Awards and Recognition

Stein receives the Ferguson College of Agriculture Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Student Advising and Mentoring

Oklahoma State’s Leon Spicer awarded national animal science honor

OSU dairy research improves production for industry

OSU Swine Center excels at multiple shows in 2021

OSU Livestock Judging Team takes top spot at nationals

OSU Horse Judging Team named All American Quarter Horse Congress Champions

Totusek Lectureship continues to have significant impact with 2021 event

Animal Science Weekend
Around the Department

Changes in Appointment - 2021

Paul Beck, reappointment to the Dennis and Marta White Chair in Animal Science Animal and Food Sciences

Udaya DeSilva, promotion from associate professor to professor, Animal and Food Sciences

Andrew Foote, reappointment as assistant professor, Animal and Food Sciences

Ravirajisinh Jadeja, promotion from assistant professor to associate professor (action grants tenure) and appointment to the Virgil and Marge Jurgensmeyer Research Professorship, Animal and Food Sciences

Janeen Johnson, reappointment to the Temple Grandin Professorship for Animal Behavior and Well-Being, Animal and Food Sciences

Ryan Reuter, promotion from associate professor to professor, Animal and Food Sciences

Blake Wilson, promotion from assistant professor to associate professor (action grants tenure) and appointment to the Hitch Family Professorship in Ruminant Feedlot Nutrition, Animal and Food Sciences

Jerry Fitch and Chris Richards, appointed to interim department heads, Animal and Food Sciences

New Hires

Wes Crane joined our team as the new herd manager at the OSU Willard Sparks Beef Research Center.

He grew up in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on a small farm and ranch. In high school, he was very active in FFA and raised and showed cattle. He started purchasing stocker cattle to graze on wheat pasture in high school and has since then grown his operation.

As part of his job duties, he manages multiple aspects of the cattle at the facility, as well as yard/equipment maintenance and managing undergraduate students.

When not at work, he enjoys farming, ranching, and checking cattle.

Justin Rutledge joined the front office in the Animal Science building as our newest accountant.

Justin is originally from Dickson, Oklahoma. Whether raising or showing cattle, his family is heavily involved in the livestock industry. Five years ago, he started a small herd of registered Red Angus.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in agribusiness from Oklahoma State University. When not at work, he enjoys hunting, fishing and raising cattle.

Retirements and Departures

Ali Beker retired in October 2021. He started at OSU as a post doc in 1997 working with Dr. Bob Teeter. He left in 1998 then came back in 2000 as a senior research specialist. In 2017, he became a research lab supervisor and oversaw all of the department’s research labs. He was also played an important role in our poultry program.

Evin Cook started a position in the OSU College of Education & Human Sciences in October 2021. She was the first person people would meet when coming to our front office.

Clint Rusk left the university and started a new position out of state in November 2021. He served as department head for the OSU Department of Animal and Food Sciences for over nine years. The department saw many improvements and changes under his watch.

David Cox retired on February 1, 2022. He started in our department in October of 1983. He first worked as assistant herd manager at our South Range and then became manager at Crosstimber/Bluestem in 1998 where he was an important part of the cattle operation.

Job Positions Available

Are you interested in joining our team? We are currently looking for qualified applicants for multiple job positions.

To learn more about these positions or to apply, go to OSU’s hire website at https://bit.ly/3HXUckm.
Awards & Recognition

Homecoming Sweepstakes

The OSU Dairy Science Club won Sweepstakes for the student organization section of the Homecoming contest. Their Chili Cookoff entry placed second overall and their parade float placed first overall.

Top 10 Freshmen

Each year, the OSU Mortar Board names the Top 20 Freshmen Men and Women. They then narrow the list down further into the Top 10. Students are selected based on scholarship, leadership, and community service.

Below are the animal science undergraduate students that were selected for this honor.

- Morgan Patterson, animal science undergraduate student from Springfield, Missouri
- Ragan Wilson, animal science undergraduate student from Seneca, Missouri

ASAS National Awards

Four people in our department received awards in 2021 from the American Society of Animal Science; Leon Spicer, Parniyan Goodarzi, Mohammad Habibi, and Hunter McConnell.

