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AVS Corner, May 2017

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AVS CORNER

TEACHING • RESEARCH • EXTENSION

May 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- The New Equine Center
- LNA
- Alumni and Stakeholder Spotlights
- New Faces
- Did You Know?



Equine business senior Caroline Sox and architecture students presenting their work to professors and industry professionals

PLANNING CUEC'S FUTURE

-CAROLINE SOX

Beginning in the fall semester of 2016, groups of students from two very different educational backgrounds, even countries, came together for one purpose. The task at hand was to re-envision the Clemson University Equine Center and create new master plans for the site. To accomplish this, four equine business students and a room full of architecture and landscape architecture bachelor's and master's students joined forces. The architecture students were put into three groups with one equine business student to serve as the equine consultant for the horse farm. The primary reason this project was so unique was that almost none of the architecture students had any background with horses, or animals in general. Our role as equine business students was to represent the nuances of the horse industry and serve as liaisons between those at the farm (employees and horses) and the rest of the student team. The project was part of a larger architecture studio related to rural design called Studio Appalachia.

We hit the ground running on this project by participating in multiple site visits to the Clemson University Equine Center and touring commercial and private equestrian facilities in North and South Carolina. We visited Tryon International Equestrian Center and other farms and homes to study famous architecture in the horse-centric location of Tryon, North Carolina, as well as a farm in Rock Hill, SC. These tours provided us with insight into equestrian facility design and assisted us in generating ideas for our own projects. We also gained valuable perspective from John Blackburn, AIA and Senior Principle at Blackburn Architects out of Washington, DC. Mr. Blackburn is an alumnus of Clemson University and a renowned equestrian facility architect.

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WELCOME TO THE 7TH EDITION OF THE AVS CORNER!

In this edition of the AVS Corner, our student editors have compiled a series of new and interesting stories and highlights for your reading pleasure. Within these pages, you will meet some new faces in the department and be reacquainted with some old (relatively speaking) hands. You will find an article on fashion at the farms as well as a spotlight on two of our very accomplished alumni and Stakeholder Advisory Board members (Lydia and Kevin Yon). Club activities are updated, LNA is reported on and a cover story about a joint effort between the Equine Center and Architecture is presented. Plenty of excitement to keep you hooked and coming back for more. Starting this semester, we have two new faculty members; husband and wife team Drs. Matias Aguerre and Celine Checura. Dr. Aguerre is a Forage Utilization specialist with a focus in



Dairy production, whereas Dr. Checura is a DVM/PhD and board certified in Theriogenology. Both of these individuals bring much needed expertise to our teaching and research programs. As I reported in the last edition, we are currently recruiting 3 additional faculty positions: Assistant Professor of Nutrigenomics, Equine Business Lecturer and Meat/Poultry Processing Lecturer/Lab Manager. Interviews are underway and by the time this newsletter is in your hands, we should have individuals hired to fill all three positions. In closing, I encourage you to let us know where you are and what you are doing. You never know, you might be the subject of our next newsletter. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and I look forward to our continued journey together. May God bless each and every one of you and Go Tigers!

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AVS CORNER EDITORS

Front Row: Peyton Voirin

Leslie Ward

Back Row: Kim Hill

Johanna Johnson (Advisor)

Annie Kate Herlong





THE NEW EQUINE CENTER CONT.

Midway through the semester, each group presented three master plans for the renovation of the CUEC. After in-depth research into the purpose, client base, and management of the farm, the groups settled on one of their designs and worked the rest of the semester on the details of that design, including specific architectural elements of buildings and landscape. The equine business students worked weekly with the architecture students to provide as much insight as possible into the world of equine husbandry and barn life. At the end of the semester, all students participated in a final review, where they presented the entire process of their design to an audience of architecture and landscape architecture professors and industry professionals as well as Mr. Blackburn and Ms. Libbie Johnson. Ms. Johnson is a well-known horsewoman and contributor to conservation and equine community development groups. Students presented drawings, 3-D printed scaled models, and estimated financial obligations of the projects. The end products from the students will be published by the studio team and made available to the CU Equine Center for future planning. Working with students from very different majors was both challenging and rewarding. Everyone was able to teach each other and share knowledge of our respective fields. This was a very unique, real-world opportunity to grow as an equine professional in a truly immersive collaborative experience.



