

# agriculture

2011-12

The College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources



**NDSU** NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Find 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](http://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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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.

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.

**Dean L. Bresciani**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



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 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.

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**

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

## 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.



Students in the commodity trading room at Tulane University in New Orleans. NDSU administrators visited the facility to gather information.

As the space is being developed, more possibilities for the room have surfaced. Wilson says expanded opportunities include analysis and, potentially, trading of financial markets, credit and foreign exchange. "The facility may also lead to developing programs for risk management in biofuels, which is now very important to North Dakota and the region," Wilson said. The room will be available to student organizations and perhaps used by area businesses to train employees.

The project, which was conceived a number of years ago, continues to gain substantial support and interest from the industry. "Employers have taken the view that this should help increase enrollment – there are pretty phenomenal job opportunities in these fields," Wilson said.

The budget for the room will likely be more than \$1 million during 10 years, with funds from the NDSU Technology Fee Advisory Committee and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Industry contributors so far include agribusiness firms ADM, CHS and Gavlion, as well as ND Soybean Growers Association, N.D. Wheat Commission, N.D. Corn Growers Association and Northern Crops Institute.

LINSEY DAVIS

## CHS visit strengthens ties between agribusiness and NDSU



From l to r: Interim President of Dickinson State University D.C. Coston, U.S. Rep. Rick Berg, NDSU President Dean L. Bresciani; N.D. Gov. Jack Dalrymple and Interim Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension Ken Grafton meet with CHS President and Chief Executive Carl Casale (third from left) during his visit to NDSU.

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 alumnus 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 students and higher enrollment in agriculture programs to meet that demand.

During the visit, CHS representatives toured the new greenhouse, Northern Crops Institute and Richard H. Barry Hall.

"They were impressed with how important agriculture is to NDSU, that we 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.

JOEL HAGEN

# 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.



Reid Redden (left), NDSU Extension sheep specialist and assistant professor of animal sciences, gives instruction to NDSU faculty member Capt. Cheryl Wachenheim (center) and other members of the Minnesota National Guard.

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 Marisol 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; and Janet Knodel and Patrick Beauzay 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 moments away.

“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

"We're going into Afghanistan with a great head start and an incredible support system. There's a great sense of comfort knowing NDSU is here to reach back to, and all we have to do is ask," Wachenheim 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."

■ STEVE BERGESON

# College makes administrative changes

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 applied economics department.



Harris



Gustafson

from 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

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 Extension Service 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 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.

■ LINSEY DAVIS



## 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 Fulbright program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and

Cultural Affairs. 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.

"We worked with different groups on mostly farming projects. That's when I thought that's what I would want to do career-wise," Mutukwa 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.

"I like tasting food from everywhere and hearing about different cultures," she said. ■ JOEL HAGEN

## Adventure-seeking horticulture student lands dream internship

Working in the dark and silent upper level of the Smithsonian US National Herbarium, where the public is not allowed and old desks and dissecting scopes are the only company, was a childhood dream come true for Craig Carlson. "I felt like Indiana Jones," he said.

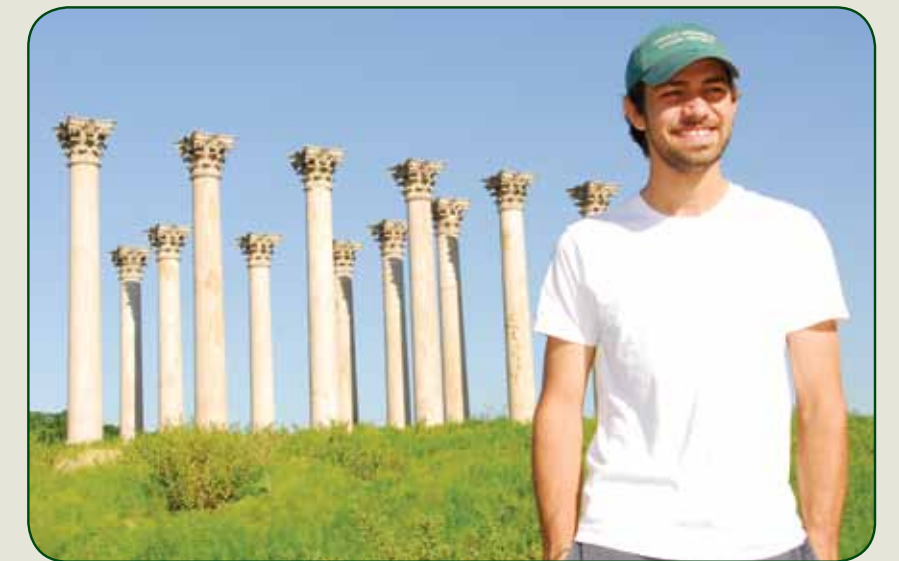
The experience came as part of a prestigious internship with the US National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. He was one of three students selected nationwide to work in the Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit from May 22 to Aug. 13.

An adventure and nature-lover at heart, Carlson has worked with plants all his life. He grew up planting trees with his father, who was the volunteer city forester in Casselton, N.D., and spending summers in the woods with his best friend, Josh Silbernagel. "We started a childhood club called the 'Danger Scouts.'"

He has worked at Sheyenne Gardens nursery on and off since graduating from high school. And today he is a senior majoring in horticulture science at NDSU.

Carlson said the internship was like an apprenticeship, since he immediately began working on current breeding efforts and discussing future research with US Department of Agriculture's tree breeder and research geneticist, Richard Olsen. He mainly worked in the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Md.

His primary research project was to investigate various aspects of white ash (*Fraxinus americana* L.). "I spent a lot of my extra time reading modern and antique treatments on *Fraxinus*. After which, I grabbed a pole pruner, GPS, plant press and set off to find the 'elusive' variation in white ash," Carlson said. Carlson and Olsen also collected several populations in and around Maryland. "To collect, mount, describe and accession over 50 herbarium specimens with my name on the label as collector is an accomplishment."



