Exploring China: Students gain insight on agriculture halfway around the world
North Dakota State University is a land-grant university that provides educational opportunities, information and technology that enhances the economy of the state as well as the quality of life for its citizens. The faculty and staff of the NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources, the ND Agricultural Experiment Station and the NDSU Extension Service are integrally connected and are critically important in allowing the college to carry out its mission.

This publication highlights teaching activities of the college. Reports covering activities of the ND Agricultural Experiment Station and NDSU Extension Service can be found at www.ndsu.edu/vpaue/annual_highlights. If you do not have Internet access and would like to receive a copy of their latest report, please contact us.
This year marks the 150th anniversary of visionary legislation that fundamentally changed America by offering higher education, opportunity and success to its citizens. The original 1862 Morrill Land-Grant Act created institutions to teach courses related to agriculture and the mechanic arts “in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.”

The act was the cornerstone for great institutions like North Dakota State University. Through the decades, the land-grant mission has proven to be essential to serving the educational and outreach needs of our state and nation, while also providing groundbreaking, forward-thinking research to solve many of our problems and open up the great economic development potential of our state and nation. NDSU has grown into a tremendous university, joining such institutions as the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin.

The Morrill Act may, in some circles, be best known for providing broader access to higher education, and it did so while wisely envisioning a well-rounded higher education. A deeply held aspect of our mission is to reach out to our citizens, to learn their needs and work side-by-side to improve lives. The power of land-grant institutions is unique because our commitment to teaching, research and service through the Extension system benefits not just those at the university, but residents throughout the state. With that combination of tools, we work to solve the challenges of the people we serve.

As we look ahead, these strengths make us well prepared to meet global needs. Our traditional challenge of feeding the nation, and now the increasing markets of the world, will be a bigger challenge than ever before. We will need to use advances in agriculture and all aspects of engineering and science to meet the basic human demands for food and water. Our land-grant institution’s education and research will continue to expand into the studies of nutrition, genetics, plant pathology, soil science and chemistry as the foundations for meeting that challenge.

It is an honor to work in a higher education setting and an honor to work at one of the nation’s top-ranked, student-focused, land-grant, research universities – where we are today accomplishing and contributing more to our state and nation than ever before in history ... and our most important work still lies ahead.

Dean L. Bresciani

North Dakota State University and the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources continue to create excitement throughout this great state. In this year of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, which established land-grant universities such as NDSU, we celebrate our commitment to our students and stakeholders and look forward to providing continued service through our teaching, research and outreach efforts.

Agriculture is truly experiencing a high level of interest as evidenced by the number of undergraduate students enrolled in our academic programs. I believe they understand the opportunities that exist due to an increasing world population, a variable climate and a rapidly developing bioeconomy. And, we continue to hear from a number of employers desperately in need of highly qualified graduates. As we explore new opportunities and realignments to make programs more relevant for today’s societal needs, we are confident the college will continue to see a steady increase in enrollment.

The anticipated completion of Phase III of the NDSU Greenhouse Complex is spring 2013. Phases I and II are now occupied, and we hear excellent reports from the faculty and staff who are using this state-of-the-art facility. The Greenhouse Complex and our new Beef Cattle Research Complex are excellent facilities for research and education. They already have made an impact on recruiting and retaining world-class faculty and students.

The Commodity Trading Laboratory in Barry Hall is completed. This cutting-edge facility allows our students to obtain hands-on experience in a real-world trading room focusing on agricultural commodities. Our students will gain invaluable skills and a knowledge base that they can use effectively as they secure positions in agribusinesses throughout the world. We believe it is the only agriculture commodity-focused trading room in the country. Bill Wilson, who worked with the NDSU Development Foundation to raise more than $1.8 million to construct and equip the room, led this effort. A fundraising effort is planned to permanently support the operations and upkeep of the facility.

I want to thank each of you for your continued support and dedication to the college and NDSU. I believe you will be proud of the academic and research accomplishments we will see in the not too distant future.

Ken Grafton
Study abroad program lets students view agriculture’s global reach

In a country known as the world’s breadbasket and the largest producer of many agricultural goods, it can be easy to lose sight of the reach and impact of global production agriculture. Perhaps the best way for U.S. students to gain that insight is going halfway around the world.

NDSU students did exactly that. The NDSU animal sciences department, through the university’s College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources, initiated the Global Food Production Systems Study Abroad Program. Its first trip was a 15-day visit to China in late May and early June. The faculty-led program focused specifically on agriculture and food systems majors, but was open to all NDSU students.

“One of the things we talk about in the college is how global agriculture really is,” said David Newman, assistant professor of animal sciences. “We work on the domestic piece all of the time. We want students to realize that even if you don’t live or work abroad, you need some understanding of it to understand agriculture and the complexity of feeding such a huge population.”

Once in China, students followed the commercial production of animals from birth to growing, feeding and sale facilities. The students visited commodity markets, studied the intricacies of marketing options producers have for their goods, visited meat processing facilities and studied processing methods and the movement of meat from processing facilities to domestic retail or export markets.

“We wanted food production all across the board,” said Carl Dahlen, assistant professor of animal sciences. “From the time it is planted or born all the way through processing and retail sales and imports and exports. How does a country feed itself?”

Connecting across cultures

The average farm in China is less than half an acre. And while China’s methods of feeding itself are becoming technologically advanced, it largely depends on an ample labor supply. “We saw more people working in the fields than we have in all of North Dakota,” Dahlen said. “It was striking the amount of labor.”

NDSU students quickly became aware of the challenge of feeding the world’s second largest population. Newman said the growth potential for U.S. imports is phenomenal. “Their need for food is increasing, especially as the middle class grows,” he said. “They want to eat better and eat more protein. For every hog that’s raised in China, a lot of that grain is coming from the U.S. They easily produce five times the pigs as in the U.S., but half of them are raised one at a time. It’s just a totally different production scheme.”

Christine Wanner is a senior majoring in agricultural education from Wishek, N.D. She hopes to pursue a career as an agricultural instructor in North Dakota. She said the experience helped her compare U.S. and Chinese production agriculture. “I want to be part of this industry in the future,” Wanner said. “The trip gave me a broader global perspective on how the world feeds itself. It really hit home that China does need us. They aren’t self sufficient and trade is dependent on everybody.”

NDSU students were first introduced to China’s agriculture production in Beijing where they visited the Chinese Agricultural University, the country’s largest agricultural university. While Dahlen and Newman presented overviews on North Dakota, NDSU and how the Extension Service educates producers, the U.S. and Chinese students interacted. Dahlen said only two of the approximately 50 people they met in the university’s animal sciences department had worked directly with animals. “What’s specifically lacking is their hands-on knowledge,” he said.

Newman said the Chinese students had little agricultural background, often having to go back three generations to find it. “What I take away from that is don’t undervalue the potential you have by having an agriculture background that is so deeply rooted,” he said. “Those are skills that employers want.”

The program also stopped at historical landmarks in Beijing, Xi’an, Shanghai and Hangzhou, including the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and the Terracotta Army. They also saw silk and tea production. “To understand what’s going on in any country – whether business-related or to understand market potential – you have to understand the culture,” Newman said. “One of the biggest hurdles to get over in China is to be able to understand their culture.”

A KFC on every corner

While traveling through the country, students learned about China’s culture and how it produces food. They witnessed the demands of feeding more than 1.3 billion people on the farming industry. In the quest for self-sufficiency, the Chinese have developed much of its arable land. Dahlen said that was evident when driving through the major wheat and canola regions. “Every patch of ground that could be planted was planted,” he said. “Along the roadside, between trees, if it was
12 inches wide, it would be wheat. The arable land thing is very real, especially when it’s small grains production.”

China also consumes a lot of vegetables, in turn creating demand for greenhouses. “If it wasn’t wheat, it was a greenhouse,” Dahlen said.

Food safety also is a major concern in China. In 2010, melamine-contaminated dairy products sickened or killed thousands. As a result, the country’s domestic dairy industry struggled and turned to U.S. companies. Land O’ Lakes is developing large-scale dairies with westernized controls to build back the trust of consumers, Dahlen said. This includes hiring U.S. employees and shipping in U.S. feed.

Donn Nelson, a Lamoure, N.D., native and senior majoring in general agriculture, said the influence of U.S. companies and expertise was apparent throughout the trip. “As all these companies and countries modernize, they will end up feeding the world,” he said. “Our expertise is huge to their success.”

Tyson Foods is developing fully integrated poultry processing facilities. “KFC is opening hundreds of locations per year in China,” Newman said. “Food safety is a huge issue. They trust KFC.”

The message to students was that marketing potential is great and opportunities abound. “No one should take food security for granted,” Newman said. “But no one does it more than here in the U.S. If our culture has to be a global leader, we need to be rethinking education opportunities and focusing on critical thinking skills. We need to take students to China and other places across the globe, show it to them and say, ‘By the way, you’re part of the solution.’ ”

A gateway to the world
The study abroad program’s trip culminated in Shanghai where they visited Keith Schneller, director of the U.S. Agricultural Trade Office. Schneller gave a presentation on the state of food production in China and its outlook for the next 20 years. He also discussed imports, exports and how agriculture policy is written in China.

Dahlen said Schneller’s message echoed those the students heard before the trip when they had meetings with NDSU President Dean L. Bresciani; Ken Grafton, vice president, dean and director for agricultural affairs; Greg Lardy, head of the animal sciences department; Dean Gorder, executive director of the North Dakota Trade Office; and Doug Goehring, North Dakota agriculture commissioner. “It really hit home then,” Dahlen said of meeting with Schneller. “He lives in that environment and works in it every day. It’s imports, exports and dealing with politics.”

Following the meeting with Schneller, the group toured a Shanghai port that manages 30 million containers per year. Newman said Schneller’s figures showed 1 million bushels of soybeans per week went through the port in 2011. “And that’s just one port,” Newman said.

The students visited the port’s cold storage facilities and market, which imports frozen meat products from around the globe. The massive operation was an eye-opening sight indicative of the demands created with feeding China.

“For anyone else out there considering whether to study abroad, wherever it may be, definitely go for it,” Wanner said. “It was a life-changing experience for me. It made me appreciate what we do here in the United States.”

Nelson is already using the experience to his benefit. He works for Global Beef Consultants LLC, a Price, N.D.-based company that ships cattle via plane to Kazakhstan. He also has visited numerous farms to learn about their different production methods.

Nelson said the purpose of the trip was to compare and contrast production agriculture, but it also opened the door to possible internships or careers. “It was eye opening,” Nelson said. “It not only made me realize I didn’t know much about agriculture in other countries, but there also are many aspects of production agriculture in the U.S. I am unfamiliar with.”

DAVE NILLE
Soils tour samples diversity of Puerto Rico

David Hopkins, associate professor of soil science, gestures to a photo of Bayamon, Puerto Rico’s representative soil. “Look at the color of this,” he exclaims. An oxisol, a highly weathered soil found in tropical regions, the material falls somewhere between an apple and basketball in color — not something typically seen in North Dakota.

Hopkins and Tom DeSutter, assistant professor of soil science and NDSU’s soil science program leader, organized and led a weeklong trip to Puerto Rico in May with eight students and Keith Anderson, Natural Resources Conservation Service soil survey leader.

They traveled throughout the island looking at different soils, learning about land-use issues and exploring social, historical and socioeconomic themes. They visited historic San Juan, agricultural experiment stations, El Yunque National Forest, dairy production facilities, and wind, pineapple, vegetable and coffee farms. Faculty from University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and Natural Resources Conservation soil survey personnel hosted the trip.

The trip came together in part because of Manuel Matos, the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Caribbean soil survey leader. He worked on the NDSU campus in 2006 before recently returning to his native island. Matos grew up near Puerto Rico’s highest elevation of 4,389 feet. He ushered the group on a tour of a coffee plantation near his home and also opened the door to the trip by connecting Hopkins and David Sotomayor-Ramirez of the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez. Sotomayor-Ramirez and his colleagues, Gustavo Martinez and Victor Snyder, played a significant role in coordinating the trip and helping the students visit notable soil sites on the island, Hopkins said.

Tropical ultisols and oxisols are some of the most famous and oldest soils in the world. “These are remarkable soils affected by thousands of years of development,” Hopkins said.