Top: Graphic image showing potential design for the CUEC. Left: One of the groups featuring architecture students, a landscape architecture student and equine business senior, Caroline Sox. Above: Photo from the site visit to Tryon International Equestrian Center.

LNA

SHEEP REIGN SUPERIOR!

On Saturday April 1st, 2017 Clemson students competed in the Annual Little North American (LNA) Livestock Exhibition. At the beginning of the spring semester, students enrolled in the class, picked their species, and got to work feeding, grooming, halter breaking, and handling their animals. Students attended class and learned showmanship techniques from their teaching assistants (TAs).

In addition to attending class, students often spent hours of their own time going out to the Clemson farms to practice with their assigned animal. For junior Caroline Vella who was working with sheep, the preparation was the hardest part of her experience. "I had to change sheep twice throughout the semester," Caroline explained. "The first sheep had poor body structure making it unable to pull its head up correctly and then my second sheep ended up being pregnant. Getting such a late start with my third sheep, I had to put in a lot of extra hours. I thought it was going to be a real set back, but although I didn't win anything with my third sheep, Lamb Chop, we went to round robin and I'm really proud of that."



WINNERS:

Round Robin:

Champion: Allison Harnon
Reserve Champion: Hannah Richey

Beef Champion: Marti Leake
Beef Reserve Champion: Hannah Richey
Sheep Champion: Allison Harnon
Sheep Reserve Champion: Hannah Oswalt
Dairy Champion: Syndey Simmons
Dairy Reserve Champion: Mayson Cox
Equine Champion: Adrianna Fetterman
Equine Reserve Champion: Peyton Svagerko
Poultry Champion: LeeAnne Pate
Poultry Reserve Champion: Kameron Lavisky
Swine Champion: Pierce Bishop
Swine Reserve Champion: Hannah Calvert

Sportsmanship:

Beef: Marti Leake
Dairy: Mayson Cox
Equine: Jennie McDonald
Poultry: Brooke Blankenship
Sheep: Allison Harnon
Swine: Jada Jiles

Heardsman Award: Allison Harnon
Superior Stockman: Allison Harnon
Superior Species: Sheep





CLEMSON
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

LNA (CONT.)

All of the preparation students put in showed at the event. Clemson LIFE attended on Friday, and there were approximately 300 exhibitors on Saturday and 200-225 guests present at the banquet to witness all of the student's hard work. Freshman Adrianna Fetterman was nervous about her performance, but won equine champion. Fetterman said, "I was super happy with how patient my horse, Scooter, was at the show. He started getting fidgety after 20 minutes in the ring, but he held it together which meant so much to me because it showed me that even though he was anxious (about being there, the noise and the people), he trusted me when I said it was okay."

Ultimately, Allison Harmon won Round Robin Champion representing sheep, and Hannah Richey won Round Robin Reserve Champion representing beef. The superior species award went to the fluffiest of the species, the sheep! LNA students had to form bonds with and gain the trust of their animals over the semester, and the end result was a great livestock show. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

-PEYTON VOIRIN AND LOUISA KOCH

Systems approach to beef production education

The Master Beef Producer curriculum is designed to provide Extension education in a systematic format to best meet your needs as a producer.

I. Introductory Level

This level is geared toward those producers thinking about acquiring livestock or who have just purchased livestock. This level will be the most basic and is meant to give the participants some insight into what it takes to own and manage livestock.

II. Certified Level

This level requires current or previous animal management skills. Participants will learn about new techniques that they can then apply to their own operation. Includes hands-on activities and discussions that benefit those individuals who may be experiencing some real-life issues or obstacles. To complete this level, 25 credit hours and a one-year status at the Certified level will be needed before gaining eligibility to advance to Master.

III. Master Level

This level will push producers to explore new options on their farm that may require more advanced training. Producers will have to show dedication to the industry and be motivated to advance their operation. Producers in this level will need 35 credit hours and a two-year status as a Master before being eligible to move on to Distinguished.

IV. Distinguished Level

This level is for those producers really pushing to stay ahead of the market. These producers are likely making their living from their livestock and desire constant improvement. It includes the opportunity for individuals to gain credits from national scientific meetings, and from volunteer activities to help train other producers (i.e., teaching engagements and field days).

