Ahh, the Dog Days of Summer. Most of the undergraduates are gone, but our grad students, faculty, and staff are still working hard; pushing back the boundaries of knowledge. The only thing more relentless than the summer rains around here is the awards our faculty and students have received recently. Some of these are highlighted in this issue of *Tails of Animal Sciences*. Two students brought home hardware for their award winning presentations at the Reciprocal Meats Conference last week in Lincoln, NE. With the upcoming meetings of the PSA, ADSA, and ASAS, you can expect to hear about additional national recognition for the work we do.

I was touring South Farms this morning with Spenser and noted the impact of yet another rainy night. My heart goes out to our colleagues in Crop Sciences who have to deal with increased experimental variation and lost research as a result of the excessive rainfall this summer. Many of the plots at South Farms look better suited for rice research than for corn experiments! I’ve seen hay fields where the first cutting has not yet been made. There will be some tough hay for our beef cows this winter. Some of it will be better suited for bedding. Speaking of beef cattle, last week I had the opportunity to make a presentation at the Illinois Beef Association Summer Conference. The focus of my talk was on how our programs have shaped the beef industry and the future impacts we can expect. We have trained hundreds of undergraduates, dozens of beef veterinarians, dozens of MS students, and dozens of PhD students who have had a major impact on the beef industry through careers in academia and industry. Our outreach educational programs have documented impact and touched thousands of stakeholders. Our research in nutrition, physiology, genetics, meat science, and management has doubled beef production/unit of input in the last 30 years and enhanced the quality of the beef we produce. I could tell the same story about the impacts of our programs on the dairy, swine, and poultry industries. Food security is what we do!

As we near the end of our fiscal year, I’m pleased to report that the Animal Sciences Department is on sound financial footing. This is due in no small part to the expertise and dedication of our staff. They mentor our students in our offices, labs, and farms, they care for our animals and facilities, and across the board they do their jobs with professionalism and a positive attitude. Over 30 years later, I still remember the impact the staff here had on me as a young student. I can’t thank our staff enough for the good work they do.

I hope you have a great July with lots of sunny days and timely (not daily) rainfall!

Steve (and Spenser)
The 12th Illini Dairy Judging Team golf outing was held on June 5th at the University of Illinois Orange Course in Savoy. The event provided a way for University of Illinois alumnae and friends to get together and raise necessary funds for dairy judging team expenses, award scholarships to future Dairy Judging team members, and swap stories of the past.

Twenty three teams completed the better ball scramble on a warm day in central Illinois. Midwest Dairy Association and the outing provided prizes. Jeff Butler (Butlerview Farm) sponsored the noon lunch and George Kasbergen (Stone Ridge Dairy) sponsored the BBQ. Individuals and organizations also provided twenty-eight hole sponsors. Several Animal Sciences faculty participated in the outing (competing in the scramble or assisting in the outing).

The winner of the better ball scramble first flight was the Erdman team. The winners of the 2nd and 3rd flights were Matt Heisner and Jeremy Huelsmann teams, respectively. The big winner was Chelsea Jean, receiving the $1000 Doug Geppert scholarship as a result of the outings. This year’s University of Illinois Dairy Judging outing raised over $13,000 to support judging team activities.

The Cardinal/Cub tickets donated by Mike Turley were the big ticket item at the auction and were purchased by Edgar Busboom. Together, this auction and the silent auction grossed approximately $840.

Mother Nature cooperated, and following the outing, approximately 140 individuals attended the pork chop BBQ prepared by Andy Buhr (Gifford State Bank) and Edgar and Kay Busboom and swapped stories with old friends. Committee members Steve Laesch, Jason and Tammy Oertal, Chris Kiem, Dan Hornickel, Gene McCoy, and HiDee Ekstrom would like to thank everyone for participating in this year’s outing.

Mark your calendar as plans are underway for next year’s event planned for June 03, 2016. Watch for further details!
ASAS INTERNS

Jacquelyn Prestegaard will be joining the American Society of Animal Science for a second summer as a Science Communications intern. Jacquelyn graduated in May with a Bachelor’s degree in Animal Sciences.

Samantha Kneeskern will participate in the ASAS summer science writing internship. Samantha is currently finishing her Masters in the Animal Sciences Department with Professor Tara Felix.