Carlson stands in front of Corinthian columns in the Ellipse Meadow, which is part of the U.S. National Arboretum. The columns once supported the east portico of the Capitol in 1828, but were removed when they were found to be structurally insufficient.

The experience of working at the US National Arboretum has been a great honor for Carlson. "I have had the opportunity to do so many wonderful things in such a short period of time."

Carlson also has performed research at prominent herbaria such as the Smithsonian US National Herbarium in the Museum of Natural History, Harvard University Herbaria, US National Arboretum Herbarium and The Arnold Arboretum Herbarium.

Carlson will graduate in December 2011 and is studying for the Graduate Record Exam. He hopes to further his education in plant breeding and genetics.

His dream job would be to travel the world as a senior research scientist, collecting germplasm for use in the development of his teams' plant introductions at a public or private institution.

"Taxonomists are by far the most interesting people to work with. In their youth, they travel all over the world, camping in forests and jungles, climbing mountains, discovering new plants; eventually ending up in silent herbaria, crouched over specimens, waiting to tell their stories to wide-eyed youngsters. Believe it or not, there is a great deal of adventure in taxonomy," Carlson said. ■ LINSEY DAVIS

# Recent Vet Tech graduate seeks career in research



Warmbold

Heather Warmbold is taking a bold, exciting career path. The NDSU veterinary technology student who graduated at the end of summer semester will concentrate her job search in the area of research.

Historically, most veterinary technologists have been employed at veterinary clinics or educational settings,

with a few selecting to seek work in research. That is changing, and Warmbold is an excellent example.

“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.”

The native of Park Rapids, Minn., experienced a recent externship at Boston Scientific Research and Technology Center in Arden Hills, Minn. She’s currently a contract animal care technician in St. Paul, Minn., while she looks for a position as a study technician.

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.

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. 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.”

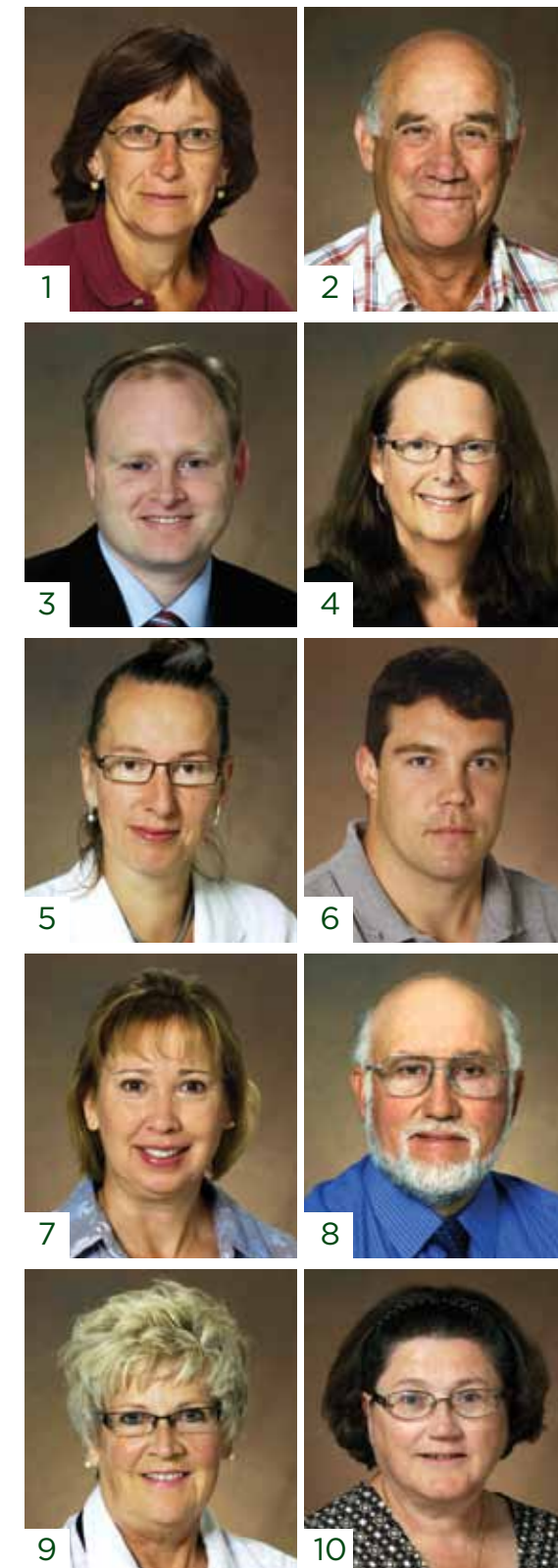
Perhaps Wagner best sums up the growing opportunities in research when she says, “In short, veterinary technicians and research laboratories have a lot to offer each other.”

■ 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.

D.C. Coston, former vice president for agriculture and university Extension, announced the award recipients.



- 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 agribusiness 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*  
AGSCO 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 agribusiness and applied economics*  
Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award
- 10 Sandy Osborne  
*administrative coordinator in agribusiness and applied economics*  
Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award

## Redmer honored by the American Society of Animal Sciences



Redmer

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 Animal Physiology and Endocrinology Award is intended to stimulate research excellence in physiology and

endocrinology. It is awarded based on basic or applied research in physiology and endocrinology with all classes of large and small animals and research work published in the past 10 years.

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



Simsek

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 careers 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



McKee

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. He also teaches an online section of the cooperatives course and sections of the course to three other campuses in the North Dakota University System.

