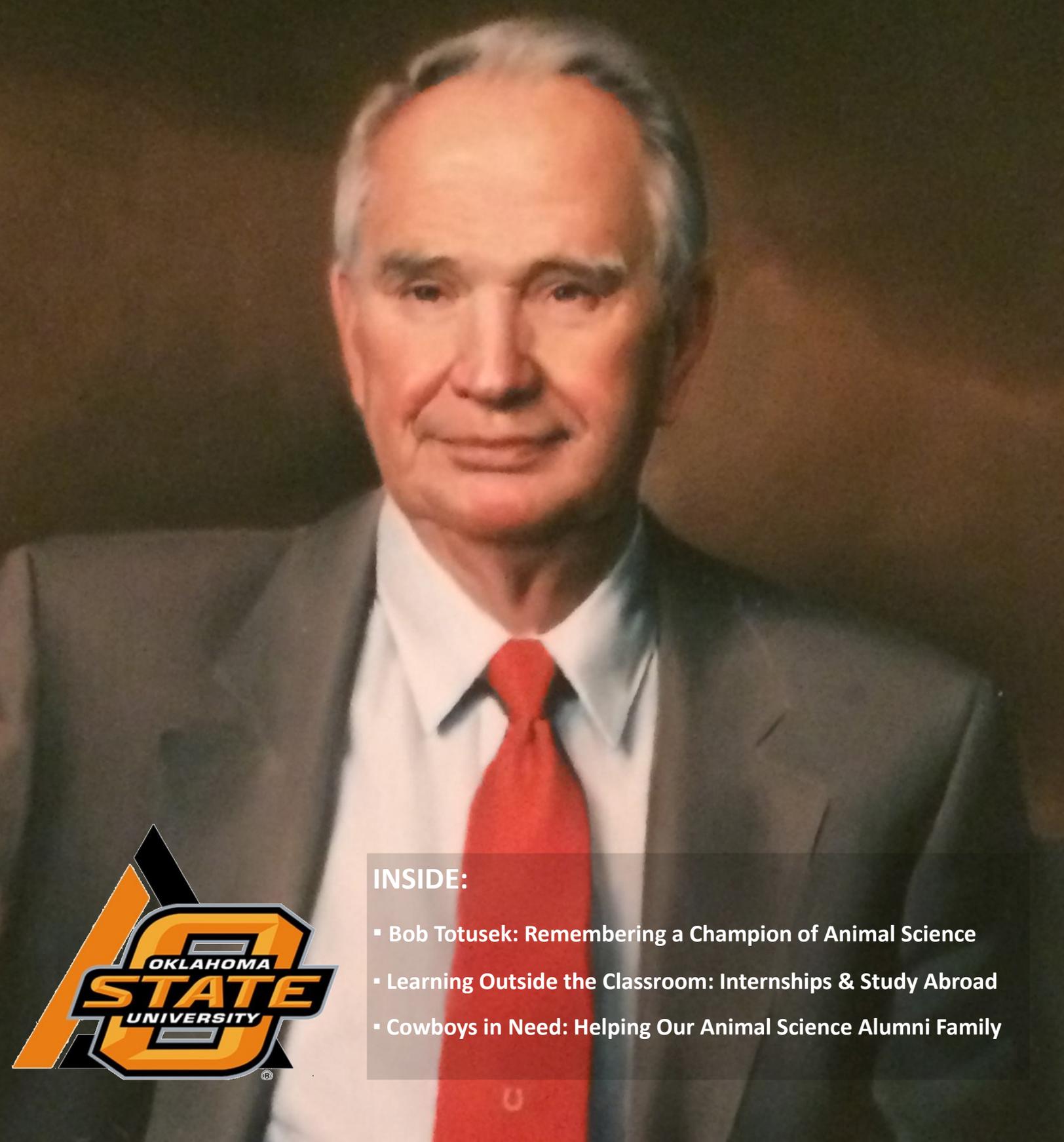


# COWPOKE NEWS

*The Department of Animal Science, Oklahoma State University*



## INSIDE:

- Bob Totusek: Remembering a Champion of Animal Science
- Learning Outside the Classroom: Internships & Study Abroad
- Cowboys in Need: Helping Our Animal Science Alumni Family



## Animal Science COWPOKE NEWS

Cowpoke News is published each semester by the Department of Animal Science within the College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University. We strive to keep students, alumni, stakeholders, industry and trade organizations, and friends of the department informed.

### Contact us:

Editor, Rebekah Alford  
Department of Animal Science  
204a ANSI  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
405.744.8846  
cowpokeneeds@okstate.edu  
www.ansi.okstate.edu

### Subscribe:

Cowpoke News is distributed through e-mail and mail and is available 24/7 on the Department of Animal Science website at <http://ansi.okstate.edu/newsletter/cowpoke-news>.

To subscribe, e-mail us at [cowpokeneeds@okstate.edu](mailto:cowpokeneeds@okstate.edu) or mail in your request to Rebekah Alford. Please give us your full name and either your e-mail or mailing address.

All Cowpoke newsletters are available on our website at <http://ansi.okstate.edu/newsletter/cowpoke-news>.

## News from the Department Head



Dear Alumni and Friends:

We hope you enjoy this fourth edition of the "Cowpoke News". In this edition, you will read about Dr. Robert "Bob" Totusek, a legend in our department, who passed away this past summer. You will also read about our outstanding students who completed internships across the country this summer, as well as our students who have been selected for undergraduate research scholarships. A number of our undergraduate and graduate students have received special awards this summer. And finally....you will read about Minnie Lou Bradley, the first female student in the Department of Animal Science who started at OSU in 1949.

We started this fall with over 1,000 undergraduate students and 55 graduate students. This is the largest undergraduate enrollment we have ever had. Our students come from 40 states and several foreign countries. We continue to be the largest department on campus and the fourth largest Animal Science Department in the country.

We welcomed Dr. Kris Hiney to the Department of Animal Science in late August as our new Equine Extension Specialist. Dr. Hiney will also teach an Equine class and advise students with an Equine interest. We also welcomed Dr. Blake Wilson on board this fall as a lecturer to teach Applied Nutrition and assist Dr. Bloomberg with the Animal Management course. Dr. Wilson grew up in Oklahoma and received all of his degrees from Oklahoma State University.

We are currently searching for three Assistant Professors in Food Safety, Ruminant Nutrition and Range Cattle Nutrition. We have also added several new staff members to our team this year. You can read more about these individuals in this issue of the Cowpoke News.

Special thanks to Rebekah Alford for editing and producing our fourth edition of the Cowpoke News. If you enjoy reading this newsletter, please e-mail Rebekah at [cowpokeneeds@okstate.edu](mailto:cowpokeneeds@okstate.edu).

Sincerely,

Clint Rusk

## On The Cover

Former OSU Department of Animal Science Department Head Dr. Totusek, often referred to as Mr. Animal Science, is on the cover of this issue of Cowpoke News. Read more about his incredible life, leadership, and contributions to animal science on page 3. The painting on the cover was created by artist Richard Halstead.



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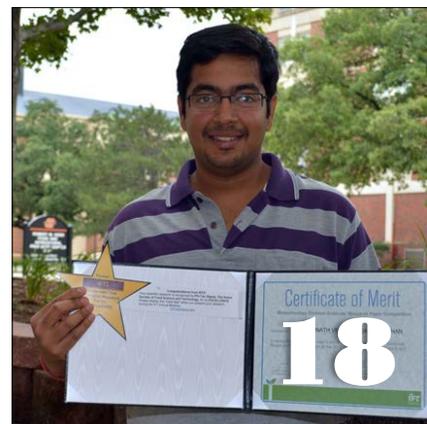
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# Dr. Robert Totusek

## Remembering a Champion of Animal Science



Robert "Bob" Totusek, 87, died peacefully in his sleep on Friday, June 6, 2014, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A Christian memorial service was held on Monday, June 23 at 10 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Stillwater following a private graveside service. A public Celebration of Life was also held

at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City on Monday, June 23 at 2:30 p.m. The service can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fEUA AKQP3U&feature=youtu.be>

Robert's wife, Nellie Lieu Totusek, 87, of Stillwater, Oklahoma, passed away on September 1st, 2014 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She died less than three months after her loving husband of over 66 years passed away. A funeral service was held on Saturday, September 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Stillwater.

Bob was born on a farm between Kingfisher and Garber, Oklahoma, and was the son of Aloise Karbusicky Totusek and Emil Totusek. Both of his parents' families immigrated from Czechoslovakia and were active in the local Czech communities.

He grew up during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression. He recalled that his parents were poor but had a large



*Dr. Bob Totusek (center) pictured with other members of the 1947 OSU Meat Judging Team.*



garden and plenty of milk, meat and eggs, and delivered food to a number of families in need in Garber every Saturday. His early experiences with agriculture and animal science impacted his life's direction to become an advocate for the power of agriculture.

Nellie was born on a farm near Billings, Oklahoma and was the daughter of Maude Stroup and Love L. Maynard. Bob and Nellie met at Garber High School, where Nellie was a FFA Sweetheart and the Powder Puff football team quarterback.

