Merry Christmas, Happy New Year
from Animal Science

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Hesby Atrium dedicated at Texas A&M's Kleberg Center

COLLEGE STATION -- Faculty, staff, students and friends of the Department of Animal Science took part in a dedication ceremony for the new Howard Hesby Student Atrium held Dec. 7 at the Kleberg Animal and Food Sciences Center at Texas A&M University.

Hesby was a professor in animal science at Texas A&M for 35 years and influenced more than 15,000 students as a teacher, advisor and mentor, said Dr. Russell Cross, professor and interim department head.

“One hundred percent of the construction has been paid by donations to the Hesby project,” Cross told attendees. “We’ve received $600,000 in cash and pledges, and we’ve got $400,000 more to go. It’s simply a beautiful space.”

Prior to his death in 2005, Hesby and others were working to provide animal science students a place to study in the Kleberg building after a renovation in 2004 removed the existing lounge.

The new space provides for seating up to 100 including lounge chairs and sofas, tables and chairs, and a bar with stools. New lighting and electrical outlets were installed throughout as well as five high-definition monitors for departmental news and announcements. The lobby wall was treated with a wood veneer and now displays plaques recognizing the top donors.

The project will continue with another phase of construction on the north side of the Kleberg building, which will feature a large trophy case and other improvements. A bronze relief sculpture of Hesby created by Dr. Scott Myers will be added at the south entrance.

The dedication event featured special remarks from Jim Schwertner, Texas A&M University System Regent; former students Dr. Chris Boleman, who also served as moderator, Steven Lastovica and Chad Fisher; and former colleague Dr. Dudley Smith. Kay Hesby gave reflections on her husband’s career at Texas A&M and expressed deep thanks to the generosity of individuals at the university and Texans abroad. She recalled one of her husband’s field trips with students to a working farm operation in West Texas.

“Someone donated a two-night stay at a West Texas YMCA,” she told attendees. “Only something like that could happen at Texas A&M and in Texas.”

For further information regarding the Hesby Student Atrium project or to provide a financial contribution, call 979-845-1543, or contact Monica Delisa, senior director of development for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, at 979-847-9314 or email <m-delisa@tamu.edu>.

For more information about the atrium project, visit http://animalscience.tamu.edu/hesby-atrium.
Howard Hesby Student Atrium

Photo Album
COLLEGE STATION -- The Department of Animal Science held its annual Holiday Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Dec. 15 at the AgriLife Center.

Faculty, staff, retirees, graduate students, and student workers gathered for a barbecue brisket and chicken meal, holiday basket giveaways, a presentation of 2011 departmental news highlights and departmental award announcements.

The 2011 Outstanding Support Staff Award was presented to Kelli Kochan and Mandi Cockerham.

Kochan is a research associate in animal breeding and genetics. According to a nomination letter, "Kelli has become a go-to person for students from all three departments in Kleberg, as well as students from other departments. Kelli is a patient teacher, but she demands excellence and attention to detail. She is personable and has a great working relationship with other research staff in the building."

Cockerham works as the information and technology associate. "Mandi has been with the department for a short period of time, but she has certainly made a huge impact. First and foremost, she is very knowledgeable in her field of work and if she does not know the answer to our question, she will find the answer," stated one of the nominators.

Three faculty members also were recognized for their years of service to the university. Dr. Guoyao Wu, professor, University and AgriLife Research Faculty Fellow, was presented a service pin for 20 years of service; Dr. Martha Vogelsang, senior lecturer and equine science section leader, was recognized for 30 years of service; and Dr. Jeff Savell, regents professor and E.M. "Manny" Rosenthal Chair holder, was recognized for 35 years of service.

In addition, the Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award was presented to Jessica Lucia and Kelly Winsco. Two awards presented earlier in the week at the physiology of reproduction section holiday luncheon were also recognized and included Jennifer Thorson as recipient of the 2012 A.M. "Tony" Sorenson, Jr. Achievement Award and Bruna Alves as the recipient of the Mauro Procknor Memorial Award. (See related stories for more details.)

Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award presented to Lucia, Winsco

COLLEGE STATION -- Two graduate students in the Department of Animal Science are the recipients of the Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award in Animal Science, in recognition of their important contributions as graduate students to the undergraduate student experience.

Jessica Lucia and Kelly Winsco were presented the award during the department’s holiday luncheon held Dec. 15, 2011 at the AgriLife Center.

The Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award was created in remembrance of Dr. Edwards, who served as associate head for the Department of Animal Science and spent more than two decades working with graduate students. One of his major activities was coordinating the teaching assistantships for the department, helping to ensure the best graduate teachers possible for the courses taught.

Lucia, from Hearne, is pursing a doctoral degree in equine nutrition under the direction of Dr. Josie Coverdale. Lucia earned a bachelor's degree in animal science and a master's in animal science, equine nutrition, both from Texas A&M.

During her graduate studies, Lucia has worked as a teaching assistant in the Departments of Biology and Animal Science including BIOL 111 and 112 and ANSC 311, 312, 421 and 481. Lucia assists with teaching basis riding skills to cadets in Parson's Mounted Cavalry and helps prepare them for
Alves, Thorson presented awards at physiology of reproduction luncheon

COLLEGE STATION -- The Department of Animal Science Physiology of Reproduction section held their annual Holiday Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Dec. 13 at the College Station Community Center.

Bruna Alves was presented the 2011 Mauro Procknor Memorial Award. This award is presented annually to a physiology of reproduction graduate student who best exemplifies excellence in academics and research, patience in teaching, and innovation in the laboratory.

"Bruna was selected in recognition of her commitment to conduct research, teach and assist her colleagues in their research and educational endeavors," said Dr. Tom Welsh, professor and section leader.

Alves, from Araxa, Minas Gerais, Brazil, is currently seeking a doctoral degree in physiology of reproduction working under the direction of Dr. Marcel Amstalden. Her research focuses on nutritional programming of neuroendocrine pathways controlling the onset of puberty in heifers.

Alves received a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil in 2006 and a master of science in animal reproduction in 2008.

The award was established in memory of Dr. Procknor who received a doctorate in physiology of reproduction in the 1980s. Shortly after his graduation, Mauro was killed in a traffic accident near his animal research station in his home country of Brazil. His fellow students established the Procknor Memorial Award in 1986.

Jennifer Thorson, from Surrey, N.D., was presented the 2012 A.M. "Tony" Sorensen, Jr. Achievement Award. This award was established in memory of Dr. Sorensen to recognize an individual's outstanding ability and potential.

"Jenny was selected as the graduating doctoral student in the physiology of reproduction degree program who excelled as a student, as a teacher and as a researcher," Welsh said.

Thorson works under the direction of Dr. Williams and Dr. Amstalden and her research focuses on the role of the neuroendocrine peptides GnRH and RFRP-3 in regulating reproductive cyclicity in the mare. She earned a bachelor's degree in equine science and agricultural business from Colorado State University in 2006 and a master of science in physiology of reproduction from North Dakota State University in 2008.

Graduate Teaching Award

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football game day operations. Lucia currently serves as the primary instructor for ANSC 311 and as the equine advisor for Parsons Mounted Cavalry.

According to a nomination letter, "Due to the extensive time commitments of teaching assistants in the equine section, it is tempting for students to complete only their assigned duties. However, this in not the case with Ms. Lucia. She has been actively involved in courses outside her teaching assistant assignments, providing guest lectures or simply assisting less experiences teaching assistants."

Winsco, from Snellville, Ga., is pursuing a doctoral degree in equine nutrition under the direction of Dr. Josie Coverdale. She completed her bachelor's degree in animal science and dairy science from the University of Georgia in 2007 and master's degree in animal science from Texas A&M in 2009.

Winsco has served as a teaching assistant at Texas A&M since she joined the department in 2007. She taught Biology 111 and 112 for two semesters in the Department of Biology. Since then she has taught numerous laboratory sections for equine courses in the Department of Animal Science including ANSC 108, 201, 311, 420 and 421. Winsco currently serves as the primary instructor for ANSC 201 and ANSC 311.

According to a nomination letter, "Kelly is one of the rare graduate students that are qualified to teach every course in the equine curriculum. Not only is she knowledgeable, but extremely approachable, personable, and relates to a variety of student personality types. She finds ways to motivate all the students in her laboratories and strives to continuously improve her teaching style and skills."

The Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award in Animal Science is presented yearly and winners are selected based on nominations and supporting letters from department faculty.
Horse Judging Team wins NRHA Futurity

OKLAHOMA CITY – The 2011-2012 TAMU Senior Horse Judging Team won the NRHA Futurity in Oklahoma City on Dec. 3, 2011.

The Aggies beat second place West Texas A&M University by a wide margin, followed by Oklahoma State University, University of Wisconsin and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M.

