



Newsletter

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Greetings from the Department!

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The past year has been one marked by two new events that were very successful. Both occurred on November 21st when the Department had its inaugural “Research Symposium” and “Open House”. The Symposium was the initiative of Marcelo Ramos, a grad student with Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler. It was designed to foster communication among the Animal Sciences research laboratories, especially for the benefit of graduate students who typically feel that they are not sufficiently acquainted with research that is being conducted in the Department. The sixteen laboratories of departmental faculty and staff put up posters which described current projects of each lab. These informative posters have proven to be a convenient method of communication. The Symposium also included research presentations by eight graduate students. Fruitful discussion occurred. Also on November 21st, Bernadette (Bernie) O’Rourke, our Youth/Livestock Extension Specialist, organized an open house for prospective freshmen and their parents. Eleven interested high school students and their parents learned more about the Animal Sciences major and our facilities, while also visiting with faculty and current students. The open house concluded with the Club 101 Show.

All animal facilities in CALS underwent a four-day inspection in early October. This was a necessary step in our quest to become certified by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). Poultry, livestock and fish protocols, facilities and records were inspected, along with those for laboratory rodents. At least three years of effort and many repair and improvement expenditures went into preparation for this inspection. Fortunately, the inspection team gave us very high marks for all animal operations within CALS. We anticipate that accredited status will be granted, which should reassure any federal agency that our animal care and use practices are fit for federal research funding. The animal unit managers and their staff in Animal Sciences and other departments were recognized by CALS Dean Molly Jahn with a picnic supper in November. There was great satisfaction among all of us for achieving this very challenging goal.

The Department is saddened to report the passing of Bob Grummer, Ernie Briskey, Jack Gorski and Dennis Buege. They each contributed immensely to this Department. Dan Short, who has served in recent years as our State Swine Extension Specialist, has retired. Dr. Mark Richards just received notice that he has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Mark teaches Poultry Products Technology and conducts research on poultry product quality. We welcome into our fold Dr. Jeff Sindelar, who will be our State Meat Science Extension Specialist as of February 1, 2007. Jeff comes to us from Iowa State University.

The Department continues to be a very dynamic operation with many wonderful, highly-talented individuals. You are invited to visit us as your schedule permits.

Dan Schaefer, Animal Sciences Chairman

Research News

Wisconsin DATCAP has funded a project to develop and field test an *Integration of National Identification System: Farm to Consumer Model*. The project is being coordinated by Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Assistant Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist.

Student Editor

This newsletter was prepared by Erich Roush, a sophomore in Animal Sciences from Brookfield, WI.

Faculty News

New Faculty....



Dr. Mark Berres joined the department in December of 2005 with a background in population genetics and biotechnology. Mark earned his Ph.D. in the Zoology Department at the University of Wisconsin Madison through study of the genetic structure of a South American bird, the White-bearded Manakin. He expresses great enthusiasm for birds as research models, and plans to apply his knowledge of genetics to compare the genomes of wild chickens against domestic species. By doing this, he hopes to identify desirable traits which can be introduced into current lines through transgenic manipulations.

Mark grew up on a small family farm in northern Wisconsin. He feels that being involved in animal husbandry as a youth played an important role in his growth as an individual. Now with a son of his own- three years old- he hopes to give his child the same experiences. He is currently in the process of stocking his own barn in Iowa County, and has a particular desire to build a stock of Totenko, a long-crowing chicken.

Dr. Gabriela Cezar is a promising new addition to the Animal Sciences Department's faculty. Her background includes, but is not limited to, a DVM from Brazil, a Master's Degree in mouse genomics at the University of Edinburgh, and a Ph.D in reproductive endocrinology at UW-Madison. During that time, she worked with the team that produced Dolly the sheep, and was a scientist for Infigen Inc. Before joining the University, she was the Principal Scientist at Pfizer Inc, developing stem cell technology that could be used for drug discovery. She is extremely proud of the leadership role UW-Madison has taken in stem cell research and the opportunity Animal Sciences has granted her to continue working in that field. Her lab is currently working on studying the biochemical pathways of neurodevelopmental disorders caused by chemical exposure during pregnancy. The laboratory team is also developing biomarkers to better understand the biochemical pathways of radiation response in brain tumors and cancer stem cells.



In addition to her work with stem cells, Gabriella Cezar likes to travel, and is currently learning Italian. She is also very interested in initiatives that promote leadership in women and minorities, such as the Tempo organization. She, herself, sets a great example of what can be achieved in the science field. Her leadership will be a great asset to the Animal Sciences Department and its students.

Honors and Awards...

Ralph Albrecht was awarded the Microscopy Society of America Morton D. Maser Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his outstanding volunteer services to the Society.

Robert Cassens was awarded the American Meat Science Association International Award in recognition of his research and work to establish international connections within the meat science community.

Dave Thomas was awarded the Bouffault International Animal Agriculture Award, which recognizes him for his efforts in livestock development in areas such as Indonesia, Central Asia, Israel, and Kenya.

Faculty Changes...

Dan Short will be retiring from the UW Extension Swine Specialist Position. He performed statewide responsibilities, and distinguished himself through his services in Dodge, Jefferson and Columbia Counties as well as his extensive involvement in youth livestock projects.

Dr. Mark Richards received notice that he has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Dr. Jeff Sindelar has been hired to be our State Meat Science Extension Specialist as of February 1, 2007.

What Are They Up To....