Bob married Nellie, who was his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, on December 21, 1947. They had three children, Don, Diane, and Darla. Bob and Nell celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary last December. One of the highlights of their marriage had been celebrating their anniversary with three other couples from Stillwater that were married at the same time of year. Bob and Nell celebrated over 50 anniversaries with Jim and Louise Bellatti, Richard and Marilyn Heath, and Owen and Ann Thomas.

Bob and Nellie both attended Oklahoma A&M College. Bob was actively involved in the A&M Meats and Livestock Judging Teams. He obtained his Ph.D. at Purdue University before joining the Animal Husbandry faculty at Oklahoma A&M College in 1952 where he served 38 years, including many years as the department head for OSU Department of Animal Science. During his time at OSU, Bob taught more than

5,000 students, 14 different courses and authored or co-authored more than 200 publications. He touched the lives of thousands of individuals across the state of Oklahoma, as well as throughout other parts of the world, with his teaching, research, and outreach activities.

“I was blessed to work with good students, good fellow faculty members, and good clientele,” Bob once said during an interview. “But I also had the good fortune of being able to travel and meet a lot of interesting people all over the country.”

While at Oklahoma State University, Bob enjoyed teaching, research, coaching Livestock Judging teams, administration, and mentoring students and colleagues. He served as Animal Science Department Head from 1976 until retiring in 1990. He was passionate about his work and was often referred to as "Mr. Animal Science" or simply “Dr. Tot.”

“Dr. Totusek fostered a culture of excellence in the Department of Animal Science at OSU for over 60 years. To say his influence was far-reaching would be an understatement” said OSU Professor Dr. Mark Johnson. “As a faculty member, Bob coached outstanding livestock judging teams and did landmark research in beef cattle production. Later, when he became department chair, Dr. Tot assembled an exceptional faculty and our Department rose to unmatched status in teaching, and became nationally recognized as a producer of great scholars, industry leaders and outstanding purebred livestock. In retirement, he served as an ambassador and distinguished elder statesman for our department, was responsible for

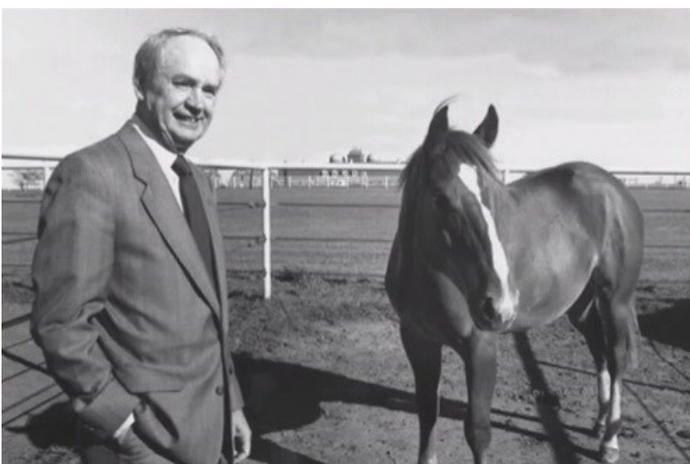


record setting donation campaigns and became the driving force behind our strong Animal Science Alumni Association. His accomplishments on behalf of the Department of Animal Science, as a student, faculty member, and alum are unparalleled.”

Though he achieved many honors and accomplishments, nothing was more rewarding to him than the relationships he developed with students, farmers, and ranchers across the state. Bob once said, "It's a privilege for every faculty member to work for the people in Oklahoma, and to know what the problems are ... and have a hand in solving those problems."

Dr. Robert Totusek has been called the godfather of all things animal science in Oklahoma and across the country. “The man was to animal science and livestock judging what Babe Ruth was to baseball,” said Tyler Norvell. “ Dr. Totusek left a legacy of a legend. He put a brand on OSU Animal Science and our industry as a whole.”

“Dr. Totusek was very proud of the Animal Science Department and the Animal Science Alumni Association, and how the association supported animal science students,” said Kim Brock. “Effective leaders are hard to find and real leadership is especially hard to define. Dr. Tot was the most respected man and the most effective leader I have had the honor to know. Dr. Totusek was a brilliant, passionate, but quiet spoken leader. He understood and could read people to know their talents and limitations.”



Bob was an exemplary family man and a loving husband and father. He valued his heritage and his relationships with extended family. In the last decade of his life, he prioritized bringing happiness to his wife, Nell, and teaching all generations the importance of family relationships and patriotism. He enjoyed helping family friends, students, colleagues, and ranchers solve problems, and trail riding in the Kiamichi Mountains in southeastern Oklahoma or judging a livestock show.

Nellie was a devoted wife and mother and contributed to the success and happiness of her husband and family by supporting them tirelessly. She was active in The First United Methodist Church of Stillwater, Oklahoma for many years, as well as numerous civic and community organizations and those supporting the Animal Sciences Department at Oklahoma State University. She was an enthusiastic Bellmon Belle when her childhood neighbor, Henry Bellmon, ran for Governor. She was quite a competitor and an avid bridge player and golfer. Nellie and Bob were passionate about ballroom dancing, often traveling to attend dances in various locations around the state, until their final years.

Bob and Nellie Totusek are survived by their son, Don Totusek and wife Patsy, of Richardson, Texas; daughter, Diane Stearman and husband David, of Simpsonville, Kentucky; and daughter, Darla Flanagan and husband Patrick, of Kentfield, California. They are also survived by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren: Sommer Stearman Liste and husband Luis, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and their sons, Jackson and Wyatt; Ryan Stearman, of Portland, Oregon; Nathan Totusek, Joseph Totusek, and Samuel Totusek, of Dallas and Denton, Texas; and Mackenzie Flanagan, Kylie Flanagan, and Delaney Flanagan, of Kentfield, California.

Words on Dr. Totusek's tombstone: "God Bless our family, the USA, Oklahoma, and OSU." In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of Bob and Nellie to the Oklahoma State University Foundation, Bob and Nell Totusek Graduate Student Fellowship in Animal Science (21-65500), PO Box 1749, Stillwater, OK 74076.

Dr. Totusek's biography and videos of the memorial service, testimonials, and more are available online at <http://ansi.okstate.edu/dr.-totusek-memorial>.



#### **Dr. Bob Totusek Testimonials**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1dRIEAM-QI&feature=youtu.be>

#### **Totusek Memorial Service**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fEUAAKQP3U&feature=youtu.be>

#### **Dr. Bob Totusek Obituary**

<http://strodefh.frontrunnerpro.com/book-of-memories/1884727/Robert-Totusek/obituary.php>

#### **Nellie Totusek Obituary**

<http://www.strodefh.com/book-of-memories/1940208/Totusek-Nellie/obituary.php>

#### **Information about Dr. Totusek**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pejicAgjvW4>

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/oklahoman/obituary.aspx?pid=171306505#sthash.Z9j4P1Jy.dpuf>

# Cowboys in Need

**Paul Kropp** by Missy Kropp



Paul and I have been married for 22 years and we have 2 children, Carson 15 years and Kennedy 10 years. Paul was unexpectedly diagnosed with kidney failure this April. It was a total shocker to us because he had no

symptoms to mention. I had made him a doctor's appointment because we are getting to the age where I felt he needed to just get things checked out with a routine physical. Thank God that we did, because that is how we found his condition!

Paul is in need of a kidney transplant. He is an only child and the only family he has left are his parents, Dr. Bob Kropp and Susan Kropp, and one uncle. None of them qualify to be tested because of age and health issues. I can't be tested either because I'm diabetic and don't qualify to be a donor. So, we are at the mercy of friends and total strangers to come forward to get tested for Paul.

Paul received his BS in Animal Science/Business in May 1992. While attending OSU he was also a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. He was a member of the Spirit Rider team from 1990-1992. His father, Dr. Bob Kropp, has been a professor in the Animal Science department for 40+ years and just recently retired this July.

Paul's blood type is A+. He can receive a donor that has either A or O blood type (the + or - doesn't matter).

We can be reached through my Facebook account (Missy Kropp) or by phone at (918) 706-7575 and/or (918) 625-6167.

**Robert Spencer** by Shari Holloway

Robert Spencer, 47, is a graduate of the Animal Science department at Oklahoma State University, as well as a member of the 1989 Livestock Judging Team. Robert needs a liver transplant and his doctor, Dr. Vivek Kohli, in OKC has encouraged him to be



proactive and find a liver. He needs Type A or O blood type, and the surgeon will go anywhere to harvest the organ.

For the most part, Robert is physically fine right now. Tests have shown that the Hepatic Portal Vein to the liver is blocked and he will not be able to lead a good quality of life in as little as five years if he doesn't get a liver transplant.

Many of you in the cattle business may know the Charles Spencer Family. Robert's parents are Charles and Janis. They have raised Hereford cattle for many years in the Elgin, Oklahoma area. Robert is the owner of Spencer Feed in Lawton. Robert's children are both active in 4-H/FFA livestock projects. Now is the time that the livestock industry becomes family. The thought may make you uncomfortable, but if you have not marked the organ transplant donor box on your driver's license, NOW is the time. Please consider reaching out to Robert by sharing with your immediate friends & family that if something should happen to you, that you want Robert to receive your liver.

Robert asks that you share this information with as many people as possible. Through the channels of social media, this can reach across the entire country. Even if you don't know Robert, know that he is a good Christian man. He has dealt with alcoholism, having been through rehabilitation, and has rededicated his life to Christ. Please pray for Robert and his situation, but also please pray for the individual and family that will ultimately sacrifice and share life with Robert through the liver transplant procedure.