They are also just a handful of the various soils the students studied. An island of 3,515 square miles — about the size of two Cass Counties — and part of the Greater Antilles, Puerto Rico boasts 10 of the world’s 12 soil orders spread throughout rainforests, beaches and other areas with diverse geologic parent materials. With 365 frost-free days per year, the islands mean annual precipitation ranges from 35 to 133 inches.

Despite its varied and dramatic geography, agriculture struggles to maintain a foothold on an island of 3.7 million people that imports 85 percent of its food. Hopkins said Puerto Rico has struggled to find workers for its seasonal agriculture production. Its coffee plantations typically require one worker per acre. “There is a tremendous amount of rural poverty,” Hopkins said.

The group visited the island’s last sugarcane mill, Valle de Colosso, which was shuttered in 1997. “The most important thing I learned was how great the American agricultural system is,” said John Breker, a sophomore from Rutland, N.D., majoring in soil science. “In Puerto Rico, the story of agriculture has been a lamentation of decline. Ever since the sugarcane industry collapsed, agriculture has been put on the wayside.”

DeSutter teaches a soils and land-use class at NDSU. He said the footprint of Puerto Rico’s developing wind farms has taken a substantial bite out of the island’s most productive farmland, the Fraternidad soils. “It was even larger than I thought it would be,” DeSutter said.

Students studied Puerto Rico’s land-use issues, among other topics, prior to the trip. They also conducted research and contributed a chapter to a field guidebook. Once on the island, they gave a presentation on their topic at areas related to their subject.
Commodity trading laboratory opens

An exciting new era of education has begun in the NDSU Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. The much-anticipated Commodity Trading Laboratory is completed.

The trading facility features the latest and best in technology, where students and researchers can analyze commodity markets and learn the fast-paced activity of risk management and trading.

“The Commodity Trading Lab has emerged to be state-of-the-art, both in technology and design. It will provide a very positive environment for teaching students with interests in commodity marketing, and it will be the first of its kind that specializes in agricultural commodities,” said William Wilson, University Distinguished Professor of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. “NDSU has a long tradition of training future leaders in this industry and the CTL will allow this to continue and grow. It will ultimately provide better training and exposure to marketing technology that is now the standard in these industries. It has a multitude of uses and has the potential to be used in other programs, including portfolio and finance courses in the College of Business.”

Located on the first floor of Richard H. Barry Hall, the trading room has 32 workstations and can be expanded to 48 seats. Equipment was installed in September, with final technology completed in October.

Using dynamic linkages, students can produce spreadsheet analysis using many sources of information. Anything on a monitored screen can be linked to another screen, and the instant a number or order changes anywhere, it automatically updates the spreadsheet statistics, a system in tune with the immediate and constantly changing realm of international commodity trading.

Funding for the facility has come from many sources. The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Office of the Provost and NDSU Technology Fee Advisory Committee supplied seed money. Major agribusiness companies provided various forms of financial support, including ADM, CHS, Gavilon, The Rice Trader and George M. Schuler III of Minn-Kota Ag Products Inc. State commodity organizations also provided funds, including the North Dakota Corn Council, North Dakota Soybean Council, North Dakota Wheat Commission and Northern Crops Institute.

“It’s a true partnership between the university and industry to do a better job of teaching,” Wilson explained. “We could not do this on our own, and, to be honest, industry could not do it either. This creates a better product for employers, and hopefully it means more students for us.”

The group discovered that many of the island’s southern soils were similar to those in North Dakota. However, the agricultural practices were starkly different. “An example is a 400-acre farm we visited that had lemon trees growing next to a summer squash field and onions from the previous crop were still visible,” said Brandon Montgomery, a first-year soil science graduate student from Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Hopkins and others in the group said they hope to continue developing relationships between the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and NDSU. Hopkins said he’d not only like to plan a return trip soon, but to have Puerto Rico students and faculty visit North Dakota.

Seven Puerto Rican student interns previously visited NDSU’s plant sciences and plant pathology departments in 2007. For the soils trip, Carlos Hawley, associate professor of Spanish, Maricelis Acevedo, assistant professor of plant pathology, and graduate students Juan Rivera and Irene Roman held a panel discussion to discuss agriculture, collegiate education, and foods and culture of Puerto Rico. All are Puerto Rico natives or have Puerto Rican heritage and work or study at NDSU.

“I believe that discussions between us can lead to great opportunities for collaborations to promote the advancement of agriculture,” Breker said.
Outreach efforts connect college with community

Adnan Akyüz came to the United States in 1985 without a firm grasp of English. In pursuit of master’s and doctoral degrees, he studied the language, accomplished his goals and, in the process, became an assistant professor in the School of Natural Resource Sciences at NDSU.

Now the North Dakota state climatologist, Akyüz uses his experience and expertise to teach in the Fargo Public Schools’ English Language Learners Summer School program. It’s just one of the many K-12 outreach activities led by faculty in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources.

Originally from Turkey, Akyüz was the state climatologist of Missouri prior to joining NDSU in 2007. His passion for North Dakota’s wide-ranging continental climate translates well to young students learning English, of which many are children whose parents have moved to the state to find work. They are part of an accelerated English-learning program, and Akyüz introduces them to the state’s unusual climate. Up to 50 students, ranging from kindergarten through the fifth grade, attend the program. “Weather can be a very hard concept to understand,” Akyüz said. “I explain as if I’m explaining to myself for the first time.”

Akyüz uses hands-on techniques to teach basic concepts such as precipitation measurement and temperature statistics. “The state’s maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded in the same year – 1936,” Akyüz said. “We have an annual range of 181 degrees Fahrenheit.”

“Weather can be a very hard concept to understand, I explain as if I’m explaining to myself for the first time.”
– Adnan Akyüz
Students use water bottles and straws to learn about air pressure. They compete against each other shooting water guns into rain gauges to learn about measuring precipitation. Akyüz demonstrates Bernoulli’s principle with a leaf blower and ball. For many, it’s their first glimpse of meteorology and climatology. “Most students are so impressed they want to become meteorologists,” Akyüz said. “Some aren’t aware of this career choice.”

Jane Schuh’s career choice was formulated at a young age. She took an interest in immunology when her father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. “I became interested in biology and trying to understand more about it,” she said. “That opened the door a crack.”

Now an associate professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences, Schuh helps open the door to science for area elementary and high school students. She annually attends career day events at Fargo’s North and South high schools where she talks with students about potential careers. She also takes her experience to elementary classrooms. “Many times grade school teachers don’t have a strong science background,” Schuh said. “It’s a nice opportunity to have scientists come into the classroom.”

Schuh has the students look through microscopes at everyday items – from moths to flowers to celery to cat hair to ear wax. “Put pollen or ear wax on a slide, and that will stick with a kid,” she said. “They have that inherent inquisitiveness. That’s what we try to train people to do, to ask those questions that are innate in kids.”

Outreach efforts in the microbiology department have involved visiting preschool and grade school classrooms with research students, some glass slides and an armful of microscopes. More faculty members are getting in the mix, too. Glenn Dorsam, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, recently joined the department, but he’s jumped into outreach activities and involved his students, Schuh said.

“The college students really take away an appreciation of how they can get kids excited about science,” Schuh said. “We emphasize the service part of it – giving back to our community. It’s how we explain to the public how education and research are an important duo.”

Akyüz uses his research to teach students about tornado safety. He hosted two groups of students in the Expanding Your Horizons program, a science- and math-focused event held at NDSU and focused toward 7th, 8th and 9th grade girls. He used a clear chamber that uses water vapor, dry ice and a fan to create a rotating column of air, which he calls a vortex. He essentially creates a tornado on a tabletop.

“The cause of tornados isn’t anchored down,” Akyüz said. “If you can understand how they form, you could predict them. We’re interested in the forces that make them in some locations and not others. We create these forces in a lab setting in front of the students. As soon as the tornado forms, I get the big ‘ahs’ from them. That tells me they learned something.”

Akyüz also uses his tornado knowledge with a younger crowd. His son entered Kennedy Elementary in Fargo in 2007 at a time when flooding and severe weather events were prominent issues in the region. Akyüz began visiting area elementary schools to advocate students wearing bicycle helmets during tornado warnings. He’s created a Facebook page to promote the idea and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has since mentioned the practice in its emergency preparedness reports. The goal, with all of the college’s outreach efforts, is to capture students’ attention.

“How do we get kids in the U.S. into math and science and all of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines?” Schuh said. “One of the ways is to get them excited about science earlier. We’re getting them on the path for science and discovery. They already know what questions to ask. They just need to get linked up to a place that nurtures that.”
Joint master’s degree, certificate program attracting quality students

The joint master’s degree program and graduate certificate between NDSU and Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, is off to a great beginning. Approved Sept. 15, 2011, by the State Board of Higher Education, the program in international infectious disease management and biosecurity is the first of its kind at NDSU, and is expected to offer a joint degree in which both institutions are named on the degree certificate.

The study abroad course spans an eight-week experience of didactic classes and research offered at Makerere University. Funding for the students comes from grants by the U.S. Agency for International Development/Higher Education for Development and U.S. Department of Agriculture Higher Education Challenge.

According to Margaret Khaitsa, program director for the Master of Science and Graduate Certificate Program in Infectious Disease Management and Biosecurity, eight students (three from the U.S., one from Ethiopia and four from Uganda) participated during summer 2011.

"Of the eight students who started in summer 2011, six defended their master’s degrees by Aug. 28, 2012. Two are expected to complete their program by the end of fall 2012. That’s an impressive record and speaks volumes of both the quality of student in this inaugural cohort and level of commitment of the faculty in our department and at Makerere," Khaitsa said. "Also, these students had great internship opportunities in partnership with other institutions and agencies."

The program educates students to address infectious disease problems using the “one world, one health, one medicine” concept in a way that tackles emerging pathogens not limited by species or geographic boundaries from their source of origin or hot spots. The program partners NDSU’s Department of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources with Makerere’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity and School of Public Health.

“The program provides an opportunity for students to interact directly with agencies involved in national and international health management such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USDA and intergovernmental organizations such as the World Health Organization, World Animal Health Organization, World Bank and International Food Policy Institute,” Khaitsa explained. “This broadens their career opportunities and gives our students an edge in joining professional programs such as veterinary medicine and medicine.”

One of the participating students, NDSU graduate student Timothy Miller from Luverne, Minn., said, “During my time in Uganda, I conducted research on zoonotic bovine tuberculosis focusing on the prevalence of the African 2 Clonal Complex spoligotype pattern, which is geographically associated with the horn of Africa.”

Miller credits the program for his internship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, where he conducted research on whooping cough. He said he plans to join the Navy Medical Corps following medical school.

Looking ahead, more opportunities are expected.

“A new batch of six master’s degree students from Uganda is expected to join NDSU for fall 2012 to spring 2013,” Khaitsa said. “I hope NDSU alumni are proud of their school, as it is leading the way in international education. NDSU has developed a program that is unique and may be the first such joint degree in North America.”
The NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources has announced several important administrative changes.

“Our new appointments bring a wealth of experience and skills to their positions,” said Ken Grafton, vice president, dean and director for agricultural affairs. “They each bring a deep commitment to their new duties, and I am certain they will provide excellent leadership in the areas of teaching, research and outreach.”

David Buchanan, professor of animal sciences, was named associate dean for academic programs. He assumed his new duties May 16.

Buchanan joined the NDSU animal sciences department in 2007. Prior to coming to NDSU, he was a faculty member at Oklahoma State University for almost 28 years.

“There is excitement in the industries served by our college, and I look forward to the challenge of recruiting students, helping to enhance our academic offerings and working with the alumni of our college,” Buchanan said. “When many work together, dreams can be realized.”

A Fargo native, Buchanan earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science from NDSU. He earned a master’s degree in animal science and doctorate in animal breeding and genetics from the University of Nebraska. He received the 2006 Excellence in University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Jane Schuh, associate professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences, was named assistant dean for academic programs. Grafton announced the appointment to the part-time position March 20.

Schuh joined the NDSU Department of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences in 2004. She previously was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan Medical School. Schuh earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology and doctorate in cellular and molecular biology from NDSU.