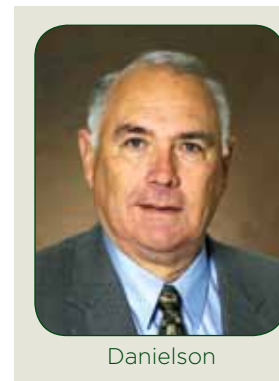
## Past and current faculty honored

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 herdsman 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



Berg



Danielson



Moore

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



Stoltenow

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. The association and NDSU agriculture communication staff selected Stoltenow for the honor.

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, Johnne's disease and food safety. He was instrumental 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



Wolf-Hall

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



Wachenheim

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.

## Vonnahme receives early career honors



Vonnahme

Kim Vonnahme, 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.

Vonnahme 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 Steinhatchee, Fla., in April.

## Haggart recognized by students as outstanding educator



Haggart

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



Nelson

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 soil-borne 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 Vonnahme, 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.



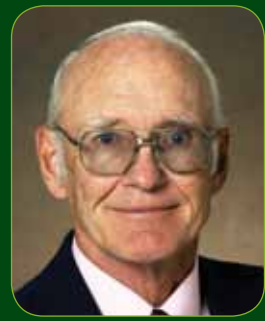
Vonnahme



Wagner

The Outstanding Young Scientist awards recognize scientists with 10 years or less of service in their professional careers.





Meyer

## 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.

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.

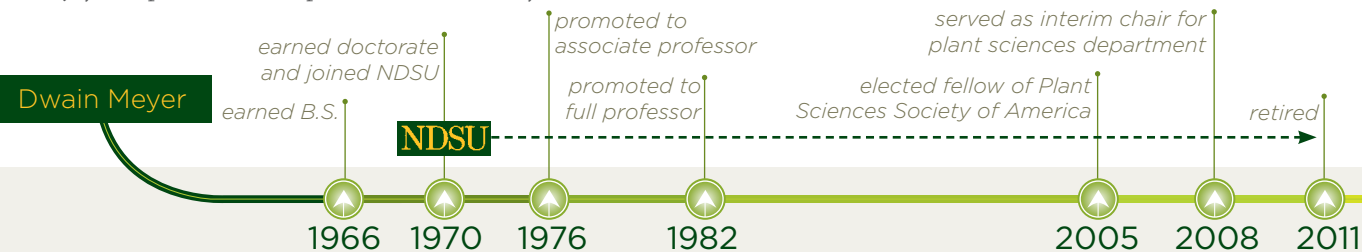
Meyer splits his time between Mesa, Ariz., Fargo and summer at the lakes. He and his wife, Gladys, plan to travel, enjoy their grandchildren, and volunteer and work on home projects.

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

"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



Leitch

## Jay Leitch

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

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, Becky, and 15-year-old twins, Forrest and Rachel, live in Moorhead.

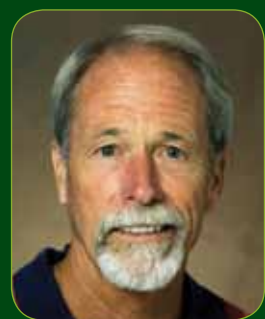
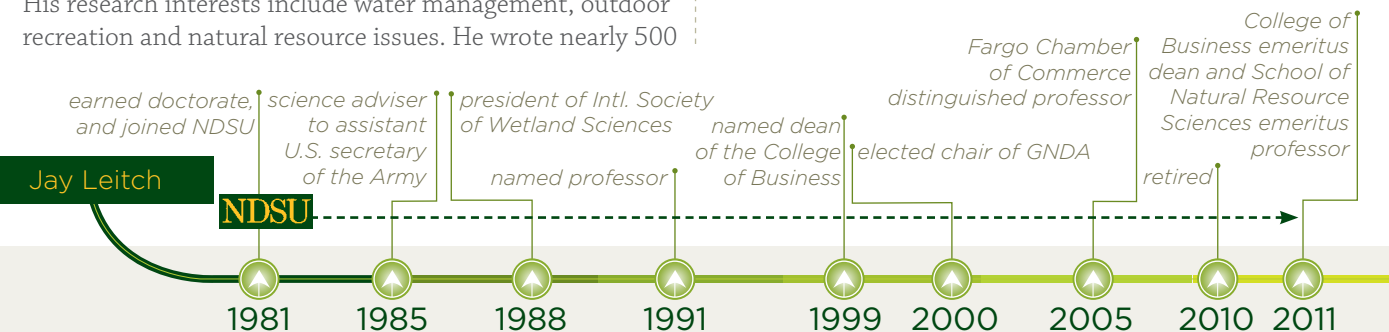
Leitch established a scholarship for natural resource management students in memory of his student, Brett Hovde. Contributions should be sent the NDSU Development Foundation.

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



Kirby

## Donald Kirby

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

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.

Kirby has seen many changes at NDSU in that time span. His field of range management has moved around the university several times. Kirby

"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.

begun 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

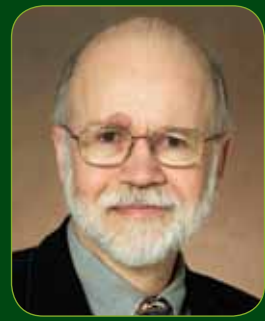
Kirby grew up in Santa Cruz, Calif. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Humboldt State University, Arcata, Calif., and his doctorate in range science at Texas A&M University, College Station.

His research focused on grazing management, rangeland weed control and reclamation of drastically disturbed wetlands. He landed more than \$2 million in grants while at NDSU.

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

"I've been working for 50 years, so it's time to take a break. Go play," he said.





