Agriculture has long served as the framework for North Dakota’s economy and way of life. North Dakotans’ strong connection to the land has formed a proud and prosperous heritage, and it is a tradition to be admired. I understand and appreciate this love of the land because I grew up in the agriculturally rich Napa Valley of California. North Dakota shares many similarities and this is a perfect place for me to be.

As NDSU’s president, I will be a highly visible representative of this wonderful institution. I will meet with people from every corner of the state of North Dakota, because we owe it to the people we serve to demonstrate how NDSU sincerely and compassionately works for the betterment of our region and nation. We will enhance people’s trust and faith in NDSU’s efforts and our land-grant mission of quality education, leading research and outstanding service.

Prior to joining NDSU, I was vice president for student affairs at Texas A&M University. I previously served as interim vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and have held university administrative and faculty positions in California, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arizona and Nebraska. I earned my bachelor’s degree from Humboldt State University, Arcata, Calif.; master’s degree from Bowling Green State University; and doctorate in higher education finance from the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Coming to NDSU felt right from the moment I first became aware of the opportunity to lead this nationally respected university. I have already met many of the state’s governmental, business and agricultural leaders. I look forward to working with them as we move ahead.

As you read in this newsletter, the faculty, staff and students of NDSU and its College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources are important contributors in the social and economic fabric of North Dakota. There is no doubt the state will continue to be an agricultural breadbasket for the nation and world, and, together, we will build upon our many past successes. We have a great future before us.

Dean L. Bresciani

Welcome from the President

Welcome from the College

Welcome from the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. I am pleased to be a part of bringing this newsletter to you. North Dakota State University and our college continue to create excitement throughout this great state.

Our dedicated faculty and staff remain committed to serving our students in the best way possible, so they will be successful in their chosen careers. We also take very seriously our responsibility to serve our stakeholders throughout the state on issues relevant to a vibrant agriculture economy. I thank the faculty and staff for all of their efforts and support.

On the academic front, our programs continue to grow. The number of undergraduate students in the college remains at an all-time high. Agriculture is truly seeing a renaissance in meeting the challenges of feeding an increasing world population and is now being asked to provide the feedstock for a global bioeconomy. As a result, we are receiving comments from a number of employers that they are in desperate need of highly qualified students as their future employees. As we explore new opportunities and realignments to make programs more relevant for today’s societal needs, we are confident that the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources will continue to see a steady increase in enrollment.

Phase I of the new greenhouse complex construction was essentially completed in July. Phase II, funded at $11.45 million by the Legislature, began September 2009, and is well on its way to completion. People who have toured the state-of-the-art facility like what they see. Also, construction of Phase II of our new Beef Research Center is under way with completion expected later this year. Both of these facilities will provide excellent centers for research and education, and they will be great recruiting tools for faculty, staff and students.

Thank you for your continued support of the college and NDSU. I believe you will be proud of the academic and research accomplishments we reach in the near future.

Ken Grafton

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

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 NDSU Extension Service can be found at www.ndsu.edu/vpaue/annual_highlights. If you do not have Internet access and would like to receive a copy of their latest report, please contact us.
McNair Scholar aims for success

Lisa Mowry is a self-described “workaholic.” The 2010 NDSU microbiology graduate, who is married and the mother of two children, is just starting down what will surely prove to be a successful career path.

Mowry is pulling the overnight shift as a laboratory technician at Kellogg’s in Minnesota. “I was lucky to get a job so quickly after graduation,” she says, considering the nation’s difficult economic environment. “I know a lot of people were having difficulty finding work.”

Mowry enjoys her job, which entails various microbiological testing, antibiotic testing and quality assurance. She also frequently works with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Mowry says she has few interruptions working from midnight to 10:30 a.m. “I get lots of free milk, cottage cheese and ice cream, too. Most people would love that, but me – I am lactose intolerant,” she says with a laugh.

Determination and an upbeat attitude have long been her trademarks.

Mowry was a McNair Scholar at NDSU, a program for selected NDSU undergraduates who demonstrate strong academic potential and show an interest in research. The program’s goal is to increase doctoral degrees by students from under-represented segments of society.

“Lisa is highly motivated, exemplary, hard working, inquisitive and self-driven,” says Margaret L. Khaitsa, associate professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences and her McNair Scholar mentor, noting Mowry was recognized as the best presenter at the 2008 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Orlando, Fla. “She is sociable, a good team player who strives to positively impact the people around her and she rises to challenges. She also has the passion to advance further in her studies.”

Mowry, in turn, describes Khaitsa as “a great motivator who always supported me. She is someone I did not want to disappoint.”

Her first career choice was military service, and she became an intelligence analyst with the Army from May 2000 through July 2003. Interestingly, an incident during that time sparked her interest in microbiology.

“After Sept. 11, I submitted my passport papers needed to deploy overseas. But, I was informed by the Department of State that my documents had been in a batch that was contaminated with anthrax, so they disposed of them and asked me to resubmit,” Mowry explains. “I couldn’t do that because when you become a citizen they only give you one copy of your citizenship, which they had burned. To make a long story short, I became curious as to what anthrax was and decided on microbiology or something related when I attended college.”

Looking ahead 10 years, she has clear objectives.

“I hope I am someplace warm, working for a government agency doing microbiology or biotechnology,” Mowry says. “I better have at least a master’s degree, but I’m really aiming for a Ph.D.”

Mowry and her husband, Daniel, have two sons – Ayden, age 5, and Maddox, 3. She lives in Minneapolis, and her family lives in Fargo while Daniel finishes up his degree at the University of Mary.

Students given classroom challenge

New food products took center stage in an unusual challenge for a group of NDSU students. The projects were the culmination of a product development course through the School of Food Systems.

The class is designed as a capstone course, which means students must use the knowledge they have gained from their food science curriculum. Students were given 15 weeks to apply concepts they learned in food chemistry and analysis, food microbiology, food processing and engineering, food sensory analysis and food law to develop a product, including packaging and labeling. Each year, the class has different guidelines on what ingredients to use and/or types of products to develop.

“The caveat was the students had to use 10 of the top commodities grown in North Dakota in their product. This gives students a better appreciation of the commodities grown in the state,” said Deland Myers, professor and director of the School of Food Systems, who co-taught the course with Clifford Hall, associate professor in the School of Food Systems.

Students were split into teams consisting of four members. Each team had a code name and kept the ingredients used and recipe a secret, just as any real-life company would. “The students learned aspects of leadership as each student was responsible for leading the team during the class as well as working cooperatively as part of a development team,” Myers said.

Team Marathon developed a sandwich-type product using sunbutter instead of peanut butter. Team T-rex developed a casserole after developing multiple formulas high in fiber, protein and omega-3 fatty acids. Team Betty created a casserole after developing multiple formulas using different seasonings.

During the semester, panels were brought in several times to taste the products and offer suggestions. The panels evaluated appearance, flavor, texture and overall acceptability. “The response from the sensory panels was they liked the product concepts, particularly the potential of formulating more nutritious products using crops grown here in North Dakota,” Myers said.

Myers said each of the products received good reviews from the consumer sensory panel. “I believe the teams accomplished their goal of developing their products.”