Leon Spicer received the Animal Physiology and Endocrinology Award. He is a professor of animal science within our department. His research focuses on different in vivo and in vitro approaches to study nutritional and hormonal control of ovarian function and follicular development. Read more about him on page 10.

Parniyan Goodarzi received the H. Allen Tucker Appreciation Club Graduate Student Travel Scholarship. Parniyan is an animal science graduate student pursuing her Ph.D. She is advised by Adel Pezeshki.

Mohammad Habibi received the Joseph P. Fontenot Appreciation Club Travel Scholarship Award. Mohammad is an animal science graduate student pursuing his Ph.D. and is advised by Adel Pezeshki.

Hunter McConnell won first place in the undergraduate poster competition. Her poster was titled, “Effect of increased ruminal propionate on the expression of hepatic gluconeogenic genes in cattle on a finishing ration.” Hunter is a Niblack Research Scholar and is mentored by faculty member Andrew Foote.

USDA-FSIS Graduate Fellowship

Caitlin Karolenko, Ph.D. animal science student, was awarded a USDA-FSIS Graduate Fellowship 2021-2022 for a project on “Identification and application of non-pathogenic surrogate organisms for in-plant validation of biltong processes” that is being included as part of her dissertation research. Her fellowship will be done in a collaboration with the OSU PI (Peter Muriana) and a USDA-FSIS laboratory via bi-weekly Zoom meetings.

Animal Science Weekend

The 2022 Animal Science Weekend will be held April 1-3. Be sure to register for the OSU Animal and Food Science Scholarship Banquet and the ASAA Gala Reunion by March 20, 2022, to avoid the late fee.

Learn about this year’s activities or register online at afs.okstate.edu/weekend.

The full schedule of events is available on page 18.
Two leadership positions in the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) were filled by individuals from our department: Gretchen Mafi and Kathryn Hearn.

Professor Gretchen Mafi joined the AMSA Board of Directors as president-elect and Kathryn Hearn, Ph.D. student, became president of the 2021-2022 AMSA Student Board of Directors. They began their terms at the conclusion of the 2021 74th RMC in Reno, Nevada, in August.

AMSA Board Positions

Anna Goldkamp, animal science graduate student, was a recipient of an Otto S. Cox Graduate Fellowship for genetic research. The annual fellowship includes a $1,000 stipend. Anna is studying molecular genetics in animal science. Her research focuses on how the rate of protein translation impacts economically important traits in livestock. She is advised by Darren Hagen.

Learn more about Anna and the fellowship at https://bit.ly/3qKBehH.

Otto S. Cox Graduate Fellowship

Within our department, an undergraduate student can earn a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (BSAG) in either animal science or food science.

Within the each major, students select a degree option (predefined emphasis area) so that their plan of study meets their needs.

Animal Science

Animal science is one of the largest majors on campus and the largest within the OSU Ferguson College of Agriculture. Animal science is the science and business of domestic animals, including companion animals and livestock species.

The following are degree options within the animal science major:

- Agricultural communications (double major)
- Agricultural education (double major)
- Animal biotechnology
- Business
- Livestock merchandising
- Pre-veterinary
- Production
- Ranch operations

Food Science

Food scientists ensure the safety and quality of foods from the point of production on the farm until products reach the consumer’s plate.

The study of food science includes all types of foods, such as dairy products, fruits and vegetables, meat and poultry and further processed foods that you find in grocery stores and restaurants.

The following are degree options within the food science major:

- Food industry
- Food safety
- Meat science
- Science
Oklahoma State University provides a number of opportunities for undergraduates to get involved with research on campus. Below are undergraduate students within our department that received research scholarships for 2021-2022.

**Undergraduate Research Scholars**

**Niblack**

Hunter McConnell *
- Major: animal science
- Faculty Mentor: Andrew Foote
- Project Title: The effect of linoleic acid on inflammatory gene expression in the rumen

**Wentz**

Paetyn Armstrong *
- Major: food science
- Faculty Mentor: Ranjith Ramanathan
- Project Title: Effects of pomegranate pre-treatment on ground beef quality

**Adelle Crofford **

- Major: animal science
- Faculty Mentor: Darren Hagen
- Project Title: Effect of wolbachia mechanisms on drosophila reproductive fitness

**Faith Howe**

- Major: animal science
- Faculty Mentor: Darren Hagen
- Project Title: The effect of long non-coding RNA on the cell cycle.

