Summer went by very quickly! A lot always is going on in the Department of Animal Sciences, even in the summer.

Members of the department attended national meetings of professional societies (and several received awards); we held our ever-popular BBQ Boot Camps; Extension personnel attended numerous field days at the Research Extension Centers and the North Dakota State Fair; we hosted the Junior Red Angus Association meeting; we held a Professional Development Day for faculty and staff where we learned about conflict resolution and the public perception of agriculture; we had nationally known speakers and international leaders visit our department; and we welcomed back our students this fall with the Ag Olympics welcome-back event. The list goes on and on.

A big event for the department was the Green and Gold Gala, our alumni and scholarship fundraising event that was held on Sept. 19. We had a lot of fun watching a Bison football matchup with UND, ate great food, played some games and raised a lot of money for scholarships. It was a great time for a great cause. We hope to see you the next time we get together.

We also just held our Moos, Ewes & More event. This year marks the sixth anniversary of the event. Each year, we see more and more people come out with their families to learn about animal agriculture while having a wonderful time. We promise to show you some pictures in our next newsletter. In the meantime, you can keep up with what's happening by checking us out on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NdsuAnimalSciencesDepartment) and reading the weekly Animal Sciences News (www.ag.ndsu.edu/ansc/Animal%20Science%20News).

Please remember to keep in touch. We love hearing from our alumni. Thank you so much for your support of the Department of Animal Sciences and our very busy program.

Sincerely,

Greg Lardy
Department Head
Mike Tokach Recognized

Mike Tokach, professor and state leader of Extension at Kansas State University, was named as this year’s winner of the American Feed Industry Association’s Award in Non-ruminant Nutrition Research. He was recognized at the American Dairy Science Association/American Society of Animal Science Joint Annual Meeting in July.

Tokach was born and raised on a fourth-generation diversified family farm near Bismarck, N.D. He graduated from NDSU with a degree in animal science in 1986, obtained his M.S. from Kansas State University in 1988 and completed his Ph.D. in swine nutrition at the University of Minnesota in 1991.

He joined the staff at Kansas State University with a 100 percent Extension appointment. In 2005, he assumed the additional role of Extension state leader for animal science and industry. In 2013, Tokach was promoted to university distinguished professor, the highest rank the university bestows on its faculty. Currently, his appointment is 60 percent Extension and 40 percent research.

Student Career Preparation Workshops Held

In preparation for the Ag Career Fair, which was held Sept. 22 at the Fargodome, the department held several events for our students.

Ten students attended the Career Fair Preparation Workshop held Monday, Sept. 14. They heard from a panel on the following topics:

- Resume Preparation by Sara Van De Streek, NDSU Career Center
- Career Fair Do’s and Don’ts by Kevin Wulf, Riverview Farms, and Jill Wilkey, NDSU Career Center
- Interview Skills by Joy Knutson, Sharehouse
- A Former Student’s Perspective by Angela Johnson, NDSU Extension Service agent

On Friday, Sept. 18, Lauren Hanna, Loren Baranko, Justin Crosswhite, Miranda Meehan, Marc Bauer and Lisa Christenson, as well as Van de Streek and Wilkey, met one-on-one with students and gave them feedback on their resumes. A resume pamphlet, “Resumes, Cover Letters, Interviews – Guidelines, Tips and Examples,” was available from the Career Center as a resource for the students to take with them. More than 40 students attended this event.

The Agriculture Career Fair is an annual event attended by students in agriculture-related majors. The Agriculture Career Fair provides an excellent opportunity for students to discuss or interview for current and/or future career-related employment and co-op/internship opportunities.
Schrupp Receives AVTE Award

Jordan Schrupp (pictured with Monica Tighe from the Association of Veterinary Technology Educators [AVTE] board of directors), a lecturer in the Veterinary Technology program, received the AVTE 2015 Rising Star – New Educators Award at the AVTE Symposium held July 30-Aug. 2 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The award was established to honor educators who have taught for a maximum of three years who are recognized by their students and colleagues as already making an extraordinary contribution to veterinary technology. Twenty NDSU students wrote letters in support of Schrupp’s nomination.

She will receive a complimentary registration to the 2017 AVTE Symposium and $500 in books from Wiley-Blackwell to complement her professional library.

Belarus Delegation Visits Animal Sciences

The minister of agriculture and several others from the Republic of Belarus in eastern Europe visited the Animal Sciences Department on May 17. They met with J.W. Schroeder to discuss the dairy industry and then went to the Beef Cattle Research Complex, where Trent Gilbery and Marc Bauer discussed some of our beef cattle research.

