

A publication from the Department of Animal Science, Oklahoma State University

# COWPOKE

Spring 2016



## *INSIDE:*

Billie Jean Ward

Faculty Spotlight: Mark Johnson

ANSI Weekend



# ANIMAL SCIENCE COWPOKE

Cowpoke News is published each semester by the Department of Animal Science within the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (DASNR) at Oklahoma State University. We strive to keep students, alumni, and friends of the department informed about our activities and successes.

The Department of Animal Science offers two majors to students; animal science and food science. It is one of the largest departments on campus with nearly 1,000 undergraduate students, but with a small town feel, a caring attitude and a commitment to every student.

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## Stay Connected

Want more information about our department? Follow us on social media! To learn more, visit <http://ansi.okstate.edu/news/social-media>.

Welcome to the spring 2016 edition of Cowpoke News, which strives to share information about the Department of Animal Science at Oklahoma State University. We hope you enjoy reading about our department, including information on the successes of our students, faculty and alumni. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition. A big thanks to Dr. Clint Rusk, Dr. Clint Krehbiel and Carrie Jansen for your help with this edition.

## On The Cover: Kalyn McKibben

A picture of Kalyn McKibben is featured on the cover of this edition. Kalyn was chosen as both the 2016 College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) and Department of Animal Science (ANSI) Outstanding Senior. While at OSU, Kalyn's commitment to her passion has driven her to seek out extra-curricular opportunities within the beef industry. Kalyn plans to pursue a career in beef advocacy and production. She plans to dedicate her career to shining a positive light on production agriculture and bridging the ever-increasing gap between the consumer and producer. This photo on the cover is of her receiving the CASNR Outstanding Senior Award. Read more about Kalyn and other ANSI Banquet award winners on page 19!



## Faculty Spotlight: Mark Johnson

Dr. Mark Johnson started his career at OSU in 1992. As an associate professor, many students know him from the classes he teaches or his work at the Purebred Beef Center. Others know him from his time as the OSU Livestock Judging Team coach, a position he held from 1992 to 2013. He coached four National Champion Livestock Judging Teams (2001, 2005, 2010 and 2012) and four Reserve National Champion Teams (1992, 1993, 1994 and 2004). The 2005 OSU National Champion Judging Team set the all-time record high team score.

The picture below is of Dr. Mark Johnson with his wife at the 2016 Animal Science Alumni Association (ASAA) Gala where he was honored with a Chairback Campaign. Proceeds benefit the OSU Purebred Beef Cattle Headquarters Renovation Fund.



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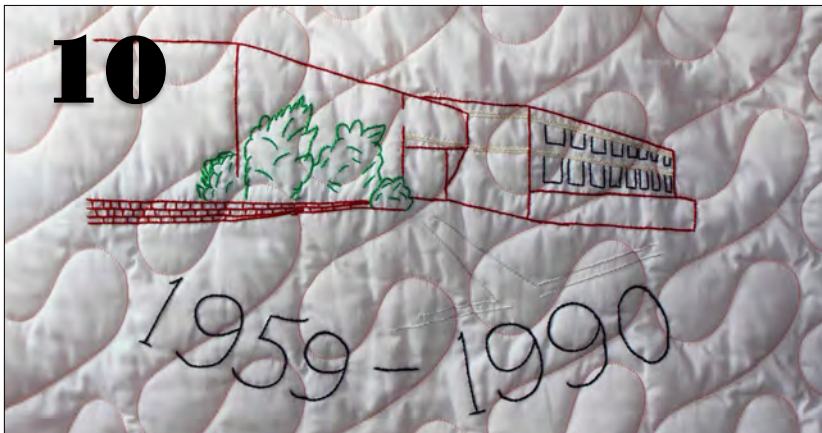
## 2016 ANSI Weekend

Animal Science Weekend is held annually in the spring. Hundreds of alumni came to the Oklahoma State University campus to attend the event, which consists of the ASAA Gala, Scholarship Banquet, Old Timer's Judging Contest and Cowboy Classic Sale. This year, a tour of the new equine center was also provided. During the ANSI Weekend, money is raised for student scholarships, purebred cattle are sold, scholarships are given and awards are presented to alumni, faculty and students.



## Billie Jean Ward

Billie worked in the Department of Animal Science as the administrative assistant for four different department heads; Glen Bratcher, Bill Pope, Jim Hillier and Bob Totusek. She began her position in 1959 and retired in 1990 at the age of 70. Billie Jean played a major role in administrative duties and human resources, and was responsible for hiring all secretaries and information assistants. Billie Jean recently turned 95 last fall. Read more about her on page 10!



## Equine Center Grand Opening

The grand opening for the Charles and Linda Cline Equine Teaching Center was held on February 16th, 2016. Many attended the event, including Bullet and the Spirit Team. The new equine center, which was made possible by the Cline's generous donation, will help advance our equine program.

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*Bullet at the grand opening of the Charles and Linda Cline Equine Center*

# From the Department Head

Dear Alumni and Friends:

We hope you enjoy this issue of the "Cowpoke News." We are committed to keeping you informed about the OSU Department of Animal Science. Our goal is to stay in touch with you year-round. We plan to send you the Cowpoke News three times per year and the Alumni Update once in the spring.

In this issue of the Cowpoke News, you will read about the Animal Science Weekend, including the Alumni Gala, the Scholarship Banquet and the Cowboy Classic. You will also learn about our outstanding seniors, plus stories about other students and clubs who have represented the Department of Animal Science very well this winter and spring in various events and competitions. You will see pictures and read about the exciting grand opening at the Charles and Linda Cline Equine Teaching Center.

This issue of the Cowpoke News features stories about our talented faculty and some of their recent accomplishments. You will find a story about Dr. Mark Johnson's career at Oklahoma State. You will read about Billie Jean Ward, former senior office assistant to four department heads, as well as recent hires and the most generous Alumni Association in the world! We have included a list of our major sponsors and those who have donated animal genetics to our department.

If you or someone you know would like to receive a hard copy of the Cowpoke News or would like to be added to our e-mail list, please contact Rebekah Alford at [cowpokeneews@okstate.edu](mailto:cowpokeneews@okstate.edu).

Sincerely,



Clint Rusk, Head  
Department of Animal Science



Bullet and the Spirit Team



2016 Old Timer's Judging Contest



Pistol Pete at the Equine Center Grand Opening (Pg. 14)



Billie Jean Ward, Bob Kropp and Connie Walker



Dr. Jerry Fitch Receiving CASNR Advising & Mentoring Award (Pg. 24)

# Faculty Spotlight

Written by Katie Friederichs & Rebekah Alford

Dr. Mark Johnson started his career at OSU in 1992. As an associate professor, many students know him from the classes he teaches. Others know him from his time as coach of the OSU Livestock Judging Team and his work at the Purebred Beef Center.

Johnson grew up in Deerfield, Missouri, where he worked with his father on a diversified family farm and ranching operation. He now lives with his family on a ranch near Orlando, Oklahoma, on their cattle operation, J&J Cattle Company. He married his wife, Brenda Lee, in 1996 and they have two daughters, Sydney Pearl and Charley Ries. Along with managing the ranch, Johnson judges livestock shows on a national level.

Johnson served as coach of the OSU Livestock Judging Team from 1992 to 2013, coaching four National Champion Teams (2001, 2005, 2010 and 2012) and four Reserve National Champion Teams (1992, 1993, 1994 and 2004). The 2005 OSU National Champion Livestock Judging Team set the all-time record high team score. Johnson has also been named "Coach of the Year" by the Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Coaches' Association seven times.

"I really enjoyed coaching and the relationships made, as well as the opportunity to work with so many talented students," said Johnson. "Also, at OSU there is so much alumni support and long-term loyalty which is what leads to so many great things happening here."

Throughout his 20 plus year career, Johnson shared his wisdom with others letting them know, "Your college education and the four years you spend getting it, as much fun as they are, is a means to an end. It is about the 60 to 80 years that follow it!"

As a judging coach and associate professor, Johnson has had an enormous impact on the lives of students in the OSU Department of Animal Science. He has worked closely and diligently in order to prepare them, not only for contests and tests, but for the rest of their lives.

"My degree from OSU and the year of judging under Dr. Johnson have set me up for success and a fulfilling adult career," said Colby Ferguson, 1994 livestock judging team member. "It's been really neat to see Dr. Johnson change over the years. When I judged for him, he was a young, up-and-coming coach with tremendous knowledge and fire."



