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Animal Science Newsletter, Winter 2007

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I felt very honored to be asked to be Interim Department Head for Animal Science at UNL starting August 1, 2007 and would like to assure all of our students, alumni and supporters that I am completely committed to Animal Agriculture in the State of Nebraska and our mission to serve the education, extension and research needs of our important livestock and poultry economies in this great state. I, too, am an alumnus of this Department and take seriously our future well-being and success. The past few months have been a flurry of activity and accomplishments for the Animal Science Department at UNL. The most important accomplishment being a significant 17% increase in student enrollment in our Department bringing our total student numbers to 241 undergraduates majoring in Animal Science. This was the largest increase of enrollment in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources which also experienced a significant 11% increase in enrollment, leading the UNL campus for college enrollment increases. It’s very satisfying to hear President Milliken publicly acknowledge the Department’s and CASNR’s accomplishments for recruitment and enrollment increases. We must thank our alumni groups and Nebraskans for Nebraska for all their grass-roots efforts to recruit students to our programs. These efforts have been appreciated and hopefully can continue to be successful. The new 2+2 Veterinary Science program students are being instructed primarily in our Animal Science facility by both Animal Science and Veterinary Science faculty beginning this fall. Significant improvements were made to four teaching and laboratory classrooms for this program in our building. It is wonderful to see the Animal Science students conversing and mingling with the Veterinary students here in our commons and classroom areas. It brings a synergy that benefits both groups of students and faculty as well.

Fall brings important activities such as the Nebraska State Fair, Ak-Sar-Ben and Husker Harvest Days. Animal Science faculty share important leadership roles of organizing and assisting with 4-H livestock and horse shows at these events. It is heart-warming to watch youth exhibit their animal projects with such pride and to know that traditions such as 4-H are passed on generation to generation. Our program commitment to youth education and activities is extremely important to our faculty and IANR administration.

Dr. Dale Van Vleck and Ms. Donna White retired this fall after many years of service to the Department. Dr. Van Vleck held a joint appointment as a geneticist with the USDA and Department of Animal Science (UNL) for over 19 years. He leaves a legacy of outstanding advising and research. Ms. Donna White served as secretary to Dr. Van Vleck and other animal geneticists for 24 years contributing so much to their success in our Department. We thank both of them for their many years of service and contributions.

The Livestock and Horse Judging Teams as well as the UNL Equestrian Team have been busy competing and representing the Department this fall both regionally and nationally. Their successes are shared by all in the Department and we are very proud of their accomplishments and how they represent our school. (Further information about these teams is included in this newsletter.) One of the most important skills employers seek from our students is the ability to communicate and work on a team. Judging team activities build these essential skills for our students. It is important to continue support for our teams into the future as time and resources become more and more scarce.

November brought several important activities to our facilities including the Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium bringing over 30 high school aged youth to our Department for a very educational, activity-packed weekend. The Nebraska Cattlemen’s Beef Summit was also held in our Department focusing on the top four environmental issues facing the beef industry. Our UNL Equestrian Team hosted 2 IHSA regional shows in the R.B. Warren Arena on November 3. These shows brought in competitors from 11 school teams from six states. United States and state of Nebraska flags were added to the arena prior to the shows as well as our new CASNR theme, “Experience the Power of Red” to the east wall. The R.B. Warren Arena continues to showcase all we have to offer during numerous activities through the year. The Block & Bridle Club hosted two of their annual events in November: Kids’ Day and Little Ak-Sar-Ben. In addition, the Annual Husker Nutrition Conference was held November 9 at the Agricultural Research and Development Center. The Department is also working on a new history center to exhibit past and present awards, Block and Bridle annuals, etc., in the reading room located near the south entrance hall.

We are also in the process of making some changes in our Alumni Newsletter. We would like your input about this format of providing news to you. We ask that you complete and return the survey that appears near the end of this newsletter. Thanks!

It is a pleasure to serve in this position for Animal Science at UNL. We continue our tradition of excellence in teaching, extension and research as we strive to take on new challenges facing animal agriculture. Alumni support is important to our success and we appreciate very much all you do for the Department and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.
Bovine 3D Project Readies High-Tech Carcass for Classroom, Industry

Steve Jones yearns to stand at the head of a classroom filled with row upon row of students decked out in 10-cent eyewear. The University of Nebraska–Lincoln animal science professor is working with others to develop a three-dimensional video that showcases bovine anatomy — specifically bone and muscle structure. “This isn’t that 1950s technology that comes to mind when you mention 3D,” Dr. Jones said. “We’re talking about a new wow factor that has the potential to be an extremely powerful teaching tool.”

The video, created by Vishal Singh, a specialist in UNL’s Communications and Information Technology, shows the location of muscles in bovine anatomy. The initial production shows muscles slowly building up on a rotating skeleton, with Jones providing a voice-over with information on bovine anatomy and beef industry trends. The video is available online at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjQBAJ87Ew. The video is an offshoot of the Bovine Myology and Muscle Profiling Web site (http://bovine.unl.edu). Developed by Jones and Singh through funding by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, the Bovine Myology site allows users to scroll through cross sections of a beef carcass, while accessing photos of specific muscles. The site also includes a basic 3-dimensional carcass that can be rotated by the user. Jones said the Web site — which is accessible in six different languages — has become an industry staple.

“The database is used in our classrooms and we have a number of people around the world using it for research,” Jones said. “But 35 percent of our hits are from the industry. It has become the industry’s new reference tool — before this they would reference manuals and textbooks printed in the early 1960s.”

Looking to push the technology further, Jones, Singh and a former UNL colleague started tossing around ideas. Singh, who previously worked in the computer gaming industry, suggested venturing into the third dimension. “Students are already experienced with what 3D technology is like,” Singh said. “They have experienced it growing up with 3D movies and video games. It seemed like a logical choice to meet them halfway and bring technology they are familiar with into the classroom.” Jones was a bit skeptical. “I figured my colleagues would think I was out to make a new bovine myology video game,” Jones said. “But, we agreed it had potential and we went forward with it.” Information from the Web site was used to create the 3D video. Singh mapped out the skeletal system, layering in the muscles. He then took actual photos of the muscle cuts and wrapped them around the computer models.