In February, Sreekala Bajwa became chair of the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering. She came to NDSU from the University of Arkansas, where she was an associate professor of agricultural engineering. She earned her doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Richard Horsley was appointed head of the plant sciences department after serving as interim head since July 2010. Horsley has been the NDSU six-rowed barley breeder since 1988, and he also took over the two-rowed barley breeding program in 2006. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota, and his master’s degree in agronomy and doctorate in crop and weed sciences from NDSU.

Charlene Wolf-Hall was named head of NDSU’s Department of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences, effective Oct. 16. Wolf-Hall, a professor in the department, joined NDSU in 1996. She has served as assistant dean for the College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, is on the leadership team for NDSU FORWARD and is a Food Systems Leadership Institute Fellow. She also was interim director of NDSU’s Great Plains Institute of Food Safety.

Wolf-Hall earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in microbiology from South Dakota State University, Brookings, and her doctorate in food science and technology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
Department chair, faculty member
Gustafson dies

Longtime NDSU faculty member Cole Gustafson, chair of the agribusiness and applied economics department, was killed April 28 in an accident on his family’s farm near Minneapolis. He was 56.

Ken Grafton, vice president, dean and director for agricultural affairs, said Gustafson was known throughout the state and region as an expert in the bioenergy field. In 2007, Gustafson was named the first Extension bioenergy economist at NDSU.

“He did a remarkable job developing that program,” Grafton said. “He worked with faculty both within and outside his department, along with private entities in order to move the bioenergy efforts forward. We lost a good colleague.”

In March, Gustafson announced a project funded by a two-year North Dakota Renewable Energy Council grant to develop an advanced biofuel from energy beets. His hope was to provide growers across North Dakota with a new industrial crop.

Gustafson joined NDSU in 1986 as a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics. He held a number of positions, including interim chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics, associate dean of research and co-director of the Bioenergy and Product Innovation Center.

Among his many awards and honors, Gustafson received the H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award in 2007 and was named a fellow of the National Agricultural College Teachers Association in 2008. His research responsibilities included development of financial risk management strategies for farms, biofuel/bioproduct firms and the wind industry. As a researcher, he wrote more than 45 peer-reviewed journal articles.

“Cole’s vision, coupled with his inquisitive and analytical nature, not only advanced his thinking, research and teaching, but benefited colleagues, business people, community leaders and students,” said David Saxowsky, associate professor of agribusiness and applied economics. “Cole’s questions and insight led to careful thinking, analysis, conversations and action. Likewise, his enthusiasm would help identify opportunities when others saw challenges.”

Gustafson’s recent Extension efforts included a bi-weekly news release titled “Energy Economics.” He wrote feedstock articles for www.extension.org. He also established North Dakota’s first biomass testing lab, located at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service site in Mandan. In addition, Gustafson led the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station for several years as associate director of research.

Gustafson earned his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in agricultural economics from the University of Minnesota. He earned his doctorate in agricultural economics at the University of Illinois. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, a son and two daughters.

A scholarship fund in his memory has been established. Contributions can be sent to the NDSU Development Foundation, P.O. Box 5144, Fargo, ND 58105.
NDSU hosts Reciprocal Meat Conference

NDSU and the Department of Animal Sciences hosted the 65th American Meat Science Association’s Reciprocal Meat Conference June 17-20 at the Fargodome. The conference is the annual meeting for the association, which is the foremost group of meat science professionals in the country.

“We brought more than 650 scientists to the North Dakota research corridor, which provided us an excellent opportunity to showcase the cutting-edge research being conducted at NDSU,” said Eric Berg, a member of the NDSU meat science team that helped organize the conference.

“Meat science is a very broad discipline of science. It literally is meat animal production from conception to consumption. We have people conducting research on everything from fetal programming to making a better, safer hot dog and everything in between,” Berg explained.

The conference gave participants a chance to network, exchange research ideas and hear renowned speakers. The first keynote speaker, for example, was Gary Taubes, a best-selling author who wrote such books as “Good Calories, Bad Calories” and “Why We Get Fat.”

The conference focused on the topic: food for a growing world population. “It involved food safety, it involved being more efficient in producing muscle food and it involved being more efficient in what types of crops get fed to livestock,” Berg said.

NDSU hosted the conference once before in 1983.

Koo named to ag policy advisory group

Won Koo, professor and director of the Center for Agriculture Policy and Trade Studies, was appointed to the USDA and Office of the U.S. Trade Representative’s Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk announced the appointment.

USDA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative rely on the advice and counsel committees provide on trade issues. With U.S. exports of food and agricultural products expected to reach the second-highest level ever this fiscal year, trade contributes substantially to a healthy agricultural economy. The advisory committee provides policy advice on agricultural trade issues to the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative. The committee plays a significant role in the trade policy process, providing advice on negotiating objectives and strategies and on other matters related to the development and administration of U.S. agricultural trade policies. “The input and advice received from the committee members is critically important as we work to carry out President Obama’s ambitious trade agenda,” Kirk said.

Congress established the advisory committee system in 1974 to ensure U.S. agricultural trade policy objectives reflect U.S. commercial and economic interests. The USDA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative jointly manage the committees. Koo’s appointment to the advisory committee became effective June 15 and will expire June 15, 2016.
Buchanan named animal science society fellow

David Buchanan, professor of animal sciences and associate dean for academic programs in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources, was selected as a Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science Teaching Category.

Buchanan joined the Oklahoma State University faculty in 1980 and came to NDSU in 2007. His research has involved both swine and beef genetics. According to the society, “His teaching career has been striking for its diversity, innovation and concern for students.”

Buchanan is a former president and program secretary of the American Society of Animal Science, and he served on its board of directors from 1993-96 and 2004-07. He also served on the board of directors for the Federation of Animal Science Societies from 2005-08.

“The American Society of Animal Science has meant so much to me throughout my career. This makes this particular recognition especially gratifying,” Buchanan said.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in animal science at NDSU, and his master’s degree in animal science and doctorate in animal breeding and genetics at the University of Nebraska.

Berg’s service learning efforts honored

Erika Berg, assistant professor of animal sciences, received NDSU’s Service Learning Award for 2012 during the annual NDSU Celebration of Faculty Excellence on May 1.

NDSU Provost Bruce Rafert said Berg was honored for her efforts to develop a minor and certificate program in therapeutic horsemanship, which enables student volunteers to work with the Riding on Angels’ Wings organization. The non-profit organization’s goal is to strengthen, empower and educate individuals with physical, cognitive, behavioral and emotional disabilities through partnerships with horses.

“The committee was impressed with Dr. Berg’s contribution to service learning at NDSU,” Rafert said. “This service learning experience is equally rewarding to students as a means of giving back to the community. Dr. Berg is diligent in ensuring student success, and she encourages them to do their very best in and out of the classroom. This honor is well deserved.”

Students taking Berg’s Introduction to Therapeutic Horsemanship course each provide 16 hours of volunteer service. The students engage in a number of roles at Riding on Angels’ Wings, perhaps most importantly walking next to riders mounted on the horses, helping to keep them safe and facilitating engagement and communication.

“Receiving the award was a tremendous and humbling honor,” Berg said. “I have been very fortunate to have the support of my department and colleagues in developing this partnership with Riding on Angels’ Wings. What I am most grateful for is the opportunity students have to witness the powerful connection between humans and horses, and realize that all people, regardless of their challenges, have something meaningful to contribute to life. That is not something easily learned in the classroom.”

The physical benefits of equine-assisted therapies include increased range of motion in joints, increased balance and greater strength. Riders with cognitive disabilities often experience improved motor sequencing and greater attention to task.

Berg earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science at Purdue University and her doctorate in animal science at the University of Missouri.
Thompson receives national recognition

NDSU potato breeder Asunta “Susie” Thompson was honored with the National Potato Council’s Meritorious Service Award. She received the recognition at the Potato Expo, held during January in Orlando, Fla.

The Northern Plains Potato Growers Association of East Grand Forks, Minn., nominated Thompson for the award. According to the group, “Dr. Thompson is considered one of the top potato breeders in the country. In just the past six years, Dr. Thompson has released four new commercial varieties … including the first frozen processing variety to be released from NDSU. She is also a key collaborator in the North Central Breeding and Genetics Group … and a key contributor to the National Chip Processing Trials and the National Fry Processing Trials supported by the U.S. Potato Board.”

Among the varieties Thompson has released are Dakota Crisp and Dakota Diamond chipping varieties and a red-skinned cultivar for the tablestock market, Dakota Jewel. She also released Dakota Trailblazer, which is NDSU’s first frozen processing variety.

“I was really shocked, surprised and very humbled by this award,” Thompson said. “I feel that I haven’t done much yet in terms of helping the potato industry and I have so many goals to attain. I’m really just getting started.”

Thompson noted the award is presented to one person per year. “This group that I am now among is very elite and I am in awe of most of them – they are the folks I look up to or want to be like, emulate and strive to achieve like they have in helping the producers and our great industry,” she said.

Thompson joined NDSU in 2001, after being a member of the faculty at Colorado State University. She earned her bachelor’s degree in agronomy and master’s degree in horticulture and forestry from NDSU, and her doctorate in plant sciences from the University of Idaho.

She is a member of the Potato Association of America and American Society of Horticultural Science.

Sonsthagen, NDSU program honored

NDSU’s veterinary technology program is receiving high praise and national recognition.

Teresa Sonsthagen, senior lecturer and veterinary technology program co-director, received the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators Elsevier Award for Teaching Excellence. The honor was presented during the group’s 2011 symposium in Cincinnati.

In addition, the entire faculty and staff of the program received the association’s Proctor and Gamble Award for Excellence in Team Teaching. The honor recognizes educators who demonstrate exceptional strength in working collaboratively to generate creative learning opportunities for students.

Recognized team members include Kari Bolgrean, lecturer; Eloyes Hill, medical technician; Stacey Ostby, lecturer and program co-director; Sonsthagen; Charles Stoltenow, professor of animal sciences; and Sarah Wagner, assistant professor of animal sciences.

According to Stoltenow, the NDSU program is entering its 37th year and accounts for nearly 10 percent of all four-year degree graduates in the United States. He said there are approximately 200 accredited veterinary technician programs in the country, and of that number, only 21 offer a four-year degree.

He notes a series of events in 2010 led to the program being understaffed by two positions and medical issues caused another team member to be absent for extended periods of time.

“This necessitated an entire reorganization of how classes were taught and the integration of team teaching,” Stoltenow explained. “The entire team worked so well together and demonstrated what it means to be a cohesive team that students even remarked that if they hadn’t known any better, they would have thought this was how the program was taught every semester. The professionalism shown over and over again taught the students that no matter the obstacle, if we work together, everyone accomplishes more – which is the definition of teamwork.”
Grafton, McClean recognized by bean improvement group

Two NDSU faculty members received prestigious honors at the biennial Bean Improvement Cooperative meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, during November 2011.

Ken Grafton, vice president, dean and director for agricultural affairs, received the Meritorious Service Award and Phil McClean, professor of plant sciences, was awarded the Frazier-Zaumeyer Distinguished Lectureship.

The Meritorious Service Award acknowledges outstanding contributions to bean research and education. “It’s truly an honor to receive the award from this international association,” Grafton said. “Any contribution that I made in bean breeding and genetics was due to the excellent collaborative relationships developed among the members of the Bean Improvement Cooperative.”

Grafton earned his bachelor’s degree in agronomy and master’s degree in plant breeding and genetics at The Ohio State University. He earned his doctorate in plant breeding and genetics at the University of Missouri.

The Frazier-Zaumeyer Distinguished Lectureship recognizes significant contributions to bean research. The recipient is invited to deliver the keynote opening address at the biennial meeting and provide a review for publication in the organization’s report and website.

“Common beans are a major food crop and critical to the diets of people in developing countries facing limited food security. To be recognized by an organization dedicated to the improvement of this essential societal crop is certainly an honor I will cherish throughout my career,” said McClean, professor of plant sciences and director of NDSU’s Genomics and Bioinformatics Program. He earned his bachelor’s degree in biology from Metropolitan State College and his master’s and doctoral degrees in agronomy from Colorado State University.

Maddock receives meat science award

Robert Maddock, associate professor of animal sciences, was recently honored with the American Meat Science Association’s Distinguished Achievement Award. He received the recognition at the association’s annual awards banquet, which was held June 19 in conjunction with the Reciprocal Meat Conference in Fargo.