The certificate/level structure will allow for targeted program development based on education level, increased program effectiveness, increased adoption of new practices, and increased ability to track impact over a long duration. Each level consists of instruction hours, a farm progress self assessment, and written exam.



www.facebook.com/ClemsonBullTest | www.clemson.edu/extension/livestock

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

FROM THE FIELD: CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

CLEMSON COLLEGIATE HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION

HORSING AROUND

The Clemson Collegiate Horseman's Association (CCHA) had an exciting spring semester. In April, the club made a trip to Lexington, KY for the American Collegiate Horseman's Association annual convention. There, members had the opportunity to tour and learn about iconic places such as Keeneland Race Track and Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital while networking with horse industry professionals and other students from across the country. CCHA did several fundraisers for this event, including working at a local rodeo. Club members have also been busy learning about the local horse industry through farm tours and guest speakers such as Dr. Keith Stafford, equine veterinarian; and Heather Quinn, of Easy Bend Farm and Rodeo Company. CCHA looks forward to an exciting fall semester, which will culminate in their Trotting around the Tree Horse Show.

-LESLIE WARD

SIGMA ALPHA

THE WOMEN OF AGRICULTURE

Sigma Alpha had a busy semester! We started off by hosting spring rush which lead to the initiation of 5 new members into our sisterhood. For their class fundraiser they partnered with an animal rescue to have a Rent-a-Puppy on campus. We also took a weekend trip to Isle of Palms beach in Charleston where sisters got to relax and bond. Our socials and sisterhood events throughout the semester, such as Pancakes in Pajamas, were a success. We also focused a lot on scholarship this semester, with bi-weekly scholarship nights in Cooper library. Our favorite event was probably our annual Ag in the Classroom where sisters went around to a local school and taught the students there about the importance of agriculture. We also had a fundraiser profit night at Grouchos where we got to eat yummy food with friends and receive some money for our chapter!

-PEYTON VOIRIN



SWINE CLUB

LIVING HIGH ON THE HOG

The Swine Club started the semester off by attending the National Junior Swine Association Winter Type Conference in Perry, GA. The club was invited to volunteer at the day time shows and night time sale in exchange for travel expenses. At the sale, the top grossing hog sold for over \$60,000 with the sale producing much more. One member explained how they had a great time supporting the youth who were actively participating and showing their pigs. The club also spent time preparing for the showing opportunities coming up in the fall 2017 semester. The Starkey Swine Center has been breeding purebred Yorkshire pigs in the hopes that students might be able to show at purebred shows while also improving genetics. Swine club hopes to become more involved with the local 4-H clubs to promote increased participation at the youth level for showing at the state fair and other shows within the southeast.

-KIM HILL



FROM THE FIELD: CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



WAVS

ALL PAWS ON DECK

This spring semester has been a busy one for the ladies of WAVS! This semester continues their professional development and focus on developing leadership skills and dedication to community service. They have been volunteering at Crossroads Animal Rescue, and in February they sold candy grams for Valentine's Day to raise money for a WAVS scholarship. Students also made Valentines for the children at Greenville Hospital, and nurtured relationships with group activities like going to see A Dog's Purpose, glazing pottery, and participating in a self-defense class. In April, the group participated in the annual etiquette dinner, networking with industry professionals while enjoying a great meal at Pixie and Bill's. Both WAVS members and their "Lifeguard" mentors celebrated the semester's end with a bonfire!

-ANNIE KATE HERLONG

POULTRY SCIENCE CLUB

LET'S GET CRACKIN'

The Poultry Science Club (PSC) experienced a busy and exciting semester. During the month of February 2017, a number of PSC members attended the annual International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) in Atlanta, Georgia. PSC members had the opportunity to interview with a number of companies in hopes of obtaining summer internships and jobs after graduation.

Upon the completion of IPPE, the PSC invited a number of guest speakers involved with the poultry industry to speak at club meetings. Additionally, the PSC completed a number of fundraisers such as a Valentine's Day bake sale, an Easter egg dyeing event, and a Yeti cooler raffle. These fundraisers helped to sponsor the end of the year PSC hiking trip in North Carolina. We are excited to see what the fall semester will bring!