“We’ve tried to make it as realistic as technology allows,” Singh said.

The video has been showcased to a number of groups — from students and industry leaders to conference goers and state fair visitors. At each presentation, the primary response is, “wow.” “It never fails. Whatever the age group, the first word out of their mouths is, ‘wow,’” Jones said. “We took it to the national meetings of the American Meat Science Association and it kind of sold itself. We started with 12 to 15 people in the first session and the next session we had 50 people. “We heard people talking about it, telling others that they had to go see it.”

Jones is currently seeking funding to incorporate 3D-projection technology into an East Campus classroom. Aaron Hosier, an information technology analyst with UNL’s Information Services, has joined Jones and Singh to help usher the product into the classroom. “I have worked with virtual reality programs for more years than I care to say,” Hosier said. “But, with the bits and pieces I’ve purchased through the years, we’re able to put this video into a 3D stereoscopic version and show people just what it can do.”

Jones is using a non-classroom area to showcase the technology. He said it would take about $20,000 to outfit a classroom with the projection technology needed. Specialized projectors make up the bulk of the expense. However, inexpensive glasses (which are very plain compared to the classic red and blue models) are needed as well. The glasses can be bought in bulk for about 10 cents each. Once in the classroom, Jones said he plans to use the video to reinforce lessons on bovine muscle and bone structure. He believes the video will help students better identify where cuts of meat are located, making it easier for them to transition into a lab setting where they are responsible for cutting particular muscles from a carcass. “Often, when we are in the lab, I end up helping each student with the cuts,” Jones said. “This video will help show them exactly where those cuts need to be made. I don’t see the video ever replacing the hands-on lessons in the lab, but it will be a powerful study aid. If a student misses a lab or needs to review the information, all they have to do is access this video.”

Jones also hopes to market the video as an educational tool to the beef industry. He also hopes to expand the animal science offering with videos on other meat-producing creatures — specifically pork (a porcine myology Web site preceded the bovine site).

The technology also has started to spread to other campus units. CIT has developed 3D videos for a handful of other classrooms and a promotional piece showcasing major study areas in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “When I began teaching here, I used a pen on an acetate roll, writing and erasing over and over,” Jones said. “I never imagined we would bring classroom instruction to this point. The tools we have at hand to improve our teaching are always changing. And it’s fun to be able to offer something like this.”

(An article in the September 27, 2007, issue of the UNL Scarlet, and an IANR News Release written by Troy Feddersen)
**Spangler is New Faculty Member**

Matt Spangler grew up on a diversified crop and livestock farm in south central Kansas where his family still farms and has a cow/calf operation. He graduated from Butler County Community College where he was a member of the livestock judging team. From there he attended Kansas State University where he was a member of the 2000 livestock judging team. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in Animal Science from Kansas State University (2001), he went to Iowa State University and received his master’s degree (2002) in Animal Breeding and Genetics. There he was assistant coach of the livestock judging team in the fall of 2002. He received his PhD (2006) at the University of Georgia in Animal Breeding and Genetics and recently finished a one year appointment as an assistant professor and livestock judging coach at the University of Tennessee-Martin. On January 1, Matt assumed the responsibilities of the Beef Cattle Genetics Specialist at the University of Nebraska, which was formerly held by Dr. Jim Gosey. His position is a 70% extension and a 30% teaching appointment. He will be heavily involved in the Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars Program as well as the annual UNL Bull Sale.

**Van Vleck Retires**

After a long and distinguished career as an animal scientist and geneticist, Dale Van Vleck retired on August 31, 2007. Dale is a native son of Nebraska and earned his BS and MS degrees at the University of Nebraska followed by his PhD from Cornell University. After retiring from a full career as Professor at Cornell University, Dale embarked on a second at the University of Nebraska and the USDA-ARS where he continued his exhaustive record of excellence for 19 years, at a pace rarely seen. As Research Geneticist with the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center and Professor of Animal Science at UNL, his accomplishments were extensive and gained both national and international recognition.

Dale has published over 650 journal articles and abstracts, 14 books, and numerous articles in the popular media. He has trained 49 PhD students, 29 MS students, 14 post-doctoral and research associates and has sponsored 64 visiting fellows. To put his prodigious productivity into some context, in five years prior to his retirement, when most senior scientists are relaxing, Dr. Van Vleck published, as author or co-author, 60 journal articles and mentored 9 MS and 11 PhD students. He has been recipient of many awards in recognition of his contributions in animal breeding and genetics.

Although officially “retired,” Dale maintains an office in Animal Science as Professor Emeritus and continues to be an active participant in departmental activities.

*(Contributed by Vicky Kobes)*

**Emeriti News**

Earl and Norma Ellington were invited to the Annual University of Kentucky Fellows Society Celebration earlier this year. It concluded with an awards banquet at the Rupp Arena where Earl and Norma were named University of Kentucky Fellows at the University level, and members of the Scovell and Erikson Society at the College of Agriculture level. Earl completed a BS program in 1955 and an MS program in 1956 at the University of Kentucky prior to a PhD program at the University of California.

**FIPSE Program Offers International Ag Discussion**

Twenty-three IANR students traveled to Mexico from August 9-21 to explore its agriculture, history, culture and religion. The students had a meeting at the U.S. Embassy with the Senior Agricultural Attache and with the USAID Training Specialist to discuss the immigration and agricultural problems in Mexico. The trip also included stops at CIMMYT, a coffee plantation, a pineapple farm and the INIFAP Research Center in Veracruz.