**Kennedy Roberts**

- Majors: animal science/wildlife biology
- Faculty Mentor: Adel Pezeshki
- Project Title: The effect of supplementation dietary tryptophan on fat and glucose metabolism in low-birth-weight piglets

**Freshmen Research Scholars**

**Hailey Spray**

- Major: animal science
- Faculty Mentor: Gretchen Mafi
- Project Title: The dietary concentrate level and harvest weight effects on palatability of Spanish wethers and doelings

**Animal and Food Science Undergraduate Research Scholars**

**Jaxon Allen**

- Major: animal science
- Faculty Mentor: Joao Moraes
- Project Title: Evaluation of in vitro maturation, fertilization, and culture procedures to generate sheep-goat hybrids for the study of parental contributions to embryonic development

**Paige Anderson**

- Major: animal science
- Faculty Mentor: Darren Hagen
- Project Title: Generation of interspecies hybrids for in-depth 3D genome analysis

**Kaytlyn Cash**

- Major: animal science
- Faculty Mentor: Glenn Zhang
- Project Title: Epigenetic regulation of animal innate immunity

**Miranda Iager**

- Major: animal science
- Faculty Mentor: Glenn Zhang
- Project Title: Natural approaches to immune modulation

**Jackson Moore**

- Major: animal science
- Faculty Mentor: Andrew Foote
- Project Title: Effect of concentration and source of fat on rumen inflammatory gene expression
Chase McCoy
Major: animal science
Faculty Mentor: Ranjith Ramanathan
Project Title: Determining the muscle specific effects on beef discoloration

Morgan Patterson
Major: animal science
Faculty Mentor: Janeen Johnson
Project Title: Welfare consequence of length of tail dock

Natalee Richardson
Major: animal science
Faculty Mentor: Darren Hagen
Project Title: In vivo Assay: Bacterial small RNAs may regulate eukaryotic gene expression

Kaylee Rumbaugh
Major: food science
Faculty Mentor: Divya Jaroni
Project Title: Evaluation of Lactic Acid Bacteria for Inhibition Against *Escherichia coli*

Marissa Schultz
Major: animal science
Faculty Mentor: Joao Moraes
Project Title: Development of sheep-goat hybrids to track parental contributions to embryonic development

Abbie Schwab
Major: animal science
Faculty Mentor: Kris Hiney
Project Title: Management practices and their impact on the incidence of anthelmintic resistance in Oklahoma equine

Madelyn Scott *
Major: food science
Faculty Mentor: Ranjith Ramanathan
Project Title: Effects of light and 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal on non-enzymatic metmyoglobin reduction

Leslie Smith
Major: animal science
Faculty Mentor: Blake Wilson
Project Title: Effects of nutritional feed additive on immune response on cattle infected with

Katherine Walsh
Major: animal science
Faculty Mentor: Adel Pezeshki
Project Title: A mixture of dietary valine and isoleucine above NRC requirements on growth performance of nursery pigs fed with very low protein diets

Jade Wilkinson
Major: food science
Faculty Mentor: Peter Muriana
Project Title: Effect of acid adaption on pathogenic bacteria used in biltong USDA-FSIS validation studies

The OSU Animal and Food Sciences Undergraduate Research Scholars Program engages promising undergraduates and provides a solid foundation in research methods to better prepare them for industry and academic careers in the fields of animal and/or food sciences. Knowledgeable faculty members serve as mentors for undergraduate students while they gain valuable hands-on experience working on cutting-edge research projects side-by-side with faculty, graduate students, lab supervisors and research unit managers.

The students benefit from the continued support of endowment thanks to the vision and contribution of donors. Special thanks to Steve Armbruster and Gerald Horn for their support.

Recipients of Dr. Armbruster Scholarship indicated by *.
Recipients of Drs. Horn and Wettemann Undergraduate Research Scholarship indicated by **.