The award was established in 1992 to recognize and foster development of young association members who have demonstrated significant scientific skills in muscle food research and technology that contribute to the animal products industry and the association. Burke Corp., a manufacturer of precooked meats, sponsors the award.

“The list of previous winners of this award includes many current leaders in the meat science field, and it is an honor to be recognized in a similar manner,” Maddock said.

Maddock is co-director of NDSU’s Beef Systems Center of Excellence. He joined the NDSU animal sciences department in 2006, and teaches courses in meat processing, meat evaluation and food safety. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science from NDSU, and his doctorate in meat science from Texas A&M University.
Howatt receives educator award

Kirk Howatt, associate professor of plant sciences, was named Educator of the Year by the Mid America CropLife Association. He was recognized during a ceremony in Bloomington, Minn., in September 2011.

The association praised his classroom teaching and research. The group’s news release said, “He is very willing to sponsor and work with new graduate students and leads the Agronomy Club at NDSU.” Additionally, the statement quoted a nominator as saying, “He’s fully engaged in education so that students learn about crop protection products and their benefits. I am very impressed with his work the past 10 years.”

Howatt teaches several courses, including Principles of Weed Science, Advanced Weed Science, the professional development course and graduate seminar.

“"I was surprised, humbled, pleased and somewhat validated to receive the educator award, because it demonstrated that students appreciate and benefit from material in the courses I teach as well as the methods I use to prepare them for careers in agriculture,” Howatt said. “I am grateful for the award and the many relationships with students who continue to contact me to discuss issues they face in the field.”

A member of the NDSU faculty since 1999, Howatt earned his bachelor’s degree in agronomy at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls; his master’s degree in plant pathology and weed science and his doctoral in bioagricultural sciences and pest management from Colorado State University, Fort Collins. He is a member of the Western Society of Weed Science, Council for Agriculture Science and Technology, International Weed Science Society, Weed Science Society of America and North Central Weed Science Society.

Hatterman-Valenti named fellow of weed science society

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, associate professor of plant sciences, was named a fellow of the North Central Weed Science Society. It is the highest honor the society confers on a member.

Only persons who have made outstanding contributions to weed science are so recognized each year.

“It was a great honor to receive this award,” said Hatterman-Valenti. “To be included in the list of NCWSS Fellows from NDSU such as John Nalewaja (1980), Cal Messersmith (1988) and Alan Dexter (1990) is a real privilege.”

Hatterman-Valenti joined NDSU in 2000, after serving as a consultant and instructor for the Sioux Falls, S.D., School District. She previously was a research biologist for FMC Corp. of Princeton, N.J., and a postdoctoral research associate at Iowa State University.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in biology at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, her master’s degree in horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her doctorate in agronomy crop production and physiology and horticulture from Iowa State University.

Hatterman-Valenti is a member of the Weed Science Society of America, American Society of Enology and Viticulture, Horticultural Society of America, Potato Association of America, North Dakota Horticulture Society, Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and North Dakota Nursery and Greenhouse Association. In addition, she is adviser for the NDSU Horticulture Club and Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority.
Annual faculty and staff awards announced

NDSU honored Agriculture and Extension Service faculty and staff at the 20th annual Agriculture and University Extension Faculty/Staff Awards ceremony December 15, 2011.

Ken Grafton, vice president, dean and director for agricultural affairs, and Duane Hauck, former director of the NDSU Extension Service, presented the awards.

1 Senay Simsek
   assistant professor of plant sciences
   Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award

2 Dale Redmer
   professor of animal sciences
   Eugene R. Dahl Excellence in Research Award

3 Adnan Akyüz
   assistant professor in the School of Natural Resource Sciences
   Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching Award

4 William Wilson
   University Distinguished Professor of Agribusiness and Applied Economics
   H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award

5 Kirk Howatt
   associate professor of plant sciences
   William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Advising Award

6 Carrie Hammer
   Extension equine specialist in the Department of Animal Sciences
   Myron and Muriel Johnsrud Excellence in Extension/Outreach Award

7 Ken Hellevang
   Extension agricultural engineer in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
   AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award

8 Mary Finseth
   administrative officer in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
   Charles and Linda Moses Staff Award

9 Sandy Erickson
   administrative office manager in the Center for Community Vitality
   Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award

10 Stanley Stancyk
    research technician in the Department of Plant Sciences
    Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award
Elias M. Elias, professor of plant sciences, is NDSU’s newest University Distinguished Professor. President Dean L. Bresciani made the announcement Oct. 4 during his annual State of the University Address.

“Dr. Elias’ scholarly accomplishments and contributions to some of the most pressing needs of our state, nation and increasingly the world, define this recognition which he so richly deserves,” Bresciani said.

Elias, who joined NDSU in 1990, leads the durum wheat breeding and genetics program as the J.F. Carter Durum Wheat Breeding/Genetics Endowed Professor. The program develops durum wheat varieties to maximize the economic return for producers and provide excellent quality durum wheat for the pasta industry and international export market.

“Dr. Elias is well known for his international collaborations (including Australia, Canada, China, France, Mexico and Switzerland),” noted Ken Grafton, vice president, dean and director for agricultural affairs, in a letter of nomination. “This is critical to his local genetic improvement program. Also, because of his stature as a scientist, this level of collaboration reflects very positively on NDSU.”

Elias was named 1999 Durum Man of the Year by the U.S. Durum Growers Association. He also received NDSU’s Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award, Early Career in 2000 and the Waldron Award for Excellence in Research.

“Dr. Elias has made consistent and excellent research contributions in durum wheat research and scholarship that directly address the needs of North Dakota agriculture,” Grafton wrote. “He is a tremendous asset to this institution.”

Elias earned his bachelor’s degree in agriculture from Aleppo University in Syria and his master’s in plant pathology from Montana State University. He earned his doctorate in agronomy from NDSU.

NDSU established the University Distinguished Professorships to recognize the accomplishments of faculty. Professors who earn the designation have at least 10 years at NDSU of outstanding teaching, service, research and reputation within their disciplines. The designation is the highest honor NDSU has to celebrate outstanding faculty.

Elias joins a select group of NDSU faculty members with the designation, including Allan Ashworth, geosciences; Bill Perrizo, computer science; Mukund Sibi, chemistry and molecular biology; Neil Gudmestad, plant pathology; Bill Wilson, agribusiness and applied economics; Kalpana Katti, civil engineering; Tom Isern, history and religion; Jo Ann Miller, music; and Larry Reynolds, animal sciences.
If it had to do with the region’s economy, chances are Larry Leistritz studied it. Widely known for his many economic reports on the impact of institutions, projects and industries, Leistritz retired Dec. 30 as director of the Institute of Natural Resources and Economic Development.

His forte was delving through detailed statistics and applying his personally developed comprehensive input-output model to generate comprehensive and highly valued economic documents.

“This research emphasizes evaluation of opportunities for increasing income and employment of North Dakota residents through new or expanded primary sector activities,” Leistritz recently wrote of his work. “Examples of current/recent projects include the economic contribution of the soybean and sugarbeet industries and economic impact of leafy spurge infestations in the Northern Great Plains.”

His retirement marked the completion of 41 years on the NDSU campus. After earning his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Leistritz came to NDSU in 1970 as a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

He often taught farm management courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and he served on numerous department, college and university committees.

During his career, Leistritz wrote more than 400 research publications, including more than 120 refereed journal articles and 12 books. In addition, he secured more than $7.2 million in grant and contract-funded research.

In recognition of his contributions, NDSU department colleagues voted unanimously to recommend emeritus status for Leistritz upon his retirement.
Robert Harrold

Harrold, as he often does, chuckled before answering a personal question. The query was straightforward: What does he plan to do in his retirement after more than 40 years of service to NDSU?

“I have three immediate goals,” Harrold responded. “One is to sleep in past 5:15 a.m., which I’ve already accomplished; the second is to lose weight, which is an ongoing process; and the third is to clean the garage.”

Harrold retired Dec. 30 as director of the NDSU Office of Accreditation and Assessment. It was the last of several positions he held during more than four decades on campus, including assistant dean for academic programs in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources.

“The people, the colleagues, the students, serving on committees with people from other disciplines and campuses – it was all cool,” Harrold said of his career at NDSU.

Harrold earned his bachelor’s degree in animal science and master’s degree and doctorate in animal nutrition from Purdue University. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, Ohio, he joined the NDSU faculty in 1968.

“When I was teaching, I tried to reach out and help one or two students each semester, who were students who didn’t adjust to campus or needed someone to identify with,” Harrold said. “I tried to point them in the right direction and they’d handle it from there.”

One of his major projects in recent years involved NDSU’s reaccreditation process through the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Harrold helped organize and shepherd the work during several years, culminating with a highly successful site visit by an inspection team in 2006.

“I wanted to not have ‘retirement’ in my vocabulary until point of fact,” Harrold said of his last months on the job and his desire to work until his last day.

His stay on campus, indeed, lasted a while longer. Within days of his official retirement, Harrold, by special appointment, was named special assistant dean for academic programs to help smooth the transition. That part-time appointment was completed May 9.

Now, perhaps he can set his sights on his garage.
1  **LISA JANSSSEN CHRISTENSON**  
Professor of Practice, Animal Sciences  
**Education** | Bachelor’s degree from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn; Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, St. Paul  
**Research interests** | Small animal nutrition and the effects of specific diets on the management of disease  
**Activities** | American Veterinary Medical Association, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, N.D. Veterinary Medical Association, International Animal Care and Use Committee  
**Previous experience** | Associate veterinarian at Granite City Pet Hospital and Surgical Center, St. Cloud, Minn; associate veterinarian at Mille Lacs Veterinary Clinic, Foley, Minn, and relief veterinarian in the Twin Cities and central Minnesota

2  **GLENN DORSAM**  
Assistant Professor of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences  
**Education** | Bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from Michigan State University, doctorate in biochemistry from Virginia Commonwealth University  
**Research interests** | Understanding how the nervous system impacts the immune system focused on a neurotransmitter called vasoactive intestinal peptide  
**Activities** | Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society, American Association of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
**Previous experience** | Assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at NDSU; research immunologist at the University of California, San Francisco; National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, San Francisco; molecular biology technician at Boston University

3  **NATHAN A. FISHER**  
Assistant Professor of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences  
**Education** | Bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Centre College, Danville, Ky; doctorate in microbiology and immunology from the University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor  
**Research interests** | The genetic, ecological and environmental basis for virulence in nosocomial and opportunistic bacterial pathogens  
**Activities** | American Society of Microbiology, Society of Armed Forces Medical Laboratory Scientists, American Association for the Advancement of Science

4  **ANN-MARIE FORTUNA**  
Assistant Professor of Soil Science  
**Education** | Bachelor’s degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; master’s degree in agronomy from the University of Kentucky, doctorate in crop and soil science from Michigan State University  
**Research interests** | Microbial and soil processes regulating nutrient cycling, soil health, global climate change in agricultural and grassland systems and the use of soil health indicators as a measure of the effectiveness of remediation and land management strategies in saline and sodic soils  
**Activities** | American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, Ecological Society of America, American Society for Microbiology, American Geophysical Union  
**Previous experience** | Assistant professor of soil biology at Washington State University; research associate at USDA-ARS New England Plant at University of Maine; research associate, Michigan State University Department of Crop and Soil Sciences

5  **CHRISTINA HARGISS**  
Assistant Professor of Practice, Natural Resources Management  
**Education** | Bachelor’s degree in biological science education, comprehensive science education and natural resources management; master’s degree and doctorate in natural resources management from NDSU  
**Research interests** | Wetland ecology and management and environmental education  
**Activities** | National Science Teachers Association, Society of Wetland Scientists, N.D. Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education, N.D. State Envirothon Committee, Society for Range Management  
**Previous experience** | Adjunct faculty member at NDSU and Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn; environmental consultant for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ZHAOHUI LIU
assistant professor of plant pathology

**Education**
bachelor’s degree from Anhui Normal University, Wuhu, China; master’s degree in crop genetics and breeding from Nanjing Agriculture University, Nanjing, China; doctorate in plant pathology from NDSU

**Research interests**
molecular genetics and biology of host-pathogen interactions in cereal diseases

**Activities**
American Phytopathological Society, Genetics Society of America

**Previous experience**
postdoctoral research associate at USDA-ARS Northern Crop Science Laboratory, Fargo; graduate research assistant at NDSU; assistant researcher at Institute of Genetics and Physiology, Jiangsu Academy of Agriculture Science, Nanjing, China; graduate research assistant at Nanjing Agriculture University

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JULIE PASCHE
assistant professor of plant pathology

**Education**
bachelor’s degree in microbiology and biotechnology, master’s degree and doctorate in plant pathology from NDSU

**Research interests**
diseases in pulse crops and dry edible beans, pathogen detection, fungicide efficacy and resistance management, utilizing molecular methods to facilitate breeding efforts

**Expectations**
As the pulse crop pathologist, she will work in partnership with researchers, breeders and others in the industry to identify and understand the needs of producers and work to find solutions for their plant disease problems.