"As he got older, he perfected additional skills that gave him a unique ability to relate to his students and judges and not only make them better at their craft, but better men and women as well. I'm very thankful for the opportunity to represent OSU in livestock judging, as well as having Mark as my coach. I'm sure I'm only one of many that he has coached over the years that would say the exact same thing."

In addition to coaching and teaching, Johnson has served as supervisor of the OSU Purebred Beef Center for the last 24 years. Johnson teaches and trains students at the 300 cow operation, which includes Angus, Brangus, Hereford, Limousin and Simmental cattle. The facility allows students to get hands-on experience with purebred breeds of cattle.

Some of Dr. Johnson's honors include: 2014 Mr. Angus Award, 2013 CASNR Excellence in Student Advising and Mentoring Award, 2009 - 2014 Dr. Robert Totusek Endowed Chair and the 2006 Tyler Award.

Dr. Mark Johnson's dedication to OSU, the beef industry and the livestock judging program is being honored through a Chairback Campaign, which will benefit the OSU Purebred Beef Center Renovation Fund. To support the Dr. Mark Johnson Chairback Campaign Fund, please visit <http://www.osugiving.com/markjohnson>.



Mark Johnson (right) at the 2016 Animal Science Gala

# OSU Judging Teams

## Meet the Coaches



**Blake Bloomberg** has coached the Livestock Judging Team since 2013 and was assistant coach from 2010-2013. He also helps coach the

Meat Animal Evaluation Team. He has been recognized as Coach of the Year by the National Collegiate Coaches' Association three times.



**Gretchen Mafi** has coached the Meat Judging Team and the Meat Animal Evaluation Team since 2006.

Under her leadership, the teams have won many national and reserve national championships, including the 2016 Meat Animal Evaluation Reserve National Championship.



**Steven Cooper** coaches the OSU Horse Judging Team. He has coached five out of seven of OSU's AQHA World Championships, including the reigning 2015

World Champion Team. He also serves as director of the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association and advisor for the OSU Horseman's Association.



**David Jones** coaches the OSU Dairy Cattle Judging Team and is the herd manager at the OSU Dairy Center. The team travels across the country to compete in several competitions each year.

The Oklahoma State University Department of Animal Science judging teams have a long-standing history of excellence. Our teams have won more world and national judging championships than any other universities.

The department sponsors five different judging teams; dairy cattle, equine, livestock, meat and meat animal evaluation. All have established enviable records in national contests. The program focuses on teaching students to think critically, compare logically, decide independently, solve problems rationally, communicate effectively and lead decisively.

"The department, college, and university benefit from successful judging programs in several ways," said Dr. Gretchen Mafi, meat judging coach. "It brings national recognition, improves alumni support and brings pride and tradition to the program."

## Livestock Judging Team

- ◆ Since 1925, the first time an OSU Livestock Judging Team claimed victory at the International in Chicago, OSU students have earned more national championships in livestock judging competition than any other university in the country.

## Meat Animal Evaluation Team

- ◆ 4 National Championships
- ◆ 2 Reserve National Championships

## Meat Judging Team

- ◆ 17 National Championships
- ◆ 7 Reserve National Championships
- ◆ Over 60 championships from other national contests
- ◆ Only team to win Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest twice
- ◆ More national meat judging championships than any other university in the country

## Horse Judging Team

Since 1983, the OSU Horse Judging Team has had:

- ◆ 7 AQHA World Championships
- ◆ 4 AQHA Reserve World Championships
- ◆ 4 AQHA Congress Championships
- ◆ 3 National Reining Horse World Championships
- ◆ 2 National Western Championships
- ◆ 1 National Western Reserve Championship
- ◆ 1 Morgan National Championship
- ◆ 1 Morgan National Reserve Championship
- ◆ 1 Tulsa State Fair Championship
- ◆ 1 Spring Sweepstakes Championship



(L to R): Bradford Knapp, Dr. A.E. Darlow (coach), Louis Hawkins, Charles Mathers, Norman Lowe, Cecil Burnham, H. Hamm, Walter Gray, R.E. Herndon and W.L. Blizzard

"My experience on the 2015 Meat Judging Team provided me tremendous opportunities to travel, develop critical thinking skills and cultivate friendships that will last a lifetime.

"My team had the unique opportunity to represent the United States at the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Wagga Wagga, Australia, last summer. Traveling thousands of miles with my teammates to learn about the Australian meat industry and compete at their contest was an indescribable experience. Bringing the Roy McDonald Shield back to Stillwater and joining the 2008 team from OSU as ICMJ Champions was an honor. We are proud to be a small part in the storied tradition of judging programs in the Department of Animal Science."

**- Chandler Steele, 2015 OSU Meat Judging Team member**

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"While winning an AQHA championship was a personal achievement, coaching a group of dedicated and hard-working OSU students and experiencing their 2012 World Championship win was a far greater honor and accomplishment. Supporting students in conquering their academic and professional goals is my passion, so this was an overwhelming, emotional and proud moment for me. Now those students are using the knowledge and experience they gained from horse judging and collegiate activities to achieve their career and future aspirations."

**- Natalie Baker, OSU equine herd manager and 2011 - 2013 OSU assistant coach**

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"Judging allows students to grow analytical, evaluational and public speaking skills. The coolest thing for me now as a coach is seeing those students I have worked with go on to mentor youth and other students. Judging really can mold a person and give them the skills to be successful and that is why I have always loved the process. Watching students improve and grow is great. The journey it takes them to get to a successful level of competition is both hard and rewarding. Being a competitor was always great, but I love being able to give the same feeling of achievement to others who enjoy my passion as much as I do."

**- Sarah Schobert, OSU Horse Judging Team assistant coach and 2013 OSU Horse Judging Team member**

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"Being a member of a collegiate judging team is an invaluable experience because of the skills gained, like decision making, organization, time management, responsibility, team work and work ethic. In addition, team members gain life-long friends from within their team and around the country, as well as industry contacts for future employment. Collegiate judging contests are highly competitive and require tremendous dedication and desire from participants."

**- Gretchen Mafi, OSU Meat Judging Team coach**

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"Being a member of the livestock judging team not only challenged me to become a better student, but it taught me how to become a better employee. The skills I learned, such as time management, responsibility, work ethic, etc., are irreplaceable. On top of that, the networking and friendships I gained through participation on the livestock judging team are second to none."

**- Kass Pfeiffer, 2013 OSU Livestock and 2014 Meat Animal Evaluation Team member**

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"Livestock judging was the single most important thing I did to shape my future and career. The public speaking, leadership and quick thinking skills learned in this program have been the backbone to a very productive and fulfilling career. From being a livestock nutrition specialist to a beef cattle sales and marketing manager, and then from an agriculture business development specialist to my current career as the director of government relations for Maryland Farm Bureau, livestock judging has been a key component to the skill set needed to do all of these jobs well."

**- Colby Ferguson, 1994 OSU Livestock Judging Team member**

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"Those days shaped my life and 64 years later I am still benefiting from them. The students and professors, not only from Oklahoma A&M but across the nation, have become and remain so today as good friends and advisors.

"By being on the team, you learn to be a member of a team with one goal in mind, but you're acting and performing as an individual who has to have confidence in one's self. Then you have to make decisions within a time limit, be able to defend your decisions and convince the person listening to your reasons that your placing was correct. If asked questions about your placing and reasons for the placing, you could look them in the eye and defend your decision in a very professional way. There is no one to lean on or to blame, that training follows you through your entire life, and I don't believe there is a way to place a value on it."

**- Minnie Lou Bradley, 1952 Livestock Judging Team member**

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*A History of Excellence*

# ANSI Weekend

## ASAA Gala Reunion

Over 330 people attended the 2016 gala at the ConocoPhillips Alumni Center. Dr. Mark Johnson, his livestock judging teams and 50 year judging teams were recognized at the event. The silent and live scholarship auctions raised a record high of nearly \$47,000, which will be used to provide ANSI students with much needed scholarships.



## Scholarship Banquet

Over 360 people attended the Animal Science Scholarship Banquet this year. Dr. Chris Richards served as master of ceremonies and the welcome was given by OSU President Burns Hargis. The banquet was sponsored by American Farmers and Ranchers Insurance, National Livestock Credit Corporation and Stillwater Milling Company.

