Commodity trading room planned

Mushroom research aims to help Zimbabwe

Alumnus honored for revolutionary discoveries

Class notes
The importance of agriculture to North Dakota is evident for everyone; it’s all around us. Farms and ranches comprise more than 90 percent of our state— in excess of 39 million acres.

Since statehood, agriculture has truly been the fundamental building block of North Dakota’s economy and way of life. And North Dakota State University is proud of its long, deeply-rooted partnership with the state’s leading industry. The College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station are recognized as innovative leaders across the United States.

We want to do more, and NDSU is now reviewing the structure of our agriculture and Extension enterprises. We believe strongly in the land-grant mission of quality education, leading research and outstanding service, and we are exploring new opportunities to enhance how we serve the state, nation and world.

Dean L. Bresciani

Exciting things are happening in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources, as this newsletter will attest. For the past several years, the college has experienced record enrollment, increased graduate student involvement and, with our sister agencies, the ND Agricultural Experiment Station and the NDSU Extension Service, continues to provide the technology and education that allows North Dakota agriculture to remain strong in a dynamic global economy.

Our dedicated faculty and staff are committed to providing an excellent academic experience for our students. We have enhanced our efforts in undergraduate and graduate education, developed new and expanded research programs and invested in interdisciplinary programs to provide our students the best possible skill set to be competitive in a demanding job market.

Our research programs through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the NDSU Extension Service, blend both applied, problem-solving efforts with fundamental, knowledge-seeking basic research. These research efforts typically involve both undergraduate and graduate students, thereby providing them with critical experiences that may not be available at larger land-grant institutions. Our Extension programming provides critical outreach to every county in the state and remains the envy of the nation.

I am pleased that enrollment has grown in the college during the past four years, with new records set each fall. That indicates to me the agriculture environment in the state is strong, and students recognize the bright expectations and unlimited potential the future holds.

In this newsletter, you’ll see how the faculty, staff and students of the NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources contribute to the social and economic fabric of agriculture in North Dakota. I hope you enjoy reading about their efforts.

We at NDSU view agriculture as vital to the well-being of North Dakota. As we look to the years ahead, I pledge NDSU’s continued dedication to serving the needs of this important industry.

The Greenhouse Complex is in its final phase of construction and is scheduled for completion in spring 2013. The Beef Cattle Research Complex was dedicated in June with more than 145 people in attendance. These two state-of-the-art facilities will provide our faculty better opportunities to conduct research critically needed by farmers and ranchers throughout the state.

As you read this newsletter, you will see many administrative changes. I want to congratulate D.C. Coston, former vice president for agriculture and university Extension, on his selection to serve as acting president at Dickinson State University. I am sure he will provide outstanding leadership to that institution. Jim Venette, associate dean for academic programs, retired in July after having served NDSU in many capacities for more than 35 years. Marion Harris was named interim associate dean and is doing an extraordinary job learning her new position. I continue to serve as dean and director, and now also interim vice president for agriculture and university Extension.

I am pleased to be a part of bringing this newsletter to you, and I thank you for your continued support of the college and NDSU. I believe you will be proud of the academic, research and Extension accomplishments we reach in the not too distant future.

Ken Grafton

The College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources
North Dakota State University, Dept 2200 PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050 | 701-231-8790

Dean L. Bresciani

Finding our research and outreach activities online

North Dakota State University is a land-grant university that provides educational opportunities, information and technology that will enhance 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 the 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.

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**Commodity Trading Room to provide innovative learning for students**

A sophisticated new learning environment called the NDSU Commodity Trading Room is planned to open in Richard H. Barry Hall next summer. The goal of the facility is to provide innovative learning experiences for students, as well as attract new students interested in a career in commodity marketing and finance trading.

Bill Wilson, University Distinguished Professor of agribusiness and applied economics, says the facility responds to the needs of the growing commodity marketing and finance trading industry and its demand for graduates with advanced understanding and an ability to adapt to rapidly changing technology.

The trading room will provide a supplemental hands-on learning environment, no different than what a laboratory is to a biology or chemistry student. “This is like a lab for people who do research on markets and financial instruments,” Wilson explained.

Students will conduct market research and simulate trading using real-time data. They also will learn from their actions by using replay technology, which will consolidate single trading days in an accelerated model. The facility will include state-of-the-art information sources, trading software and analytical tools.

According to Wilson, the facility will likely make NDSU the first university among its peers to offer a room devoted to teaching agricultural commodity trading.

Connections with large employers helps students at NDSU obtain good positions once they graduate. One of the largest employers of NDSU students is CHS, a diversified energy, grains and foods company.

When Carl Casale became president and chief executive officer of CHS in January, he created a 100-day agenda that included a trip to NDSU on May 6, 2011.

Casale, a former vice president at Monsanto, was familiar with Bill Wilson, University Distinguished Professor of agribusiness and applied economics, from Wilson’s work on agbiotechnology and at Monsanto. Lynden Johnson, senior vice president of business solutions at CHS, joined Casale for the NDSU visit. An agricultural economics alumus of NDSU, Johnson assumed his current role in January 2011. The visit became a sort of who’s who of North Dakota agriculture, including North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple, NDSU President Dean L. Bresciani, U.S. Rep. Rick Berg and several leaders from regional agribusiness firms and agricultural commodity organizations.

“In part, [Casale] was here because they hire many people. In part, it’s because agriculture is so important to CHS, North Dakota is important to CHS and agriculture is important to NDSU,” Wilson said.

CHS has hired 19 NDSU students to work in commodity marketing in the past three years, Wilson said. Across the industry, Wilson is seeing growing demand for agribusiness and larger enrollment in agriculture programs to meet that demand.

“[They were impressed with how important agriculture is to CHS, that it’s important to NDSU, that it’s important to NDSU, that they are investing in agriculture],” Wilson said.

A Fortune 200 company, CHS is owned by farmers, ranchers and cooperatives, along with thousands of preferred stockholders, across the United States. CHS supplies energy, crop nutrients, livestock feed, grain, food and food ingredients, along with business solutions, including insurance, financial and risk management services.
NDSU faculty support National Guard Middle East mission

NDSU faculty members have enthusiastically lent support to the Minnesota Army National Guard in its upcoming mission in the Greater Middle East.

The Guard’s 135th Agricultural Development Team is set to be deployed to the Zabul region of Afghanistan in November. The team will work with the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to assist local farmers with problems and teach crops and livestock farming methods. In preparation for their mission, team members have turned to a group of NDSU faculty for their knowledge and expertise.

From July 27-30, 12 members of the team came to campus to get an overview of some of the issues they will face during their tour of duty. NDSU faculty led concentrated training on such topics as cattle, goat and sheep production; beekeeping; animal disease; soils; entomology of the region; vegetables; plant pathology; and corn and wheat production.

“It makes me incredibly proud of NDSU,” said Capt. Cheryl Wachenheim, a Guard team member and associate professor in the NDSU Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. “Each participating faculty member volunteered and expressed a keen interest in doing so. All of them stepped up and said they wanted to be part of this.”

Participating NDSU faculty include Mariisol Berti, Burton Johnson and Chiwon Lee from plant sciences; Jay Goos, from the School of Natural Resource Sciences; Tom Scherer from agricultural and biosystems engineering; Neil Dyer from veterinary and microbiological sciences; Reid Redden, Carl Dahlen and Kendall Swanson from animal sciences; Gary Secor from plant pathology; Gary Goreham from sociology; Janet Knodel and Patrick Beaussy from entomology.

Wachenheim describes the training as intense, containing vital information. “The training was what usually is a one-to-two semester class, and they put it into two-hour sessions,” she said. “I can’t describe how well prepared the faculty were. I was actually in awe.”

“The help from the faculty doesn’t stop with the on-campus training. They will serve as a reference to the team members if they have questions or need advice when they get to Afghanistan. Through the Internet, assistance is only a moment away.”

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NDSU serves the state, nation and the world.”

