January 2015

Spring semester starts next week at the University of Illinois. I am eager for the return of our students. This semester will mark the beginning of my teaching duties at the U of I as I take over the reins in ANSC 498, Integrating Animal Science. This course was previously taught by our award winning professor, Dr. Walt Hurley. Big shoes to fill! As I reflect on our teaching mission, I am reminded by the importance of this function for the Animal Sciences Department. As professors, we must always be cognizant of our role as mentors and teachers. When done right, we change people’s lives. Our mission impacts society beyond the classroom as well. I am a huge proponent of the Land Grant system and the land grant mission of teaching, research, and outreach education. I always try to highlight our successes when I have the opportunity. For example, Dr. Rob Knox shared with me that during the past 25 years, there have been amazing increases in production efficiency in the swine industry. Average pigs/litter have gone up by 40% and average litters/sow/year have increased from 1.5 to 2.0. Market weight has increased by 34 pounds. These improvements (and others), have increased the annual amount of pork produced per sow from 1,700 lbs to a remarkable 4,100 lbs! These advances are the product of teaching, research, and outreach education. The technologies we discover and the students we train play a critical role in food security, food safety, health, and environmental sustainability. Can you imagine what our faculty and students will discover during the next 25 years! I will share more success stories like this as the year 2015 unfolds. On a personal note, if you happen to see Spenser in 116 ASL, you can wish him happy birthday. He turns 10 on February 21st. A coincidence that he was born on Ground Hogs Day; I think not!
ILLINI HORSE JUDGING TEAM

The Illini Horse Judging team competed at the National Reining Horse Association Intercollegiate judging contest in Oklahoma City on December 5 and 6, 2014. In the first collegiate judging contest for the majority and the first ever judging contest for half the team, their hard work paid off and the team placed ninth overall against schools with much more seasoned judges.

ENGLISH EQUESTRIAN TEAM

The English Equestrian Team, part of Illini Equestrians club, currently stands number one in Region 1 competition of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). During fall competition, the team earned five High Point Team awards. Additionally, four riders earned individual high point honors during the fall show season division. Two Illini Equestrian English riders have qualified for the regional competition.
Megan Bloemer, DSAC intern this past summer, was recently selected as a recipient of a Spring 2015 Conference Travel Grant sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research. She will present her research on the changes in digestibility of novel and endophyte-infected fescue over the grazing season at the Midwest Animal Sciences meetings in March.

Congratulations Megan!

Cynthia Zavala, a student working with Professor Rodriguez Zas, successfully defended her M. S. thesis on "Study of Proteins After Recovery From Bacterial Infection".

We wish Cynthia success as she pursues a position in the biotechnology industry.

Congratulations Cynthia!

John Mathai, a student working with Professor Stein, successfully defended his M. S. thesis on "Effects of fiber on the optimum threonine to lysine ratio in 25 to 50 kg growing gilts".

We wish John success as he pursues a Ph.D. degree in our department.

Congratulations John!
Faculty Updates

Dr. Carl Parsons’ equipment funding proposal “Automated system for analysis of insoluble, soluble, and total dietary fiber in food and feed ingredients” was approved for funding by the OVCR.

Dr. Tara Felix’s equipment funding proposal “Water Intake System for Cattle” was approved for funding by the OVCR.

Dr. Ryan Dilger’s equipment funding proposal “Piglet Nutrition and Cognition Laboratory” was approved for funding by the OVCR.
### ACADEMIC DEADLINES

**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

**February 2015**

**February 2**
- Deadline to reduce POT 1 (full semester) program and receive refund if reducing assessment range
- Deadline to add a UG POT 1 course
- Deadline to add a GRAD POT 1 course via Student Self-Service and without approval
- Deadline to add a GRAD POT A course via Department Office

**February 13**
- Deadline to drop a UG POT A course via Student Self-Service without a grade of W
- Deadline to drop a GRAD POT A course via Student Self-Service
- Deadline to elect credit/no-credit or to change credit/no-credit to regular grade basis in a UG POT A course
- Deadline to file intent to use the Campus Grade Replacement option in a UG POT A course

**February 27**
- Deadline to drop a GRAD POT A course without a grade of W
- Deadline for GRAD students to elect credit/no-credit option for a POT A course or to change from credit/no-credit option to a regular grade

**February 28**
- Full payment due for Spring charges unless on a payment plan