In the Loop

Greetings from the Department of Animal Science! This Spring semester has been extremely busy. The Department is recruiting an Assistant Professor faculty member to instruct equine related courses and conduct animal behavior research. We hope to have this person in place this summer.

Renovations on research laboratories here in the AFLS Building began as soon as classes were over in May.

Dr. Jeremy Powell is a co-investigator on one of two grants selected for funding by USDA-NIFA. This $3 million grant is in collaboration with the University of Missouri and Texas A & M.

The project will use genomic methods to identify DNA variants of beef cattle that are responsible for local genetic adaption to tolerate environmental stressors, improve resilience of production, and enhance beef quality and quantity.

Congratulations to Daniel Potter and the UA Ranch Horse Team on their impressive showing at the American Stock Horse Association, National Collegiate Championship in Sweetwater, TX. The team was named the Division II Reserve National Champions in April. This is the first semester for the team.

Animal Science students continue to be the best and brightest. At our annual awards banquet in April, 55 scholarships totaling over $45,000 were presented to our students. Funds to support these scholarships are generated from you, our alumni, supporters and stakeholders. A huge thank you from the entire faculty, staff and students for your generous support of the scholarship program.

The Department’s Outstanding Student Awards were presented to Hannah Newberry from Harrison (AR), undergraduate student; Brittany Stettmeier from Farmington (AR), transfer student; Haley Bartimus from Jefferson City (MO), Dr. Paul Noland M.S. graduate student winner; and Elizabeth Backes of Saint Thomas (MO), Dr. Paul Noland Ph.D. graduate student winner. The faculty, staff, and I would like to congratulate all students from the Department that graduated either last Fall or this Spring with B.S. degrees in Animal Science; seven of these students were accepted to veterinary medicine school. I had the privilege of presenting the Department’s Awards of Distinction and Friend of the Department Award. You can read more about them and their stellar careers in the following pages. I want to thank Jamie Newberry and the REPS group for coordinating and hosting the scholarship award banquet at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena.

The Departmental faculty had numerous research abstracts, and several students in the undergraduate and graduate student competitions at the Southern and Midwest sections of the American Society of Animal Science meetings. Congratulations to Dr. Janel Yancey and the Quadrathlon team (third place), and Will Pohlman (first place in the undergraduate competition) at the Southern Animal Science meetings in San Antonio. Faculty will hit the road again this summer attending various scientific conferences presenting their recent research findings.

Please let us know if we can help you. As always, feel free to contact me [looper@uark.edu; (479) 575-3745] or stop by and visit when you are in Fayetteville.

Michael Looper
Department Head
Support Animal Science Department Scholarships

By buying a chairback in the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center

You can support scholarships for Department of Animal Science students and receive permanent recognition by purchasing a chairback in the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center. Purchases are tax deductible and can be made in the name of an individual, a business, or in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. If you are a former judging team member and would like to purchase a seat in honor of your judging team, contact Bryan Kutz at 479-575-4337.

Chairbacks are available for a minimum donation of $500, although many individuals have donated more.

If you would like to help with scholarships by purchasing a chairback, fill out the form to the right and mail it with a check made out to Agricultural Development Council, with a notation of Arena Chairback to the address on the form at the right.

Chairback Order Form
Please use separate page if needed.

Donor Information
Name:
Address:
Phone:
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Please list information desired on chairback:

Make checks payable to: Agricultural Development Council
Please make a notation: Arena Chairback

Mail to: Connie Stewart
University of Arkansas
1120 W. Maple
Dept. of Animal Science
Fayetteville, AR 72701
**Department Presents Distinction & Friend Awards**

The Department of Animal Science presented its 2016 Awards of Distinction during its annual awards and scholarship banquet, April 20 at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center. Also honored at the banquet were the students, who received scholarships. This the department presented over $45,000 in scholarships. The banquet was hosted by the Animal Science REPS: Sara Guillen, Lensy Watson, Will Pohlman, Jessica Breslau, Caleb Shepherd, Sarah Mason, Kyra Campbell and Jacie Sweeney.

The recipients are: Advanced Graduates of Distinction – Todd Bilby, MS and Peter Camfield, PhD; Friend of the Department – Hadley Twilley.

**Todd Bilby** grew up on a small farm in Northwest MO. In 1999, he received his B.S. from Oklahoma State University where he majored in Animal Science with a focus on business and minor in Ag economics. He then went on to work with Dr. Rick Rorie to receive his M.S. in reproductive physiology in the department of Animal Science from the University of Arkansas. In 2005, Dr. Bilby received his PhD from the University of Florida under the direction of Dr. Bill Thatcher focusing on nutraceutical and pharmaceutical approaches to improve fertility by reducing embryo loss. After graduation, Dr. Bilby worked for Monsanto Dairy Business in the central valley of California serving as an Area Market Manager, managing a dairy sales territory and providing technical expertise. In 2007, he joined the faculty at The University of Arizona as an Assistant Professor and Extension Dairy Specialist. He worked in both extension and research. His research program focused on improving fertility during summer heat stress in the lactating dairy cow. Most recently, Dr. Bilby was on faculty with Texas A&M AgriLIFE Research and Extension as an Associate Professor and Dairy Extension Specialist where his research program focused on economically viable strategies to improve fertility in dairy cattle. As of February, 2013, Dr. Bilby joined Merck Animal Health as a Cattle Technical Services Manager providing expertise for both dairy and beef cattle across the US. Dr. Bily was recognized most recently as the recipient of the Top 40 under 40 in Agriculture award by Vance Publishing and American Dairy Science Foundation Scholar award in Dairy Production.

