July 2003

Animal Science Alumni Newsletter, Summer 2003

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A gift to the NU Foundation from Irv and Wanda Omtvedt created the new Omtvedt named professorship, which recognizes faculty who have demonstrated outstanding ability and accomplishments in teaching, research and/or service to their academic discipline and the livestock and meat industry.

“The professorship also commemorates the Omtvedts for their positive influence, dynamic leadership and lasting beneficial impacts bestowed on the university,” said John Owens, NU vice president and Harlan vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Rodger K. Johnson has been named to hold the first professorship. “Rodger is a scientist who is an internationally recognized authority on swine genetics, as well as an exemplary teacher whose students have become experts in their fields,” Owens said. “Throughout his career, Rodger has demonstrated the commitment to excellence that this professorship envisions.” The endowed professorship provides an annual salary, research and/or program support stipend of $10,000 per academic year. The appointment is for five years with the opportunity of renewal.

“After all Irv Omtvedt has done for IANR, this university, and our state, this gift from Irv and Wanda is especially generous. This endowed professorship is one more example of the Omtvedt’s commitment to excellence in IANR,” Owens said. Irv Omtvedt retired in 2000 after serving as NU vice president and vice chancellor for IANR for 12 years. He joined the university in 1975 as head of the animal science department. In 1982, he was named dean of the Agricultural Research Division and director of the university’s Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station. He became vice chancellor of IANR in 1988. During part of his tenure as IANR vice chancellor, he also served as interim senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and as vice chancellor for extended education.

Johnson, a swine geneticist and professor of animal science, joined the university in 1978. He is an internationally recognized expert on crossbreeding systems for swine and a leader in swine performance testing and swine selection methods. He developed a highly prolific line of pigs for his research that was released to industry. The line continues to be a genetic leader in reproductive performance. Rodger has been a major contributor to national efforts to improve the understanding and applicability of swine breeding and evaluation programs. He continues to develop methods to produce better pigs for the industry and for consumers. Johnson’s honors and awards include the American Society of Animal Science award in animal breeding and genetics, membership in the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, the NU Alumni Award for Service to Students and the National Swine Improvement Federation’s distinguished service award. He has been active in the American Society of Animal Science, the National Swine Improvement Federation and other professional groups. He serves on the National Pork Board Production Systems Committee, chaired the National Animal Germplasm Program Committee and is a consultant on industry issues.

Johnson holds a bachelor’s degree in animal science from North Dakota State University and a master’s degree in animal science and doctorate in animal breeding from Oklahoma State University, where he also was one of Omtvedt’s graduate students.
From the Department Head’s Desk

This “Summer Issue” of the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter is a new addition to our annual “Winter Issue.” The annual newsletter grew in size to the point that it was decided we need to publish two newsletters per year to be more timely in sharing information with alumni and friends. January through June 2003, was filled with excitement, outstanding accomplishments, awards, recognition of staff and faculty, judging team activities, undergraduate and graduate student scholarships, new fiscal challenges and a couple of unique events.

Excitement always accompanies completion of degrees and graduation. One of our 21 May Animal Science B.S. graduates, Caleb Harms, achieved the distinction of graduating as a “Chancellor’s Scholar.” Caleb was one of 31 UNL students recognized for achieving an overall GPA of 4.0 during their time at UNL. Mark Hassebrook, a member of the Livestock Evaluation Team who was selected as one of the ten “All-American Team” members, also graduated as a “Chancellor’s Scholar” as a Diversified Ag major. Congratulations to all you graduated seniors and our 9 M.S. and 4 Ph.D. May graduates. You make us proud!

We are excited about our new Animal Science website. Check it out at http://animalscience.unl.edu. Many thanks to Julie Reiling, the committee members, staff and students who helped create the new website, and special thanks to Dr. Dennis Burson and Sherri Pitchie for maintaining the previous Animal Science website. A description of the new format and features is included in this newsletter. The Events Calendar, a detailed listing of faculty and staff, and links to Youth and Adult Education, Animal Science 4-H News, the Horse 4-H Site and others may be of special interest to you.

Other new items of interest described in the newsletter include creation of an Animal Science Graduate Student Association endowment fund, and collaboration with Northeast Community College, Mike Henn who owns Henn House Dairy, and the Milbank Dairy Institute to train students in dairy management.

Our second class of 13 students started participation in our undergraduate Animal Science Leadership Academy spring term 2003. This class, all freshman Animal Science majors, will get an early start on identifying career paths, learning the principles of developing leadership, communication and other interpersonal skills, participating in professional meetings and achieving a more in-depth awareness and understanding of the real world work environment. This pilot program was started spring semester 2002 with support from a USDA Educational Challenge Grant, the College of Ag Sciences & Natural Resources, the Animal Science Department, and the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication. We are seeking additional support to sustain this program that requires an annual budget of approximately $15,000.

One of two unique events that occurred this spring deserves special mention. Dr. Rodger Johnson was named the first recipient of the Irv and Wanda Omtvedt Professorship in Animal Science, effective July 1, 2003. This is an endowed professorship created by the Omtvedts through a generous contribution to the NU Foundation. It was created to recognize Animal Science faculty at UNL who have demonstrated outstanding ability and accomplishments in teaching, research, and/or service to their academic discipline and the livestock and meat industry. Details about the Omtvedt Professorship and Rodger Johnson’s career are provided in a separate article in this newsletter. Congratulations, Rodger, and abundant thanks to Irv and Wanda for their continual support of excellence in Animal Science in IANR here at UNL. I hope Irv and Wanda’s actions inspire others to consider how they can help us enhance quality of educational programs generated by our Animal Science faculty and staff.