Robert may be contacted at 580/591-2604. If you or your loved ones find yourself in the unfortunate situation of being able to donate a liver to Robert, give the medical staff on duty Robert Spencer's name and tell them you wish to donate. His name will be found in the organ procurement organization database.

***Our Alumni Family  
Members Are In  
Need, and You Can  
Help!***

# Internships

Interning with a company or organization gives a student the opportunity to get hands-on experience in their desired field before starting their careers. They can explore career options related to their interests, gain professional skills, gather insight into an industry, and establish a network of contacts. Not only does interning help a student help a student narrow down the career path they want to take, but it also makes students more desirable to companies because of the experience and knowledge they gain. The Department of Animal Science encourages students to consider internships so that they can make informed decisions about their career paths and to create a professional network in their field of interest.

The following are the stories of eight OSU Animal Science students who recently completed internships. To learn more about internships, visit <http://ansi.okstate.edu/current-students/ug/internships> or view more internship stories at <http://okstateinterns.wordpress.com/>.

## **The Wildlife Center of Texas** by Mallory Nailon



My name is Mallory Nailon, and I interned at The Wildlife Center of Texas this summer. I learned quite a lot about avian veterinary care throughout the past weeks. This is an area that I came into the internship knowing little about, and have now been exposed daily to how birds are assessed before they are released back into the wild.

When it comes to injuries, I have come to know that birds have less to fall back on than for example, a turtle, which could survive in the wild after severe trauma. Birds must have fully functional wings, beaks, eyes, and legs to be able to live as they should, without our care. With that being said, there are many injuries from deep crop lacerations to fractured wings and legs that veterinarians can fix if the injury is caught early enough. I have learned how to provide the birds that are in the process of rehabilitation with specific medications, nutrients, and fluids that they need by using a method of intubation. When it comes to fluids, I have learned the different signs of dehydration birds exhibit, some of which are paleness of tongue and mouth, viscosity of saliva, decreased skin elasticity, and lethargy. I have enjoyed every minute that I have spent working with and learning about the native wildlife of Texas.

## **Tyson Fresh Meats** by Ben Underwood



Hello! My name is Ben Underwood and I am a Senior Food Science/Meat Science major at OSU. This summer I was a food safety/quality assurance intern at Tyson's fresh pork processing plant in Waterloo, Iowa. I worked closely with the FSQA manager, the HACCP supervisor, and communicated daily with operations and maintenance management at the Waterloo complex. As an FSQA intern, I have been introduced to food safety systems, HACCP, USDA regulatory compliances and product quality control within the fresh pork industry. Additionally, I attended daily plant management meetings and corporate conference calls which gave me an enormous perspective how all departments work together to operate a successful processing plant.

Throughout the first month of my internship, I dug deep into food safety and regulatory documents to gain a better understanding of what food safety and quality assurance entails. These include HACCP programs, sanitation procedures, and microbial control procedures throughout different areas of the plant. I reported directly to the HACCP supervisor and observed and completed many of the tasks he does on a daily basis. I greatly enjoyed my time in the unfamiliar state of Iowa and look forward to continually learning and gaining experience in the animal and meat science industries.

### **Horsemanship at the Lazy E** by Kaylee Elliott

My name is Kaylee Elliott and I am a sophomore at OSU. I spent this last spring semester interning at the Lazy E Ranch in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

My mornings started at 6 a.m. when I got to Barn 3 on the ranch. Barn 3 is home to over 40 mares and foals. However, these mares are not the true mothers of the babies on their hip, but are more like a surrogate mom. The genetic mothers are housed in the mare barn on the main ranch, and are bred multiple times to one of Laxy E's 7 studs. Once bred, an embryo is flushed from the original mare and placed into a "recip" mare to be carried to full term. These recip mares are typically pasture mares; abandoned, abused, or simply unwanted by former owners. These otherwise slaughterhouse mares are given a home and a job at Lazy E. We fed grain at 6 a.m. when we first arrive at the barn. After breakfast, the full-time employee and I administered treatments and medications to the newborn foals. These babies received a dose of immunity boosting paste twice a day for the first 5 days of their lives. Their temperature was taken and we checked their eyes, gums, navels, and their mother's teats. The rest of our day was spent halter breaking, turning out, assisting the farrier, and giving plasmas. Watching the foals grow from frail bodies on shaky legs, to strong and smart athletes, was my favorite part here at the Lazy E.



Through this experience I learned I am more interested in the training and production side of the equine industry. This internship has not only given me horsemanship skills, but taught me stress management and so much about myself as a person and horseman. Before starting this internship, I planned on going to vet school like most Animal Science students do at OSU. I thought working at the Lazy E would give me an insight into equine medicine and what life would be like as a veterinarian. Although it did give me a chance to assist and learn from our veterinarian on site, I learned much more about hands on experience with green, hard to handle horses.

### **Life as an Alltech Intern** by Sarah Schobert

Hello, my name is Sarah Schobert and I am a senior double majoring in animal science and agricultural communications. I interned this summer as a sales and marketing intern for Alltech, an animal health company. My internship started out by attending a marketing boot camp at the Alltech headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky. I learned about marketing from every aspect over a couple of days. While I was there, I also experienced their nutrigenomics lab where they use genomes from different animals and can now correlate that with their nutritional needs.



Over the next couple of days in Lexington, my assignment was to visit with different small animal veterinarians and collect data regarding to nutritional effects on health conditions and diseases. I was based out of the Springfield, MO office. While I was there, I collected data from that region. In Missouri, my job focused much more on the beef side of things. The Springfield Office was getting ready for an upcoming Beef Road Show that took place the second week of July. Each day consisted of visiting producers or different co-ops making sure we got the information out to everyone who might have been interested. In the office, I collected leads for the Sales Reps. Those leads became useful to send invitations out for the Beef Road Show. We started out with a couple contacts and I now have over 600. I had a lot of fun working with Alltech and learning how their supplements and additives make a huge difference in overall animal performance and production.

## **A Summer in West Kansas** *by Austin Lemons*



My name is Austin Lemons and I am a senior animal science major with an option in business. I was selected to do an internship with Cargill Cattle Feeders in Leoti, Kansas. I started the summer in the feed department learning the basics of operating a feed truck. Once I began to feel comfortable with the daily feed truck tasks, I became more involved with the office side of the department. This included coming in early at 5 a.m. to read bunks, check slick times, and set the trucks up on the computer to receive the right rations. I also helped accept new cattle into the system, called feed for the cattle, and managed sorted cattle to ensure that they would get feed properly. I also became very involved in the procedure that takes place at the end of every work day to ensure that all the cattle got fed the proper amount of feed and that nothing is wrong.

My project this summer centered around looking at slick time consumptions. I was assigned this project because there was a fear that the night watchman's bunk reads were not always the most accurate. To help solve this problem, we mounted a GoPro action camera on the night watchman's pickup truck to get a video of the bunks. I went in the following morning and reviewed the footage to compare what I saw with what the night watch marked down. If there was a discrepancy, I would fix it. This is important because Cargill relies heavily on slick times to call feed for their cattle the next day. If those times are wrong, then it makes it very difficult to call feed correctly.

Throughout my internship, I was very impressed with Cargill. They take great interest in their employees and have safety as their top priority. At the end of summer, Cargill sent all of their interns to Wichita to give presentations on their summer projects. It was a really fun experience that I felt was a very good end to an awesome summer.

## **FAPC Internship** *by Justin Brooks*



Hey! My name is Justin Brooks and this summer I participated in an internship here on campus at the Robert M. Kerr Food and Agriculture Product Center (FAPC). I am a Food Science Major and the internship has been great, I learned a lot and gained plenty of research experience.

I interned under Dr. Divya Jaroni and mainly worked on a Leafy Greens research project which involved infecting various leafy greens with *E. Coli* O157:H7 and then treating samples with various organic sanitizers. After treatment, we measured the effectiveness of the sanitizers' ability to reduce the levels of *E. Coli* on leafy greens. I worked with iceberg lettuce, adult and baby spinach, and romaine lettuce. I've learned that preparation and organization are two central themes when working in a lab. When doing experiments, it's important to plan out every step including how much media you need to prepare and labeling all bags and plates beforehand so that everything runs smoothly. After the treatments, we then created dilutions and plated the samples to see how well the treatments worked. We incubated the plates overnight and count colonies the next day.

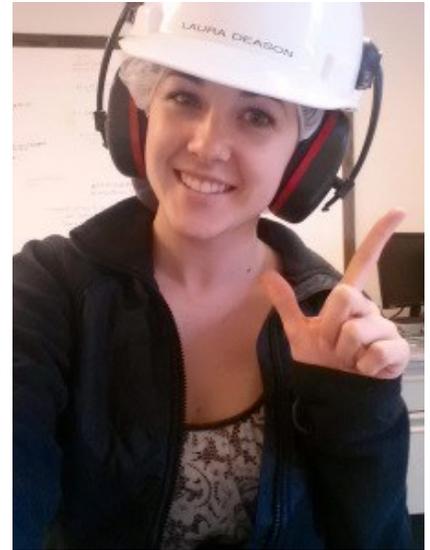
Most of my work during the internship took place in the lab. Occasionally we would go out and collect some samples though. One of the projects we worked on involved collecting fecal and water samples from pastures in Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana. The project is a joint study so sometimes we receive samples from other university's to process. I am grateful for the lab experience that the internship provided. It was a lot of fun and I've learned a lot.