However, they wished they had more time to improve sensory properties such as taste, texture, color, nutritional content and shelf life,” Myers said.

The course will continue this year with a different challenge. However, the challenge to students each year always will have a connection to one or more crops grown in North Dakota.

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For Kimberly Vonnahme, associate professor of animal sciences, some of the most meaningful accomplishments often aren’t her own. It’s flipping through the pages of Stockman Magazine and seeing a former student or hearing of a student being accepted into a doctoral or graduate program or receiving a scholarship, that make her beam.

“To have your students succeed, to know they’re doing super well in the livestock industry or their career path, becoming an expert in their field; that’s really neat to see,” Vonnahme said.

For Vonnahme it’s the successes of her students that make her feel successful as a professor.

In March, Vonnahme was recognized by The American Society of Animal Science with the Outstanding Young Teacher Award. She received the award at the society’s Midwest annual meeting in Des Moines among competition from universities such as University of Minnesota, University of Illinois, Iowa State University, University of Missouri, Kansas State University and Michigan State University.

Each university can nominate one person. Vonnahme was nominated by David Buchanan, professor of animal sciences.

Kimberly Vonnahme’s passion in the classroom was recognized by The American Society of Animal Science with the Outstanding Young Teacher Award.

Kim brings passion to everything she does. She is passionate about her science and she is passionate about bringing the science to the students in a way that they can see and feel the excitement. She is demanding without being unreasonable. She demonstrates that there is a reward that comes with meeting every challenge. She cares and the students understand that,” Buchanan said.

Vonnahme grew up on a farm outside of Breda, a small community in west central Iowa. Originally she had aspirations of becoming a veterinarian but changed her mind when she was exposed to research opportunities at Iowa State University in Ames. She earned her bachelor’s degree there in 1996. She went on to complete her master’s degree at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, and her doctorate at University of Wyoming in Laramie.

In 2003 Vonnahme came to NDSU to work as a research associate with professor Larry Reynolds. At the time, she broke a cardinal rule that she shares with her students today – never join an organization sight unseen.

Vonnahme’s first day of work was her first day stepping on NDSU’s campus. She made the decision to come to NDSU based on phone conversations with Reynolds and the great reputation that NDSU had in the area of reproductive physiology.

NDSU turned out to be a great fit. “This department is excellent. It’s a great group of folks driven to do good research and people who really care about students. It’s a really great environment to be a part of. I think we share a lot of philosophies and my value system fits really well here.”

Professionally and personally Vonnahme has thrived. In 2004 she became an assistant professor and in July 2010 received tenure.

She met her husband, Michael Kangas, at NDSU. He is a team leader with the North Dakota State Forest Service. They have a daughter, Katie, who just turned 2.

In 2008, one student wrote, “Kim is the most enthusiastic professor I have ever had. She is very knowledgeable and really loves what she does. She shows a lot of passion for her subject and students. She always encourages individuals and answers all any questions without hesitation. She (is) by far the best professor I have had in my four years at NDSU!”

Although still early in her career, Vonnahme has enjoyed numerous accomplishments; she has published 57 journal articles, 110 abstracts and one book chapter and been principal or co-principal investigator for more than $1.6 million in research. Her research focuses on the impacts of maternal nutrition on fetal and placental development in livestock.

When she received this latest accolade from the American Society of Animal Science, some of Vonnahme’s graduate and undergraduate students received awards too, a fitting testament to her successful teaching techniques.

“It was really nice, really touching ... it’s like the icing on the cake to be recognized for something like that. I thought it was pretty neat.”
Students attend leadership institute

Three NDSU students took advantage of the opportunity in December 2009 to attend the CHS New Leader Institute in Minneapolis. The New Leader Institute is held in conjunction with the CHS annual meeting. Young producers are sent by their local cooperatives to attend the four-day event to examine issues and challenges facing cooperatives, agriculture and rural America. Attendants also learn ways they can build their leadership skills to benefit their cooperatives and communities.

Last year, the CHS Foundation, the giving arm of CHS Inc., sponsored a handful of upper-level undergraduates from around the country to attend the institute and annual meeting. CHS is the largest farmer-owned cooperative in the United States.

Justin Sherlock, a senior in agribusiness, saw the meeting as a good opportunity to network and meet with producers from across the nation. Sherlock gained a solid working knowledge of CHS and its entities.

“It was a unique and educational opportunity to be with farmers and ranchers and learn what cooperatives do for us,” he said. “I think it helped reinforce the importance of being involved and our generation not sitting at the sidelines.”

For William Nelson, president of the CHS Foundation, the CHS New Leader Institute goes beyond helping local cooperatives. College attendees are able to build connections with both producers and cooperative leaders, while examining in-depth industry issues.

“The CHS Foundation is committed to investing in the next generation of leaders in agriculture and agricultural business. The CHS New Leader Institute offers select college students the opportunity to advance their leadership skills, benefiting their colleges, communities and futures,” Nelson said.

William W. Wilson, university distinguished professor of agribusiness, said such leadership training is very important for students. Whether they go on to work for a large corporation and need to work their way up, or whether they run a local grain elevator, students of NDSU will be called on to deliver leadership skills.

NDSU and CHS have built a strong relationship during the years. CHS sponsors several scholarships and counts many NDSU alumni among its workforce.

“The CHS New Leader Institute helped me understand the challenges facing cooperatives in the global agricultural industry,” Nyame said. “It is my goal to help apply the cooperative business model in international settings upon completion of my program.”

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JOEL HAGEN

Agriculture and University Extension faculty and staff are honored

Forty-three North Dakota State University Agriculture and University Extension Service faculty and staff were recognized for their service during a recognition and awards program held Dec. 15, 2009. Colleagues nominate individuals, and award recipients in 10 categories receive a $1,000 honorarium with funds provided from sponsored endowments.

Former interim NDSU President Richard Hanson welcomed the group, and D.C. Ciston, vice president for agriculture and university Extension, announced the award recipients.

1. Dragan Miljkovic
   professor of agribusiness and applied economics
   Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award

2. Dale Herman
   professor of plant sciences
   Eugene R. Dahl Excellence in Research Award

3. Deying Li
   associate professor of plant sciences
   Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching Award

4. Cheryl Wachenheim
   associate professor of agribusiness and applied economics
   H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award

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

6. David Newman
   Extension swine specialist in animal sciences
   Myron and Muriel Johnsrud Excellence in Extension/Outreach Award

7. Dwight Aakre
   Extension farm management specialist in agribusiness and applied economics
   AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award

8. Norm Cattanach
   research specialist in the School of Natural Resource Sciences
   Charles and Linda Moses Staff Award

9. Diane Pennington
   office manager in the School of Natural Resource Sciences
   Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award

10. Richard Wilhelm
    research technician at the Langdon Research Extension Center
    Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award
Acevedo wins international award

Maribel Acevedo, assistant professor of plant pathology, was awarded the Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum Award from the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative. She traveled in June to St. Petersburg, Russia, to receive the award and attend the annual Borlaug Global Rust Initiative technical workshop. As an award recipient, Acevedo will attend a two-to-three week training program at CIMMYT in Obregon, Mexico in the spring of 2011.