A second unique event that occurred this spring was the Governor’s veto of the State Budget proposed by the Legislature and the subsequent legislative override of the veto to limit NU budget reduction for the next biennium to 4.6%. The positive news in all of this is that the Department is expected to reduce our core budget by less than one-fourth this amount. The Department is very grateful to our alumni, friends and members of the Legislature for their strong and consistent support. I am optimistic that we will be able to retain all current programs in the Department and that we will be allowed to advertise and fill one or more of our faculty vacancies this year. At present, the faculty give highest priority to filling our Dairy Nutrition research and extension position, but we also need to fill the vacant Swine Nutrition and Rumen Microbiology positions. These are critical to fulfilling our Department’s mission and maintaining excellence of our nutrition program. To bridge the gap, we employed Dr. Hans Stein from South Dakota State University to teach a “Proteins and Amino Acids” two-week course this July. We used a similar approach during the last two years to accommodate rumen microbiology subject material being presented in our “Ruminant Nutrition” course. We average between 20 and 30 ruminant nutrition students and 5 to 10 nonruminant nutrition students “on board” at any point in time. These represent over one-third of our graduate student total number of
students. Hence, these open faculty positions create crucial voids in the Department.

I will conclude with mention of three additional items. Dr. Keith Gilster will retire effective August 31, 2003. Keith’s outstanding contributions in teaching and extension are very familiar to many of our alumni. I frequently hear praiseworthy remarks from alumni who experienced and benefited from the personal attention and mentoring Keith provided while they were students at UNL. We wish Keith an enjoyable active retirement and hope we can schedule a celebration this fall.

The second item of note is the positive impact our faculty are having in the classroom. Quality of effort continues to increase, as does the number of courses we offer. Students are our first priority and we will maintain that commitment despite budget reductions and the challenges created by increasing costs and demands on our faculty to excel in research and extension efforts as well. It is not a trivial matter that salary adjustments will most likely not be possible this year. This is why we strive to nominate faculty and staff for awards and other forms of recognition they deserve. Our primary source of gratification for what we do comes in the form of successful students, but peer recognition helps fuel the fire of dedication to excellence in all that we do. I would ask that you share words of appreciation and acknowledgment with our faculty and staff to assure them that their efforts and impact are recognized and valued. The cost is minimal, and they deserve it.

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation for the outstanding effort provided by our support staff in the Department’s main office. These individuals exert extra effort on a regular basis to assure that timeliness, best quality of effort, and accessibility or availability to provide assistance are maintained. Fulfillment of my responsibilities could not be achieved without their dedication and conscientious effort. Each day brings a new opportunity and we must seize the opportunity to be the best that we can be.

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**New Animal Science Website**

The Animal Science Department now has a new website. You may access the site by using our old address, [http://animalscience.unl.edu](http://animalscience.unl.edu), or by also adding the www, [http://www.animalscience.unl.edu](http://www.animalscience.unl.edu). There are four main sections to the website: Students, Youth and Adult Education, Area of Interest, and About Us. Information found in each section may be accessed through several different areas of the site.

The Student section provides general information and resources for both graduate and undergraduate students, as well as for prospective students. Here students may find information about our undergraduate options or graduate disciplinary areas, clubs and teams found within the department, links to helpful UNL sites, a listing of job opportunities, a listing of both undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as information for prospective students visiting our department.

Youth & Adult Education includes a link to Rosie Nold’s Animal Science 4-H news site, access to Kathy Anderson’s horse 4-H site, and a link to Dennis Burson’s information on the CDE contests. The Adult Education area lists any short courses and distance education courses offered through the department.

Area of Interest is divided into three main areas. You may find information by species, by discipline, or by other related topics. Links are provided to the NebGuides through each of the species, as well as any species reports. A list of faculty is also provided under each species and discipline to whom you may direct questions if you cannot find answers on our website. Other related topics include Animal Biotechnology, Grazing Livestock Systems, Interdepartmental Graduate Nutrition Program, and links for livestock and carcass markets.

About Us gives you a variety of information about the department. You will find a directory with all of the faculty in the department, as well as staff and graduate students. A What’s New section and an Events Calendar will be kept current to keep you informed about what is going on in the department. The job listings, campus visits, and club and team links found under the student section are also located here for anyone to access. You can check out what positions are open in the department and within the animal science industry, as well as keep up with the activities of any departmental clubs and judging teams.

We hope that you take a few minutes to look over our new website. We welcome any suggestions, comments, or concerns that you have about the site. Please feel free to contact Julie Reiling at [jreiling2@unl.edu](mailto:jreiling2@unl.edu) or (402) 476-5096 with your comments.

(Contributed by Julie A. Reiling, Departmental Website Coordinator)

[http://animalscience.unl.edu](http://animalscience.unl.edu)
Max Kimmerling, a dairyman from Beatrice, NE was the 2003 Block & Bridle honoree. Max was involved in the activation of the Nebraska Dairy Industry Development Board which was started in 1998 and Max served as Chairman from its inception until 2001. In 1998 Max, who was a Corporate Board Member of Mid America Dairymen, Inc., was involved in the decision to merge Mid America with three other cooperatives to form Dairy Farmers of America. He helped in the reorganization of DFA and served as a corporate board member from 1998 to 2001. Max is a strong promoter of agriculture and youth activities in the Beatrice Community, in Nebraska, and nationally. One of his fellow dairymen wrote, “Max has exemplified meeting the daily challenges of operating a successful dairy farm and of spending a large amount of time away from the farm fighting the battles for his fellow dairy farmers as they do the necessary things to have a profitable existence.”