Colville

## 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

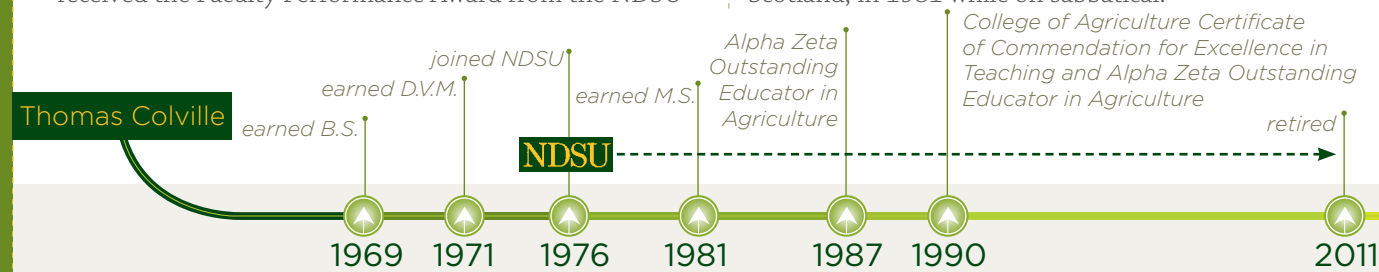
program. He oversaw the growth of the program into what has become one of the most visible four-year veterinary technology degree programs in the country.

Colville taught 11 different courses while at NDSU. He received the Faculty Performance Award from the NDSU

vice president for academic affairs in 1997, College of Agriculture Certificate of Commendation for Excellence in Teaching in 1990 and Alpha Zeta Outstanding Educator in Agriculture in 1990 and 1987.

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

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.



Venette

## Jim Venette

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

"I will miss the students and my NDSU colleagues," said

Venette, who came to the university in 1975 as an assistant professor of plant pathology. "It's been a pleasure to come to work – it's really about the great people at NDSU."

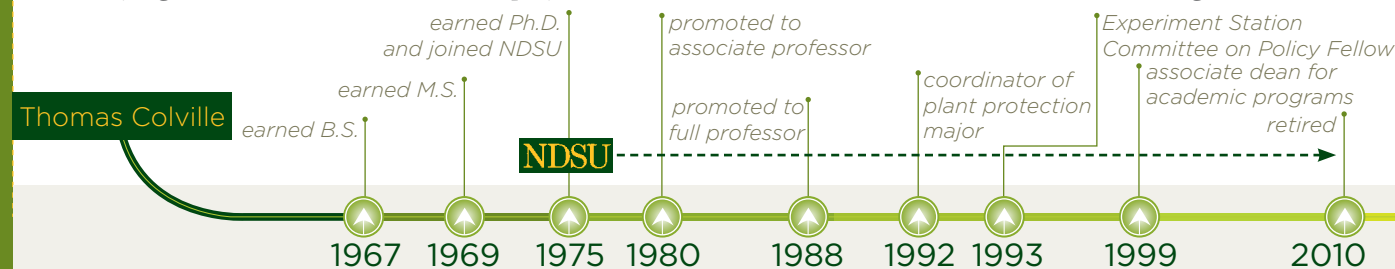
Venette was interim chair of agricultural and biosystems engineering, interim chair for cereal and food sciences and interim associate dean for research for the Agricultural Experiment Station. He also taught a variety of classes and was a judge for about 10,000 science fair projects.

"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.



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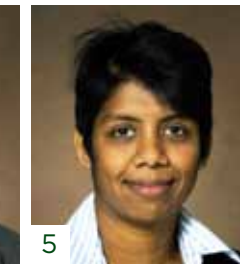
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### 1 AMITAVA CHATTERJEE

Assistant professor of soil science

**Education** | bachelor's degree from Visva Bharati University in India; master's degree in soil science from Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth (Agricultural University) in India; doctorate in soil science from the University of Wyoming, Laramie

**Research interests** | Greenhouse gas exchange, soil nutrient dynamics, geospatial variability, biofuel production, soil microbial community structure

**Activities** | Ecological Society of America, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America

**Previous experience** | postdoctoral fellowships at Ohio State University, Columbus, and University of California, Riverside; postdoctoral research associate for Washington State University, Prosser

### 4 KENDALL SWANSON

Associate professor of animal sciences

**Education** | bachelor's degree from NDSU; master's degree in animal and range science from NDSU; doctorate in animal sciences from the University of Kentucky, Lexington

**Research interests** | efficiency of feed utilization, nutritional physiology, beef and cattle production

**Activities** | American Society of Animal Science, American Society of Nutritional Sciences, North Dakota Stockmen's Association, associate editor for Canadian Society of Animal Science

**Previous experience** | postdoctoral research associate at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, associate professor in ruminant nutrition at the University of Guelph, Canada

### 2 JARED LEBOLDUS

Assistant professor of plant pathology

**Education** | bachelor's degree from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada; master's degree and doctorate in forest biology and management from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

**Research interests** | plant pathology and epidemiology, forest pathology

**Activities** | member at large of Poplar Council of Canada

**Previous experience** | postdoctoral fellow and visiting fellow at University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

### 5 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 User, Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory User

**Previous experience** | postdoctoral fellowship in synchrotron science on plants and pulse biofortification lead researcher at the Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan

### 3 GIDEON FRANCOIS MARAIS

Associate professor of plant sciences

**Education** | bachelor's degrees from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa; master's degree in genetics from the University of Stellenbosch; doctorate in cereal technology from North Dakota State University; doctorate in genetics from the University of Stellenbosch

**Research interests** | wheat breeding, gene transfer from wild grass species to wheat

**Activities** | South African Genetics Society, Southern African Plant Breeders' Association, South African Society for Crop Production

**Previous experience** | professor and chair of the Department of Genetics at the University of Stellenbosch, visiting scientist at the Cereal Research Centre, Winnipeg, Canada

### 6 TODD WEST

Associate professor of plant sciences

**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



Students (l to r) Eric Kleman, Kelsey Phelps and Quynn Larson, along with coach Richelle Miller, display their reserve champion plaque.