**Previous experience**
laboratory research manager for the NDSU Department of Plant Pathology, consulting potato agronomist for R.D. Offutt Co., product development representative for NatureMark Potatoes, microbiologist for the NDSU Department of Plant Pathology

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SHEELA RAMAMOORTHY
assistant professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences

**Education**
bachelor’s degree in veterinary medicine from Madras Veterinary College, Tanuvas, Chennai, India; master’s degree in microbiology and molecular genetics from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater; doctorate in biomedical and veterinary sciences from Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va.

**Research interests**
vaccine development, host immunity, diagnostic virology and serology related to porcine circo virus and swine viral diseases

**Activities**
International Society for Vaccines, American Society for Microbiology, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, International Society of Infectious Diseases, Georgia/South Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association

**Previous experience**
assistant professor of virology at the University of Georgia, Tifton; serology clinician at Iowa State University Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Preventive Medicine, Ames, Iowa

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PUSHPARAJAH THAVARAJAH
assistant professor in the School of Food Systems

**Education**
graduateship in chemistry from the Institute of Chemistry, Sri Lanka; bachelor’s degree in agriculture from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; master’s degree in nutrition and doctorate in food science from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Master of Business Administration from Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

**Research interests**
food nutrient interactions; chemical altering and bioavailability of nutrients; chemistry of plant carbohydrates, phenolics and bioactive components

**Activities**
American Chemical Society; Chemical Institute of Canada; Institute of Chemistry, Sri Lanka; Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom

**Previous experience**
visiting scientist at NDSU; visiting lecturer at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; chemist and consultant at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada; scientist for Canadian Light Source, Saskatoon, Canada; scientist at POS Pilot Plant Corp., Saskatoon, Canada

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ABBEY WICK
assistant professor of soil science

**Education**
bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in physical geography from the University of Denver; doctorate in soil science from the University of Wyoming

**Research interests**
remediation of saline and contaminated soils, modeling biogenic trace gas emissions and soil organic matter dynamics, soil reconstruction techniques and prime farmland reclamation following mining disturbances

**Activities**
Soil Ecology Society, American Society of Mining and Reclamation, Soil Science Society of America, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Women Geoscientists of America

**Previous experience**
postdoctoral research associate and senior research associate at Virginia Tech Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences
Despite, or perhaps due to, the recent economic slowdown, the green industry – landscape architecture, horticulture and other related careers – has continued to enjoy growth and success. After all, businesses don’t stop managing property, and curb appeal continues to pay off.

The green industry was seeing NDSU green as students got the chance to meet industry representatives at the 36th annual Professional Landcare Network Student Career Days held at Kansas State University in March. The three-day competitive event drew more than 800 undergraduates enrolled in horticulture and landscaping programs from more than 60 colleges and universities across the United States and Canada.

Todd West, associate professor of plant sciences, organized the trip, which was the first time NDSU students attended. “This event represents the voice of the green industry,” he said. “Contests are led and directed by the industry, giving students a chance to get hands-on experience in front of potential employers. It’s just a way for industry to give to the students so they can have fun competing but also to keep a good eye toward the future.”

NDSU’s six-member team placed 44th out of 62 teams and earned recognition as one of the event’s Career Development Series Winning Teams for teams with fewer than 10 members. West said he expects the overall results to improve next year through experience and the addition of more team members. Some schools bring as many as 50 students. NDSU’s team featured sophomores, juniors and seniors majoring in horticulture and landscape architecture.

Students competed in up to 25 events related to the skills necessary for a career in the green industry, such as arboriculture techniques, leadership skills, woody ornamental plant identification and paver, irrigation and landscape installation.

“It’s a fun activity, but the most important part is that it’s one of the largest career fairs in the green industry,” West said. “It allows students to network with companies across the United States.”

Fourth-year landscape architecture student Kelsey Windrum participated in three competitive events: exterior landscape design, sales presentation and landscape plant installation. She said the experience gave her a realistic view of the industry. Windrum, from White Bear Lake, Minn., also landed an internship with Wisconsin-based David J. Frank Landscape Contracting Inc.
Equestrian team has impressive season

The NDSU Western Equestrian team had a highly successful 2011-12 season. Team members competed in a national competition and received multiple honors.

In May, two members of the team advanced to the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association’s national competition in Raleigh, N.C. Shannon Voges, a senior from Courtland, Minn., competed in the American Quarter Horse Association High Point Western Rider event, which showcases the top rider from each region throughout the United States.

Twenty-four riders participated in the event. They were required to compete in two phases: horsemanship and reining. Scores from the two phases were combined for a final placing. Voges ranked fourth in the horsemanship phase and 13th in the reining phase. She finished the competition in eighth place overall.

Hannah Beyer, a junior from Rapid City, S.D., competed in advanced horsemanship and finished in ninth place. She was one of 12 riders in this event.

Beyer qualified for a spot in the finals by earning the title of reserve champion overall in advanced horsemanship in Intercollegiate Horse Show Association semifinal competition in March.

Two additional NDSU riders brought home honors at the semifinals: Leslie Miller, a freshman from Fergus Falls, Minn., finished seventh overall in beginner horsemanship, and Ashley Lindell, a junior from Solway, Minn., placed eighth overall in open horsemanship.

“There was an outstanding group of individuals this year who stepped up into strong leadership roles. The team demands dedication, hard work and a big time commitment, and each individual stepped up and played a vital role in the successful season,” said coach Tara Swanson.

The team also earned the end of year title of overall high point regional team. This is the first time NDSU has won the title. Voges also was named overall high point regional rider.

“The team members this year put in a tremendous amount of hard work and the rewards were outstanding, with the western team being named high point regional team and also having the high point regional western rider, the two highest titles awarded in each region,” Swanson said.  

“I went there hoping to get an internship,” Windrum said. “They were the second company I spoke with. The school competitions also will help me academically.”

The team also had a bit of fun, presenting incoming Professional Landcare Network President Jerry Grossi with a novelty NDSU visor featuring tufts of yellow and green hair. Grossi, chief operating officer of ArborLawn Inc., donned the visor during his speech at the event’s closing ceremony.

West said he plans on taking an NDSU team to next year’s event at Auburn University.
2012-13 scholarship awards

Paul E.R. Abrahamson Memorial Scholarship
Vance Zacharias, Kathryn, N.D.

ADM-Benson Quinn Internship Scholarship
Andrew Haberman, Horace, N.D. Levi Hall, Berthold, N.D.

Agassiz Club Agriculture Scholarship
Jenna Klosterman, Moorhead, N.D. Brian Volkenant, Buffalo, Minn.

Clifford F. and Ruth Altermatt Scholarship
Billie Jo Shae, Forest River, N.D. Brian Volkenant, Buffalo, Minn.

Ruth Altermatt Scholarship
Alexandra Barber, Walker, Minn. Brian Volkenant, Buffalo, Minn.

Frank Bain Graduate Student Scholarship
Morgan Russell, Miles City, Mont.

Morgan Russell, Miles City, Mont.

Morgan Russell, Miles City, Mont.

Morgan Russell, Miles City, Mont.

Morgan Russell, Miles City, Mont.

Morgan Russell, Miles City, Mont.

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Science Scholarship
Travis Evenson, Coleharbor, N.D.

dwain W. Meyer Scholarship
Kellie Podliska, Lidgerwood, N.D.

undergraduate teaching
Cal Messersmith Plant Sciences
Nancy Leier, Hague, N.D.

Cole Gigstad, Sacred Heart, Minn.

Mainline Potato Company, inc.
Hannah Barrett, Staples, Minn.

Alexander Lies, Cathay, N.D.

Renata Jung, Brazil

Beau Buehler, Oberon, N.D.

Leah Olson, Williston, N.D.

Alex lind Memorial Scholarship
Patrick Leier Memorial Scholarship
Matthew Aichele, Steele, N.D.

vernon C. lee Memorial Scholarship
(To be awarded)
Art lamey Scholarship
Megan Syrstad, Apple Valley, Minn.

Leiah Smolley, Clarkfield, Minn.

Kayla Heinz, Cooperstown, N.D.

Verlin K. and Eloise E. Johnson Memorial Scholarship
Emma Neigum, Bismarck, N.D.

Karen Kniep Scholarship in Entomology
(Donald Moum Scholarship)

Freshman Scholarship
Lacey Carlson, Miltona, Minn.

Tyler Davis, Zimmerman, Minn.

Cody Rainford, Lakeville, Minn.

Megan Tottenham, Strum, N.D.

Donald Moum Scholarship
Krista Gross, Napoleon, N.D.

Anthony Haas, Eden Prairie, Minn.

Seth Haas, Medina, Minn.

Bryce Haugrud, Rosathy, Minn.

Kendra Kibbe, Montevideo, Minn.

Francis Landman, Fargo, N.D.

Thana Lynne, Oontario, Minn.

Brandon Neily, Fairdale, N.D.

Taylor Rix, Moorhead, Minn.

Sierra Shoman, West Fargo, N.D.

John W. Murphy Scholarship
Elizabeth Anderson, Andover, Minn.

Justin Bartholomay, Sheldon, Minn.

Amanda Bierma, Fulda, Minn.

Rachael Lagem, Rocklake, N.D.

Molly Lass, Eden Prairie, Minn.

ND Soybean Council Crop

Sciences Scholarship
Neil Iversen, Mekinock, N.D.

Tracy Nelson, Litchville, N.D.

ND Soybean Council Graduate

Student Scholarship
Aaron Hoppe, Osakis, Minn.

Kimberly Zitzm Anderson, Moorhead, Minn.

NDSU Natural Resources

Management Club Scholarship
Whitney Junker, Littlefiek, Minn.

John D. Nalewaja

Graduate Scholarship

Leroy M. Neyes Scholarship

Georgia Davis, Lincoln, N.D.

Kara Mauch, Bismarck, N.D.

North Dakota Agricultural Association

Duane Berglund Scholarship

Colin Hazard, Cooperstown, N.D.

North Dakota Agricultural Association

Irvin T. Dietrich Scholarship

Kellie Podliska, Lidgerwood, N.D.

North Dakota Agricultural Association

Donald Kenna Scholarship

Samuel Wagner, Fisher, Minn.

North Dakota Agricultural Association

Frank Rogen Memorial Scholarship

Marie Hagemester, Argusville, N.D.

North Dakota Beef Commission Meat Judging Team Scholarship

North Dakota Crop Improvement and Seed Association Scholarship

Amanda Beck, Minot, N.D.

Alexander Brodal, Goodbeer, Okla.

Trenton Bruner, Drake, N.D.

Taylor Demers, Rugby, N.D.

Colten Lee, Velva, N.D.

North Dakota Farm Credit Services

Floyd K. Well Memorial Scholarship

Ryan Martinson, Minot, N.D.

North Dakota Farm Credit Services

Student Scholarship

Kathy Rediger, Oberon, N.D.

North Dakota Grain Dealers

Educational Foundation Scholarship

Derek Aho, Antler, N.D.

Andrew Enstrom, Fargo, N.D.

Daniel Landman, Northwood, N.D.

Ethan Olsen, Mandan, N.D.

Tiffany Swanston, Northwood

America, Minn.

Kaitlin VanHorn, Donnelly, Minn.

Katherine Woodbury, Stanley, N.D.

North Dakota Livestock Endowment Foundation, M.L. Buchanan Memorial Scholarship

E llen Neen, Danube, Minn.

North Dakota Livestock Endowment Foundation, Arlon G. Hazen Memorial Scholarship

Allison Mustonson, Buffalo, N.D.

North Dakota Veterinary Medical Auxiliary Scholarship

Alexandra Froke, Hawley, Minn.