More than 60 scholarships were presented to Department of Animal Science students during the event. Awards were also presented to undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty members and alumni. Learn more about the 2016 award winners on page 19.

## Cowboy Classic

The 37th Annual Cowboy Classic sale was held on April 3rd, 2016. Nearly 600 people were in attendance. The high selling female was lot 22, which sold for \$11,750 to the Hodgen family of Manhattan, New York. The high selling bull was lot 32, which sold for \$10,000 to A-Cross Ranch of Hammond, Oklahoma. The total gross from the sale was \$372,950.



## Old Timer's Judging Contest

The Old Timer's Judging Contest was held on April 2nd, 2016, at the Totusek Arena. The event was started in 2003 by Wayne Shearhart, Dr. Bob Totusek and Dr. Joe Hughes. Shearhart hand carves the trophy for the event. This year, he presented the trophy to the winning team, which consisted of Robert Armbruster, BT Ferguson and Ron Ramming. Merl Miller was the high individual overall.



(L to R): Robert Armbruster, Wayne Shearhart (ASAA Past President presenting the trophy) and Ron Ramming



# Brock Honored by Friends at Gala

*Written by Shari Holloway*

A group of friends of Kim Brock formed a syndicate to purchase the torch art disc created by Animal Science Alumni Ken Holloway. The disc depicts Pistol Pete sporting an OSU wrestling team singlet and was crafted from a plow disc. The item sold in the live auction during the 2016 Animal Science Alumni Gala Reunion. The following buyers contributed toward the purchase of the disc at \$6,200:

Bill & Ruth Ann Able	John Jeffrey	Rob Richard
Steve Armbruster	Duane & Sue Jeffrey	Terry Richardson
Scott & April Bulling	Bob & Susan Kropp	Scott Sherrill
Randy Byford	Brian McEntire	Rob Shuey
Sammy Coffman	Cody McMurphy	Harold Spies
Ronn Cunningham	Merl Miller	Juston & Leslie Stelzer
Greg Dietz	Brad Morgan	Tom & Shelly Sturgeon
Eli Lily & Co.	Patsy Nix Smith	Bill Troub
Don Frailey	Rodney Orrell	Mike Vache
Mike Frey	Jerry & Ada Pfeiffer	Dennis & Marta White
Ike & Lilla Higdon	Dale Redeker	Tom & Patricia White
Shari Holloway	Randy Renbarger	Butch Young
Cecil Hooper	Dusty Rich	

## *Kim Brock: Man Behind the Scene*

*Written by Julianna Albrecht*

March and April are a very busy time of year for Animal Science Alumni Association (ASAA) Secretary Kim Brock. On April 1st, 2016, the ASAA hosted the annual Gala Reunion, which is a night of recognition for alumni and members of the Animal Science family, along with an impressive scholarship auction. In his position, Brock is responsible for “making sure all of our alumni have a great time back on campus and that our scholarship auction is successful which allows the ASAA to support current Animal Science student scholarships and all Animal Science Judging Teams.” This year’s Gala Scholarship Auction raised nearly \$47,000, which is a record high!

Beyond his involvement with our Alumni Association, Brock works tirelessly to better our department. He began as the swine barn manager in 1979 and took the position as the Department of Animal Science farm coordinator in 2010. He has worked diligently to establish an Animal Science Major Sponsorship Program consisting of twenty major sponsors who provide immeasurable support to our farm units. “The outstanding set of purebred livestock at our farm units truly sets OSU apart from contending schools when prospective students come to visit. With challenging budgets, our farm units would not be able to operate progressively without the support of our major sponsors,” Brock said.

His office is stationed at the Totusek Arena, where he and his student employees maintain the facility and set-up for major events like Big 3 Field Days, Livestock Judging Camp and the Big 12 Equestrian Meet.

Thank you, Kim Brock for your dedication and tremendous support of our department!



*(L to R): Kaid Brock, OSU Wrestling Team member, presents his dad, Kim Brock, with the torch art disc purchased during the OSU Animal Science Gala Reunion*

# Billie Jean Ward

“She was a mother to all of the Animal Husbandry and Animal Science students. She was so loved and cherished by the student body.”

**LIFETIME MEMBER**

**Written by Rebekah Alford**

Billie Jean Ward worked in the Department of Animal Science as the administrative assistant to four different department heads; Glen Bratcher, Bill Pope, Jim Hillier and Bob Totusek. She began working for OSU in 1959 when the department was still called Animal Husbandry, and before it combined with the dairy and poultry departments. She played a major role in administrative duties and human resources and was responsible for hiring all secretaries and information assistants. Billie Jean turned 95 years-old last fall.

She grew up in Muskogee County in the small town of Boynton, Oklahoma. In 1938, Billie Jean came to Stillwater, Oklahoma, to attend Oklahoma A&M and study business. She went to work at the state office in Stillwater two years later. She worked there until she married her husband, who was a pilot in the service, in 1940. They were first stationed in Dallas, Texas, and then St. Joseph, Missouri, during WWII. They lived in Missouri for three years until her husband was deployed overseas.

When he returned to the U.S. and left the service, they moved back to Stillwater, Oklahoma, where they opened an appliance and hardware store on the 900 block of Main Street. They owned and operated the store until 1959, when they decided to sell it, and Billie Jean went to work for the Animal Husbandry Department.

"I did everything," Billie Jean said. "When I went out there, I was an administrative secretary and I hired all the secretaries."

One of the secretaries who worked with Billie Jean was Connie Walker. Eventually, Connie moved into the main office and worked closely with Billie Jean.

"She has a memory like an elephant, is sharp as a tack and always dresses prim and proper," said Walker.



Billie Jean had many responsibilities in her position at OSU. Along with working attentively with other members of the department, she was tasked with making preparations for annual events like Feeder's Day and the Animal Science Banquet.

"I had good people to work with, but it was a lot of work," Billie Jean said of the banquet. "I looked forward to it because I knew that I was going to see so many people I had known all through the years, and that was fun for me."

Having worked at OSU for more than 30 years, Billie Jean had an impact on the lives of many people. Those who know her say she has an infectious personality, and she is one of the happiest and most joyful people you will ever know. Many in our department depended on Billie Jean to keep them on course. She always had a special place in her heart for the students.

"I loved the students," said Billie Jean. "I just loved the administrative work, but I loved the students."

Billie Jean is beloved by the OSU alumni, faculty and staff who are fortunate enough to know her. She would go out of her way to help students and be there for them whenever they needed her. Many of the students, including alum and emeritus professor Dr. Bob Kropp, considered her as a close family member.

"Since 1965, as an entering freshman at OSU, I have always considered Billie Jean Ward my second mother," said Kropp. "She has been everything to me and will always be one of the special people in my life. Whatever I was able to accomplish at OSU is in large part due to Billie Jean Ward. I do not even know all of the things she did for me behind the scenes, but I am sure there were many. Words cannot express my feelings and love for this special lady. But, I was only one of her children.

"She was a mother to all of the Animal Husbandry and Animal Science students. She was so loved and cherished by the student body. She tried to keep most of us on the right path (as hard as it was for a bunch of 18 to 21-year-old cowboys). I don't know which was harder, dealing with the department heads and the responsibilities of the department or a bunch of young cowboys away from home. She was so kind and gracious to all faculty, staff and students. As the saying goes, she is 'one in a million.'"

Billie Jean has a deep love and pride for her close friends and family members. She enjoys spending time with them, and they are an important part of her life. All around her apartment and on her iPhone she has pictures of those close to her; each one a cherished memory. When Billie Jean was asked

what the secret to a long and happy life was, she replied it was people.

“I love people and love being around people,” Billie Jean said. “I loved them when I was little and ever since. I guess I’m just a happy person, but I love people.”

Billie Jean is also well-known for her love of college football, especially the OSU Cowboys. Until a few years ago, she had season tickets to the OSU football games every year. She enjoyed going to the games with friends and family, including her nephew, Robert Allen, who

attended OSU and later became the voice of the Cowboys.

“I remember Robert coming up to Stillwater from his home in Dallas at a very young age, visiting his Aunt Billie while she was working in the department,” said Kropp. “This young man eventually enrolled at OSU, played football for the Cowboys and has enjoyed tremendous success in the sports communication industry. Few people bleed orange more than Robert Allen and a large part of his Stillwater ties are due to his Aunt Billie.”