Pictured is Faith Howe, animal science undergraduate research scholar and Wentz recipient.
Stein receives the Ferguson College of Agriculture Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Student Advising and Mentoring

Dan Stein, an associate professor in the Oklahoma State University Department of Animal and Food Sciences, is a recipient of the 2021 Ferguson College of Agriculture Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Student Advising and Mentoring.

With a passion and determination to help students, Stein encourages them to do their best in class — and in life.

“Everybody gets a chance in life,” Stein said. “I make that very clear. As old as I was coming back to school, somebody had to give me a chance, so I believe in giving students a chance to prove themselves and what they can do.”

Stein’s desire to return to education later in life to earn his doctorate in animal science and to teach was driven by his belief that he could make a difference in the lives of students.

“As I see students I have mentored go on to succeed with their careers, it means a lot to me,” Stein said. “Just when I think I’m having a bad semester, a bad month, a bad day, I receive a note from a past student saying, ‘Thanks for what you’ve done.’ This gets me over the hill and back up and running again.”

Cynda Clary, associate dean of academic programs for the Ferguson College of Agriculture, said she is impressed with Stein’s ability to connect with students on a deeper level.

“Dr. Stein’s passion for his students is apparent in everything he does,” Clary said. “You can tell when someone truly loves what they do, and this helps him connect with students by being passionate about his position.”

Clink Rusk, head of the OSU Department of Animal and Food Sciences, said Stein has a plaque hanging in his office that was given to him by one of his students that reads, “The Heart of Mentoring.”

“The inscription on the plaque says, ‘Getting the most out of life isn’t about how much you keep for yourself, but how much you pour into others.’” Rusk said. “Because of his impeccable record for advising students, a reputation for an open-door policy and a true passion for mentoring students, it is clear he is deserving of this award.”

Cathy Mapes, an advisee and student of Stein’s, said although he has only been her advisor for a few years, she has known him since 2014 when he also advised and mentored her older sister.

“My time at OSU has included several transitions and decisions for my future,” Mapes said. “The support and encouragement I have gained from him have never gone unnoticed. His diligent work ethic as a professor and advisor is exceptional, and he always goes above and beyond what is asked of him.”

Mapes said she is consistently amazed by Stein’s devotion to the department, students, fellow faculty and the university.

“Earning the trust and respect of my students is of the utmost importance for me in order to be a successful advisor and mentor,” Stein said. “I believe the integrity, consideration and geniality exhibited will influence students in their willingness and desire to learn and succeed.”

Written by Tanna Frizzell
Dan Stein teaches animal reproduction and domestic animal behavior classes. His Extension activities focus on animal breeding and selection of reproduction.
Leon Spicer's research involves a wide range of in vivo and in vitro approaches to study nutritional and hormonal control of ovarian function and follicular development. Experimental approaches span from evaluating control of steroidogenesis, mitogenesis and gene expression in ovarian cells to determining the effect of nutritional supplements on ovarian function and milk production in dairy cattle.
Oklahoma State University’s Leon Spicer has been named the 2021 recipient of the American Society of Animal Science’s Animal Physiology and Endocrinology Award.

A professor in the OSU Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Spicer is only the second OSU faculty member to receive the national honor. The award recognizes research excellence in physiology and endocrinology involving large and small animals during the 10 years preceding the recognition. The first recipient was a mentor of Spicer’s — Robert P. Wettemann — a renowned animal science researcher who served on the OSU faculty for 42 years.

“Leon’s dedication to his work has always been in evidence, right from the beginning when he joined our department,” Wettemann said. “Many was the night when I would be leaving the animal science building at 10 p.m. and Leon would be in his lab or office, still running an experiment or writing up research findings.”

Spicer’s research during the past 10 years has primarily focused on improving reproductive efficiency in dairy cattle, especially approaches to better understand nutritional and metabolic regulation of ovarian function. Recent efforts have used microarray technology to discover several genes involved in the control of ovarian function.

A twist on Spicer’s research — funded by the National Institutes of Health — was how his work done on cows might translate into a potential ovarian cancer treatment for women.