Max attended school in Beatrice and after graduation from Beatrice High School came to the University of Nebraska where he received a B.S. degree in Agriculture with majors in Dairy and Animal Husbandry. He served as a member of the Block and Bridle Club, secretary/treasurer of the Varsity Dairy Club, and a member of Alpha Gamma Rho and Alpha Zeta when he was at the University of Nebraska. While at the University he married Viola and after graduation Max and Viola returned to the family farm in Gage County where they have their dairy farm which consists of 60 to 100 Holstein and Milking Shorthorn cows. Max and his wife, Viola, had six children, Phillip (deceased), Linda Kopp, Kent (deceased), Kathy Strout, Paul, and Kevin. Max and Viola place high value on involving the entire family in the farming activities. Their children and grandchildren have been very active in 4-H.
Judging Team Activities

2003 Livestock Judging Team

The 2003 UNL Livestock Judging Team is composed of Ben Andrews, North Bend; Kristina Holt, Thedford; Aaron Naber, Roca; Tyrell Rousey, North Platte; and Joe Wendell, Smithfield. The team competed in three contests this past spring which included the National Western in Denver, CO, Sioux Empire in Sioux Falls, SD and Iowa Beef Expo in Des Moines, IA.

The results at the National Western where there were 127 contestants which represented 24 different college teams were 13th in beef, 18th in swine, 19th in sheep, 17th in reasons and 17th overall. Ben Andrews placed 27th and Tyrell Rousey placed 34th in beef. Tyrell Rousey placed 18th in swine and Kristina Holt placed 29th in sheep judging.

The results of the Sioux Empire Judging Contest in Sioux Falls, SD were the team placed 7th overall, 7th in cattle, 7th in hogs, 3rd in sheep and 8th in reasons. Joe Wendell placed 10th in cattle and 17th overall, while Aaron Naber placed 11th in hogs, 12th in sheep and 15th in reasons. Tyrell Rousey placed 14th overall.

The team concluded their judging competition at the Iowa Beef Expo where the team placed 4th in placings and 6th overall. Aaron Naber, Tyrell Rousey, and Joe Wendell ranked 18th, 19th, and 20th, respectively.

During the 2003 fall semester this same team will be competing in four different contests, culminating with the National Collegiate Judging Contest in Louisville, KY in November. The team is coached by Jeremy Martin and advised by Bryan Reiling who greatly appreciate the generosity and hospitality of the Animal Science Alumni and other producers located throughout Nebraska.

Judging Team Awards

Mark Hassebrook, Bellwood — Derrick Family Livestock Judging Scholarship
Bryce Martin, Lexington — Derrick Family Livestock Judging Scholarship
Clay Mead, Kearney — G.H. Francke Livestock Judging Scholarship
Jason Meents, Blue Hill — Eric Peterson Memorial Meats Judging Award
Benny Mote, Tulia, TX — Derrick Family Livestock Judging Scholarship
Aaron Naber, Roca — Winkler Memorial Livestock Judging Scholarship
Cory Schlueter, Scribner — G.H. Francke Livestock Judging Scholarship
Tara Swanson, Lyons — Frank E. Card Award (Horse Judging)

2003 Junior Meats Team

The 2003 Junior Meats Judging Team faced an uphill battle this season, as there were only three students out for the team. The students showed a strong work ethic and devotion to the team as they practiced for the contests. At the contests the students competed well as individuals and the team competed in two spring intercollegiate meats judging contests this year. The placings at the National Western, held in Greeley, CO were Ashley Batie placed 15th in Beef Grading, Cathy Hervert placed 15th in Placings, and Vicki Wray placed 11th in Placings and 14th in Lamb Judging. Their second contest was the Southwestern, held in Dallas, TX, where Ashley Batie placed 10th in Pork Judging, 14th in Lamb Judging, and Cathy Hervert placed 14th in Lamb Judging, and Vicki Wray placed 8th in Lamb Judging. We hope to have a full team for the senior season in the fall so that we can compete as a team.

Academic Quadrathlon

There were 16 teams of four students per team, who competed in the Animal Science academic quadrathlon this past year. The team that won the academic quadrathlon was comprised of Craig Burda, Wilber; Lisa Kotas, Wilber; Rachel Spatz, Pierce; and Justin Wynegar, Ulysses. These students then had the opportunity to attend the Midwest Section of American Society of Animal Science academic quadrathlon which was held in Ames and Des Moines, IA. The team placed 2nd in the written exam. Jess Miner coordinated the Nebraska event and served as our team’s faculty sponsor for the Midwest Competition.
Animal Science Alumni Event

On Friday, April 25, 2003 approximately 45 alumni, faculty, staff, and students gathered in the Student Commons.

They were treated to historical photographs on display, sales of mugs and caps by the Animal Science Graduate Student Association, with refreshments served by Dr. Roger Mandigo. Dr. Bryan Reiling talked about the judging teams past, present, and those in the future, as well as shared memories and thoughts with the alums. Libby Lugar invited those in attendance to come to the arena where her equestrian students and horses put on an exhibit. Doug Brand, 1973 graduate, received a Nebraska book of photographs as the winner of the alumni story/photo contest. Dr. Beermann talked about faculty awards received and news about the College and the students. Alumni and faculty that attended this event were: Ralph and Maxine Hild, Plattsmouth (1952); Dale Van Vleck, Lincoln (1954); Dick Deets, Lincoln (1959); Kathy Hanford, Lincoln (2001); Lyle Robeson, Lincoln (1987); Doug Brand, Seward (1973); Nancy Bremer Klopfenstein, Lincoln (1969); Leo Lucas, Lincoln; Ted and Alice Doane, Waverly; Charles and Beryle Adams, Lincoln; Duane Reese, Lincoln (1983); Rick Rasby, Lincoln (1980); Merwyn French, Lincoln (1950); and Irv Omtvedt, Lincoln. Photographs from the day are on the Animal Science web page (http://animalscience.unl.edu).

We would like the input of all our alumni on how we can enhance participation in our alumni functions and dates. Send these to Jeff Keown at jkeown1@unl.edu or A224 Animal Sciences, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908.

Special Awards For Faculty

Two current faculty members and one emeritus were recognized with special awards from the University of Nebraska. They are: Terry Klopfenstein who was recipient of the Nebraska Alumni Association’s Excellence in Graduate Education Award; Roger Mandigo who received the UNL Louise Pound-George Howard Distinguished Career Award which is conferred upon an individual who, during his or her career at UNL, has made exceptional contributions to the University, and Ted Doane was the recipient of the Nebraska Alumni Association’s Doc Elliott Award which is presented to a retiree of at least five years who has exhibited exemplary and sustained service to students and alumni over a period of years.

