

COWPOKE

NEWS

*Department of Animal & Food Sciences
Oklahoma State University
Fall 2021*



COWPOKE NEWS

Welcome to the Fall 2021 Edition of Cowpoke News! We hope you enjoy reading about the Oklahoma State University Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

Cowpoke News is published multiple times a year. We strive to keep students, alumni and friends of the department informed about our activities and successes. Cowpoke News is distributed through both e-mail and mail and is available 24/7 at afs.okstate.edu/cowpoke-news. To subscribe, e-mail us at cowpokenews@okstate.edu or mail in your request. Please give us your full name and either your e-mail or mailing address.

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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

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.

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.



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

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.

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.



Our Majors

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

AMSA Board Positions

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.



Otto S. Cox Graduate Fellowship

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>.



Undergraduate Research Scholars

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.

Niblack

Hunter McConnell *

Major: animal science

Faculty Mentor: Andrew Foote

Project Title: The effect of linoleic acid on inflammatory gene expression in the rumen

Adelle Crofford **

Major: animal science

Faculty Mentor: Darren Hagen

Project Title: Effect of wolbachia mechanisms on drosophila reproductive fitness

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

Wentz

Paetyn Armstrong *

Major: food science

Faculty Mentor: Ranjith Ramanathan

Project Title: Effects of pomegranate pre-treatment on ground beef quality

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

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



Pictured is Faith Howe, animal science undergraduate research scholar and Wentz recipient.

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 **.

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's Leon Spicer awarded national animal science honor

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.

"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

OSU Swine Center excels at multiple shows in 2021

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



Photo by Steven Mapes

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 Stottlemire 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, Johnna Stottlemire, Jacob Bedell, Grace Harris and Parker Henley (coach).

OSU Horse Judging Team named Champions at All American Quarter Horse Congress

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



All American Quarter Horse Congress

The OSU Horse Judging Team members and their coach (left to right): Sarah Paige Tarr, Elizabeth Hokit, Leslie Smith, Megan Newlon, Shianne Votava, Hailey Walters, Kelsey Bush, Rylee Rowe, Sierra Walter, Mikayla South, Hailey Obradovich and Rachel Scott (coach).



AQHA World Show Judging Contest

The OSU Horse Judging Team members and their coaches (left to right): Steven Cooper (coach), Mikayla South, Megan Newlon, Sarah Paige Tarr, Rylee Rowe, Shianne Votava, Hailey Walters, Kelsey Bush, Leslie Smith, Elizabeth Hokit, Sierra Walter, Hailey Obradovich and Rachel Scott (coach).

Totusek Lectureship continues to have significant impact with 2021 event

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)



Oklahoma State University
Animal Science Alumni Association
*Animal Science
Weekend*

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

All alumni welcome. Lunch sponsored by
Livestock Nutrition Center

Totusek Arena

Alumni Tour, following lunch and meeting

Ferguson Family Dairy

2:00 p.m. 100+ Year Meat Science Celebration

Happy Hour at the Salty Bronc following the tour

FAPC

5:00 p.m. ASAA Gala Reunion

Doors open for social hour, cash bar and meal

*OSU ConocoPhillips
Alumni Center*

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

6:00 p.m. ASAA Gala Reunion Program

Reunion of 2012, 1997 & 1972 animal science graduates,
50-year 1972 judging teams and Hall of Fame Chairback
Recipient - Dr. Tom Carr

*OSU ConocoPhillips
Alumni Center*

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

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