This year’s FIPSE program was the fourth and final year of the United States Department of Education Grant under the FIPSE Program. This program has, as a major component, the cross-cultural exchange of students between the two countries to get a better understanding of the different cultures of Mexico and the United States. The 12-day trip included a three-day stop in Mexico City to view the cultural, the historic and the religious history of this country. The stops in Mexico included the U.S. Embassy, the produce market (the largest in the world), the Zocola, the Presidential Palace, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Center of Three Cultures, the Basilica of Our Lady Guadalupe, the Metropolitan Ballet and the Anthropological Museum.

Three days were spent at the University of Chapingo in Texcoco where the U.S. students interacted with the Chapingo students and were able to see how a Mexican agricultural university was run. They also had two lectures by a professor from Chapingo on land reform and immigration issues similar to the two talks at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. The students visited CIMMYT (the major maize and wheat research center in Central and South America and also the seed resource center for these two crops for the world); they saw the older maize varieties, as well as the new non-hybrid varieties under development. They visited the pyramids and had the opportunity to spend a half day exploring this fascinating site of pre-Aztec culture.

The group then boarded a bus and traveled to Huatusco where they explored the coffee research center for the University of Chapingo. They had discussions on the culture of coffee, both
Students in their Sunday best leaving the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City after having meetings with Embassy Officials.

shade and sun-grown varieties. They also had the opportunity to have a noon meal cooked by the natives at one of the coffee plantations and explore their work area for picking coffee. The students were impressed with the work and low pay involved in picking coffee (all by hand). They then had a frank and open discussion with the villagers on the immigration issues, work and poverty of this village. The group then drove to the city of Veracruz to spend two days exploring the site where Cortez landed in 1519 and U.S. troops landed in the invasion of Mexico in the 1850s. Students then went to a small cooperative pineapple farm and had dinner prepared by the villagers. The work involved in planting and harvesting pineapples for only 50 cents a pineapple was a real eye-opener for the students. While in Veracruz they met with the leaders of INIFAP (the Mexican equivalent of our ARS), and visited their tropical fruit research center and ate the fruits under cultivation. From Veracruz they traveled to Puebla where they spent one day exploring this beautiful city before departing for the return trip to the United States.

This program was implemented to show students how the rural and city people of Mexico live. They feel that they accomplished the basic tenets of the U.S. Department of Education Grant to explore the cultural and religious heritage, agriculture and history of Mexico. The students returned with a better understanding of the Mexicans who are immigrating to the United States and have a better understanding of how and why they left Mexico. This trip gave the students a better understanding of the hardships that the Mexican laborer. There were 23 UNL students who participated in the program from all areas of the Institute. Two UNL faculty went on the trip. Dr. Jeff Keown organized the trip and Dr. David Smith, from the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, also went on the trip. They also had a faculty member from Iowa State University, Dr. David Hansen, who acted as interpreter and is a member on the FIPSE Grant.

(Contributed by Jeff Keown)

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Poultry Scholarships

University of Nebraska Foundation Poultry Scholarships:

Lincoln Coca-Cola Bottling Company Scholarship Fund

History: An endowment established November 28, 1944 by the Lincoln Coca-Cola Bottling Company to the Department of Poultry Husbandry, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska. This permanently-endowed scholarship fund began as a gift of $4,000 and has grown to almost double the original amount. The Animal Science Department assumed administration of this scholarship July 5, 1979, for the 1979-80 academic year after the Poultry Husbandry Department merged with the Animal Science Department. Scholarships are funded by interest accrued from the endowment. The scholarship committee of the Animal Science Department awards this scholarship.

Qualifications: This scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student in Animal Science who has satisfactorily completed one academic year, who shows promise of future success, and is in need of financial aid. Preference is given to students with interest in poultry science and the poultry industry.

2007 Recipient: Brian Peterson, Burwell, Nebraska

Parr Family Student Support Fund

History: Jim and Marilyn Girardin, Arrow Seed Company, Broken Bow, Nebraska, established this endowment August 22, 2000 in honor of Marilyn’s parents, Emma and Lloyd “Pete” W. Parr, who operated the Sure Hatchery in Broken Bow. Lloyd began his career in the poultry business in 1933 and was active for over 40 years until his retirement in 1975. He dedicated his entire life to hatching, raising and improvement of poultry in the Broken Bow area. His customers learned to rely upon him for advice and counsel on their production problems.
Jim Girardin Sr., scholarship donor, began his career with the Arrow Seed Company in June of 1959 after graduating from the University of Nebraska. He joined his father, Leonard Girardin, who had purchased the company in 1954. Jim took over as president of the company in 1977 and now serves as CEO. The scholarship is funded from interest accrued from the endowment. Both donors are still living.

**Qualifications:** Awarded to an Animal Science major, with at least a sophomore class standing, who is participating in poultry science classes, research, or related activities and who has demonstrated academic excellence and a desire to participate in the poultry industry following graduation.

**2007 Recipient:** Brett Kreifels, Springfield, Nebraska

**Frank E. Mussehl and Inez L. Mussehl Research & Scholarship Fund**

**History:** Frank Mussehl served the University of Nebraska as a professor for 40 years, beginning in 1917. He was instrumental in founding and organizing the Department of Poultry Husbandry where he served as its chair from its beginning in 1922 until his retirement in 1957.

Many of Professor Mussehl’s (or Prof., as he preferred to be called) early research accomplishments laid the groundwork for knowledge and techniques that are of great significance to today’s poultry industry. Examples of original research include protein, calcium, and phosphorous requirements of turkeys; artificial insemination and properties of turkey semen; feed intake studies; mineral metabolism of growing chicks; and utilization of alfalfa meal in poultry rations. Professor Mussehl was a pioneer in the use of vitamin D produced through irradiation in poultry feed. Some of his work with chicks had significant application for human health. For his discovery of the effect of ultraviolet light on bone growth, he was awarded the Centennial Citation of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1981.

Mussehl and his wife lived in Lincoln and produced poultry on a number of small farms, which they purchased near Lincoln. Mrs. Mussehl was a full partner in these highly successful ventures; in fact, she often did much of the day-to-day work due to Professor Mussehl’s University responsibilities. It was the farm investments and farming operations that made possible the Mussehls’ generous gifts to the University.

