

Fall 2019

ANSC, Fall 2019

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences

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Citation

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences. (2019). ANSC, Fall 2019. *Animal Science Newsletter*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/anscnews/16>

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ANSC

{animal science}

Fall 2019



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In the Loop



Michael Looper
Department Head

Season's Greetings from the Department of Animal Science! The "end-of-the-semester" fury of finals and posting grades is over! It has been a busy fall semester as you will discover in the following pages. Briefly, fall semester classes resumed

Aug. 26 where students were greeted with several back-to-school activities including the Bumpers Bash event, as well as the Animal Science Welcome Back Bash; our sixth annual Animal Science Day was once again a great success; the department hosted the fourth session of the Arkansas Cattlemen's Young Cattlemen's Leadership Class (YCLC); the AR 4-H livestock program and U of A livestock judging team hosted the Shaping the Future Online Auction; and we hosted Scott Fry (B.S.A., 2005) to campus to visit with faculty and graduate students.

Faculty have been busy conducting research through the summer and fall semesters. Please take time to read about Jiangchao Zhao, Beth Kegley, John Richeson (West Texas A&M University), Jeremy Powell and Jung Ae Lee-Bartlett's novel research. Congratulations to several faculty that received much deserved research funding this past year! Your efforts were recognized and are greatly appreciated.

After a national search, the department welcomed Jordan Shore to campus as Animal Science instructor and head coach of both the equine judging and ranch horse teams. Jordan has hit the ground running and had great success! Congratulations to him and the equine judging team for winning the 2019 National Cutting Horse Association Judging Contest in Fort Worth, Texas. Read more about all the equine activities in the following pages. The department also has two active searches ongoing for both physiological genetics and meat science/muscle biology faculty members.

Recently, teams of four undergraduate students competed for the chance to represent the department at the Southern Section, American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) meetings in January in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Southern Section Academic Quadrathlon is a yearly competition featuring teams of undergraduate students from universities in the southern United States. Congratulations and good luck to the team consisting of Cole Crumpacker, Nathan Davis, Erin Falkenstein, and Laykyn Rainbolt.

In August, the department celebrated the careers and retirement of two faculty members, Jason Apple and Charles Rosenkrans. We wish both great successes in their exciting new endeavors. After 42 years of exemplary service, Pete Hornsby will retire in January – a huge THANK YOU to Pete! The department congratulates Charles Looney for receiving the President's Award of the American Embryo Transfer Association during their annual meeting in Colorado Springs. In July, the department mourned the passing of Dr. Milo Shult. During the centennial celebration of the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Fayetteville, the station was renamed the Milo J. Shult Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SAREC).

I hope you have time this busy holiday season to spend with friends and family. I appreciate your sincere interest and support of this department. Please let us know if we can help you. As always, feel free to contact me [looper@uark.edu; (479) 575-3745] or stop by and visit when you are in Fayetteville.

Michael Looper
Department Head

ANSC

(animal science)

Fall 2019

Published by the University of Arkansas
Department of Animal Science

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<http://animal-science.uark.edu>



Animal Science - UA



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Cover Photo by: Lauren Husband



Support Animal Science Department Scholarships

By buying a chairback in the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center

You can support scholarships for Department of Animal Science students and receive permanent recognition by purchasing a chairback in the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center. Purchases are tax deductible and can be made in the name of an individual, a business, or in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. If you are a former judging team member and would like to purchase a seat in honor of your judging team, contact Bryan

Kutz at 479-575-4337.

Chairbacks are available for a minimum donation of \$500, although many individuals have donated more.

If you would like to help with scholarships by purchasing a chairback, fill out the form to the right and mail it with a check made out to Agricultural Development Council, with a notation of Arena Chairback to the address on the form at the right.

Chairback Order Form

Please use separate page if needed.

