Welcome to Fall Semester 2013!

As this issue of the Animal Sciences Alumni News goes to press, Animal Sciences Department Head Greg Lardy is in France representing the U.S. as the president of the American Society of Animal Sciences at the meetings of the European Federation of Animal Science in Nantes.

Fall semester is just getting under way, but as you will see, the summer months have been busy here in the department. Faculty and graduate students have planned and attended a number of society meetings in the U.S. and abroad and come home with a lot of great experiences and a number of awards. The North Dakota State Fair and a number of other activities also have kept faculty, staff and students busy this summer.

Of particular note to alumni will be the article about the first-ever Alumni Roundup held recently in Medora. Once you read about the fun alumni and family members had, you will want to mark your calendar for next year’s event.

The department continues to grow and change with a number of comings and goings throughout the summer, including two new faculty members, several staff members and a large crop of new graduate students.

Have a great fall. We will see you again in a few months.

Holly Erdmann
Administrative Assistant
Joel Caton Selected for Endowed Professorship

Joel Caton, professor of animal sciences and co-director of the NDSU Center for Nutrition and Pregnancy, has been selected to receive the Jordan A. Engberg Endowed Professorship.

The Engberg professorship is awarded to a faculty member at the rank of professor with at least eight years of service to NDSU and a balanced academic record of excellence in teaching, research and service. The award comes with a $5,000 stipend to be used for academic purposes.

Larry Reynolds and Greg Lardy nominated Caton for the professorship, calling him a cutting-edge researcher whose work has impacted his field of research, his department and college, and NDSU through balanced efforts in teaching and outreach.

For more information, visit www.ndsu.edu/news/view/article/17628/.
Animal Sciences Participates in National Cattlewomen’s Convention

The American National Cattlewomen’s regions 3 and 7 convention was held in Fargo on June 7-8. Participants from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska attended.

Kasey Maddock Carlin coordinated the event and served as department host. Kendall Swanson and student employee Megan Ruch gave a tour of the NDSU Beef Cattle Research Complex. Eric and Paul Berg, along with Austen Germolus and Loren Baranko, gave participants a taste of BBQ Boot Camp.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/pages/North-Dakota-CattleWomen/137935799553417.

Tilton Recognized

James Tilton, emeritus faculty in the Animal Sciences Department, was awarded the Medallion of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Poland for “fruitful and long-standing scientific cooperation” with the Institute of Animal Physiology.

The award was presented by the rector of the University, professor Ryszard J. Gorecki, at the conclusion of the IX International Congress on Pig Reproduction meeting in Olsztyn, Poland, held June 9-13.

Tilton has hosted six scientists from the university at Olsztyn. Five of this group of physiologists are members of the Institute of Animal Physiology at Olsztyn. Adam Ziecik is vice president of the Polish Academy of Science and a consultant to the Ministry of Culture and Science in Warsaw. Stanislaw Okrasa is chair of the Institute of Animal Physiology. Anna Grazul-Biliska is a professor of Animal Science at NDSU.

Stoltenow Named Assistant Director

Charlie Stoltenow has been named the NDSU Extension Service’s assistant director and program leader for agriculture and natural resources. He began his new position Aug. 1. Stoltenow served as interim assistant director for nearly a year prior to this.

Upcoming Events

- **Moos, Ewes & More (MEM)** has been scheduled for Sept. 14 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at the Equine Center. MEM is a community event to acquaint people with animal agriculture. The event includes demonstrations, games, food and fun for the whole family. The event is free and open to the public. It will be held at the NDSU Equine Unit at 5140 19th Ave. N., Fargo.

- **Graduate School Celebration of 50 Years of Doctoral Degrees** – Sept. 20, noon-7 p.m – NDSU Ph.D. alumni will have lunch with President Bresciani, tour the campus and meet for a presidential reception in the evening. Animal Sciences alumni also will visit Hultz Hall to meet with faculty and fellow alumni and tour the Beef Cattle Research Complex.
Comings and Goings in the Department

New Faculty and Staff
- Dr. Lauren Hanna started in June as an assistant professor specializing in the genetic improvement of livestock. Hanna is a 2013 graduate of Texas A&M University. Her B.S. degree focused on animal science with an emphasis on science curriculum and a minor in business. Her graduate focus was in animal breeding and genetics, particularly research in quantitative genetics in beef cattle.
- Jordan Schrupp came on board as a lecturer in the Veterinary Technology program. Schrupp received a B.S. degree in Veterinary Technology from NDSU in 2003.
- Sarah Underdahl is the new assistant manager at the Beef Cattle Research Complex.

