Hard to Believe Fall Semester is Here!

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be well into the fall semester. We are enjoying record enrollments in many of our classes again this year, and our teaching and advising faculty are being kept very busy.

Approximately 150 of our majors came to the Animal Sciences Ag Olympics/Welcome Back event on Sept. 2 to enjoy food, fun and games (including the chance to dunk the department head in the dunking booth), and to meet their fellow students who major in Animal Science, Equine Science and Veterinary Technology.

We had a busy summer with lots of research and Extension activities, and visits from distinguished guests and a few unusual ones as well. You can read more about some of our visitors in the newsletter.

We were very pleased to have 85 people join us for the Alumni Roundup and scholarship fundraiser in Detroit Lakes in August and look forward with anticipation to our event next year. We would welcome any suggestions from our alumni on how to make this event work better for you, so don’t hesitate to contact me.

Homecoming is just around the corner. If you will be in Fargo for the big game, let us know beforehand and we will do our best to meet with you and show you around the department. I think you will be very pleased with the way things look on campus.

Sincerely,

Greg Lardy
Department Head
Veterinary Technology Program Receives Continued Accreditation

The NDSU Veterinary Technology program received continued full accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities at its meeting in early May. The accreditation was based on a site visit held Oct. 16-18, 2013.

Teresa Sonsthagen, co-director of the program, said, “Maintaining our accreditation is vital for our students to continue in their careers, as our credentialing examination, the Veterinary Technician National Exam, is only given to graduates of accredited programs. Being fully accredited is a cornerstone of our program.”

The NDSU Vet Tech program has been accredited continuously since 1979. The next accreditation site visit will be held in 2019.

Livestock Judging Camp

Livestock Judging Camp was held May 31-June 2. Seventeen youth participated in the camp, which focused on the evaluation of swine, sheep and cattle, as well as the proper techniques and terminology of oral reasons.

This was the second year the camp was held at NDSU. The camp was coordinated by Justin Crosswhite.

New Scholarship Fund Established

The Development Foundation informed the department of the establishment of a new scholarship fund. The Roger Van Prooien and Ruth Van Prooien Charitable Remainder Trust is set up as a fund that will benefit students interested in veterinary medicine at NDSU.

Students in the Animal Sciences Department, along with Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences, will benefit from the fund. We anticipate being able to award several new scholarships each year as a result of this gift.
Lardy Named Acting VP, Dean and Director

A serious health event forced Ken Grafton to recover and rehabilitate from home for several months starting in June. As a result, he asked President Bresciani to approve an exception to Policy 103 and that Greg Lardy be named acting vice president, dean (College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources), and director (Agricultural Experiment Station) during his recovery.

Lardy, Animal Sciences Department head, began the temporary appointment on July 1, spending approximately 30 percent of his time in the position while continuing to spend 70 percent of his time in the Animal Sciences Department. Grafton returned to his position in September.

Equine Center Hosts Special Guests –

Animal Sciences
Facebook page and www.tzproductions.com/index.php/history

A pair of elephants spent a few hours at the Equine Center on Sunday, June 8. The elephants, part of the Tarzan Zerbini Family Circus, were being transported from Washington to Toronto. The driver learned of the Equine Center online and stopped to rest and water the animals.

The Zerbini family were circus performers in Italy since at least 1763. Around 1900, the family moved from Italy to North Africa, where they performed for the next 50 years, becoming the only family to cross the Sahara desert with a circus. They came to the U.S. in 1961. They tour the U.S. and Canada as TZ Productions.

The Equine Center also played host to the North Dakota Horseracing Association for its racing season July 19-20 and 26-27, and Aug. 2-3. As part of the racing season, the famous Budweiser Clydesdales were in Fargo for the opening weekend of the season and were housed at the facility.
Kyrgyzstan Minister Visits

The agriculture minister from Kyrgyzstan visited the Beef Cattle Research Complex on Wednesday, Sept. 10. He and his party toured the facility and learned about the research conducted there. Kyrgyzstan is a former Soviet republic that is interested in extending the “Silk Road” to include trade in agricultural equipment and goods and education with the U.S.

BBQ Boot Camp Featured on ESPN Game Day

David Newman and Austen Germolus, members of NDSU’s BBQ Boot Camp crew, did an on-air cooking demonstration and served a meal to the ESPN Game Day hosts on Saturday, Sept. 13, when the crew featured NDSU Bison football during their broadcast.

Taste of Lamb Event

The North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association, along with the American Lamb Board and Extension sheep specialist Reid Redden, presented the first-ever Taste of Lamb as part of the Fiber Arts Festival at Rheault Farm in Fargo on Aug. 9 and 10.

