



Department of Animal Sciences Alumni Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring 2010

FAREWELL FROM THE OUTGOING DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends,
Spring on campus is a time when we pause to acknowledge our appreciation for those who excel in providing service to our students, faculty and administration. I am referring to our many dedicated and humble staff members in this department. Numerous members of our staff are nominated for awards at the college and campus levels. This year, two of our staff members were selected to receive recognition. Shelia Pink was selected to receive a Classified Staff Award from CALS. I have worked closely with Shelia since she joined this department in 1994, and especially since I became Department Chair in 1999. Shelia is our department manager. Her role is to be the “go to” person in this department. All questions pertaining to building functions, emergencies, visitors, visas, safety, security, insurance, and personnel management eventually are answered by her. She has been a stalwart member of this department for many years. We are so pleased that she received this recognition by the college. Next, Catherine “Terry” Jobsis, a Research Program Manager who oversees our campus animal operations and teaches courses in animal handling techniques and animal welfare, received the Wisconsin Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Leadership. Terry is the first staff member of this department, to my knowledge, to receive a campus-level award. This is a very significant accomplishment for Terry and this department. Terry joined this department in 1993, as manager of the newly-opened Livestock Lab. Since that time, her role in animal care supervision has grown to include our poultry, equine and laboratory rodent and bird operations. Terry has been eager to have contact with our undergraduates. She has accomplished this by developing two courses and an Animal Welfare Judging Team, serving as our Academic
(cont'd. on page 2)



GREETINGS FROM THE INCOMING DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Greetings –
My name is Dave Thomas, and I've been serving as the Interim Chair of Animal Sciences since March 1 of this year. Dan Schaefer had served as Chair of Animal Sciences for many years, and due to his excellent record of administration in our department, he was asked to serve as the Interim Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Services in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences starting on March 1. Dan's tenure in this interim position is projected to be 12 to 18 months, and we look forward to him returning to the Animal Sciences Chair position. Many of you may not know me, so I'll take this opportunity to provide a brief background. I joined the faculty of the then Department of Meat and Animal Science in 1991. I have a 3-way split appointment in research, teaching and Extension. My research is in the area of sheep genetics and management, and I work with the sheep flocks at both the Arlington and Spooner Agricultural Research Stations. Research projects in recent years have included dairy sheep management, nutrition, and genetics; electronic identification of sheep; and genetics of ovulation rate and litter size in sheep. I teach sheep production and the Farm and Industry Short Course animal breeding course and co-teach the undergraduate animal genetics and animal breeding courses. I serve as the Sheep Extension Specialist for Wisconsin. I grew up in the Mineral Point, Wisconsin area and raised and showed purebred Hampshire sheep through high school and college. I graduated from the Department of Meat and Animal Science at the University of Wisconsin in 1971. My wife, Lynda, and I served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Kenya from 1971-1973 where she was a school teacher and I worked in animal husbandry extension. I completed the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Oklahoma State University
(cont'd. on page 2)





LETTERS FROM THE CHAIRS (CONT'D.)

(cont'd. from page 1 - "Farwell")

Quadrathlon coordinator, and being a co-advisor to the Saddle & Sirloin Club. Ron Russell, Senior Lecturer, was recognized by the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association at their annual banquet for his long-term support of livestock youth activities in this state. Ron has been a member of this department since 1983. He has taught our meat-animal evaluation curriculum and coached our evaluation team, co-taught the meat science course, advised many students interested in livestock species, managed the harvest and processing operations of our meat science lab, judged county fair events, and organized collegiate livestock evaluation contests. This department benefits from Ron's connection with the Wisconsin livestock industry. Speaking of meat and the Meat Science Lab, this department with the assistance of the UW Foundation is now earnestly undertaking the development effort needed to ensure that a new meat science lab secures a priority position in the CALS capital construction plan. Our goal is to obtain \$20 million to construct the new lab during 2013-15. All assistance will be welcomed! We have the good fortune to have some excellent poultry scientists in this department – Mark Cook, Mark Richards, Mark Berres and Ron Kean. Their expertise spans genetics, health, nutrition and meat products. They are all active in the undergraduate program of this department, in terms of academic advising, teaching, research mentorship, and career advising. The poultry industry of this state and region is vibrant, always on the lookout for our graduates who would like a career in their industry. Good jobs are plentiful in this industry. Please do refer any young college-bound students in your network to us, especially if they might have avian interests. We definitely have an excellent situation here for their academic nurture and would enjoy having more students with this interest. I have temporarily assumed some new duties. As of March 1, I am the CALS Interim Associate Dean for Instruction. My office is now in 116 Ag Hall, perhaps a familiar location to you from your undergraduate days. I am serving in this role until a permanent Associate Dean is hired, and then I expect to be returning to Animal Sciences. I continue to teach my courses and maintain a modest research program. In the meantime, I am learning much about academic affairs and CALS. My very capable replacement as Chair is Dr. Dave Thomas. Please do stay in touch with this department. We enjoy hearing from you!