New Graduate Students
- Loren Baranko, M.S. student; adviser Eric Berg
- Katrina Troppy, M.S. student; advisers Dale Redmer and Anna Grazul-Bilska
- Victoria Kennedy, M.S. student; adviser Kim Vonnahme
- Mattia (Lein) Gunkelman, M.S. student; adviser Carrie Hammer
- Kyle McLean, Ph.D. student; adviser Joel Caton
- Jeng Hung Liu, Ph.D. student; adviser David Newman
- James Gaspers, M.S. student; adviser Gerald Stokka

Visiting Scientists
- Amornrat Wanangkarn is visiting from Thailand. She is studying meat quality with Eric Berg.

Staff Leaving
- Roberta Dahlen, research specialist for David Newman

Graduate Students Who Completed Programs
- Phil Steichen, M.S.
- Quynn Larson, M.S.
- Leslie Lekatz, Ph.D.
- Ashley Blilie, Ph.D.
NDSU Youth Livestock Judging Camp

The Animal Sciences Department hosted a youth livestock judging camp on June 1-3. Twenty-three 4-H and FFA members from across North Dakota attended the camp.

Students learned the priorities and qualities to look for in cattle, swine and sheep when judging breeding and market animals. They also had the chance to work on and improve their oral communications skills. The camp culminated in a judging contest on June 3.

Print Donated to Animal Sciences

Paul Berg has donated a print of a mural by well-known artist Frank C. Murphy to the Animal Sciences Department. The original mural was displayed in the Chicago offices of the National Livestock and Meat Board beginning in 1981.

Around the time of the board’s final meeting in August 1995, prints of the mural were made and given to board directors, staff and special guests. The mural symbolizes the board’s consumer marketing commitment to the industry and was meant to focus people’s attention on the board’s mission.

Berg purchased one of the prints and had it framed with wood reclaimed from his family home, built in the 1800s. The print is displayed in the Animal Sciences conference room.

(Photo by Deb Thomson)
Skip Anderson Featured in Publication

Skip Anderson, Animal Sciences sheep herdsman, was featured recently in the American Society for Animal Science’s “I Am an Animal Scientist!” campaign.

The goal of the new campaign is to give a voice and face to the field of animal science.

For more information, visit www.asas.org/membership-services/foundation/i-am-an-animal-scientist.

“I am an Animal Scientist because I weave the ‘fibers’ of science and technology with production and business to help feed the world.”

Kuss Joins Veterinary Technology Staff

Char Kuss is the new administrative assistant for the Veterinary Technology program.

She comes to the Veterinary Technology program from Cereal Science, where she has been working since coming to NDSU in October 1995.

“I really enjoy working with students,” she says. “They are the best part of working at NDSU. I am very excited to be starting with the Vet Tech program and happy to be associated with the Animal Sciences Department.”

She will be housed in Robinson 101. Her email is c.kuss@ndsu.edu and her phone is 231-7712.

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Military Appreciation Day at the Fair

Animal Sciences had 15 faculty, staff, and students involved in preparation, cleanup, and food service for the Military Appreciation Day held July 23 at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot. Approximately 1,600 military personnel and their families were served.

This was the 9th annual event, which actually started 10 years ago but was cancelled in 2011 due to the flood in Minot.

The event was co-sponsored by the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association, the North Dakota Beef Commission, and the North Dakota Corn Growers, all of whom also provided workers for the event.

Animal Sciences at Clay County Fair

Several faculty and staff members represented the Animal Sciences Department at the 100th annual Clay County Fair in Barnesville, Minn., July 11-14.

Terry Skunburg explained about the cannulated cow and let brave fair goers put their hand in the animal’s stomach. Marc Bauer showed fair visitors a wool ball from a sheep stomach, and people could look at rumen protozoa through a microscope.

Lisa Christenson and Leah Maertens had an interactive booth where young people learned more about veterinary technology.