Grafton has been with NDSU since 1980, on the faculty of the Department of Plant Sciences, and also has served as associate dean of the Graduate School. He became director of the Experiment Station in 2002 and dean of the college in 2005.

“I am humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to serve as interim vice president of agriculture and university Extension. My goal is to ensure that faculty, staff and students, as well as all of our stakeholders across the state obtain the same positive experiences and relationships as in the past,” Grafton said.

Harris earned his bachelor’s in agricultural business and master’s in agricultural economics from the University of Minnesota, and a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois.

Grafton expressed confidence in the abilities of the two appointees. “We have highly qualified faculty who care deeply about the students and the state. Drs. Harris and Gustafson are great examples of such faculty and they will provide excellent leadership for their respective units. I very much appreciate their willingness to accept these important positions in the college,” he said.

“THE WHOLE OBJECTIVE IS FOR US TO LEAVE THE AFGHAN AGRICULTURE THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE: SO AFGHAN FARMERS CAN GET BACK TO WHAT THEY DO BEST BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT OF NDSU FACULTY AND STAFF, WE’RE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL,” – Cheryl Wachenheim

Several administrative changes have been made in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources this past year. Dean Ken Grafton has been appointed interim vice president for Agriculture and University Extension, Marion Harris has accepted the position of interim associate dean for academic programs and Cole Gustafson was named chair of the agribusiness and economics department.

Grafton’s new combined leadership role as interim vice president for Agriculture and University Extension went into effect in August. He will oversee the review process of the organization of agriculture and Extension enterprises at NDSU.

“Dr. Grafton is an ideal leader for this period,” President Dean L. Bresciani said. “His work as dean of the academic area and director of the Experiment Station will meaningfully connect with Extension Service efforts. I greatly appreciate his willingness to lead during this opportunity to look for ways to further enhance how NDSU serves the state, nation and the world.”

Harris replaces Jim Venette, who recently retired after 35 years of service to NDSU.

Gustafson also assumed his new responsibilities as chair of the agribusiness and applied economics department in July. He is a professor of agribusiness and applied economics and the ExtensionService biofuels economist.

Gustafson’s original research focused on developing financial management strategies for farms, ranches, agribusinesses and agricultural lenders. Recently, he led several projects geared to creating new biofuel production facilities in North Dakota. He has written more than 47 peer-reviewed journal articles and has obtained more than $1.5 million in grant funding.

“I am excited to serve as chair because our research/Extension programs and demand for students are both growing very rapidly,” Gustafson said. “With respect to research and Extension, recent volatility in both commodity and energy markets, as well as widespread adverse weather across the state, has created a strong demand for our department’s economic, planning and forecast information.”

Gustafson earned his bachelor’s in agricultural business and master’s in agricultural economics from the University of Michigan State in 1986. Harris joined NDSU as an associate professor in 2000 and became a full professor in 2007.

“This new position gives me the opportunity to join with faculty to create new and exciting ways to deliver critical content to students while also achieving higher-level outcomes, such as critical and creative thinking,” Harris said.
Fulbright student works to help rural areas in Zimbabwe

Itai Mutukwa was busy one Thursday in late August blanching one of the most commonly cultivated mushrooms in the world, oyster mushrooms—lots of oyster mushrooms. After blanching them, she placed the mushrooms in Ziploc bags to soak in vinegar, lemon juice or potassium disulfite, a standard preservative. After 10 minutes in the solution, she prepared them to dry in a solar dryer or an oven for several days.

Mutukwa’s research into nutritional values of dried oyster mushrooms may help rural areas in her home country, Zimbabwe. Such information could help local farmers gain more value for mushrooms that don’t last long without preservation.

“I am focusing on solar drying, something that can be done at the household level, the community level,” she said.

Mutukwa is a Fulbright student working toward her doctorate in natural resources management at NDSU. She earned her undergraduate and master’s degrees from Africa University in Zimbabwe. She has been in Fargo for a year and is hoping to reach her goals in two more years. The program operates in 155 countries and has seen more than 300,000 participants since its inception.

The program was established in 1946 by Sen. J. William Fulbright to increase mutual understanding between people of the United States and other countries. The program operates in 155 countries and has seen more than 300,000 participants since its inception.

Mutukwa expressed an interest in rural development with the Fulbright Program and was matched with Chiwon Lee, professor of plant sciences. Her interest in rural development began during her time at Africa University, which is located in a small town. She was part of Students in Free Enterprise, an international organization that completes community projects to improve livelihood in rural communities.

“Once you have this research, you can utilize it for whatever,” she said. “This is a great opportunity to get this knowledge and go to my country and help them with this.”

Mutukwa’s research is different from others she has worked on because she is looking at the household level and community level, she said.

After she earns her degree, Mutukwa plans to teach and perform research. In the meantime, she said one of her favorite aspects of NDSU is the great diversity in students.

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Recent Vet Tech graduate seeks career in research

In addition, there is the challenge of being on the leading edge of important research.

For instance, during Warmbold’s externship at Boston Scientific, she had a wide array of duties: pre-medication, prepping animals for surgery, monitoring during surgery and post procedures, passing medications, assisting veterinarians and scientists with data collection, necropsy procedures and using the fluoroscopy machine. It was a valued, invigorating experience on which to build a career.

“I am pursuing a career in research because I want to be a part of something big,” Warmbold said. “I want to assist in curing a disease or making sure the new pacemaker on the market is safe for a member of my family to use. I do not know anyone who has not reaped the benefits of animal research in one way or another.”

Her attitude fits perfectly with the great potential of the research sector.

“Veterinary technologists and veterinary technicians are in high demand in research facilities,” said Sarah Wagner, associate professor of animal sciences and Warmbold’s adviser. “Their skills in animal handling, observation and record keeping make them well qualified for the demands of research jobs.”

Wagner notes research facilities hire veterinary technicians to work with mice, rats and rabbits, and other species, such as dogs, cats, cattle and exotic species like fish or amphibians. Jobs at research facilities also usually offer good wage and benefit packages and a high level of job stability.

“I AM PURSUING A CAREER IN RESEARCH BECAUSE I WANT TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIG. I WANT TO ASSIST IN CURING A DISEASE OR MAKING SURE THE NEW PACEMAKER ON THE MARKET IS SAFE FOR A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY TO USE. I DO NOT KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS NOT REAPED THE BENEFITS OF ANIMAL RESEARCH IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.”

– Heather Warmbold

“With hard work and dedication, many options are available in the research field to an NDSU veterinary technology graduate,” Warmbold said, touting employment opportunities with protocol development, quality assurance and other areas in the research field. “The work is definitely not dull. With new studies constantly arising, the technician is always actively learning new duties and skills.”

Perhaps Wagner best sums up the growing opportunities in research when she says, “In short, veterinary technicians and research laboratories have a lot to offer each other.”

*STEVE BERGESON*

Agriculture and University Extension faculty and staff are honored for service

Forty-five North Dakota State University agriculture and university Extension faculty and staff were recognized for their service during a recognition and awards program held Dec. 14, 2010. Colleagues nominated individuals, and award recipients in 10 categories received a $1,000 honorarium with funds provided from sponsored endowments.

1. Harlene Hatterman-Valenti
   associate professor of plant sciences
   Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award

2. Gary Secor
   professor of plant pathology
   Eugene R. Dahl Excellence in Research Award

3. Greg McKee
   assistant professor of agronomy and applied economics
   Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching Award

4. Marion Harris
   professor of entomology
   H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award

5. Birgit Pruess
   associate professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences
   William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Advising Award

6. Sam Markell
   Extension plant pathologist
   Myron and Muriel Johnsrud Excellence in Extension/Outreach Award

7. Janet Knodel
   extension entomologist
   AGS/CC Excellence in Extension Award

8. Dennis Whitted
   research specialist in range science
   Charles and Linda Moses Staff Award

9. Norma Ackerson
   information processing specialist in agronomy and applied economics
   Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award

10. Sandy Osborne
    administrative coordinator in agronomy and applied economics
    Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award

D.C. Coston, former vice president for agriculture and university Extension, announced the award recipients.
Redmer honored by the American Society of Animal Sciences

Dale Redmer, professor of animal sciences, received the Animal Physiology and Endocrinology Award at the American Society of Animal Science annual meeting in New Orleans on July 11. The award recognizes “individuals early in their career whose work has outstanding promise of continuing those contributions into the future.”