“I feel very honored about being selected and receiving this award since I know there are many skilled women working on wheat research around the world,” Acevedo said. “I believe that this award reflects an attitude change in science, especially in agriculture, about the important role that women have in developing the wheat research necessary for the challenges of today and the future,” Acevedo said.

The award, established in 2010, provides professional development opportunities for women working on wheat during the early stages of their career. The award is named after Jeanie Borlaug Laube, daughter of Nobel Laureate Norman E. Borlaug and chair of the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative since October 2009.

Acevedo is one of the first group of winners of the award. She is new to NDSU, and most recently worked as a postdoctoral fellow for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Aberdeen, Idaho. She specializes in the use of host resistance for control of cereal rusts.

“Being one of the first receiving this award gives me the honor and responsibility of helping to open doors of opportunities for other women working on wheat and also to serve as an example of the role that women can have in developing the wheat research necessary for the challenges of today and the future,” Acevedo said.

Wachenheim receives board of directors award

Cheryl J. Wachenheim, associate professor of agribusiness and applied economics, was awarded the 2009 Board of Directors Award at the 15th Sloan Consortium Annual Awards Meeting. Wachenheim received the award for inspirational online teaching at NDSU while serving with the Army National Guard in Iraq during 2008-09.

A captain in the Minnesota Army National Guard, she was deployed in August 2008 to Balad, Iraq, for a 10-month stay. Wearing the required body armor and armed with an M-16, she continued to teach courses online from a fortified medical supplies trailer.

Wachenheim joined NDSU in 1998 and teaches undergraduate courses in agrisales, commodity marketing, macroeconomics and microeconomics. She also team-teaches a graduate course in strategic marketing and management.

“The selection committee recognized her exceptional dedication to her profession, and also acknowledged the many others who go above and beyond the call of duty to teach students in online courses. Her actions represent exceptional dedication to her students and her institution, and provide tangible evidence of how far online education has advanced in the past 15 years,” Wachenheim said. She earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics from Michigan State University, and taught at Illinois State University before joining NDSU.


“This award means a great deal to me and reflects the opportunities I have been given to work with a great set of colleagues in the NDSU Extension Service,” Lardy said. “Without their help in carrying out these programs, I would not have received this award. This award reflects my passion for the beef industry and the producers I had the opportunity to work with on a daily basis.”

He has been instrumental in development of NDSU’s Beef Systems Center of Excellence, has provided leadership for several regional committees with a focus on extension programming, offered regular in-service training for county Extension agents on beef cattle production-related issues, and has worked closely with the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association, regularly speaking at its annual convention on topics ranging from beef quality assurance to feeding ethanol co-products to cattle.

Lardy also has been principal investigator on research projects generating more than $1.4 million in grant funding and co-principal investigator on projects with grants totaling more than $5 million. He is author of 55 peer-reviewed publications and 200 research publications and has advised 15 master of science and four doctoral students. He served on two U.S. Department of Agriculture grant review panels and is Midwest section representative of the American Society of Animal Science’s board of directors.

“THIS AWARD MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME AND REFLECTS THE OPPORTUNITIES I HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO WORK WITH A GREAT SET OF COLLEAGUES IN THE NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE."

– Greg Lardy

Lardy receives animal science award

Greg Lardy, head of the Department of Animal Sciences, received the 2010 American Society of Animal Science Extension Award at their annual meeting in Denver. The award recognizes individuals for outstanding and noteworthy contributions to Extension animal science programming.

“Lardy was the NDSU Extension Service’s beef cattle specialist for 12 years. He was named head of the Department of Animal Sciences and promoted to professor in 2009. Lardy was the NDSU Extension Service’s beef cattle specialist for 12 years. He was named head of the Department of Animal Sciences and promoted to professor in 2009.

“The award means a great deal to me and reflects the opportunities I have been given to work with a great set of colleagues in the NDSU Extension Service,” Lardy said. “Without their help in carrying out these programs, I would not have received this award. This award reflects my passion for the beef industry and the producers I had the opportunity to work with on a daily basis.”

His Extension work included efforts related to beef cattle nutrition and management with emphasis on the use of co-products and alternative feeds in beef cattle diets as well as drought management. He led multistate projects focused on expanding educational programming on backgrounding beef cattle in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming and developed educational programs such as Beef 101, Cow-Call Schools and the Feedlot MBA.

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NDSU's Amy Ganguli has been recognized as an emerging star among range management professionals. The Society of Range Management (SRM) has selected the assistant professor for the 2010 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award.

"I feel extreme gratitude that my colleagues would nominate me for this award," she said. "You don’t do your work for recognition, but it is nice to be recognized."

The honor acknowledges superior performance and leadership potential for persons younger than 40 years of age. The 35-year-old Ganguli certainly fits the bill – her service to the society has been exceptional.

At age 23 she began taking part in the organization’s activities and soon chaired SRM’s Information and Education Committee. "My involvement snowballed from there," Ganguli explained. "The society allows young people to come to the table, make suggestions and follow through. There are many opportunities for leadership, and I’m really proud that I have now chaired three SRM committees at the national level."

Habitat and resource management has been Ganguli’s passion since she traveled as a youngster with her father to his native India. The experience intrigued her and, in many ways, changed her life.

"I was fascinated by the country and its extremes. There was beautiful architecture, crafts and landscape. On the flipside, American kids aren’t used to seeing such extreme poverty and pollution. As a kid seeing that, I became interested in the environmental and social components of land and natural resource management," Ganguli said, noting she has returned to India three times.

Ganguli’s studies followed that path as she earned a bachelor’s degree in wildlife and biology from the University of Rhode Island. A master’s degree in range science from Texas Tech University came next, and she earned her doctorate in crop science and rangeland ecology from Oklahoma State University.

Putting her passion into practice, Ganguli was an ecosystem and rangeland ecologist for the Ecosystem Management Research Institute in Seeley Lake, Mont., and then joined the USDA Forest Service as a research ecologist at the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Boise, Idaho. In fall 2009, she became a member of the NDSU faculty.

"Interaction with students is why I came back to academia; I really missed that. I find everything from the classroom to my research very rewarding," said Ganguli, who has an appointment that is 60 percent research and 40 percent teaching. "I encourage my students to be active participants. Learning is not a passive activity.

Her educational and professional careers have taken Ganguli from the woodlands of the Northeast to the Texas rangeland to the vast tracts of public land in Idaho. In each location, she found unique problems and varying ways of managing resources.

"The pressures and issues surrounding land management are different everywhere," Ganguli said. "That experience translates to the classroom, because I am working with students who will be going out to manage all kinds of lands and resources.

Ganguli's other honors include the 2003 Trail Boss Award from the Oklahoma Section of SRM that recognized her activities with students at Oklahoma State University.

Elias receives Waldron Award

Elias Elias, J.F. Carter Durum Wheat Breeding and Genetics Endowed Professor, received the Waldron Award for Excellence in Research, at the annual “Celebration of Faculty Excellence” event held May 6 at the NDSU Alumni Center.