You can find the announcement from ASAS online: http://takingstock.asas.org

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS JUDGING PLACED 4TH IN THE COLLEGE DIVISION OF THE 85TH ANNUAL HOARD’S DAIRYMAN COW

The University of Illinois team of ten students won fourth place in the College Division of the 85th Annual Hoard’s Dairyman Cow Judging Contest out of 62 teams this spring. The team consisted of sophomores, juniors, and seniors from past judging teams. Also, Dylan Reed and Brett Woker were Honorable Mentions in the Senior Division. This year’s contest included some 18,400 participants from 49 states and 15 foreign countries.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>Thesis Title</th>
<th>Departmental Position</th>
<th>Congratulations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christina Ruiz-Rodriguez</td>
<td>Student working with Professor Roca</td>
<td>&quot;Population Genetics of Koala&quot;</td>
<td>Pursuing a Ph.D. degree in our department</td>
<td>Christina!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Clark</td>
<td>Student working with Professor Anna Dilger</td>
<td>&quot;Effects of maternal and postnatal infection with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus on muscle growth and development in piglets&quot;</td>
<td>Certified Angus Beef</td>
<td>Diana!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianelys Gonzalez Pena Fundora</td>
<td>Student working with Professor Rodriguez Zas</td>
<td>&quot;Simulation and statistical evaluation of the impact of reproductive technologies on the profit of livestock production systems&quot;</td>
<td>Geneticist at USDA ARS in West Virginia</td>
<td>Dianelys!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford Daigneault</td>
<td>Student working with Professor Miller</td>
<td>&quot;Enhanced fertility estimation and novel ion channels in boar sperm&quot;</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>Brad!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Lehman</td>
<td>Student working with Professors Shike and Villamil</td>
<td>&quot;Agronomic assessment of grazing method of corn residues on cow performance, residue utilization, crop yield, and soil properties&quot;</td>
<td>New position at Summit Livestock Facilities</td>
<td>Blake!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Kneeskern</td>
<td>Student working with Professor Felix</td>
<td>&quot;Effects of chromium supplementation on dam performance and progeny growth and development&quot;</td>
<td>Pursuing a career in scientific journalism</td>
<td>Sam!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# STUDENT RECOGNITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ivy Hilliker Lewis, a student that worked with Professor Klein, successfully defended her M. S. thesis on &quot;Relationship of Osteochondrosis in Yearling Standardbreds to Subsequent Race Earnings and Number of Starts at Two and Three Years of Age and Influence of Sire on Osteochondrosis in Illinois Yearling Standardbreds&quot;. We wish Ivy success in her position at Doterra Essential Oils. Congratulations Ivy!</th>
<th>Emily Arkfeld was selected to receive this year’s Kinsman International Scholarship Award. She was recognized at the Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) Awards Banquet. Congratulations Emily!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iris Grossman won the very first ever Undergraduate Research Competition at the AMSA 68th Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) held June 14-17, 2015. Congratulations Iris!</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Congratulations to Dr. Hans Stein who won the DSM Nutritional Sciences Award which was presented at the 13th Symposium on Digestive Physiology in Pigs, Kliczków, Poland on May 19. This lifetime achievement award honors scientific discovery that has significantly contributed to improving animal nutrition and health through innovative concepts and more sustainable animal farming. Well deserved!

Please take a look at the announcement from DSM Nutritional Sciences: www.dsm.com

The Journal of Animal Sciences recently announced their top 10 reviewers for 2014-2015. Amongst this list at #1 was Dr. Hans Stein and #7 Dr. Dustin Boler.

Congratulations!

‘STUD DAMES’ SPREAD U.S. COW GENETICS FAR AND WIDE

Dr. Matthew Wheeler is featured in an article titled “Stud Dames” Spread U.S. Cow Genetics Far and Wide.

ACADEMIC DEADLINES

**Summer 2015 Academic Deadlines**

**July 2015**

**July 3**
- Independence Day, observed (all-campus holiday)

**July 6**
- Deadline for GRAD to elect credit/no credit or change credit/no credit to regular grade basis in POT S2A course
- Deadline for GRAD to drop POT S2A course without grade of W

**July 10**
- Deadline for UG to elect credit/no credit or change credit/no credit to regular grade basis in course for POT S2 and POT 1 course
- Deadline for UG to file intent to use campus grade replacement option in course for POT S2
- Deadline for UG to drop course without academic penalty for POT S2 and POT 1 course without grade of W

**July 13**
- Courses begin for POT S2B

**July 17**
- Deadline for UG to add POT S2B course

**July 24**
- Deadline for UG to elect credit/no credit or change credit/no credit to regular grade basis in POT S2B course
- Deadline for UG to file intent to use campus grade replacement option in POT S2B course
- Deadline for GRAD to elect credit/no credit or change credit/no credit to regular grade basis in POT S2B and POT 1 course
- Deadline for GRAD to add POT S2B course
- Deadline for GRAD to drop a POT S2 or POT 1 course without grade of W
- Deadline for UG to drop POT S2B course without a grade of W

**July 31**
- Deadline for GRAD to elect credit/no credit or change credit/no credit to regular grade basis in POT S2B course
- Deadline for GRAD to drop a POT S2B course without grade of W

**August 2015**

**August 6**
- Last day of instruction for POTs S2, S2B, SF and 1
- Noon - reading day (no classes; no final exams) for POT S2, S2B, SF and 1

**August 7–8**
- Final examination period for POTs S2, S2B, SF and 1

**August 10**
- August degree conferral date (no commencement)

**August 12 (noon)**
- Faculty deadline for reporting grades

**August 13**
- Students may view final grades via Student Self-Service