Redmer’s research focuses on development and function of reproductive tissues in livestock. The cellular and molecular approaches used to study these processes will provide valuable information for improving reproductive efficiency in farm animals and fertility in humans. Redmer also conducts research collaboratively with other scientists in animal embryology as well as in research evaluating vascular growth in a variety of organ systems.

Simsek receives award of excellence

Senay Simsek, assistant professor in plant sciences, received the NC-213 Andersons Cereal and Oil Seeds 2011 Early-in Career Award of Excellence during the Multi-state Project NC-213 annual meeting (NC-213 – The U.S. Quality Grains Research Consortium).

The award recognizes “individuals early in their career whose work has significantly contributed to improvements in science, innovation, technology implementation, policy formation and/or education related to quality of cereals and oilseeds from processing to consumption and who show outstanding promise of continuing those contributions into the future.”

NC-213 includes engineers, scientists and economists from leading U.S. land-grant universities and government research centers who investigate and disseminate technical knowledge concerning the marketing and delivery of quality grains and bioprocess co-products.

Faculty member honored by agricultural economics association

Gregory McKee, assistant professor of agriculture and applied economics and director of the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award from the Western Agricultural Economics Association in the category for less than 10 years of experience.

The annual award recognizes members of the association who demonstrate personal interest in and availability to students, mastery of subject matter (course content), creativity in designing and using innovative teaching methods, impact on learning (based on student and peer evaluation) and impact on the departmental teaching program. A committee comprised of association members selects the award recipients.

McKee teaches an undergraduate course on cooperative businesses and a capstone course on agribusiness strategy.

Past and current faculty honored

Russ Danielson, Paul Berg and Bert Moore were awarded Agriculturist of the Year honors at the Hall of Fame Banquet in February 2011. The banquet was part of the 85th Little International livestock show and contest organized by NDSU’s Saddle and Sirloin Club.

The award typically goes to one distinguished leader in North Dakota agriculture who possesses traits student members of the Saddle and Sirloin Club seek to exemplify. This year, the club honored three men who have made a great impact on the NDSU campus and state of North Dakota. Danielson, emeritus professor, became NDSU beef herdman in 1965 and started his teaching career at NDSU in 1973. He has been part of nearly 50 Little Internationals. Berg, an associate professor, has been an animal science faculty member since 1966. Moore, a former associate professor, is now executive secretary of the American Shorthorn Association in Omaha, Neb.

Berg also was named winner of the Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes outstanding service to NDSU and agriculture in the state of North Dakota.

Stoltenow named communicator of the year

Charles Stoltenow, director of the veterinary technology program and Extension veterinarian, was named the North Dakota Association for Communication Excellence 2010 communicator of the year. Stoltenow is also an associate professor of animal sciences.

The award recognizes an individual who has displayed exceptional expertise and professionalism in delivering educational programs and information to the public through several types of media.

He responds quickly to livestock health situations, such as anthrax outbreaks, by developing news releases and videos to alert livestock producers. He also works closely with the state veterinarian and helps write state policy on animal health issues. In 2008, he coordinated Beyond Borders, a regional animal agrosecurity conference held in Fargo that featured speakers from throughout the U.S. as well as Canada.

Stoltenow has developed Extension programs on several topics, including equine and bovine medicine and production, bioterrorism, West Nile virus, Johne’s disease and food safety. He was involved in development of NDSU’s CattleDocs website, which provides cattle producers with information on nutrition, nutrient management, reproduction, economics, meat, genetics, range management, veterinary medicine, the Beef Quality Assurance program and upcoming cattle production-related events such as workshops and clinics.

He also is author or co-author of several research and Extension publications. His research focuses on epidemiology and infectious diseases.
Wolf-Hall earns presidential professorship
Charlene Wolf-Hall, department head and professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences, received the Jordan A. Engberg Presidential Professorship. The Engberg professorship is awarded to faculty at the rank of professor with at least eight years of service to NDSU and a balanced academic record of excellence in teaching, research and service. The award comes with stipends to be used for academic purposes.

Eugene Berry, professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences, wrote in his nominating letter that Wolf-Hall’s students are consistently among the best prepared and successful in the department. “Charlene ensures that her students, both undergraduate and graduate students, know how their research fits into the big picture of her research program.”

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.

Wachenheim wins teacher fellow award
Cheryl Wachenheim, associate professor of agribusiness and applied economics, was selected to receive the 2011 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teacher Fellow Award. She received the award in June at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

The award is criterion based and reviewed by a committee of NACTA members. Winners must have been teaching for five of the past seven years.

Wachenheim joined NDSU in 1998 and teaches undergraduate courses in agrisales, commodity marketing and agricultural finance, and she team-teaches a graduate course in strategic marketing and management. Her current research focuses on development of strategic and tactical recommendations for firms and organizations based on the attitudes and past or intended behaviors of their customers and other stakeholders. This includes building recommendations for teachers based on the attitudes, behaviors and performance of students.

Vonnhame receives early career honors
Kim Vonnhame, associate professor of animal sciences, received the Early Career Achievement Award at the American Society of Animal Science annual meeting in New Orleans on July 11.

The Early Career Achievement Award recognizes achievement of young scholars working toward the mission of the American Society of Animal Science, fostering the discovery, sharing and application of scientific knowledge concerning the responsible use of animals to enhance human life and well being. Candidates for the award must have completed their most recent degree within the past 10 years and their programs must serve the mission of the American Society of Animal Science.

Vonnhame also was selected as the 2011 distinguished lecturer by the Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology Graduate Program at the University of Florida. Each year, the AMCB holds a research symposium in which students share their research. A distinguished lecturer from another university is invited to attend for a formal seminar and to facilitate interactions with students. The symposium was held in Stetsonhce, Fla., in April.

Haggart recognized by students as outstanding educator
Janice Haggart, instructor of veterinary and microbiological sciences, was named Blue Key Distinguished Educator of the Year for 2010-2011.

The award was created in 1969 by Blue Key to honor an outstanding educator at NDSU for his or her extra interest in students and their problems, education, field of expertise, and NDSU. The educator must have shown outstanding qualities, especially in helping students above and beyond what is required.

Haggart has taught a range of courses at NDSU in microbiological sciences and served as an adviser for Alpha Gamma Delta. She also serves as an adviser for the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources Honor Commission. In 2006, she received the Excellence in Teaching Award and through her involvement in the American Society of Microbiology Conference for Undergraduate Educators has been invited to provide feedback for undergraduate microbiology education reform. Haggart is a mentor with the American Society for Microbiology-United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization program. She is developing a new microbiology textbook with Wiley Publishing in New Jersey.

Nelson receives distinguished service award
Berlin Nelson, professor of plant pathology, received the Distinguished Service Award at the North Central Divisional Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society held in Omaha, Neb., in June.

Nelson was honored for his many contributions to the professional society and to the region’s soybean growers and industry. He formerly served as president of the North Central Division’s American Phytopathological Society, secretary and chair of several regional and national soybean disease committees and soilborne disease committees. He is a current senior editor of the journal, Plant Disease. He has contributed to regional and national soybean disease research, providing new information on diseases such as soybean white mold and soybean cyst nematode.

Animal sciences faculty have a strong showing at Midwest meetings
Faculty from NDSU’s Department of Animal Sciences were recognized at the Midwest meetings of the American Society of Animal Science/American Dairy Science Association March 14-16 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kimberly Vonnhame, associate professor of animal sciences, was named Outstanding Young Animal Scientist in the research category. She was recognized for her achievements in developing a nationally recognized research program in the area of reproductive physiology.