### **Life at APF** by *Laura Deason*

My name is Laura Deason and I will graduate with a food science industry degree. This past summer, I completed an internship with Advance Pierre Foods in Enid, OK.

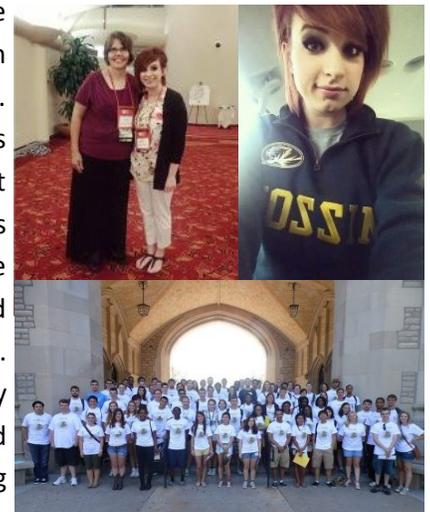
My first assignment when I first arrived was a cook temp project over one of the lines. I collected data on numerous variables that could cause “over cooking.” After 2 weeks of brainstorming and data collection, I made a presentation that showcased my findings. The presentation went well and I was recruited to be part of a cook temp project on a larger scale. I worked with other plants and represented my plant along with my boss. I collected data and made changes to the process to prevent over cooking. Along with this assignment, I also worked on other daily tasks to improve process flow.

The atmosphere at APF was great. Everyone was friendly and willing to help me out if I needed anything. I had a blast and learned more than I could have imagined. It is one thing to learn something in the classroom, but you get so much more out of it when you actually apply the knowledge in the work place. Some of the things I used from my classes include: understanding oven mechanics and design, HACCP, SOP’s, GMP’s, understanding how meat cooks and factors that can affect cooking temperature. I also learned how the plant operates as a whole. I got to look at the inedible, overfill, start-up efficiency of each line, and so much more. I have had such a blast and learned more than I could have imagined. It is one thing to learn something in a classroom, but you get so much more out of it when you actually apply it in the work place.



### **Mizzou** by *Jade Cooper*

After meeting our advisors at the University of Missouri for the first time, we were taken to our labs to learn about where we would be spending the next 8 weeks. On my second day, I got to attend the graduate student forum with my advisor, Dr. Lorenzen. Here I was able to watch the MU Animal Science graduate students present their work and meet a lot of students and faculty. This also gave me a first hand look at what graduate studies are like. At the end of the second week, I was given reading material to brief me on what I would be researching for the rest of the summer. Then, we started our experiment working with lighting impact on ground beef color. I worked with two of the meat lab employees and the lab manager, Zach. Dr. Lorenzen was great about involving me within the department. Along with my research, I worked in the slaughter and processing facilities at MU. I also attended the Reciprocal Meat Conference in Madison, WI. After several weeks of collecting data from my project, we started analyzing all of it; talk about a new learning experience. I wrote an abstract for a poster presentation about our projects. Dr. Lorenzen and I worked really hard to make sure we got everything done right so this research can be used to develop further projects in the near future.



We finished up our internships by designing our poster presentations. We had a poster forum with over 130 posters presented from all of the interns. It was really exciting going around and seeing all the different research that all of the interns had been doing. A lot of the mentors of other interns walked around and asked questions. It was a great experience to help build confidence in presenting research and public speaking. This opportunity has been so educational and exciting. I know that all I have learned this summer will continue to be valuable assets to me for the rest of my career.

# Study Abroad

Each summer, Dr. Leon Spicer teaches the AG 3080 class. One session goes on a study abroad trip to Italy, while another section goes to Ireland. During the study abroad trip, students spend several weeks touring farms, businesses, and attractions. They are given the opportunity to visit places that they would otherwise not be able to and learn about animal science in other countries. Students are also able to site-see and try plenty of local cuisine as part of the trip.

This summer, the Italy study abroad group visited many places, including the Parmigiano-Reggiano Cheese Factory near Modena, Italy and a Piedmontese beef cattle farm near Saluzzo, Italy. Students were able to explore Italy and try a variety of authentic Italian cuisine.

The Ireland study abroad group was supervised by Dr. Leon Spicer and Dr. Clint Rusk. The students were able to visit businesses and farms in Ireland, as well as attend the Irish Derby where they watched the race from Sheik Mohammed's viewing box. They also had fun exploring the Irish countryside.

## Italy Student Quotes

"Traveling to Italy was one of the best experiences of my life and I cannot image a greater place for my first trip abroad. Italy had surprises around every corner that helped me to expand my horizons. The people were friendly and eager to share about their culture."

- Abby Linthicum

"I ate amazing food, saw incredible places, met amazing people, and had more fun than I could have thought possible on anything related to education."

- Nick Moore

## Ireland Student Quotes

"While at Coomore Stud, I got to meet Camelot, Galileo, among many other beautiful horses."

- Madelyne Hawkins

"At the Irish Derby horse races, I had a field day people watching, mainly women wearing the brightest colored dresses and the most exotic hats I have ever seen."

- Marissa Tescier



*Animal Science students visiting a Piedmontese beef cattle farm near Saluzzo, Italy.*



*Cattle in Ireland.*



*Animal Science students and professors, Dr. Spicer and Dr. Rusk, touring Ireland.*



*Animal Science students with Dr. Spicer (right) exploring the Irish countryside.*



*Animal Science students sitting in Sheikh Mohammed's viewing box at the Irish Derby.*



*Animal Science students touring a Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese factory near Modena, Italy.*



*The Irish Derby*

# Events & Activities

## *2nd Graders Visit OSU*

Four 2nd grade classes from Will Rogers Elementary School in Stillwater, OK visited OSU Animal Science facilities on May 8th. Approximately 95 students visited the Equine, Swine, Sheep/Goat and Dairy Centers viewing babies and mature animals and enjoying an educational discussion about the farms and animals with each herd manager. The students enjoyed a “field day” lunch break at the Animal Science Arena.

The field trip was a great opportunity for the students to learn more about farm operations, animals, and Oklahoma State University. Students visited the Dairy Center, where Herd Manager David Jones explained the day to day operation of the facility and the equipment involved in milking a cow. The students also toured the Equine Center with the Herd Manager Tim Cash. The students were able to get close to calves and cattle, piglets and pigs, colts and horses, and lambs and sheep during their visit. Students were able to ask the herd managers questions and learn more about animal science. More pictures of the 2nd grade field trip can be viewed at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/101509777@N04/sets/7215764533332232/>.



## *OSU Dairy Field Day*

The OSU Department of Animal Science helped celebrate “Dairy Month” by hosting a Field Day. Approximately 200 youth and adults judged six classes of dairy cows and heifers at the Animal Science Arena. Several industry groups were represented at the field day. Dairy Farmers of America sent a representative from their corporate office in Kansas City. Dairy Max had a representative from both Oklahoma and Stephenville, Texas. Southwest Dairy Farmers had 3 representatives present. The Oklahoma Beef Council helped sponsor the Field Day meal. Brett Morris, who serves on the national board, spoke about what is happening nationally and how many dairy animals are part of our beef supply. Overall it was a very successful “Dairy Day” at OSU.



# ***OSU Livestock Judging Camp***

# ***Big 3 Field Days***

The Oklahoma State Livestock Judging Camp celebrated its 25th anniversary with an incredible set of attendees and groups leaders in 2014. At OSU we believe there is no experience more beneficial in preparing students for livestock evaluation success than this activity. This summer's camp sessions had participants from 21 different states.

We take considerable pride in conducting our camp and the feedback from attendees continues to suggest that the effort is well worth the time investment. Camp is strongly geared toward an emphasis in presenting oral reasons which demands a more one on one approach. Because the camp is very much a one on one style, experience is not a requirement. We just ask that each camper come ready to learn and work. The OSU Livestock Judging Camp is widely acclaimed as the finest in the country.

This year, Dr. Mark Johnson addressed the first round of campers by telling them about the history and importance of livestock judging. OSU Animal Science Department Head, Dr. Clint Rusk, spoke to the campers from the VIP seats in Boone Pickens Stadium. The campers were also given a tour of Boone Pickens stadium.



The 2014 OSU Animal Science Sheep, Beef, and Swine Field Days were again very successful events. We saw record setting attendance at this year's "Big 3" Field Days (1,351 sheep day, 1,434 beef day, 1,432 swine day) as well as an estimated 300 adults each day. In addition to the Joe Hughes "Fan Club", where our industry partners attempt to further develop sponsorship, we awarded the fifth annual Dr. Joe Hughes memorial traveling trophy to the high 4-H and FFA Sweepstakes winning teams. It was a special time and a much appreciated ceremony by all in attendance.

Unique to the time honored event was unusually cooler weather that was a welcome break to the normal extreme Oklahoma July conditions. But regardless of what weather was heading our way, Kim Brock and the arena crew had worked tirelessly in preparing the arena for the "Big 3" and had coordinated efforts with OSU to install a cooling unit to the Animal Science arena which was an amazing effort and will be a major improvement over the years to come.