“From an ovarian perspective, there are key similarities in follicular development between a human and a bovine,” Spicer said. “It’s just the biological makeup and a good example of how conducting science in one area or on one species can provide key insights that may lead to benefits in other areas or species.”

The OSU professor spoke on OStateTV about his research and how it might benefit cancer protocols in humans.

Spicer is the only current faculty member in his department to have been named both an OSU Regents Distinguished Teacher and an OSU Regents Distinguished Researcher.

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“It’s a rare feat to be awarded either distinction. We have faculty members who have been named one or the other, but only Dr. Spicer has been recognized as both,” said Clint Rusk, department head. “The combination is a great benefit to our department, the college and the university, not only in terms of providing services but in student recruitment. Students want to learn from the best, especially if the teacher is also highly engaging.”

Rusk said Spicer is renowned for being one of the most popular animal science authors in the nation. He has published more than 520 research articles and abstracts, 115 of which were published in the past decade.

“Leon is not slowing down, even after more than 30 years at OSU,” Wettemann said. “He and I recently collaborated on and published reproductive physiology research that built on some studies done years ago. Yes, I’m retired, and Leon is nearing retirement, but he keeps rolling on and I was happy to get back on board.”

Spicer joined the Oklahoma State faculty in 1988. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science from the University of Minnesota in 1977 and the University of Idaho in 1979, respectively. He earned his doctoral degree in dairy science from Michigan State University in 1984.

Written by Donald Stotts
OSU dairy research improves production for industry

The overall goal of OSU dairy research is to improve the efficiency of dairy production, according to Department of Animal and Food Sciences researchers Andrew Foote and Leon Spicer.

“Our research is about providing new knowledge and tools needed to help dairy farmers raise healthier cows that produce high-quality milk more efficiently,” Spicer said.

The vitamin D supplement increased milk production in cows in the first month of production. Researchers are looking into the physiological mechanisms that led to the increased milk production.

The OSU Ferguson Family Dairy Center opened a robotic milking system in October 2020. Foote said dietary pellets are used with robotic milking systems to coax dairy cows into the robotic system and to make them stand still while being milked.

The research entailed feeding no pellets to one group of cows, while feeding two different amounts per day to two other groups. The amount each cow ate per day was measured by a feed bunk. Foote said the key is to make sure dairy cows are getting the right amount of starch and protein, so researchers looked at whether feeding the pellets to the dairy cows affected their dietary needs.

Foote said the mixed diet intake of the cows receiving pellets declined significantly, which “told us that when we feed cows the pellets, we likely need to reformulate their mixed diet to make sure we are meeting their protein requirements and not giving them too much starch.”

However, adding the pellets had no negative effects on milk production. Researchers will follow up with altered mixed rations to determine the amount of protein and corn that needs to be present in a cow’s mixed rations when they also consume pellets. There will likely be a follow up study to determine how increasing amounts of pellets affect the digestibility of a cow’s diet.

Spicer will be presenting summer 2020 research at the ASAS conference in which he and fellow researchers regularly fed Bacillus subtilis bacteria to dairy cows to determine if it impacted milk production and milk components, such as milk fat and milk protein percentage.

Treated cows showed a 0.5% increase in milk fat from 4% to 4.5%.

“We calculated that this would be a $236 increase in gross income per cow per lactation or a $23,607 per 100 cow herd increase in gross income per year,” Spicer said. “The other important aspect we found was their feed efficiency increased. They were eating less food to produce the same amount of milk as the non-treated cows.”

In upcoming dairy research, Spicer will be teaming up with OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine faculty to look at an electrolyte water additive to see how it might impact milk production and feed intake. The study will be conducted in the heat of the summer to see how cows are affected in a more stressful environment.

Written by Alisa Boswell-Gore
The Oklahoma State University Swine Research and Education Center competes in multiple shows throughout the year where they display high-quality pigs. The center had an exceptional year in 2021, receiving awards and recognition at multiple events.

OSU showed the 2021 Hog College Yorkshire Boar at the 75th Annual National Barrow Show in Austin, Minnesota. Cole Chapman and Brock Montgomery (student employees) and Jim Coakley (herd manager) attended the event where they displayed the boar Sept. 11-14, 2021.