Donor Information

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Please list information desired on chairback:

Make checks payable to:

University of Arkansas Foundation

Please make a notation: Arena Chairback

Mail to: Connie Stewart

University of Arkansas

1120 W. Maple

Dept. of Animal Science

Fayetteville, AR 72701

Ranch Horse Team Competes in Two Events, Hosts Clinic

The University of Arkansas ranch horse team participated in two shows throughout late October and early November, one of which was hosted in the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center and consisted of a clinic and seminar.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, the team held their clinic and seminar in which head coach Jordan Shore covered various topics, including how to warm up your horse and gain control of its mind before walking into the show pen; how to deal with show-sour horses; how to maximize your horse's performance in the show pen; and what specifics the judges are typically looking for in reining and ranch riding. Each of the attendees then had the opportunity to conduct a ranch riding pattern that was recorded and reviewed in a classroom to go along with some further discussions on drills and schooling to help their horse's performances.

The next day, the team held an American Stock Horse Association

(ASHA) ranch horse show that consisted of ranch pleasure and trail, reining and working cow horse. Powell Feed and others in the community donated prizes such as muck forks, shavings, supplements, Yeti cups and Purina gift buckets.

On Nov. 3, the team traveled to Missouri State University for the ASHA Regional Championship show, and

returned home with multiple forms of individual awards. Erin Falkenstien, Brady Barnard and Madison Powell were crowned champions of the Reserve Novice Division, Limited Non-Pro Division and Non-Pro Division, respectively, while Kaley Collins earned a third-place finish in the Limited Non-Pro Division. }



Chris Shore, Madison Powell, Brady Barnard, Erin Falkenstien, Kaley Collins and head coach Jordan Shore

Equine Judging Team Crowned 2019 NCHA Champions



Laurel Dhority, Paige Williams, head coach Jordan Shore, Anissa Edwards, Eva Short and Madison Powell

The University of Arkansas equine judging team was crowned champion of the 2019 National Cutting Horse Association Judging Contest held Dec. 6-8 in Fort Worth, Texas.

"I am extremely proud of this team," said head coach Jordan Shore. "Many of them had very little judging experience, so the fact that they were able to win shows how dedicated they truly were."

Competing against nine teams and 56 total contestants, Shore's group produced four top-10 finishers, including Reserve Champion, Laurel Dhority. Madison Powell, Anissa Edwards and Eva Short finished third, fourth and sixth, respectively, while Paige Williams (19th) and Kelsea Davis (23rd) rounded out the U of A group.

In addition to their team and individual trophies, the group was also awarded commemorative belt buckles, gift certificates for a free CINCH western wear product and a \$2,000 scholarship for the judging program. }

REPS Participate in Bumpers Bash, Host Welcome Back Event

The Animal Science REPS had a successful semester coordinating events, visiting local high schools and recruiting at various events.

Fall classes began on Aug. 26, and students were greeted with several back-to-school activities including the Bumpers Bash event. This event gave all students on campus a chance to learn about clubs, organizations and extracurricular activities available

through the college. While attending, the REPS students presented information on the duties and purpose of the group, while simultaneously promoting the Department of Animal Science.

A second event, the Animal Science Welcome Back Bash, let students spend time with peers, faculty and staff while grabbing a free hot dog and chips between classes. The Animal Science

REPS members greeted attendees and served the food.

The function of the ANSC REPS is to promote animal science, provide student perspectives to future students, and educate about the department. This year's REPS members are: Elle Rottman, AnnaLee Parker, Hanna Dickey, Shelby Horton, Noah Black-Ocken, Gabriel Apple, Katie Long and Spencer Thraikill. }

U of A Students Travel to Australia for Unique Study Abroad Experience

University of Arkansas students had the opportunity to travel to Australia this August for the faculty-led study abroad trip "Trekking Australia: Animals, Aborigines, Rainforests, and Reefs." The trip was facilitated by instructor, Kathi Jogan. While abroad, the group spent time in Brisbane, Townsville, Magnetic Island and Hidden Valley.

The experience was full of activities, education and travel. The group visited the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, the Billabong Sanctuary and the James Cook University School of Biomedical Veterinary Science, among numerous other places, as well as experienced a guided rainforest walk, went snorkeling in the

Great Barrier Reef and so much more.