Frank and Inez established a trust fund at the National Bank of Commerce in 1978 with the University of Nebraska Foundation as a beneficiary. In recognition of their planned support and years of service to the University, the poultry building on East Campus was renamed Mussehl Hall at a dedication event on April 19, 1979, in the East Campus Union.

Frank E. Mussehl passed away December 29, 1987, at the age of 96. Following Inez’s death on February 22, 1991, NBC distributed more than $1 million from their trust to the Foundation for use as directed by the couple in support of the University of Nebraska. Since 1991, the Foundation has managed the fund as a permanent endowment utilizing the annual interest to support CASNR (College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources), poultry science students and programs.

Each year, five-ninths of its income is designated to the Mussehl Research Fund for research in the field of poultry science, and four-ninths is designated to the Mussehl Scholarship Fund for student aid and graduate fellowships for students interested in poultry science.

**Qualifications for Undergraduates:** Interest in poultry science.

**2006-07 Frank and Inez Mussehl Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients:**

- **Timothy W. Anderson,** Minden, Nebraska; **Todd J. Burda,** Wilber, Nebraska; **Jacob R. Geis,** Newcastle, Nebraska; **Jeniffer M. Glaesemann,** Fairbury, Nebraska; **Heather E. Hajek,** Crete, Nebraska; **Krista K. Holstein,** Blair, Nebraska; **Amanda M. Kastanek,** Crete, Nebraska; **Kyle K. Kohout,** Friend, Nebraska; **Brett A. Kreifels,** Springfield, Nebraska; **Kurt D. Petersen,** Burwell, Nebraska; **Jessica R. Peterson,** Blair, Nebraska; **Justin R. Sand,** Crete, Nebraska; **Ryan J. Talley,** Friend, Nebraska; **Thanh Tuyen Thi Le,** Lincoln, Nebraska

For additional information and application deadlines for University of Nebraska Foundation poultry scholarships, contact Dr. Duane Reese (402 472-6425), Chair, Animal Science Scholarship Committee; or visit the Animal Science Department website: animalscience.unl.edu

**Nebraska Poultry Industries Scholarship:**

**Ruth Keller Memorial Scholarship**

**History:** The Ruth Keller Memorial Scholarship was established in 1977 by Mr. Dale Keller, an egg producer and feed supplier from Octavia, Nebraska, in memory of his late wife. Funds are on deposit at a David City, Nebraska bank and provide income for a $500 scholarship annually for a poultry student at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. It was established to assist worthy students with their studies in poultry science at UNL.

**Qualifications:** University of Nebraska–Lincoln graduate or undergraduate students with special interest in poultry. Selection based on poultry science interest, academic excellence, career orientation related to poultry, and financial need.

**2007 Recipient:** Mahmoud K. Mas’deh, from Jordan

For more information on this Nebraska Poultry Industries scholarship, contact: Susan Joy, Nebraska Poultry Industries, A103 Animal Science, University of Nebraska, PO Box 830908, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908; Phone: (402) 472-2051

*(Contributed by Jolene Gordon, Nebraska Poultry Industries)*

**Recent Awards and Recognitions**

**Faculty**

- **Tony Anderson** – Distinguished Service Award from National Association of County Agricultural Agents
- **Don Adams** – Gamma Sigma Delta Award of Merit
- **Don Beermann** – Nebraska Cattlemen Industry Service Award
**Student Activities**

**Block and Bridle Club**

**Block & Bridle Kids’ Day**

The annual Block & Bridle Kids’ Day event was held Friday, November 9, in the Animal Science Arena. Fourteen groups of daycare, preschool and elementary schools attended and “goodie bags” were stuffed for 215 children by B&B members.

The animals on display included horses, cows, pigs, sheep and fowl. Children and caregivers had the opportunity to learn through posters, handouts, and by asking questions of Block & Bridle members about how animals are raised and used in production agriculture.

Photographic coverage was provided by the UNL Scarlet newsletter.

Those donating items for the children’s gift bags were: Nebraska Department of Agriculture Poultry & Egg Division, Nebraska Pork Producers, Nebraska Beef Council, Soybean Board, Corn Board, Wheat Board, Animal Science Department and Equine program.

B&B Chairperson of the event, Will Davis, Lincoln, was assisted by many B&B members: Whitney Davis, Lincoln, Annie Doerr, Creighton, Stacey Guthard, Litchfield, Laura Witte, Scribner, Garrett Koester, Wellfleet, Cody Dvorak, Stuart, Shantille Kruse, Tecumseh, Jessalyn Schrock, Bennet, McKenzie Chambers, Platteville, CO, and Janae Althouse, Eagle.

*(Contributed by Nancy Savery)*

**Block & Bridle Dates for 2008**

March 15, 2008 – Big Red Beef Show
April 3 and 4, 2008 – State FFA Contest
April 25, 2008 – Honors Banquet
Animal Science Graduate Student Association

Officers for the upcoming year for the Animal Science Graduate Student Association are: Crystal Buckner, President, Missouri; Jolene Kelzer, Vice President, Minnesota; Amanda Gehman, Secretary, Pennsylvania; Virgil Bremer, Treasurer, Illinois; Roman Moreno, Sergeant at Arms, Mexico; Sarah Vanness, GSA Representative, Nebraska; and the club’s faculty advisors are: Merlyn Nielsen, Senior Advisor; and Tom Burkey, Junior Advisor.

Ambassadors Help Make a Difference

The Animal Science Department has experienced a significant growth in the number of undergraduate students over the past few years. This growth is in part due to a unique group interested in the Animal Science Department. They help recruit new students to the Department by engaging them at various events throughout the state, create and plan events that allow prospective students to have direct contact with the Animal Science program and what it has to offer, give one-on-one tours of the Animal Science Complex, and communicate with prospective students through mailings, e-mail, and phone calls. Current ambassadors include Shantille Kruse (Tecumseh); Jacob Gies (Maskell); and Lindsey Salestrom (Tekamah). Front Row Left to Right — Mallory Becker, McClellandtown; PA; Jessalyn Schrock, Bennet; and Mandi Pflasterer, Grand Island.