Team members are Toni Kean, a sophomore from Katy; Alicia Erwin, a sophomore from Bridgeport; Caitlin Scott, a junior from Tomball; Alycia Crandall, a junior from College Station; Alexis Swan, a sophomore from Aubrey; Alexis Duhon, a senior from Spring; Braedy Thomas, a sophomore from Rathdrum, Idaho; Kaitlan Farmer, a sophomore from Lubbock; and Melanie Armstrong, junior from Dime Box; all animal science majors.

Texas A&M secured four of the top 10 high individual awards. Armstrong finished reserve champion, followed by Scott as third high individual, Duhon as sixth and Erwin as eighth.

"This group practiced extremely hard for the past four months in an effort to win this contest. I think the manner in which they won the futurity having four in the top 10 and winning by 102 points speaks of their commitment to our program and dedication to being their best," said Dr. Clay Cavinder, team coach.

The NRHA Futurity is the first major competition for this group as the senior team. In the spring of 2012, they will compete in the APHA Spring Sweepstakes and the NRBC Futurity leading up to the two major fall competitions, the AQHA World Show and the All American Congress.

“This was the first big contest for the current team and a great way to finish off the semester,” said Cavinder. “This contest gives our team a lot of confidence as we move into the next year.”

Frenzel selected as winner of Carpenter Award in meat science

COLLEGE STATION -- Leslie Frenzel is recipient of the 2011 Zerle L. Carpenter Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Meat Science.

Frenzel, from New Berlin, is seeking a doctoral degree in meat science and food safety working under the direction of Drs. Jeff Savell and Kerri Harris. She earned a bachelor's and master's degree in animal science from Tarleton State University, where she coached the 2009 National Champion Meat Judging team and managed the meat laboratory.

While at Texas A&M, Frenzel has been involved in Beef 101 and 705 programs, HACCP short courses and teaching ANSC 307 laboratories. Her true passion is teaching and she enjoys connecting with the students, industry personnel and consumer groups.

Her current research involves a validation study focusing on various intervention systems on the harvest floor. She has had the opportunity to help other graduate research projects such as the National Beef Quality Audit and Nutrient Database Improvement Study.

This award is presented annually to a graduate student in the Department of Animal Science meat science section. The meat science section faculty select a graduate student who demonstrates outstanding leadership skills and has contributed significantly to the section's teaching, research, and extension activities.

This award is named in honor of Dr. Zerle L. Carpenter, who began his career at Texas A&M University as an assistant professor of animal science in 1962. Dr. Carpenter rose to become full professor of animal science in 1971, head of the Department of Animal Science in 1978, and director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in 1982. In 1988, he was named associate vice chancellor for agriculture for the Texas A&M University System. Dr. Carpenter retired in 1997 after providing leadership to the Extension Service for 15 years.
ENGLEWOOD, CO – Department of Animal Science students Megan Webb and Gatlan Gray recently received the highly coveted International Stockmen’s Educational Foundation (ISEF) Travel Fellowship to the 2012 International Livestock Congress in Denver, Colo., January 10.

Webb is a senior animal science major from Burlington, W. Va. Gray is from Brock and received a bachelor’s degree in animal science in 2011. He currently is seeking a master of science degree under the direction of Drs. Jeff Savell and Kerri Harris.

The travel fellowship was awarded to 12 students representing 11 universities from 7 countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Ethiopia, and the United States.

A multi-national selection committee selected the recipients. Fellowships include airfare, ground transportation, hotel and scheduled meals during the International Livestock Congress. Scholastic achievement, leadership experiences and professional references are all part of the stringent qualifying requirements. This setting provides each student with the opportunity to interact with world industry leaders and contribute to the solutions that will shape the advancement of the livestock industry into the future.

The 2012 edition of the International Livestock Congress – USA (ILC-USA), to be held January 10 in Denver, Colorado, will bring producers, retailers, packers and others in the livestock and meat industry supply chain, a new focus from a long-respected international forum. The mission of the ISEF is to serve as a catalyst for exchange among present and future industry thought leaders by creating opportunities surrounding international livestock industry and meat supply chain perspectives and development of educational initiatives on critical issues impacting the industry.
In memory of

George Robert Long III


George was born in Dallas on May 1, 1992 to George "Bob" and Sharon Benson Long. George was raised in Crandall and graduated from Crandall High School in 2011 as valedictorian. He loved athletics and participated in football, baseball and basketball at Crandall High School. He was also a member of the Central Baptist Church in Crandall.

To view the complete obituary, please go to http://www.parker-ashworthfuneralhome.com/content/obituaries/view.jsp?OID=109837.