The Waldron Award, which is sponsored by the NDSU Development Foundation, recognizes outstanding faculty research. In a letter of nomination, Ken Grafton, dean of agriculture, food systems, and natural resources and director of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, wrote “Dr. Elias has made consistent and excellent research contributions in durum wheat research and scholarship that directly address the needs of North Dakota agriculture. His impact in plant breeding and genetic research has been felt worldwide.”

Elias earned his bachelor’s degree in agriculture from Aleppo University, Syria, in 1977, his master’s degree in plant pathology from Montana State University, Bozeman, in 1982 and his doctorate in agronomy from NDSU in 1987.

He joined NDSU in 1990 as an assistant professor, became an associate professor in 1996 and full professor in 2003. He is a member of the American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America.

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Leslie Backer, chair of agricultural and biosystems engineering, retired June 30 after a 34-year career at NDSU.

“What I have enjoyed most about my time at NDSU as an educator is recruiting students into our programs, helping them through their struggles and watching them grow and mature … and knowing that I may have played some small role in making that happen,” Backer said. “That is a great reward.”

Backer joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 1976. Although his primary appointment was with the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, he had heavy teaching, advising and recruitment responsibilities. Backer developed five new courses in the agricultural and biosystems engineering and agricultural systems management programs. He typically taught 14-17 credits per year and advised 30-50 undergraduate students in these programs each semester in addition to advising graduate students. He earned awards for teaching excellence from the College of Engineering and Architecture and College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. He also received the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources Advising Award.

Backer served as interim chair of the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering from 1990 to 1991 and in 2003. In 2004, he was named chair and held this position until his retirement. During his tenure as chair, faculty numbers increased from eight to 14. Undergraduate enrollment in the agricultural systems management program increased from about 40 to near 80 and in the agricultural and biosystems engineering program from about 60 to 100.

Backer earned both a bachelor’s degree in 1969 and master’s degree in 1971 in agricultural engineering from NDSU.

During retirement, Backer plans to spend time with his grandchildren and do some consulting work.

Herman’s trees a legacy of research

Dale Herman’s life work has been to increase the diversity of woody plants in the northern Plains, a harsh environment for ordinary trees and shrubs.

When Herman officially retired in July 2010, he left behind a body of work that has significantly helped North Dakota and surrounding states.

Herman, professor of plant sciences, began at NDSU in 1969 and since that time has introduced 45 woody plants for commercial production and landscape use. During the next year, he plans to introduce five more to make the number an even 50 as he finishes up his research and passes it on to his replacement.

Woody plants can take years to develop. It took until 1986 for Herman to have his first introduction, a Meadowlark Forsythia. Over the years, he’s produced a wide variety of cultivars, including ash, juniper, spirea, dogwood, birch, pine and oak. He has produced an elm tree that is resistant to Dutch Elm disease.

“We’ve made good strides for promoting diversification as these come on the market,” he said.

Herman grew up on a farm in Brinsmade, N.D. He earned his bachelor’s degree from North Dakota State University and his master’s and doctoral degrees from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. He served on the faculty of horticulture at South Dakota State University from 1966-1971.

Career focused on students

Decades of working with students can build a list of relationships. For Russ Danielson, associate professor of animal sciences, those relationships can lead to even having a fan page on Facebook, an online social networking site. The description on the page reads, “For anyone at NDSU who’s a [Saddle and Subiol Club] member or anyone who’s an ag major and takes a class from Russ or anyone who realizes just how cool he is.”

Danielson retired in December 2009 after 44 years with NDSU.

He graduated from NDSU with a degree in animal science in 1964. When the chance arose to work with cattle at NDSU, he went for it.

Danielson joined NDSU’s animal science faculty as the university’s beef herdsman in 1965. In 1973, he began teaching. Danielson estimates that he advised more than 900 undergraduate animal science and equine students. He also oversaw NDSU’s Little International competition. He participated in 48 of them.

“A pretty important component of NDSU is the students – their enthusiasm and interest and eagerness to learn,” he said. “The students are still the focus. They haven’t changed all that much other than there are more of them and they may be more goal-oriented than some of us were.”

Danielson ended up buying the family farm near Valley City and is working on the farmstead with his wife, Helen.

As for his fan club, Danielson hasn’t looked at the webpage for years, but he does use Facebook to keep in touch with students.

A scholarship has been created to honor his impact on students’ lives and his contributions to the region’s livestock industry. Gifts should be sent to the NDSU Development Foundation, P.O. Box 5144, Fargo, ND, 58105.

He has been a member of many organizations, including the International Plant Propagator’s Society, the American Horticultural Society and the International Society of Arboriculture. He has written numerous publications, including “The North Dakota Tree Handbook” and “Trees and Shrubs for Northern Great Plains Landscapes.” Among his many awards are an Honorary FFA State Degree, the H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award, the Distinguished Leadership Tree Award and the Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture.

“It’s such a challenge to work on woody plant improvement, which I’ve been interested in all my life,” he said. “It’s a long-term research project. Sometimes you test for 25 to 30 years. The reward comes with many commercial nurseries throughout the U.S. and Canada now propagating and marketing NDSU introductions, and increasingly seeing these new trees and shrubs being planted to diversify our northern Plains’ landscapes.”

Danielson began teaching at NDSU in 1964. He earned a B.S. degree in 1966 and a Ph.D. degree in 1971. He began teaching at NDSU in 1964. He earned a B.S. degree in 1966 and a M.S. degree in 1973. He was named honorary member of N.D. Stockmen’s Association in 1966.

Russ Danielson

Leslie Backer

Herman's trees a legacy of research

Career focused on students

Dale Herman

Russ Danielson

Ag Newsletter

Ag Newsletter
Robertson selected to national advisory team

Shawna Robertson was selected as a member of the 2010 Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Student Advisory Team. Robertson, along with eight other college students from seven universities across the country, serves as a campus ambassador for the organization and is helping to plan and host the AFA Leaders Conference.

Robertson, a native of Dawson, Minn., is a senior majoring in agricultural communication at NDSU. As a junior, she became an Ag Ambassador for the university and heard about AFA through her advisers. She attended the AFA Leaders Conference and became interested in the Student Advisory Team. Robertson was selected to the elite team in March based on academic and leadership achievements. She is the first student from NDSU to be selected to the team.

Robertson has been working with team members, AFA staff and volunteers to plan the Leaders Conference from Nov. 4-7. “We are expecting 500 delegates from colleges nationwide to attend the event,” Robertson said.

Badh earns international award

Doctoral student Ambika Badh was selected to receive the Graduate Scholar Award for the Second International Conference on Climate Change. She is studying in the natural resources management program in which she shares her research and findings with other graduate students.

The conference was held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, July 8-10. Researchers from across the world discussed their research and concerns on climate change. As part of the award, Badh received a $500 registration fee waiver.

Badh chaired several parallel sessions during the conference in which she shared her research and findings with other graduate students.

Badh also presented a paper, “Demonstrating the Annual Accumulated Growing Degree Days Under the Scenario of Changing Climate”, co-written with her adviser, Adnan Akyuz, assistant professor of climatology and the North Dakota State Climatologist in the soil science department. The paper evaluated changes in the annual accumulated growing degree days in the Northern Plains of the United States in the last 100 years.