This event serves as one of the most popular educational and highly visible activities for the Department of Animal Science and the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Thanks so much to each of the ANSI teaching units again for the great effort and for making the OSU Animal Science "Big 3" a huge success and THE most time honored field days in the country.



*Dr. Blake Bloomberg judging a class of performance Angus bulls at the OSU Beef Unit.*

## ***Southwest Regional Swine Show***

The OSU Junior Livestock Judging Team traveled to Chickasha, OK on August 30th, 2014 to recruit students and help with the Southwest Regional Swine Show hosted by the National Junior Swine Association.

The OSU students encouraged swine exhibitors to consider OSU as the place to continue their education after they graduate from high school. The OSU students also assisted with the purebred gilt show, registered students for the swine judging contest, drove pigs during the judging contest and helped with tabulation of the judging contest. Dr. Rusk and Corey Carpenter helped prepare classes for the judging contest and visited with swine exhibitors from nine states.



### ***Front Row - left to right:***

Lindsay Tasos (Madera, CA), Elizabeth Nixon (Rapidan, VA), Samantha Anthony (Taneytown, MD), Blythe Graham (Crossville, TN), Sara Green (Grove, OK), Ricky Burns (Flora, IN), Dr. Clint Rusk (Head of the OSU Department of Animal Science)

### ***Back Row - left to right:***

Cole Owens (Thomas, OR), Ethan Propp (Adair, OK), Trent Ray (Abingdon, IL), Matt Walta (Kingfisher, OK), Dyson Runyan (Madill, OK) Jacob Embry (Winchester, KY), Corey Carpenter (graduate student from Red Bluff, CA), Kale Hensley (Markelville, IN)

## ***OSU Swine Research & Education Center***

The Oklahoma State University Swine Research and Education Center is proud to announce that we were selected to have the Hog College Yorkshire Boar at the 2014 National Barrow Show in Austin, MN. This event is conducted by the National Swine Registry.

As far as guidelines for selection, the NSR field representatives and staff try to find boars and gilts from each breed that represent the strengths of those particular breeds and fit the current industry demands. Each boar or gilt must be born from a litter of 8 pigs or more to be a hog college candidate and they must meet all breed requirements for registration.

Most of the animals will be backed by a pedigree that represents the heart of what that particular farm strives for. This is a great honor not only for the Swine Research and Education Center, but also for the whole Oklahoma State University Animal Science Department, as well.



# Awards & Recognition

## *Animal Science Students Chosen as 2014 Wentz Scholars*



**Jacqueline Ervin**  
*Mentored by Dr. Spicer*



**Lindsay King**  
*Mentored by Dr. Mateescu*



**Shelby Spring**  
*Mentored by Dr. Ramanathan*



**Hannah Paradis**  
*Mentored by Dr. Zhang*

In the Department of Animal Science, Shelby Spring, Jacqueline Ervin, and Hannah Paradis were chosen to participate in the Wentz Research Scholar Program and Lindsay King was chosen for the Wentz Leadership Scholar Program for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Each year, forty undergraduate student scholars are selected to conduct independent research with the guidance of a faculty mentor in the Wentz Research Scholar Program. During the one year program, students will each work on individual projects and receive \$4,500 in scholarship money. The Wentz Research Program gives undergraduate students an opportunity to conduct and learn more about research while being mentored by knowledgeable staff and faculty.

Jacqueline Ervin is being mentored by Dr. Leon Spicer. The title of her research project is “Understanding the Role of Endothelins and Their Receptors in Follicular Development in Cattle.”

Shelby Spring is being mentored by Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan. Her project title is “Characterizing the role of lipid oxidation products in beef enzymatic metmyoglobin reduction.” The overall goal of her project is to better understand the discoloration process in beef. Shelby has been an Animal Science Undergraduate Research Scholar since 2013.

Hannah Paradis is being mentored by Dr. Glenn Zhang. The title of her research project is “Natural and Reliable Alternatives to Antibiotics.”

Lindsay King was chosen to receive the Wentz Leadership Scholarship, which is awarded to around 100 of the university’s best undergraduates for their academic work and activities in support of the campus and community. Lindsay has been an Animal Science Undergraduate Research Scholar since 2012 and was a Niblack Research Scholar during the 2013-2014 academic year.

## **Students Chosen for 2014 Niblack Scholars**

Oklahoma State University has chosen the undergraduate students who will be involved in the Niblack Scholar program for 2014-2015. We are pleased to announce that two of our undergraduate students, Julia Matera and Will Shaffer, were selected to participate in the program.

This is the second time Julia has been selected to participate in the program. She was Niblack Scholar for the 2013-2014 academic year and researched bovine respiratory disease and the factors that influence it. Julia began conducting research as a participant in the Animal Science Undergraduate Research Scholar program in fall of 2012. Julia is a Pre-Veterinary major and she is being mentored by Dr. Craig Gifford.

This will be the second research program Will Shaffer has participated in as a scholar at Oklahoma State University. He participated in the University Freshmen Research Scholar program during the 2013-2014 academic year. Will is currently double majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He is advised by Dr. Megan Rolf.

Mentors help students decide on a topic for their research project and give them guidance on their research and lab techniques.



**Julia Matera**  
Mentored by Dr. Gifford



**Will Shaffer**  
Mentored by Dr. Rolf

## **Freshmen Research Scholars For 2014 –2015**

Sixty incoming OSU freshman students representing thirty-three majors have been selected to participate in the Freshmen Research Scholar (FRS) program for 2014-2015. Six of these students have been selected from the Department of Animal Science. Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, as well as conduct hands-on university research as part of the program.

The Freshmen Research Scholar program gives students the opportunity to begin research as an undergraduate student while being mentored by experienced campus faculty. FRS scholars are encouraged to continue their undergraduate research after the program ends through other research scholar programs offered by OSU, such as the Niblack and Wentz Research Scholar programs.

"We want to give students a significant research experience so they can take full advantage of all that a comprehensive research university has to offer before they graduate," said Tim O'Neil, Undergraduate Research Coordinator in The Henry Bellmon Office of Scholar Development and Undergraduate Research.

For more information about the Freshmen Research Scholars program and other undergraduate research opportunities at Oklahoma State University, please contact The Henry Bellmon Office of Scholar Development and Undergraduate Research at 334 Student Union, Stillwater, OK 74078, 405-744-7313, [schdev@okstate.edu](mailto:schdev@okstate.edu) or visit <http://www.okstate.edu/scholars>.

### **ANSI Freshmen Research Scholars 2014-2015**

Molly Drakeley—West Suffield, Connecticut

Madelyn May—Austin, Illinois

Megan Ragsdale—Tuttle, Oklahoma

Mellissa Rothenay—Mena, Arkansas

Emily Wilkinson—Bixby, Oklahoma

Sydney Wodrich—Colleyville, Illinois

# ***FAPC Student Wins IFT Food Biotech Competition***

***By Laci Jones, FAPC Communications Services Student***

An Oklahoma State University student won first place in the Institute of Food Technologists' Food Biotech graduate paper competition.

Badrinath Vengarai Jagannathan, a graduate assistant for OSU's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center, represented the FAPC Microbiology Laboratory by presenting findings of the lab's research during the IFT Annual Meeting and Food Expo in New Orleans, La., in June.

"I know this sounds a bit self-congratulatory, but we really did have a very good poster," said Peter Muriana, FAPC food microbiologist. "The judges not only noted that Badrinath gave an excellent presentation, but also the poster was beautiful, comprehensive and could have been submitted as several individual posters."

According to IFT, the division competitions highlight the research of the organization's graduate student members. Each year, hundreds of students participate in this highly competitive program and are recognized during the annual meeting and expo.

Six finalists were selected for each of the 23 divisions, and each division had its own panel of judges, Muriana said.

"Our research poster included interwoven and overlapping work of several graduate students and a post-doc in my FAPC Food Microbiology Lab," Muriana said. "However, only one student is able to present for the student paper competition."

The various research areas described in the award-winning poster included isolating bacteriocin-producing lactic acid bacteria from retail food samples; phylogenetic identification and characterization of isolates; evaluation of fermentor conditions for optimization of bacteriocin production in different media, under different pH-controlled conditions and at different temperatures; and the application of bacteriocin-containing supernatant culture preparations using a mixed-mode-of-action strategy as food preservatives against *Listeria monocytogenes*, a

problem foodborne pathogen for ready-to-eat processed meats.

The work included research conducted in Muriana's lab by master's students Jagannathan, Raj Adhikari and Chris Henning; doctoral student Paul Vijayakumar; and post-doctoral Dhiraj Gautam.

"The cultures that were isolated and demonstrated in the research are being licensed to Nutrition Physiology Company LLC, which already generates a considerable amount of royalties for OSU from Dr. Stanley Gilliland's previous work with probiotic cultures for cattle through supplementation of cattle feed," Muriana said. "The significance of the current research is that these cultures could ultimately be used as the basis of natural bio-preservatives for human foods."

Jagannathan said he was honored to participate in the poster competition and present the findings of the FAPC Food Microbiology Laboratory.

"It was a great experience for me, and I have learned so much from Dr. Muriana and working in the FAPC Food Microbiology Lab," Jagannathan said.