On Saturday, Aug. 9, local shepherds dished up samples of their favorite recipes for those in attendance. On Sunday, chefs from Mezzaluna, the HoDo and the Blue Goose Café prepared lamb dishes and provided take-home recipes. The attendees voted on their favorite dish.
Moos, Ewes & More Draws Huge Crowd

The third annual Moos, Ewes & More, the Animal Sciences Department’s premiere public outreach and educational event, was held Saturday, Sept. 6, at the NDSU Equine Center. A total of 1,521 people (751 children, 770 adults) attended.

Forty-seven faculty, staff and graduate students, and a large number of undergrad students worked to make the event a success. Their hard work paid off with the department receiving considerable positive feedback, including glowing comments from NDSU Provost Beth Ingram and Associate Vice President Valrey Kettner, and a nice article in the Fargo Forum. Numerous people commented that they plan to attend each year and keep the event on their calendar of family activities.

The members of the planning committee were: Kim Vonnahme, Stacey Ostby, Erika Berg, Kim Koch, J.W. Schroeder, Shannon Eck, Skip Anderson, Lisa Christenson, Sarah Wagner and Josie Hayden. Thank you for all of your hard work!

photos by Eric Berg and J.W. Schroeder
Alumni Roundup A
Big Success

Eighty-five people attended the second annual Animal Sciences Alumni Roundup on Saturday, Aug. 16, in Detroit Lakes, Minn. They had the opportunity to enjoy a golf tournament at Maple Hills Golf Club, free pontoon rides, games for their youngsters at the Detroit Lakes Community Center, great food provided by the BBQ Boot Camp crew, and plenty of time to catch up with fellow alumni, department faculty and staff.

The silent auction grossed nearly $15,000, with proceeds going toward the Animal Sciences’ student scholarship fund. Those in attendance at the reunion and plenty of absentee bidders purchased great items, which were donated by alumni and friends of the department. Donated items included original artwork and handcrafted items, several great travel packages and a Bison tailgating package.


The hard-working members of the planning committee were Skip Anderson, Justin Crosswhite, Lisa Dubbels, Greg Lardy, Kasey Maddock Carlin, Julie Nash, David Newman and Jordan Schrupp.

Plans are being formulated for next year’s Alumni Roundup. Please plan to join us!
Department Accolades

• Eric and Erika Berg are the happy parents of son Oskar Eric Berg, who was born Aug. 17. He joins sisters Anna and Ida. His proud grandparents are Shirley and Paul Berg.

• Joel Caton gave an invited seminar at University College in London, and presented a poster and gave an invited presentation at the Perinatal Medicine 2014 Conference in Harrogate in June and July, respectively. The organizing committee at the Perinatal Medicine Conference invited only six presenters from around the world to talk about their work. During this visit to the UK, Caton and graduate student Jena Bjertness also conducted collaborative research in Britain and Scotland.

• Justin Crosswhite and Mellissa Schook were married in Moorhead, Minn., on Aug. 30. Mellissa is an M.S. student studying under the direction of Carl Dahlen.

• Jodie Haring, previously the Molecular Biology Lab coordinator for the reproductive physiology group in the department, was hired as the campus biological safety officer, a new position for NDSU.

• Mary Lynn Johnson, an adjunct faculty member, and Roger Johnson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6.

• Greg Lardy completed his term as president of the American Society of Animal Science and began his term as past president at the annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., in July. Kyle McLean also began his term as graduate student director at that meeting.

• Kasey Maddock Carlin was awarded a Leap Lab Renovation Award from the NDSU FORWARD program. The award will be used to renovate the Muscle Biology Laboratory to accommodate the newly acquired Typhoon FLA 9500 Imager and accessory equipment, which was purchased with a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education provided funds for graduate student Christina Schwartz to take training on the proper use of the machine.

• David Newman was a featured speaker at the 4th Annual Symposium on Advanced and Current Issues in Animal Well-being at the University of Arkansas on Aug. 7. He also was named by Vance Publishing Corp.'s agribusiness group as one of its 40 Under 40 Award honorees. The program recognizes people making a significant contribution to America’s food system (http://40under40ag.com/).

• Chung Park was an invited lecturer at the 2014 Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Steamboat Springs, Colo., on Aug. 7. He spoke on the “Role of Lipotropes (Methyl Donor Nutrients) in Mammary Carcinogenesis.”

• Reid Redden and Toby Redden welcomed daughter Raylee on June 4. She joins brother Ryland.

• Larry Reynolds served on the planning committee, chaired a session on placenta and parturition, gave a platform presentation on “Steroidogenesis and the Initiation of Parturition” and gave two other presentations at the 9th International Ruminant Reproduction Symposium held Aug. 25-29 in Obihiro, Japan.

