Herring, Holub each receive Teaching Excellence Award

COLLEGE STATION (July 2, 2009) — Two faculty members in the Department of Animal Science have been recognized for their outstanding teaching efforts.

Dr. Andy Herring, associate professor and assistant department head for academic programs, and Dr. Glenn Holub, assistant professor, are each a recipient of the spring 2009 Texas A&M University System Teaching Excellence Award.

This awards program was initiated last fall to honor and financially reward the system’s top teachers as selected by the students. Winners are chosen based on the rankings of the TAMUS faculty evaluation form completed by the students.


Riley joins department as associate professor

Dr. David Riley joined the Department of Animal Science on June 1 as an associate professor in the breeding and genetics section. Riley will concentrate on the McGregor Genomics Project and hopes to collaborate with several faculty on other cattle breeding/genetics projects. He will also teach quantitative genetics.

A three-time graduate of Texas A&M, Riley received his doctorate in genetics in 2000, a master’s degree in animal breeding in 1997, and a bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics in 1984. Prior to joining A&M, Riley worked as a research geneticist for the USDA, ARS, Subtropical Agricultural Research Station in Brooksville, Fla.

Franke becomes lecturer, livestock judging coordinator

Jake Franke has been hired by the Department of Animal Science as a lecturer and the livestock judging team coordinator. He will teach three animal science courses including livestock evaluation, general animal science and meat animal evaluation.

Franke graduated from Texas A&M with a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in animal science in 2004 and 2008, respectively. While at A&M he was a member of the 2003 National Champion Livestock Judging Team, was assistant coach to the 2004 National Champion Team and coach in 2005 as well as for the 2006 champion team. Prior to taking this position, Franke worked as a feedlot representative for Cargill Animal Nutrition and a sales representative for Camp Cooley Ranch.
Rogers, Ark (June 20-24, 2009) -- Undergraduate and graduate students in the meat science section had a full week of competitions and research presentations at the annual American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference held June 20-24 in Rogers, Ark.

Animal science faculty Davey Griffin, Dan Hale, Kerri Harris, Rhonda Miller, Wes Osburn and Steve Smith also attended the conference.

Highlights from the week include:

- **American Meat Science Association Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl** – Joey Muras, Miles Guelker, Carson Ulbrich, Jacob Lemmons, Anna Langford and Amanda Smith, all undergraduate students, participated in the Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl. The white team consisting of Lemmons, Muras and Ulbrich, placed eighth out of 24 teams, and the maroon team made up of Langford, Guelker and Smith competed through round five of the competition. The A&M teams were coached by graduate students Ashley Haneklaus, Shannon Bennett and Laura May.

- **Iron Chef Competition** – Graduate students Dan Genho, Robert Merrill, Scott Langley, Sonia Garza, Dawna Winkler, Tiffany Muras, Tabitha Roybal, Amanda King, Sarah West, Will Wiederhold and Melissa Davidson participated in the Iron Chef Competition. Students from all participating universities were randomly mixed up to create the teams. They were each given different meat products and spies and were asked to formulate a recipe and make a new product with assistance from a consulting chef.

- **University T-Shirt Competition** – Texas A&M entered the 2nd annual University T-shirt Competition and won the first-ever People’s Choice Award, the award given to the university with the most creative, unique and most popular T-shirt design. They also placed second for high bid in the T-shirt auction.

- **Graduate Student Research Poster Competition** – Ashley Haneklaus, Gwang-Woong Go, Robert Merrill and Sonia Garza presented their research during the Graduate Student Research Poster Competition.

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**Department of Animal Science welcomes back Cross, Skaggs**

The Department of Animal Science welcomes back to the department Dr. H. Russell Cross and Misty Skaggs. Each returned in June, and they are located in the Centeq Building on Research Parkway.

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Sterle: World Pork Expo

DES MOINES, IOWA (June 2-5, 2009) – Dr. Jodi Sterle, associate professor and Extension swine specialist, trained a group of high school and college students from across the nation at this year’s World Pork Expo held in Des Moines, Iowa, June 2-5, 2009. These students are serving their state pork producers association as interns and ambassadors. Sterle also conducted a Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus training for a group of youth exhibitors.

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Burdick receives graduate research fellowship

Nicole Burdick, a doctoral candidate under Dr. Tom Welsh and Dr. Jeff Carroll, is the recipient of the Tom Slick Graduate Research Fellowship for the 2009-2010 academic year.

This prestigious fellowship provides support for dissertation research of outstanding doctoral students. Burdick passed her preliminary examination at the end of May. This fellowship will allow Burdick to focus on completing her research and dissertation.
Pork Science Weekly - July 6, 2009

Pork Leadership Tour - From Amarillo to College Station

Sixteen high school students from across Texas completed a six-day, hands-on, intensive tour of the swine industry June 14-19.

Starting in Amarillo and ending in College Station, the group toured Smithfield Premium Genetics, Seaboard Foods, Inc., Texas Farm, West Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, Belew Farms, Wright Brand Foods, Owens Country Sausage, H.E.B., and Texas A&M University. The group harvested pigs at Texas Tech’s meat lab, fabricated carcasses at Texas A&M’s meat lab, completed media training and interviews on-camera, and competed for scholarships by gaining points throughout the week.

Co-hosted by Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas Pork Producers Association, the group heard from Dr. Davey Griffin and Dr. Dan Hale, Extension meat specialists, and were accompanied by Dr. Jodi Sterle, Extension swine specialist.