Sincerely, Dan Schaefer

(cont'd. from page 1 - "Greetings")

in animal breeding and genetics from 1973 – 1977. Before coming back to UW-Madison, I was on the faculties at Oregon State University from 1977 – 1981 and the University of Illinois from 1981 – 1991. We left Wisconsin in 1971 and came back 20 years later in 1991. Coming back was a great move for us. It has been good for our families, and it has been good professionally. UW-Madison is one of the great universities of the world, and you learn to appreciate this even more while away from Wisconsin. It has been especially enjoyable for me to reconnect with sheep producers that I knew when I was raising sheep and to meet and serve newer sheep producers in my Extension role. In the Interim Chair position, I'm attempting to get up to speed on the status and needs of the various livestock/animal/industry groups in Wisconsin that our department serves. I've had recent opportunities to meet with some of the poultry and meat industry organizations, and I look forward to meeting with organizations representing the swine, beef cattle, horse, goat and aquaculture industries of Wisconsin in the future also. During the last 20 years, there has been a substantial reduction in the number of faculty in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and those reductions have been reflected in the Department of Animal Sciences. We currently have 17 faculty members (16 with the short-term loss of Dan Schaefer to CALS administration). Part of the loss of faculty positions has been cushioned by the hiring of some very well-qualified Academic Staff, all of whom have at least an M.S. degree. We have 4 Academic Staff members who lead their independent programs in teaching, Extension, and/or research, and we are about to begin interviews for a new Academic Staff member who will serve as the Small Ruminant Extension Specialist and work with the sheep and goat industries in Wisconsin. In my brief 3 months as Interim Chair, I've been required to learn more about the operation of the department and the large array of activities of our faculty, staff, and students. I'm very impressed with the work and dedication of our faculty and staff and the quality of our students. While there is always room for improvement, I'm very pleased with the contributions of our department to the mission of a Land Grant University in the areas of research, teaching, and Extension. It is always great to hear from alumni, so feel free to contact me at dlthomas@wisc.edu or 608-263-4306.

Sincerely, Dave Thomas



WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



Robby Weyker,
Associate Outreach Meat Specialist

Robby Weyker is a native of Belgium, WI and completed his B.S. degree at UW in Dairy Sciences in 2009. Besides working in the Department's Meat Lab for all four years of his undergraduate degree, he brings with him valuable meat plant operation experience from his family's Wisconsin bison business. One of Robby's main responsibilities will be to teach workshops and organize the new Master Meat Crafter Training Program.



Dr. Amy Radunz,
Beef Extension Specialist

Dr Amy Radunz has joined the faculty as the Beef Extension Specialist. She was raised on family farm located near Hutchinson, Minnesota. She earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees from North Dakota State University. Amy accepted a position as a Beef Extension Associate at The Ohio State University, where her primary responsibility was coordinating the state's efforts in the Five State Beef Initiative.

Amy then decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Ruminant Nutrition and Meat Science at OSU. For all your beef related questions, please contact her at the following:
email address: aradunz@wisc.edu
phone: (608) 890-3448



Sarah Wells,
Department Meat Lab Manager

Sarah completed her M.S. at South Dakota State University (SDSU) last fall. Her M.S. degree focused on the relationship between sarcomere length and postmortem proteolysis. Sarah brings with her excellent experience in working at two different meat labs (SDSU and The Ohio State University), successfully coaching meats judging teams, and undertaking numerous meat industry internships.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HARD-WORKING AND DESERVING STAFF!