-HAYLEY BOYD

DAIRY SCIENCE CLUB

MILK FROM MOO TO YOU

The Clemson Dairy Science Club had a lot going on in the spring semester. With football games over, weekends opened up for more club events such as socials, farm tours, and our annual banquet.

The semester started with a new member meeting and tour of the LaMaster Dairy. Show team members were assigned calves to work with this semester to learn halter breaking and handling techniques. We also got together and hosted our annual faculty breakfast to thank all the AVS faculty members for their continued support and encouragement. We had six members travel to LSU to represent the club at the Southern Regional ADSA meeting. They participated in presentations, quiz bowl, and got to tour LSU's campus and dairy farm. Our very own Sara Garbowski placed second with her dairy production presentation. On the weekends we toured some of the local dairy operations including Satterwhite Farms, Mayfield Creamery, and Split Creek Farm, we went hiking, and cuddling with cows.

The end of the semester brought about our end of the year banquet where alumni, students, and advisors got together over food and fun. We handed out awards and announced the winners of the Adriane Bell Scholarship. We also turned over all of our executive positions and bid a farewell to our senior members.

This summer six members of the club will be traveling to Pittsburgh, PA to represent the club and Clemson University at the Annual ADSA Meeting. Wish them luck!

Are you an old member? Reconnect!

Facebook: @CUDairyScienceClub

Instagram: cu_dairyscience

Website: <http://clemsondairyscienceclub.weebly.com/>

-KAITLYN AMSLER



FROM THE FIELD: CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

PRE-VET CLUB

PAWGRESS REPORT

This semester the pre-vet club focused on having speakers from different veterinary schools come and talk about their admissions process. We had schools such as the University of Georgia, the University of Florida, Lincoln Memorial University, the Tufts Veterinary School, and many more. We wanted to give the club members a glimpse into as many veterinary schools as possible before the application opens up in May. We also had a radiology session with our advisor that gave us a hands on experience with looking at radiographs and CTs and figuring out what is wrong in each scenario. This semester we also took our 2nd annual spring trip. We travelled to the Georgia Aquarium in April to tour the veterinary facility there and learn about exotic animal medicine. The pre-veterinary club also worked on fundraising nights, and we had our first one at Sweet Shop Bakery on March 16th.

-REBECCA SCHENK



BLOCK AND BRIDLE

TAKING THE BULL BY THE HORNS

The 2017 Spring Semester has been off to an exciting start for Clemson's Block and Bridle Club. In February, sixteen of our current members, a few alumni, and several extension agents traveled to the National Cattleman's Beef Association Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. In Nashville, members were able to network with top cattle companies and gain an understanding of the different issues farmers face today. On the way to the conference, Block and Bridle stopped at Pleasant Valley Farms in Shelbyville, Tennessee for a farm tour. Shortly after returning from NCBA, the club helped out with the annual Clemson Bull Test Sale and the Angus Futurity Sale. The club is excited to see what the future holds for their rodeo arena. They are in the process of updating the facility and equipment allowing open ride nights and possible team roping events in the future. Lastly, the club was able to put on their biggest fundraiser of the year— Bulls and BBQ. Bulls and BBQ was held at Denver Downs again, and this year a portion of the funds went toward the Dr. Homer "Lee" Higdon III Scholarship Endowment.

-BREANNA KIMBRELL



AVS AMBASSADORS

ALL ABOUT THE AMBASSADORS

The AVS Ambassadors dedicated this spring to welcoming accepted students along with their families into the AVS department. The Ambassadors kicked off the semester participating in Destination Clemson, a CAFLS open house event where the Ambassadors are able to speak to potential students about their experiences at the different farms, clubs, research, study abroad, and answer any questions the students may have. The Ambassadors also participated in Spring Blitz, a University-wide open house in which CAFLS hosted an Information Fair about each major. The AVS Ambassadors also started a new tradition called "Be A Farmer For A Day, With LNA!" The AVS department invited local schools to visit the annual Little North American Livestock Exhibition to introduce them to the animals and talk to potential students about Clemson University. The AVS Ambassadors are looking forward to helping all incoming students integrate into our department this fall!