After earning her degree, Badh plans to return to her home country of India to teach and conduct research projects on managing the natural resources of the world.
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Ray and Bev Horne were active volunteers for NDSU for decades. For the past seven years, they supported NDSU Arizona Week and hosted the Sun City alumni gathering. Bev has been in charge of organizing a ladies lunch and tour of the venues while Ray acted as liaison between Union Hills Country Club and NDSU for the annual golf tournament. They have coordinated many of the event details including menu, décor and volunteer recruitment.

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Bev was surprised by the award. "Quite shocked actually," she said. "We were really speechless, which is surprising for the two of us."

Ray graduated from NDSU in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. Bev also graduated in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in home economics (education) and earned her master's degree in counseling and guidance in 1982.

Ray was drawn to NDSU by the need to further his education and by family members who had attended the university. When it came to choosing an area of study, Ray decided to stick to his roots and study agriculture.

"We were born and raised on the farm, so farming was in my blood I guess," he said. During his freshman year, Ray met Bev through concert choir and Bison Brevities. He was president of the NDSU President’s Agriculture Club and a member of the Reserve Officer’s Training Corps (ROTC).

After graduation, Ray spent three years in the Air Force as a jet pilot. He returned to North Dakota to farm and start an aerial crop spraying business. He also taught flying and flew charter planes at the local airport.

Ray was asked to be a member of the NDSU Alumni Association Board of Directors in 1996, which strengthened his relationship with NDSU. He served on the board until 2005. Bev was a member of NDSU’s College of Home Economics Board of Visitors from 1985 to 1992 and has served on past NDSU presidential search committees.

In addition to their work with Arizona Week, Ray and Bev have helped facilitate NDSU staff and faculty visits to the Devils Lake area and served on the Ramsey County NDSU Alumni board. They are members of NDSU’s Bronze Medallion Society and President’s Circle.

The people connected to NDSU are the reason Ray and Bev have stayed so involved with the university throughout the years. "The people who we have and still associate with exhibit the great Upper Midwest work ethic, their values mirror our values, their dedication to the success of the university and as a whole are a joy to be associated with," Ray said.

Both Ray and Bev are retired and split time among their homes in Sun City West, Ariz., Middle Cormorant Lake, Minn., and Fargo.
Kerestes finds career in agricultural statistics

When the media quotes USDA statistics about agriculture, the numbers actually come from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). If those numbers are related to livestock production, dairy, livestock products and associated prices, such as the number of turkeys raised during the year, chances are they came through Daniel Kerestes, chief of the Livestock Branch of the NASS. Kerestes, who earned his master’s degree in agricultural economics in 1984 from North Dakota State University, has been working for NASS for 25 years.

Here are a few stats on Kerestes:

- $2.3 million – the budget he prepares, justifies and administers
- Holdingford, Minn. – Kerestes’ hometown
- Stafford, Va. – where Kerestes lives now
- 9 years – time spent in his current position
- 19 – the number of employees Kerestes supervises

As chief, Kerestes is the main liaison between NASS and livestock producers and agribusinesses that produce, store or purchase livestock and livestock products. He makes sure that reports go out in a timely manner, that they are accurate, and that they are useful to the agricultural industry as a whole.

And by the way, the number of turkeys raised last year was 247 million.

After earning his doctorate, Nelson’s first job with the company was a field scientist in Texas, a position he held for five years. “We were doing screening of new molecules, in addition to herbicides and insecticides specifically targeted for fire ants,” he explained. “I was in the unique position of having a Ph.D. in plant sciences with a heavy focus on fieldwork and also a master’s degree in entomology.

As interesting as his research was, Nelson’s career soon took a different track. “In a weak moment, I hinted to my supervisor that I thought people management might be an interesting gig. Shortly thereafter, we were on our way to Fresno, Calif.,” he remembered.

Nelson was named to lead the Dow AgroSciences Western Research Center in Fresno, handling such things as budgets and temporary hiring along with his research trials. “That was my first foray into people management,” he said. “I was brand new to it, but I managed another scientist, a couple of technicians and an office professional.”

In 2007, Nelson was promoted again; appointed the leader of research and development for Dow AgroSciences in Canada. Based in Calgary, he left behind his field research and focused on management skills, as he hired and developed researchers across multiple disciplines.

“Dow AgroSciences has a prominent position in healthy oils, specifically canola, for which our global headquarters are in Saskatoon and part of those folks reported to me,” Nelson said. “I also had responsibilities in corn, soybeans and beginning in 2010 I added wheat, with the acquisition of a seed company. It was a diverse role, cutting across multiple functions and layers of administration.

That made life interesting.”

Then in July, he joined the worldwide headquarters in Indianapolis, working with the company’s discovery arm, which develops new molecules for crop protection, new traits and new genetic material. Recruiting, retaining and developing top talent are key responsibilities for Nelson in his new human resources role. “It’s a logical fit when you take strong competencies in the sciences, which I haven’t abandoned by any means, and marry those with people management skills. They’re complimentary, and build on each other,” Nelson said.

“I’ve been very fortunate that my managers saw a particular aptitude or skill set within me, probably before I did. It’s been a great ride,” Nelson said. “When you see people become successful in their career and are recognized by their peers, it’s a great thrill. Without question, the driver for me to stay in people management.”

Looking back to his days on campus, Nelson is unabashed in his praise for his alma mater when he describes how NDSU prepared him for the workplace and life. Nelson learned important lessons when he taught a lab class, was a lab assistant and represented the university at Western Society of Weed Science meetings and NDSU Extension Service events.

“It really comes down to the idea that I call ‘practice space.’ It’s the opportunity to be creative, to step outside the role of a student,” said Nelson, who served as vice president and president of the NDSU Plant Sciences Graduate Student Club. “NDSU is absolutely the place to practice. I had the freedom to be creative and explore, and at the same time I was provided coaching and mentorship.”

And, what about that distinctive nickname?

“Sharing, for the most part, is a complete waste of time,” Nelson said with a hearty laugh. “I took certain liberties as a graduate student to extend shaving frequency. There were many days that I had more than a five o’clock shadow. I got a huge kick out of that name, and, by the way, I had a full beard when I was in California and Canada.”

Nelson and his wife, Stephanie, have two children – Jack and Ashley. They live in Indianapolis.

STEVES BERGESON
Taking chances pays off for Hodur

Nancy Hodur never had a career plan. But she had a strong guiding principle—when an opportunity arises, take it.

The motto has served her well, resulting in diverse experiences that prepped her for her position today as research assistant professor in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at NDSU.

Destiny first took a turn when Hodur was working for the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service, Manitowoc, as a community resource development agent. It was her first position after earning her master’s degree in natural resources management at NDSU.

"Out of the blue I got a call from Sen. Dorgan’s office wondering if I would be interested in working for him in Washington," Hodur said.

Byron Dorgan had just been elected to the United States Senate and was looking to expand his staff. They called NDSU to inquire about recent graduate students with expertise in agriculture and natural resources. Hodur was recommended.