Jagannathan received a \$1,000 stipend, and an award plaque. His award will be announced in the next issue of Food Technology magazine.



*Badrinath Jagannathan is a graduate student working on his M.S. in Food Science in the Dept. of Animal Science.*

# ***Undergraduate Research Scholars Participate in Poster Competitions Across the Country***

This summer we had four Undergraduate Research Scholars present the results of their work at national scientific venues. Each student deserves to be recognized for this amazing accomplishment of presenting their research and representing the OSU Department of Animal Science on a national level.

Additionally, several students competed with scholars from across the country in the American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Research Poster Competition in Kansas City, MO during its annual meeting in July. In this competition, Julia Matera was awarded second place for her research poster, entitled “Cattle requiring multiple treatments for bovine respiratory disease exhibit decreased capacity to protect against histone cytotoxicity.”

“Participating in the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Joint Annual Meeting this year was one of the most impactful experiences of my undergraduate research,” said Matera. “The daily seminars and presentations were very thought provoking and gave me greater scope of the variety of research happening today in the field. It certainly expanded my thinking on the current knowledge, as well as the potential for future research and collaboration. Not only did I get to enjoy scientific lectures from some of the best minds in the industry, I was also given the opportunity to present my own research to such an audience. My participation in the Undergraduate Research Poster Competition was an indescribable enrichment. Fellow animal scientists asked valid questions that made me look at my research critically and expansively. Furthermore, they provided insightful suggestions for the continuation and betterment of my research. In the competition itself, I was awarded second place; a humbling accomplishment. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity to participate in the scientific community and be a part of modern research.”

Below is a list of the research titles that were presented – bolded names are students and their faculty mentor.

## **Reciprocal Meats Conference**

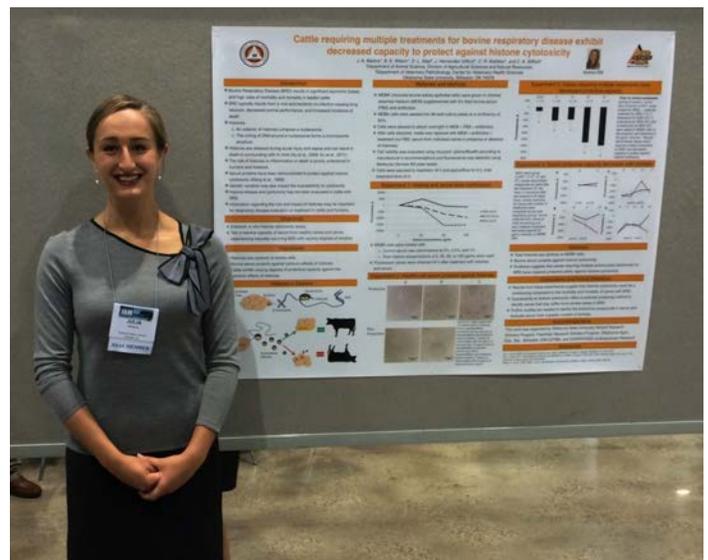
*“Species specific effects on non-enzymatic metmyoglobin reduction,”* by **Nick Elroy**, J. Rogers, G. G. Mafi, D. L. VanOverbeke, S. D. Hartson, Ranjith Ramanathan

## **American Society of Animal Science Joint Annual Meeting**

*“Cattle requiring multiple treatments for bovine respiratory disease exhibit decreased capacity to protect against histone cytotoxicity,”* by **Julia Matera**, B. K. Wilson, J. Hernandez Gifford, C. R. Krehbiel, and Craig Gifford

*“The effects of stage of production and implant exposure on feedlot performance, carcass characteristics, and relative mRNA gene expression,”* by **Kyre Larrabee**, B. C. Bernhard, C. L. Maxwell, B. K. Wilson, S. Roberts, and Clint Krehbiel

*“Effect of polymorphisms in the DECR1 and LDHB genes on beef color stability,”* by **Jessica Neal**, J. W. Buchanan, and Raluca Mateescu



*Julia Matera won 2nd place in the American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Research Poster Competition.*

## **Emily Andreini Receives Scholarships**

Graduate student Emily Andreini received the Ronald S. Knight Memorial Scholarship and the Tehama County Cattlewomen Scholarship for the 2014 academic year.

The Ronald S. Knight Scholarship is awarded by the Tehama County Cattlemen's Association in California. The scholarship committee bases their selection upon demonstrated academic achievement, community activity, work experience, and a combination of great promise and a desire to work in Northern California following graduation. As part of the scholarship, Emily will receive \$2,000.

The Tehama County Cattlewomen Scholarship will provide Emily with an additional \$2,000.

Emily is working on her M.S. in Sustainability in the Department of Animal Science and is being mentored by Dr. Sara Place.



**Emily Andreini**  
Mentored by Dr. Sara Place

## **Students Chosen for Achievement Award**

The American Meat Science Association (AMSA) selected two OSU students from the Department of Animal Science to receive the Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award.

Morgan Neilson is a double major in Animal Science and Agricultural Communications at Oklahoma State University. Morgan participated on the meat judging team at OSU, where she realized her true passion for meat science and continued to grow with other activities. Morgan interned with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture and plans to pursue a law degree after she completes her master's degree in Meat Science.

Kelly Vierck is a Food Science major at Oklahoma State University. Through her experiences in 4-H and FFA, as well as OSU meat judging and meat animal evaluation, she developed a passion for the meat industry. Kelly works in the muscle biology lab and interned with Seaboard Foods quality assurance department this past summer. Kelly plans on pursuing a master's degree after graduation in May 2015.



**Kelly Vierck**



**Morgan Neilson**

## *Dr. Deb VanOverbeke Receives Distinguished Teaching Award from AMSA*

The AMSA (American Meat Science Association) selected OSU Animal Science professor Deb VanOverbeke to receive the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Deborah VanOverbeke received her B.S. degree in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska in 1996. After completing her B.S. degree, she worked for the Nebraska Cattlemen where she coordinated the Beef Quality Assurance and Nebraska Corn-Fed Beef Program until 1998. Deb attended Colorado State University for both her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Animal Science with a Meat Science emphasis. During her graduate work, Deb worked closely with Colorado Cattlemen's and the Colorado Livestock Association to develop the Colorado Beef Quality Assurance Program and completed the Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program for the American Sheep Industry Association. She conducted research related to factors that impact meat quality attributes and was active in the National Beef Quality Audit and the National Market Cow and Bull Beef Quality Audit. Deb received her M.S. degree in 2000 and her Ph.D. in 2002 from Colorado State University. Upon completion of her Ph.D. in 2002, she joined the University of Minnesota as the Meat Quality and Safety Specialist. During her time at Minnesota, she co-developed and taught with the College of Veterinary Medicine, Pre-harvest Meat Quality and Food Safety, and team taught the Global Beef Systems course for the School of Public Health's Summer Institute. She conducted research on the effects of feeding distillers grains on meat quality and had an active Extension program while at the University of Minnesota.

In 2005, Deb joined Oklahoma State University as an Assistant Professor in Meat Science. In 2010, Deb was promoted to Associate Professor. Deb is responsible for

teaching two undergraduate courses and two graduate courses each year— three of which were developed at OSU. Deb's teaching efforts generate, on average, over 650 student credit hours a year. In 2009, she also began offering the senior Animal Science Capstone course on-line during the summer term. In addition to these courses, Deb serves as the Advising Coordinator for the Department of Animal Science and she advises 100 undergraduate students and has served as the major professor for 11 graduate students. She also advises the OSU Block and Bridle Club and has also advised the Meat



*Deb VanOverbeke*

Science Association and the College's Student Council. Deb assists with numerous Extension programs including the Beef Quality Assurance Program, Beef Quality Summit, Pork 101, and the Meat Animal Evaluation Contest. Deb has served on the teaching and assessment committees in the Department of Animal Science, as secretary for the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Faculty Council and currently serves on the University's Faculty Council and as the University Academic Standards and Policies Committee Chair.

Deb's research focuses on beef quality and sensory attributes as they relate to production management of cattle and she has most recently been involved in completing the 2011-2012 National Beef Quality Audit for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. She has been recognized by NACTA as a Teacher Fellow and as the Southern Section ASAS Young Animal Scientist for Education and Research. Deb has been a member of AMSA since 1998 and has served as Chairman of the Quiz Bowl Committee, as well as Abstract Chairman and Reciprocity Session Chair for the Reciprocal Meats Conference Planning Committee. Deb and her husband, Kirk, have two children, Esther and Joshua and they reside in Stillwater, OK.

# ***Dr. Udaya DeSilva Chosen For Regents Distinguished Teaching Award***

Dr. Udaya DeSilva, associate professor of animal science, was one of nine Oklahoma State University faculty members who have been named the 2014 recipients of the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award. This is the 24th year outstanding faculty members have been recognized for their expertise and dedication to teaching. The awards were approved during the meeting of the Oklahoma State University/A&M Board of Regents on Friday, September 5th, 2014.

Each will receive a permanent annual salary increment of \$2,000. Each college nominates up to three people for the award. A review and selection committee composed of an undergraduate and a graduate student, two faculty members at large, two department heads and the provost or his designee, identifies the winners. Each college has one recipient except the College of Arts and Sciences, which has two recipients due to the large number of faculty.