National Junior Red Angus Summer Round-Up

The Animal Sciences Department hosted the National Junior Red Angus Organization Summer Round-Up on Thursday, June 25. Students toured the Beef Cattle Research Complex, Animal Nutrition and Physiology Center, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Commodity Trading Room and new Agricultural Experiment Station-Research Greenhouse Complex. They also competed in livestock judging, stockmen’s knowledge and speech contests. Justin Crosswhite coordinated the campus events.

On Friday, the students visited the Central Grasslands Research Extension Center and several farms and ranches.

Lardy Recognized as Outstanding Animal Science Professor

Greg Lardy, professor and head of the Department of Animal Sciences, was recognized on the Vet Tech Colleges website as one of 20 “Outstanding Animal Science Professors” from across the country.

The site notes Lardy’s work as a professor and department head, past president of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), his passion for research and teaching, his numerous speaking engagements and the ASAS Extension Award he received in 2010.

(www.vettechcolleges.com/blog/)
Professional Development Day

The second annual Animal Sciences Department professional development day was held Thursday, Aug. 13, at the NDSU Alumni Center. In the morning session, Kristine Paranica, NDSU ombudsperson, provided insight into conflict resolution. Following lunch, Donna Moenning from the Center for Food Integrity spoke on consumer perceptions of agriculture. A family potluck supper followed at Trollwood Park.

Cow Whisperer Gives Presentations

Curt Pate, a well-known animal clinician sometimes referred to as the “Cow Whisperer,” was in Fargo on Sept. 17 and 18. He offered livestock-handling demonstrations in two Animal Sciences classes; gave farm unit manager training; and held a demonstration open to faculty, students and the public. He also visited several area dairy farms and gave presentations that were open to producers.

Pate is the author of the book “Ranch Horsemanship with Curt Pate” and also was a consultant on the 1998 Robert Redford film “The Horse Whisperer.”

NDSU Ram is High Seller

NDSU 15041 Dakota Marker was sold at the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) Center of the Nation sale in Spencer, Iowa, July 24-25. He was the high-selling Hampshire ram in the sale. Dakota Marker ranked in the top 1 percent of the entire NSIP Hampshire population for numerous growth and carcass estimated breeding values.
Green and Gold Gala a Huge Success

The NDSU Animal Sciences Green and Gold Gala, the department’s alumni and scholarship fundraising event for this year, was held Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Fargo Air Museum.

Guests enjoyed the awesome NDSU vs. UND football watch party while they munched on gourmet appetizers; played games on the tarmac; visited with friends of the department, colleagues and alumni; and enjoyed the banquet, which featured fabulous prime rib prepared by Carnivore Catering.

The event raised more than $18,000, which is earmarked for student scholarships in the Department of Animal Sciences.

Several lead donors came together to create the Jim and Judy Tilton Scholarship Endowment, which was announced at the banquet. Earnings on the endowment will fund scholarships for upperclassmen in the Animal Sciences Department. Jim Tilton was a longtime, much-honored faculty member in the department and is a professor emeritus.

Additionally, a $25,000 donation to the Paul Berg Scholarship Endowment was announced.

Winners of the Green and Gold Gala raffle prizes were: Big Green Egg – Sonja Fuchs; Packers/Vikings football package – Eric Berg; $150 meat bundles – David Buchanan, Terry Skunberg and Verlin Steppler.

We want to thank the many students who worked at the gala and the department personnel who spent countless hours preparing for and running this very special event. Particular thanks go the members of the Green and Gold Gala committee: Skip Anderson, Loren Baranko, Eric Berg, Lisa Dubbels, Jim Kirsch, Billy Ogdahl, Kendall Swanson and Tara Swanson.

The Department of Animal Sciences thanks all who pledged funds to our scholarship endowments, the sponsors who donated items for the live and silent auctions, those who attended the gala, those who bought raffle tickets, and those who purchased items on the live and silent auctions. We thank you and our students thank you!

Other Events in Animal Sciences This Summer

- 86th State FFA Convention
  Week of June 1
- Hay Sampling In-service – June 5
- BBQ Boot Camp
  June 30 in Rugby, Aug. 12 in Fargo
- Livestock Judging Camp (youth ages 12 to 18)
  May 30-June 1
- Banquet in a Field – Aug. 11
Meet Our New Faculty Members

Loren Baranko is a lecturer who started in her position in March. Baranko completed her M.S. in animal sciences under the direction of Eric Berg in 2014. She is responsible for teaching AGRI 189 (Skills for Academic Success), ANSC 114 laboratory (Introduction to Animal Sciences), ANSC 150 (Animal Sciences Orientation), VETS 115 (Medical Terminology), ANSC 223 (Introduction to Animal Nutrition) and ANSC 396 (Animal Sciences and Equine Sciences Internship). She is in charge of creating a weekly Graduate Student Newsletter and Undergraduate Newsletter, which inform students of position openings and upcoming events. She also advises undergraduate students. Baranko is a morning person who likes being outdoors and especially riding horses. She also loves spending time with family and friends.