"I got to experience the unique wildlife, beautiful coral reefs and various climates while learning the impact we have on it," said biology student Ashlyn Anderson.

Many students specifically expressed excitement at the opportunity to hold a koala and spot platypus in the wild. The unusual and close-up animal experiences were a major highlight for many students who went on the trip.

"I got to see animals in the wild that I'll never see again," said animal science student Emily Lautz. "AND, learned that I'm a natural-born boomerang thrower." }



Study abroad group poses on the beach with their Razorback flag.

Animal Science Students Prepare for Academic Quadrathlon

On Friday, Dec. 6, three teams of four undergraduate students competed at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center for the chance to represent the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture and Department of Animal Science at the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Southern Section meetings in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Southern Section Academic Quadrathlon, which takes place in January, is an annual skills competition featuring teams of Animal Science undergraduate students from universities in the southern United States. Teams compete in a lab practicum, written exam, oral presentation, and quiz bowl, and the winning section team will go on to the ASAS National Academic Quadrathlon in July. This year, Cole Crumpacker, Nathan Davis, Erin Falkenstien and Laykyn Rainbolt will be representing the U of A at the Southern Section meetings. Thanks to Janeal Yancey for coordinating this activity. The department wishes the team best of luck! }

Animal Science Day Highlights Halloween

The sixth annual Animal Science Day on Thursday, Oct. 31 capped off a week of Halloween festivities throughout the department that included costume and door decorating contests, along with a day of spooky treats brought in by faculty and staff members.

Animal Science Day welcomed hundreds of attendees from the university and surrounding community. The event, coordinated by the Department of Animal Science students, faculty and staff, was held in the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center and featured an entire evening of animal science and Halloween-related fun.

Activities included costume contests for both humans and dogs, a corn maze presented by the graduate

students, trick-or-treating, games, and much more. Highlighting the end of the night was the pre-vet club's "Pie a Professor" event, which featured Lauren Thomas getting pied in the face by one of the club members. }



Animal Science Day attendees petting a horse.

Animal Science Participates in FFA Tailgate

The Department of Animal Science set up an informational table and participated in the Bumpers College FFA Tailgate prior to the Razorback's home football game against San Jose State.

The tailgate featured informational tables and activities from every Bumpers College academic department, along with games and displays from various clubs and organizations. Food and drinks were also provided to the large group of FFA members in attendance. }

OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute Visits Department Facilities

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute sent members and guests to the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture facilities for an 'Inside the Farm' tour on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The group began their visit at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences where they met with Ryan Dickson, assistant professor of horticulture, who shared information about research on hydroponics, closed production systems and hemp production. Additionally, John Clark, distinguished professor of horticulture, and Margaret Worthington, assistant professor of horticulture, led the group on a tour where they discussed the histo-

ry of the division's muscadines and cotton candy grapes.

Following information sessions by Brian Haggard of the Arkansas Water Resources Center's research wing, along with Jamie Baum, professor of nutrition, the group was treated to a brisk hayride over to the Washington County Cooperative Extension Ser-

vice office. Next, the group enjoyed a tour of the Animal Science research farm, where Dirk Philipp, associate professor of animal science, and Darren Bignar, manager of the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center (PWASC), presented riparian zone and animalscience research demonstrations.



Brady Barnard, Madison Powell, Ashton Williams and Anissa Edwards showcased events for the visitors.

In their final stop, the group visited the PWASC to view a demonstration from the U of A ranch horse team. Head coach, Jordan Shore, discussed the various events and disciplines featured in ranch horse competitions, while four team members offered showcases of each section. }

Animal Science Hosts Young Cattlemen’s Leadership Class

The Department of Animal Science hosted the fourth session of the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Young Cattlemen’s Leadership Class Oct.



Bryan Kutz discusses livestock selection processes.

28-30 in Fayetteville.

Participants gained an understanding of the processes their beef product undergoes from the harvest to the plate. In understanding those processes, they will be better educated to tell the industry story at the meat case or an online blog as necessary. The program focused on beef cuts and the processes necessary to provide retail meat case products. Members of the class participated in a mock auction to

purchase steers, then processed their steer, and consumed some of the end product during a sensory and tenderness demonstration.