National Faculty Awards

At the June 23, 2003 Awards Ceremony during the American Society of Animal Science-American Dairy Science Association Joint Meetings, Terry Mader was awarded the American Society of Animal Science Award in Animal Management. The award is given to an individual who stimulates research excellence in biological or production management and is to recognize those who have made significant contributions to production management. At the same meeting, Terry Klopfenstein was named a Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science - Teaching Category. The award is to recognize distinguished service to animal science and the livestock industry over a long period of time.
Recent Department Awards and Recognitions

Faculty

Don Beermann — Vice President of Phi Beta Delta-Alpha Phi Chapter
Dennis Brink — UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association recognition, and L. K. Crowe Outstanding Undergraduate Student Advisor Award
Chris Calkins — Nebraska Cattlemen Industry Service Award
Tim Carr — College Distinguished Teaching Award
Ted Doane — Nebraska Alumni Association’s Doc Elliott Award
Galen Erickson — Blue Ribbon Award from the American Society of Ag Engineers, and elected to the Ag Research Division Advisory Council
Bob Fritschen — Selected by South Dakota State Historical Society for his leadership of the South Dakota Farmer, Grotto Restoration Group
Rick Funston — Graduate Faculty Member
Jim Gosey — UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association recognition, and Outstanding Service Award from the Nebraska Simmental Association
Rick Grant — Blue Ribbon Award from the American Society of Ag Engineers
Rodger Johnson — Gamma Sigma Delta Award of Merit, Membership in Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, and named the Omtvedt Professor of Animal Science
Steve Jones — Senior Faculty Holling Family Teaching Award
Terry Klopfenstein — Honored with establishment of a UN Foundation endowment entitled “The Terry Klopfenstein Student Excellence Fund”, Nebraska Alumni Association’s Excellence in Graduate Education Award, American Society of Animal Science Teaching Award, and reappointed the Kermit Wagner Professor of Animal Science
Terry Mader — Gamma Sigma Delta Research Award, Wendell Burgher Beef Industry Award, and American Society of Animal Science Management Award
Roger Mandigo — Gamma Sigma Delta Award of Merit, and UNL Louise Pound-George Howard Distinguished Career Award
Phil Miller — Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award, and Promoted to Professor
Jess Miner — Junior Faculty Holling Family Teaching Award
Merlyn Nielsen — Secretary-Treasurer of the Midwest Section of the American Society of Animal Science
Rosie Nold — Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association Outstanding New Specialist Award, and National Association of County Agricultural Agents Achievement Award
Irvin Omtvedt — Friend of the College Award presented by the College of Human Resources and Family Science

Rick Rasby — Elected to Academic Senate
Ivan Rush — National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Integrated Resource Management Achievement Award
Tom Sullivan — Received a recognition plaque at an Informal Nutrition Symposium held during the Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting for his efforts in teaching, advising and serving as a life mentor.

Graduate Students

Hushton Block — Ned and Esther Raun International Scholarship
Rebecca Bott — SGRA Assistantship
Kelly Creighton — Frank and Marie Wheeler Fellowship, Milton E. Mohr Fellowship, and Shear-Miles Fellowship
Bruce DeGroot — William G. Whitmore Research Travel Award
Oscar Esquivel — John and Louise Skala Fellowship
Travis Farran — William G. Whitmore Research Travel Award, and received 4th place award out of 30 graduate students and eight universities for presentation at Plains Nutrition Council Spring Conference
Anita Ferrell — SGRA Assistantship
Danilo Franco — Ruth Keller Graduate Scholarship, and John McDonald Fellowship
Kim Hargrave — William G. Whitmore Research Travel Award, Maude Hammond Fling Fellowship, Associate Member of Sigma Xi Nebraska Chapter, and V. H. Arthaud Travel Award
Justin Holl — Hazel V. Emley Fellowship
Mohammad Jalal — Mussehl Graduate Fellowship, John Hallman Memorial Award, and Maurice Stein Fellowship Award
Jennie James — Chancellor’s Fellowship
Leanne LaBrash — Mussehl Graduate Fellowship, V. H. Arthaud Travel Award, and William G. Whitmore Memorial Travel Award
Jim MacDonald — 3rd place award at Midwest American Society of Animal Science MS Graduate Student Paper Competition
Rami Sawalha — John McDonald Fellowship
Jason Scheffler — Milton E. Mohr Sandra Senneke — Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award
Aaron Stalker — Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award
Kim Whittet — V. H. Arthaud Travel Award

Undergraduate Students

Recognition

Emily Buescher, Deweese — Graduate Women in Science
Genna Frenzen, Fullerton — Graduate Women in Science
Libby Johnson, Minden — Graduate Women in Science  
Sabrina Jansma, Norfolk — Graduate Women in Science  
Darci McGee, Fairbury — Graduate Women in Science  
Ashley Robison, Lincoln — Graduate Women in Science, and Inducted into the National Honor Society of Tau Sigma  
Gretja Schnell, Lincoln — Graduate Women in Science of Animal Science Top Junior Award  
Caleb Harms, Madrid — Chancellor’s Scholar  
Mark Hassebrook, Bellwood — Chancellor’s Scholar  
Brooke A. Korell, Hayes Center — Inducted into the National Honor Society of Tau Sigma  
Jessika Uden, Juniata — American Junior Simmental Association Bronze Merit Award Scholarship  
Daniel Longfellow, Broken Bow — I.L. Hathaway Top Senior Award, and American Society of Animal Science Top Senior Award  
Rachel Spatz, Pierce — American Society of Animal Science Top Sophomore Award