(Photos from Marc Bauer)
Alumni Accolades

- Tim Flakoll, B.S. and M.S. in Agriculture from NDSU, formerly the Beef Unit manager and currently provost of Tri-College University, was selected as chairman-elect (second vice president) of the Council of State Governments’ Midwest Legislative Conference at its annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition, he has been chosen as the North Dakota Senate’s new president pro tempore. The job involves presiding over Senate sessions when the lieutenant governor is absent. Flakoll also received the Student Advocate Award from the North Dakota Student Association in May.

- Erin Harris, M.S. ’10, Animal Science, was selected by the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) as one of two recipients of the 2013 Kinsman International Award. The award was created to promote international collaboration by recognizing outstanding AMSA student members with a financial award in support of international travel. Harris is completing a Ph.D. in swine research at the University of Minnesota.

- Roger Kenner, Leeds, N.D., was recognized with the World Simmental/Fleckvieh Federation World Book Award. The honor is the American Simmental Association’s equivalent of Hall of Fame membership. Kenner and his family have been strong supporters of the department’s scholarship and beef seedstock program for many years.

- Tim Loy, M.S. ’01, received the Outstanding Early Career Agribusiness Award. Loy is employed by Adams Land and Cattle Co., Broken Bow, Neb., where he is the director of nutrition and external feeding. Loy is responsible for research and development efforts in the areas of animal health, production efficiency, carcass optimization, food safety and data analysis. He also oversees and directs the growth of cattle finishing and backgrounding operations, and is responsible for nutrition and feeding programs at the company’s finishing lots. He and his wife, Jodi, reside in Broken Bow with their four children.

- Mike Tokach, B.S. ’86, Animal and Range Sciences, has been chosen to be a distinguished professor at Kansas State University. He is a professor of Animal Science and Industry and a K-State research and Extension specialist.

Sheep Unit Has Good Showing at State Fair

The NDSU Sheep Unit received numerous awards with the five head of Hampshires it exhibited at the North Dakota State Fair. This is how the sheep placed:

- NDSU 2029 – first place yearling ram and champion ram
- NDSU 2060 – first place yearling ewe and reserve champion ewe
- NDSU 3069 – first place February ewe lamb and champion ewe; also a member of the first place pair of ewe lambs
- NDSU 3001 – first place January ewe lamb; also a member of the first place pair of ewe lambs
- NDSU 2031 – third place yearling ewe; also a member of the first place pair of yearling ewes
Two more than 20-year-old signs recently unearthed at the NDSU Dairy Barn provide a glimpse into the history of the dairy program here.

The signs indicate that NDSU had herds of Holsteins and Brown Swiss.

Many years ago, the NDSU dairy herd competed in exhibitions at events such as the Red River Valley Fair, North Dakota State Dairy Show and North Dakota State Fair, as did animals from the beef, swine and sheep units. But through time, NDSU decided to withdraw from competition with other dairy owners.

Leonard Eisenger, NDSU’s dairy herdsman at the time, was well-known for his breeding knowledge and husbandry of the Brown Swiss herd. His prized Brown Swiss and Holsteins and student assistants also were well-recognized across the state.

These signs were displayed prominently in the aisles at dairy show barns at various summertime exhibitions. Those who attended NDSU during the years that Eisenger was dairy herdsman were very much aware that he took great pride in these cattle, the university and the dairy facilities. Many students learned the importance of animal care and a spotless facility from working for Eisenger.

In April 1993, the Brown Swiss herd was dispersed to make room for more Holsteins that could be used for dairy research. While the herd had fewer Brown Swiss than Holsteins, the Brown Swiss were well-known and at one time were sixth in the nation in type and production. Consequently, many people were on hand to purchase these high-quality dairy animals and excited to give them a new home.

The foundation for many of the Brown Swiss was the result of the North Dakota Brown Swiss Association and owners who gifted seedstock to the Animal Sciences Department to enhance our reputation in animal husbandry.

The dispersal of the Brown Swiss was held Saturday, April 24, 1993, in Shepperd Arena. Thirty lots averaged $1,417.50. The high-selling animal, at $2,500, was Nakota Jinx Lou Iris, which was sold to Dale Kuhn of Pay-Dak Dairy near Towner. The high-selling cow was Nakota Jade Jacki 794356, which was sold to Dale and Sherri Rupprecht and Merlin and Laura Christenson of Thief River Falls, Minn.