Sarah Wagner, associate professor of animal sciences, was named the Outstanding Young Animal Scientist in the teaching category. She was recognized for her achievements in developing the large animal minor in the veterinary technology program.
Jay Leitch

Leitch, an avid fisherman and Otter Tail County native, jokes he hired at NDSU because “I knew where to catch fish. There were two finalists for the position, they both hired both of us – I knew where to fish and other guy was a great economist,” he said.

Leitch proved to be a good catch. He retired in December 2010 after a 30-year career full of achievements.

He started as assistant professor of agricultural economics in 1981, named associate professor in 1984 and professor in 1991. He was University Senate president from 1996 to 1997, and was named emeritus dean in the College of Business and emeritus professor in the School of Natural Resource Sciences in 2011.

He taught courses in natural resources economics, state and local government finance, consumer economics, research methods, natural resources planning, natural resources administration and philosophy of research.

His research interests include water management, outdoor recreation and natural resource issues. He wrote nearly 500 publications, including book chapters, peer-reviewed journal articles, technical reports and a few books. He is working on the second edition of “A River Runs North.”

He supervised approximately 50 graduate students and led the College of Business through the accreditation process. He was president of the International Society of Wetland Sciences, elected chair of the Greater North Dakota Association and was science adviser to the assistant secretary of the Army in Washington, D.C., from 1985 to 1986.

Leitch earned his bachelor’s degree in political science and geography from Moorhead State University, master’s in natural resources management from NDSU and doctorate in applied economics from the University of Minnesota.

Leitch and his wife, Belky, and 15-year-old twins, Forrest and Rachel, live in Moorhead.

Leitch established a scholarship for natural resource management students in memory of his student, Brett Hoeve. Contributions should be sent the NDSU Development Foundation.

Donald Kirby

Kirby, professor of range science, will retire in December after 31 years at NDSU.

Kirby has seen many changes at NDSU in that time span. His field of range management has moved around the university several times. Kirby began working at NDSU in 1980 in the College of Science and Mathematics botany department and then moved to the Department of Animal and Range Sciences in the College of Agriculture. Three years ago, range science was moved into the School of Natural Resource Sciences. Kirby began with three faculty in his field and has seen that number double.

“We’re all completely busy. It’s recognition of what we are able to do for the environment and for the state,” he said. He was the director of the School of Natural Resource Sciences from 2007 to August 2011.

Kirby grew up in Santa Cruz, Calif. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Humboldt State University, Arcata, Calif., and his doctorate in range science at Texas A&M University, College Station.

His research focused on grazing management, rangeland weed control and reclamation of drastically disturbed wetlands. He landed more than $2 million in grants while working on the second edition of “A River Runs North.”

He says he most enjoyed working with students at NDSU and has served on hundreds of graduate student committees.

“T’ve been working for 50 years, so it’s time to take a break. Go play,” he said.

Dwain Meyer

Meyer, a.k.a. “Mr. Alfalfa,” enjoyed 41 years as an educator to students and agriculture professionals. He retired Jan. 3 from his position as a plant sciences researcher, undergraduate and graduate student educator and Extension educator.

“The NDSU plant sciences department has been an excellent place to work,” Meyer said. “I particularly enjoyed some of my fellow faculty members, who became very good friends.”

Meyer, who is originally from Scribner, Neb., began his career at NDSU on June 8, 1970, as an assistant professor in the agronomy department (now the plant sciences department) with teaching and research responsibilities in forage crop management. He initiated a turf management course, which became the basis for the new turf program at NDSU, a sugarbeet course in 1995 and professional development II course for graduate students in 1995. He was promoted to associate professor in 1976 and full professor in 1982.

Meyer considered teaching the most important and enjoyable portion of his position. “I have very fond memories of many different students in my classes and the success that those students have had subsequently,” Meyer said. He advised 15 graduate students during his tenure.

Meyer’s nickname came from his advocacy for alfalfa as a cash crop and his research.

He researched forage management and production with an emphasis in alfalfa management. “I always had as one of my principles to help the North Dakota farmer with forage crop production, wherever that led me,” he said. “I was able to direct and go any direction with research, which I really enjoyed.”

Meyer earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanized agriculture at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, in 1966 and his doctorate in crop production at Iowa State University, Ames, in 1970.

Meyer splits his time between Mesa, Ariz., Fargo and summer at the lakes. He and his wife, Gladys, plan to travel, enjoy their grandchildren, and volunteer and work on home projects.

Meyer continues to maintain his nickname. Currently, he is writing an Extension bulletin on alfalfa management.
Thomas Colville

Colville, professor of animal sciences, retired Jan. 4 after 35 years of service to NDSU.

Colville joined NDSU in 1976 and was charged with developing the NDSU veterinary technology program. He oversaw the growth of the program into what has become one of the most visible four-year veterinary technology degree programs in the country.

Colville taught 11 different courses while at NDSU. He received the Faculty Performance Award from the NDSU Experiment Station. He also taught a variety of classes and served as an associate dean for research for the Agricultural Engineering, interim chair for cereal and food sciences and interim associate dean for research for the Agricultural Engineering, interim chair for cereal and food sciences.

Colville earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota in 1969 and a doctorate of veterinary medicine in 1971. He earned his master’s degree in aquatic veterinary studies from the University of Stirling, Scotland, in 1981 while on sabbatical.

Colville has published numerous journal articles, newsletters, books and book chapters, and developed veterinary software.

Colville was interim chair of agricultural and biosystems engineering, associate professor of plant pathology. “It’s been a pleasure to come to NDSU to work with scientists at NDSU and University of Minnesota in developing the NDSU veterinary software.

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Jim Venette

Venette retired July 1 as associate dean for academic programs in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources.

"My greatest satisfaction came from seeing students succeed," Venette said. "It has been an honor to serve North Dakota agriculture and the NDSU faculty, staff and students who play critical roles in advancing the economic and social welfare of the state."

Nominated for professor emeritus status, Venette plans to work with scientists at NDSU and University of Minnesota on research projects involving the survival of insects and bio-mass for energy production.

"It was exciting to be part of NDSU’s growth in size, scope and stature," he said of the university’s dramatic rise during the past decade. "The university is now recognized as one of the country’s best."

Venette and his wife, Patricia, live in Fargo.

Dil Thavarajah

Assistant professor of cereal and food sciences

Education | bachelor’s degree from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; master’s degree in plant and soil nutrition/soil science and doctorate in plant physiology/ plant sciences from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada

Research interests | Biofortification of pulse crops for increased micronutrient bioavailability | iron, zinc, beta carotene and folic acid

Activities | American Chemical Society, Canadian Light Source, Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory User Facility

Previous experience | postdoctoral fellowships at Ohio State University, Carbondale

Todd West

Associate professor of horticulture

Education | bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville; master’s degree in horticulture and doctorate in plant biology from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Research interests | Woody plant improvement for the landscape trade, nursery crop production and germplasm storage

Activities | International Plant Propagator’s Society, International Association of Professional Landcare Network, Gamma Sigma Delta, American Society for Horticultural Science

Previous experience | associate professor of horticulture at West Virginia University, Morgantown
Students earn reserve champion honors in national academic quiz bowl

NDSU students earned reserve champion honors in the American Meat Science Association’s academic quiz bowl competition held at the association’s 64th Reciprocal Meat Conference June 19-22 at Kansas State University, Manhattan.

“We are extremely proud of the efforts of our quiz bowl team. They demonstrated exceptional knowledge of the meats industry in this competition,” said Greg Lardy, head of NDSU’s animal sciences department. “Their success speaks to the caliber of the students at NDSU as well as the depth and quality of the training they receive in our undergraduate program.”

Team members included Kelsey Phelps, a senior majoring in animal science from Breckenridge, Minn.; Quynn Larson, a recent animal science graduate from Brandon, S.D.; and Eric Klemam, a senior majoring in animal science from Ottawa, Ohio.

The team competed against 31 teams from 26 universities. They advanced through seven rounds of play to face Texas A&M in the championship round.