She worked as Dorgan’s eyes and ears for issues related to agriculture and natural resources.

“That’s probably one of the most challenging things I’ve ever done in my life. It was a real career defining moment for me, it opened me up to a whole world that I would have never seen,” Hodur said.

She also worked for U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson and later as a lobbyist for the New York Mercantile Exchange. For a period she and her husband moved to the eastern shore of Maryland where he had a law practice and she worked for Purdue Farms.

During this time, Hodur made a trip back to Fargo. She happened to stop at NDSU to visit with Larry Leistritz, her former adviser. “I told him my husband and I were thinking about leaving the East Coast, and he said he might have an opportunity for me here,” Hodur said. Not much later, Leistritz offered Hodur a job.

Around the same time, NDSU added a doctoral program in natural resources management. Hodur took the position in 2001 and began her doctorate in 2002.

Hodur has been in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics for nine years as a research associate, research scientist and now is a research assistant professor. She has done research on numerous projects related to rural economic development, economic impact assessments, community development, natural resources and the emerging biofuels and biomaterials industry.

Her findings have been published in refereed academic journals, presented at national professional meetings and conferences and delivered to numerous constituent groups in North Dakota through reports and presentations.

While the research subjects vary greatly, one common element ties them together. “It’s all applied work. The work that we do is used by people throughout the state. It is a product of the land-grant mission of the university,” Hodur said. “People come to us and say what’s the economic impact of this? We can answer that question, do the work and provide the research that decision makers and economic and rural development professionals can use.”

Some projects take a couple months and others can last for years. But Hodur is not scared off by long projects.

She recently completed her doctorate in the spring of 2010.

“I feel really fortunate to be here and part of North Dakota State University," Hodur said. "There have been so many exciting things that have been happening here, I can’t imagine there are a lot of places that have experienced the kind of growth and expansion that we’ve seen and are experiencing here at NDSU.

Alumnus career ‘on track’ in rail transportation

Bobb grew up in Richardton, N.D., and earned his bachelor’s degree in agronomy in 1982 with a minor in agricultural economics. It was the agricultural economics courses that really interested him and moved him away from planning a career in agricultural production.

He didn’t yet know what he wanted to do, however. Internships as a loan officer in Williston, N.D., and in research at Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul, Minn., nudged him further into economics.

He joined the former Burlington Northern in 1987, and his first job was in information systems. From there he broadened his experience in a variety of positions. In 2004 Bobb was appointed vice president of business unit operations, and in 2005 he became general manager of BNSF’s Texas Division. These two roles provided key experiences in railroad operations. He moved into his current position in 2006.

He counts the opportunity to lead people in many groups at BNSF and creating value for customers and shareholders as his career highlights.

Bobb credits his time at NDSU for exposing him to diverse people.

“That was an opportunity to broaden my perspective,” he said. “My experience at NDSU has given me access to some mentors that I’ve been able to have conversations with and get advice from over the years. I also benefited from early leadership experiences by getting involved outside of the classroom.”

He advises recent graduates to have hope through the current economic recession, to take opportunities to broaden and refresh their skills, and in the long run, to find the jobs they love to do.
Robert Axvig, 78, BS ’60, agricultural economics, worked for 30 years as chief statistician for the United States Department of Agriculture. After retiring, he farmed the family farm in rural Edinburg, N.D., before moving to Kentwood, La.

David Curl, 63, BS ’75, agricultural economics, worked in sales for John Deere, Simplot, Ag Chem and AGCO. He lived in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Ward Eichhorst, 46, BS ’85, agricultural mechanics, worked for 10 years as a loan officer with USDA Rural Development in Minnesota before moving to rural Coheldar, N.D., to farm. He was active in the North Dakota Farm Bureau and was recognized as an NDSU Harvest-Bowl honoree for McLean County.

Gordon Erlandson, 86, taught agricultural economics at NDSU from 1965 until retirement in 1984. He was faculty adviser to the Intervascular Christian Fellowship Chapter.

Warren Foss, 70, BS ’64, animal science, owned and operated the 212 Cattle Co. in Olivia, Minn., until 2009. A chaplain who enjoyed jail ministry, he lived in Aberdeen, S.D.

Jim “J.D.” Garnavvy, 99, MS ’37, animal and range sciences, was a Buford-Trenton, N.D., area rancher and farmer. Earlier in his career, he was an instructor at NDSU, coached the Livestock Judging Team and later worked as an Extension Service animal husbandman. He had a lifetime membership in the ND Stockmen’s Association.

Patrick Glynn, 65, BS ’67, animal science, worked for General Mills before owning and operating a taxi in Minneapolis, Minn.

Lelan Good, 91, BS ’43, agriculture, had several businesses including a dairy service, restaurant, motel and apartments, liquor store, gas station, trucking and farming. He lived in Sheldon, N.D., for 67 years.

Dan Gust Sr., 92, BS ’41, agriculture, was a farmer and worked for USDA-ASCS for 31 years. He lived in Arthur, N.D.

Ralph “Don” Gustin, 73, MS ’68, entomology, was an entomologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Brookings, S.D. He moved to Keystone, S.D., in the Black Hills in 2004.

Charles Herman, 84, MS ’69, agricultural economics, farmed with his father, worked for Gate City Bank and the Greater North Dakota Association, and ran his own business, the Tax Deferred Investment Group. He served in the House of Representatives in North Dakota for three terms and lived in Fargo.

Donald Holien, 78, BS ’57, agriculture, worked for Norwest Bank (Wells Fargo) in Wahpeton, N.D., for 34 years. He served as a Richland County Commissioner for 10 years and earned many awards for his service to area farmers.

Thomas Hry, 57, BS ’74, animal science, participated in a family grain and livestock operation near Hope, N.D. A member of the American Hereford Association, American Angus Association and North Dakota Stockmen’s Association, he lived in Valley City, N.D.

Jerome E. Johnson, 79, was a professor of agricultural economics at NDSU from 1961 to 1991. He taught real estate and appraising. He lived in Reno, Nev.

Roy H. Johnson, BS, BS ’50, animal science, held offices in the NDSU Alumni Association and NDSU Development Foundation and was past president of Team Makers. The NDSU students chose him as their honored alumnus in 1992. He worked as an implement dealer in Carrington, N.D., and Webster, S.D., for nine years, and he was in the banking business at Carrington, West Fargo and Fargo as vice president of First Bank of Fargo. He worked as a director of planned giving for 11 years for the NDSU Development Foundation.

Timothy S. Johnson, 49, BS ’84, animal science, was a research specialist with the Animal Nutrition and Physiology Center at NDSU for 25 years, and served on several building committees and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. He lived in Fargo.

Ralph “Don” Gustin, 73, MS ’68, entomology, was an entomologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Brookings, S.D. He moved to Keystone, S.D., in the Black Hills in 2004.

George Kaftan, 101, BS ’33, general agriculture, was co-owner of K & K Farm Sales, manager of Dakota Lands, Inc., and manager and part owner of James Valley Land, Inc. He lived in Labhoule, N.D.