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 Kleman, 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 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. ■ LINSEY DAVIS

## Doctoral student studies crop strategies in Italy



Patel

NDSU doctoral student Jaimin Patel participated in a highly selective educational program in Voletera, Pisa, Italy, in October 2010. 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.

■ AMANDA HUIRAS

## Doctoral graduate wins prestigious award



Meyer

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.

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.

– Allison Meyer

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.

■ AMANDA HUIRAS



## AG AWARD WINNER

## JOHN SOPER Distinguished Alumnus

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.

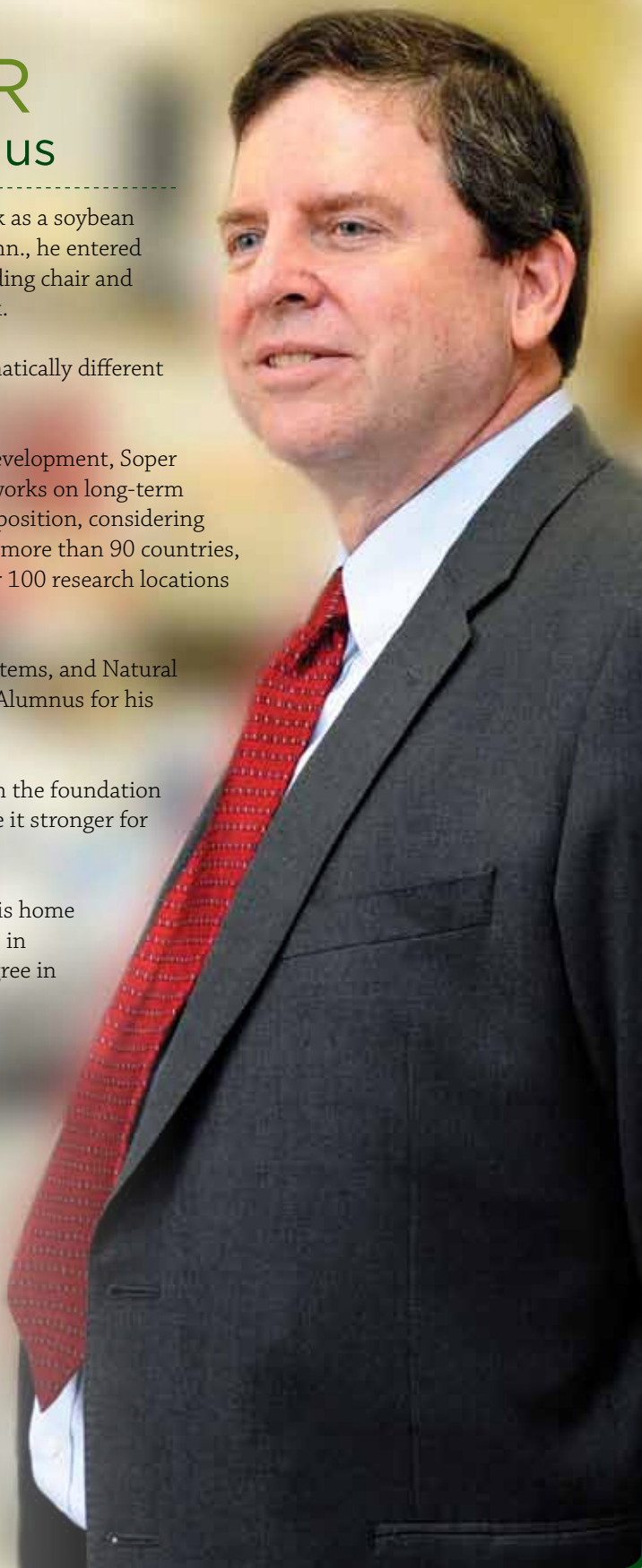
In April, NDSU's College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources named Soper the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus for his prominent role in Pioneer Hi-Bred's success.

"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."



## Alumnus receives Achievement Award



Anderson

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



Halverson

Businessman and farm owner Gregg Halverson received the 2010 Harvest Bowl Agribusiness Award. The honor recognizes distinguished achievement in the fields of agriculture and business.

Halverson, BS '71, animal science, is president and CEO of Black Gold

Farms, the world's largest producer of fresh crop chipping potatoes. The family-owned potato growing and marketing organization is headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D.

While a student at Midway High School near Forest River, N.D., Halverson founded Black Gold Farms. He based the name of the company on the color of the hide of the Angus cattle and the ebony soil of the Red River Valley. Gold represented the hope for relative value of the cattle and the color of the skin of the potatoes produced at that time. Halverson notes his family has proudly grown potatoes for more than 80 continuous years.

In addition to potatoes, Halverson owned and managed a nationally recognized registered Angus cattle herd. Black Gold Farms showed champion breeding stock across the United States and Canada.

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 Northwest Farm Managers Association and 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.

### THESE TOOLS INCLUDE:

- Computer-based decision support software available to Extension workers, crop advisers and farmers through the Internet and mobile phones;
- Videos for farmers; and
- Quick guides for fertilizer best management.

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



↑ Roland Buresh kneels in one of the long-term continuous rice cropping experiments

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



Cook

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 root 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.

"Imagine yourself 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 looked at and solved this problem," Cook said.

Taking his research to the farmers' fields was paramount. "I wanted to see my new knowledge applied as fast as possible. That's been what has set my career apart."

Cook also was a pioneer while at NDSU, 1954-1961. After earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture, with a double major in animal science and agronomy, he was the first to earn a graduate degree in plant pathology in 1961.

Cook earned his doctorate in 1964 from the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied with some of the world's leading authorities on soilborne plant pathogens.