Scholarships

Megan Voss, Waverly — Second Place for the National Block & Bridle Junior Scholarship  
Ashley Batie, Kearney — ABS Global Scholarship  
Genna Frenzen, Fullerton — Baltzell-Agri-Products, Inc. Scholarship  
Melissa Sent, Palatine, IL — Burnell Scholarship  
William Pohlmeier, Lawrence — Maurice E. Boeckenhauser Memorial Scholarship  
Lisa Kotas, Wilber — Robert Boeckenhauser Memorial Scholarship  
Sabrina Jansma, Norfolk — Coca Cola Scholarship  
Elizabeth Maricle, Albion — Doane Scholarship  
Rachel Spatz, Pierce — William and Hazel Loeffel Scholarship  
Sarah Heidzig, Auburn — William and Hazel Loeffel Scholarship  
Libby Johnson, Minden — Nutrition Service Associates Scholarship  
Jill Wardell, Kirkland, WA — Parr Family Scholarship  
Jordan Spatz, Brainard — Chris and Sarah Raun Memorial Scholarship  
Robert Smith, Spalding — Walter A. and Alice V. Rockwell Memorial Scholarship  
Adam Hamling, Creston — Walter A. and Alice V. Rockwell Memorial Scholarship  
Megan Peterson, Gothenburg — Walter A. and Alice V. Rockwell Memorial Scholarship  
Renee Minary, McCook — Max and Ora Mae Stark Scholarship  
Jodi Corbin, Burwell — Dwight F. Stephens Student Support Fund  
Nathan Glaesemann, Fairbury — Arthur and Viola Thompson Scholarship  
Lisa Kot, Orland Park, IL — Arthur and Viola Thompson Scholarship

Ashley Lewis, Kearney — Thomas H. Wake III Scholarship  
Rachel Spatz, Pierce; and Lisa Kot, Orland Park, IL — American Society of Animal Science Scholastic Award (Sophomores)  
Gretja Schnell, Lincoln; Darci McGee, Fairbury; Libby Johnson, Minden; Renee Minary, McCook; Jordan Spatz, Brainard; Ashley Robison, Lincoln; and Sabrina Jansma, Norfolk — American Society of Animal Science Scholastic Award (Juniors)  
Daniel Longfellow, Broken Bow; Emily Buescher, Deweese; Genna Frenzen, Fullerton; Caleb Harms, Madrid; and Lynn Jirovsky, Seward — American Society of Animal Science Scholastic Award (Seniors)  
Ashley Benes, Valparaiso — Waldo Family Farms Freshman Scholarship  
Justin Bolte, McCool Junction — Waldo Family Farms Freshman Scholarship  
Adina Choat, St. Edward — 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Freshman Scholarship  
Michael Gordon, Scribner — Freshman Scholarship  
Jared Hartman, Laurel — Freshman Scholarship  
Jessica Koelsch, Lincoln — Freshman Scholarship  
Jessica Warner, Allen — Freshman Scholarship

Ambassadors

Ryan Brewster, Butte; Sarah Heidzig, Auburn; Lindsay Kappell, Scottsbluff; Renee Minary, McCook; Aaron Naber, Roca; Jordan Spatz, Brainard; Rachel Spatz, Pierce; Jessika Uden, Juniata.

Staff

Jeff Bergman — IANR Outstanding Office/Service Employee Award for December  
Dan Cheleen — IANR Outstanding Office/Service Employee Award for April  
Tommi Jones — IANR Outstanding Managerial/Professional Employee Award for May/June  
Clyde Naber — UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association recognition, and Board of Regents Kudos Award  
Erin Marotz — IANR Outstanding Managerial/Professional Employee Award for March/April

Alumni Awards

(Remaining location in parentheses)

Ron Christenson — B.S. 62, M.S. 65 (USMARC, Clay Center, NE) — Animal Physiology and Endocrinology Award  
Salvador-Fernandez-Rivera — Ph.D. 87 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) — Bouffault International Animal Agriculture Award
Karol Fike — M.S. 95, Ph.D. 97 (The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH) — 2002-03 Ohio State Career Services Award

Kimberly Hansen — B.S. 89, M.S. 98, Ph.D. 02 (University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE) — Alltech Student Research Manuscript Award

Neal Merchen — M.S. 78 (University of Illinois, Urbana, IL) — Corbin Award in Companion Animal Biology

Animal Science Graduate Student Association (ASGSA)

Kim Hargrave, New York — President
Jamee Amundson, Wisconsin — Vice President
Justin Holl, Nebraska — Treasurer
Heidi Harris, Montana — Secretary
Erin Fenderick, Nebraska — Sergeant at Arms
Brett White — Senior Advisor
Galen Erickson — Junior Advisor

ASGSA to Establish Endowment Fund

The Animal Science Graduate Student Association (ASGSA) has set a goal of establishing an endowment fund that will be used to support a scholarship for an outstanding graduate student. Established through the University of Nebraska Foundation, this fund will be supported by ongoing fundraising efforts in addition to donations.

Activities planned to help raise the necessary funds include department luncheons and a golf tournament. The luncheon held this spring was a large success as we served over 90 people and raised $375. More events similar to this are planned for the upcoming school year. The golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 20. It will be an 18-hole scramble with 4-person teams. Pin prizes will be awarded and a meal will be served. Please see the entry form in this newsletter for more details.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to ASGSA. Any questions can be directed to Kim Hargrave, ASGSA President, C206d Animal Science, 472-6429, khargrav@unlserve.unl.edu. Donations can be sent to our treasurer, Justin Holl, A218C Animal Science, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908, or directly to the University of Nebraska Foundation, 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68508, Attn: Animal Science Graduate Student Association Fund.

Deaths

Raymond Bohy, a former employee of the Animal Science Department, passed away on January 18, 2003. Ray began employment with the University in 1947 and worked for Animal Science as Herdsman and then Manager of the ARDC Cow-Calf Herd until 1979 when he transferred to the Grounds Department. He retired in 1983 after working at the University for 36 years.