Mark Kreuz, 53, BS ’85, general agriculture, was a financial consultant. He was a member of the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association and the Sherwood, N.D., American Legion. He lived in Blue Springs, Mo.

H. Arthur Larney, 79, worked for the NDSU Extension Service in Fargo and was an NDSU professor emeritus of plant pathology. He lived in Fargo.

John Landon, 52, BS ’79, agricultural economics, lived in Excelsior, Minn.

Jerry Larson, 63, BS ’69, animal science, was an Extension agent in several North Dakota counties throughout his career until retiring in 2004. He then was the Extension horticulturist for the Dickinson Research Extension Center.

Leonard Lesmeister, 73, BS ’75, animal science, was a heavy equipment operator for road construction projects in Fargo, Grand Forks and Dickinson. He lived in Fargo.

Raymond Maxson, 96, BS ’47, animal husbandry, taught farm management courses at the technical college in Devils Lake and Moorhead, Minn. He lived in Red Lake Falls, Minn.

Ryan Mayer, 40, BS ’91, agricultural economics, was a senior credit analyst with CoBank. He was active in the Knights of Columbus, FarmHouse Association board and Rural Cas Snowmobile Club. He lived in Casselton, N.D.

James McWilliams, 54, BS ’78, horticulture, worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He lived in Bismarck, N.D.

Charles ‘Chuck’ Moilanen, 79, BS ’53, MS ’63, agricultural mechanics, taught at SDSU until retiring in 1992. He spent his retirement volunteering and with activities such as loomsing, creating stained glass and gardening in Montana.

Richard Seim, 67, BS ’64, general agriculture, worked for John Deere Co. He lived in Burnsville, Minn.

Bruntson Monson, 55, BS ’77, MS ’85, agronomy, was employed with Land O’Lakes Inc. He also was a keyboard player for the Steam Heat Swing Band. He lived in Prior Lake, Minn.

William “Bill” Newell, 78, BS ’61, general agriculture, farmed in Neche, N.D. He was a member of the Red River Valley Sugar Beet Association.

Harold Oehler, 100, BS ’30, animal husbandry, farmed until 1991. He lived in Fargo, Minn.

Thomas Ostenson, 95, BS ’59, MS ’66, agricultural economics, retired from NDSU as professor emeritus of agricultural economics. In retirement he enjoyed part-time work as a bilingual (Norwegian/English) tour guide and as a farm loan consultant for the former Metropolitan Savings and Loan. He lived in Mesa, Ariz.

John Oster, 68, BS ’63, animal science, ranched near Hazen, N.D., from 1968 to 2006. He was a director of the Farmer’s Elevator Board and an active 4-H member and leader.

Mary Schuh, 27, MS ’08, soil science, was a soil scientist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service at Fargo and Dickenson, N.D. Most recently she was working on detail in Montana.

Robert Woods, 88, BS ’49, general agriculture, managed the Hettinger Experiment Station from 1949-53, was county agent at Hettinger, N.D., from 1953-59 and county Extension agent in Hillside, N.D., from 1959-80. He later sold crop insurance and was a representative for Fergus Falls Monument Co. He lived in Hillside, N.D.

Banks Sieber, 88, BS ’42, agriculture, was an Extension county agent in Sheridan and Bottineau counties in North Dakota. He retired in 1980 after 55 years of service. He lived in Minot, N.D.

Henry Solberg, 77, BS ’56, agricultural economics, lived in 14 U.S. cities and two foreign countries during a career with System Development Corporation in Santa Monica, Calif. He enjoyed summer months in Aneta, N.D.

Sigurd Stangeland, 87, BS ’49, agricultural economics, taught economics at SDSU for three years while establishing a farm accounting business, Stangeland Farm Accounting. He retired in 1987 and lived in Scottdale, Ariz.

Gerald Stangler, 82, BS ’52, agriculture, was the county agent for Rolette County in North Dakota, and later worked in Valley City, N.D., and Dilworth, Minn. He was a custodian with the Fargo school system until he retired in 1997. He lived in Fargo.

Walter Trautman, 89, BS ’52, general agriculture, farmed from 1954 until his retirement in 1989 on his farm south of Cleveland, N.D.

Robert Axvig, 78, BS ’60, agricultural economics, worked for 30 years as chief statistician for the United States Department of Agriculture. After retiring, he farmed the family farm in rural Edinburg, N.D., before moving to Kentwood, La.
Roger E. Diehl, BS ’59, agricultural mechanics, organized with R.E. Diehl Inc., Hillsboro, N.D., but retired from the farming operation. He is director and chair of the Nodak Electric Cooperative, former director of the North Dakota Power Use Council, and former instructor at the Northeastern School of Agriculture, Crookston, Minn.

Douglas Puckering, BS ’59, agricultural mechanics, MS ’60, entomology, is an emeritus professor at Mendocino College, Ukiah, Calif. He lives in LumiMI Island, Wash.

Charles Hodek Jr., BS ’62, agronomy, is retired from his farm and livestock farming operation in rural Lankin, N.D. His three sons continue the fourth generation farm operation in the Lankin, Fowlks and Fairdale, N.D., area. He lives in Devisa Lake, N.D.

Leslie Nesvig, BS ’63, agricultural economics, was elected as a director and treasurer of the Golden Growers Cooperative in Fargo.

Duane Berglund, BS ’64, agricultural education, MS ’69 and PhD ’71, agronomy, received the Gold Award from the National Sunflower Association. Berglund is a former NDSU Extension specialist, retiring in 2006.

Alan Bergman, BS ’64, agricultural mechanics, is owner and operator of a small grain farm near Judd, N.D. He retired in 2008 from the National Farmers Union in Minot where he served as vice president. He also is retired from the North Dakota Army National Guard.

Charles Fiering, BS ’67, agricultural economics, Bismarck, N.D., has been appointed as division director with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. He directs the business development division.

John Swanson, BS ’68, agricultural mechanics, BS ’71, agriculture education, Mentor, Minn., has been elected to the board of directors of Minnesota’s sunflower growers and will oversee their recently established research and promotion council.

David Clough, BS ’69, agricultural mechanics, Fessenden, N.D., has been elected chair of the Northern Crops Council, the governing board of the Northern Crops Institute. He represents the North Dakota Wheat Commission.

David Twist, BS ’69, animal science, received the Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. He is a Dunn County Extension agent. The award is presented for excellence in Extension work by an agent with fewer than 10 years of experience.

Larry Harsem, BS ’70, horticulture, held an open house at his business, Harsem’s Greenhouse, to celebrate 50 years of operation. The business, which has approximately 30 employees, is located in LaMoure, N.D.

Gerald Iverson, BS ’70, agricultural mechanics, Minford, N.D., is the chair of the North Dakota 4-H Foundation board of directors.

Hugo Dufner, MS ’79, agricultural economics, is the proprietor of Hugh’s Garden, which has its warehouse/ plant in Halstad, Minn., and business office in Moonhead. He has been marketing organic potatos for two decades.

Jeff VanRay, BS ’79, animal science, Fingers, N.D., was elected vice president of the Northern Plains Potato Growers Association.