On April 26, **Catherine "Terry" Jobsis**, the department's Research Program Manager, was awarded the Wisconsin Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Leadership- Individual Unit. She joined this department in 1993, as manager of the newly-opened Livestock Lab. Currently she oversees our campus animal operations and teaches courses in animal handling techniques and animal welfare. Terry is the first staff member of this department to receive a campus-level award, and we are very proud of her accomplishments and dedication to the department. Congratulations!



Shelia Pink, our Department Program Manager, was awarded the CALS Classified Employee Recognition Award this spring for her exceptional leadership in helping faculty, staff and students in the department. She joined the Animal Sciences department in 1994 and is considered our number one "go to" person. She assists anyone and everyone with questions and concerns pertaining to building functions, emergencies, visitors, visas, safety, security, insurance, and personnel management. It's actually quite impossible to work in the Animal Sciences building without ever having crossed paths with her. Congratulations, Shelia, and thank you for all you do!



Meet the Editor

Jennifer Blazek, a UW graduate student pursuing a double masters degree in Agroecology and Latin American Studies, is this issue's editor. Jennifer or "Jenni Blonde", as she is known in the Animal Sciences' office, has been a student hourly for the Department for the past 4 years and will ultimately graduate with her two masters in August of this year. As an employee of Animal Sciences, she has worked on everything from student payroll accounting to managing Stock Pavilion reservations to successfully writing Laboratory Modernization grants for the Department. She is excited to be the current editor for the alumni newsletter because she hasn't yet had a good opportunity to put her English undergraduate major into use and didn't want to pass up the opportunity. She wants to especially thank the brave alumni who graciously chose to be this year's "Where Are They Now?" guinea pigs, hoping that a few more will join in next year. Enjoy!

FIRST-EVER DAIRY SHEEP SPECIALIST A UW ANIMAL SCIENCES GRAD

Congratulations to **Claire Mikolayunas** a UW Animal Sciences graduate who is Wisconsin's first-ever Dairy Sheep Specialist. She was hired by the Dairy Business Innovation Center in the fall of 2009. A New England native, Claire completed her undergraduate education at Cornell University. After working on sheep and dairy cow farms in Northern Ireland and Maine, she managed a small flock of dairy ewes in a portable milking parlor. In 2004, she moved to Wisconsin to pursue a Ph.D. in dairy sheep nutrition at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has served as President of the Dairy Sheep Association of North America, organizing the Great Lakes Dairy Sheep Symposium. As the Dairy Sheep Specialist, she will provide technical and business development assistance to increase dairy sheep production in Wisconsin.



ANNOUNCING THE NEW MASTER MEAT CRAFTER TRAINING PROGRAM



In collaboration with the meat-processing industry and Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, the Animal Sciences department is excited to be able to offer the first-ever meat processing certification program in the country. And organizing this revolutionary program will be our very own Extension Meat Specialist, Jeff Sindelar, and our new Associate Outreach Meat Specialist, Robby Weyker. The certification program is a key initiative of the new Specialty Meat Development Center – another first in the country – a nonprofit resource center for artisanal sausage and meat processors. The Center will support Wisconsin's specialty meat processors by offering resources in business development, product development, labeling and packaging, market development, and food safety and quality.

The Master Meat Crafter Training Program will take approximately 2 to 2.5 years to complete, and graduating participants will receive accreditation as "Wisconsin Master Meat Crafter". The program consists of successfully completing three elements: Part 1-Attending 6 short courses on meat processing; Part 2-Completion of a mentorship program to pass your skills onto others; Part 3-Performing an investigative piece on a meat science topic carried out in the participant's establishment. The goals of the program are to 1) provide participants with comprehensive knowledge about meat science/meat processing principles, 2) provide development opportunities for the future meat industry leaders, and 3) help ensure the Wisconsin meat industry remains strong and viable for years to come. The program will be limited to 35 participants per class and the inaugural class will meet in June for the Fresh Meats School, the start of the program. The cost is \$3,000 for the entire program and is payable on quarterly installments.

For more information about the new meat processing program, contact Jeff Sindelar, Extension Meat Specialist (608-262-0555) or jsindelar@wisc.edu. Information is also available at:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/meats/index.cfm>



WHERE ARE THEY NOW??