During the quiz bowl, students answer 40 questions per round. For the first 20 questions team members compete head-to-head with each other. The last 20 questions are open, which means any team member can buzz in and answer.

Correct answers for all questions are worth five points; incorrect answers deduct five points. Questions cover a wide range of topics, including meat industry history, role of meat in the diet, conversion of muscle to meat, food safety, meat microbiology and meat marketing and pricing.

Richelle Miller, a graduate student in animal sciences, coached the team. “I truly enjoyed working with the quiz bowl team. I could not have asked for three individuals to work harder and have more drive to learn and succeed,” Miller said.

The students were excited to earn reserve champion in a contest with such tough competition and lots of time devoted to preparing. “We worked hard studying for two months to broaden our knowledge about the meats industry, building on what we have learned as undergraduates in the animal sciences department,” Phelps said. “Our coach Richelle was a great help.”

The objectives of the American Meat Science Association’s Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl, held annually at the Reciprocal Meats Conference, are to encourage students to interact with students from other universities, help students gain and retain knowledge and provide an opportunity to have fun while engaging in friendly competition.

NDSU will host the 2012 Reciprocal Meat Conference.

Doctoral student studies crop strategies in Italy

NDSU doctoral student Jaimin Patel participated in a highly selective educational program in Volterra, Pisa, Italy, in October 2016. Patel, who is from Gujarat, India, is studying plant pathology.

The school was organized by the European Network for the Durable Exploitation of Crop Protection Strategies. The focus of the program was to help doctoral students meet experts who are working on emerging agricultural pest species on agro-ecosystems.

A total of 86 students applied for the program from 44 different countries, with only 15 students being selected.

Some important topics discussed at the school included invasion processes of new species, interaction of new species and native species, effects of new species on plant health and management strategies.

“I can put this knowledge to use in my future career to improve crop health by applying innovative and integrated management tactics,” Patel said.

The program included lectures provided by international experts and teamwork that facilitated participation between the selected students and the lecturers.

The school also helped the students to understand each other’s research interests and expertise to use in their future research.

The purpose of the European network is to reduce the use of pesticides by including fundamental research and applied work to translate result into practice.

Doctoral graduate wins prestigious award

Allison Meyer was awarded the first ever Agri-King Outstanding Animal Science Graduate Student Award at the American Society of Animal Science meetings in New Orleans on July 11. The award recognizes the achievement of outstanding graduate students working toward the mission of the society.

“I feel honored to be selected from what I know is a very talented, hard-working group of animal science graduate students across the county,” Meyer said.

To be eligible for this award, the candidate needs to be working toward an advanced degree in animal science or be within one year of finishing a degree and also be a member of the society. The award carries a two-year complimentary membership in ASAS, registration for the joint annual meeting, a $1,500 award and plaque and recognition during the ASAS Awards Ceremony at the joint annual meeting.

Meyer earned her bachelor’s degree in animal science from Michigan State University and her master’s degree in animal science (ruminant nutrition) from the University of Missouri. She recently completed her doctorate at NDSU in animal science (ruminant nutrition and nutritional physiology) and has taken a faculty position at the University of Wyoming.

Meyer was nominated for this award by her adviser, Joel Caton, professor of animal sciences, and selected out of 35 applicants.

Meyer is the daughter of Alan and Kathy Meyer, Greensburg, Ind.
When John Soper arrived for his first day of work as a soybean breeder at Pioneer Hi-Bred in Redwood Falls, Minn., he entered an empty building that had little more than a folding chair and a cardboard box that he used as a temporary desk.

Today, nearly 25 years later, Soper’s office is dramatically different and so is the company.

As vice president of crop genetics research and development, Soper mentors other scientists and young leaders and works on long-term research and business strategy. “It’s a challenging position, considering Pioneer Hi-Bred has grown to have operations in more than 90 countries, more than 10,000 employees worldwide and over 100 research locations on six continents.

In April, NDSU’s College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources named Soper the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus for his prominent role in Pioneer Hi-Bred’s success.

“The goal is to leave behind a legacy, to build upon the foundation that I inherited when I came to Pioneer and make it stronger for future generations of scientists,” Soper said.

Soper earned his bachelor’s degree in botany in his home state at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1981. He remained there to earn his master’s degree in agronomy in 1983.

Upon a recommendation from his adviser, Soper decided to check out Midwest schools for his doctorate. He was drawn to NDSU because of the wide range of plant breeding programs and faculty members’ expertise. He graduated with a doctoral degree in agronomy in 1987.

As an alumnus, Soper strongly supports NDSU graduates and seeks them out for employment at Pioneer. “There is a good track record of NDSU students having successful careers in our company. I think it’s a combination of good scientific training along with the work ethic and the cultural values you acquire from living in the northern Plains.”

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Soper earned his bachelor’s degree in botany in his home state at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1981. He remained there to earn his master’s degree in agronomy in 1983.

Upon a recommendation from his adviser, Soper decided to check out Midwest schools for his doctorate. He was drawn to NDSU because of the wide range of plant breeding programs and faculty members’ expertise. He graduated with a doctoral degree in agronomy in 1987.

As an alumnus, Soper strongly supports NDSU graduates and seeks them out for employment at Pioneer. “There is a good track record of NDSU students having successful careers in our company. I think it’s a combination of good scientific training along with the work ethic and the cultural values you acquire from living in the northern Plains.”

John F. Anderson, BS ’57, zoology, MS ’59, entomology, was honored with the Henry L. Bolley Academic Achievement Award. Anderson is a distinguished scientist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Conn. He was recognized during ceremonies May 12 on the NDSU campus. The NDSU Alumni Association sponsors the award.

Anderson has written more than 280 scientific manuscripts involving medical, veterinary, forest and general entomology. For the past 25 years, he has focused his research on emerging infectious diseases of humans and veterinary animals associated with mosquitoes and ticks.

In 1999, he led the successful effort to isolate the exotic West Nile virus found in mosquitoes and birds in the New World. He has written dozens of papers on the natural history of Lyme disease, babesiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. He recently completed “The History of the Public Health Entomology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1904-2009.”

Anderson also has worked as a lecturer and researcher at the prestigious Yale School of Medicine.

In addition to his academic and research pursuits, he was active in the Army Reserve until 1967. He was promoted to captain in the 340th General Hospital Army Reserve unit in New Haven, Conn.

Halverson named Agribusiness Award recipient

Under Halverson’s leadership, Black Gold Farms, with 11 production locations spread from North Dakota to Texas and Florida to Maryland, grows approximately 17,000 acres of potatoes, plus various other crops. He is board chair of the Northern Plains Potato Growers Association.

Black Gold and its associates have been internationally recognized for supplier innovation and leadership and for adopting advanced technology in chip potato production. The company recently received the Environmental Stewardship award from the National Potato Council in recognition of its systematic approach to potato production and sustainability. In 2009, the World Potato Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand, presented Halverson with the Industry Award in recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the potato industry.

Halverson’s community service has been exemplary, including past member of the Forest River City Council, an elder in the Forest River Community Church, past president of the N.D. Angus Association, past president of the Association of Agricultural Production Executives. He chaired the Forest River Centennial and the University of North Dakota Potato Bowl.

The award was presented during the 37th annual Harvest Bowl program at NDSU.
Alumnus receives international award for improving rice fertilization in Asia

Roland Buresh, MA ’76, received the 2011 International Fertilizer Industry Association Norman Borlaug Award for excellence in crop nutrition research at the association’s annual conference held in Montreal, Canada, in May.

The award, which was introduced in 1993, not only recognizes significant advances in crop nutrition research, but also successful communication of the outcome of research to farmers.

Buresh is principal scientist at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines where he works on site-specific nutrient management. He has researched nutrient and crop management for the past 30 years.

Through his involvement with the Integrated Rice Research Consortium – a partnership between the International Rice Research Institute, national research centers in 11 Asian countries and the private sector, Buresh initiated the development of innovative knowledge transfer tools specifically targeting small-scale farmers in Asia.