Miranda Meehan is the new Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. She completed her graduate studies at NDSU, receiving her M.S. degree under the direction of Kevin Sedivec and Chris Schauer in animal and range science in 2008 and her Ph.D. in natural resource management in 2011, working with Edward “Shawn” DeKeyser. Meehan will develop Extension and research programs in the area of livestock environmental stewardship; collaborate with and provide training for producers, Extension educators, other faculty and scientists; and serve as a liaison to state agencies and NDSU faculty. She also will advise graduate students. Meehan came on board in March. She and her husband, Curt, are the parents of Clyde, a springer spaniel. In her spare time, Meehan enjoys hiking, hunting and running.

Alison Ward began her position as assistant professor in nutritional epigenetics in the Department of Animal Sciences at the end of June. She completed all of her degrees in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan. Her Ph.D. work investigated the effects of vitamin A restriction and mutations within the vitamin A pathway on intramuscular development in beef cattle. She will be conducting research in the area of epigenetics, advising graduate and undergraduate students, and developing and teaching courses in epigenetics. Ward's hobbies include reading and volunteer work. She was heavily involved with a national service club in Canada and looks forward to joining a similar organization in Fargo.

Animal Sciences in the News

The NDSU Beef Cattle Research Complex was featured in an article in Inforum (www.inforum.com/variety/3750243-ndsu-cattle-complex-among-best-nation) titled “NDSU Cattle Complex Among Best in Nation.” The article looked at the research being conducted that uses radio frequency identification and a feeding system developed for the dairy industry in Europe to try to increase profitability for beef cattle producers. Center manager Trent Gilbery and faculty member Kendall Swanson were featured in the article.

Lisa Christenson was featured in an article in the Grand Forks Herald about the peace of mind pet owners get from having purchased pet insurance. The complete article is available at www.grandforksherald.com/ accent/family/3752336-insurance-gives-pet- owners-peace-mind.

Loren Baranko was interviewed Aug. 26 by Megan Ternquist of KFGO radio in a series titled “Agri-Biz.” Baranko spoke about the Introduction to Animal Sciences course, internships, and the many student organizations and the importance of belonging. Tara Swanson discussed the Introduction to Equine Science course and the options in the program, including the hands-on riding courses. The interview is available at http://kfgo.com/podcasts/ag-news-leader/1720/ agri-biz-ndsu-animal-science-students-head-back-to-school/.
Larry Reynolds and Kim Vonnahme helped organize the Triennial Symposium on Animal Reproduction held July 12, 2015, at the annual meeting of the American Society of Animal Science in Orlando, Fla. The Triennial Reproduction Symposium has been held since 1953 and has become an important venue for presenting the latest findings related to reproduction in farm animals.

Larry Reynolds was honored at a reception at NDSU President Bresciani’s home on Tuesday, Sept. 15, for achieving an h-index rating of more than 50. The h-index attempts to measure the productivity and citation impact of the published body of work of a scientist or scholar. The index was suggested in 2005 by Jorge E. Hirsch, a physicist at the University of California, San Diego, as a tool for determining theoretical physicists’ relative quality and sometimes is called the Hirsch index or Hirsch number.

Gerald Stokka and Kendall Swanson are the latest recipients of the department’s Spirit Pep and Motivation (SPAM) award. The award was instituted in September 2012 by Greg Lardy, department head, as a means of having employees recognize the award-winning actions of their colleagues in the department.

Kendall Swanson was promoted to professor with tenure effective July 1, 2015. Swanson received his B.S. in animal science from NDSU in 1994, his M.S. in animal science from NDSU under the direction of Joel Caton in 1996 and his Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition from the University of Kentucky in 2000. He came to NDSU from the University of Guelph, Canada, in October 2010.

Kim Vonnahme was named as one of the top 10 reviewers for 2014-2015 for the Journal of Animal Science. As one of the top 10 reviewers, she will receive an upgrade to Open Access at no additional charge for one of her papers published in the journal during the next 12 months.
Veterans Ed Program Adds Horsemanship Course

Excerpted from article by Erika Berg with Ellen Crawford, NDSU Agriculture Communication

Jeri Vaudrin, Veterans Educational Training project coordinator, and Erika Berg, associate professor of animal sciences, teamed up to offer a horsemanship component as part of Veterans Educational Training’s summer coursework.