At one time, the NDSU dairy had several breeds, including Jersey. The most famous Jersey associated with the university was not owned by NDSU. Noble's Golden Marguerite, the Jersey cow buried on the NDSU campus in front of the Dairy Science building (now the Engineering Technology building) was owned by Sam Crabbe. Through his efforts, dairymen of North Dakota secured an appropriation from the North Dakota Legislature to build the Dairy Science building and the original dairy barns. (For more information, visit the NDSU Library website, http://library.ndsu.edu/exhibits/monuments/Golden/goldenm.html)

North Dakota has a deep dairy tradition. The bust of a Jersey cow previously graced the fascia of the Dairy Science building. We recently recovered the concrete head mount, which was removed during a remodeling project, and would like to get it back where she can overlook the campus.
Department Accolades

- Casie Bass, graduate student with Anna Grazul-Bilska, and Ely Camacho, graduate student with Kim Vonnahme, received travel grants from the National Institutes of Health to attend the Aspen/Snowmass Perinatal Biology Symposium in Colorado on Aug. 24-27. They also will co-chair a session with a senior investigator at the meeting.

- Larry Reynolds, Anna Grazul-Bilska and Pawel Borowicz gave lectures and labs in one of the advanced summer courses at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. The lab is a world-famous training ground for experimental biologists. Reynolds also served as director of Section 3 of Frontiers in Reproduction, a laboratory and lecture course for scientists-in-training that focuses on implantation, development of the reproductive tract and transgenesis. This is the fifth year they participated in the summer courses.

- Anna Grazul-Bilska was an invited speaker at Warsaw University of Life Sciences, the University of Warmia and Mazuria, and the Polish Academy of Sciences, all in Poland, in June. In addition to the seminars she presented, she met with students and faculty at each institution.

- Vern Anderson, adjunct faculty member in Animal Sciences and research scientist at NDSU’s Carrington Research Extension Center, spoke at the Midwest Association of State Departments of Agriculture on June 22. Anderson spoke at the invitation of North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

- Gianquiang Jia, Animal Science graduate student, received a travel award from the National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative to attend the Aspen/Snowmass Perinatal Biology Symposium in August to present his research.

- Jena Peine, Animal Science graduate student, placed first in the open graduate student research paper competition at the ASAS Western Section meetings in June. This is the first time that a North Dakota student has placed first in the competition. In addition, Peine’s paper placed third in the open applied research paper competition.

- Larry Reynolds chaired the Cell Biology Symposium at the joint American Dairy Science Association-ASAS annual meeting in Indianapolis in July.

- Russ Danielson, professor emeritus in Animal Sciences, received the Legacy Award from the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.

- Gerald Stokka will be a regular contributor to the satellite radio program “Vets on Call,” which airs each Wednesday at 3 p.m. on Channel 80, Rural Radio.

- Larry Reynolds and Anna Grazul-Bilska served on the Scientific Committee of the 2013 Aspen/Snowmass Perinatal Biology Symposium held in August. This is the fifth time NDSU faculty have helped organize the meeting, which involves clinicians, basic biomedical researchers and basic agricultural researchers from around the world.

- Kim Vonnahme received the Young Scientist Award at the ASAS Western Section meeting in June. This is the first time a faculty member from NDSU has received the award.

- Joel Caton has been appointed to a three-year term as division editor for the Journal of Animal Science. He is responsible for facilitating the scientific review process, working with associate editors and ensuring the publication of high-quality science.

The following received awards and recognition at the national American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) meetings in July:

- Greg Lardy was installed as the president of the ASAS for a one-year term.

- Joel Caton received the Gary L. Cromwell Award for Research in Mineral Nutrition. This award is given to an animal scientist who has shown excellence in research dealing with mineral nutrition of livestock and who has published during his or her career, with an emphasis on the past 10 years.

- Larry Reynolds received the Animal Growth and Development Award. This award is given to an animal scientist who has conducted research in growth or development of animals and has published original research in the past 10 years.

- Kim Vonnahme was recognized by ASAS for her service to the organization as a director-at-large.

- Erika Berg presented the Moos Ewes & More poster, which was selected as one of 30 from among 2,500 posters to be displayed at the ASAS awards banquet.