Billie Jean retired from the OSU Department of Animal Science in 1990 at the age of 70. Connie Walker arranged for her mother-in-law to make a special quilt for Billie Jean, which the department presented to her when she retired. The quilt has pictures of the Animal Husbandry and Animal Science buildings and the names of everyone who was in the department at the time. The department also gave Billie Jean a Recognition Award for her excellence in professional and personal accomplishments and had a picture of the Animal Husbandry building made for her. Billie Jean has both hanging on the wall in her bedroom.

“We always thought it was the best department,” Billie Jean said. “I think they have always been really good with students as they take time to work with them. I was always so proud of the department. I was glad to be part of it for as long as I was.”

The OSU Alumni Association presented Billie Jean Ward with a Lifetime Membership for her loyalty and dedication to Oklahoma State University. A few of her family members, namely Ron Ward and Robert Allen, helped to make this possible.

“Billie Jean is a tried and true Cowgirl and Cowboy fan and represents everything we would love for all of our alumni and friends to feel,” said OSU Alumni Association President and CEO Chris Batchelder. “Her service to Oklahoma State University and continued support after retirement have been unwavering and intensely loyal. Being able to count Billie amongst our most loyal members as a Lifetime Member of the OSU Alumni Association is a true privilege.”

Billie Jean’s love, compassion, understanding and joy have touched the lives of hundreds of people, if not more. Who knows where many of our alumni would be today without her guidance? Thank you, Billie Jean, for your many years of devotion to students, faculty and OSU.



*Billie Jean Ward with the quilt the OSU Department of Animal Science presented to her when she retired*

# Hires & Departures

## Staff Retirements

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**Diana Bateson**

*Information Assistant*

Diana Bateson has worked for our department since June of 1988. She serves as the information assistant in the nutrition office and often goes out of her way to help students and faculty members. For many years, Diana has prepared the banquet program and the senior awards booklet for our Animal Science Scholarship Banquet.

"Diana has interacted with thousands of undergraduate and graduate students. She assisted faculty with the challenge of managing classes with very large student enrollments," said Dr. Gerald Horn.

"She has a special gift for getting to know students and for helping them with problems they may have outside the classroom."

"Diana is part-time gatekeeper, part-time counselor and part-time trainer, who is able to balance the myriad of tasks she receives from the faculty, herd managers and graduate students," said Dr. Blake Wilson. "Diana's retirement will be a massive loss to the department."



**Chandra Poling**

*Senior Office Assistant*

Since 1992, Chandra has served as the senior office assistant. Along with helping visitors and students in the front office, she handles payroll for all departmental student employees, manages travel for Drs. Rusk and Krehbiel and helps plan our Animal Science Scholarship Banquet, which hosts over 400 people during Animal Science Weekend.

Chandra was honored as a 2016 Distinguished Service Award Semi-finalist for the caring and helpful hand she has given to her colleagues and for being a true friend of our department's students and guests. Chandra's favorite part of her position was being around the students and the people she worked closely with.

Department Head Dr. Rusk said, "I have no idea who we will find to take Chandra's place when she retires, but suffice it to say, they will take Chandra's job, but they will NEVER replace her or what she means to OSU and this department!"

## Faculty and Staff Departures

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**Jennifer Hernandez Gifford & Craig Gifford**

*Assistant Professor/ Research Associate*

Jennifer Hernandez Gifford and Craig Gifford have both accepted positions at New Mexico State University. They both look forward to continuing personal and professional relationships at OSU.

Jennifer, an associate professor, and Craig, a research associate, have worked in our department since 2009. Their research involves the investigation of the canonical WNT signaling pathway as a potential contributing pathway in estrogen production.

"Drs. Craig and Jennifer Gifford have contributed tremendously to the success of the Department of Animal Science through their research and teaching," said Belinda Gomez, who was advised by the Giffords as a graduate student. "After five years of working with them, I have come to admire how invested in student success they are. I am lucky to have been mentored by two very talented researchers and will miss working with them."



### **Megan Rolf**

*Assistant Professor & State Extension Beef Specialist*

Dr. Megan Rolf has accepted a position at Kansas State University where she will be an assistant professor of animal breeding. While at OSU, Megan's extension programming focused on increasing the use of genetic and genomic tools, along with proper management of mating systems, to foster genetic improvement of beef cattle. Her research involves genetic improvement in beef cattle and other livestock.

"Megan is on the cutting edge of industry," said Dr. Gant Mourer. "Her knowledge and expertise in the field of genomics will continue to propel progressive cattle producers forward, not only in Oklahoma and Kansas but nationwide. We wish her the best of luck!"

## **New Faculty and Staff Hires**

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### **Adel Pezeshki**

*Assistant Professor*

Dr. Adel Pezeshki recently joined our department. He will teach Basic Nutrition for Pets and Energy Metabolism courses for undergraduate and graduate students. He will also be actively involved in departmental activities, academic advising of undergraduate students and other academic services.

Dr. Pezeshki has B.S. and M.S. degrees in animal science. In 2010, he obtained his Ph.D. in veterinary sciences from Ghent University, Belgium. He then received his postdoctoral training in animal physiology in the Department of Production Animal Health and Gastrointestinal Research Group at the University of Calgary, Alberta, before joining our department. During his postdoctoral training, Dr. Pezeshki studied the effect of dietary and surgical interventions on regulation of food intake, body weight and energy homeostasis and taught Advance Topics in Lipid Metabolism for graduate students.

He has a general research interest in whole animal metabolism and energy balance regulation and in recent years his work has focused on the effect of dietary protein content on energy balance. The ultimate goal of Dr. Pezeshki's research is to develop novel and effective strategies to mitigate obesity and its associated complications such as type 2 diabetes mellitus in companion animals.



### **Natalie Baker**

*Equine Herd Manager*

Natalie Baker recently joined our staff as the new equine herd manager. Her responsibilities at the OSU Charles and Linda Cline Equine Teaching Center include sales preparation of quarter horses, supervising the equine facilities and lecturing in equine classes. She will be lecturing in the equine handling classes in the fall of 2016 and will be offering equine handling and marketing classes in the spring of 2017.

"Natalie Baker truly exemplifies honesty, integrity and hard work," said Dr. Steven Cooper. "Her primary goal as the new equine manager is to offer opportunities for students who want to gain hands-on experience and learn more about the horse industry. She brings a unique set of skills that combine her

extensive scientific training with her practical background in riding, training, breeding, judging and showing. Her attitude is contagious, and she will breathe new life into a well-established program."

Natalie graduated with a B.S. in agribusiness/equine business and industry from West Texas A&M University and then received her M.S. in animal science with a focus in equine nutrition and exercise physiology from Oklahoma State University. After graduation, Natalie accepted a job with California Polytechnic State University as the equine center supervisor and equine lecturer. At Cal Poly, her research/interests included developing advanced feeding and supplementation practices for equine athletes; identifying optimal management of horses enduring moderate to intense exercise; sales preparation and conditioning of quarter horses and thoroughbreds; and coaching both riding and horse judging students at a competitive collegiate level.

# Awards & Recognition

## Meat Animal Evaluation Reserve National Champions

The OSU Meat Animal Evaluation Team finished as Reserve National Champions at the 2016 National Contest. The team placed first in swine evaluation and communications. This was the 7th Reserve National Championship that a OSU Meat Animal Evaluation Team has won. The team is coached by Dr. Gretchen Mafi, Dr. Blake Bloomberg and Morgan Neilson.

“The Meat Animal Evaluation Contest is a great experience as it combines meat and livestock judging, as well as market evaluation estimates and pricing of market animals,” said Dr. Gretchen Mafi. “I believe our students learned a great deal about everyday industry practices.”

“This truly is a capstone course for students who compete on judging teams at OSU,” said Dr. Blake Bloomberg. “The major preparation for this contest involves teaching students how to

estimate fat thickness, muscle, quality and yield of livestock. Additionally, the students gain a unique understanding of the livestock and meat industries’ economic system and pricing structures.

“Several factors are computed to estimate the difference in value of beef, pork and lamb carcasses. This contest is extremely valuable to students because it allows them to put together several aspects of judging, including market evaluation, breeding evaluation and meat evaluation, in one contest.”

### Individual Achievements:

Callie Akins (Nashville, Ga.) was 3rd overall, 2nd in the breeding animal division, 4th in the market animal division, 2nd in swine evaluation, 3rd in beef evaluation and 9th in sheep evaluation.

