dairy Club was named “Top Option Club” in the College of Agriculture.

Throughout the fall semester, it participated in the Boiler Gold Rush Opportunity Fair and the College of Agriculture Ice Cream Social, and some of its members went to the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Purdue Dairy Club is preparing for spring semester activities and is implementing new ideas for the club in hopes of retaining its title as Top Option Club.

Helping Paws Bettering The Lives of Animals in Need

Helping Paws is a Purdue University student organization dedicated to bettering the lives of animals in need. The club raises animal awareness in the community. This is done by volunteering for many animal related causes and coordinating fundraisers for animals and organizations.

This year we have traveled to Black Pine Animal Park, where we helped build and decorate the tortoise and iguana exhibit. We also made enrichment for the animals at Columbian Park Zoo to enjoy. Throughout the year we volunteer at the local humane societies and help with puppy classes at Purdue’s Veterinary School.

Block and Bridle Holds First Swine Showmanship Contest

The Block and Bridle Club was in full swing during the fall semester. We are excited to have a big and active pledge class, bringing our club participation up to about 150 members.

The Block and Bridle Royal was the main event for the fall semester. With over 100 participants and 300 people in the audience, the Royal Showmanship contest was held on the Friday evening prior to Homecoming.

New this year, the First Annual Alumni and Faculty Swine Showmanship Contest was held, with our 2008-2009 Honorary Member, Mr. Jack Rodibaugh, serving as judge.

Members of the club have also been busy with Tot’s Day, a program to introduce young children to animal agriculture; intramural sports; fundraisers prior to home football games; and parking cars at the Farm World Expo.

Although the fall semester was filled to the brim with activities, the club does not plan to slow down in the Spring. Thirty-eight members attended the National Block and Bridle convention in San Antonio, Texas in February.

Leaders are also working hard to prepare for the Livestock Judging Contest, Spring Fest, the Classic Hog Show, and new this year the Block and Bridle/Animal Sciences Beef Production Sale.

If you would like to receive a newsletter with more information please email us at purdueblockandbridle@yahoo.com.
Livestock Judging Team Update

The 2008 Livestock Judging Team had a competitive Fall semester of livestock judging and continued to make progress. Team members were: Jeremy Barbour, Stoneboro, Pennsylvania; Michael Bonnell, Columbus; Levi Deckard, Freedom; Spencer Morris, Monrovia; Erik Mronzinski, Rolling Prairie; and Aimee Shaffer, Albany.

The team finished eighth at the National Barrow Show in Austin, Minnesota. A couple of weeks later they traveled to the AK-SAR-BEN Contest in Omaha, Nebraska and the team finished fifth.

Many teams from across the country participated in the Boilermaker Classic hosted by Purdue University. This event is not for awards, but serves as a mock contest for the students. The next day the team traveled to the Stockman Contest held in Clinton County. The College division does not have team awards in this event; however, the event was an excellent training contest for the team.

Kansas City was an educational event for the team. They did not fare very well overall, largely due to inconsistency. They continued to stay focused and prepared for the National Contest in Louisville, Kentucky.

Louisville was a much better performance for the Purdue team. The contest was more challenging than in recent years. The team tied for fifth in Swine, was seventh in Sheep and eleventh Overall.

The 2009 team is planning on competing at the All-East Contest this spring. Team members include: Ian Brooke, Albany; Rob Defreese, West Point; Nicole Fitzsimmons, Columbus; Bradley Fry; Chris Grimm, Wawaka; Katherine Kuykendall, Richland Center, Wisconsin; Kyle Lehman, Nappanee; Katie Linhart, Louisville, Kentucky; Ryan Linn, Camden; and Jordan Schmitt, Haubstadt.

Many thanks to everyone for the support and time provided with workouts and classes for the team to prepare for the educational events while building the valuable skills for their careers. The “out of the classroom” experiences are valuable and irreplaceable to the educational process and developmental process of the student.

Alumni Updates

Stacey (Bennett) Harsh (B.S. 1997) is now the Safety Director at Midwest Poultry Service in Mentone, IN. Stacey married Matt Harsh Sept. 9, 2000 and they now have a son Evan Matthew, born May 24, 2005.

Lawrence D. Muller (Ph.D. 1969) retired in 2003 from his position as Professor of Dairy Science at Penn State University.

Don Potter (B.S.-AGRI 1951) resides in Earl Park, Indiana as a retired home farm manager. He has three children and keeps busy with his 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

“I have been working for Procter & Gamble in the Pet Care business for almost 5 years. My current position is Nutritionist for the Iams Dog brand...my role is to formulate diets and evaluate their performance.”
-Sarah Adams (B.S. 1999) Nutritionist, Global Dry Dog Platform

Kellyann (Haniford) Boehm (B.S. 2001) moved to Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea to be an Area Defense Counsel for USAF for a year after receiving her bachelor’s at Purdue.