-SAMANTHA SANDERS

STAKEHOLDER/ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KEVIN AND LYDIA YON

Kevin and Lydia Yon began their journey together here at Clemson University. Their children, Sally, Drake, and Corbin, followed in their footsteps by attending Clemson. Now, Kevin and Lydia give back to Clemson in a number of ways, including by serving on the AVS Stakeholder Advisory Board. The Yon family manages a 2,000 acre farm with over 1,000 head of cattle in Ridge Spring, SC. They run an on-farm bull test for two groups of bulls every year and have two large sales each year, in October and February. Their forage-based operation is based on the theory that they are grass farmers and the cattle are the harvesters. Most of their customers are progressive commercial cattlemen. Lydia says that the key to working so closely with family members is resolving any work issues quickly. In her opinion, the best part about working in the cattle industry is the variety of tasks that come with each season and the opportunity to meet new people who share common values.

In addition to serving as stakeholders, Kevin and Lydia are Honorary Members of the Clemson Block and Bridle Club and Clemson Collegiate FFA. Kevin has served as President of the South Carolina Angus Association and the South Carolina Cattleman's Association, Chairman of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Beef Advisory Committee, has sat on the Beef Improvement Federation Board of Directors and the Advisory Council to the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium, and served as Vice-President of the American Angus Association. In the past, Lydia has served as director of the South Carolina Cattleman's Association and the Saluda Cattleman's Association, Secretary of the South Carolina Angus Association, advisor to the South Carolina Junior Angus Association, has sat on the Clemson University Board of Visitors, and the South Carolina Farm Bureau National Legislative Committee. The Yon family has also been very active in 4-H and FFA activities in their local community. We consider ourselves lucky to have such dedicated and knowledgeable industry professionals who are willing to give their time to help the AVS department!

-LESLIE WARD



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

KATIE BRADLEY

Class of 2007

B.S. in Animal and Veterinary Science

Currently employed with Purina Animal Nutrition Center as Dairy R&D Professional Scientist Sr. They are located in Gray Summit, MO.

JENNIFER FREEMAN

Class of 2007

B.S. in Animal and Veterinary Science, concentration Pre-Vet

Currently employed with Pineview Veterinary Hospital as an associate veterinarian. They are located in Bolton, NC.

WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE TOO!

We like to stay up to date on what all of our AVS graduates are doing. If you have an exciting new job, or we haven't heard from you in a while, please take a minute to fill out our graduate survey! You may see yourself in our next AVS corner! You can find it at this website:

http://qalz.azl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8vNHMyfdruQGbw9

DID YOU KNOW?

COVERALLS CAN BE A FASHION STATEMENT!

Being AVS majors, we are all too familiar with trips to the Clemson University farms. No matter how different we as students and professors may be, we all have one thing in common- a pair of coveralls. Although they may not be the most iconic fashion pieces, we asked AVS students, faculty, and staff to send in fashion-forward pictures of them sporting their coveralls in a unique way. We may all be required to wear them, but that doesn't mean that we can't put our own style into it! These looks were voted as the top three fashion-forward coverall ensembles.

-PEYTON VOIRIN AND ANNIE KATE HERLONG

OUR 2ND PLACE WINNER

is Saad Huessein! As you can tell, he is believer in accessories! Between the hat, scarf, and boots Saad makes a statement in his coverall ensemble.



OUR 3RD PLACE WINNER

is Tom Bunch, he likes to style his coveralls with a smiling swine!



OUR FIRST PLACE WINNER

for best coverall, is Caroline Vella! She's so excited about her fluffy sheep accessory that she just can't hide it. Wool is in style at the farm this season

MEET THE LAB TECHS

Faces working behind the scenes can have a huge impact on research productivity. In AVS, our lab technicians keep things running smoothly and offer assistance and guidance related to ongoing research projects. AVS has been blessed to have many talented and motivated lab technicians, and so we wanted to take a moment to make sure you know who they are!

-KIM HILL AND ANNIE KATE HERLONG



Rachel Smith is a graduate of Tift (now Mercer) University with a degree in behavioral science. In the past, she has been a social worker and a part of the crew at Split Creek Farm. Now she is a lab assistant for Dr. Susan Duckett. She explains that her work at Clemson is very different from her past, but she loves being a part of the research going on. Ms. Rachel likes to take care of the time consuming side of research so that the students can enjoy the rest, and her most interesting project so far has been with fetal lambs. She enjoys being a part of the animal science department where any questions she has are readily answered and she loves being able to work with the graduate students.