Mike Betzy, BS ’84, animal science, Hillsboro, N.D., was selected for a four-year term on the North Dakota State Board of Agricultural Research and Education. He is past chair of the North Dakota Dry Bean Council and has chaired the North Dakota Ag Coalition.

Don Asheim, BS ’76, agricultural economics, is in marketing for John Deere Co. in Moline, Ill.

Kevin Erickson, BS ’76, agricultural mechanics, is a senior risk management specialist with the USDA Risk Management Agency in St. Paul, Minn. He lives in Eagan, Minn.

Robert Wisnios, BS ’76, agronomy, Arnegard, N.D., was elected as secretary-treasurer of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association.

Dr. Gerald Stokka, BS ’77, animal science, was named president of the Academy of Veterinary Consultants. He is a technical service veterinarian for Pioneer Animal Health. He lives in Cooperstown, N.D.

Hugh Dufner, MS ’79, agricultural economics, is the proprietor of Hugh’s Garden, which has its warehouse/ plant in Halstad, Minn., and business office in Moonhead. He has been marketing organic potatos for two decades.

Russell Johnson, BS ’88, agricultural mechanics, is brigadier chief of staff for the U.S. Army in Boise, Idaho. He recently completed studies at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. He continues to enjoy the great outdoors.

Larry Lunder, BS ’88, crop and weed sciences, has been re-elected as the North Dakota Certified Crop Adviser of the Year. He works for Alliance Ag Co-op in Bismarck, N.D.

Ross Waterman, BS ’88, agricultural economics, has joined Green Iron Equipment as store manager at the LaMoure, N.D., location. He previously worked for Bobcat as a district manager in Iowa, Wisconsin, Florida and the Carolinas. He and his wife, Kendra (Baites), AD ’85, live in Forman, N.D.

Robert Anderson, BS ’89, agricultural mechanics, MS ’93, agricultural economics, farms near Coal harbor, N.D., and is a member of the District 7 North Dakota Corn Utilization Council.

Lance Gaebel, BS ’90, animal and range sciences, MBA ’93, business administration, has been named state land commissioner for North Dakota. He previously was deputy chief of staff for Gov. John Hoeven.

Kurt Krueger, BS ’90, agricultural economics, Rosathy, Minn., has been elected president of the board of directors of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association.

Jeff Olson, BS ’90, agricultural economics, is the new territory manager for southeast North Dakota and northeast South Dakota for Peterson Farms Seed of Harwood, N.D.

Stuart Beckman, BS ’92, agricultural economics, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Serbia. He previously served as the chief of material management. Beckman is a graduate of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms Service Staff School and the Command and General Staff Officers College.

Nicolete (Unterseher) Mramowski, BS ’92, agricultural economics, has been named executive director of the Faribault County office of the Minnesota State Farm Service Agency in Blue Earth, Minn.

Brett DeMontigny, BS ’95, agricultural economics, is a loan officer at First National Bank and Trust of Bottineau.

Staci Lee, BS ’95, food science, has joined the North Dakota Farm Bureau staff as leadership development assistant. She lives in Kindred, N.D.

Troy Uglern, BS ’97, general agriculture, Northwood, N.D., was appointed to the research committee of the North Dakota Soybean Council. He represents nonboard soybean producers on the committee.

Jared Hagert, BS ’98, agricultural systems management, Emerado, N.D., has been elected treasurer of the North Dakota Soybean Council. He has served on the council since 2007 and was president of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association from 2005-07.

Darin Anderson, BS ’99, agricultural economics, Valley City, N.D., has been elected president of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association.

Vern Anderson, Ph.D. ’99, animal and range sciences, was the North Dakota Association for Communication Excellence 2009 Communicator of the Year. He is an animal scientist at NDSU’s Carrington Research Extension Center.

Mark Belling, BS ’99, agricultural systems management, is district sales manager at Garett Seed Co., Morris, Minn. He manages 25 counties in west and northwest Minnesota.

CONTINUED
class notes continued

Scott Gauslow, BS ’02, agricultural economics, Colfax, N.D., has been elected secretary of the North Dakota Soybean Council. He represents Richland County in District I.

DeAnn Galde, BS ’02, crop and weed sciences, is the new district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the Lakota, N.D., field office.

justin Maddock, BS ’02, animal and range sciences, Maddock, N.D., is a field investigator for the North Dakota Board of Animal Health and is a field investigator for the North Dakota Agricultural Commissioner.

Angie (Binstock) Milakovic, MS ’02, natural resources conservation, is a shift superintendent at Archer Daniels Midland Company in Ottawa Lake, Mich.

joshua stroh, BS ’03, agricultural economics, is a precision product specialist with RDO Equipment Co., Moorhead, Minn. He is responsible for training and supporting company sales, service and parts specialists on the latest technology. He also assists salespeople in training their customers to troubleshoot GPS issues.

Heidi (Miller) Anderson, BS ’04, agricultural economics, is a grain accountant at Prairie Lakes Cooperative’s elevator in Glenwood, Minn. She and her husband, Grant, BS ’04, agriculture, have a diversified farming operation.

jaime palczewski, BS ’04, natural resources management, joined the Lisbon, N.D., USDA Service Center as district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

justin sorby, BS ’04, agronomy, was named manager of the Archer Daniels Midland facility in Sunborn, Minn.

Matt Beneda, BS ’05, agricultural economics, joined First United Bank in Grafton and Park River, N.D., as an assistant vice president and ag lender.

kaelin Kylo, BS ’06, agricultural systems management, is employed by Peterson Farms Seed as a seed representative for northern Cass County. He lives in Hankin, Minn.

Adam Riesen, BS ’07, agricultural systems management, is employed in ag sales at Evergreen Implement Co., Warren, Minn.

krista (Braga) Reiser, BS ’07, animal and range sciences, is a program biologist for Dake’s Unlimited. She has an office in McCusky, N.D., and ranches nearby with her husband, Jay, BS ’06, animal and range sciences. The couple helps manage the Zingg Ranch near McCusky.

rachel Brudvik, BS ’08, food science, has joined the Northern Crops Institute staff as a food technologist. She performs laboratory analysis on northern-grown crops, assists with pilot-scale processing and participates in demonstrations and training for domestic and international short course participants and trade teams. She lives in Fargo.

tyler doeling, BS ’08, agricultural systems management, joined Farm Credit Services of North Dakota, Carrington Branch, as a loan officer. He is a native of Carrington.

aaron J. Walsh, BS ’08, agricultural systems management, is an AMP consultant and partowner at Gossen Implement in Harvey, N.D.

Christa Maasja, BS ’09, agronomy, has been hired as a county operations trainee in the North Dakota state office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency. Upon completion of the program, trainees are placed throughout the state to manage FSA operations in county USDA service centers.

Celia Norgaard, BS ’09, agricultural systems management, is employed in ag sales at Evergreen Implement Co., Warren, Minn.

Buddy Niemeyer, B.S., soil science, is a field inspector with the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association.
Veterinary technology student Michelle Ustipak with beagle Evie on the new wet prep table used for surgical and dental procedures on small animals. Acquisition of the table and enhancements to the surgical monitoring equipment was made possible through gifts from alumni and friends of the college.
# WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

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