In 1965, and after one year on a postdoctoral fellowship at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in Adelaide, Australia, Cook was hired by the USDA Agricultural Research Service to establish a federal research program on wheat root diseases at Washington State University. After 33 years with the Agricultural Research Service, he took a faculty position at Washington State University created for him by a \$1.5 million gift from the Washington Wheat Commission. He later became interim dean of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences. He retired Aug. 31, 2005, ending 40 years at the university.

Cook has received numerous honors. But among the most significant are election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1993, induction into the Agricultural Research Service Science Hall of Fame in 1997 and receiving an honorary doctorate from NDSU in 1999.

Today Cook enjoys retirement on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, spending time with Bev, his wife of 53 years, their four children and spouses and their five grandchildren.

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



📍 Sarah Wilson at a dairy farm in Oberaudorf in Bavarian Alps.

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

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 Germany, each year the American Farm Bureau Federation and the German Farmers' Association both identify four candidates from their countries to participate. The exchange partnership 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

coordinator for the North Dakota Farm Bureau.

Wilson keeps a blog ([farmeronamission.blogspot.com](http://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.

“ I ENJOY OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT GLOBAL AGRICULTURE. IT'S A VERY SMALL WORLD, AND THE TRIP WAS, TO ME, A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY. — Sarah Wilson ”

"I call myself a farmer on a mission. Agriculture advocacy is my passion," she said. "There is so much misunderstanding about agriculture in the media, I want the voice of the farmer to be heard."

And her experience in Europe not only helped her to gain new perspectives and develop empathy for colleagues in agriculture who face a variety of different challenges, but she also was encouraged by creative solutions to some of the same challenges faced in the United States.

"Anytime we can look at what other countries are doing and see if what they have learned can be applied in North Dakota, that's a win-win situation," Wilson said.

■ STEVE BERGESON



## Alumnus elected chair of national association

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.

"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."

■ JOEL HAGEN

## obituaries

Arden Aanestad, 86, BS '47, MS '49, agriculture, was the co-founder, president and CEO of Castle Chemical Co. in Castle Rock, Minn. He also was a park naturalist at Richardson Nature Center in Bloomington, Minn., for nearly three decades. He assisted in research data for the Migratory Avian Production Survey and Project Feeder Watch for Cornell University. He lived in Edina, Minn.

Lee H. Anderson, 89, BS '47, agriculture, worked the family farm in Warwick, N.D. An Air Force pilot, he flew combat missions in World War II and during the Korean War era. He served as a director of Western State Bank for 42 years and was a Warwick school board member. He lived in Warwick.

Thomas Bartholomay, 82, BS '50, agriculture, worked in the administrative offices of First Bank, working with banks in North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. He later was named president of First Minnehaha National Bank. He was a Korean War veteran who lived in Minneapolis.

Rolf Berg, 82, BS '51, agricultural economics, taught at the Benson County Ag and Training School before starting to farm. He was active in the local and state levels of the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts. He lived in Maddock, N.D.

David Berryhill, 67, associate professor of animal sciences, joined the NDSU faculty in 1971. He taught courses in bacteriology, microbiology and animal sciences. He held several leadership positions, including director of special programs for the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources and associate head of animal sciences. His many honors included NDSU Mortar Board Outstanding Academic Adviser, Alpha Zeta Outstanding Educator, Mortar Board Preferred Professor, NDSU Bison Ambassadors Apple Polisher Award and the 2005 William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Advising Award. He lived in Fargo.

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 and long-time promoter of new, healthful uses for flax. In 1979, he was named the Alpha Zeta Agricultural Teacher of the Year, and he received the 1990 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 Prudential Insurance Co. and retired after a 33-year career. A Merchant Marine officer during World War II, he lived in Grand Forks, N.D.

Arnold Dordahl, 86, BS '50, agricultural economics, earned a master's degree at the University of Northern Colorado. A financial consultant during his career, he also was a World War II Army veteran. He lived in Fort Collins, Colo.

Stephen Egediusen, 67, BS '65, MS '69, agricultural economics, worked on the family farm near Finley, N.D., until his home was destroyed by fire. He was working on a doctorate from Washington State University. He lived in Wahpeton, N.D.

Earl Erickson, 79, BS '59, agriculture, was a soil conservationist for the USDA in several cities in Montana. He later worked for Hughes Aircraft in El Segundo, Calif., until retirement in 1989. He lived in Park River, N.D.

Alvin Fragodt, 82, BS '54, MS '75, agriculture, worked for the North Dakota Extension Service, serving as an Extension agent in McLean, Adams and Cass Counties. He later became a 4-H Extension youth specialist until 1987. He then worked for North Dakota Ag Statistics, retiring in 1996. He lived in Fargo.

Glenn Giese, 62, BS '71, agricultural mechanization, worked at Slope Electric Cooperative in New England, N.D., from 1972 until his retirement in 2007. He started New England Cablevision in 1980 and, later, Flasher Cablevision. He also owned New England Lumber for several years. He lived in New England.

Richard Goodman, 79, BS '53, MS '58, agricultural economics, was vice president for Continental Grain, a major grain exporter. An Air Force veteran, he also was a past chair of the U.S. Grains Council and an associate administrator of the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. He lived in Potomac, Md.

Robert S. Hoffman, 58, BS '74, agricultural mechanization, was the owner of Hoffman Irrigation in Oakes, N.D. He was a past president of the North Dakota Water Users board. He lived in Oakes.

Rev. Daryl Jelsing, 62, BS '71, agricultural economics, was pastor of Restoration Ministries of Rugby, N.D., from its founding in 1987 until his death. Satellite churches were developed in Phoenix, Ariz.; Fessenden, Dunseith and Turtle Lake, N.D. He lived in Rugby.