Gutierrez excels as undergraduate research fellow

Kaitlin Gutierrez, a recent graduate in animal science and a 2008-2009 Texas A&M University Undergraduate Research Fellow, was awarded for excellence in undergraduate research. Gutierrez received two first place awards during the Texas A&M University Student Research Week in March 2009 for her work entitled, “Ability of Mifepristone (RU486) to Negate Dexamethasone Induced Suppression of Equine Immunoglobulin M (IgM).” In addition, as an Undergraduate Research Fellow, Gutierrez worked under the direction of Dr. Tom Welsh on a project entitled, “Influence of Glucocorticosteroid Hormones on Immune Functions of Normal and Cushing’s Syndrome Horses.” The Research Fellow Program allows exceptional seniors the chance to “test drive” graduate school by participating in a two-semester-long independent research project and writing a senior honors thesis.

Show Cattle Camp draws youth from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana

COLLEGE STATION -- More than 165 parents and youth wanting to learn more about show cattle attended one of two sessions of the Texas A&M University Show Cattle Camp held May 29-30 and June 5-7, 2009 in College Station. 4-H and FFA members along with their parents came from across Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana to spend several days focusing on daily management, show day management and showmanship skills for beef cattle projects. Paul Maulsby, TAMU Beef Center manager, was the camp coordinator, and counselors assisting during the camp included Chase Runyan, Tiffany Sizemore, Joellen Donough, Andrew Kmiec, Webb Field, Morgan Cabiness, Carl Muntean and Amber Skinner.
Animal Science graduate students successfully defend theses/dissertations

Several graduate students in the Department of Animal Science have recently successfully defended either their thesis or dissertation. The department congratulates these fine students on their academic achievement and appreciates the dedicated faculty who have guided these students through their academic career.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s name</th>
<th>Major Professor</th>
<th>Degree/Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrea N. Loyd</td>
<td>Dr. Ron Randel, Dr. Tom Welsh</td>
<td>Master’s Degree Physiology of Reproduction “Relationships Between Residual Feed Intake and Performance of Heifers of Diverse Breedtypes and Brahman Cows”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kara J. Matheney</td>
<td>Dr. Ron Randel</td>
<td>Master’s Degree Physiology of Reproduction “Evaluation of Performance Traits in Brahman Cattle: Blood Parameters, Calf Temperament, Residual Feed Intake, and Bull Reproductive Development”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa J. Caldwell</td>
<td>Dr. Ron Randel, Dr. Penny Riggs</td>
<td>Master’s Degree Physiology of Reproduction “The Influence of Breed and Temperament on Circulating Concentrations of Insulin-like Growth Factor-I (IGF-I) and Its Relationship to Feed Efficiency in Beef Cattle”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexie Hayes</td>
<td>Dr. Dennis Sigler</td>
<td>Master’s Degree “Effect of Trace Mineral Supplementation on Gastric Ulcers in Exercising Yearling Horses”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Garey</td>
<td>Dr. Ted Friend</td>
<td>Master’s Degree “Evaluation of Stress Before, During, and After Transport in Naïve Yearling Horses”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Alexander</td>
<td>Dr. Ted Friend</td>
<td>Master’s Degree “Factors Involved in Search Dog Training”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon E. Schmidt</td>
<td>Dr. Matt Taylor</td>
<td>Master’s Degree “Liposome Encapsulation of Naturally Occurring Antimicrobials for the Inhibition of Foodborne Pathogens”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lydia G. Garcia</td>
<td>Dr. Jeffrey Savell</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Animal Science, specializing in Meat Science “Functional Properties and Utilization of High pH Beef”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Clement</td>
<td>Dr. Andy Herring</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Animal Science “The Use of Serial Ultrasound Evaluation of Body Composition Traits to Predict Performance Endpoints in Commercial Beef Cattle”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jungwoo Choi</td>
<td>Dr. Clare Gill</td>
<td>Ph.D. “Identification of Signatures of Selection in Bos taurus Beef and Dairy Cattle Using Genome-wide SNP Genotypes”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jin-Young Kim</td>
<td>Dr. Fuller Bazer, Dr. Thomas Spencer</td>
<td>Ph.D. “Select Nutrients, Secreted Phosphoprotein 1 and Insulin-Like Growth Factor 2: Effects on Trophoblast of Ovine Conceptuses”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haijun Gao</td>
<td>Dr. Fuller Bazer, Dr. Guoyao Wu</td>
<td>Ph.D. “Nutrient Signaling, Mammalian Target of Rapamycin and Ovine Conceptus Development”</td>
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Upcoming events

Texas A&M University Horse Judging Camp (July 8-10, 2009 or July 15-17, 2009) - For more information, please contact Dr. Clay Cavinder <cac@tamu.edu> at 979-845-7731.

Texas Pork Industry Conference and Youth Symposium (July 11, 2009, Kerrville, Texas) - For more information, please contact Dr. Jodi Sterle <j-sterle@tamu.edu> at 979-845-2714.

Aggieland Lamb Camp (July 17-19, 2009) - For more information, please contact Dr. Shawn Ramsey <sramsey@tamu.edu> at 979-845-7616.

Aggieland Goat Camp (July 24-26, 2009) - For more information, please contact Dr. Shawn Ramsey <sramsey@tamu.edu> at 979-845-7616.

55th Annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course (August 3-5, 2009) - For more information, please contact Dr. Jason Cleere at 979-845-6931.

NRHA Applicant Seminar (August 29-30, 2009) - For more information, please contact Dr. Clay Cavinder <cac@tamu.edu> at 979-845-7731.