Catching Up With Animal Sciences Alumni

Name: Mohey Mowafy

Graduation Date: December 1974 (Ph.D.)

Major(s) and Degree(s): Nutritional Sciences, Masters; Meat Science, Ph.D.

What have you been doing since graduation? Began teaching human nutrition and dietetics at Northern Michigan University fall of 1976. My focus of interest both in teaching and research totally shifted to human nutrition with an emphasis on clinical nutrition. Became a registered dietitian and a certified clinical nutritionist. In the early 90's developed a keen interest in the field of eating disorders (perhaps due to developing courses, teaching, and conducting research on obesity in minority populations) and became a certified eating disorders specialist. During my sabbatical which I spent in Greece (Harokopio University) I became very interested in cultural anthropology of nutrition/food resulting in developing a course and delivering 2 presentations at international cultural anthropology conferences (Crete in 2009 and Lisbon in 2010). During my tenure at NMU I received three excellence in teaching awards and two distinguished faculty awards (an accomplishment done by no other). My web page (<http://www-instruct.nmu.edu/~mmowafy/> and <http://www-instruct.nmu.edu/~mmowafy/>) is also a good source of information about my professional and my personal life.

How did your time at Madison impact your career? I am so thankful to all the days, people, experiences, and learning that I gained during my meat science life sojourn in Madison because they truly are the foundation of what and who I now am. I am equally grateful to all who were a part of my initial education of human nutrition.



Name: David L. Boebel

Graduation Date: January 24, 1970

Major(s) and Degree(s): Meat & Animal Science

What have you been doing since graduation?

*Senior Quality Engineer / Quality Analyst for Abbott Corporate Quality and Regulatory Department for Manpower Professional (Abbott Laboratories, Lake County, IL), 2007– 2010

*Six Sigma Black Belt, Project Manager, Quality Assurance Program Manager for Global Pharmaceutical Operations (Abbott Laboratories, Lake County, IL), 2000– 2007

*Contigroup Companies, Inc., Chicago, IL, 1970 – 2000

-Senior Manager Quality Assurance & Analytical Services – 1993 - 2000

-Manager Quality Assurance – 1982-1993

-Assistant Manager Quality Assurance – 1977-1982

-Quality Assurance / Production Supervisor – 1970-1975

*Pet Food Technologist for Ralston Purina Company, St. Louis, MO, 1976-1977



Interested alumni who would like to be featured in future newsletters for the department, please send a short biography (max. 700 words) to Kathy Monson at the following email address: kamonson@wisc.edu



Thank You 2009 Donors!

We are thankful to have generous donors like you joining together to ensure the future success of our department and university. During these financially challenging times, private support has become increasingly important in assuring the affordability of a college education, helping with the retention of valued faculty members, introducing new programs and fostering innovative research.

Gifts like yours are at work daily and have a tremendous impact on the lives of students, faculty, and staff.

Listed below are those who contributed to departmental funds in 2009.