Chandler Steele (Midland, Mich.) was 5th in the meats division and 10th in beef evaluation.

KC Barnes (Hulbert, Okla.) was 1st in swine evaluation and 3rd in the meats division.

Britton Francis (Paris, Mo.) was 10th in the breeding animal division.

Hannah Nelson (Chickasha, Okla.) was 7th in the meats division.

Amy Wolf (Beardsley, Minn.) was 7th in sheep evaluation.

Kayla Hildebrand (Paso Robles, Calif.) was 9th in swine evaluation and 10th in sheep evaluation.

Cooper Bounds (Taneytown, Md.) was 6th in swine evaluation.

### Other team members include:

Cassi Allread, Ty Davis, Bryce Hauenstein, JT Hearn, Sydney Higbee, Tim Hubbard, Dylan Murray, Maggie Neer, Hunter Royal, Kate Shaffer and Logan Van Allen.



*Front Row (L to R): Cassie Allread, Kate Shaffer, Kayla Hildebrand, Callie Akins, Logan Van Allen, Maggie Neer, Sydney Higbee, Chandler Steele*

*Back Row (L to R): Dylan Murray, Tim Hubbard, Ty Davis, Amy Wolff, Britton Francis, Cooper Bounds, Bryce Hauenstein, Hunter Royal, JT Hearn, Hannah Nelson, KC Barnes*

## Livestock Judging Team Wins Champion Team Overall

The 2016 OSU Livestock Judging Team returned to competition this spring in Denver, Colorado, at the 2016 National Western Stock Show on January 14th and 15th where they won both the Livestock Judging Contest and the Carload Judging Contest. Oklahoma State was the high team in cattle and oral reasons on their way to being named the Champion Team Overall. Texas A&M, Kansas State, Texas Tech and Western Illinois rounded out the top five teams.

Tim Hubbard (Calhoun, Ga.) was 2nd high individual overall, 2nd in reasons, 2nd in cattle and 4th in swine; Cooper Bounds (Taneytown, Md.) was 4th high individual overall, 6th in sheep and goats and 8th in reasons; Maggie Neer (Urbana, Ohio) was 7th high individual overall, 5th in sheep and goats and 7th in reasons; Callie Akins (Nashville, Ga.) was 8th high individual overall, 4th in reasons and 10th in cattle; and Bodee Schlipf (El Paso, Ill.) was 9th high individual overall, 6th in reasons and 7th in cattle.

On the Carload Judging Team: Amy Wolff (Beardley, Minn.) was 3rd high individual; Kate Shaffer (Carthage, Mo.) was 5th high individual; and Bryce Hauenstein (Pryor, Okla.) was 8th high individual.

Next, the team competed at the Livestock Judging Contest in San Antonio, Texas, where they were the 2nd high team in cattle, goats and swine. They placed 3rd in sheep and oral reasons on their way to being named the Champion Team Overall. Callie Akins (Nashville, Ga.) was 4th high individual overall and Cooper Bounds (Taneytown, Md.) was 8th high individual overall. The team is coached by Dr. Blake Bloomberg and assisted by Ashley Judge.

“The 2016 team has had an outstanding run thus far and were the most consistent team in all the spring contests,” said Dr. Blake Bloomberg. “They are a dedicated and determined group who rose to the top in each competition. The decision making and oral communication skills garnered through participation on the livestock judging team should serve these students extremely well in the future.”



*Front Row (L to R): Tim Hubbard, Callie Akins, Bodee Schlipf, Maggie Neer, Cooper Bounds*

*Back Row (L to R): Dr. Blake Bloomberg (coach), Bryce Hauenstein, John Reasor, Hunter Royal, Logan Van Allen, Kayla Hildebrand, Allison Tarvin, Amy Wolff, Kate Shaffer, Britton Francis, Dr. Clint Rusk (department head), Ashley Judge (assistant coach)*

## Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge

Students Zach Hollingsworth, Tyler Chupp, Jenica Reagan, Taylor Leach and Kristen Meyer competed in the Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge on February 17th-19th, 2016, in Platteville, Wisconsin. The Dairy Challenge is a competition where students are placed on teams with students from other colleges/universities and tasked with completing a whole farm business evaluation of a dairy farm (financials, nutrition, management, etc.), and then presenting their results to a panel of judges and farm owners/operators.

This year, 17 colleges and universities competed in the Midwest Regional with two farms being evaluated (there were eight teams competing on each dairy). All of our students did an excellent job and represented the OSU Department of Animal Science well. Our own Jenica Reagan was on one of the two winning teams! Congratulations!



*(L to R): Tyler Chupp, Jenica Reagan, Dr. Sara Place, Taylor Leach, Zach Hollingsworth, Kristen Meyer*



## Horse Judging Team Named Champions

The 2016 OSU Horse Judging Team had a great start in Texas kicking off their competition year. Team members include: Taylor Gilbert, Jenna Kool, Samantha McCullough, Macy Perry, Ethan Propp, Garrett Reed, Michal Robertson, and Franchesca Rollerson.

They worked at on several farms in Oklahoma and Texas, which helped prepare them for the Spring Contest in Gainesville, Texas. The team had many

Accomplishments, as well as individual achievements. The team was 1st in halter, 2nd in performance by one point, 1st in reasons and 1st overall. The team won the overall title by 45 points.

OSU had four members in the top ten overall. Jenna Kool was 1st, Ethan Propp was 2nd, Garrett Reed was 3rd and Franchesca Rollerson was 7th. In halter, Garrett Reed was 2nd, Ethan Propp was 3rd, Jenna Kool was 4th, Franchesca

Rollerson was 6th and Samantha McCullough was 10th. In performance, Jenna Kool was 2nd, Ethan Propp was 3rd and Garrett Reed was 5th. In reasons, Ethan Propp was 1st, Jenna Kool was 2nd, Garrett Reed was 4th, Taylor Gilbert was 8th and Franchesca Rollerson was 10th. The team is coached by Dr. Steven Cooper, Sarah Schobert and Marissa Chapa.



(L to R): Dr. Steven Cooper (coach), Ethan Propp, Macy Perry, Michal Robertson, Taylor Gilbert, Franchesca Rollerson, Samantha McCullough, Jena Kool, Garrett Reed, Marissa Chapa (assistant coach) and Sarah Schobert (coach)

## Morgan Neilson Named AMSA Student Board President

Morgan Neilson has been selected to serve as president of the 2016 - 2017 American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Student Board of Directors. Morgan, who served as south director on the 2015-2016 Student Board of Directors, will begin her new role at the AMSA 69th Reciprocal Meat Conference this June.

Morgan is currently pursuing her M.S. in food science with an emphasis in meat science at the OSU Department of Animal Science. Morgan is advised by Dr. Gretchen Mafi and works as a graduate research assistant in Dr. Mafi's lab. Morgan has been very active in meat judging.

As an undergraduate, she was a member of the 2012 OSU Meat Judging Team, 2013 OSU Livestock Judging Team and 2014 OSU National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team. She was also named an All-American in both meat and livestock judging.

As a graduate, she has served as assistant coach of the Meat Animal Evaluation Team and Meat Judging Team. She plans to continue her education after graduation and obtain a Ph.D. in meat science.

Congratulations, Morgan, on your new position on the AMSA Student Board of Directors!



## College Aggies On-line Competition

The Animal Agriculture Alliance hosted its 7th annual College Aggies On-line (CAO) scholarship competition this fall.

The national competition is aimed at helping students and collegiate agriculture clubs advocate through social media and community engagement. The contest is open to any college graduate or undergraduate student. Competitors learn how to properly advocate for agriculture on social media with help from the Alliance and mentors.

Students were given assignments to complete during the nine-week competition. Students submitted agricultural videos, speeches and informational graphics depicting facts about agriculture, as well as their own personal experiences. They also contacted a state legislator to discuss their thoughts on state agriculture issues and their opinions on the matters. Points were accumulated with each assignment and then tallied at the end of the competition. Top prizes in the individual division included a \$2,500

scholarship for 1st place, a \$1,000 scholarship for 2nd and a \$500 scholarship for 3rd.

Jessica Miller from Oklahoma State University was crowned the \$2,500 scholarship winner for the 2015 competition. She competed against more than 300 students for the top spot by posting on social media hubs such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Jessica also received an all-expenses paid trip to the Agriculture Summit where she was honored for winning the competition.