The ambassadors are a great asset to the Department for their ability to relate to high school students the events of undergraduate life. High school students commonly visit UNL with questions about campus job opportunities, housing quality, how college classes compare to high school classes, and similar student life questions which are best fielded by undergraduates who are currently experiencing these matters. Ambassadors encourage these visits through letters and phone calls to prospective students and follow up the visits with a postcard and contact information so high school students can have later questions answered.

The ambassadors have also been busy attending and planning several events throughout the state this year. Early this fall, the ambassadors were present at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island and the National FFA Tailgate in Lincoln where they set up a booth, answered questions, and provided information regarding the Department. In November, the ambassadors helped with Experience the Power of Red Day, a CASNR event where high school students could get an in-depth look at their departments of interest.

On the Thursday and Friday following Thanksgiving, the ambassadors hosted Animal Science Overnight, an event where high school students came to UNL to view the Animal Science Department, stayed overnight with current UNL students living on campus and attended the Animal Science 100 class. This event was held in conjunction with the Animal Science Internship Fair, also hosted by the ambassadors. The Internship Fair featured presentations from various Animal Science students on their internships, as well as presentations from Oxbow Pet Products and Progressive Swine Technologies. High school students had the opportunity to attend the Internship Fair in addition to their other activities associated with Animal Science Overnight.

During the spring semester, the ambassadors will represent the Animal Science Department at the Denver Stock Show, the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic, the Big Red Road Show and the Nebraska Horse Expo. They are also preparing for “Going the Distance” in February, an event where prospective students of all ages and parents can find answers to questions about attending UNL. Going the Distance will be held at the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte on February 14. For more information about this or other events hosted by the ambassadors, please contact Anita Ferrell at aferrell2@unl.edu or (402) 472-0204 or Dr. Brett White at bwhite2@unl.edu or (402) 472-6438.

(Contributed by Jacob Geis, Animal Science Student Ambassador)

Livestock Judging Team

The 2007-2008 University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team finished a strong fall campaign highlighted by Dirk Burken being named Reserve National Champion Individual and Jackie Snyder adding a fifth All-American Livestock Judging recipient to UNL. However, the team was rewarded with numerous other achievements during the fall season. Direct success this season was highly correlated to their dedication and commitment to represent UNL both on the judging and academic stages.

Team members finishing their judging careers include Mallory Becker, McClellandtown, PA; Dirk Burken, Blue Hill; Maria Dorn, Auburn; Jeff Epp, Aurora; MacKayla Hirschman, St. Paul; Russell Pedrett, Palmyra; Jackie Snyder, Hershey; and Bryttni Westlake, Kinney, WY.

The team started their fall season two weeks prior to classes beginning on campus. Austin, Minnesota was the site of the
team’s first fall contest. On Monday, September 10, the team competed at the National Barrow Show. UNL placed 6th out of 13 schools, with Russell Pedrett tying for 11th in Reasons. Not satisfied with 6th, the team gained much needed swine judging experience that would prove beneficial for the remainder of the fall campaign.

On September 21st, the team traveled to El Dorado, KS where they competed at the National Barrow Show. UNL placed 6th out of 13 schools, with Russell Pedrett tying for 11th in Reasons. Not satisfied with 6th, the team gained much needed swine judging experience that would prove beneficial for the remainder of the fall campaign.

On October 6 the team traveled to Tulsa, OK and competed at the State Fair of Texas contest. The team finished 3rd in Cattle, 3rd in Swine, 3rd in Reasons, and 4th Overall. Individually, Makayla Hirschman placed 6th in Cattle and 16th Overall. Dirk Burken completed the accomplishments by finishing 4th in Cattle.

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On November 12, 2007 the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. This contest served as the final national contest for the 2007 team. UNL was represented very well. Jackie Snyder was named to the All-American Team (which is comprised of only 10 and takes into account academics in addition to judging accomplishments). UNL has placed

Horse Judging Team

The UNL Horse Judging Team made strong showings and gained much experience through the fall semester. With some changes through the National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association, team members who are classified as either freshman or sophomore in standing are now eligible to compete in Junior Collegiate competition. This change provides some of our students with a great opportunity to gain more experience judging, and become more confident in their decision-making skills.

This fall, UNL fielded a junior team at the All American Quarter Horse Congress, as well as two individuals in the Senior competition. The junior team consisted of Morgan Marshall, Malcolm; Mindy Leach, Malcolm; Cassie Krueger, Lincoln; and Kelli Kwapisniski, Wayne. These four students competed against 14 other teams to bring home 4th place in Halter, 4th place in Performance, 3rd place in Reasons, and 4th place Overall. In addition, Cassie Krueger and Mindy Leach finished 7th and 14th, respectively, in Halter. Morgan Marshall and Mindy Leach both brought home top ten finishes in Performance with 6th and 9th, while Mindy, Morgan, and Cassie all finished in the top 20 in Reasons. Finally, Mindy Leach finished 9th High Individual Overall where Morgan Marshall and Cassie Krueger both followed up with top 20 placings.
In the Senior Collegiate Competition, competitors have either previously competed in collegiate judging competitions, or are juniors or seniors in academic standing. UNL judging students Katy Cockerill, Granger, IN; and Mikki Schmidt, Gurley; both showed quite well individually. Katy finished in the top third of all competitors in all divisions, while Mikki, in her first judging competition ever, finished in the top half.

While Cockerill and Schmidt have both completed their eligibility in Collegiate Horse Judging, we look forward to great success with the potential return of all 4 students from the Junior Team to compete next fall!

(Contributed by Libby Lugar)

Equestrian Team

For the past three years, the UNL Equestrian Team has been the high-point team in their region. With five high-point and one reserve high-point championships already this season, the team continues to prove true UNL’s tradition of excellence.