You have previously been introduced to Laine Chambers (histology) and Saphala Dhital (ruminant nutrition), however, this semester we also welcomed another new technician – meet Stephen Saunier! Stephen is the new lab technician working for Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Lascano. Their current project includes researching ways to supplement unsaturated fatty acids into cow feed. He has worked for various pharmaceutical and nutraceutical research facilities and also managed the Neuroscience of Addiction Research Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. His favorite thing about Clemson so far is the culture. “Everyone is incredibly friendly and everyone seems to be happy working here,” Saunier said. Fun fact about Stephen; he plays the banjo!



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

DR. PRATT

Dr. Scott Pratt, an associate professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, had a desire to study reproduction from an early age. His family, which has been involved in the cattle industry for over seventy years, inspired him to contribute to the field through research and farming of his own. Today students at Clemson benefit from his knowledge and experience in breeding, production, and management.

Dr. Pratt attended Clemson University for graduate school after his professor at West Virginia University recommended it. Growing up in the Potomac Valley, Dr. Pratt found a perfect escape from the cold weather here in the upstate. Following his masters program, Dr. Pratt attended University of Missouri for a Ph.D. His affinity for research and college football brought him back to the South a few years later.

Dr. Pratt is the lead senator of the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences and has also been involved in the Society for Study of Reproduction for over 20 years. He teaches many courses at Clemson, including Animal Reproductive Management, Reproduction and Lactation, Graduate Seminar, and Protein and RNA Analysis. He has studied reproduction in many species including cattle, pigs, sheep, chickens, pigeons, and mice. His is currently conducting research on hormone expression in the testes of cattle and semen characteristics in forage raised bulls.

He and his wife spend their free time riding ATV's, fishing and taking trips to the mountains. We are very blessed to have him as part of our faculty!

-MARILYN JACKSON

NEW FACES IN AVS



MEET JULIA TAGHER

Julia Tagher is the new Farm Manager at the Clemson University Equine Center. She graduated from Clemson with a bachelor's degree in Animal & Veterinary Sciences and a concentration in Equine Business in December 2012. After leaving Clemson, Julia managed an equine boarding and training facility in Anderson for a year, and then worked at SmartPak in Massachusetts for about two years. She missed working on a farm and living in the Clemson area, so she decided to move back, along with her boyfriend, Kanen Gentry, her Quarter Horse, Blue, and two dogs. She loves managing horses and people and she likes that her new job allows her to help improve the horses' performance through improved horse health. We are happy to have her back!

-LESLIE WARD

MEET DR. CHECURA

Dr. Celina Checure is one of the new faculty members in Animal and Veterinary Sciences!. She graduated from the Universidad Nacional de Río Cuarto in Argentina with the equivalent of a DVM. She has a master's in physiology with mention in reproduction from Colorado State University, and she has a PhD in endocrinology and reproductive physiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also a diplomat in the American College of Theriogenologists. Her clinical interest is in assisted reproductive technologies in horses and reproduction in all species.

-KIM HILL



MEET DR. AGUERRE

Dr. Matias Aguerre started at Clemson on January 2nd of the Spring 2017 semester. Dr. Aguerre's position is half teaching and half research. While his research is focused on understanding the relationship between agriculture and the dairy cow's diet, he actually grew up as part of a beef cattle family. Dr. Aguerre jokes that when he said he was going to study dairy cows he became the black sheep of his family. Originally from Argentina, Dr. Aguerre got his degree in Agricultural Engineering and then moved to Wisconsin to take an internship. He ended up staying in Wisconsin and completing his masters and PhD, during which he made his transition from beef to dairy cattle. His favorite part about his job is that it combines the cattle aspect with the agriculture aspect. Although he originally thought he just wanted to be involved with cash crops- the cows won him over! In his free time, Dr. Aguerre enjoys fishing. Clemson's lakes make the area the perfect place for him and his family, and he says that "the climate is a lot nicer than in Wisconsin." Dr. Aguerre knows you can't beat a nice sunny day on Clemson's campus! We are so thankful that Dr. Aguerre has joined us, and we appreciate all the hard work he is already putting into the AVS Department!