North Dakota Wheat Commission Scholarship

Ryan Martinson, Minot, N.D.

Northern Great Plains Society of Range Management Sharpe Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Mitrig, Willmar, Minn.

Enoch and Ruth Rorum Scholarship

Joseph Budick, Pergus Falls, Minn.

Walker and Peter Nquist Memorial Scholarship

Raymond Olson Scholarship

Jordaan Thompson, Cogwell, N.D.

Hollis Omdot Scholarship

John Breker, Rutland, N.D.

B.O. “Chub” and Mabel Ortton

Scholarship

Sherlynn Humann, Wilton, N.D.

William C. Peterson, Burrus, N.D.

North Dakota Crop Improvement Association

John Kandiyohi Scholarship

Hui Zhao, China

George Mikkelson Memorial Scholarship

Charles Forword, Oakes, N.D.

Blake Miller Memorial Scholarship

Norman Nicholson, Dawson, N.D.

Devin Miller Memorial Scholarship

Ana Correa-Morales, Columbia

Eric Matthew Miller Memorial Scholarship

Robb Apartments, Madison, N.D.

Peter Miltor Scholarship

Brooklee Christman, Mandan, N.D.

Morgan Hemme, Chaska, Minn.

Monsanto Agricultural Products Company Scholarship

Nathan Qual, Lisbon, N.D.

Alex Strommo, Summit, S.D.

Charles Forward, Oakes, N.D.

Memorial Scholarship

Jenna Gullickson, Spiritwood, N.D.

Alec Reimche, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Abigail Cuttell, Cottage Grove, Minn.

South Dakota Foundation Scholarship

President’s Agriculture Club

Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Barrett, Staples, N.D.

Richard E. and Marguerite Stoa

Freswan Scholarship

Neil Iversen, Mekinock, N.D.

A.D. Stoesz Scholarship

Emily Fischbach, Eagan, Minn.

Michael Oster, Medora, N.D.

George Strum Memorial Scholarship

Kara Burrer, Wing, N.D.

Theodore S. Thorfinnson Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Aichele, Steele, N.D.

Andrew Vanvig Scholarship

Ethan Olsen, Mandan, N.D.

Harold E. Vettel Memorial Scholarship

Miranda Billman, Bismarck, N.D.

Cambra Slaugbaugh, Willwood, N.D.

W. Allan and H. Lucile Watt Scholarship

John Kalenze, Fargo, N.D.

Vernon E. Wendlandt Scholarship

Derek Ahl, Park Rapids, Minn.

Loren Baranko, Belfield, N.D.

Daniel Gieser, Minnetonka, Minn.

Ashlyn Krieger, Bismarck, N.D.

Jade Monroe, Faulkton, S.D.

Ashlynn Krieger, Bismarck, N.D.

Alexus Schemionek, Penn, N.D.

Morgan Echeverria-Solarte, Columbia

Allexus Schemionek, Penn, N.D.
Alumna plays role in state water policies

When NDSU alumna Andrea Travnicek speaks, important people listen. As North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple’s senior policy adviser for natural resources and water, she is right in the middle of important decisions.

“It’s a big job, I do need to keep track of a lot of issues,” said Travnicek, BS ’01, MS ’04, PhD ’08, natural resources management with emphases in biological sciences, plant sciences and environmental communication. “It definitely keeps me very busy, especially with what’s going on within the state right now. There is a lot to stay on top of.”

Whether it be water issues at Devils Lake, the 2011 flood emergencies on the Red, Missouri, Sheyenne and Souris Rivers, water supply to the oil patch or the Fargo diversion project, Travnicek has her work cut out for her.

“There is pressure as the senior policy adviser. I need to know everything that is going on with a particular issue so the governor has the best possible information to make the decisions he needs to make,” said Travnicek, who was appointed to her post in July 2010 after working on water issues for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento, Calif. “I take my duties very seriously. I’d feel horrible if I missed information that could lead to an incorrect decision. It’s a serious job, but I count my blessings that I have this opportunity to work for the people of North Dakota.”

In her position, she needs to keep current with the needs and concerns at the local, state and national levels and understand the perspectives of a variety of stakeholders. Regular conversations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, N.D. Department of Health, N.D. Game and Fish Department and the N.D. Parks and Recreation are part of her routine.

“I rely on the technical people at all the different levels. I put a lot of effort in keeping up with my contacts,” she said. “The state engineer, for instance – I probably talk to him daily to make sure I’m in tune.”

In addition, Travnicek advises Dalrymple on emergency management issues such as flooding, fires and drought, as well as wildlife, recreation, military and aeronautics matters.

“In my position, you have to be open and listen to all sides,” said Travnicek, who was named to North Dakota Business Watch’s 2011 “40 under 40” list. “We’re not always going to agree, but hopefully we can find some sort of balance.”

Travnicek is quick to credit her education and experience at NDSU for preparing her for her important role. A four-year women’s soccer player for the Bison, she also was active in the Natural Resources Management Club, Blue Key, Student-Athlete Advisory Council and the conflict resolution board during her time on campus.

“NDSU is near and dear to my heart,” she said. “NDSU gave me so many opportunities through my degrees and all my activities. At NDSU, I was able to take many different types of classes, work as a student researcher and meet many professionals who influenced my decisions. Whether it was communication, economics or engineering classes, work in a lab or playing soccer, NDSU gave me a broad depth of information that I can apply today.”

A self-described “Air Force brat” growing up, Travnicek was born at the Minot Air Force Base and attended high school in Nebraska. During her life, she has lived in several North Dakota cities, including Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo. She now makes her home in Bismarck.

“I really enjoy working for the governor and the state,” she said. “I think it’s always good to give back and try to have some influence on the decisions that are being made.”

■ STEVE BERGESON
NDSU alumna's work key to state's import and export picture

The work of NDSU alumna Ashley (Goldade) Ritteman is a critical cog in North Dakota’s economy. As general manager for BNSF Logistics International's offices in Minot, N.D., and Minneapolis, she plays an important role in ensuring the smooth transport of products in and out of the state.

While she was at NDSU, Ritteman, MS ’10, agribusiness and applied economics, wrote her graduate thesis on the feasibility of an intermodal facility in North Dakota. Her study found that, like other Midwestern states, North Dakota produced more than it consumed. That meant fewer containers coming into the area than were needed to move grain and other commodities to markets elsewhere.

With the oil boom in western North Dakota, times have certainly changed.

“We coordinate the flow of imports and exports through the intermodal ramp in Minot. I work with import customers, mostly oil supply companies, to bring in ocean containers,” explained Ritteman, who focuses primarily on the company’s Minot office. “We control equipment from origin, which in most cases for the oil industry is China, and deliver to locations such as Williston or Stanley, N.D.”

Once the containers are in the state, BNSF Logistics sells the shipping capacity to North Dakota exporters, who now have a ready supply of containers to move agricultural products to global markets.

The workload in her office clearly demonstrates how development in the oil patch has impacted North Dakota. “We need to come to work with our ‘A game’ every day,” she said. “We coordinate 420 containers in and out every week at the Minot facility. It’s a lot to keep track of, but it’s interesting and we get to do a lot of good in supporting North Dakota’s economy. It’s exciting to be a part of this growth.”

Ritteman notes BNSF Logistics is a sister company to the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railway. “There are a lot of synergies between us and the BNSF Railway, but we are two separate companies. We work together frequently, but BNSF Logistics is a rail neutral organization, meaning we work with all railroads to provide our customers with their best door-to-door solution,” she said.

“When I was offered the opportunity to work with BNSF Logistics, my goal was to help North Dakota ag exporters grow their business globally,” said Ritteman, who grew up on a farm near Rugby, N.D. “I come from an agricultural background and my heart and passion are related to agricultural shippers, but it has been enjoyable to work with oil companies, as well. It’s great to see how the two industries can benefit each other.”


Looking ahead, the five-year plan calls for the port in Minot to greatly increase its operation, which means continuing good news for the state’s economic picture. “My goal is to continue in what I am doing for BNSF Logistics and to keep up with the North Dakota Port Services expansion plans, helping to build the Minot operation to its fullest capacity,” Ritteman said. “I want to work closely with agricultural export shippers across the state to help all parties capitalize on all the opportunities that the Port of North Dakota will bring to them.”

She recently married Thomas Ritteman, BS ’08, agribusiness, MS ’10 agribusiness and applied economics. He is a crop analyst for Cargill. They live in Plymouth, Minn.

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STEVIE BERGESON
NDSU alumnus Dale O. Anderson is, without question, a Bison to his very core. In recognition of his lifetime of service to his alma mater and the state of North Dakota, the NDSU Alumni Association presented him the prestigious Heritage Award during ceremonies April 26.

Anderson, BS ’59, agricultural mechanization, MS ’60, agricultural economics, was nominated by NDSU alumnus Donald Schwartz, who wrote, “His unselfish service to NDSU has been a lifelong affair.”

Anderson grew up on a farm and ranch near Gladstone, N.D., and that heritage of the soil drew him to NDSU. As a student, he was active in Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, Society of Agricultural Engineers and Saddle and Sirloin Club. After earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at NDSU, he earned his doctorate at Oklahoma State University.

Anderson returned to NDSU as a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics. During his time at NDSU, he also was director of the Water Resources Research Institute, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute and Tri-College Center for Environmental Studies.

Anderson then took another path for his life’s work. He joined the Greater North Dakota Association, now called the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce. He was president from 1981 to 2003.

Roger Reierson, former chair of the organization, described Anderson’s contributions this way: “There is no one who has worked harder for or loves North Dakota more than Dale. It is only trumped by his love of NDSU and his family.”

Fiercely loyal to the university, Anderson served two terms as president of Team Makers and attended hundreds of Bison athletic contests. He also has been an NDSU Development Foundation trustee since 1995, serving on the Executive Committee and chairing the Vision Committee.

The award presentation also recognized Anderson as a tireless supporter of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He has received the Chapter Leadership Award, was inducted into the Epsilon Chapter Hall of Fame, and was honored with National AGR “Brother of the Century” recognition.
NDSU Alumnus Allan R. Johnson has never forgotten his father’s sage advice. The long-ago words helped propel him to a distinguished 40-year career in the agriculture publication industry and government service for which he was honored with the 2011 Harvest Bowl Agribusiness Award.

“My dad always preached to me that when I got a job, I should get to work early, stay late and give a little extra than what was expected. He said that I would be rewarded. It turned out to be terrific advice.”

A native of Almont, N.D., Johnson graduated from NDSU in 1968 with a bachelor’s degree in agronomy. As he describes it, a chance meeting with his former adviser Roald Lund at a 1970 NDSU football game led to a job with the Dakota Farmer Magazine.

It proved to be the start of a remarkable career.

Johnson rose to advertising manager at the magazine prior to the publication being sold in 1979. He then joined the Midwest Unit Farm Publications of Hartsdale, N.Y., as eastern manager. He was promoted in 1981 to national sales manager of Farm Progress Companies. He later was named vice president for advertising and then president. Under his leadership, Farm Progress grew from seven publications to 39 publications and became the leading agriculture media company in the United States.

His career took a new turn in 2003. President George W. Bush appointed Johnson director of legislative and public affairs at USDA Rural Development. Two years later, he was appointed Deputy Under Secretary to provide leadership in carrying out Rural Development’s mission to support economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural America. He retired from USDA in 2009.

During his years at USDA, Johnson said he gained a new appreciation for the role of higher education. And he took keen interest in his alma mater as NDSU advanced as a leading student-focused, national research institution.

“Education and our institutions are so important to develop the leadership needed to facilitate economic development and quality of life in rural areas. What NDSU is doing is a great asset for the state and the entire region. Hopefully, people in positions of power understand what a real gem they have here in this university,” Johnson said. “The education I received here was top-notch. I’ve been in rooms with graduates from MIT, Harvard and other Ivy League schools, and I’ve never felt that I couldn’t run with them. In some ways, I had an advantage because I had common sense and the Midwest work ethic. I think that’s why I was tapped for senior management positions in my career.”

His collegiate experience at NDSU also introduced him to the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity – a connection he proudly continues to this day. Johnson was recognized as a Brother of the Century by the fraternity in 2004, and has been inducted into both the NDSU chapter and the National AGR Halls of Fame.