Buresh’s most recent and recognized accomplishment is “Nutrient Manager,” an IT-based decision-making tool that provides extension workers, farmers and researchers field-specific nutrient management practices for rice. “Nutrient Manager” for Rice has been tested and implemented successfully in the Philippines and in Indonesia by rice growers using local languages. Short Message System and interactive voice response. Through an innovative public-private partnership, involving the Department of Agriculture from the Philippines and two national mobile phone service providers, Buresh led the development of “Nutrient Manager” for Rice Mobile providing toll-free numbers to facilitate the use of the service by small-scale farmers. It is expected to be adopted by many more countries. Bangladesh, China, India, Vietnam and West Africa are under development.

Prior to joining the International Rice Research Institute, he was principal soil scientist at the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, Nairobi, Kenya, and soil scientist at the International Fertilizer Development Centre.

Buresh is the 20th recipient of the Norman Borlaug Award. Atlas Fertilizer Corporation in the Philippines nominated him for the award. He was selected among 12 nominees.

Buresh earned his master’s in soil science from NDSU in 1976 and his doctorate in marine sciences from Louisiana State University in 1978.

The International Fertilizer Industry Association is a trade association representing the global fertilizer industry. Member companies represent all activities related to the production and distribution of every type of fertilizer, their raw materials and intermediates. Membership also includes organizations involved in agronomic research and training. According to its website, the association has approximately 525 members in about 85 countries.

Linsey Davis

Alumnus receives ‘Nobel Prize’ in agriculture for revolutionizing discoveries

R. James (Jim) Cook learned how to paint the summer he was 16. His father set out pails brimming with white paint and a line of brushes in front of their farmhouse east of Sabin, Minn. His instructions were simple – “paint the house.”

For some people limited direction is challenging, but that’s how Cook prefers it. He has always learned best by doing. “I loved it, my dad taught me to think independently,” Cook said. “I was always ready to be on my own. It was terrific, I thrived.”

That results-oriented mentality has served Cook well throughout his 40-year career as a plant pathologist and administrator at Washington State University. He is credited with making discoveries in plant pathology and soil microbiology that have fundamentally changed the way wheat and barley diseases are managed.

In recognition of his major contributions, Cook recently was honored with what is commonly referred to as the Nobel Prize in Agriculture – the Wolf Prize in Agriculture. The Israel-based Wolf Foundation presents the honor annually. Cook accepted the award, along with co-winner Harris Lewin, from the President of the State of Israel during a special ceremony May 29 in Israel.

One of Cook’s most significant findings negated what scientists had been telling farmers for years – that yields go down with crop monoculture (growing the same crop in the same field year after year) because the soil is depleted of nutrients.

“While others, such as NDSU’s H.L. Bolley, knew the importance of soilborne pathogens, my research proved that yields of wheat decline with continuous monoculture because the plants are depleted of their roots and that the crop actually leaves nutrients unused in the soil,” Cook said.

Cook also demonstrated for wheat that growing the same crop consecutive years allowed disease-fighting microorganisms to build up and the crop to defend itself against root disease.

His second breakthrough revolutionized no-till farming. Farmers were told that wheat did very poorly planted onto its own residue because wheat straw, especially the chaff, was toxic. But Cook was able to unveil that the real enemy was not disease caused by the combination of wheat after wheat and straw on the soil surface, keeping the soil cooler and wetter and hence more favorable for root disease.

“That was a paradigm-shifting study,” Cook said. “I imagine you’re being treated for years for an allergy when all the time you were dealing with an infection.” Cook said. “The correct diagnosis totally changed how we look at and solved this problem.”

Cook continues to contribute to science through service on committees and review of reports for the National Academy of Science and as current president of the Washington State Academy of Science. He also is writing a book, summarizing his career as a plant pathologist.

Linsey Davis
Alumna travels to Germany on fellowship

NDSU alumna Sarah (Bedgar) Wilson knows first-hand how European agriculture differs from the way we do things in North Dakota. Wilson was awarded a “trip of a lifetime” after receiving the prestigious 2010 McCloy Fellowship in Agriculture through the American Farm Bureau.

The fellowship is a three-week intensive immersion experience in Germany and Belgium that focuses on the exchange of policy, research and planning that affects domestic, continental and international agricultural issues in Germany. At the invitation of the American Council on Agriculture in Germany, each year the American Farm Bureau Federation and the German Farmers’ Association both identify four candidates from their countries to participate. The exchange program began in 1976.

During September and October 2010, Wilson visited many sites across Germany and in Brussels. “The trip was awesome. It was a very full itinerary; we were in a different city every few days,” she said. “The goal is to learn about agriculture, to experience their agriculture, farms, businesses and meet with industry leaders to get a better understanding of agriculture policy over there.”

Her trip of discovery was intriguing and unforgettable.

“It was a unique experience,” Wilson said, noting the growers she met have interesting challenges, including urbanization and working with different layers of government. “I enjoy opportunities to learn about global agriculture. It’s a very small world, and the trip was, to me, a tremendous opportunity.”

Wilson is part of the fifth generation to grow up on her family’s farm in Maryland. She earned her master’s degree in animal and range sciences from NDSU in 2005, and helped found the NDSU Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter while she was a student.

After graduating from NDSU, Wilson worked as a livestock Extension educator for the University of Minnesota. She now lives in Jamestown, N.D., and farms more than 3,000 acres with her husband, Jeremy. She also works as the Young Farmer and Rancher Program coordinator for the North Dakota Farm Bureau.

Wilson keeps a blog (farmeronamission.blogspot.com) as an offshoot of her speaking service to provide positive information about agriculture. The blog has had thousands of hits, many coming from other countries. She even blogged while she was in Germany.

The North American Equipment Dealers Association elected Roger Gjellstad as chair of the board of directors in March. The NAEDA provides three basic services for farm implement dealers – manufacture relations, government relations and dealer services. Gjellstad has a long history with farm machinery experience and leadership to bring to the association.

Gjellstad grew up on his family farm and ranch near Velva, N.D. The farm has been in the family for 128 years – longer than North Dakota has been a state. After earning his bachelor’s degree in agricultural mechanization in 1972, he started what has become a nearly 40-year career in the farm implement business.

Gjellstad purchased Stanley Equipment Inc., a Case-IH dealership, in 1976, and is president and general manager. He also is president of six other Case-IH dealerships in western North Dakota and Montana.

One benefit of working in the implement business is the connection to the community.

“We believe in our local communities,” Gjellstad said. “You support the 4-H and the FFA. It’s great to see young people coming back into the agricultural profession and taking over.”

In 1992, he was the chair of the North Dakota Implement Dealers Association, which led him to the national position. The North Dakota Implement Dealers Association is one of 17 North American dealer associations affiliated with NAEDA. Gjellstad became a member of the national board in 2007.

“One on the national board, I love working with the various people from across the U.S.,” he said. “I am very honored to chair this organization.”

Technology has been the biggest driver of changes in the implement business for the past 10 years, both with machine size and capacity. Gjellstad credits his time at NDSU for preparing him with both knowledge and social abilities to communicate with others. He encourages young graduates to go into the profession.

“If you want to get into a career that is very diverse, challenging and rewarding, it’s the one you want to be in,” he said. “The demand for food will only get better. It’s very exciting to be in the farm equipment business.”
obituaries

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Arden Aanestad, 86, BS ’47, MS ’49, agriculture, was the co-founder of Castle Chemical Co. in Castle Rock, Minn. He was also a park naturalist at Richardson National Wildlife Refuge for nearly three decades. He assisted in research data for the Migratory Avian Production Survey and Project Red Pepper Watch for Cornell University. He lived in Eden, Minn.

Lee H. Anderson, 89, BS ’47, agriculture, worked the family farm in Warwick, N.D. As an Air Force pilot, he flew communications missions in World War II and during the Korean War era. He served as a director of Western State Bank in South Dakota for 14 years and was a park naturalist at Richardson National Wildlife Refuge for nearly three decades. He assisted in research data for the Migratory Avian Production Survey and Project Red Pepper Watch for Cornell University. He lived in Eden, Minn.