-PEYTON VOIRIN

MEET CARRA EISENBIES

Carra Eisenbies is the new Program Coordinator and Assistant Farm Manager at the Clemson University Equestrian Center. She began her new job this Spring, while finishing her Bachelor's degree in Animal & Veterinary Sciences with a concentration in Equine Business. Carra is originally from Hingham, MA and her favorite thing about living in the Clemson area is that there is a good sense of community. She loves that her new job allows her to spend time working with horses and meeting people who are passionate about the equine industry. She feels that the hands-on equine classes that she took during her educational career, her participation on the Clemson University Western Equestrian Team, and her work on a breeding and foaling practicum have helped prepare her to take on her new position. When she is not at the farm spending time with the horses, she enjoys spending time with friends, family, and her Portuguese Water Dog, Marina.



-LESLIE WARD



NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The AVS department is very excited to welcome Stacey Miller, our new Administrative assistant. She has been part of the Clemson family for 8 years now, before this as an administrator in the University's Fire and Emergency Medical Services department. She loves working with students and says that knowing she helps them gives her purpose. Her favorite thing about the AVS department is how welcoming and friendly everybody is. She grew up near Clemson and has been here ever since. Working at the University makes her feel like a part of something bigger and is a source of pride for her!

-ANNIE KATE HERLONG

AVSGSA

The Animal and Veterinary Sciences Graduate Student Association (AVSGSA) students have been busy with research, teaching, and a little bit of fun in between. In December 2016, the graduate students were able to put together two boxes full of goodies for a boy and a girl through the Operation Christmas Child program. In early January, the AVSGSA was also able to establish the Dr. Homer "Lee" Higdon III Scholarship Endowment with the help of Dr. Strickland, which will benefit the students of Block and Bridle for years to come. Additionally, AVSGSA continued their philanthropic work with a spring semester food drive for Clemson Community Care. In previous years there were over 700 cans donated, and the graduate students hope to continue to exceed that number. On a final note, the graduate students of AVSGSA had a little bit of fun in the semester's first graduate student trivia event, where they won first place! It goes to show that we not only know a lot about our respective areas of study, but also a bit about other stuff too!

-LOUISA KOCH

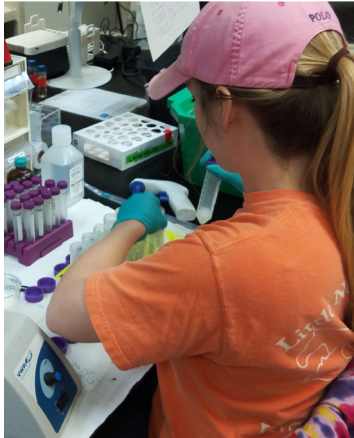


RESEARCH UPDATE

THE DIRT ON DAIRY

Dr. Lascano's ruminant nutrition lab has been extremely busy with research and writing this semester. The lab welcomed Stephen Saunier in January, who will be working as a research technician with Dr. Lascano and Dr. Tom Jenkins on several fermentation projects and developing different methods for protecting unsaturated fatty acids in the rumen. Master's student Becca Klopp will begin her live-animal research project on rumen development in calves this May. Doctoral student Saad Hussein is developing his research plan to work with precision-feeding fat to dairy heifers and plans on starting a project in the continuous culture fermenters this summer. Doctoral student Louisa Koch completed two continuous culture fermenter projects last fall, and is currently working on manuscript preparation for the Journal of Dairy Science and dissertation writing. She also plans on conducting another live-animal study this summer. Additional projects being conducted include gas production of sources of varying starch degradability, grocery waste as an alternate feedstuff, and determination of changes in microbial populations during milk fat depression.