“This boar is a result of a planned mating between our boar OSU 33-4 to OSU’s Freak of the Week 23-13 Sow,” Coakley said. “He was sold the last day of the National Barrow Show for $3,400 to Gunderson Farms from Minnesota.”

The swine facility also raised and sold the Bronze Emblem Yorkshire Gilt at the Tulsa State Fair. The gilt was shown by Karlie Snow from the Aline-Cleo FFA Chapter.

In addition, OSU exhibited two boars at the Duncan Fall Classic Swine Show and both boars received first place.

The center’s great performance at these competitions continues its long-standing reputation for outstanding purebreds.

The swine center was recently highlighted on an episode of Inside OSU. To watch the video, visit https://bit.ly/3lGeTbj.

Written by Rebekah Alford
OSU Livestock Judging Team takes top spot at nationals

Oklahoma State University’s Livestock Judging Team and coach earned top honors for a historic 21st time at the recent North American International Livestock Exposition.

In addition to the OSU Department of Animal and Food Sciences students winning the 2020-2021 National Champion award, Parker Henley, assistant professor and OSU Extension specialist, was named Coach of the Year by the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches’ Association.

Since the team claimed victory for the first time in 1925, OSU students have earned more national championships at the competition than any other university in the country. The consistency and quality of their accomplishments shouldn’t be a surprise to anyone by now, Henley said.

“These students have created a tradition of excellence that only grows stronger as each new class steps up to the challenge, contributing their own gifts to that legacy,” he said, adding that the 10-year and 40-year national champion teams from OSU also were recognized at this year’s awards banquet.

This was Henley’s first time to lead the OSU team, and it was his first national championship. The students were also coached by Will Shelby, a former team member and current student of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

The team dominated the contest with high individual scores, positioning them to win every division, including goats, swine and cattle, as well as the reasons division. They ended the event with a 102-point lead, the greatest margin of victory ever recorded at the North American International Livestock Exposition, Henley said.

Individual honors by team members this year included:

- Phoebe Rogers of Hennessey, Oklahoma – named High Individual Overall.

- Macey Goretska of Abilene, Texas – earned the fourth High Individual spot and tied with a trio of fellow contestants to win the reasons division.

- Ty Taylor of Centralia, Oklahoma; Tanner Walden of Tonganoxie, Kansas; and Mattie Haynes of Jay, Oklahoma were the fifth, 10th and 11th High Individuals Overall, respectively.

- Haynes, Goretska and Grace Harris of Horatio, Arkansas, were named All-American award winners for their dedication to livestock judging, academic success, university and industry activities, and community involvement.

Other members of the team are:

- Jacob Bedell of Yukon, Oklahoma; Blair Cupps of Burlington, Kentucky; Calvin Johnson of Vinita, Oklahoma; Danielle Nading of Fort Scott, Kansas; Bailey Osborn of Kingman, Kansas; Natally Owen of Mustang, Oklahoma; Johnna Stottlemyre of Luther, Oklahoma; and Raylyn Thompson of Adair, Oklahoma.

Written by Brian Brus

North American International Livestock Exposition

The OSU Livestock Judging Team members and their coaches (left to right): Will Shelby (assistant coach), Danielle Nading, Natally Owen, Raylyn Thompson, Tanner Walden, Bailey Osborn, Ty Taylor, Macey Goretska, Phoebe Rogers, Calvin Johnson, Blair Cupps, Mattie Haynes, Johanna Stottlemyre, Jacob Bedell, Grace Harris and Parker Henley (coach).
The 2021 OSU Horse Judging Team competed in the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, where they were named Champions.

The team also won both the reasons and halter divisions and were second in the performance division. The team was coached by Rachel Scott.

The team went on to compete in the AQHA World Show Judging Contest and NRHA competitions where they earned fourth and third place, respectively.

Individual Achievements (Congress):

Megan Newlon was fourth high overall, champion individual in reasons and champion individual in halter.

Mikayla South was sixth high overall, 10th in reasons, fifth in performance and 6th in halter.