Thanks to Janeal Yancey and Tim Johnson (Manager, UA Division of Agriculture Red Meat Abattoir) for coordinating this event; and John Marcy (Poultry Science), Bryan Kutz and Kenny Simon for speaking to the group. This program was funded by the Arkansas Beef Council. }

Bumpers College Welcomes 4-H O’Rama for Picnic and College Fair

In late July, the University of Arkansas hosted the annual 4-H O’Rama Convention with the students and their agents visiting Bumpers College for an afternoon picnic.

Each department was able set up an informative table and presented an interactive experience for the students to participate.

The Department of Animal Science offered visiting 4-H members the opportunity to challenge their friends in a mini quiz bowl event through answering a variety of questions sorted by category and difficulty. The booth also featured two sheep brought in from the university farm that presented visitors a pristine photo opportunity. }



Darren Bignar quizzes some 4-H members on their animal science knowledge.

Shaping the Future Online Auction Benefits 4-H, Livestock Judging

The Arkansas 4-H livestock program and U of A livestock judging team hosted the Shaping the Future Online Auction Aug. 1 and 2.

The auction offered numerous items including a beach condo; Simon Farm beef; Tyson’s Chair-

man’s Reserve premium steaks; a senior photography session; swine, beef and lamb showmanship sessions; and bull, swine and goat semen.

The programs would like to thank all those individuals and companies who donated items

for the auction as well as the many auction buyers. Approximately \$5,000 was raised, with the proceeds benefiting both programs. Special thanks to Chelsey Kimbrough and Bryan Kutz for coordinating this successful effort. }

Researchers to Study Influences on Bovine Respiratory Disease

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a \$400,000 grant to a team of faculty researchers within the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture to study the respiratory microbiome and metatranscriptome of beef cattle and their influences on bovine respiratory disease.

The grant, which was issued through the USDA's National Institute of Food Agriculture, will fund a four-year study focusing on what is widely considered the most common and costly disease facing beef producers. The study will coordinate research conducted at multiple locations within the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, including those at Batesville, Savoy and Hope.

The study is being conducted by researchers within the Division of Agriculture as well as two additional institutions. The Arkansas cohort includes Jiangchao Zhao, Beth Kegley, Jeremy Powell and Jung Ae Lee-Bartlett. John Richeson of West Texas A&M University and Sarah Capik of Texas A&M AgriLife Research are also part of the team.

"This funding is very exciting and timely," said Zhao, and associate professor of animal science for the Division of Agriculture. "It will allow our strong interdisciplinary team to investigate the correlations between the bovine respiratory microbiome and BRD with a longitudinal design and multi-location cross-validation."

"Much of the existing research into bovine respiratory disease, or BRD, has been problematic," Zhao said.

Most of the prior research focused on studying cultured bacteria only, while essentially de-emphasizing uncultured bacteria. The process of collecting nasal samples from cows, which used an invasive technique deep into the animal's nasopharyngeal, has led to much of the existing data being regarded as unreliable. This type of collection was often more difficult and could cause bleeding, thus preventing larger amounts of samples from being taken.

Additionally, Zhao said, the method

of acquisition of calves used in previous studies has led to reliability questions. Typically, these animals were brought in from auctions which resulted in researchers possessing very little information on the genetic or health backgrounds of each calf.

"The problem has been there for many years," said Zhao. "But little progress has been made due to many factors, some of which include the limitations to the few cultured bacteria, the lack of cohorts of calves with known backgrounds and the lack of a fast and non-invasive sampling method."

Zhao said the research team plans to use the grant funding to implement new techniques and methods in hopes of making further progress into predicting and treating BRD. The research will focus on both cultured and uncultured bacteria, thus highlighting the additional form of bacteria.

Additionally, researchers will use a short nasal swab over the invasive nasopharyngeal swabs. By using this technique, the researchers will be able to safely and easily collect a large number of samples, while simultaneously making it much easier on the cows.