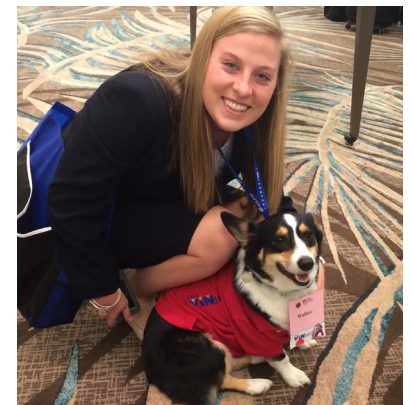
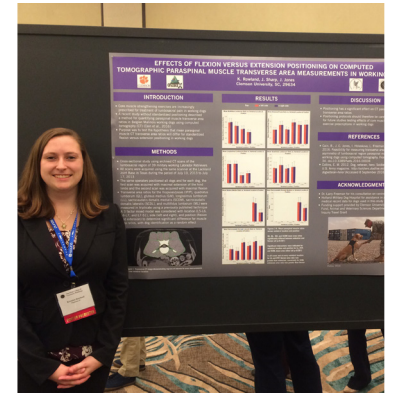
-LOUISA KOCH



RESEARCH IS FOR THE DOGS

My undergraduate researcher, Samantha Sanders, and I traveled to sunny Orlando, Florida on Wednesday, October 19th to attend and present posters at the American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR) Annual Scientific Meeting. This year the conference was a joint meeting with the Veterinary Cancer Society which gave us the unique opportunity to network with industry professionals from a variety of disciplines. While initially nerve-racking, attending the conference was more akin to going to a family reunion. Everyone knew everyone and we were quickly welcomed into the community of researchers and veterinary specialists. Samantha and I thoroughly enjoyed watching presentations and key note speakers which illuminated avenues of research and cutting edge veterinary medical technology with which we were previously unfamiliar. In between talks we took the opportunity to speak with conference vendors and learn about the state of the art devices currently available for purchase. It was during one of these breaks that we met Wallace, the famous corgi salesman, who certainly brought a smile to our faces. On Friday, October 21st, we presented our posters to the conference attendees. Both of our posters were based on research conducted with Dr. Jeryl Jones, and were related to lower back disease in military working dogs from Lackland Air Force Base. While presenting her poster, Samantha was approached by two men in military uniforms. The men informed her that they were among the veterinarians at Lackland Air Force Base that had cared for and treated our research dogs. When Samantha thanked the men for their service they responded by thanking her for the research she has conducted. It is not often that researchers have the opportunity to see the impact of their work, but the mutual dedication for the safety and well-being of military working dogs was instantly recognized and respected. We are grateful for the opportunity to potentially improve the lives of animals that protect and defend our country. Samantha and I would like to give special thanks to Dr. Strickland and the AVS department as well as Clemson's Creative Inquiry program for providing crucial travel funding.

-KRYSTINA ROWLAND



WHATS GOING ON?

2017 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING AVS-RELATED EVENTS

MAY

- ISHA National Championship
May 4-7
- Spring Commencement
May 11-12

JUNE

- CU Equestrian Center
Therapeutic All-In Riding Camp
June 6-10
- CU Equestrian Center
Horse Days of Summer Camp
June 12-16
- AVS Orientation
June 12-July 21
- SC State 4-H Horse Show
June 21-24

- ADSA Pittsburgh, PA
June 25-28

JULY

- ASAS Baltimore, MD
July 19-23
- SC 4-H Horsemanship Camp
July 5-9
- Tiger Talent Equestrian Camp
July 11-15

AUGUST

- CAFLS Turfgrass Field Day
- AVS Welcome Back BBQ

- First Day of Class
August 23
- Bash at the Barre
(TBD)
- Trottin' Tigers IEA Team
Tryouts Late August

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

- CAFLS Tailgate
(TBD)
- CAFLS Career Fair
October 4
- SC Association of Veterinarians
Annual Meeting, Greenville, SC
November 9-12

- Equine events
- Clemson AVS Department events
- General Events

*More information and additional extension events listed at <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/livestock/events.html>





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RECONNECT!

Interested in reconnecting with the AVS department? Contact us, and we can talk about what form that might take. Perhaps you're interested in being a guest speaker for one of our classes, acting as a sponsor for a WAVS member or moving a pet project forward. If you saw something here that piqued your interest, let us know! Former club members, students and faculty — we would love to hear about what you're up to and where you are!

Be sure to visit the department website for more information, to join our mailing list (mailing or email addresses) and to suggest stories for future newsletters.

Find us at: clemson.edu/cafls/departments/animal_vet_science/

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