David Boyle, 57, BS ‘76, agricultural economics, retired from farming in 2000 and later worked at Fargo Assembly Co. and Arctic Cat Inc. He lived in Fargo.

Jack F. Carter, 92, worked for agriculture in North Dakota and nationally for more than 50 years. He joined NDSU in 1950 as associate professor of agronomy. Ten years later, he became chair of the agronomy department. He started cooperative forage crop research at the Branch Stations, now Research Extension Centers, and contributed to Extension programs and short courses in forage crops statewide. Carter was a pioneer in the development of new, healthful uses for flax. In 1979, he was named the Alpha Zeta Agricultural Teacher of the Year, and he received the 1995 Blue Key Outstanding Educator award. A lecture room in Loftsgard Hall was named in his honor in 1995. He lived in Fargo.

Roland W. Currie, 90, BS ’47, agricultural economics, was a manager for the Fruteland Insurance Co. He served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II, he lived in Grand Forks, N.D.

Arnold Dordahi, 86, BS ’50, agricultural economics, earned a quarter’s degree at the University of Northern Colorado. A financial consultant during his career, he also served as a World War II Marine during the invasion of France. He lived in Fort Collins, Colo.

Stephen Egeduwen, 67, BS ’65, MS ’69, agricultural economics, worked on the family farm near Finley, N.D., until his home was destroyed by a tornado in 1988. He was a 4-H leader, member of the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association from 1983 to 2001. He lived in Fargo.

Darrin Schwagler, 50, BS ’84, agricultural economics, was a member of the township board, school board and church council. He lived in Cathay.

James Mooney, 50, BS ’87, MS ’90, horticulture, earned his doctorate in vegetable plant breeding from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He developed chili pepper varieties that thrive in the Midwest growing season. He lived in Prairie du Sac, Wis.

Rosaleta de la Rosa, 64, BS ’59, animal science, operated the family farmstead near Woodward, N.D. He served on the board of the Weidman Public School and Woodward Shop in West Fargo and Shaddock Bar in Cauetown, N.D. He lived in Fargo.

DeWitt Krueger, 56, BS ’77, agricultural economics, and Rosaleda (C)Cowan, 78, BS ’77, home economics and child development and family relations, were both members of the Million Dollar Realtors Club and worked for SK Realty in West Fargo and Kulukbi Realty in Dickinson, N.D. The couple also owned White Lace and Promises and The Uniform Corner in Dickinson. They were professional championship bidet knife dealers. They lived in Hebron, N.D.

Terrance Krueger, 65, BS ’69, soil science, worked for several years in the NDSU soil department before returning to the family farm near Langdon, N.D., until the early 1980s. He lived in Fargo.

Victor Legler, 84, BS ’50, agricultural economics, was a farmer who served on the Rural Townships Board and was active in the Land Owners Association of North Dakota. He lived in Jamestown, N.D.

R. Milton Lussenden, 88, BS ’46, agricultural economics, worked for the Extension Service in North Dakota during World War II, he lived in Bismarck, N.D.

Mark Miller, 52, BS ’81, agricultural economics, was a distributor representative for Reels Chemical Co. He also was a coach in the Midwest Youth Football League. He lived in Spencer, Iowa.

James Tibbet, 77, BS ’61, agricultural economics, opened J.T. Rock Shop in Fargo in 1977. One year later, his father, "Cap," was a Navy veteran who lived a member of the MVP and American Legion. He lived in Fargo.

Admiral “Hank” Toussaint, 90, BS ’48, agricultural economics, was a federal representative for American Insurance Co., underwriter for Nodak Mutual Insurance Co., vice president for the American Farmers Mutual Insurance Co., and president of Gate City Insurance Agency in Fargo. He lived in Bismarck, N.D.

Arthur Wichmann, 81, BS ’53, agricultural economics, was a decorated Army veteran, who served tours in Europe, Korea and Vietnam. After retiring as a Salvation Army officer for Farm Credit Services in Mandan, N.D. He was active in the New Salem Saddle Club and Mandan Horse and Saddle Club. He lived in Mandan.
Howard W. Langemo, BS ’41, agronomist, was featured in a Fargo Forum special project, over 80, about North Dakotans 80 or older still making a difference. He volunteers at the Barnes County Historical Society in Valley City, N.D. Langemo is at the Barnes County Historical Society still making a difference. He volunteers engineer with US Filter/Plymouth mechanization, is a senior project and in leadership positions for more Improvement Association. Peterson, of supervisors in Wyoming.

James M. Britt, BS ’68, animal science, received the 2011 Canola Excellence Award from the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association for six years.

Sherwood Peterson, BS ’62, animal science, received the Achievement in Crop Improvement Award from the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association. Peterson served on numerous crop, seed boards and in leadership positions for more than three decades.

Ralph Polasky, BS ’66, animal mechanization, is a senior project engineer with US Fertilizer/Plymouth Products Div in Shabogey, Wis.

James M. Britt, BS ’68, agricultural mechanization, owns Maintenance By Prevention, a heating contracting company in Gillette, Wyo. He is an associate member of the Campbell County Conservation District board of supervisors in Wyoming.

Jerry Amenson, BS ’80, agronomy, is a state bank and trust employee. He is a member of the board of directors of the Bank of ND and Farm Credit Services in Grand Forks. He is a senior vice president of business solutions for CHS Inc.

Lynden Johnson, BS ’82, agricultural economics, was named senior vice president of business solutions for The CoBank.

David Berg, MS ’83, agricultural economics, was named to the board of directors of State Bank and Trust. He is the president and chief executive officer of American Crystal Sugar. Mike Betz, BS ’84, animal science, was elected secretary of the North Dakota Soybean Council. He serves soybean farmers in Traill County.

Curtis Van Dyke, BS ’84, agronomy, was promoted to vice president of the western region for AgCountry Farm Credit Services. He served as branch manager in Valley City for 14 years.

Burton Pfliger, BS ’85, animal science, was elected secretary and treasurer of the American Sheep Industry Association. He was previously elected to four terms as president of the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers.

Terry Basol, BS ’89, crop and weed sciences, is the new Iowa State University Extension field agronomist for the northwest region of the state. He is based at Borlaug Learning Center on the ISU Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm near Nashua, Iowa.

Blaine Reikens, BS ’89, agricultural mechanization, is an energy service supervisor with Nodak Electric Cooperative in Grand Forks, N.D.

Brian K. Sorenson, MS ’09, cereal science, resigned as director of the Northern Crops Institute at North Dakota State University. He joined Dakota Specialty Milling as director of milling operations.

Mike Van Bruggen, BS ’95, agricultural economics, was promoted to senior loan officer for AgCountry Farm Credit Services in Lamon, N.D.

John Gulleson, BS ’96, agricultural systems management, is a research associate with Monsanto’s soybean breeding project. He has also been involved with durum wheat breeding, corn breeding and hard red spring wheat breeding projects. He recently applied for a soybean variety patent, along with another inventor, on behalf of Monsanto Technology LLC.

Brad Erickson, BS ’98, agricultural economics, was promoted to senior loan officer at the AgCountry Farm Credit Services branch in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Jared Hagert, BS ’98, agricultural systems management, was elected treasurer of the North Dakota Soybean Council.

Shannon Schlecht, BS ’98, MS ’02, agricultural economics, was promoted to direct a policy for the U.S. Wheat Associates. He will direct trade policy development aimed at increasing overseas market access for U.S. wheat producers.

Ryan Koester, BS ’99, crop and weed sciences, joined Wilbur-Ellis as a value-added nutrition specialist for the Grand Forks, N.D., area. He will continue his role in fertilizer sales and alliance support.

Matt Laubach, BS ’99, agricultural systems management, was promoted to senior loan officer for AgCountry Farm Credit Services in Lamon, N.D.

Brant Bigger, BS ’00, biotechnology, and his wife, Tami, received special recognition for their commitment to leadership and their community at the AgQuity Awards Banquet. He works as a lab technician in molecular biology with the USDA – Agricultural Research Service in Fargo, N.D.