The final aspect the group hopes to improve upon is through the use of a longitudinal study, Zhao said. This form of data collection will allow researchers to obtain multiple samples from the same animals throughout the duration of their life cycle. The longitudinal study will allow researchers to gain a solid understanding of each cow's genetic background and health history.

"This longitudinal design is very powerful in that it eliminates many confounders such as genetics and sex," said Zhao. "This design will also reveal the temporal and spatial dynamics of the bovine respiratory microbiome, which sheds insight into the ecology and mechanisms of the pathobiology of BRD."

Through this research, Zhao and the group hope to validate their study and allow their findings to be used to help predict BRD in calves using the samples



Jiangchao Zhao leads the group of researchers.

obtained from the nasal swabs. The results of these nasal samples could lead directly towards helping beef cattle producers save money and maintain healthier stock overall. For example, a young calf whose nasal swab comes back clean would not need to be exposed to expensive BRD treatments. However, if a calf's nasal swab is showing predictive signs of BRD, then it could be diagnosed and treated at a very young age, thus greatly increasing its likelihood of growing up healthier.

"We hope to develop an accurate panel of nasal microbiome biomarkers that could be used to predict and diagnose the onset of BRD with a fast and non-invasive nasal swab sampling method," said Zhao. "We would also better understand the pathobiology of BRD and hopefully identify some probiotics that could be used to prevent and/or treat BRD to reduce the cost and load of antibiotic treatment."

This is a four-year project that began Aug. 1, 2019, and runs to July 31, 2023. This large animal study with a longitudinal design, multi-location and multi-year cross-validation is expected to have a big impact on the beef cattle industry. }

Research and Extension Center Marks Centennial with Dedication

For 100 years, the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center has been a center of innovation in agriculture and food research. The center's centennial was celebrated Friday, Oct. 11 by renaming it in honor of the late Milo J. Shult, who served 19 years as vice president for agriculture for the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture.

The Milo J. Shult Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SAREC) is the main research complex for the Division of Agriculture. Through multiple land acquisitions, SAREC has grown from 423 acres to 725 acres, and is centrally located just minutes away from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville campus. Continuing a long tradition of scientific excellence, faculty and staff of SAREC today pursue research discoveries in every experiment station discipline and work closely with the Cooperative Extension Service to deliver the resulting science and expertise to the public.

The Washington County Cooperative Extension Office, Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center and the Dorothy E. King Equine Pavilion also are located at the SAREC. }

Animal Science Faculty Speak at Cattlemen's College, Convention

Three Animal Science faculty members spoke at the Cattlemen's College during the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association (ACA) Convention and Trade Show from Aug. 29-31 in Hot Springs.

Charles Looney spoke on developing beef heifers; Shane Gadberry provided a GoGreen(Green Tag) program update; and Heidi Ward provided information on beef quality assurance. All three sessions were very well-attended.

The Cattlemen's Colleges provide educational opportunities for cattle producers of all types from leaders and experts in the industry. The annual ACA trade show and convention features information sessions with colleges; updates from throughout the industry; and opportunities for cattlemen-to-cattlemen fellowship.

Additionally, the ACA also showcases a large farm and ranch show where cattlemen and women can meet with businesses from around the state. }

Animal Science Group Travels to China, Hosts Focus on Forages Field Day

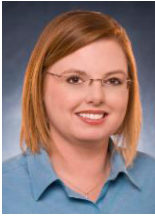


Yan Huang, Michael Looper and TC Tsai at the Great Wall of China.

- A group from the Department of Animal Science traveled to Beijing in November for the Fifth International Animal Intestinal Ecology and Health in China summit forum. Jiangchao Zhao presented at the event to over 1,000 attendees, and was accompanied on the trip by Michael Looper, Yan Huang and TC Tsai. During their visit, the group was able to make a stop at the Great Wall of China for some photos.