<p>Milt Sunde Scholarship Fund Prof. Roger Sunde</p>	<p>Meat Science and Muscle Biology Program Fund ATK Foundation Ms. Nancy and Dr. Charles Carpenter</p>	<p>Endocrinology & Reproductive Physiology - Animal Sciences Prof. Fredrick and Ms. Alice Stormshak Dr. Todd Winters</p>
<p>Poultry Research Institute Fund Dr. Wayne Bacon Ms. Gail Holm Mr. Ben Lawton Ms. Allegra Manacher Dr. Thonas Sullivan</p>	<p>Benevenga Animal Nutrition Student Fund Dr. Gary Case</p>	<p>Nutritional & Health Benefits of Phytochemicals in Food POM Wonderful LLC</p>
<p>A.B. Chapman Lecture Fund Dr. Robert Bellows Ms. Ida Bass Kirsch Dr. Max and Mrs. Denise Rothschild Dr. Lorraine Rutledge</p>	<p>Department of Animal Sciences Fund Mr. Lowell Ahrens Dr. Dennis Champion Ms. Jennifer Cigan Ms. Donna Erste Ms. Mary Exner Dr. Willard and Ms. Mary Eyestone Ms. Kerry Furlong Dr. Fields Gunsett Dr. Ping He and Dr. Rong Wei Mr. Daniel and Ms. Minda Hesselberg Mrs. Amanda Hoffman-Kiesow</p>	<p>Dennis Buege Meat Science Endowed Student Assistantship American Foods Group Mr. Mark and Ms. Jane Breseman Ms. Catherine Buege Ms. Virginia Hazlett JBS Prof. Donald Kropf Mr. David Nicholson Mr. James and Ms. Mary Peterson Dr. John and Ms. Joyce Prange Mr. Bruce and Ms. Carol Seemann Mr. Russell Skewes Smithfield Beef Group Mr. Ronald Weiss</p>
<p>Julie Busby Memorial Fund Dr. Lorraine Rutledge</p> <p>Meat Science Learning Opportunity Endowment Mr. Michael Marr Mr. Douglas Marshall Oakwood Farms</p>	<p>Mr. James Huber Dr. Travis Kuhlka Dr. Robert Lewis Ms. Kay Maas Mr. Daniel McFarlin Prof. Gary Onan Prof. Michael Orth Mr. Rudy Schmidt Dr. Laura Stein Mr. Mark Thieleke Mr. Eugene Vangen Mr. Daniel Weiss Mr. Melvin Zech</p>	<p>Department of Animal Sciences Community Fund Prof. Daniel Schaefer</p>
<p>Pope Sheep Research Fund Mr. Benjamin Peters Prof. Arthur and Ms. Elizabeth Pope</p> <p>Bray-Woodbury WI Dist Graduate Fellowship - Meat Science Dr. Robert Merkel</p>		<p>Walter and Mabel Topel Animal Sciences Scholarship Dr. David Topel</p>
<p>Gustav Bohstedt Animal Sciences Fund Mr. James Bohstedt</p>		<p>Muscle Biology Laboratory Research Support Fund Prof. Marion Greaser</p>



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

How Can You Support Animal Sciences?

Julie Busby Memorial Fund (Fund# 12561088)

This fund will provide earnings that will give the Department's graduate students vital assistance in preparing their research presentations and subsequent travel to meetings to present their findings.

MJ Wylie Animal Sciences Education and Outreach Fund (Fund# 12563553)

Projects such as new technology development and training, animal behavior, and ethics training, and extension and outreach programming needs will be met by this fund named in honor of Dr. M.J. Wylie, former State Equine Extension Specialist in this Department.

Department of Animal Sciences Fund (Fund# 1256444)

The Chair of the Department uses fund earnings to respond to unforeseen opportunities and challenges in its teaching, research, and outreach missions.

Meat Science Learning Opportunity Endowment (Fund# 12561862)

Undergraduate students are the benefactors of this endowment fund. This fund supports learning experiences such as internships, field travel, undergraduate research projects, and meat animal evaluation team participation.

Pope Sheep Research Fund (Fund# 12562330)

Established by Emeritus Professor Arthur Pope, the Pope Sheep Research Fund enhances the ability of the Department to perform sheep-related research and outreach activities.

Milt L. Sunde Poultry Science Scholarship (Fund# 12040228)

This fund was established in 1987, upon the retirement of Milt Sunde, Emeritus Professor of Poultry Science. It provides a scholarship to an undergraduate student studying and interested in Poultry Science. The scholarship is awarded based on leadership and academic performance.

Packerland Packing Company Beef Program Enrichment Fund (Fund# 12561952)

Earnings from this fund will be used to strengthen the economic and environmental sustainability of beef production with an emphasis on the Wisconsin cattle industry.

The Department of Animal Sciences

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I/We wish to make a single gift. Enclosed is my/our contribution of \$ _____.

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CONGRATULATIONS!



Dr Daniel Gianola will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Aarhus (Denmark) on September 10, 2010.



On Saturday, April 10, 2010, **Dana Erickson** was awarded the Dennis R. Buege Meat Science Scholarship. Dana received a \$1000 scholarship and a plaque during the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processor's Spring Convention banquet.



Ron Russell, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Animal Sciences, was recognized by the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association as the At Large Honoree at their recent annual meeting and banquet (March 20, 2010). Ron was recognized for his long-term support of livestock youth activities in the state.

Department of Animal Sciences
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Room 256 Animal Sciences Building
1675 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

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