The 30 members of the UNL Equestrian Team, under the direction of Coach Libby Lugar, practice and compete as part of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). Developing sportsmanship, team enthusiasm, and horsemanship is the mission that IHSA strives for in competitions. It was established with the purpose of promoting competition for riders of any skill level, regardless of financial status.

Traveling with 30 members to various places within Zone 9, Region 3, such as the University of Minnesota, Crookston, North Dakota State University, and South Dakota State University, allows the members to form a strong team. At the horse shows riders with different levels of experience are placed in riding levels from beginner to open, which allows the riders to help each other out and continue to strive for perfection.

The team only has room to fill 30 spots, despite the near 60 riders who showed up for try-outs this past year. These 30 riders ride the horses contributed by UNL. UNL houses approximately 25-30 horses on East Campus in the Animal Science Complex, so with two sections of practice each week, every rider on the team gets a chance to ride a variety of different horses. The IHSA doesn’t allow riders to ride their own horses, therefore at practices and competitions, members of the Equestrian Team ride horses provided by the host university.

Every year the UNL Equestrian Team hosts 2 home shows, one in the fall and one in the spring semesters. Horses are provided by UNL and various members of the community. The Equestrian Team appreciates any support that members of the community offer, especially donations of horses and tack for use at the shows, or for the school year. It is this support that helps the team and the home shows become such a success each year.

Being the regional team champions for the past three years has allowed the UNL Equestrian Team to field a full team to the semi-national and national competitions. The team has advanced to semi-national competition, as well as having individuals compete at this prestigious level. They feel very fortunate to have placed in the top ten in the nation for the last three years, in addition to having several National Champions, Reserve National Champions, and top ten finishes for individual riders.

The UNL Equestrian Team is excited about their strong start this season. They appreciate the support of the team by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Department of Animal Sciences, family, friends, and fans. They’d love to see you come cheer them on at the spring show held in the Animal Science Arena at UNL’s East Campus on February 23. The show will start at 9:00 and run through the day.

(Contributed by Libby Lugar)

UNL Equestrian Team from left to right: Front row—Megan Oborny, Lindsey Horner, Maggie Peitzmeier, Alicia Wittwer, Mindy Leach, and Krystl Knabe. 2nd Row—Amy Greenwood, Chelsea Leatherwood, Laura Murray, Kim Behrends, Josie Ketelsen, and Erica Lechtenberg. 3rd Row—Emily Houderscheidt, Kelsey Horner, Megan Boone, Maria Cmack, Kim Corradi, and Tami Cullen. Back Row—Alix Beneit, Natalie Becher, Lauren Waller, Cally Frohm, Samantha Cajka, Whitney Sprout, and Brandon Sorensen.

Not pictured: Shannon Cosgrove, Rebecca Dornbierer, Amanda Falter, Haze Lockee, Reenie McCormick, and Kristen Schott.
Bobby Moser Thankful for his Decision to Attend UNL

Bobby D. Moser credits a former University of Nebraska–Lincoln Animal Science professor with bringing him to Lincoln and says it's one of the best decisions he ever made.

Moser, currently an administrator with The Ohio State University, said he came to Lincoln to do his doctoral studies in swine nutrition because of retired Professor Ernie Peo, Jr. Bobby earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Oklahoma State University. “He was well-respected in the area of swine nutrition,” Moser said. “I applied, he offered me an assistantship, and I agreed.”

Bobby arrived at UNL in 1969 and earned his doctoral degree in 1972. He also held an instructor position while working on his degree. Moser was in Lincoln in 2007 for the North Central Region Mini-Land Grant meeting and went to see Peo. “I told him one of the best decisions I’ve made was coming here to work with him,” Moser said.

Dr. Moser grew up in the small town of Cyril, Oklahoma, and studied at Oklahoma State University. After earning his doctorate, he remained at UNL as an animal science faculty member. In 1981 he left for the University of Missouri, where he served as Chair of the Department of Animal Science for about five years. He later became Associate Dean of Agriculture and Extension Agriculture Program Director at Missouri.

In 1988 he went to Ohio State where he holds three titles – Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; and Vice President for University Outreach. In his outreach position, Dr. Moser facilitates outreach activities for the entire university. When asked how he performs all three jobs, Dr. Moser says, “I have good people working with me.” At UNL, Moser was allowed to do work in teaching, extension, and research and he enjoyed all aspects equally. “That really prepared me for what I’m doing now,” he said.

(An article in the July 2007 issue of the IANR Leading Object)

Drive Through Nebraska as a Teen led Burnell to UNL

A motel worker described as “the nicest person I ever saw in my life” can be credited with getting Tom Burnell to attend the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

That worker at a Ben Franklin Motel outside Omaha helped the then 16-year-old Californian to see that Nebraskans “are truly wonderful people” and that he wanted to be one of them, he said.

Burnell, chief executive officer at the Nebraska Heart Hospital and Nebraska Heart Institute in Lincoln, even goes so far to say that UNL and his days as a College of Agriculture student saved his life.

Tom’s story starts with an unhappy home life. He was born in Rockville Centre, New York, right outside of Long Island but grew up in Los Angeles after his parents divorced. He left home at age 16 after he graduated from high school early. He was driving across the country alone to see his father in New York. On the way he stopped at the Ben Franklin Motel, where he met that “nicest person.”

He had been thinking at the time about going to college, and while driving through Nebraska he saw the University of Nebraska sign. Later he flew to Lincoln, toured the campus and enrolled. Burnell entered the Department of Animal Science because he wanted to be a veterinarian. Retired faculty member Ernie Peo became his adviser. “He took a real keen interest in me and guided me in a direction that frankly I didn’t know I was going.”

Instead of becoming a veterinarian, Tom got into teaching and research. He earned his bachelor’s degree in 1984 and his master’s in animal nutrition in 1985, both from the University of Nebraska, and his doctoral degree in nutrition and biochemistry from the University of Kentucky.