Jessica recently graduated from Oklahoma State University where she received her bachelor's in animal science with an emphasis in production. She plans on furthering her education by pursuing a master's in agricultural education. She is currently employed at the OSU Ferguson Family Dairy Center as a milker and calf feeder. She also raises club calves with her family in Ponca City, Oklahoma, for local exhibitors.



Jessica Miller (Photo Taken by J.K. Photography)

## Professors Receive NACTA Awards

Three professors in our department are being recognized with North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) awards this year. NACTA recognizes efforts that represent the very best in agricultural higher education and seeks to encourage excellence.

Dr. Deb VanOverbeke has been selected to receive the NACTA Teaching Scholar Award for her demonstrated excellence in teaching. The award is only presented to one person per region during years when it is awarded.

Both Dr. Jennifer Hernandez Gifford and Dr. Dan Stein will be awarded the NACTA Educator Award. The award recognizes commendable service to higher education through teaching, educational research or administration.

The awards will be presented to all the recipients at the annual NACTA conference being held at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, June 21st - 24th, 2016.

## ANSI Recognized at CASNR Banquet

The animal science students and faculty listed below were recognized at the CASNR Banquet on March 31st, 2016:

- Kalyn McKibben was recognized as the CASNR Outstanding Senior.
- Courtney Mapes was named the CASNR Outstanding Freshman.
- Dr. Jerry Fitch won the CASNR Undergraduate Advisor and Mentor Award.
- Kaylen Baker, Lindsay King, Julia Matera and Kalyn McKibben received the Dean's Award of Excellence.
- Kaylen Baker, Jena Kellum, Lindsay King, Julia Matera, Kalyn McKibben and Mary Temple-Lee were recognized as Seniors of Distinction.
- The Pre-Veterinary Science Club (advised by Dr. Udaya DeSilva) was recognized as the Outstanding CASNR Club.

# Recognized *Seniors*

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## Senior Spotlight



**Kalyn McKibben**

*Animal Science, Business Emphasis*

Kalyn was named a 2016 Outstanding Senior for both ANSI and CASNR. Kalyn was very active in extra-curricular opportunities within the beef industry and had the opportunity to educate consumers across the nation about the importance beef and cattle producers play in our society.

She served as a member of the 2015 National Beef Ambassador Team, president of Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen, collegiate representative of the American National Cattle Women Board of Directors, member of the Animal Science Leadership Alliance and a Lloyd Noble Scholar in Agriculture. She was named a OSU Senior of Significance, Top Twenty Freshman Woman and Hagan Scholar. Kalyn plans to pursue a career in beef advocacy and production.



**Clint Jackson**

*Animal Science, Business Emphasis*

Clint received the Cowboy Up Award for undergraduate distinguished service. Clint's collegiate activities include being a member of the OSU Rodeo Team for two years. During the 2014 - 2015 season, he finished in the top 15 for team roping in the Central Plains Region of the National

Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

Furthermore, Clint has represented the nation's brightest orange since the fall of 2014 as a member of Bullet's Spirit Team. He attends each football game and numerous other events during the year with Bullet to share the Cowboy spirit with many across the state and nation. Upon graduation, Clint plans to begin a career working for the Farm Service Agency as a loan officer.

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## Senior Leadership Awards



**Samantha Anthony**

*Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary Emphasis*

Samantha was on the 2015 National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team and competed on the 2015 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging Team. She has been active in various leadership activities during her college career. After veterinary school, she plans to earn her M.S. in public health and work in the agriculture industry.



**Dee Church**

*Animal Science, Business Emphasis*

Dee participated in the Freshmen in Transition program and completed many volunteer hours aiding OSU and the Stillwater community. He was a member of the Animal Science Leadership Alliance, Horseman's Association and Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlemen's Association. Dee plans to one day run a nutrition and consulting firm.



**Ashtin Bechtold**

*Animal Science/AG Communications*

Ashtin served as a teaching assistant and tutor. She was an Animal Science Undergraduate Research Scholar and co-editor of the 35th edition of the Cowboy Journal, as well as a member of Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and Block and Bridle. Ashtin plans to advance livestock reproductive efficiency by pursuing a career in livestock reproduction.



**Carson Cooper**

*Animal Science, Biotechnology Emphasis*

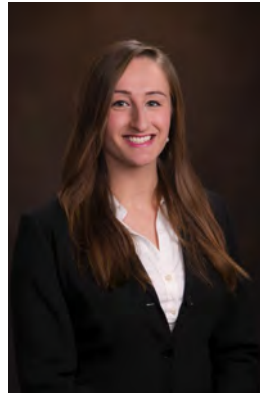
Carson helped found the OSU Swine Club and served as president of the club for two years. She was also an Ag Council representative and President's Leadership Council member. She has also been heavily involved in research. Carson was an Animal Science Research Scholar, Freshman Research Scholar and Wentz Scholar. She also received a 2015 Wentz Research Grant.



**Ty Davis**

*Animal Science, Business Emphasis*

Ty was a member of the Range, Shotgun and Collegiate Cattleman's Association. He was a member of the 2015 OSU Meat Judging Team, Animal Science Leadership Alliance and Freshmen in Transition, where he completed many hours of community service and represented OSU at the Agricultural Futures of America.



**Julia Matera**

*Animal Science/Biochemistry & Molecular Biology*

Julia has significantly impacted the field of research. She was a Freshman Research Scholar, two time Niblack Research Scholarship recipient and an Animal Science Research Scholar. Matera plans to attend medical school and establish medical services in rural populations.



**Zach Hollingsworth**

*Animal Science, Production Emphasis*

Zach was a valued team member on the 2014-2015 OSU Dairy Judging Team and the 2015-2016 Dairy Challenge Team. He served as vice president of the OSU Collegiate FFA Chapter in 2013 and led the OSU Dairy Science Club as president in 2014-2015. Zach plans to manage his family's dairy farm near Claremore, Oklahoma.



**Ethan Propp**

*Animal Science, Production Emphasis*

Ethan was on the 2015 National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team and competed on the 2015 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging Team. He was a member of Animal Science Leadership Alliance and Block and Bridle. Ethan plans to attain both a master's and Ph.D. in animal science related fields.



**Jena Rae Kellum**

*Animal Science, Business Emphasis*

Jena served as co-chair of the Animal Science Leadership Alliance Events Committee. She was also active in the Pre-Vet Club, Block and Bridle, Horseman's Association and Cattlewomen's Association. Jena had the privilege to be a teaching assistant for Animal Breeding and Applied Animal Nutrition.



**Lauren Rufo**

*Animal Science, Production Emphasis*

While at OSU, Lauren's passion for horses influenced her decision to be active within the equine community on and off campus. She earned numerous internships and leadership roles with various individuals, clubs and associations. Lauren plans to work within the equine industry, as well as pursue her judge's card.



**Lindsay King**

*Animal Science/AG Communications*

Lindsay was on the Animal Science Quadrathlon Team and served as a Student Academic Mentor. She maintained memberships in Alpha Zeta Agricultural Fraternity, Mortar Board Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. She served as the CASNR Ambassador president and was a founding member of the OSU Chapter of Collegiate Students Fighting Hunger.



**Afton Sawyer**

*Animal Science, Production Emphasis*

Afton has been an active member of the Oklahoma State Swine Club, serving as treasurer. Her membership with the Swine Club has provided avenues in advocating for the swine industry to the public and the OSU student body, and also presented opportunities for volunteering. Afton plans to return to academics and complete graduate school after acquiring industry experience.

# Recognized *Graduate Students & Faculty*

## *Outstanding Graduate Student Award*



### **Corbit Bayliff**

*M.S. Animal Science, Nutrition Emphasis*

Corbit received the Outstanding M.S. Graduate Student Award at the 2016 Animal Science Awards Banquet.

This spring, Corbit was awarded first place for his presentation at the ASAS Southern Section meetings. He served as president of the Animal Science Graduate Student Association and spearheaded three major research

projects under Dr. Dave Lalman, which involve: energy requirements of lactating beef cows in a drylot system; effects of Ralgro at branding and Revalor-G at weaning on growth drylot systems; and intake and in-field stability of monensin-containing Mintrate XL 20 RU pressed tubs fed to stocker cattle grazing summer pastures.

He has also worked with Cactus Feeders on starting two experiments relative to feed waste and cow body condition. Corbit plans to eventually own and operate a commercial beef cattle ranch in Oklahoma.



