Spring Semester 2016 comes to a close next week and graduation is on May 14. Warmer weather is here and there is lots of excitement in the air! I just love Illinois in the Spring. April was a busy month for the Animal Sciences Department. Students are finishing up their requirements for graduation; faculty are teaching and getting research done; staff are working hard to facilitate our mission. We had the ACES Funk Awards on April 11 and the Animal Sciences Recognition Luncheon on April 25. I hope I don’t bore you by constantly extolling our achievements, but a remarkable number of our faculty, staff, and students received recognition at these events. On May 5 the ANSC External Advisory Committee will be visiting campus to learn about our programs and people and to offer input on ways we can be even more effective in our mission. Jamie Evans prepared the 2015 Animal Sciences Annual Report to facilitate our discussions. The purpose of the Annual Report is to summarize accomplishments and activities in our primary missions of Teaching, Research, Extension, and Service. Here are just a few highlights of what we accomplished in 2015. Total journal publications were 189. Total grants and contracts increased from $2.77 million to $5.33 million. Gifts to support our programs increased from $939,483 to $1,370,506. Our faculty made 149 invited presentations in 26 countries. Academic Analytics rated us against 61 other Animal Science departments in the U.S. We are number 1 in every metric of research accomplishment; first in publications, citations, total grants received, total grant dollars received, and total number of faculty who have received an award. Amazingly, we also excel in the classroom. A remarkable 24 of our faculty were ranked as “Excellent” by their students. These accomplishments represent dedicated commitment to excellence from all involved. While recognition often is directed towards an individual, we have a tremendous infrastructure of support personnel and colleagues who play key roles in all we accomplish. It’s hard not to brag on the University of Illinois Animal Sciences Department!

Steve (and Spenser)
The Illini Dairy Club Banquet was held on Saturday April 23 at the Hawthorn Suites.

We would like to thank our award donors, as well as everyone who came out for the banquet.

Congratulations to our Dairy Club award winners!

ADSA Student Recognition Award – Carol Baumann, Molly McGhee, Alyssa Volland, Logan Kimmel and Brenton Bartelt (Jrs); Ashley Anderson and Jessica Telgmann (Srs)
Jerry Cash Memorial Awards: 4-H – T.J. Wingert; Collegiate – Jacob Meisner
Club Outstanding Senior – Erik Sheppelman
PDCA Book Award – Erik Sheppelman
Illini Dairy Club Academic Scholarships: Freshman – Andrew Rice; Juniors – Molly McGhee and Alyssa Volland
Outstanding Senior Scholar – Ashley Anderson
Douglas-Kalmar Scholarship – Savannah Ropp
Dairy Extension & Youth Programs Award – Jessica Telgmann
Leo Fryman Leadership Award – Jessica Telgmann
Jimmy H. Clark Dairy Achievement Award – Molly McGhee
Bingham Awards – Carol Baumann, Brenton Bartelt, Logan Kimmel

L-R are: Alyssa Volland, Andrew Rice, and Molly McGhee – our Club Academic Scholarship winners.
STUDENT RECOGNITION

Ben Bohrer received the 2016 Donald Kinsman Award. This award is sponsored by the AMSA Educational Foundation Donald Kinsman Fund. The objective of this program is to honor the memory and achievements of Dr. Kinsman and promote international collaboration by recognizing an outstanding student member with a financial award in support of international travel.

Congratulations Ben!

Maria Ines Rivelli Bixquert, a student working with Professor Cardoso, successfully defended her M. S. thesis "Evaluation of best practices associated with enhanced performance in Illinois dairy farms: a Dairy Focus Team approach".

We wish Maria Ines success in the next stage of her career.

Congratulations Ines!

Andrew LaPierre, a student working with Professor Drackley, successfully defended his M. S. thesis "Effects of hydroxy vs. sulfate forms of trace minerals in milk replacer or starter on dairy calves through weaning".

We wish Andrew success as he pursues a Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition at Cornell University with Dr. Mike Van Amburgh.