At Kentucky and Auburn University he taught animal nutrition before deciding that he no longer wanted to be on the tenure track. He took a position with Continental Grain Co. in Lincoln as a field technical services representative. He spent 11 years with the company, moving around the country and eventually working his way to company president. The company sold in 2000 and he decided to take six months to a year off.

However, four months later he took a position to run a startup biotechnology company in Austin, Texas. He later started his own consulting business in which he served as interim CEO of struggling companies, mostly in the biotechnology areas. One of those companies, Eurofins Scientific, asked him to stay permanently, which he did for four years. The excessive traveling prompted him to quit and move back to Lincoln, where he obtained his current position.

Throughout his diversified career, Tom has stayed devoted to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. “The University of Nebraska–Lincoln is the reason I’m alive today,” he said. “I left home on my 16th birthday and came to a place as a stranger. People opened their arms to me as a native son. I truly owe my life to UNL.”

(An article in the September/October 2007 issue of the IANR Leading Object)
Former Graduate Student
Jerry Reeves Retires

Dr. Jerry Reeves received his doctorate from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 1969 with Dr. Earl Ellington serving as his major professor. Jerry went on to hold an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow position at Tulane Medical School in New Orleans where he worked with Dr. A. V. Schally, Nobel Laureate. In 1970, Jerry became an assistant professor at Washington State University. Thirty years later, still at Washington State University, Dr. Reeves holds a professor and Baxter Endowed Chair position in the Department of Animal Science, is a member of the WSU/U of I Center for Reproductive Biology, and has excelled in his teaching and research. He retired in 2007 and leaves behind a legacy of excellence and mentorship to be rivaled.

Jerry has had a strong research record and has contributed significant insight into the reproductive endocrinology of cattle and our basic understanding of the endocrine system. He is truly a collaborator in that he has enhanced the research efforts of a large number of investigators, including Noble Laureate Dr. Andrew Schally. Throughout his career, he has continued to be productive and apply state of the art advances to his research. An example of this is his recent project to perform spermatogonial transplantation in cattle. Jerry’s research on a cattle sterilization vaccine has led him to work with cattle ranchers in the Amazon and has allowed him face to face interactions with not only cattle, but snakes and piranha as well.

Jerry is also an extremely accomplished teacher as shown by his numerous awards, including being invited to give the Distinguished Faculty Address in 2000. Jerry is truly a mentor — he has trained more than 50 graduate students and numerous undergraduate students, many whom have gone on in science and hold prominent positions today. In public service, Jerry is one of the most well-known cattle reproductive biologists in the Northwest and nationally. This is due in large part to his extensive service and accomplishments.

(Excerpted from the “Center Report” published by the Center for Reproductive Biology of Washington State University and the University of Idaho)

Karlis Ulmanis — From Alum to Prime Minister

Members of the United Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lincoln placed a bouquet of flowers by the bust of Karlis Ulmanis in Love Library to commemorate his 130th birthday on September 4. Karlis Ulmanis was a 1909 University of Nebraska graduate who became the first prime minister of an independent Latvia and president of Latvia (1936-1940).

Karlis was born on the family farm in the Russian province of Zemgale. He was the youngest of three children. He was the only child to leave the farm as his two older brothers were left in charge of the farm after their father’s unexpected death. Following completion of local schooling, Karlis attended an experimental dairy school in 1896 in what is now Gvardiejs. He returned home one year later. He returned to school in 1902 and graduated with a certificate of maturity from the Agricultural Institute in Leipzig, Germany.

By 1905, Karlis had returned home and was involved in the revolutionary movement. He spent six months in Pskhov State Prison after writing an inflammatory article against Tsar Nicholas. After his release, Karlis continued his political activities, eventually fleeing into exile in Germany. Karlis opted to come to America, mainly due to the influence of family friends who worked on Sen. Charles Warner’s wheat farm in Waverly, NE. He enrolled at NU with the rank of senior, graduating in the spring of 1909 with a degree in agriculture and animal husbandry. He bounced around jobs after graduation – including a stint as a professor of dairy and cheese making at NU. He returned home one year later. He returned to school in 1902 and graduated with a certificate of maturity from the Agricultural Institute in Leipzig, Germany.

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(An article in the September 13, 2007, issue of the UNL Scarlet written by Troy Fedderson)
Walking Down Memory Lane

Looking around the University of Nebraska—Lincoln’s East Campus you will find all sorts of hidden treasures. A tour of the East Campus was created by Elizabeth Killinger who called it “Own Time, Any Time Tour.” This tour allows people to enjoy what the gardens have to offer as well as the history of the campus at their own pace. Ms. Killinger, who is from Cotesfield, NE, received a BS degree in horticulture at UNL and is currently pursuing a MS degree in horticulture at UNL. She completed the walking tour as part of her graduate project.

The walking tour consists of nine stops. You can call (402) 472-5555 and once you reach the voice mail system, participants simply dial a series of seven-digit stop numbers. The stop numbers are visible on campus by signs that have been posted at the various locations.

The first five stops include the Dairy Store, Maxwell Arboretum, Jeanne Vierk Yeutter Memorial Garden, Fleming Slope, and Flack Lilac collection. The last four stops offer information about what’s new or different on campus, such as The Big Red Green Team, ReTree Nebraska, and a project description of the tour with a place to leave feedback.

In addition to history and design information about the stops, several offer information about UNL scholars and other important people which include: Charles E. Bessey, John E. Weaver, George W. Beadle, and Earl G. Maxwell. The ReTree Nebraska stop offers information about the 10-year cooperative initiative to plant 1 million trees across Nebraska. The Big Red Green Team offers information about UNL’s Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

If you should want to go down Memory Lane stop at the East Campus Visitor’s Center, located inside the Dairy Store and pick up a brochure and down the lane you can go.

(Excerpted from an IANR news release)

Alumni Updates

1960’s
Bill Ahlschwede, B.S. ’64 – Bill and his wife, Margrethe, have recently returned to Lincoln after living in Tennessee for a number of years.

