December 2014

This week marks the end of Fall Semester on the U of I campus. Congratulations to all of our students and instructors for completing another successful semester of teaching and learning! Our students, staff, and faculty continue to receive recognition for their accomplishments. You can read some of the highlights in this month’s “Tails” of Animal Sciences. I am saddened to report that Gail Ellis died this month in a tragic car accident. Gail is the wife of Dr. Mike Ellis and was a member of our Meat Sciences program. Please keep the Ellis family in your thoughts in the days and months ahead.

We had 2 major celebrations of the holiday season this month. Mike Katterhenry and his crew of elves hosted the Annual Farm Shop Holiday luncheon on December 10th. Chuck Stites from the Meat Science Lab worked his usual magic with the beef and pork. Jamie Evans coordinated the ANSC Department holiday luncheon at the ACES Library on December 15. Attendance was great at both events. Good food and great fellowship. We have so much to celebrate as we approach this holiday and the New Year. I want to personally thank all of you for creating such a positive atmosphere on the ACES campus. As we say goodbye to 2014 and reflect on our accomplishments, I am eager to see what we can learn and discover in 2015. Like the 2 young ladies pictured to the right, life is ever changing, learning never stops, and the promise for our future is bright.

Season’s Greetings and Happy New Year!

Dr. Loerch with Harper Shike (left) and Margaret Felix (right)
Illinois Results

The Illinois 4-H Poultry Judging Team placed 10th out of 19 states that competed in the 2014 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, KY on November 20, 2014. The team consisted of Esther Sims, Peotone; David Kloppe, New Berlin; Jared Woodward, Iuka; and Drew Groezinger, Stockton. The team placed 3rd in market eggs, 7th in past production hens, and 15th in market poultry. Drew, Esther, David, and Jared placed 23rd, 35th, 42nd, and 58th overall, respectively. The team was coached by Ken Koelkebeck and Pam Utterback. Financial support was provided by the Department of Animal Sciences, the State 4-H Office and the Illinois 4-H Foundation.

THANK YOU

As a committee member for the Poultry Career Development Event for the National FFA organization as well as a team member of a major FFA sponsoring company, I wanted to take the time to say thank you to the University of Illinois for allowing Chet and Pam Utterback to be active and participating members of this poultry event. Every year for the past dozen or so years Chet and Pam have come and worked tirelessly to make the event special to those thirty eight or so states that send a poultry judging team to the national convention. It is always interesting to see Chet and Pam interact with the students on a personal basis and they are always recruiting students for both the University of Illinois and the poultry industry, as well and training your current students that they bring along to help. Helping to recruit and train up future leaders in agriculture is a task we should all embrace to the extent that Chet and Pam do.

Thanks again for your support of the Poultry Career Development Event and the future of ag.

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University of Illinois Dairy Judging team wins the North American International Dairy Judging contest in Louisville KY.

Team members Samantha Ropp, Jessica Telgmann, Brett Woker, and Dylan Reed participated in the North American International Livestock Dairy Judging Contest in Louisville, KY, on Nov. 9. The team was **first overall and fourth in reasons out of 19 teams**. The team placed **first in Jerseys**; fourth in Ayrshire and Guernseys; and third in Holsteins. Individually, Ropp and Woker were fourth and fifth overall, and seventh and ninth in reasons, respectively. Ropp was third in Guernseys, fourth in Jerseys, ninth in Holsteins, and eighteenth in Ayrshires. Woker was sixth in Holsteins, fifteenth in Guernsey’s, and seventeenth in Jersey’s. Telgmann was tenth in Jerseys and thirteenth overall. Reed was ninth in Guernseys, twenty-second in Ayrshires, sixteenth in reasons, and eighteenth overall, respectively.