“I am currently a grain merchandiser for Louis Dreyfus Commodities in Claypool, Indiana. I currently sit on the head of the truck soybean meal desk here, selling Soybean meal all over the eastern U.S. to livestock producers and feed mills.”
-Jeremy Armstrong (B.S. 2007) Grain Merchandiser, Louis Dreyfus Commodities

“‘I am now the Area Business Manager for the Kroger Co.’s spice and convenience pouch operations located in Pontiac, South Carolina.”
-Travis Ross (B.S. 2004) Area Business Manager, Kroger Co.

“I moved to Fort Wayne to work for a pharmaceutical company, Novartis, selling cardiovascular medicines for over 3 years. I currently work as a senior sales consultant for Bayer Animal Health in Northern Indiana.”
-Trina Hopkins (B.S. 2002) Senior Technical Sales Consultant, BAYER HEALTHCARE LLC

Livestock Judging Team: Standing from left to right Kyle Culp, Erik Mronzinski, Levi Deckard, Michael Bonnell, and Matt Claeys (Coach). Seated from left to right: Jeremy Barbour, Aimee Shaffer, and Spencer Morris.
2009 Distinguished Animal Sciences Alumni Awards

Criteria for Selection:
Nominees will have earned a B.S., M.S. or Ph.D. in Animal Sciences from Purdue. Successful nominees will have demonstrated excellence in industry, academia, governmental service, or other endeavors as exemplified by leadership, community service, and professional accomplishments.

There are three categories of awards: Early Career (5-15 years since first degree), Mid-Career (16-30 years) and Lifetime (31+ years).

Nominations:
Nominations may be made by any person or group affiliated with the Department of Animal Sciences, Purdue University, or the animal science industry.

Nomination forms will be available online at http://www.ansc.purdue.edu/alumni/ANSC_DAA2009.pdf, or contact Barry Delks (delks@purdue.edu) if you need one. Nominations must include the nomination form and the nominee’s vita or resume.

Presentation of Awards:
The award will include an appropriate gift presented to the recipient. Recognition of recipients will be placed on the Department Distinguished Alumni plaque. The recipients of these awards will be expected to give a brief response to the Department of Animal Sciences faculty and students on Friday, November 13, 2009.

Nominations are due May 1, 2009.

Mail completed nominations to:
Distinguished ANSC Alumni Award Committee
Barry Delks, Chair
Dept. of Animal Sciences
915 W. State St., Lilly Hall of Life Sciences
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054

Animal Sciences Alumni Updates

The Animal Sciences Newsletter Committee would like to include your alumni update in next year’s newsletter. Let everyone know what you have been doing! Just send us your name, address, and phone number. Also include your degree, employer, and update information. Photos would be great, too!

We would be delighted to hear from you! Send your updates to: Purdue University, Department of Animal Sciences, Lilly Hall of Life Sciences, 915 W. State St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054. Or email to Barry Delks at delks@purdue.edu.

Do you receive the Animal Sciences E-Mail Newsletter? If you would like to be added to the list, email Barry Delks at delks@purdue.edu and state “add to ANSC alumni email newsletter.”

Thank you for supporting Purdue Animal Sciences

Yes! I want to support the Department of Animal Sciences

$1,000 $500
$200 $100
$50
Other amount

Please use my gift for:
Undergraduate Scholarships #51010140
Industry Tour #51010143
Book-Harmon Seminar #51010134
Graduate Student Support #51010133
Career Services/Placement Partners #51010131
Facility Improvements #51060083
4-H ANSC Workshop for Youth #51010130
Other

I authorize $ to be charged to my account.

Circle one: Visa Mastercard Discover
Account # Exp. Date

Print name as it appears on credit card

Signature Date

* Contributions to Purdue University are deductible as charitable contributions within the limits of the Internal Revenue Code. This includes gifts of securities.
* Indiana taxpayers are eligible for a 50% state income tax credit for gifts up to $400 on joint returns or $200 on individual returns.
* Matching gifts increase your giving power. Please include your completed matching gifts form.
* Your commitment and/or designation may be changed by calling Purdue’s pledge line at 800-319-2199
UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

April
18-19  Spring Fest
25    Purdue Beef Unit Golden Girls
      Showcase and Production Sale

May
1    Deadline for 2009 Distinguished Animal
     Sciences Alumni Nominations
16    College of Agriculture Graduation

August
7-23  State Fair
7     Purdue Day at the State Fair

October
3     Purdue Homecoming and Animal Science Reunion

November
13    2009 Distinguished Animal Sciences Alumni
      Program

February 2010
6     Ag Alumni Fish Fry

Receive our e-mail updates!

Would you like to receive the Animal Sciences e-mail updates?

Just e-mail Barry Delks at delks@purdue.edu and state “add to ANSC Alumni e-mail newsletter.”