“I made lifelong friendships with my fraternity brothers at NDSU. I’ve also come in contact with thousands of other AGRs from universities across the country,” Johnson said. “That has helped me in my career because AGR membership provided a built-in network and level of trust. That’s almost an unfair advantage.”

During his visit to the NDSU campus, Johnson visited with students and was impressed with what he saw.

“I saw rooms full of young people I would hire in a minute,” he said. And then he offered some advice, sounding a little like his father.

“If I have a message for students, it would be to follow your dream and take opportunities as they present themselves. You’ll find a rural upbringing and a terrific education at NDSU have made you a very precious commodity,” Johnson said.

He and his wife, Sara, own Agri-Pulse Communications, an electronic publishing firm serving agriculture and rural policy leaders. They and their two sons, Jason and Jordan, live in Camdenton, Mo.
Alumnus honored for his soaring career

NDSU alumnus Gil Rud enjoyed a career that literally soared. A 2012 recipient of the NDSU Alumni Association’s Alumni Achievement Award, Rud was honored during ceremonies April 26 at the Fargodome.

Born and raised on a farm near Portland, N.D., Rud never considered a career other than agriculture. But, as a child he marveled at crop duster airplanes as they worked the fields and his love of flight became an important part of his life.

Rud graduated from NDSU in 1966 with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics. During his years as a student, Rud became self-confident, yet humble; he says he learned to view every challenge as an opportunity, and not accept that a goal is unattainable. As he put it, “Being a Bison also meant always taking the ethical high road.”

Rud began farming, but Vietnam changed the direction of his career. One year after graduating from NDSU, he joined the Navy, and earned his Wings of Gold in December 1968, setting the stage for a 28-year Navy career. Rud flew 57 combat missions in Vietnam and logged more than 5,600 hours of flying time and 786 carrier landings.

In 1986, Rud earned the rare distinction of being the commanding officer for the Blue Angels naval flight demonstration squadron. In addition, he served as commanding officer of two Navy ships, including the USS Constellation aircraft carrier.

For the last 14 years of his career, Gil worked for McDonnell Douglas Aerospace Co. and, later, Boeing Co. He was managing director of McDonnell Douglas Limited Norway and became a manager in the development of the F-18 Super Hornet fighter plane. He retired from Boeing in 2009 as director of business development.

Today, Rud still is active in aviation as a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association. Once each month, he introduces young people to flight through the Young Eagles program.
Alumnus honored by entomology organization

NDSU alumnus Shripat Kamble, PhD ’74, entomology, was honored with the 2012 Distinguished Achievement Award from the National Conference on Urban Entomology in May. Kamble, a longtime faculty member of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, was recognized for outstanding Extension, research and teaching contributions in urban entomology. Kamble is nationally recognized for his research on distribution and persistence of insecticides in soil, insecticide resistance and baiting technology. His research involves ants, bed bugs, cockroaches and subterranean termites. He coordinates the annual Statewide Urban Pest Management Conference and develops pest-management education programs with special emphasis on household and structural pests.

Kamble’s research on distribution of termiticides in soils contributed to label changes that now recommend drilling holes one foot apart to create a continuous chemical barrier. He also participated in national termiticide research to develop data for reduction in exterior treatment and targeted interior treatment.

As part of the award recognition, he presented the Mallis Memorial Award Lecture at the opening session of the organization’s conference May 21. The presentation, “Science of -omics in Urban Entomology,” reviewed how entomology has evolved. In his talk, Kamble suggested it’s important the next generation of entomologists understand the meaning of study in biology ending in “-omics,” such as proteomics, genomics, functional genomics, structural genomics and comparative genomics.

Kamble’s vita lists more than 129 research and Extension publications and more than 65 unpublished abstracts and industry grant reports. He has generated more than $3.4 million in grants to support his research and Extension programs. As a 34-year faculty member, he has supervised eight master’s degree students and 11 doctoral students.

In 1989, Bjerke moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as administrator for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. He was also the executive vice president of the Commodity Credit Corp. Through these positions, he held responsibilities for the delivery of national farm programs in 50 states and Puerto Rico, consisting of 2,776 county offices, more than 38,000 employees and $30 billion of borrowing authority. From 2001-11, Bjerke was the vice president for University Relations at NDSU, where his duties included university relations, legislative affairs, publications services and community and corporate outreach.

According to Saddle and Sirloin, Bjerke’s outstanding efforts impacted thousands of students and the future of agriculture. He was recognized as a “tremendous advocate and lobbyist for the agriculture industry in North Dakota and across the country.”

Bjerke named Agriculturalist of the Year

NDSU alumnus Keith D. Bjerke, BS ’61, animal science, received the prestigious Agriculturalist of the Year award during the 86th Little International Livestock Contest held Feb. 10-11.

Little International is the largest student-run agricultural event in the state, with more than 200 members and 28 student-led committees helping to organize the longstanding tradition. Little I is hosted annually by NDSU and the Saddle and Sirloin Club.

Bjerke was honored for his lifetime achievements. He and his wife, Marian, owned and operated Spruce Row Farm near Northwood, N.D., for 25 years. He also was the charter president of the North Dakota Pork Producers Council in 1971.

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Osborne Arlien, 85, BS ’51, agricultural economics, was a salesman and general manager for Farm Bureau Service Co. and later formed his own company, AM Chemical, with plants in Dassel, Winthrop and Truman, Minn. He also was an executive with several plant food companies. He lived in Howard Lake, Minn.

Virgil Barnes, 75, BS ’58, general agriculture, worked for Farm Service Agency offices in Washburn and Towner, N.D. He was a member of Ducks Unlimited, the Masonic lodges in Towner and Rugby, the Towner Investment Club and Pheasants Forever. He lived in Towner.

Dixon Best, 87, BS ’49, agricultural economics, farmed in the Walhalla, N.D., area until retirement. He was a Korean War Air Force veteran who was a member of the Ken Temple Shriners, Walhalla Lions Club and Sunland Singers. He lived in Walhalla.

Russell Bieri, 78, BS ’56, agriculture, worked at Southwood Veterinary Clinic, Jamestown, N.D., for his entire career. He lived in Jamestown.

William Brandvik, 79, BS ’58, agriculture education, MS ’61, entomology, had a 30-year career with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. He also served 21 years as the state entomologist. He lived in Killdeer, N.D.

Morris O. Broschat, 92, BS ’42, agricultural economics, was president of Midwest Federal Savings and Loan in Minot, N.D., from 1966-85 and was the bank’s board chair until 1989. He was chair of the North Dakota Blue Shield board of directors for 17 years. In addition, he was a longtime member of the U.S. Savings Association's Legislative Committee. He lived in Fargo.

Frank Deitz, 65, BS ’68, MS ’71, animal science, earned a patent for his work with cattle. He lived in Fargo.

John Gaffaney, 60, BS ’75, horticulture, owned Gaffaney Floral and Greenhouse, a business he purchased from his parents. The company has been in the family for 50 years. He served on the Dickinson Park Board for 16 years and was a past leader of the Elks Club. He lived in Dickinson, N.D.

Eric Gilsrud, 39, BS ’96, horticulture, was the city forester for the City of Billings, Mont. He also worked for the City of Benson, Minn., City of Fargo and the University of Minnesota. He lived in Billings.

Jon Good, 69, BS ’64, agriculture, was a territorial manager for Versatile Farm Machinery and, later, New Holland Farm Machinery. He lived in Bismarck, N.D.

Harold Jelleberg, 87, BS ’51, agricultural mechanization, worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Ellendale, Forman and Bismarck, N.D. He later transferred to Grand Forks and was named the service’s administrator for the northeast portion of the state. He retired in 1982. He and his wife lived at their lake home near Perham, Minn.

Gordon A. Johnson, 72, BS ’63, animal science, was a captain in the Army and Army Reserve until retirement in 1974. He worked the family farm near Fergus Falls, Minn. until selling his dairy herd in 2007. A member of the West Otter Tail County Fair board, he lived at his West Battle Lake, Minn., lake home.

James E. Johnson, 85, BS ’52, agricultural mechanization, was a loan officer for the Farmer’s Home Administration. A Navy veteran of World War II, he lived in Crosby, N.D.

Lawrence Johnson, 89, BS ’49, agriculture, was an agricultural sales representative for Cenex and was manager of soil service centers in Tioga and Crosby, N.D. He retired in 1984. He was an Army Air Force veteran who served in World War II. He lived in Stanley, N.D.

Darrell W. Knudson, 95, BS ’39, agricultural economics, was one of the Founders of Richardton Machine and Manufacturing Co. In addition, he was city auditor of Richardton, N.D., for a decade and was school board president for 12 years. He lived in Richardton.

John Logan, 95, BS ’42, general agriculture, was a county Extension agent in Bottineau, Cando and Devils Lake, N.D. He was a life member of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national honorary Extension fraternity. He lived in Round Rock, Texas.

Donald Martin, 89, BS ’40, agriculture, was a farmer and served as a Boy Scout scoutmaster for 20 years. He was a U.S. Navy veteran who served in Europe, Africa and the Pacific during World War II. He lived in Fargo.

Delbert Moore, 79, BS ’84, animal and range sciences, was a ranch and feedlot operator near Ellendale, N.D. He was past president of the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association from 1973 to 1975. He also was chair of the North Dakota Range Advisory Committee, president of North Dakota Chapter of the Society for Range Management, member of N.D. Beef Commission and chair of the Central Grassland Station Advisory Committee.
Robert Morrison, 85, BS ’52, agricultural mechanization, was co-owner of M&H Construction in Bismarck, N.D. He was president of the Homebuilders Association of Bismarck and later opened Main Realty and Morrison Realty. He assisted in the formation of the North Dakota Association of Realtors. He lived in Bismarck.

Robert Mountain, 75, BS ’58, animal science, co-founded Midland Investment where he worked with land management and agriculture consulting. He later worked with the Village Family Services in Fargo as a financial counselor. He lived in Jamestown, N.D.

Peder Nystuen, 97, BS ’39, agricultural economics, MS ’56, animal science, was associate dean of the NDSU College of Agriculture and associate director of North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. He lived in Fargo.

Willis A. Pederson, 83, BS ’57, agriculture, farmed near Verona, N.D., until 1962 and then worked for Northern Improvement Co., Fargo, from 1970-86. A volunteer for the North Dakota Election Board, he lived in Fargo.

William Peppele, 92, BS ’41, agricultural economics, was manager of West Stanislaus Bean Growers Association in California, and later became part-owner of Pacoast, an agricultural chemicals company. He lived in Sacramento, Calif.

Andrew Quinn, 34, BS ’00, crop and weed sciences, was a chemical representative for Syngenta before turning to farming near Litchfield, Minn. He was a member of the board of directors of BENO Blue Line Club. He lived in Litchfield.

Kenneth Rostad, 84, BS ’54, agricultural economics, BS ’71, agricultural education, farmed near Kindred, N.D., from 1954 to 2001 and also taught vocational agriculture at the Kindred High School. He lived in Fargo.

Eugene Ruppert, 81, BS ’53, animal husbandry, farmed and ranched south of Bowman, N.D., where he raised Charolais cattle and, later, commercial heifers. He was a member of the American Legion, North Dakota Charolais Association, the local school board, fair board and Farmers Union. He lived in Bowman, N.D.

Gerald Schmidt, 71, BS ’62, general agriculture, worked for the Federal Land Bank in Minot, N.D., as a loan officer and farm appraiser. He later turned to farming and bred registered Shorthorn cattle. He eventually opened an antique shop in Stanley, N.D. He lived in Stanley.

Jerry Schnell, 73, BS ’61, animal science, was a retired pilot for Delta Airlines. He lived in Vienna, Va.

Bayard Sleeper, 94, was a longtime professor of bacteriology at NDSU. He joined the faculty in 1953 and retired in 1983. He lived in Bellingham, Wash.

Gregory Steffes, 51, BS ’83, animal science, farmed near Arthur, N.D. He was a member of the Polar Telephone board of directors, Amenia Township Board and Arthur United Methodist Church council.

Dean Syverson, 79, BS ’55, agriculture, worked for the Agriculture Service Division of Land O’Lakes in Thief River Falls, Minn., for 21 years. He held a private pilot’s license and traveled extensively. He lived in Ulton, Minn.