LaDon Johnson, 76, BS '56, MS '57, animal science, was an NDSU professor emeritus of animal sciences. He was a livestock specialist with the NDSU Extension Service, retiring in 1995. His honors included being named to the North Dakota Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2002. He lived in Fargo.

Charles M. Kiefer, 71, BS '63, agriculture, was a pilot for Braniff International Airline, Air Berlin and Southwest Airlines before retiring in

1999 as a captain. He also refinished antique furniture as a secondary profession. He was an Army veteran who flew combat missions in Vietnam, and earned an Air Medal, Army Aviator Badge, Armed Forces Expeditionary Badge and National Defense Service Medal. He lived in Oro Valley, Ariz.

Clint Kopp, 78, BS '57, agriculture, was executive secretary of the Red River Valley Fair, and later owned the Wild Rice Bar, Roughrider and Western Shop in West Fargo and Shamrock Bar in Casselton, N.D. He lived in Fargo.

Dwile Krueger, 56, BS '77, agricultural economics, and Rosaleta (Clouse) Krueger, 57, 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 Kukulski Realty in Dickinson, N.D. The couple also owned White Lace and Promises and The Uniform Corner in Dickinson. They were professional champion bloodline dog breeders. 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 Bloom Township 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 and Farmers Home Administration. He served in the 12th Air Force in Europe during World War II. He was a member of the American Legion, Elks and Masons. He lived in Bismarck, N.D.

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

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

Gene Odenbach, 64, BS '69, animal science, operated the family farmstead near Woodworth, N.D. He served on the boards of the Woodworth Public School, Woodworth Farmers Grain, and was a leader of the local 4-H Club. He was active in the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

John Olson, 80, BS '53, agricultural mechanization, farmed near Brocket, N.D. He was a 4-H leader, member of the Lillehoff Township board, elevator board and active in the Ramsey County Farm Bureau. An Air Force veteran of the Korean War, he lived in Brocket.

Orville Overboe, 83, BS '52, agricultural education, MS '58, agricultural economics, served 10 years with the Soil Conservation Service in North Dakota and 25 years with the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service in Washington, D.C. His career concluded as head of the Feed Grains and Soybean Analysis Section with the Department of Agriculture. He lived in Midlothian, Va.

Patrick Riedesel, BS '70, animal science, worked the family farm near Cathay, N.D., which was first settled by his grandfather in 1905. He was a member of the township board, school board and church council. He lived in Cathay.

Lyle Samson, 86, BS '50, agriculture, was the North Dakota state agronomist for the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1988. He then served as executive director for the Manitoba-North Dakota Zero-Tillage Farmer's Association. He received many honors, including the USDA Superior Service Award. He lived in Minot, N.D.

Darrin Schwagler, 50, BS '84, agricultural economics, was a senior loan 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.

Rich Spichke, 78, BS '55, agriculture, began operating the first automated cattle feedlot in North Dakota in 1960. He later was instrumental in starting a small farm equipment exposition that developed into the BIG IRON farm show. In 1981, he started Mid North Associates, a farm equipment sales company. He served on the BIG IRON board and Red River Valley Fair board. He lived in Lake Park, Minn.

Kenneth Stene, 63, BS '71, animal science, was a milk tester for the Minnesota Dairy Herd Improvement Association from 1983 to 2001. He later was a truck driver for firms in Ada, Minn.; Detroit Lakes, Minn.; Halstad, Minn.; and Hillsboro, N.D. He lived in Ada.

Vernon Sturlaugson, 84, BS '50, agriculture, was in the banking industry in Minnewaukan and Larimore, N.D. He also was a longtime director of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District. He lived in Larimore.

James Tibert, 77, BS '61, agricultural economics, opened J.T. Rock Shop in Fargo in 1988. Known as "The Rock Man," he was a Navy veteran who was a member of the VFW and American Legion. He lived in Fargo.

Armond "Hank" Toussaint, 90, BS '48, agricultural economics, was a field representative for American Insurance Co., underwriter for Nodak Mutual Insurance Co., vice president for Dakota Fire Insurance Co. and president of Gate City Insurance Agency in Fargo. He lived in Bismarck, N.D.

Arthur Wichmann, 81, BS '53, agriculture, was a decorated Army veteran, who served tours in Europe, Korea and Vietnam. After retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1973, he worked for the Postal Service for 24 years. He lived in Detroit Lakes, Minn., and Mesa, Ariz.



## class notes

Howard W. Langemo, BS '41, agriculture economics, was featured in a Fargo Forum special project, 8 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 a retired agent for State Farm Insurance Companies.



Ketih Bjerke, BS '61, animal husbandry, retired from his position as North Dakota State University vice president for university relations. He held the position for

10 years. Bjerke was adjutant general of the North Dakota National Guard from 1993 to 2000. He was administrator of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and executive vice president of the Commodity Credit Corporation from 1989 to 1993. Prior to that, he and his wife, Marian, owned and operated Spruce Row Farm near Northwood, N.D., for 25 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, agricultural mechanization, is a senior project engineer with US Filter/Plymouth Products Div. in Sheboygan, 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.

Scott B. Laudert, BS '73, animal science, retired from Elanco Animal Health after 21 years as a technical consultant.

Douglas R. Mosser, BS '73, soil science, is the owner and operator for a commercial cow-calf operation and raises small grains and pulse crops. He is a member of the North Dakota Stockman's Association, served on the Billings County School Board and the Cenex Board and is currently serving on the Beach Co-op Elevator Board. He lives in Beach, N.D.

Rich Larson, BS '74, animal science, is a territory sales agronomist for Peterson Farms Seed. He was previously with Pioneer Hi-Bred International for 17 years.

Reuben Villand, BS '76, agricultural economics, was promoted to branch manager of the Valley City, N.D., office of AgCountry Farm Credit Services.