Elizabeth Hokit was seventh high overall, seventh in performance and seventh in halter.

Sierra Walter was eighth high overall, third in reasons and fifth in halter.

Written by Rebekah Alford
The 28th Annual Totusek Lectureship was took place in person on Nov. 19, 2021, in the Student Union Starlight Terrace on the Oklahoma State University campus. The event is organized each year by the Animal Science Graduate Student Association (ASGSA) as a learning opportunity and to encourage the building of relationships between current students, OSU alumni and industry professionals in the animal science field.

Mindy Brashears, OSU alumnus and former under secretary for food safety, returned as the keynote speaker. She provided a modified virtual presentation at the lectureship in 2020 when the event was moved online. In 2021, her presentation was titled, “Sowing and Reaping: Planting Seeds of Influence.”

“Dr. Brashears provided a passionate take on the importance of influence in the agricultural industry,” said Jazmin Markey, vice-president of the ASGSA. “She used her own career and accomplishments to convey a concise example on the effect that our influence has on one another and our beloved industry as a whole.”

Her career encompasses many facets of the food safety industry, including but not limited to research, teaching and authorship. Brashears currently serves as the associate vice president for research at Texas Tech University.

“The Totusek Lectureship was instigated by Dr. Totusek for graduate students to have an opportunity to meet and interact with key influencers in all aspects of the livestock and food industry,” said Dennis White, OSU alumnus and former colleague of Totusek. “Officers of the graduate student association...”

Attendees of the 28th Annual Totusek Lectureship gather in the Starlight Terrace at the Student Union.
have the responsibility of planning and conducting the meeting, which enhances their skills and values for future endeavors."

The lectureship series will return in November 2022. For questions about the Totusek Lectureship Series, contact Jazmin Markey via e-mail at jazmin.markey@okstate.edu.

Written by Rebekah Alford

ASGSA Executive Team:
Blake Wilson, advisor (associate professor, Hitch Family Professorship)
Kathryn Hearn, president (Ph.D. student, meat science)
Jazmin Markey, vice president and 2021 Totusek Lectureship chair (Ph.D. student, ruminant nutrition)
Melanie Whitmore, secretary (Ph.D. student, animal genetics)
Caitlyn Wileman, treasurer (M.S. student, swine nutrition)
Mallory Fuhrig, GPGSA representative (M.S. student, animal science)
Parniyan Goodarzi, GPGSA representative (Ph.D. student, swine nutrition)
April 1-3, 2022
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Friday, April 1
6:00 p.m. Animal & Food Sciences Scholarship Banquet  
Wes Watkins Center

Saturday, April 2
11:30 a.m. Lunch & ASAA General Membership Meeting  
Totusek Arena
All alumni welcome. Lunch sponsored by Livestock Nutrition Center
Alumni Tour, following lunch and meeting  
Ferguson Family Dairy

2:00 p.m. 100+ Year Meat Science Celebration  
FAPC
Happy Hour at the Salty Bronc following the tour

5:00 p.m. ASAA Gala Reunion  
OSU ConocoPhillips Alumni Center
Doors open for social hour, cash bar and meal

5:30 p.m. Photos of 50-year teams

6:00 p.m. ASAA Gala Reunion Program  
OSU ConocoPhillips Alumni Center
Reunion of 2012, 1997 & 1972 animal science graduates, 50-year 1972 judging teams and Hall of Fame Chairback Recipient - Dr. Tom Carr

Online Scholarship Auction-live, spotlight & silent items
Auction bidding available online at www.ASAAgala.givesmart.com

Sunday, April 3
1:00 p.m. 43rd Annual Cowboy Classic Sale  
Purebred Beef Center

A block of rooms have been reserved at the following hotels. Please specify "animal science" and make reservations by March 1.

Residence Inn by Marriott (405) 707-0588
Best Western Cimarron Plus (405) 372-2878
Home 2 Suites by Hilton Stillwater (405) 372-2550
The Atherton (405) 744-6835
Holiday Inn Express and Suites (405) 372-2445

For more information, visit ASAAgala.givesmart.com or afs.okstate.edu/weekend
Thank You!

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