Wesley F. Hansen passed away on December 6, 2002 in North Platte. He was the 1979 Block and Bridle Honorary. He was president of Hansen 77 Ranch near North Platte and the father of Tom Hansen (B.S. 70). His service to the cattle industry resulted in numerous awards including: Nebraska Hall of Ag Achievement, AK-SAR-BEN Ag Achievement, Nebraska Agri-Business Club. He served as past president of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association, Nebraska Breeders and Feeders Association, Nebraska Sandhills Cattlemen Association, and on the advisory boards of National Live Stock and Meat Board, National Cattlemen’s Association, UNL North Platte Research Station, US Meat Animal Research Center, First National Bank and National Bank of Omaha.

Russ Sandberg (M.S., 98) passed away on May 27, 2003. He had been employed at the West Central Research & Extension Center until ill health required him to leave his position.

E. N. “Jack” Thompson, whose parents established the Arthur and Viola Thompson undergraduate scholarship in 1947, passed away on December 7, 2002. His father was a beef cattle industry leader and livestock auctioneer who was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame. E. N. Thompson took a special interest in learning about the students who were selected to receive the Thompson Scholarships. One of our faculty members, Dr. Dale Van Vleck, received this scholarship in 1952 when it was first awarded. Mr. Thompson was also involved in many other philanthropic activities which included the formation of the E. N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, a lecture series that was established at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1988.

Bud Britton Animal Science Golf Classic

The Bud Britton Memorial Golf Classic was held on May 30, 2003 with 32 participants. The results from the golf tournament are as follows: Winning Team — Matt Anderson, Mark Allan, Dave Ellis and Jason Schefller; Longest Drive — Matt Anderson; Longest Putt — Phil Miller; and Closest to the Pin (#9) — Matt Anderson. This year’s event was coordinated by Phil Miller and Ben Bass; with a social following the tournament hosted by a former graduate student, Ki Fanning, and his wife, Darcy.
UNL Equestrian Team

The UNL Equestrian Team (UNET) became a student organization under the direction of the Animal Science Department. The Equestrian Team is a group of horse enthusiasts interested in competing within the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. IHSA, Inc. was established with the purpose of promoting competition for riders of any skill level regardless of financial status. Students compete individually and as team members at both regional and national levels. The principal objective is to promote participation and sportsmanship in equine competition among all students.

Horse ownership is not a requirement. Members practice in the Animal Science arena, utilizing the UNL horses and tack. When traveling to competition, it is the responsibility of the host college to provide the horses and tack. Riders are placed in a division based on their experience. Each team rider accumulates points on individual placings at IHSA shows. When a certain amount of points are acquired, they move up a level and qualify for regional competition. The top three riders of each class at regionals qualify to go to the zone competition and the top two riders from the zone compete at Nationals.

Currently, the UNET competes in the Zone 9, Region 3 Western Division of IHSA. Other schools in the region include, University of Minnesota-Crookston, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Southeast Community College, Ellsworth Community College, Gustavus Adolphus College, South Dakota State University, North Dakota State University, Saint Cloud State University, and Carlton College.

This past year, UNL was fortunate to have five riders qualify and compete at the Regional show. Three riders advanced to compete at Zone competition and UNL qualified one rider for the National show. In May, IHSA Nationals were held in Murfreesboro, TN. Tara VanDeWalle represented UNL very well by placing 6th in the beginner class.

For more information contact the Advisor for the Equestrian Team, Libby Lugar (402) 472-9098.

(Contributed by Libby Lugar)

Northeast Community College Dairy Course for Nebraska and South Dakota

For the first time, we are teaching a course at Northeast Community College (NECC), Norfolk, Nebraska. This course is being taught as an overall Dairy Management Course. The actual teaching has been conducted by graduate students enrolled in the Dairy Nutrition area. The course is offered one afternoon per week in order to reduce travel time and not interfere with the graduate student’s class and research schedule.

The course is a hands-on program with the class being taught at a local dairy near Norfolk. Mike Henn who owns Henn House Dairy has agreed to let us use his facilities for the class. Last year, we capped the class at 20 students. There is currently a waiting list to enroll in the class.

This class is taught in conjunction with a joint Dairy Certification Program offered by the Extension Service at UNL and NECC. After completing this class, as well as other course work at NECC, the students spend three months on a dairy farm before getting the certificate. UNL has signed an agreement with the Milbank Dairy Institute in Milbank, South Dakota, to offer the three months paid internship. We feel that this is an excellent example of UNL working with NECC to offer a class that prepares students to be employed in the Nebraska Dairy Industry.

(Contributed by Jeff Keown)

FIPSE

The first question people usually ask is what does FIPSE mean? FIPSE is the “Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education” funded by the Department of Education. In order to obtain our FIPSE grant, we needed to network with one other U.S. University, in our case Oklahoma State University, and two universities from Canada: Laval University in Quebec City, Canada and the University of Manitoba; as well as two universities in Mexico, the Autonomous University of Chapingo and the Autonomous University of Chihuahua.

This program enables our agricultural students to spend a semester studying at one of the Canadian or Mexican universities. The program is an exchange program that allows our students to pay their normal tuition and room and board fees to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and study abroad at no additional costs. The grant even has money available to pay for the students’ air travel to and from the International University. Since the language of instruction at Laval is French and the language of instruction in Mexico is Spanish, the grant gives us the opportunity to pay for intensive French and Spanish classes here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or at an International Language Center.

The class work taken will automatically be credited to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Therefore, it is essential that a prospective student work closely with his/her advisor to be certain that the courses taken are transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for full credit. Participation in this program will in no way delay an expected graduation schedule.

Another point in this agreement is that the student will be able to do a 2-3 month intern program at a farm, ranch or agricultural industry in Canada or Mexico. This part of the program is not mandatory but the internship is unique to this FIPSE Grant.