Dr. DeSilva received his B.V.Sc in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka in 1986. He worked in Sri Lanka as a veterinarian, an assistant lecturer, and then a veterinary research officer before attending Kansas State University where he obtained his M.S. in Animal Genetics in 1992. He earned his Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics from Washington University in St. Louis, MO in 1998.

Dr. Udaya DeSilva worked as a postdoctoral fellow and then a research scientist before becoming an assistant professor for the OSU Department of Animal Science in 2001. He currently teaches Animal Genetics, Applications of Biotechnology in Animal Science, and the honors course Science and the Movies. He is academic advisor for 31 animal science students and chair/member of 16 graduate committees. His research interests include functional genomics of adipogenesis in

cattle and metagenomics of rumen and other intestinal microflora.

Dr. Udaya DeSilva has been a productive and influential part of the OSU Department of Animal Science for the last 13 years and continues to touch the lives of many through his teaching and research efforts. He has taken an active role in departmental, college, and university responsibilities through his work with committees and councils, and has worked in the role of chair for several committees. He has earned a long list of honors and awards during his career, including:



***Udaya DeSilva***

- 2010 Alpha Zeta Outstanding Teacher Award
- 2009 Tyler Award for Outstanding Faculty - Department of Animal Science
- 2008 Outstanding Faculty Award - OSU Interfraternity and Panhellenic Council
- 2008 Honorary Inductee - Golden Key Honor Society
- 2007 Gamma Sigma Delta
- 2006 Sigma Xi Young Investigator Award
- 2001 Sigma Xi Research Honor Society
- 1991 Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society
- 1989 Fulbright Higher Education Fellowship
- 1989 Postgraduate Scholarship by the Sri Lanka President's Scholarship Fund
- 1987 Cuba - Sri Lanka Bilateral Scientific Exchange Scholarship
- 1986 Second Class Upper Division Honors Degree in Veterinary Medicine
- 1980 Government of India Cultural Exchange Scholarship

# Hires & Departures

## *New Animal Science Staff*



**Holly Jones**, *Administrative Support Assistant, RM 109*

I am originally from Dallas, TX. Between my boyfriend, Chris, and I we have quite the menagerie - Samson (blue heeler mix), Wesley (Black and Tan Coonhound), Pumpkin (Domestic shorthair, orange tabby), Dodo (African Sulcata Tortoise), 7 box turtles, 9 snakes, and 10 pigeons. The snakes and pigeons are often subjects for Chris's behavior studies as part of his graduate degree.

I spent 14 years in a small animal veterinary practice prior to moving to Stillwater. To satiate my love for helping people and their pets, I volunteer at Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue and Operation Catnip, and I do pet sitting too. I am very excited about this opportunity to put my administrative skills to work with a whole department full of animal lovers, and to learn a whole new field of study.



**Jeremy Leister**, *Senior Herd Manager, Purebred Beef Center*

I am originally from Amsterdam, MO. I was a graduate of OSU animal Science in 2011. I previously was the Cow-herd manager for the purebred range. I was part of the 2010 American Royal Champion and National Champion Livestock Judging team, as well as the 2011 National Champion MEAC team. While an undergraduate, I worked for the OSU purebred center as a student employee.

I enjoy getting the opportunity to judge shows. In some of my spare time I like to go fishing. I hope to keep building the reputation and appeal that the Purebred beef Center has throughout not only the state of Oklahoma but nationally around the country. This is an exciting and humbling opportunity and I feel very fortunate to be able to be a part of something so prestigious for the Department of Animal Science.



**Karen Miller**, *Accountant I, RM 101F*

I am originally from Oklahoma City, OK. My husband, Larry, and I met as students at OSU. We married and returned to live in Stillwater permanently. My husband and I have two children, Allison and Matthew. All four of us are OSU graduates. We love the Cowboys! Our family has three cats, Choco, Snowbug, and Topher. I love to read and relax in my spare time. I am a hard worker but like to meet people, learn new experiences and enjoy life.



**Sara Ricklefs, Accountant I, RM 101F**

I am originally from Valley Falls, KS. I've been married since June of 2013 to my husband Josh. We have an Australian Cattle Dog (Red Heeler) named Scout.

I graduated from Kansas State University in May of 2013 with a Bachelor's in Animal Science and Agribusiness. At KSU, I assisted with a graduate research project supplementing Omega-3 fatty acids in the diets of pregnant and lactating mares to measure joint health in foals. My family raised horses, club lambs, and bird dogs.

My husband and I love traveling and I enjoy painting when I have the time. It is my goal to provide assistance and solutions to Grant Principal Investigators within the department.



**Renda Williams, Administrative Support Assistant, RM 104**

I am originally from Lame Deer, Montana. I grew up in many states because my father worked 35 years in the Oil and Gas industry, exposing me to a lot of the plains of Montana. I don't have 100% ANSI experience, but I can say I was always surrounded by herds of Bison on the plains, if that counts for something...ha!

I am an avid traveler who loves to Instagram unique findings! I love baseball and will go to watch Double and Triple A games, but most of all – Go Astros! I make handmade Native American beadwork for personal usage as a Northern Cloth dancer and for other people, as well.

It is my goal to obtain an MBA before I hit OLD! I would like to extend THANK YOU's to the #1 ANSI Faculty and Staff Family for an awesome welcoming to the department back in May! GO POKES!!



**Jamie Sadler, Administrative Support Assistant, RM 114**

I am originally from Grapevine, TX (DFW area). I have one dog, a six weeks old mutt named Turanga Leela (we just call her Leela). Once she's crate trained, we're hoping to get her a kitten companion named Fry.

I enjoy baking, camping (primitive, who needs running water?), reading, running, I guess, and a whole host of nerdy things (I'd list them, but you'd get bored). I climbed a 14-er this summer (Huron Peak), by myself, with no training; I'm darn proud of that, and want everyone to know. I'm pretty good at singing if I want to be, and I play clarinet and saxophone. I guess for "other" – I've been involved with CISV, an international youth organization, for 16 years, and I strongly encourage you to Google or ask me about it. Also, I work with teens in my free time, and I love every minute of it. I'd like to be a teacher or youth minister, but I also have my sights set on the Foreign Service. It will just depend on what my life looks like in the coming years.

## ***New Equine Specialist Hired***



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Kris Hiney has accepted our offer to join the Department of Animal Science at Oklahoma State University as an Assistant Professor and Extension Equine Specialist. She started her position here at OSU on August 29, 2014.

Dr. Hiney received her Ph.D. in Equine Physiology from Michigan State before joining the faculty at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls. Along with teaching courses, she served as coach of UWRF Horse Judging Team, breeding manager of the Equine Enterprise, co-adviser for Horseman's Association, and advisor for Companion Animal Respect and Education Club.

She has also been active in the American Society of Animal Science, Equine Science Society, American Quarter Horse Association, and the National Horse Judging Team Coaches' Association. Dr. Hiney also has a special interest in agility dogs and canine therapy.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Hiney to our department!

## ***New Lecturer Hired***



The Department of Animal Science welcomed Dr. Blake Wilson on board this fall as a lecturer to teach Applied Nutrition and assist Dr. Bloomberg with the Animal Management course. Dr. Wilson grew up in Oklahoma and earned all of his degrees at Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Wilson obtained a Ph.D. in Nutrition during the summer of 2014 and was mentored by Dr. Clint Krehbiel. He is married to Amanda Wilson.

## ***Dr. Bob Wettemann Retires***

Dr. Bob Wettemann is retiring from his Regents Professor position after 42 years in the Department of Animal Science. Bob has had a successful career, with more than 620 publications, 41 semesters of teaching experience, 8 professional society memberships, and a long list of honor societies and awards.



Having grown up on a dairy farm in Connecticut, Dr. Wettemann's original goal in life was to have his own dairy farm. Dr. Wettemann washed dishes in Dr. Bill Pickett's lab while he was pursuing a B.S. in Dairy Science from the University of Connecticut. It was during those four years that he was first exposed to research and gained an interest in it, which eventually led him to attend graduate school. It was at Michigan State University, where he earned his M.S. and Ph.D., that he found his love for research.

Dr. Wettemann became a faculty member at OSU when he was hired as an assistant professor in 1972. Throughout his career, departmental research has been a high priority. He has been chair of research committees, encouraged exposure of departmental research, and tenaciously pursued his own research interests, which include reproduction and endocrine function of beef cattle, identification of biomarkers that can be used to classify beef cows that are more efficient and require less energy for maintenance of body weight and energy stores, and determination of the effects of prenatal nutritional programming of the bovine fetus on mechanisms that regulate growth, development, and performance.

Dr. Wettemann will continue being an active member of the Animal Science community in the role of President of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS). Dr. Wettemann is looking forward to having more time to spend with his family and friends.

# Alumni

## ***Andy Cole Receives Promotion at USDA***



Animal Science Alum and 2008 Advanced Degree Graduate of Distinction N. Andy Cole has been recently promoted to Research Leader/Laboratory Director for the USDA ARS Conservation and Production Research Laboratory in Bushland, TX. Andy had served in an interim capacity for several months before receiving

the promotion. Congratulations Andy!