Former students, now business owners, named to the Aggie 100

COLLEGE STATION -- Several former students and graduates of the Department of Animal Science have been named to the prestigious Aggie 100.

The Aggie 100 identifies, recognizes and celebrates the 100 fastest growing Aggie-owned or Aggie-led businesses in the world. The Aggie 100 not only celebrates their success, it also provides a forum to pass lessons to the next generation of Aggie entrepreneurs, according to the website aggie100.com.

The Aggie 100 was created in 2005 by Mays Business School's Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship.

Former students or graduates from the department making the list include:

❖ **Encore Visions** - owned by Jackie (Townsend) Lackey, creative director. Lackey received a bachelor's in animal science in 2005 and a master of agribusiness in 2006. Lackey founded Encore Visions in 2005, a full-service advertising and marketing studio that focuses on building a seamless brand image for its clients including agriculture and livestock marketing. For more information, go to http://www.encorevisions.com.

❖ **Swann Animal Clinic** - owned by Dr. Seth Solomon. A former student in the department, Solomon received a masters of business administration in 2006 and a doctorate of veterinary medicine in 2008, both from Texas A&M. The veterinary clinic, located in Amarillo, offers pet examinations, oral and dental health, microchip, senior pet health, vaccinations and wellness care. For more information, go to http://www.amarillovet.com.

❖ **Ranch House Designs, Inc.** - owned by Rachel (Williams) Cutrer, president and creative director. Cutrer earned a bachelor's in animal science from Texas A&M and a master's degree from Michigan State University. She established Ranch House Design in 1999 located in Wharton as a full service web design and graphic design firm and is recognized nationwide for its livestock and agricultural advertising and marketing expertise. For more information, go to http://www.ranchhousedesigns.com.

❖ **XF Australia** - Dr. R. Hollis Klett, president and chairman of the board, and Wes Klett, COO and owner. Father and son duo Hollis and Wes Klett are both graduates from the department. Hollis received a bachelor's degree in 1958 and Wes in 1981. XF Australia, founded in 1985, is a supplier of livestock feeds throughout Australia and is actively involved in livestock nutrition through the United States. For more information, go to http://www.xfent.com.

❖ **Select Premium Services, Inc** - Gordon Sorrel, vice president and owner. Sorrel earned a bachelor's in animal science in 1969. Select Premium is a family operated premium finance business based out of El Campo and acts as a partner to insurance agents by lending funds to insureds to cover the cost of the insurance premiums. For more information go to http://selectpremium.com.

❖ **Texas Quail Farms, Inc.** - founded and owned by Todd Smith, animal science class of 1994. Texas Quail Farms, Inc. located in Lockhart is the largest state inspected quail processing plant in Texas. The company produces a wide variety of protein-based quail products ranging from whole birds to semi-boneless birds, including gourmet specialties like bacon-wrapped breasts and legs. TQF distributes throughout Texas and coast to coast to the retail and food service markets. For more information, go to http://www.texquail.com.

For a complete list of the 2011 Aggie 100 businesses, go to http://aggie100.com/.
Hulsman participates in New York Academy of Sciences and PepsiCo career day

NEW YORK -- Lauren Hulsman, a doctoral student in animal breeding working under the direction of Dr. David Riley, participated in the New York Academy of Sciences and PepsiCo "Journey through Science Day" at the Academy’s headquarters in the 7 World Trade Center Building, New York City.

Hulsman was one of 50 exceptional students and early career scientists selected to attend the career day and to interact with PepsiCo’s research and development leadership, learn about their efforts to develop products rooted in science-based nutrition, and to see how science has shaped their careers.

In addition to learning from PepsiCo’s leadership, each participant presented a poster on their research, highlighting and sharing their own activities and interests with PepsiCo in one of three key areas including life sciences, engineering, and food science. Hulsman presented her current research titled, “Prediction and evaluation of genomic estimated breeding values for temperament at weaning in Bos indicus crossbreds using Bayesian inference” in the life sciences section.

Meat Science students take two-day meat processing tour around Texas

Dr. Rhonda Miller, graduate teaching assistants Amanda Harbison and Adria Greyson, and nine undergraduate and graduate students participated in a two day meat processing tour in Waco, Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth on Dec. 1 and 2. Plants and businesses visited were Cargill Meat Solutions, Texas Beef Council, Lonestar Foods, Whole Foods, Standard Meats, Rosani Foods and Texas Meat Purveyors. Students were members of either the senior level ANSC 447 Advanced Meat Science class or the graduate level FSTC/ANSC 647 Technology of Meat Processing and Distribution class.