This program offers our IANR-CASNR students a unique opportunity to: 1) learn a foreign language; 2) study abroad at no additional cost; 3) experience a different culture; 4) explore the wonderful environment of Mexico or Canada; 5) participate in an international internship; and 6) meet new and exciting friends.

What a unique opportunity for our students!!!

(Contributed by Jeff Keown)
ARDC Dairy Research

The Dairy Research Unit is currently milking about 120 cows. Our average production is 24,700 pounds of milk per cow annually. All of the replacement heifers are raised on the facility with no outside purchases of cattle made. Our focus has been primarily nutrition research and especially the incorporation of grain by-products into the ration. In recent years the Dairy has tried to keep pace with technology, adding the latest in computer technology to aid in cow identification, animal health monitoring and data collection. We have also made great strides in updating animal housing to give our cows the most comfortable environment in which to live and perform. Included in these improvements are a new free stall barn for the lactating cows, a new maternity barn and a new post-weaned calf barn. We have also added a new commodity and hay storage shed to store feeds at the highest possible quality.

(Contributed by Erin Marotz, B.S. 1990, and Dairy Unit Manager)

Call for Information for the 2003 Winter Issue of the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter

All of us enjoy learning about classmates and other alumni from the Animal Science Department so we ask that you send information about yourself for the next issue of our alumni newsletter. You might include memorable events from your college days, such as classes, club activities, employment, teachers, friends and other items of interest. You might also include what you have been doing since leaving campus, such as employment (when and where), participation in community activities, hobbies and other personal details that may be of interest. Please see back page for more information and how you may obtain additional departmental information and activity notices via e-mail.

Your Newsletter Committee

Earl Ellington (Chair), Dennis Brink, Ted Doane, Jeff Keown, Duane Reese, Nancy Savery, and Minnie Stephens serve as the current departmental newsletter committee. The Animal Science Department has a long history of providing newsletters to its alumni and friends. Each year we hear words of satisfaction from several of you. We certainly want not only news items and articles from you but also any comments on how we might improve the newsletter. We sincerely hope that you find this one which is our first “Summer Issue” (see Department Head’s comments) to be interesting and informative.
1940’s

**Harold Stevens**, B.S. 1943. Harold recently received the Nebraskaland Foundation’s 2003 Pioneer Award on March 1 celebrating the 136th anniversary of Nebraska into statehood. In 2002 Harold was the only person from Nebraska selected into the first National 4-H Hall of Fame. He continues to conduct over 105 all day tours of the Western Nebraska Water system for Irrigation, Hydra-power and Recreation. He has conducted seven educational tours to China. Harold lives in Lexington, NE where he was the Dawson County Agent for many years.

**Marilyn C. Low**, B.S. 1949. Mr. Low has been retired since 1985 and lives in Battle Creek, Nebraska. If you wish to contact him by e-mail you may at mlow@ncfcomm.com.

1950’s

**Cal Kuska**, B.S. 1954, served in the Biological Warfare Branch during the Korean War at Ft. Detrick, MD which stimulated his interest in mechanizing composition, conducting research and providing education and training to all markets generating waste organics and remediating hazardous materials. He currently works for Composting Consultants across the U.S., China, Taiwan, Costa Rica, Argentina, Ecuador, Kuwait, Thailand, Borneo and Malaysia plus others via e-mail. If anyone would like to contact him by e-mail it is kuskaconsult@msn.com.

**Ivan G. Althouse, Jr. M.D.** B.S. 1956, graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical College in 1964. He is retired from the Family Practice of Medicine and resides near Napa, CA. He spends time caring for vineyards of merlot grapevines and sampling the product and he does travel a little. He and his wife spend time at a resort in Kona when time allows. They also check out the family farm near Waverly, NE at least twice a year.

**Philip T. Starck**, B.S. 1958, retired in 1997 from the Tennessee Valley Authority. After retirement he had several “work experiences” and the longest was working with H&R Block as a tax preparer and office manager. After getting his degree in Animal Science, he never really worked in the livestock business (but kept a small herd of registered Angus) because of his military service with the Marine Corps overseas and his father wanted to use the same pasture. He served the Marine Corps for nine years and the Tennessee Authority for 25 years. He may never have used all the animal husbandry skills he learned, but still had a wonderful education and experience and got good advice from Charlie Adams during his college career.

1960’s

**Richard R. Frahm**, B.S. 1961, retired from the USDA, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service on December 31, 2002. He was a national program leader for Animal Genetics at the USDA. On January 1, 2003 he began employment as the Executive Vice President of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARFAS). If you wish to e-mail him you can do so at rrfrahm@adelphia.net

**James (Jim) W. Kuhlman**, M.S. 1961, is a retired County Extension Education Director from CeosoGordo County in Iowa. He mentioned that he had many of the faculty in the trivia picture and that they were most helpful.

**Dale Travnicek**, B.S. 1965, is a self-employed rancher and horseshoer. He also raises cattle and colts for his grandchildren. He has been past Director for the Nebraska State High School Rodeo Association. He is currently a member of the Northwest Ranch Cowboys Association and competes in the Old Men’s Breakway event.

**Mike Neruda**, B.S. 1968, who is senior advisor to Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, represented President George Bush and Ann Veneman at the January swearing in ceremonies and special inaugural events for Governor Mike Johanns. Mike is Senior Advisor for Homeland Security and Strategic Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He has served in a number of appointments in both Bush Administrations, including most recently as Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development.

**Robert Meduna**, B.S. 1968, M.S. 1970, who is one of the Animal Science Extension Educator Affiliates, has accepted a special two-year appointment with the Southeast Research and Extension Center to serve as the District 4-H Youth Program Coordinator.

1970’s

**Larry W. Varner**, Ph.D. 1970, is the Technical Director, Outdoor Animal Business Group of Purina Mills, LLC. Larry is located in New Braunfels, TX and you can contact him at LVarner@totalmail.com.