1970’s
Dave Hamilton, B.S. ’74 – Dave recently was named a finalist in the 2007 Leopold Conservation Award in Nebraska. The award, named in honor of a world-renowned conservationist, is comprised of $10,000 and a Leopold crystal.

1980’s
Scott Kurz, B.S. ’87 – Scott works as a researcher at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He enjoys the newsletter and thanks those in the department who help get it out. Scott lives in Elkhorn, NE and can be reached at skurz@unmc.edu.

Jane Langemeier Juelsgaard, B.S. ’81 – Jane is in the process of moving back to Iowa where her husband has accepted a position with Farmers Coop Society of Sioux Center in their Cattle Finance Division. Jane will be living in Sioux Center, IA and can be reached by e-mail at jlang6@yahoo.com.

Your Newsletter Leadership

Earl Ellington (Chair), 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 encourage you to send us news items and any comments on how we might improve the newsletter.

Call for Information for the 2008 Summer Issue of the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter

All of us enjoy learning about classmates and other alumni from the Animal Science Department. We ask that you send information about yourself for the next issue of the 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 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.
30 Years Ago in Animal Science...

(Subject to Error)

Picture #1
1978 Senior Livestock Team (left to right): Animal Science Dept. Chair Dr. Irvin Omtvedt, George Cooksley, Doug Malone, Roger Holscher, Tara Carver, Kent Bang, Marilyn Barr, Galen Gerdes, Coach R.B. Warren.

Picture #2
1978 Senior Meats Team (left to right): Assistant Scott Schallenburger, Coach Dr. Dwight Loveday, Mick Tank, Jim Todd, Kevin Loseke, Patti Hollibaugh, Tim Davis, Layne Anderson, Jay Volk, and Dept. Chair Dr. Irv Omtvedt.
Picture #3


Picture #4

The Block and Bridle advisors for 1978-79 are from the left: Dr. Jim Gosey, Dr. Dwane Zimmerman, and Dr. Ted Doane. (All Nebraska Improved Okies!)
NYBLS Celebrates Five Years

High school students from across Nebraska and Kentucky (sponsored by Kentucky Cattlemen) took part in the 5th Annual Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium (NYBLS), held in Lincoln on November 17-19. Students participated in a series of workshops and were broken into groups to develop and market a retail product for the beef industry. “It was a privilege to meet the outstanding young people from across Nebraska and our guests from Kentucky who participated in the symposium,” said Dr. Dennis Brink, UNL Animal Science Professor and Symposium Coordinator. “Nebraska is the beef state and we are pleased to partner with all our sponsors to participate in the development of the future leaders of the beef cattle industry.” In addition to many Animal Science faculty and Nebraska beef industry professionals, students worked with professional chef Jay McCarthy. Two representatives from the Kentucky Cattlemen also attended the event.

Submitted by Anita Ferrell, aferrell2@unl.edu

Join The Tradition!

Animal Science Top 10

1. Low student-to-teacher ratio (6:1)
2. Animal Science Departmental Scholarships
3. National and international travel opportunities
4. Growing programs in equine, companion animals and beef cattle
5. Recent top 10 leading program by Meat and Poultry magazine
6. Growing Livestock Judging Program under the direction of Matt Ellicott
7. 5th place equestrian team at the 2007 IHSA National Championship
8. Great opportunities for student involvement
9. On site state of the art animal handling and research facilities for hands-on-learning
10. Location in Nebraska’s capital city provides unique opportunities
You’ve always said someday you’ll give something back to the college that gave you so much.

How about now?

Please contact Ann Bruntz
IANR Director of Development
402-458-1176
abruntz@nufoundation.org
Animal Science Alumni Survey

The UNL Animal Science Alumni Committee wishes to provide you a newsletter that is interesting to read and delivered in a convenient and timely manner. Before we make any changes in the Newsletter, we want your input. You can give us your input either by filling out the form below or going to http://animalscience.unl.edu/survey/. Thank you.

1) In what form do you usually access the Newsletter?
   _____ a. Hard copy
   _____ b. Viewed from the Animal Science Web site
   _____ c. Both hard copy and Web version

2) Indicate how you would prefer to receive the Animal Science Newsletter in the future.
   _____ a. Hard copy in the mail
   _____ b. View at a Web site

3) Indicate how many times annually you would prefer we publish the Newsletter.
   _____ a. Once
   _____ b. Twice
   _____ c. More than twice

4) On a scale of 1 to 5, (1 = high and 5 = low) please indicate the value the Newsletter has for you.
   _____ a. 1 (high value)
   _____ b. 2
   _____ c. 3
   _____ d. 4
   _____ e. 5 (low value)

5) Do you want to have additional contact with the UNL Animal Science Department besides the Newsletter?
   _____ a. Yes
       If Yes, please explain. ____________________________________________________________
       _____________________________________________________________________________
       _____________________________________________________________________________
   _____ b. No
6) About how often do you access the UNL Animal Science Web site? http://www.animalscience.unl.edu
   _____ a. Never
   _____ b. Daily
   _____ c. Weekly
   _____ d. Monthly

7) My approximate age is:
   _____ a. 20 to 30 years
   _____ b. 31 to 40 years
   _____ c. 41 to 50 years
   _____ d. 51 to 60 years
   _____ e. 61 to 70 years
   _____ f. 71 to 80 years
   _____ g. Over 80 years

8) Please indicate which one of the following best describes you.
   _____ Reside in Nebraska
   _____ Reside in a state other than Nebraska
   _____ Reside outside the USA

9) Additional comments would be greatly appreciated:

   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your valuable responses. If you do not fill out this survey at the Web site listed in the first paragraph, please mail or e-mail it to:

Sheila Scheideler
Animal Science Department Head
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
P.O. Box 830908
Lincoln, NE 68583-0908
Phone: 402-472-3571
Email: vkobes1@unl.edu
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 listserve. 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–Lincoln, C203 Animal Science, 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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