**Peter K. Camfield** was born in 1967, in the Texas Panhandle town of Amarillo. Upon graduation from Canyon High School in 1985, he entered Sul Ross State University to pursue a degree in Animal Science. The B.S. degree was conferred in 1989. He received a M.S. degree in Animal Science from West Texas A&M University in 1992 and was the manager of the University’s meats laboratory and manager of the beef carcass research center. In September of 1992 he was hired as a meat science researcher for Elanco Animal Health and collected all the meat science research for Elanco from Texas to California. He received his Ph.D. in Animal Science at the University of Arkansas under the guidance of the late Dr. Hayden Brown in 1996.

He then moved to Goodwell, Oklahoma, as an Assistant Professor in Animal Science at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. He advanced from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor in 2000 and was awarded full Professor in 2003. He became Dean of the School of Agriculture in October of 2004 and has been in that position since. Since becoming Dean of the School of Agriculture in 2004, Dr. Camfield has concentrated his efforts on recruiting and retaining Agricultural students; engaging OPSU Agricultural alumni and other stakeholders with the goals of the department and improving the educational infrastructure of the department.

Dr. Camfield’s goal is that every agricultural graduate of OPSU has a well-rounded education and has a job secured prior to graduation.

Dr. Camfield is an advocate for modern, high yield Agriculture, and his current research interest is in developing strategies for retention and degree completion of Agricultural students. Dr. Camfield is married to Carolyn R. Camfield and has three children: Michelle, Garrett and Zane.

Hadley Twilley is a native Arkansan growing up in Fayetteville and developing a strong connection and love for the University of Arkansas. As a youngster she spent many hours on campus running up and down the steps of the Greek Theater, climbing the stairs of Old Main to the museum, and attending Razorback football games sitting in the fifty cent “Not Whole Seats” section reserved for young fans. Additional happy memories were added during her tenure of 35+ years at the Department of Animal Science. This turned out to be a perfect fit as she never ceased to enjoy the interactions with faculty, staff, and particularly the students, while being on the campus she loves. She cherishes the lifelong friendships made during this time and she has been delighted watching former students grow and attain positions of influence and responsibility.

While in the department she served six department heads and three interim department heads. This was invaluable as she was able to provide continuity while the department was going through many changes. She was selected as “Outstanding Classified Employee” of the Agriculture Experiment Station in 1994 and again in 2001. She also represented staff in the Dale Bumper’s College and Arkansas Agriculture Experiment Station serving as secretary/recorder on Staff Senate for three years.

She was a member of the University of Arkansas Catastrophic Leave Committee and staff representative to Faculty Council. She was also asked to serve on various planning or selection committees in the College and Experiment Station.

Hadley says she is honored being named “Friend of the Department” but feels it more appropriate for the Department of Animal Science to be recognized as a “Friend of Hadley.”}
Department Meat Scientists Head South of the Border

Department of Animal Science faculty, Dr. Jason Apple and staff, Dr. Janeal Yancey recently visited the state of Sonora, in Mexico on a consulting trip for a meat company.

They toured farms, a feed mill and a processing plant; as well as enjoying visits to several local grocery stores and meat markets.

The state of Sonora is known for its high quality beef, and both Apple and Yancey enjoyed the opportunity to sample many different types and preparations during their trip.

“The beef is so popular that there were four meat counters in an airport that only had nine gates,” Yancey said.

Animal Science Hosts 2016 Beef Quizbowl

University of Arkansas Animal Science hosts the 2016 Arkansas State Beef Quiz Bowl.

The University Of Arkansas Department Of Animal Science hosted the annual state wide Beef Quiz Bowl this year in Fayetteville at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center on February 26. This program is funded by the Arkansas Beef Council through revenue collected from the Beef Check-Off. This Cooperative Extension activity provides students in Arkansas an incentive to learn more about management, food safety, forage nutrition, quality assurance and the end beef product. Educational material was provided for County Extension Agents and Vocational Agriculture Instructors to further the learning process beyond that of their beef 4-H and FFA projects.

Students were tested on many levels of question difficulty. The questions were compiled by our Animal Science faculty and judging team students and covered all aspects of beef production. Four students made up a team and these teams competed in a double elimination tournament.