**Dennis Gengenbach**, B.S. 1971, was elected President of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association. He has served on the NECGA Board of Directors since 1998 representing the South Central Corn Growers and he represents Nebraska as a delegate to the NCGA Corn Congress.
Lyle A. Roe, B.S. 1971, is a field representative working for Dorchester Hog Market/Seubert, Inc. which is located in Dorchester, WI. Lyle’s e-mail address is: landkroe@charter.net.

William (Bill) Fulton, M.S. 1972, Ph.D. 1976, worked for the Wilber bank for several years until it sold. For one year he worked at Cargill and then went to Doane College as a fund raiser. During his tenure at Wilber he served as President of the bank. Bill is back in the banking business working for Union Bank in Lincoln, NE. He said he enjoyed the break from banking and works with the agricultural loans department. Bill and Jana live in Crete, NE.

Eldon Lux, B.S. 1972, who is an artist. The article was featured in the Winter 2002 “Nebraska” alumni magazine. Told about his first love, ranching. He earned a degree in Animal Science with the hope of owning and operating his own ranch some day. His first taste of fine art coincided with a college field trip to a stock show in Fort Worth, when the NU Livestock judging team coach, R. B. Warren, took the students on a side trip to a nearby museum of western art. The experience left a lasting impression on the young Lux. Lux recalls, “R.B. had a subtle way of exposing dumb country kids like me to life.”

James E. Sears, B.S. 1972, is a veterinarian and the senior technical service veterinarian for the Animal Health Division of Bayer Health Care and is located in McLouth, KS. You can e-mail Dr. Sears at JESears@aol.com.

Bill Schwartz, Ph.D. 1975, Vice President of NSF-Cook & Thurber, Ann Arbor, MI, an industry consulting firm that specializes in areas such as food safety and technology transfer, represented Chancellor Harvey Perlman at the inauguration of Dr. Coleman as the new President of the University of Michigan.

James M. Burford, B.S. 1978, works for the USDA as a meat grader at Excel located in Schuyler, NE. Mr. Burford makes his home in Fremont, NE.

Juan Carulla, B.S. 1986, M.S. 1990, is located in Bogota, Colombia, SA and has been on a sabbatical in Switzerland working at the ETH-Zurich doing research with tannins and its effects on rumen fermentation and methane production. He has been in contact with two other alumni — German Mendoza and Erasmo Gutierrez. Erasmo has been evaluating one of Juan’s M.S. students and German is going to Colombia to evaluate the Animal Science program which is where Juan is on the faculty. Juan remembers his times at Nebraska with much happiness and is grateful to the faculty for the opportunity given to him to undertake his graduate studies. Juan and his wife have two children, Antonio (6) and Helena (4).

1990’s

Neal A. Kanel, B.S. 1992, is the managing partner of Stateline Ag Service, Inc. It’s a full service ag retailer located south of Dawson. Both the Stateline Propane and Stateline Ag Enterprises are operated from this same facility. Neal and his wife have a four year old son, John, and a two year old daughter, Grace. You can reach Neal at nakanelstateline@alltel.net.

Shyla Jagannatha, M.S. 1993, Ph.D. 1996, has been working for the NIAID and is now located in Athens, GA. Shyla is a Biostatistician for the National Institutes of Health. She and her husband are parents of a set of twins, Krishna and Krupa, born in December 2001. Shyla jokes that they are Indian-looking kids with southern accents! You can contact Shyla by e-mail at sjagannatha@niaid.nih.gov.

Darcy Schlothauer (Gengenbach), B.S. 1998, is an Associate Veterinarian with the Pioneer Animal Clinic located in Scottsbluff, NE. She married George, a teacher, (UNL 1995) and they have a daughter born in October 2002.

2000’s

Rosemary Vinton Anderson, M.S, 2002. Rosemary is employed by her father, Bill Vinton. Her husband, Kevin, and she are on the ranch full time. They own 80 cows and two horses and one dog named Hannah. She has taken a job as a semen sales representative for Accelerated Genetics. You can contact Rosemary at rvinton_9@yahoo.com.

Shanna Waterman, B.S. 2002, is working for the USDA Farm Service Agency in Lincoln, NE. If you wish to contact Shanna by e-mail you can at threebarrels_2000@yahoo.com.
Animal Science Trivia

Do you recall any of these former Animal Science students? (Answers are hidden somewhere in this issue.)

Picture 1 — 1983

Picture 2 — 1963

Picture 3 — 1963
1st Annual ASGSA Golf Classic

HiMark Golf Course
8901 Augusta Drive, Lincoln
(1/2 mile south of 84th and Pioneer)
Saturday, Sept. 20th, 2003
1:00 pm Tee Time
18 Holes w/cart

$65 per person, 4-person teams, Scramble Format
Partial Team and Single Entries Welcome
Buffet Dinner for all players afterwards
$15 for Dinner for Non-Golfers

Entries must be received by Sept. 5

Send to:
Jason Scheffler
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
A213 Animal Science
P.O. Box 830908
Lincoln, NE 68583-0908
402-472-8338

Golfer(s): ____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Non-Golfer(s): _______________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Amount Enclosed: $ __________________________
Alumni Information

PLEASE NOTE: In an attempt to improve our contact with alumni, the Department of Animal Science is in the process of developing an alumni e-mail listserv. If you would like to receive more frequent updates and news about the Department including upcoming events, please send us your e-mail address.

To keep us informed of your location, professional involvement and items of interest, please complete the following information sheet and return it to Vicky Kobes, University of Nebraska, C203 Animal Sciences, P.O. Box 830908, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908; e-mail: vkobes1@unl.edu. Should you know of Animal Science Alumni who are not receiving this newsletter, please let us know how we may contact them.

Name ______________________________________________________________ Date of Graduation__________________
Address__________________________________________________________ City____________________________________
State ___________________________________________________________ Zip Code________________________________

E-mail___________________________________________________

Position, Company, Address:
________________________________________________________________________________________
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News Items, Comments, etc.
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