Ron Beneda, BS '78, animal science, received the 2011 Canola Excellence Award from the North Dakota Canola Growers Association. Beneda has served as a county agent for the NDSU Extension Service for 33 years.

Robert Drees, BS '79, agricultural mechanization, owns and operates Drees Farming Association in Grand Forks, N.D. He is a member of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Chamber.

Jerry Arneson, BS '80, agronomy, joined State Bank and Trust as an agricultural lender and business banker at the bank's Moorhead, Minn., location. He previously worked at Bremer Bank.



Craig Hanson, BS '80, soil science, returned to AgCountry Farm Credit Services in Grand Forks, N.D., as a senior loan officer. He has worked in agricultural finance for 24 years.

Mark Koponen, MS '80, bacteriology, is serving as the co-director of the new University of North Dakota forensic science clinical practice facility for the Department of Pathology. He previously worked for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

James Lehman, BS '81, MS '84, agricultural economics, was promoted to vice president of sales at American Vanguard Corporation's Amvac Chemical. He served as national sales manager for the previous year.

Matt Sanderson, BS '81, MS '83, agronomy, assumed leadership of the USDA Agricultural Research Service's natural resource research facility in Mandan, N.D. He was previously lead scientist at the USDA-ARS Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit in University Park, Pa.

Mark Weber, BS '81, agricultural mechanization, MS '84, agricultural economics, is the new director of the Northern Crops Institute. He served as executive director for the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Association for 12 years. Prior to that, he served as the executive director of the North Dakota Soybean Council and Growers Association for six years.

Lynden Johnson, BS '82, agricultural economics, was named senior vice president of business solutions for CHS Inc.

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 Beltz, 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.

David Torgerson, BS '86, agricultural economics, BS '86, animal and range sciences, received the Honorary Premier Seedsman Award from the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association.



Terry Basol, BS '89, crop and weed sciences, is the new Iowa State University Extension field agronomist for the northeast region of the state. He is based at Borlaug

Learning Center on the ISU Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm near Nashua, Iowa.

Blaine Rekken, BS '89, agricultural mechanization, is an energy services supervisor with Nodak Electric Cooperative Inc. in Grand Forks, N.D.

Brian K. Sorenson, MS '89, 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.

Matt Van Bruggen, BS '95, agricultural economics, was promoted to senior loan officer for AgCountry Farm Credit Services in LaMoure, 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 director of policy for U.S. Wheat Associates. He will direct trade policy development aimed at increasing overseas market access for U.S. wheat producers.

Ryan Kloster, 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, MS '08, animal science, was named dairy specialist focusing on eastern South Dakota, southwest Minnesota and northwest Iowa for Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont business.

Brant Bigger, BS '00, biotechnology, and his wife, Tami, received special recognition for their commitment to leadership and their community at the Agassiz Leaders 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 Fargo, N.D. He was recently community banking president at Wells Fargo's Casselton 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, MS '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 Forest Service and is stationed at the Bismarck office.

She develops, implements and directs statewide wildfire protection programs.

class notes *continued*

Scott Gauslow, BS '02, agricultural economics, was elected 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 Missouri. 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 economics, 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 Hillsboro, N.D.

Nathan Ruckheim, BS '05, agricultural systems management, is a terminal supervisor with Gavilon Fertilizer LLC in Shakopee, 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 Starion Financial at the Urban Plains branch in Fargo, N.D.



Justin Grinde, BS '07, economics, was promoted to branch manager at Ag Country Farm Credit Services in Hillsboro, 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 assistance to university students. Chyle is pursuing a master of science degree in plant sciences at NDSU.



Natsuki Fujiwara, BS '10, food science, joined the Northern Crops Institute as a food technologist. Her responsibilities include conducting quality analysis

of northern grown crops with special focus on wheat, soybeans and barley.

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

Lindsay (Vaugh) Maddock, BS '10, animal science and equine studies, is the Wells County (N.D.) Extension Agent in agriculture.

Michael Mahero, 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.

## Alumni, friends support college with their gifts

We are grateful to the following College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources alumni and friends for gifts they gave from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011.

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Dorothy Foster  
Cynthia Gibson-Buchanan  
and David Buchanan  
Bernie and Carol Goodman  
Melinda Goodman-Sorenson  
and Michael Sorenson  
Ken and Kristi Grafton  
Marcus and Daphne Hall  
Gary and Tamara Halvorson  
Kenneth and Cynthia Hejl  
William and Gwen Hejl  
Gary Helgeson  
and Nancy Bologna  
David and Sybil Hopkins  
Richard and Rebecca Horsley  
Mark and Eileen Huseth  
Gary and Mary Ihry  
Prem and Raj Jauhar  
Adam and Natalie Johnson  
Kay Jolly  
Connie Kingsley  
Don and Pam Kirby  
Mark and Carol Knorr  
Andy and Angie Knutson  
Ken and Susan Kohler  
Gregory and Cindi Konsor  
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ND Agriculture Assoc.  
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ND Dry Edible Bean Seed Growers Assoc.  
ND Farm Bureau  
ND Grain Dealers Assoc.  
ND Livestock Endowment Foundation

North Dakota Farm Credit Council  
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Northern Plains Potato Growers Assoc.  
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Lon and Lynette Flage  
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Micah D. Mork  
Ryan and Trisha Motl  
Loren D. Nelson



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Paul Rekow and  
Stephanie Johnson  
Donna M. Richards  
Herbert and Bonita Schmidt  
Kevin and Joan Sedivec  
Ron and Rita St. Croix  
Philip and Gloria Thompson  
Richard and Theresa Tokach  
Kimberly A. Vonnahme  
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Charlene and Clifford Wolf-Hall  
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Natural Resources  
Management Club  
ND Nursery and  
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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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