- Jordan Hieber, undergraduate Animal Science student, was recognized as one of two Zimbelman/Hafs Public Policy interns. She worked for the USDA in Washington, D.C., this summer.
Alumni Updates

City Cole, B.S. '13, Animal Science, is working at SB&B Foods. She works with the cattle portion of the company doing nutrition work and general feedlot management duties.

Xin (Rex) Sun, visiting scholar in the Department of Animal Sciences who studied under the direction of Eric Berg from September 2010 to September 2012, completed the final defense of his dissertation on Monday, June 3, at Nanjing Agricultural University in China.

Gereld F. (Gerry) Gerntholz, B.S. '59, Animal Husbandry, celebrated 54 years of marriage to Marian (Huether) on June 28. Col. Gerntholz retired from the National Guard after 37 years of service in 1995. He also retired from the State Legislature in 1998 (14 years of service), North Dakota Winter Show Board in 2012 (33 years of service) and from farming in 1999. He continues to serve on the State Historical Society and Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation boards.

Ashley (Lepper) Billie, Ph.D. '13, Animal Science, is a product development scientist at Hormel Foods in Austin, Minn.

Allison Meyer, Ph.D. '11, Animal Science, is an assistant professor of ruminant nutrition at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Melinda Martin, B.S. '92, Animal Science, joined the staff of the North Dakota Implement Dealers Association and Automobile Dealers Association of North Dakota as a career development manager. She previously was an employee at Central Dakota Vet Clinic, director of the Ag and Bison Management Program at Little Hoop Community College in Fort Totten, coordinator of Student Support Services at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake and program coordinator of LRSIC's Dakota Precision Ag Center. She lives in New Rockford, N.D.

Leslie Lekatz, Ph.D. ’13, Animal Science, will be assistant professor in the Department of Agriculture at Illinois State University, Normal.

Palmer Holden, B.S. ’65, Animal Science, is an Iowa State University professor emeritus. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. from ISU and then completed his NDSU/ROTC military commitment, including a tour in Vietnam, in 1971. Holden was the Extension swine specialist from 1972 to 2002, when he retired. His wife, Sheryl, was diagnosed with ALZ and they recently moved to Iowa City to be near their son and family. The Holdens celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary in June. Merle Light was Palmer Holden’s undergraduate adviser and encouraged him to work on his advanced degrees.

Eddie Dunn, B.S. ’65, Animal Science, retired on July 1, 2007, after enjoying four distinct careers. The first was as a college professor, researcher and adviser to undergraduate and graduate students in Agricultural Economics at NDSU; the second was with the NDSU Extension Service organizing and conducting community and leadership development training sessions in communities throughout the state and nationwide; the third was as senior vice president of the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce; and the fourth was as vice chancellor and eventually chancellor of the North Dakota University System.

Thomas Cook, B.S. ’67, Animal Science, has served as the president and CEO of the National Renderers Association, an international trade group that represents the rendering industry, since 1997. From 2003 to 2011, Cook served as a member of the secretary of Agriculture’s Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee on Trade. Prior to his involvement with the National Renderers Association, he was the vice president for governmental affairs (1991-96) and director of industry affairs (1981-91) for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. Prior to his involvement with NCBA, Cook was a regional manager for the American Angus Association. He will retire Dec. 31, 2013.

Vicki Reisenauer Leesburg, B.S. ’98, Animal Science, received an M.S. in Animal Science and Genetics from Montana State University and a Ph.D. in Population Genetics from the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa, studying the global impact of the Line 1 Hereford herd. She has worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service research station in Miles City, Mont., for 11 years. Leesburg, along with her husband and three brothers, owns and operates West Dakota Kobe, a gourmet beef company.

Kelly Swanson, B.S. ’97, Animal Science, received the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Corbin Companion Animal Biology Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of companion animal biology and nutrition. Swanson is an associate professor at the University of Illinois.

Erin Harris, B.S. ’09, M.S. ’11, Animal Science, received the ASAS Wilson G. Pond International Travel Award to travel to Beijing, China, in October to participate in the World Conference on Animal Production meeting. Harris is a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota.

Rodger Johnson, B.S. ’65, Animal Science, received the ASAS Morrison Award, which is presented to animal scientists who have made a meritorious scientific contribution or discovery in research in the field. Johnson is a professor emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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For more information on this and other topics, see www.ag.ndsu.edu/ansc

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