• Gerald Stokka moved into a position that encompasses portions of the Extension veterinarian and animal husbandry aspects of the livestock stewardship position, effective May 16. The main responsibility in this new position is to develop and provide leadership for a statewide veterinary and livestock stewardship Extension program encompassing veterinary preventive medicine and health, animal husbandry and livestock stewardship, with special emphasis on the North Dakota beef industry. The responsibilities of this position will meet the needs of North Dakota livestock producers, veterinarians and allied industry personnel. Charlie Stoltenow was the Extension veterinarian and was promoted to Agriculture and Natural Resources program leader last fall.

• Kim Vonnahme was selected as a participant in the American Society of Animal Science-European Federation of Animal Science speaker exchange. She chaired a session at the annual meeting in Denmark held Aug. 24-29. She joined scientists from New Zealand, Australia and Denmark whose work focuses on nutritional impacts during pregnancy on the postnatal growth of livestock species.
Alumni Updates

Ely Camacho, Ph.D., ’13, Animal Science, was named a Western Section American Society of Animal Science Young Scholar at the meeting held in San Angelo, Texas, the week of June 23. Ely is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Arizona.

Zachary Carlson, B.S., ’14, Animal Science, is pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Nicole Chapel, M.S., ’14, Animal Science, received the American Association of Bovine Practitioners’ Research Summaries Graduate Student Award at the 47th annual meeting of AABP for her presentation, “The Effects of Flunixin Meglumine Treatment and Hoof Trimming on Lying Behavior and Locomotion in Dairy Cows.” The project was a component of the work she did while earning her master’s degree at NDSU. Twenty students were in the competition. Nicole is studying for her Ph.D. at Purdue University.

Kelli Chinn, B.S., ’14, Animal Science, is a secretary at Belle Fourche Pipeline in Belfield, N.D.

Kelsie Egeland, B.S., ’13, Animal Science and Equine Science, is the agriculture and natural resources Extension agent in Emmons County. She started her position there on May 19. Kelsie worked as a technician at the Hettinger Research Extension Center in the summer of 2013 and was a lab tech while a student at NDSU.

Jordan Hieber, B.S., ’14, Animal Science, is an M.S. student at NDSU, studying under the direction of Lauren Hanna.

Rachael Lagein, B.S., ’14, Animal Science, started veterinary school at Kansas State University in the fall semester of 2014.

Molly Lass, B.S., ’14, Animal Science, is attending Kansas State University, pursing an M.S. degree. She started her studies there in the fall semester of 2014.

Edgar D. Lovitt, B.S., ’55, Animal Science, worked for Merck for 29½ years. He is retired and living with his wife, Carole, in Arizona.

Christine Nodsle, B.S., ’14, Veterinary Technology, is continuing to work as a veterinary technician in Pelican Rapids, Minn. Christine also is filling in as a temporary instructor in the Veterinary Technology program for the fall semester of 2014.

Cole Rupprecht, B.S., ’10, Animal Science, resigned as the agriculture and natural resources Extension agent for Cass County, effective July 15, 2014. He has accepted a position as leadership director with the North Dakota Farm Bureau.

Jerry Doan, B.S., ’75, Animal and Range Science, his wife, Renae, and their children Jeremy Doan, B.S., ’02, Animal Science, Jay Doan, Jayce Doan and daughter Shanda Morgan farm and ranch near McKenzie, N.D. Through their Rolling Plains Adventures, they provide paying customers with hunting, rural weddings, corporate events and “working ranch” experiences on the family’s Black Leg Ranch. Jerry and Renae own and operate Giovanni’s Pizza and Snoopers Tons of Fun, a children’s party and indoor play system and eatery in Bismarck. The Doans were featured in the Sept. 1 issue of AgWeek (www.agweek.com).

Chainarong Navanakraw, Ph.D., ’03, Animal Sciences, is an associate professor and graduate program chair at Khon Kaen University, Thailand. Navanakraw presented a seminar titled “Improving Reproduction of Tropical Goats, The Need and the Potential” in a special seminar at NDSU in July.

Suthipong Uriyapongson, Ph.D., ’93, is an associate professor at Khon Kaen University in Thailand. Uriyapongson presented a seminar titled “Buffalo Meat and Meat Products in Thailand” in a special seminar at NDSU in July. One of his students, Chirasak Phoemchalard, is studying for six months at NDSU under the direction of Eric Berg.

BIF Honors Wade Shafer

During the Beef Improvement Federation awards luncheon on June 19 in Lincoln, Neb., Wade Shafer received the prestigious Continuing Service Award for 2014. Willie Altenburg, long-time friend of Shafer and the American Simmental Association, presented the award on behalf of his colleagues in the beef industry, Extension Service and research professionals.