Berg and co-instructors Carrie Hammer, associate professor and Equine Science program director, and Tate Eck, equine science lecturer, teach the two-hour, weekly horsemanship course at the NDSU Equine Center. The 10-week program focuses on basic horsemanship skills and incorporates weekly reflection questions into writing assignments that fulfill the course’s English requirements.

Vaudrin notes that many of the veterans the program serves have a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or other traumatic brain injuries.

Course instructors conduct brief self-assessments before and after each class to help participants rate their mood, anxiety level and physical pain.

“Horses provide immediate, nonjudgmental feedback to people,” Berg says. “Plus, horses live in the moment because their survival depends on it. The idea that about 95 percent of their communication is through body language makes them especially tuned in, not only to what other horses are doing, but what every living being around them, including human beings, is doing. These attributes make many horses outstanding partners for this type of work.”

Efforts are under way to expand the horsemanship programming.

Alumni Updates

Heather Anderson. B.S. ’13, veterinary technology, is a certified veterinary technician at the 24/7 First Pet Veterinary Center in Chandler, Ariz., working mostly in general practice with some emergency shifts and surgery.

Kwang Bog Cho. M.S. ’15, is joining the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at NDSU as a research assistant and will be working under Bin Guo. Her plan is to start a Ph.D. program in Guo’s lab in the spring of 2016. She will be involved in a project that will study epigenetic mechanisms regulating cancer growth and apoptosis. This research is closely related to her master’s research, which focused on maternal dietary lipotropes and breast cancer risk in future generations.

Erika Kenner and Matthew and Patricia Erickson were featured in an article titled “Fresh Crop of Farmers Growing” on the Inforum website (www.inforum.com/news/3752349-fresh-crop-farmers-growing). The article looked at younger farmers and ranchers in North Dakota and Minnesota and the financial and other challenges facing them as they enter the industry and begin the process of taking over from current producers nearing retirement age.

Kirstin (Ydstie) Farasyn. B.S. ’13, veterinary technology, works at Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital in Prior Lake, Minn., doing small-animal care and working as an equine technician.

Christina (Schwartz) Hayes. Ph.D., ’15, is the beef cattle product manager for Purina Animal Nutrition in Shoreview, Minn.

Kate Henning. B.S. ’13, veterinary technology, is a veterinary technician at Grand Valley Animal Hospital in Grand Forks, N.D.

Peggy (Sauvageau) Jensen. B.S. ’11, veterinary technology, works at Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners in Blaine, Minn. She worked in internal medicine and oncology for a year before transferring to the intensive care unit.

Samantha Kaminski. M.S. ’13, animal science, was married to Joe Gangl on Saturday, Sept. 19, in River Falls, Wis.

Kimberly (Ross) LaFond. B.S. ’14, veterinary technology, is employed by AMVC – Viking Pork in Brainerd, Minn.

Janell (Gietzen) Mormon. B.S. ’11, veterinary technology, is a veterinary technician at Missouri Valley Veterinary Clinic and Pinehurst Veterinary Hospital in Glen Ullin, N.D., where she works with all creatures big and small and does many aspects of veterinary care, including assisting with surgery.

Penny Nester. B.S. ’05, animal science, was the winner of the Communications Award for a personal column (state winner) and a program promotional piece (North Central region winner) at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at its annual meeting and professional improvement conference in Sioux Falls, S.D., in July. Nester is the agriculture and natural resources agent in Kidder County, N.D.

Sarah (Volk) Shively. B.S. ’11, veterinary technology, along with her husband, Kyle, raise red and black Angus cattle and quarter horses in Pleasant Lake, N.D. They welcomed their first child, a boy, in January 2015.

Nicole Sinclair. B.S. ’11, veterinary technology, works in the anesthesia and pain management department of the University of Wisconsin Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Madison, Wis., managing anesthetic cases for all the hospital departments.

Carlene Ternes. B.S. ’13, veterinary technology, has been working at the Red River Animal Emergency Clinic in Fargo for two years. She also works with Dr. Sinisia Grozdanic, an ophthalmologist, two days a month to learn about diseases of the eye and medical and surgical treatment for those types of diseases.

Lexi Wolfsinkle. B.S. ’11, veterinary technology, works for a board-certified orthopedic surgeon at the Sturgis Veterinary Hospital/Veterinary Surgical Services in Sturgis, S.D. She runs anesthesia for surgical procedures.