## ***Zerle Carpenter Joins Meat Industry Hall of Fame***

Animal Science distinguished alum, Zerle Carpenter, is one of six being inducted into the Meat Industry Hall of Fame. Dr. Carpenter has been a Professor of Animal Science at Texas A&M University for the past 35 years. He has been recognized for his leadership in helping conduct the foundational research that led to the establishment of USDA's official grades of beef, pork, and lamb. The value of U.S. meat produced in the United State is based on this research which established U.S. meat products as the world standard.



The induction ceremony and dinner honoring the incoming members will be held on September 13th, 2014 at the Charleston Place Hotel in Charleston, S.C.

## ***Tyler Norvell Receives Career Award***

Tyler Norvell was recognized by CASNR with the 2014 Early Achievement Career Award. Tyler graduated from Oklahoma State University in May of 2006 with a degree in Animal Science. While attending OSU, Tyler was a member of the National Champion Livestock Judging Team and was recognized as the Outstanding Animal Science Senior.



Since January 2012, Tyler Norvell has served as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Youth Expo and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Youth Expo, as well as fundraising efforts.

Tyler is also the managing partner of Norvell Consulting, LLC, where he provides consulting and lobbying services, as well as marketing strategies for his clients.

Tyler previously served as Vice President of Public Policy for Oklahoma Farm Bureau where he directed the lobbying efforts for the state's largest grassroots agricultural organization.

Tyler served as the 2012-2013 OSU Animal Science Alumni Board Chairman and is a proud Lifetime member of the Oklahoma State University Alumni Association. Tyler is also a lifetime member of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and the Sirloin Club of Oklahoma.

Tyler and his wife, Beth, currently live in Tuttle, Oklahoma, with their 4 year old daughter, Madilyn, and their latest arrival, Saylor Mae, who was born in July. The family runs a few head of Hereford, Angus and Sim Angus cattle. Tyler remains active in his family's farming operation.

# ***Minnie Lou Bradley Wins 2014 Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Award***

OSU alum, Ms. Minnie Lou Bradley, has been chosen as the 2014 Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery inductee. The gallery contains a collection of over 350 portraits of distinguished livestock industry leaders. Only one person among all species of livestock is honored each year. Minnie Lou Bradley has been recognized as a worthy candidate for her lifetime achievements and significant accomplishments in the livestock industry.



Minnie Lou Bradley was born December 15, 1931 in Hinton, Oklahoma. At nine years old, Minnie Lou participated in 4-H where she showed lambs and pigs. Her uncle, Ted Ottinger, inspired her to pursue a career in livestock and ranching.

Minnie Lou entered college in 1949 and became the first female student in the Department of Animal Science at Oklahoma A&M (OSU), where she met her future husband Billy Jack Bradley. She was the first woman to compete on the OSU livestock judging team and became the first woman to win the International Livestock Judging contest held in Chicago in 1952. She was also the first female president of the American Angus Association.

Minnie Lou is the owner of Bradley 3 Ranch in Childress County in the Texas Panhandle. The ranch concentrates

its breeding efforts on the beef industry's most basic traits while employing the industry's latest technology. The herd has between 400 and 500 cows and 200 bulls. The Bradley 3 supplies seedstock to commercial ranchers in the Southwest.

Minnie has received numerous awards, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Land Stewardship Award, which was presented to her in 1998 by then Governor George W. Bush. Minnie Lou has been featured in various ranch magazines. In 2004, the Bradley 3 was listed among the top forty beef producers in the nation by "Beef" magazine. Minnie Lou is also included in the "Listing of Great Texas Women" sponsored by the University of Texas. In 2006, she was inducted into the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame.

The Saddle & Sirloin Banquet is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 16th in the South Wing Conference Center at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center at the 41st annual North American International Livestock Exposition. For more information, please visit <http://mlbportrait.com/>.



*Minnie Lou Bradley*

## Events

### Animal Science Tailgate

September 25th, 2014

### Tulsa State Fair

September 25th - October 5th, 2014

### Applied Reproductive Task Force Conference

October 7th - 9th, 2014  
Wes Watkins Center/OSU

### Homecoming

October 17th - 25th, 2014

### Animal Science Gala

April 10th, 2015

### Animal Science Banquet

April 11th, 2015

### Cowboy Classic

April 12th, 2015

## Featured Photo



### 1948 National Champion Livestock Judging Team

L to R: Glenn Bratcher, E.J. Turman, Bob Totusek, Thomas E. Cox, Myron Schnaithman, J.C. Christensen

## Quotes

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.

*Involve me and I learn.”*

- Benjamin Franklin

## Cowpoke News Team

### Contributors

Blake Bloomberg

Kim Brock

Justin Brooks

Kelcea Chapman

Jade Cooper

Debra Danley

Laura Deason

Kaylee Elliott

Jennifer Hernandez Gifford

Rusty Gosz

Shari Holloway

Mark Johnson

Todd Johnson

David Jones

Laci Jones

Missy Kropp

Austin Lemons

Gant Mourer

Peter Muriana

Mallory Nailon

Sara Place

Ranjith Ramanathan

Clint Rusk

Sarah Schobert

John Staude

Ben Underwood

Deb VanOverbeke

### Editor

Rebekah Alford

Thank you for your contribution to the summer 2014 edition of Cowpoke News!

# Alumni Association

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2015 ASAA Gala Reunion Honorees

The Animal Science Alumni Association will honor Dr. Bob Kropp and his advisees, students, and friends at our 2015 ASAA Gala Reunion, as well as the 1965 Meat and Livestock Teams. The Gala will be held on April 10th, 2015.

## 2016 ASAA Gala Reunion Honorees

We will honor Dr. Mark Johnson and his livestock judging teams at our 2016 ASAA Gala Reunion on April 1st, 2016.

## Bob Kropp Hall of Fame Pledge Card

Official pledge cards will be sent out soon and may include the link for online donations. If you would like a pledge card, please make sure the ASAA has your contact information by contacting Kim Brock at kim.brock@okstate.edu.

## ASAA Needs Your E-mail

The Animal Science Alumni Association is currently seeking out e-mail addresses for Animal Science Alumni. If you are OSU Animal Science Alumni, please e-mail your information to Kim Brock at kim.brock@okstate.edu.

## Purebred/Teaching Center Endowments

An investment in permanent endowments within the Department of Animal Science will keep OSU's tradition and legacy of dominance alive and well. These permanent endowments will help ensure that our facilities and purebred herds will be maintained for future Cowboys who will become the legends of tomorrow. Dairy Center, Equine Center, Purebred Beef Center, Sheep and Goat Center, and Swine Center Endowment Funds exist to support programs and operations within the Department of Animal Science.

For more information, please contact Kathy McNally at 405-385-5606 or kmcnally@OSUgiving.com

## Oklahoma Quality Beef Network Flyer

### OKLAHOMA QUALITY BEEF NETWORK

Take advantage of these

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Elk City Livestock	Brandon Hickey	580-497-6095	11/7/14	9/23/2014
Pawnee Livestock	Calvin Buchanan	918-852-5271	11/15/14	10/1/2014
South Coffeyville/PrimeVac	Jim Folk	918-255-6200	11/21/14	10/6/14
Blackwell Livestock	Gary or Grady Potter	580-363-9941	11/22/14	10/7/14
Tulsa Stockyards	Joe Don Eaves	918-760-1300	12/1/14	10/17/14
OKC West	Bill Barnhart	800-778-9378	12/3/14	10/19/14
McAlester Stockyards	Lindsey Grant	918-423-2834	2/3/15	12/20/14
McAlester Stockyards	Lindsey Grant	918-423-2834	3/31/15	2/14/15
McAlester Stockyards	Lindsey Grant	918-423-2834	6/2/15	4/18/15



For additional information or to register your cattle, visit

[www.oqbn.okstate.edu](http://www.oqbn.okstate.edu)

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# Department of Animal Science



## Thank You!

Thank you for taking time to read the Oklahoma State University Department of Animal Science newsletter, Cowpoke News! I hope you have enjoyed reading about the students, staff, and faculty.

## To Subscribe

The Cowpoke Newsletters are published three times a year and are available on our website at <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/newsletter>.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, please contact us at [cowpokeneews@okstate.edu](mailto:cowpokeneews@okstate.edu).

If you would like for us to mail you the Cowpoke News, please e-mail us or mail your request to Rebekah Alford at:

Rebekah Alford  
Oklahoma State University  
RM 204a Animal Science Bldg.  
Stillwater, OK 74078

## Visit Our Campus

Interested in Oklahoma State University? Come visit our campus! Our university offers tours Monday through Saturday. You can choose from the following:

### Group Campus Tours

Group campus tours are available to students in grades 9-12. You must have at least 10 students for the group tour.

### Self-Guided Tours

Unable to attend a scheduled tour? Choose a self-guided option that you can complete at your convenience.

### Alumni Tours

Tours for alumni are offered each Friday at 2 p.m. by the OSU Alumni Association. You must preregister to attend.

View all tour options at <https://admissions.okstate.edu/visit>.

## How To Apply

Want to be an OSU Cowboy? To apply, please go to <https://admissions.okstate.edu/apply>.

## Oklahoma State University Department of Animal Science

310 North Monroe  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
Phone: (405) 744-6062  
Fax: (405)744-7390  
[cowpokeneews@okstate.edu](mailto:cowpokeneews@okstate.edu)  
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