### **Belinda Gomez**

*Ph.D. Animal Science, Breeding & Genetics Emphasis*

Belinda received the Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student Award at the 2016 Animal Science Awards Banquet.

Belinda is married to Rene Gomez and they have a two-year-old son, Ian. She has been a teaching assistant for several physiology courses in the department and served as co-

instructor of the Form and Function of Livestock course. She is a USDA/NIFA National Needs Fellow and has been an active mentor to several undergraduate students, as well as participated in outreach programs designed to deliver the scientific programs to elementary and high school students.

Belinda's research in reproductive physiology focuses on deciphering novel signaling pathways involved in regulation of ovarian estrogen production. During her time at OSU, Belinda has won several graduate research competitions and symposiums across the country.

## *Tyler Award*



### **Rusty Gosz**

Rusty Gosz was presented the Tyler Award at the 2016 Animal Science Banquet. Rusty was born and raised in New Mexico. He pursued his passion for the livestock industry by obtaining his associate's degree from South Plains College and his B.S. and M.S. in animal science from Oklahoma State University. Rusty worked under the guidance of Dr. David Buchanan to earn his M.S. degree. Rusty Gosz serves Oklahoma State University as its youth livestock specialist. His primary responsibilities are to develop appropriate training programs and coordinate activities for state youth livestock programs.

Some of his specific programs include the OSU Livestock Judging Camps that brings more than 100 prospective students each year to participate in the event. In 2015, camp participants hailed from 21 states. Rusty is also responsible for the Big 3 Field Days that draw approximately 1,500 youth to OSU to participate in livestock judging and other educational events. He also coordinates livestock judging contests for more than 3,000 students a year at Oklahoma State University, the Tulsa State Fair and the State Fair of Oklahoma. In coordinating the judging contests, Rusty has revolutionized scoring systems through the integration of Scantron technologies. Mr. Gosz is having a national impact by serving on the Youth Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Committee and the National 4-H Livestock Judging Committee.

Rusty received the Outstanding State Specialist Award from the Oklahoma Association of Agricultural Extension Agents, the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, the Honorary State FFA Degree and the Honorary American FFA Degree.

Mr. Gosz is an inspiring leader in the Department of Animal Science who has a tremendous impact on the lives of college students and youth involved in livestock projects. He serves as campus advisor for Cowboys for Christ. When not working with youth in his job, Rusty devotes his time to his family and church. He and his wife, Heather, have eight children.

# Recognized Alumni



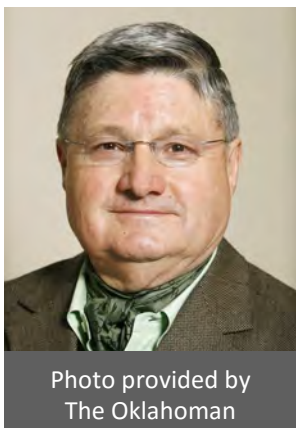
## **Kent Barnes**

### *Graduate of Distinction Award*

Mr. Barnes attended Oklahoma State University and majored in animal science. He was a member of the 1973 OSU Livestock Judging Team. Kent graduated with his B.S. in 1974 and became the 4-H agent in Carter County where he worked for two years before he went back to OSU to complete a master's degree.

Mr. Barnes then became the Southeast area livestock specialist in McAlester, Oklahoma. He then went to work as a farm reporter for Griffin Communications on Channel 9 in Oklahoma City. After a couple of years, he decided his passion was in extension and became the Northeast area livestock specialist in Muskogee, a career he held until he retired in 2010.

Mr. Barnes helped establish the OK Steer Feedout Program that is recognized as a way to help beef producers evaluate the feedlot and carcass performance of their herd and improve their bottom line. His advice on stocker cattle management and breeding herd programs was sought after from cattlemen throughout the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. Kent was a leader in the Oklahoma Agriculture Extension Agents Association where he held several offices, including the office of president. He has received several state, regional and national awards for his work in the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.



## **Darrell Bilke**

### *Distinguished Service Award*

Darrell has been extremely involved in both AQHA and the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association. He served as a director for 18 years, was an affiliate president and coached Youth World Champion Horse Judging Teams. In 2012, Darrell was inducted into the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Hall of Fame.

Darrell has been a breeder of horses and a prominent horse judge for more than 30 years. He has held judge's cards in over 14 equine associations and has judged the National or World Championship Show in each association. Darrell has also judged internationally in three different countries, including the European Championships. Darrell currently serves as executive vice president and COO of the Pinto Horse Association of America. Darrell has spent his life promoting and developing the horse industry on the national and international level. Through the years, Darrell has helped Oklahoma become the

hub of horse activity in the nation.

As busy as he is, Darrell has been quick to lend support to the Department of Animal Science. He has taught workshops for youth, officiated judging contests and judges' certification schools, provided guidance for adult and youth extension programs, and served on advisory boards for the OSU Equine program. Darrell has arranged internships and job opportunities for our students and provided financial support to several of our clubs. He has also provided or arranged for donation of several horses to support the department's equine herd. Progeny of these horses have competed successfully at the world level.



## **Rick Maloney**

### *Distinguished Service Award*

Mr. Rick Maloney, a Vietnam veteran, worked as a field man for the Poland China Association while attending Oklahoma State University. After college he became the first executive director of the Oklahoma Pork Council. Through his hard work and leadership, the Oklahoma Pork Council soon became a viable and respected organization in the Oklahoma swine industry.

Rick left the Oklahoma Pork Council in 1973 and moved to Indiana to become the executive secretary of the Spotted Swine Record. He later moved to Illinois and became the executive secretary of the Hampshire Swine Registry. During Rick's tenure, litter registrations increased 50 percent. He was also very instrumental in establishing performance testing programs. Rick served two terms on the Executive Board of the National Pork Producers' Council and served as president of the National Swine

Improvement Association. For his contributions, Rick was inducted into the Oklahoma Pork Council Hall of Fame in 2004.

*(Rick Maloney continued)*

In 1993, Rick returned to Oklahoma and accepted the position of director of market development with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. He was responsible for promoting domestic and international sales of Oklahoma's food and agriculture products. In 2007, he also assumed the role of assistant commissioner of agriculture for the state of Oklahoma. Rick served many leadership roles working with the youth of Oklahoma. He served as swine superintendent at the Oklahoma Youth Expo and the Tulsa State Fair. Rick also served as president of the Southwest American Livestock Foundation, a support organization of the Oklahoma Youth Expo and the Sirloin Club of Oklahoma.



**Phil Stoll**

*Graduate of Distinction Award*

Phil Stoll attended Oklahoma State University, graduating in 1974 with a B.S. in animal science. After graduation, Phil began work as a field representative with the Charolais Banner and the Western Livestock Journal. In 1976, Phil became a fieldman for the Weekly Livestock Reporter, working his way up to general manager in 1994 and inheriting the publication in 2002 from Ted and Rosemary Gouldy. Today, Phil is the sole owner and general manager of the publication that is now in its 119th year of business.

Over the past 39 years, Phil has been ringside for some of the most historic sales in the beef cattle business and has developed relationships with leaders in all phases of the beef industry. Since 1976, Phil has been ringside at every sale held at the historic King Ranch, Kingsville, Texas. Phil was also very involved in the inaugural Cowboy Classic and the Oklahoma Beef Incorporated bull sale hosted by the Department of Animal Science. In 2013, Phil was inducted into the Livestock Marketers Hall of Fame, a fraternity of ringmen who work purebred cattle sales across the country. Phil has also worked ringside for some of the most prestigious and renowned western art sales across the Southwest. He has auctioneered two of the biggest western art dealer sales for more than 20 years.

Since 1990, Phil has served as chairman of the Commercial Heifer Sale at the Ft. Worth Livestock Show, which is considered one of the premier offerings of bred heifers in the industry. Phil also oversees the sale's scholarship program that awards ten \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors annually.



**Jodena Henneke**

*Graduate of Distinction Award*

After attending Oklahoma State University, Jodena Netherton Henneke graduated with a B.S. degree in animal science in 1974. She started working in 1982 as an environmental specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Health in Enid, Oklahoma. Ms. Henneke became the environmental health supervisor for the city of Ft. Worth and three years later was promoted to environmental health manager.