Riggs takes part in National Academies Keck Futures Initiative conference

IRVINE -- Dr. Penny Riggs, assistant professor of animal breeding and genetics, participated in the 9th annual National Academies Keck Futures Initiative (NAKFI) conference Ecosystem Services: Charting a Path to Sustainability, Nov. 11-13, 2011, at the Academies’ Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center in Irvine, Calif.

NAKFI is a 15-year effort of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine to catalyze interdisciplinary inquiry and to enhance communication among researchers, funding organizations, universities, and the general public. The objective is to support the climate for conducting interdisciplinary research, and to break down related institutional and systemic barriers. NAKFI works towards these objectives by harnessing the intellectual horsepower of approximately 140 individuals from diverse backgrounds who apply to attend its annual “think-tank” style conference; and by awarding $1 million in seed grants – on a competitive basis – to conference participants to enable further pursuit of bold, new ideas and connections stimulated by the conference.

Dr. Seth Murray in the Department of Soil & Crop Sciences and three science journalism graduate students also were selected to attend from Texas A&M.

Miller speaks at meat, poultry conference

KANSAS CITY -- Dr. Rhonda Miller, professor of meat science, spoke at the Meat and Poultry Research Conference in Kansas City, Mo. on Nov. 2, 2011. She was sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Pork Board to present, "Beef and Pork Flavor: Is it important?" This conference was designed to address current research and stimulate discussion on future research needs.

Bilby, Jordan involved in dairy event

STEPHENVILLE -- Dr. Todd Bilby, associate professor and Extension dairy specialist, moderated the panel "Thinking Outside the Feed Bunk -- Feed Availability and Alternatives" at the Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.’s (DFA) Southwest Area Industry Update in Stephenville on Oct. 27, 2011. Dr. Ellen Jordan, professor and Extension dairy specialist was a panelist, along with Alan Vander Horst from Stephenville and Dan Senestraro from Johnson, KS.
**Bazer edits animal welfare book**

Dr. Fuller Bazer, regents fellow, distinguished professor and O.D. Butler Chair holder, is one of three editors to edit a newly published book, "Animal Welfare in Animal Agriculture: Husbandry, Stewardship, and Sustainability in Animal Production." Dr. Wilson G. Pond from Cornell University and Dr. Bernard E. Rollin from Colorado State University also edited the book.

The animal welfare book explores the pressing issue of farm animal welfare in animal production systems in the United States and globally.

Fourteen chapters address a range of topics that includes ethics, sociology, food safety, ecology, feed resources, biotechnology, government regulations, and sustainability, as well as animal comfort, health, and contributions to society. Through a multidisciplinary approach, this book takes readers on a journey through the complex maze of issues that surrounds animal welfare today. The text links current and historical uses of animals and our views toward them with the concept of sustainable agriculture, addressing the role that welfare plays in a strong and viable food system. Contributors present their views on what constitutes genuine animal welfare and how it is attained. They discuss topics including ethics, food safety, ecology, biotechnology, and the contributions of animals to society. Unique in its depth, breadth, and balance, this book underscores the need for dialog on animal welfare.

The book was written primarily for students, but also highly relevant for professionals in varying fields of academia and industry, this timely book reveals important insights into animal welfare and animal agriculture. Unique in its depth, breadth, and balance, it underscores the need for dialogue on wide-ranging and often contentious issues related to animal production systems.

**Former Students Remembered...**

The Department of Animal Science recognizes and pays tribute to the former students in Animal Science who recently passed away. We extend our condolences to the friends and families of these former students.

- Edgar Brewer Hale '37
- William Ruck Sibley Jr. '43
- Miles Pierce '44
- Charles Garth Rogers '44
- Marshall Joe Hanna '46
- Harry Hunter '50
- Will Ben Woltman '50
- Hollis F. Pinyan '52
- Robert Walkers Caldwell Jr. Col. USAF '55
- James Donald Johnson '55
- Samuel Ruie Nichols '55
- Darrell Wayne Brown '57
- Christopher Dayne Schneider '97

**Upcoming events**

**Texas A&M University Closed** (Dec. 23-30-2011)

**Equine Reproductive Management Short Course** (Jan. 11-13, 2012 - College Station) - For more information, contact Dr. Martha Vogelsang or http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/workshops/equine-repro-short-course.htm.

**Southwest Beef Symposium** (Jan. 17-18, 2012 - Roswell, NM) - For more information, go to http://swbs.nmsu.edu.