**Seminar Guest Speaker** – Sarah Wagner, Coordinator

**Speaker:** Aykut Gram, Visiting Scholar

**Topic:** Endocrine Control of Canine Pregnancy and Parturition

**Date/Time:** March 3, 2016; 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Hultz 104

Aykut Gram graduated from Istanbul University, Turkey, in 2009. While there, he worked as an intern in the Surgery Department. He went on to complete his doctorate at the Institute of Veterinary Anatomy in Zurich in 2012 under the direction of Dr. Pariusz Pawel Kowalewski. His research topic was “Biosynthesis and degradation of canine placental prostaglandins: Expression and function of prostaglandin F2 alphasynthase (PGFS) and 15-prostaglandin dehydrogenase (15 PGDH).” During this time, he worked in the Cell and Molecular Biology Laboratory at the Institute of Veterinary Anatomy and then the Polish Academy Sciences Institute of Veterinary Anatomy and the Polish Academy Sciences Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research in Olsztyn, Poland. Upon completion of his Ph.D., Dr. Gram served a short time at the Molecular Animal Breeding and Biotechnology and Laboratory for Functional Genome Analysis, Gene Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, before he began working as a postdoctoral research assistant at the Institute of Veterinary Anatomy where he currently works.

Dr. Gram is a visiting scholar/post-doc in the Department of Animal Sciences until May 14. His office is in Hultz 103A.

**Animal Sciences in the News**

Eric Berg’s research on human nutrition utilizing swine as the research subjects was featured by Pork Network in an article titled, “Why we should be eating like a pig.” The article is available at [http://www.porknetwork.com/news/why-we-should-be-eating-pig](http://www.porknetwork.com/news/why-we-should-be-eating-pig).
Erika Berg Inducted

Erika Berg was inducted, along with six other people, into the Tapestry of Diverse Talents on Wednesday, February 24, in the Memorial Union.

The Tapestry was created in 2007 to recognize departments, groups, and units that have demonstrated a significant contribution to advancing diversity and have demonstrated a significant contribution to advancing diversity and inclusion at the university.

Erika was nominated by Greg Lardy. In his nomination letter he said, “Through her efforts and volunteer time on behalf of people who are differently abled, Dr. Berg has impacted the lives of over 200 students, therapeutic riders, and underprivileged women. This group of people has had their lives improved by her efforts.” Additional letters of support were written by Julie Berg and Mattia Gunkelman.

Dahlen to Receive Award

Carl Dahlen has received notification from the Midwest Award Committee of the American Society of Animal Science that he has been selected as this year’s recipient of the 2016 Midwest Outstanding Young Extension Specialist Award. As a recipient of this award he will receive a $500 award and plaque which will be presented at the Midwest Annual Meeting in Des Moines, IA, in March.

Congratulations on your award, Carl!

Zimprich Recognized for Service

Retired Swine Barn herdsman Ron Zimprich was recognized for his dedication to the North Dakota swine industry at the North Dakota Pork Council annual convention in Grand Forks on February 19 in Grand Forks.

Pictured are Ron, his wife Cheryl, Wayne Trottier, and Seth Bacon, NDPC president.
Animal Sciences Featured in Publication
The 2015 edition of the Annual Highlights for the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and NDSU Extension Service is available now on the website for the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs at https://www.ndsu.edu/vpag/annual_highlights/. Included in the publication is an article titled, “Research shedding light on cow pregnancy,” which highlights research being conducted by Carl Dahlen, Joel Caton, and other scientists on campus, as well as scientists from the Central Grasslands Research Center (see page 16).

Also in the publication is information on the New Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to be constructed in the near future. Dr. Neil Dyer is the director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (see page 29).

Defensive Driving Course Offered
Robin Stephens from ND Department of Transportation has scheduled a Defensive Driving Course at NDSU. The class will be Wednesday, March 16, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fleet Services requires employees who operate fleet vehicles on at least a monthly basis to take the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course (DDC) as soon as practical after accepting employment and every four years thereafter. Fleet Services also requires those who have been involved in a motor vehicle accident with a State Fleet vehicle, or those who have received a traffic citation while operating a State Fleet vehicle in the past 12 months, to attend the DDC course within the calendar year of the accident or citation.

For registration please contact Monty Botschner with the UP&SO at 231-5637 or montgomery.botschner@ndsu.edu.