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Animal Science E-Newsletter, June 2019

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Animal Science E-Newsletter

June-July 2019



Thoroughbred Class Experiences Unforgettable Trip



In late May, 12 undergraduate students had the opportunity to participate in a class that focused on the Thoroughbred industry and culminated in an unforgettable trip to Lexington, Kentucky. Led by Dr. Kathi Jogan, the class was given unique access into many of the industry's world-class facilities.

Students visited Keeneland racetrack, along with numerous elite breeding facilities located around Lexington, including Darley, Spendthrift, Claiborne, Winstar, Taylor Made and Gainesway Farm. In addition to these breeding facilities, the class made stops at major equine veterinary practices such as Rood and Riddle Equine

Hospital, Haygard's Equine Hospital, and KESMARC, which is a well-known equine rehabilitation facility. Each of these visits allowed students an unprecedented opportunity to meet and speak with equine veterinarians and farm managers.

"I learned more about the Thoroughbred industry within a week walking around the greatest farms in Lexington than I could have ever learned from any number of textbooks," said AnnaLee Parker.

Highlighting the trip were opportunities to see legendary Triple Crown winners, American Pharoah and Justify; leading sire, War Front; Arrogate, earner of over \$17 million; and champion race mares, Beholder and Rachael Alexandra. Students were also able to visit with University of Arkansas graduates currently working in the industry, including Brianne Sharp, Market Research Coordinator at Godolphin's Jonabell Farm; Laura Kirkely, who

works at Haygard's Equine Hospital; Jordan Peyton, who works at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital; and Rachel Knox, who manages broodmares at Stone Street Farm.

"This trip was one of the best opportunities I have had at the U of A," said Gabrielle Abbott. "It allowed me a once in a lifetime chance to visit and learn about so many incredible and influential racehorses and the people that care for them."

The 3 credit hour Thoroughbred industry class is offered every other year during the spring semester. The trip to Lexington is embedded in a 1 credit hour class offered in the first summer session for students who have completed the Thoroughbred industry class.}



2019 Livestock Judging Camp

Each year, the University of Arkansas, Department of Animal Science hosts a livestock judging camp where youth from across the state and surrounding states can learn about the priorities in livestock selection, update themselves on the current industry trends and improve their communication skills through the presentation of



oral reasons. A total 24 students, ranging in age from 9-17, participated in this year's camp which was held from Wednesday, June 26 through Friday, June 28.

Students were divided into three divisions dependent upon their knowledge and level of

experience. These students worked tirelessly to learn all they could about sheep, cattle, hogs and goat, along with acquiring knowledge about the reasons and terminology that accompany each species. The second day ended with some fun activities in which the students wore themselves out at the Altitude trampoline park. On the final day, the kids were put to the test on what they had learned in the form of a judging contest that consisted of six classes with three sets of oral reasons. The camp then concluded with an awards presentation, given to the following students:

Beginner: Chloe Thomas, 1st ; Jewels Stewart, 2nd ; Rylie Bignarz, 3rd

Intermediate: Sutton Nelson, 1st ; Abi Kelly, 2nd ; Madalyn Johnson, 3rd

Advanced: Baden Harrod, 1st ; Selby Best, 2nd ; Erica Corker, 3rd

The Department of Animal Science and Bryan Kutz would like to thank all those who contributed to making this camp a success, including Dianna and Butch Watson; Chelsey Kimbrough; interns Dixie Miller and Mesa Kutz; and present and future U of A judging team members, Cheyanne Fogg, Brittany Luttrell, Nate Davis, Alexa Wandry and Alex Theodore.}

Michael Looper Receives American Society of Animal Science-Administration Award



Michael Looper received the 2019 American Society of Animal Science Fellow Award for Administration during the July 8 opening ceremony at the 2019 ASAS-CSAS annual meeting held in Austin, Texas.

“I have been involved with ASAS for almost three decades, and the society has provided me an avenue for excellent science and leadership opportunities,” said Looper. “Receiving the ASAS Fellow is

confirmation from peers that I have added value, in a small way, to the livestock industry and ASAS. I’m also pleased this award brings recognition to our Department of Animal Science.”

Looper has served as the head of the Department of Animal Science since September 2011. During his tenure, the department has seen vast improvements consisting of faculty additions and a revamping of the overall student experience to include increased enrollment and growth among the graduate program and Ph.D. candidates. He has also put an emphasis on increasing research efforts and providing renovations for the laboratory spaces. Looper received his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Arkansas before completing his Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University.

The ASAS annual meeting is held in rotating locations every July and provides a multitude of trade shows, presentations and events. The Fellow Award for Administration recognizes a member of ASAS for their continuous membership for a minimum of 25 years, along with their distinguished service to the animal industry and American Society of Animal Science. The award is sponsored by the American Society of Animal Science. }

Beth Kegley Elected President of American Society of Animal Science



Beth Kegley, a professor in the Department of Animal Science, has been elected president of the American Society of Animal Science.

Kegley officially took over duties at the society's annual meeting on July 10.

"I feel extremely honored and humbled," said Kegley. "I am looking forward to an exciting year and am happy to serve."

As president, Kegley will travel internationally to represent ASAS, including a trip to Ghent, Belgium in August to the European Federation of Animal Science meetings and then to Argentina in October.

Kegley has been a professor at the University of Arkansas since 2007, while simultaneously conducting research into the impact of nutrition on immune response, disease resistance, and performance of cattle. She earned her B.S. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, before completing both her M.S. and Ph.D. at North Carolina State University.

The American Society of Animal Science is a professional organization that serves more than 5,000 animal scientists and producers around the world. }

Animal Science Department Participates in 2019 Dairy Days

Animal science faculty and graduate students participated in the 30th Annual 4-State Dairy Days at the Benton County Fairgrounds on June 21-23. Participants from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri attended the three-day event



which consisted of a cattle show and several youth activities, including a dairy products contest, showmanship, quiz bowl, dairy judging, skill-a-thon and fitting contest.

Animal science graduate students conducted the quiz bowl events which consisted of five junior and three senior teams competing for a trip to the National Dairy Quiz Bowl. The winning Arkansas

team, 'Dairy All-Stars,' will attend the national event held at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

The 4-State Dairy Days event is hosted by the Benton County Dairy Industry Association. }

Alumni Spotlight: Trevyr Lester Presents at Seafood Summit

Walmart Senior Buying Manager and University of Arkansas alumna Trevyr Lester was a featured speaker at the Seaweb Seafood Summit held in Bangkok in June. 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. }



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