- On Oct. 18, faculty and staff within the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture presented research related to pasture and forage production at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center and Milo J. Shult Agricultural Research and Extension Center. The Focus on Forages Field Day event, coordinated by Johnny Gunsaulis of U of A Extension-Benton County, also featured field tours and a free lunch for all attendees. The list of Animal Science presenters included: John Jennings, Ken Coffey and Kenny Simon. }

Alumni News



Trevyr Lester

Walmart Senior Buying Manager and University of Arkansas alumna, Trevyr Lester, was a featured speaker at the Seaweb Seafood Summit held in Bangkok. Lester, who earned her B.S. and M.S. in animal science, gave two presentations during the week that covered organizational collaboration and strategies for making supply chains suitable for everyone. She joined Walmart in 2004 as a project manager in the food safety and security team, before moving into the merchandising organization in 2006. }



Scott Fry

University of Arkansas and Animal Science alumnus, Scott Fry, returned to his alma mater Aug. 12 to hold a seminar for faculty, staff and graduate students. Fry, who currently serves as the director of technical services for Micronutrients--a provider of hydroxy trace minerals for animal feed--presented an overview of the company from both a global and local perspective. He also discussed his personal career path and the valuable experiences he encountered, along with providing lunch and a Q&A session for the attending graduate students. }



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In small and big ways, your gifts change lives. Increasing private gift support is critical to moving the University of Arkansas and the state of Arkansas forward. If you would like to join other alumni and friends to support the Department of Animal Science at the University of Arkansas, contact: Terry Bumgardner, Development Office, Bumpers College, E-108 AFLS, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, 479.575.2270 or email: tbumgar@uark.edu

Tell us about yourself!

You can also submit online under the Alumni tab at Animal-Science.uark.edu!

We would like to hear how and what you're doing. Please use this form to provide information about yourself that you would like to see in the Alumni news section of a future Animal Science Newsletter. Also, please let us know if you would like more information about the Animal Science Alumni Society.

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Michael Looper Receives Producer Education Award



Michael Looper

Michael Looper received the 2019 Arkansas Cattlemen's Association (ACA) Producer Education Award while attending the annual ACA convention and trade show from Aug. 29-31 in Hot Springs.

"It was a huge surprise to receive this award," said Looper. "I accepted it on behalf of the entire department, as it is a testament to

the strong relationships we have with stakeholders—specifically the cattlemen and women of Arkansas."

The Producer Education Award is presented during a banquet on the final night of the event and recognizes the awardee's commitment to the education of producers in Arkansas and for their support of the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association. }

Charles Looney Receives President's Award



Charles Looney

The American Embryo Transfer Association (AETA) presented Charles Looney with the President's Award during the annual meeting in Colorado Springs on Oct. 25.

The award recognizes Dr. Looney's continued service to the AETA and was one of the highlights of the 2019 AETA-CETA/ACTE Joint Annual Convention. This event featured sessions that consisted of pre-conference seminars, invited presentations, workshops and various additional sessions.

The purpose of the American Embryo Transfer Association is to unite those organizations and individuals in the United States engaged in the embryo transfer industry into an affiliated federation operating under self-imposed standards of performance and conduct. }

Jason Apple, Charles Rosenkrans Retire from Animal Science

In August, the department celebrated the careers and retirement of two faculty members, Jason Apple and Charles Rosenkrans.

The duo was joined by family, friends and colleagues for cake, light refreshments and celebrations.

Jason Apple will be taking over as chair of the Department of Animal Science and Veterinary Technology at Texas A&M Kingsville, while Rosenkrans will be assuming the role of chair of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Clemson University.

Apple began his career at the University of Arkansas, Department of Animal Science as an assistant professor in 1995, and then moved into an associate professor role in 2001. From 2007 until his

retirement from the university, he served as a professor.

Rosenkrans began his tenure in Animal Science as an assistant professor in 1991, before working as an associate professor in 1996. He then served as a professor starting

in 2003, while assuming a variety of additional duties throughout the remainder of his tenure, including serving as the graduate program director for Bumpers College from 2018-19. }



Jason Apple and Charles Rosenkrans share cake-cutting duties at their party.

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