Richard Tewksbury, 81, BS ’54, animal science and agricultural education, had a dairy and crop farm near Edgeley, N.D. An officer for Zion Lutheran Church, Edgeley Creamery and Farmers Union Oil Co., he retired from farming in 1998. He lived in Fargo.

W.K. Voorhees, 89, BS ’52, agribusiness, was a county agent with the North Dakota State University Extension Service in Morton, Mountrail, Stark, Steele and Pembina Counties. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agents and was the first non-farmer to receive the Outstanding Agricultural Award for Pembina County. He lived in Fargo.

Thomas Weiss, 53, BS ’80, agricultural economics, BS ’87, accounting, was an accountant for Otter Tail Power Co. in Fergus Falls, Minn. He was active in the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts programs in Fergus Falls. He lived in Erhard, Minn.
Donavon Evashenko, BS ’61, general agriculture, was honored as Alpha Gamma Rho’s Alumnus of the Year.

Jerry Kruger, BS ’64, general agriculture, received the Achievement in Crop Improvement Award from the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association during its annual meeting in January. Kruger, of Warren, Minn., has been a member of the association’s board of directors, chaired the Northern Crop Council and served as secretary/treasurer of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute. The honor is the association’s highest honor.

John Dillard, BS ’67, animal science, retired from the Michigan Milk Producers Association after 35 years with the company. Most recently he was general manager after serving as director of finance and controller. He and wife, Barbara, live in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Neil Riveland, BS ’67, MS ’69, agronomy, received the Amber Award from the U.S. Durum Growers Association board of directors. He was recognized for his work as an agronomist at the Williston Research Extension Center, where he was responsible for the variety testing program that included six off-station locations in northwestern North Dakota. He also was a director of the National Hard Spring Wheat Show committee for nearly 30 years.

Timothy Johnson, BS ’69, agronomy, joined 1st Choice Tax Services in Tucson, Ariz., as a tax preparer. Johnson, who has 10 years of experience preparing taxes, was an Oliver County Extension agent for 13 years. He lives in Tucson.

Ikbal Chowdhury, PhD ’70, soil science, received the Association of International Agriculture and Rural Development 2012 Distinguished Service Award. He is director of international programs and professor of crop and soil sciences at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo. He was honored for his efforts to fight global hunger and poverty. During the past 30 years, he has been involved in more than 200 international projects for many agencies, including USDA, The World Bank, NATO, Army Corps of Engineers and Atomic Energy Commission. He received the first soil science doctorate conferred at NDSU.

Mike Satrom, BS ’71, agricultural economics, was appointed to the North Dakota Soybean Council. He represents soybean farmers in Nelson, Steele and Griggs counties.

Jim Roers, BS ’74, animal science, was appointed to the N.D. Senate. He will finish the term of the late Sen. Tom Fischer of Fargo. He is president of Roers Development in Fargo.

L. Roger Johnson, BS ’75, agricultural economics, was re-elected president of the National Farmers Union. He is the former North Dakota agriculture commissioner.

Keith Peltier, BS ’75, MS ’77, agricultural economics, joined the Northern Crops Council. He is president and CEO of Proseed, Harvey, N.D. He will represent processors and marketers of food and feed products on the council, which is the governing board of the Northern Crops Institute in Fargo.

Robert Wisness, BS ’76, agronomy, is vice president of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. He lives in Arnegard, N.D.

James Gemmill, BS ’77, animal science, was named to the prestigious Century Club by ING Financial Partners of Edina, Minn. The club honors achievement in the financial services industry.

Dale Patten, BS ’77, was promoted to president of McKenzie County Bank in Watford City, N.D. He has worked at the bank for 29 years, and also has served as a McKenzie County commissioner for the past 11 years.

Dave Rice, BS ’78, MS ’80, agricultural economics, retired from the North Dakota Navy Reserve as its last Vietnam combat veteran. After serving four years in the Navy, he was a member of the Navy Reserve for 38 years.

Dan Webster, BS ’78, agricultural economics, was named president of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association. He lives in Penn, N.D.

Brion Bittner, BS ’79, agricultural economics, was named market president for Jamestown, N.D., by Wells Fargo. He previously was senior business banking relationship manager.

Jeffrey Friese, BS ’79, agricultural economics, is the director of cattle marketing at Pfizer Animal Health in Madison, N.J. He lives in Flanders N.J.

Gregory Dahl, BS ’80, agronomy, MS ’84, weed science, received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Industry from the North Central Weed Science Society. He is the research manager for product development for Winfield Solutions, a Land O’ Lakes company. He lives in Eagan, Minn.

Paul Joerger, BS ’81, MS ’84, agricultural economics, was named vice president and director of asset management for the Hancock Agricultural Investment Group in Boston. He previously was area vice president at Farmers National Co. of Overland Park, Kan.
Larry “Jon” Erickson, BS ’82, agricultural economics, was elected to the board of directors of CHS Inc., a leading producer-owned cooperative. He operates Diamond T Ranch near Minot, N.D.

Brad Olson, BS ’82, animal science, was promoted to agricultural program specialist for the conservation division of the USDA Farm Service Agency in Fargo.

David Berg, BS ’83, agricultural economics, is president and chief executive officer for American Crystal Sugar Co., Moorhead, Minn. He was named The Forum’s 2011 Area Person of the Year.

Gabe Brown, BS ’83, animal science, received the Growing Green Award from the Natural Resources Defense Council. He has a 5,400-acre diversified family ranch near Bismarck, N.D.

Randall D. Johnson, BS ’85, agricultural economics, was named CEO of the Min-Kota Region of the American Red Cross. He previously was vice president for human resources and development at Noridian Mutual Insurance Co.

Nick Kitsch, BS ’85, agricultural economics, was re-elected to his third and final term on the North Dakota Dry Bean Council. He lives in Webster, N.D., and represents District II.

Kenton Carlson, BS ’86, animal science, is an agriculture/commercial loan officer at First Community Credit Union of Bismarck, N.D.

Todd Cymbaluk, BS ’87, agronomy, is an agriculturist in the Drayton, N.D., district for American Crystal Sugar Co.

Chad Aberle, BS ’88, agricultural economics, was promoted to president and chief lending officer at Citizens State Bank of Finley, N.D.

Richard Dusek, BS ’88, agricultural economics, was re-elected to the board of directors of MGEX, a designated contract market and derivatives clearing organization in Minneapolis.

Jeff Petersen, BS ’88, animal and range sciences, is a Starion Insurance agent at Starion Financial Bank in Oakes, N.D.

Ross Waterman, BS ’88, agricultural economics, was promoted to general manager at Green Iron Equipment, a multi-location John Deere dealership with locations in LaMoure, Ellendale, Napoleon, Ashley and Milnor, N.D., and Britton, S.D.

Leann Schafer, BS ’89, animal and range sciences, was elected to the North Dakota Dry Bean Council. She was elected to a three-year term, representing District VI. She lives in New Rockford, N.D.

Randy Simonson, PhD ’89, crop and weed sciences, is the division agronomist for Helena Chemical of Carmel, Ind. He provides agronomic support to retail and wholesale locations in five states. He lives in Catlin, Ill.

Shane Goettle, BS ’92, agricultural economics, heads a lobbying division at Odney, an advertising agency with headquarters in Bismarck, N.D. He was former North Dakota State Commerce Commissioner and chief aide to Republican U.S. Sen. John Hoeven.

Jason Eckert, BS ’93, food science, was promoted to senior vice president for global quality for Leprino Foods. The company is the world’s largest producer of mozzarella cheese and a leading producer of whey and lactose.

Tamra Heins, BS ’94, animal and range sciences and mass communication, joined the North Dakota Department of Agriculture as a marketing specialist.

Kevin Jordre, BS ’95, animal and range sciences, is a vice president in business banking for Bremer Bank of Fargo.

Jared Hagert, BS ’98, agricultural systems management, was elected treasurer of the North Dakota Soybean Council. He lives in Emerado, N.D.

Ryan DeJong, BS ’99, crop and weed sciences, is a residential property appraiser for Border Appraisals of Fargo.

Morgen G. Dietrich, BS ’99, crop and weed sciences, is a solutions specialist for John Deere in southeastern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin. He previously worked for Mycogen Seeds in sales and research roles.

Tracie Hoggarth, BS ’99, microbiology, opened Two Rivers Veterinary Hospital in West Fargo.

Ryan Pederson, BS ’99, agricultural economics, was re-elected first vice president of the U.S. Canola Association. He lives in Rolette, N.D.

Chris Schroeder, BS ’99, animal and range sciences, was promoted to the senior manager level in the Fargo office of Eide Bailly, a regional certified public accounting and business advisory firm.

CONTINUED
Ryan Bohnsack, BS ’00, agricultural economics, MBA ’06, business, received Sales Star recognition from American Federal. He is an agriculture/business banker in Fargo. The recognition is the highest honor awarded by the bank.

Charles Cooper, BS ’00, agricultural economics, MBA ’06, business, was named private banker in the Wells Fargo office in Fargo. He joined Wells Fargo in 2003.

Carlos Urrea, PhD ’00, plant sciences, received the Distinguished Achievement Award at the Bean Improvement Cooperative meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in November. He is the dry bean breeder at the University of Nebraska.

Jessica Weigel, BS ’01, agricultural economics, is a mortgage processor for First Class Mortgage in Fargo.

Chris Brossart, BS ’02, crop and weed sciences, was elected to a two-year-term as vice president of the North Dakota Farm Bureau. As the District 4 director, he represents Benson, Eddy, Pierce, Ramsey, Rolette and Towner Counties.

Scott Gauslow, BS ’02, agricultural economics, was elected vice chair of the North Dakota Soybean Council. He lives in Colfax, N.D.

Michael Orth, BS ’02, agricultural economics, MS ’06, agribusiness and applied economics, is a project manager and estimator for PACES Lodging Corp. of Fargo.

Deana M. Wiese, BS ’03, animal and range sciences, provides executive director services for the United States Durum Growers Association. She is vice president of Clearwater Communications, Bismarck, N.D.

Scott Hovde, BS ’05, agricultural systems management, MS ’07, agribusiness and applied economics, joined the Goose River Bank in Mayville, N.D. as agriculture banking officer.

Darren Wilcox, BS ’05, agricultural economics, is a grain buyer for Green Plains Grain in Superior, Iowa. He is responsible for corn and soybean procurement for the elevator and corn procurement for the Green Plains Superior Ethanol Plant. He and his wife, Erin, live in Armstrong, Iowa.

Matt Wallace, BS ’06, sports and urban turfgrass management, is a right-of-way specialist for the engineering firm of Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson. He works in the company’s Fargo office.

Patrick Erickson, BS ’07, agricultural economics, joined State Bank and Trust in Fargo as a credit officer. He has been in the banking field for six years.

Bryan Neville, MS ’07, animal and range sciences, PhD ’10, animal science, was named director of the NDSU Central Grasslands Research Extension Center near Streeter, N.D. Before coming to NDSU, he was an agricultural research technician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Dubois, Idaho, for two years. He joined the Central Grasslands center as an animal scientist in 2010.

Tyler Speich, BS ’07, crop and weed sciences, was elected secretary of the North Dakota Soybean Council board of directors. He lives in Milnor, N.D.

Joey Tigges, BS ’07, general agriculture, was named director of consumer education and public relations for the North Dakota Farm Bureau Fargo office.

Ashley Collins, BS ’08, veterinary technology, joined the support staff of Two Rivers Veterinary Hospital in West Fargo.

Tessa Rindel, BS ’08, veterinary technology, joined the support staff of Two Rivers Veterinary Hospital in West Fargo.

Paul Feldmann, BS ’09, food science, is a quality management chemist for Cargill in Dayton, Ohio. His wife, Jessica (Ryant) Feldmann, BS ’09, food science, also is a quality management chemist for Cargill in Dayton, Ohio.

Samantha Mortenson, BS ’09, veterinary technology, joined the support staff of Two Rivers Veterinary Hospital in West Fargo.

Kasey Karlstad, BS ’11, crop and weed sciences, is a sales agronomist for Peterson Farms Seed in Harwood, N.D.

Jessie Bateman, BS ’12, animal science, is a communication specialist at Clearwater Communications in Bismarck, N.D. She previously was a marketing assistant for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Kyle Ostenson, BS ’12, agricultural economics, is an agriculture division sales assistant for Butler Machinery Co. He works in the corporate office in Fargo.
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