Congratulations Andrew!

Jessica Brandt, a student working with Professor Roca, successfully defended her Ph. D. thesis on "Conservation Genetics of African and Asian Rhinoceros". We wish Jessica success in her post-graduation career and relocation to Wisconsin.

Congratulations Jessica!

The 2016 Animal Sciences Departmental Scholarship recipients:

Maci L. Oelschlager – Paul E. & Rose A. Woodson Scholarship
Karli N. Robinson – Paul E. & Rose A. Woodson Scholarship
Maria Pia Gomez Postigo – Paul E. & Rose A. Woodson Scholarship
Madalyn Tessa Cowser – Paul E. & Rose A. Woodson Scholarship
Chet M. McClure – A. L. Neumann Transfer Student Scholarship
Rochelle K. Meteer – Dr. and Mrs. M. E. Ensminger Scholarship
Megan E. Bloemer – Richard and Charlotte Lundgren Scholarship
Claire L. Timlin – Janet R. Jackson and Mark A. Roos Scholarship
Iris M. Grossman – Dr. J. Wayne Rehn and Mrs. F. Jean Rehn Scholarship
Wyatt E. Bradshaw – D. E. Becker Swine Industry Scholarship
Mary Elise Hackett – Alex Edgar Beef Production Scholarship

Rebecca M. Livingston – Merle E. LeSage Scholarship
Molly L. McGhee – Waco W. Albert Memorial Equine Scholarship
Shelby L. Peterson – Waco W. Albert Meat Animal Evaluation Scholarship
Josiah A. Klokkena – Phil Rincker Award
Samantha J. Bessler – Gary O. Wright and Mary Gillespie Wright Animal Sciences Scholarship
Mareah J. Volk – Bankson Judging Team Scholarship
Elaine L. Richardson – Illinois Association of Meat Processors Scholarship
Joshua J. Warren – Illinois Association of Meat Processors Scholarship
Eve K. Shafer – Sleeter Bull Undergraduate Meats Scholarship
Martin Overholt – Floyd McKeith Scholarship
Ben Bohrer – Sleeter Bull Graduate Meats Scholarship
We had two riders qualify for Zone 7 championships hosted by West Texas A & M near Amarillo, TX. Senior (and Illini Equestrians president!) Emily Solan placed 6th in Intermediate Fences.

Freshman Erica LeMay won her division and is now the Zone 7 Novice Flat Champion! She will move on to IHSA Nationals next month at the Kentucky Horse Park!
The western team was excited to have the opportunity to show in New Castle, IN at Henry County Saddle Club for regionals on March 11th. Kayla Kauffman qualified in the intermediate division, and Molly McGhee qualified in the open division. Our coach, Meg Tyler, travelled with the team, along with our trusty pattern horse, Huron!

Although Molly and Kayla both had challenging rides, they both had a great time representing the team at regionals! The western team is very excited to see what next year has in store.
Professor Al Roca was awarded the Arlys Conrad International Teaching Enhancement Grant for developing a study tour in South Africa. Ms. Arlys Conrad believed strongly in providing undergraduate students with global experiences.

Professor Ryan Dilger was awarded the NACTA Educator Award. This award will be given out during the NACTA conference in June.

Professor Juan Loor was selected to receive the Elanco Award for Excellence in Dairy Science at the ADSA Awards Ceremony during the 2016 Joint Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.

Congratulations to Anna Dilger and Katelyn Jones-Hamlow. They were both selected as recipients of Teaching Enhancement Grants offered through ACES Academic Programs.
SPRING 2016 ACADEMIC DEADLINES

April 29
- Deadline to drop GRAD POT B course without grade of W
- Deadline to elect credit/no credit or change credit/no credit to regular grade basis for GRAD POT B course

May 4
- Last day of instruction

May 5
- Reading day (no classes, no final examinations)
- Last day for GRAD to add/drop POT B course
- Last day for GRAD to add/drop POT 1 course

May 6–13
- Final examination period