**Photo below:**
NAILE Winning Team 2014 – (L-R) Gene McCoy, Illini Dairy Judging Team Coach; Jessica Telgmann, Samantha Ropp, Dylan Reed, and Brett Woker

**Photo above:**
NAILE Winning Jersey Team 2014 – (L-R) Gene McCoy, Illini Dairy Judging Team Coach; Jessica Telgmann, Brett Woker, Dylan Reed, Samantha Ropp; Whittney Bowers, Jersey Cattle Club Representative
The Illini Dairy Club held their elections for 2015 on Tuesday December 9. The following officers were elected:

**President** – Erik Sheppelman, Junior, Animal Sciences Major  
**Secretary** – Jessica Telgmann, Junior, Ag Com major/Animal Sciences Minor  
**Treasurer** – Logan Kimmel, Sophomore, Ag and Consumer Econ  
**ACES Council Representatives** – Dylan Reed, Ashley Anderson, Juniors, Animal Sciences Majors

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**STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Adam Brandt, a student working with Professor Roca, successfully defended his Ph. D. thesis on ”Africa Elephant Conservation and Population Genetics”. We wish Adam success as he joins the labs of Drs. Novakofski and Mateus-Pinilla to study the genetics of white-tailed deer in Illinois and gain insights into the epidemiology of chronic wasting disease.

Congratulations Adam!

Chang Liu, a student working with Professors Yao and Bahr, successfully defended his Ph. D. thesis on ”Lineage Specification of Ovarian Theca Cells Requires Multi--Cellular Interactions via Oocyte and Granulosa Cells”. We wish Chang success as he continues his research with Dr. Yao while considering future postdoctoral opportunities.

Congratulations Chang!

Malik Nadeem Akhtar, a student working with Professor Rodriguez Zas, successfully defended his Ph. D. thesis on “Evaluation and assignment of significance levels to peptide identifications from the database search programs using a resampling approach”. We wish Nadeem success in his Assistant Professor position at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology.

Congratulations Nadeem!
Dr. Ryan Dilger was selected to receive the ILSI North America 2015 Future Leader Award. A review panel composed of scientists from university and industry reviewed applications from eight finalists selected from an outstanding group of nominees. The panel noted that Dr. Dilger’s proposed research entitled “Perinatal Choline Status and Cognitive Function” was particularly well thought out.

Congratulations Dr. Ryan Dilger!

Faculty Updates

News from Dr. Hutjens– In the Fall 2014 semester, three online dairy classes were offered. ANSC 499, Dairy Ration Balancing and Building, had 20 enrolled students with Mike Hutjens as the instructor; ANSC 437, Dairy Reproduction had 18 students enrolled with Dick Wallace as the instructor; and ANSC 405, Dairy Management and Diagnostics, had 20 students enrolled with Mike Hutjens and Jim Baltz as instructors.

Amy Fischer-Brown delivered an international webinar for the HSVMA (Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association), entitled: Surgery Not Required: Current and Future Options in Fertility Control of Dogs and Cats on December 10, 2014.

Dr. James Drackley has been approved for appointment to the Dairy NCR Committee.
ACADEMIC DEADLINES

Fall 2014 Academic Deadlines
December 2014
December 5
• Deadline to drop a GRAD POT B course without a grade of W
• Deadline for GRAD students to elect credit/no credit or change credit/no credit to regular grade for GRAD POT B course

December 10
• Last day of instruction

December 11
• Reading day (no classes, no final examinations)
• Last day for GRAD to add/drop a POT B course
• Last day for GRAD to add/drop a POT 1 course

December 12 – 19 (excluding weekend)
• Final examination period

December 23, Noon
• Faculty deadline for reporting grades

Spring 2015 Academic Deadlines
January 2015
January 17 — February 13
• Health Insurance Change Period

January 19
• Deadline to cancel registration, which means drop ALL classes for the Spring semester for 100% refund of tuition and fees, if no campus services were used
• Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday (All campus holiday)

January 20
• First day of instruction for the Spring POT 1 and POT A courses
• Deadline for degree-seeking students to register for first classes without being charged $15 late fee penalty

January 21
• Late registration begins via Student Self-Service

January 23 – February 2
• Registration of non-degree students without penalty

January 26
• Deadline to add a UG POT A course
• Deadline to add a GRAD POT A course via Student Self-Service
• Deadline for all students to drop POT A course for refund if reducing assessment range
• Deadline to suppress directory information