In 1990, Ms. Henneke moved to Houston, Texas, to serve as regional director and assistant regional manager for the Texas Air Control Board and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Ms. Henneke was responsible for administration, budgeting and planning for the agency's largest regional office. She oversaw staff responsible for conducting inspections and environmental audits of the world's largest and most complex refinery and petrochemical manufacturing facilities. Ms. Henneke moved to Austin, Texas in 1994 to serve as director of the Air Quality Planning Division of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. In this role, she was responsible for administration and supervision of staff engaged in the planning and development of air pollution control regulations for the State of Texas.

In 2007, Ms. Henneke became deputy commissioner for coastal resources for the Texas General Land Office responsible for protection and nourishment of the 367-mile-long Texas coastline that serves as the first line of defense against tropical storms and hurricanes and helps protect infrastructure and industries vital to the economy of Texas. In 2011, Ms. Henneke became an adjunct professor in the Department of Engineering at Tarleton State University. Ms. Henneke was asked to share her environmental knowledge and experience with senior students and graduate students, as well as to teach Water Policy at Tarleton State.

*Distinguished Service \* Graduate of Distinction \* Advanced Graduate of Distinction*



### **Hugo Mario Arelovich**

*Advanced Degree Graduate of Distinction Award*

Dr. Arelovich earned his graduate degrees in animal nutrition at Oklahoma State University, working under Dr. Don Wagner for his M.S. degree in 1983 and with Dr. Gerald Horn and Dr. Fred Owens for his Ph.D. in 1998. Dr. Arelovich is currently a full professor and independent researcher at the Universidad Nacional del Sur in the Departamento de Agronomía. Dr. Arelovich is regionally and nationally recognized for development of cow-calf nutrition programs based on improving utilization of low-quality forages. His graduate course on Ruminant Digestion and Metabolism is attended by students from across the country. He helped develop a graduate course entitled Environmental Impact of Ruminant Nutrition with Dr. Alejandro La Manna, who we recognized at last year's banquet.

Dr. Arelovich is recognized as a highly reputable source of scientifically based information. He has worked with producers and the industry to increase the profitability and sustainability of beef cattle production programs in Argentina. He served as chairman of the International Animal Agriculture committee of the ASAS from 2011 - 2015. He organized joint meetings with the American Society of Animal Science in Argentina in 2010 and 2014. His international experience includes a long list of diverse activities in Israel, Australia, Canada, Panama, Brazil and Uruguay.



### **John Wagner**

*Advanced Degree Graduate of Distinction Award*

Dr. John Wagner was born in Port Huron, Michigan, and raised on a family livestock and crop farm. His love of livestock led him to Michigan State University where he earned a B.S. in animal husbandry. Dr. Wagner earned an M.S. degree in animal science and a Ph.D. in animal nutrition from Oklahoma State University under the direction of Dr. Keith Lusby. Drs. Gerald Horn, Robert Wettemann and Fred Owens also had profound influences on Dr. Wagner during his graduate career.

After completing his Ph.D., Dr. Wagner served nine years on the faculty at South Dakota State University as the extension ruminant nutrition specialist where he rose to the rank of associate professor. Dr. Wagner left SDSU in 1996 to become general manager of Continental Beef Research located near Lamar, Colorado, which was gifted to Colorado State University in 2005. Dr. Wagner then joined the animal science faculty at Colorado State as a full professor.

In August of 2012, Dr. Wagner was transferred to the CSU campus where he conducts research in feedlot nutrition and management and teaches Principles of Nutrition, Applied Comparative Livestock Nutrition, Feedlot Systems and a graduate course in Bioenergetics. After spending the first third of his career in extension and the middle third of his career in research, Dr. Wagner is very excited about working with students during the last one-third of his career.



### **Susan Duckett**

*Advanced Degree Graduate of Distinction Award*

Dr. Susan Duckett was raised on a family farm near Central City, Iowa. Dr. Duckett completed her B.S. degree in animal science at Iowa State University. Her love of research was born while working in Dr. Allen Trenkle's laboratory. She then completed her M.S. and Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University under the direction of Dr. Don Wagner. Dr. Duckett held academic positions at the University of Idaho and at the University of Georgia. She is currently a professor in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Clemson University where she holds the Ernest L. Corley, Jr. Trustees Endowed Chair. Dr. Duckett teaches an on-line course in Animal Growth and Development through the Ag\*Idea Program. She also teaches a graduate lipid metabolism course and mentors several undergraduate students in the Undergraduate Research Experience.

Dr. Duckett is a leader in the field of ruminant lipid metabolism and continues to advance our understanding of how diet alters lipid deposition, metabolism and composition. She is nationally and internationally recognized as an expert in fatty acid composition of beef and lamb raised under different nutritional regimes. Her laboratory serves as a training center for many students from South America in long-chain fatty acid analyses of beef products. She has published over 75 refereed journal articles and acquired four million dollars in grant funding.



# Events & Activities

## Cline Equine Center Grand Opening

The grand opening for the Charles and Linda Cline Equine Teaching Center was held on February 16th, 2016. Many people were in attendance, including OSU President Burns Hargis, DASNR Dean Thomas Coon, ANSI Department Head Clint Rusk, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese, Linda Cline and her daughter, Amy, and son, Carrie. Pistol Pete, Bullet and the Spirit Team also attended the grand opening.

“It’s an exciting day for the university, the division and particularly our equine program,” said Dr. Clint Rusk at the grand opening. “Linda’s gift to the center is not only memorializing her love for horses and her partnership with Oklahoma State University, but is also showing appreciation for what she and her husband, Charles, did together.”

The new facility includes an indoor arena, classroom, conference room, two offices, a viewing area, feed/tack room, a wash rack and multiple stalls, including foaling stalls and a foaling center watch room that will allow students, staff and faculty to easily observe and monitor mares during foaling. Classes and labs for horse science, equine training, equine breeding, nutrition and health will be held at the facility, as well as other activities and outreach efforts like horse judging, workshops, 4-H programs, industry and producer meetings, clinics and demonstrations.

“The Clines are a wonderful example of the kind of people who can really make a difference, make a transformation, in a program,” said Dr. Thomas Coon. “Our equine program has been strong. It’s a program we are very proud of, but I really think this is a situation where a facility really can help us advance even more.”

A video of the event can be viewed at <http://ansi.okstate.edu/equine-program/grand-opening>.



## Upcoming Events

### Advanced Cow/Calf Camp

June 6th - 8th, 2016

Payne County Fairgrounds - Stillwater, Okla.

### OQBN Cattle Sale

June 7th, 2016

McAlester Stockyards—McAlester, Okla.

### Livestock Judging Camp - Session I

June 20th - 22nd, 2016

Oklahoma State University - Stillwater, Okla.

### Livestock Judging Camp - Session II

June 23rd - 25th, 2016

Oklahoma State University - Stillwater, Okla.

### 4-H State Horse Show

June 23rd - 25th, 2016

Lazy E Arena - Guthrie, Okla.

### Pork Leadership Camp

June 26th - July 1st, 2016

Various locations around Oklahoma

### Big Three Field Days

July 19th - July 21st, 2016

Oklahoma State University - Stillwater, Okla.

### Oklahoma Cattlemen Annual Convention

July 21st - July 23rd, 2016

Embassy Suites - Norman, Okla.

### 95th State 4-H Roundup

July 27th - July 29th, 2016

Oklahoma State University - Stillwater, Okla.

## Students Visit New Zealand

Dr. Clint Rusk, head of the Department of Animal Science at Oklahoma State University, led a group of students on a study abroad trip to New Zealand in May of 2016.

The two week trip was filled with educational visits to farms, purebred stud operations, agricultural industries and tourist attractions across one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Students visited New Zealand dairy farms, beef units, sheep farms and red deer operations during their trip. Along with local hotels, the students stayed one night with host farm families. Read more about their study abroad trip by going to the students' blog at <http://ansinz2016.blogspot.com/>.



*Students from the Oklahoma State University Department of Animal Science on a study abroad trip to New Zealand*

## Farewell & Retirement Parties

The following faculty are leaving our department and we are having a goodbye/ good luck celebration for them:

### **Megan Rolf, Jennifer Hernandez Gifford & Craig Gifford:**

Tuesday, May 31st

10:00-11:30am

ANSI 123

The following staff are retiring after devoting many years of service to our department and we will be having a retirement party for them:

### **Chandra Poling & Diana Bateson**

Friday, June 17th

2:00-4:00pm

# Thank you!

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# New Online Registration!

# MARCH 31, 2017

## ANIMAL SCIENCE GALA REUNION

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