Ryan M. Bohnsack, BS ’00, agricultural economics, MBA ’06, was named ag and business banker at American Federal Bank in Minot, N.D. He was recently community banking president at Wells Fargo’s Casleton and Hillsboro, N.D. locations.

Mark Borud, BS ’00, agricultural economics, was promoted to ag operations manager for Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative in Wahpeton, N.D.

Weston Dvorak, BS ’00, MS ’04, animal and range sciences, and Teresa (Baumann) Dvorak, BS ’03, animal and range sciences, were elected co-chairs of the Young Farmers and Ranchers committee of the North Dakota Farm Bureau.

Michael Metzger, BS ’00, microbiology, MS ’04, plant pathology, was promoted to research agronomist for Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative in Wahpeton, N.D. He is working on his Ph.D. and has been with Minn-Dak since 2001.

Sara Tunge, MS ’01, natural resources management, became the fire manager for the North Dakota State Forest Service and is stationed at the Bismarck office. She develops, implements and directs statewide wildfire protection programs.
livestock herd health technicians prepare students for careers as
Area Technical Institute in Watertown, N.D.

Nathan Ruckheim, BS ‘05,
justin Risovi, BS ‘05,
Chad weckerly, BS ‘03,
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Nathan green, BS ‘03,
Mark Belter, BS ‘03,
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Yolanda (Schmidt) goodman,
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elected to the district 2 position of the North Dakota Farm Bureau.

financial, was hired as a branch banking officer for Stanton Financial at the Urban Plains branch in Fargo, N.D.

in Hillsboro, N.D.

continued

class notes continued

Scott Gauslow, BS ‘02, agricultural economics, was vice chairman of the North Dakota Soybean Council.

Yolanda (Schmidt) Goodman, BS ‘02, animal and range sciences, is an agriculture instructor at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, S.D. Goodman teaches livestock and animal husbandry classes which prepare students for careers as livestock herd health technicians and veterinary assistants.

Miranda Hvinden, BS ‘02, microbiology, earned a doctoral degree in molecular microbiology and immunology from the University of Minnesota. She is a molecular geneticist at Pfizer Animal Health in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Mark belter, BS ‘03, agricultural economics, and his wife, Bridget, were elected to the district 2 position of the North Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

Nathan green, BS ‘03, agricultural systems management, was elected to a three-year term in district 1 of the North Dakota Farm Bureau.

Chad Weckerly, BS ‘03, agricultural economics, was elected to a three-year term for district 5 of the North Dakota Farm Bureau.

Chad cota, BS ‘05, economics, was promoted to business banker at Bremer Bank in Fargo, N.D.

Justin Risovi, BS ‘05, agricultural systems management, is business manager with Total Ag Industries in Hillbono, N.D.

Nathan Ruckheim, BS ‘05, agricultural systems management, is a terminal supervisor with Gavilon Fertilizer LLC in Shaylor, Minn.

Kristopher Staiger, BS ‘05, animal and range sciences, and KaSondra Staiger, BS ‘09, animal science and equine studies, were elected to the district 7 position of the North Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

Joshua Behrens, BS ‘06, agricultural systems management, returned to Larson’s Inc. in Wheaton, Minn. He was previously an agricultural account manager with RDO Equipment.

Jason Goltz, BS ‘06, agricultural systems management, is the Richland County (N.D.) Extension agent.

Patrick Erickson, BS ‘07, agricultural economics, was hired as a business banking officer for Stanton Financial at the Urban Plains branch in Fargo, N.D.

Justin Grindle, BS ‘07, economics, was promoted to branch manager at Ag Country Farm Credit Services in Hillbono, N.D.

Aaron Sawatzky, BS ‘07, MS ‘09, soil science, joined American Crystal as an agriculturalist working in the Drayton, N.D., area.

Angela Keller, BS ‘08, crop and weed sciences, joined the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association as brand recorder.

Bobby Volesky, BS ‘08, agricultural systems management, is an account manager in agricultural sales at RDO Equipment, Inc. in Fargo, N.D.

Adam Chyle, BS ‘09, crop and weed sciences, is participating in the Bayer Graduate Recruiting and Development Program at North Dakota State University. He is sponsored by Bayer CropScience. The program provides tuition support and student travel to university students. Chyle is pursuing a master of science degree in plant sciences at NDSU.

Michael Mahiero, MS ‘10, food safety, is a veterinary public health resident and is involved in teaching, research and Extension through the University of Minnesota in the area of public health and veterinary public health.

Lisa (Waugh) Maddock, BS ‘10, animal science and equine studies, is the Wells County (N.D.) Extension Agent in agriculture.

Lindsay (Odegard) Hammer, BS ‘10, animal science, is an assistant manager at the Jennie-O Turkey Store in Pergus Falls, Minn. She manages two turkey farms and trains workers on updated technology.

Jessica (Odegard) Hammer, BS ‘10, animal science, is an assistant manager at the Jennie-O Turkey Store in Pergus Falls, Minn. She manages two turkey farms and trains workers on updated technology.

Natsuei Fujiiwa, BS ‘10, food science, joined the North Crops Institute as a food technologist. Her responsibilities include conducting quality analysis of northern grown crops with special focus on wheat, soybeans and barley.

Michael Mahiero, MS ‘10, food safety, is a veterinary public health resident and is involved in teaching, research and Extension through the University of Minnesota in the area of public health and veterinary public health.

Gonsenheim Implement Co.
ND Crop Improvement
R & Seed Assoc.
ND Oilseed Council/SUNFLOWER
Northern Corn Growers Assoc.
Southwest Grain

$1,000 - $9,999

Individuals
Don and Jo Anderson
Frank & Mildred
Rainy Ann
John and Margaret Bollingberg
Tim Bryan
Jack and Ilene Carter
Larry and Mary Corah
D. C. and Debbie Cinton
John and Barbara Dilland
Brianna and Andrus Snider
Bob and Cindy Schauer
Michael and Louise Maertz
Calvin and Lou Messersmith
Douglas R. Miller
Dennis and Maureen Ming
Jade and Lynn Mozes
James and Pamela Mustad
Mark Nelson and
Rapraul Lacy Nelson
Gary and Rebecca Nehm
John T. Nordgaard
Peter and Lynette Nygaard
William and Anne Oberg
Wayne and Diane Pedersen
Willard and Ruth Pedersen
Richard and Kelly Sager
Christopher and Renda Schauer
Mr. and Mrs. William Schub
Alan and Cindy Schuler
David Soli
John and Sharyn Syper
Jeffery and Janet Tipp
Andrew and Connie Varrig
Robert and Tamara Wagner
Lee Watkins

Organizations
American Crystal Sugar Co.
Cargill Matching Gift Program
DCP Midstream LP
Hormel Foods Corp.
John Deere Foundation
Land O Lakes Inc.
Merk & Co Inc.
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.
Midcon Corp.
Midrand National Life Insurance Co.
Momondo Co.
Otter Tail Power Co.
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l Inc.
State Farm Fire & Casualty Co.
Thrivent Financial for Lutheran US Bancorp Foundation

$50,000 and above

Individuals
Harris and Kathryn Seidel

Organizations
Arbor Disease Management Co.
Black Gold Farm Inc.
ND Soybean Council
ND Wheat Commission
Northern Pulse Growers Assoc.

$10,000 - $49,999

Individuals
Mary Ostenson Broude
John and Kim Erickson
Paul and Connie Hume
Cindy Lamoy
Luke A. Marano Sr.
Keith and Cathy Peltzer
Loretta W. Quackernack
Kristi Steengan
Peter and Helen Hinman

Organizations
AmeriFlax
CHS Foundation

CONTINUED
### WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Alumni of the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources are invited to send information to be included in next year’s newsletter. **Photos and news articles are welcome.**

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Tell us a little about the work you do
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Other information (awards, family, hobbies, volunteer work)

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**RETURN TO:**
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