NJ Benevenga is still actively involved in the department and research field, sitting on the editorial board for Physiological Reviews and cooperatively running a seminar with Dr. Tom Crenshaw to guide undergraduates through the development of research-oriented skills and thought. Ben is also the current chairman of the college's Animal Care and Use Committee, which oversees all animal use and facility compliance issues. In his free time, Ben continues to work on formula V race cars and sailed this past summer up the eastern coast of Nova Scotia.

Neal First has taken the position of Distinguished Research Professor in Biological Sciences at Mississippi State University.

Ed Hauser retired last year after 12 years as a docent at the Swiss Historical Village in New Glarus, but continues to write articles for them. He is still reading about genotype by environment interactions, and has been giving his granddaughter riding lessons.

Jack Rutledge is enjoying his retirement and is keeping active with his investment properties, junking and quilting.

Bernie Wentworth has been finding time to read, write, work in the lab, baby sit grandchildren and do a lot of hunting. He has been involved in teaching summer courses, and in July presented two papers on recent lab research at a meeting in Edmonton, Alberta.

In Memoriam

Robert Grummer, age 89, died on April 18, 2006. He was born near Luzerne, IA, and earned his B.S. in Animal Husbandry from Iowa State College. Following two years as the 4-H Club Agent in Jasper County, IA, Bob began his graduate studies at UW-Madison, receiving his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Animal Science. He then joined the faculty of this department and became known nationally for his expertise in swine nutrition and management. Dr. Grummer taught swine production courses in the undergraduate and Farm & Industry Short Course programs, and also co-taught an animal nutrition course. He loved teaching and was recognized with awards. Bob served for 11 years, as Chairman of this department and retired in 1979. Hunting, fishing and antiquing were his special interests. He is survived by his three children. Memorials may be sent to the R. H. Grummer Scholarship Fund, c/o UW Foundation.

Jack Gorski, age 75, died on August 30, 2006. He was born in Green Bay, received his B.S. from UW-Madison, and his Ph.D. from Washington State University. After a post-doc in the McArdle Lab at UW-Madison and an early faculty career at the University of Illinois, he joined the faculty at UW-Madison in 1973 with appointments in the Departments of Biochemistry, Dairy Science and Animal Sciences, eventually retiring in 1999. Jack's research focused on the biochemistry and physiology of reproductive hormones, especially the mechanism of action of estrogen. He trained and mentored more than 100 scientists and received many distinguished awards, the most notable of which was election to the National Academy of Sciences. He was an avid dairyman, breeding Holsteins first and later Jersey cattle. He is remembered for his love of science, fair-minded spirit, insightful analyses and unassuming manner. Memorials may be given to the Jack Gorski Scholarship Fund, c/o UW Foundation.

Dennis Buege died on October 3, 2006 at age 61. He was born in Juneau, WI, obtained his B.S. in Meat & Animal Science from UW-Madison, M.S. from Cornell University, and Ph.D. in Meat Science in 1975, under the mentorship of Bruce Marsh. Dennis began his faculty career in this department in 1977 and served as Extension Meat Scientist until his retirement on November 2, 2005. Dennis enjoyed his responsibilities and relished his interaction with meat processors, youth and livestock producers. He worked closely with the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors, served as President of the American Meat Science Association, and received numerous academic and industry awards. Dennis' research interests focused on processed meat safety, nutrient composition of meat products, and reduced fat meat products. He is survived by his wife, Cathy, and their two daughters. Memorials may be sent to the Dennis R Buege Meat Science Endowed Student Assistantship, c/o UW Foundation.

Students Staying Involved...

Fall is a Busy Time for UW-Madison Saddle & Sirloin Club

The sounds of both screams and laughter projected from the old horse barn on the UW Madison campus, thanks to the members of the UW Saddle and Sirloin Club who volunteered to scare attendees of their annual haunted house. The members donned face paint, masks, and costume to frighten over 600 people, and collect 250 non-perishable food items and 500 dollars, which were donated to Second Harvest food bank.

The Haunted House is just one of many activities the Saddle and Sirloin Club has participated in since classes began this fall. New and old faces were present at the first meeting which followed the annual grill-out at Jorns Courtyard on the UW campus. In early October, members worked to help set up, manage, and take down the 2006 World Beef Expo, held at the Wisconsin State Fair Grounds in West Allis, Wisconsin. The club held its first annual Speed Show, a horse riding competition, which was held at Ashley Giese's arena in Tomah, Wisconsin on October 21st. The show was a big success and the club hopes to make this an annual event.

Fundraising and social activities are high priority for the Saddle and Sirloin club this semester. On October 14th, members helped fundraise by handing out eye black to football fans at Camp Randall Stadium. The following week the annual Saddle and Sirloin trail ride took place, but in a

small twist, members ended up on a hayride and had the chance to experience a goat-milking operation first hand in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

Members of the Saddle and Sirloin Club organized and managed the Badger Kick-Off Classic, the yearly beef prospect show, which was held December 1st -3rd at the Wisconsin State Fair Grounds. This event concluded the work for members this semester, but there are plenty more service and educational events upcoming in the next semester.

Log onto www.uwsaddlesirloin.com for more information on events and activities Saddle and Sirloin participates in during the year.

News from the Poultry Science Club

The Poultry Club conducted its annual Thanksgiving Turkey sale. The event, which is the major fundraiser for our club, was held, Friday Nov, 17 with the turkeys being distributed the following week. The club is also preparing for the annual Christmas Party which will be held in December. In January, the club will travel to Atlanta for the International Poultry Exposition. The IPE is the largest convention for the poultry industry. Here, club members will have opportunities to attend lectures about current events throughout the industry as well as interview for potential jobs. As always, we would like to thank the alumni for their continued support of the club.

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