Twenty-eight teams, 112 students plus 4-H agents, ag instructors and parents attended this event. Preparation for this contest allowed students to sharpen their knowledge about beef cattle production. Additionally, students improved communication, goal setting, critical thinking and team building skills and ultimately enhanced their interest in beef cattle. This program has a great impact on educating students and encouraging a broadened perspective about their role in beef production, food safety and consumer acceptance. These efforts will be continued through the University of Arkansas Animal Science, Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Beef Council and Agriculture teachers across the state.
Outstanding Students

Also honored at the Animal Science Awards and Scholarship Banquet were the Department’s outstanding students. The undergraduates are selected by faculty vote, while the graduates are based on the outcome of the Paul Noland Graduate student competition.

Undergraduate: Hannah Newberry
Hannah Newberry is a senior Animal Science major with the Pre-Veterinary medicine concentration, from Harrison, Arkansas. She was recently accepted to the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine beginning in August.

Transfer Student: Brittany Stettmeier
Brittany Stettmeier is a transfer student from the Northwest Arkansas Community College. She is seeking a duel major in Animal Science at Bumpers College and Business Administration Marketing at the Sam Walton College of Business.

Masters: Haley Bartimus
Haley Bartimus is from Jefferson City, Missouri. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness at Lincoln University in 2014. She will be completing her Master's degree in Animal Science this summer with an emphasis in Ruminant Nutrition under the direction of Dr. Bruce Shanks and Dr. Ken Coffey.

Doctorate: Elizabeth Backes
Elizabeth Backes is from Saint Thomas, Missouri. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in 2011 at Lincoln University, majoring in Agriculture with an emphasis in Animal Science. Upon completion of her B.S., Elizabeth pursued her Master of Science degree at the University of Arkansas in the Department of Animal Science, and completed her degree in August 2013 under the direction of Dr. James Caldwell, with an emphasis in Ruminant Nutrition. Elizabeth sought out her Ph.D. also at the University of Arkansas in the Department of Animal Science, under the direction of Dr. Jeremy Powell, emphasizing in cow/calf parasitology. Elizabeth has accepted a position with Purina Animal Nutrition Company as a Beef Technical Support Consultant and will move to the Gray Summit, Missouri area, upon completion of her Ph.D. in May of 2016.

Tell us about yourself!

You can also submit online under the Alumni tab at AnimalScience.uark.edu!

We would like to hear how and what you're doing. Please use this form to provide information about yourself that you would like to see in the Alumni news section of a future Animal Science Newsletter. Also, please let us know if you would like more information about the Animal Science Alumni Society.

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In small and big ways, your gifts change lives. Increasing private gift support is critical to moving the University of Arkansas and the state of Arkansas forward. If you would like to join other alumni and friends to support the Department of Animal Science at the University of Arkansas, contact: Terry Bumgardner, Development Office, Bumpers College, E-108 AFLS, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, 479.575.2270 or email: tbumgar@uark.edu
Clubs

B&B Hosts Fundraising Event

The University of Arkansas Block and Bridle chapter held their annual Razorback Classic Cattle for a Cause jackpot show on March 5, 2016. The show registered 51 exhibitors with 80 head of cattle.

Emily Hasenauer and Morgan Marley led the club’s efforts in organizing the show, contacting sponsors and finding excellent judges. This year’s judges were Megan Montgomery, from Archie, Mo., and Spencer Scotten from Nevada Mo.

The show was run as a double-ringer, meaning after showing in one ring under one judge, the kids immediately showed in the next ring under the other judge. One ring’s entries were won back by the kids and the other ring’s entries went to a charity chosen by the Block and Bridle members. This year the charity chosen was Heifer International.

The club donated $1500 to Heifer International. That means they donated one heifer, one water buffalo, one llama, one goat, two sheep, and two pigs.

The Block and Bridle chapter would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone involved (from contestants to club members) that made the show a success!

Ranch Horse Team Makes Campus Debut

After only one semester on campus, the Arkansas Ranch Horse team ended their season with a Division 2 Reserve National Championship. The accolade was earned by team members Whitley Vann, Ashton Williams, Cheyenne Battles and Lensey Watson at the American Stock Horse Association National Collegiate Championship Show in Sweetwater, Tx.

The team competed in four events including: Ranch Pleasure, Ranch Reining, Working Cow Horse, and Ranch Trail. Williams placed 5th overall High Point, and Watson placed top 15 High Point and was 3rd place in Ranch Pleasure.

When the team was approved through the department of Animal Science, there was an immediate positive student response. Over 15 students tried out for a place on the team. “I’m thrilled with the response from the students about the team. I believe with the resources available in the community, both human and equine, we have the potential to compete at a high level,” said coach Daniel Potter.

While it’s new to the U of A, University Ranch Horse Teams have been around for about 10 years. There are currently about 20 Universities and Junior Colleges that offer a Ranch Horse Team.

Academic Quadrathlon Team Finishes Strong

The Academic Quadrathlon competition was held in College Station and San Antonio, TX in February. Team members Will Pohlman, Jacie Sweeney, Morgan Marley and Emily Hasenauer competed against teams of 4 from universities all over the South in a hands-on lab practicum, a written exam, an oral presentation and a quiz bowl.

The team was 3rd in the Written Exam, 2nd in the Lab Practicum, 3rd in the Quiz Bowl competition and 3rd overall.