

12-2016

AVS Corner, December 2016

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- Alumni and Stakeholder Spotlights
- New Faces
- Did You Know?



Sophomore, Emily Stewart-Foxx, helps a new calf adjust to bottle feeding at the LaMaster Dairy Center.

PUTTING IN THE HOURS

-ANNIE KATE HERLONG

AVS students, as well as students from other majors and fields, contribute on each of our five farms; the Equine Center, the LaMaster Dairy Center, the Morgan Poultry Center, the Starkey Swine Center, and the Simpson Beef Farm. This semester, the five Clemson farms employed 42 students. The Morgan Poultry Center typically employs the most students at 13, with the LaMaster Dairy Center and Equine Center following close behind at 9 students each. In order to secure employment on the farms, students must contact farm managers to assess qualifications and work schedules. Many student employees start off as volunteers.

Our student workers come from a range of backgrounds, and they choose to work on the farms for a variety of reasons. For Emily Stewart-Foxx, sophomore AVS, working at the LaMaster Dairy Center means preparing for her chosen career path. "After I graduate I want to start working at a research farm and eventually manage my own. I want to be able to teach others about agriculture and where their food comes from," says Stewart-Foxx. Having a job that allows her to learn about agriculture while being outside and with animals is her favorite part of working at the dairy.

According to farm managers, students can also learn a wide variety of important skills while working on the farms, ranging from everyday management practices to applicable industry knowledge. "Most AVS students now are not from farming backgrounds. They are unfamiliar with the day-to-day chores and decisions that go into the management of livestock.

WELCOME TO THE 6TH EDITION OF THE AVS CORNER!

Hello, from the corner office and welcome to another addition of the AVS Corner. Our student editors have been working hard this fall to bring you a series of new articles. There is a faculty spotlight on Dr. Nathan Long, a tenure track Assistant Professor hired in 2012, who has been a very productive researcher and active teacher. There are club updates and reports on student internships. This semester's stakeholder spotlight is focused on Ms. Sterling Sadler, one of our most ardent supporters and Secretary of the AVS Stakeholder Advisory Board. These are just a few of the articles you will find in our newsletter this fall, please read on!

We have had a number of staff retirements as well as one staff member moving onto another opportunity. Ms. Becky Rodgers, formerly Dr. Bodine's and Dr. Lascano's technician, has retired after 30 years from the department for medical reasons, please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Dr. Saphala Dhital was recruited recently to fill Ms. Rodgers open position. Ms. Stephanie O'Brien left the department this fall for another opportunity with the College of Engineering, and we were very fortunate to be able to recruit Ms. Lauren St. Clair to fill the vacancy. Ms. Rebecca Shirley (Senior Lecturer focused on the equine program), accepted a new position with the research office on campus. Finally, after 19 years with Clemson University, Ms. Opal Rousey, AVS Administrative Assistant (personally responsible for keeping me straight along with the rest of the department) retired. All four of these ladies had a great and positive



impact on the lives of the AVS faculty, students and stakeholders and are sorely missed. We in the AVS family wish them a blessed and happy future.

We currently have 3 faculty and 3 staff searches underway. These open positions include: 1) Assistant Professor of Nutrigenomics, 2) Equine Business Lecturer, 3) Meat/Poultry Processing Lecturer, 4) Equine Farm Manager, 5) Equine Assistant Farm Manager, and 6) Departmental Administrative Assistant. We plan to have the first 3 positions filled by August 15, 2017 and the last three by December or very early January.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I report to you that Dr. Lee Higdon a former graduate of the department (CU AVS grad 1999), adjunct faculty member and active advisor to the Block and Bridle Club, passed away following a tragic accident this fall. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers (especially during the upcoming holiday season). The Block and Bridle Club is currently working on setting up a scholarship in his honor and once it is in place, we will provide all of you information about the scholarship and opportunities to contribute.

As always, I hope you enjoy this edition of the AVS Corner and invite you to visit us the next time you are in Clemson. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. 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





As a farm employee, they get exposure to management and production, guided by staff and other student co-workers,” says Lindsay Dacus, Starkey Swine Farm Manager. AVS Senior Jameson Faulkner, hopes that working at the swine farm will help him be a stronger applicant for a master’s degree program. “I’ve worked with beef cattle, dairy cows, poultry and everything in between so I really wanted the opportunity to work with swine. Ultimately, my goal is to get a Master’s Degree in meat science,” says Faulkner.

While being a employee for one of Clemson’s farms allows students to obtain practical knowledge, it also hones skills necessary for everyday success. “I have learned so much about horse care, but beyond that I have learned other skills as well, like time management and communication. I also gained confidence in things that were new to me. If you would have asked me to drag a field last year I wouldn’t have known where to start,” says AVS sophomore Julia Schaumann, “But now, it’s my favorite chore!”. As if there weren’t enough benefits to being a research farm employee, it is also an incredibly rewarding experience. “The most rewarding part about working here is seeing the clients’ satisfaction when their horses are happy and healthy. I usually leave my shift covered in dirt and poop, but the horses look gorgeous, which makes it all worth it. I love contributing to the university this way,” Schaumann says.

The farms at Clemson University are just one of the things that make this school very unique. We thank all of the student employees for their hard work in maintaining a healthy and productive environment for the employees and managers as well as the animals.

“AS FARM EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS GET EXPOSURE TO MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION, GUIDED BY STAFF AND OTHER STUDENT CO-WORKERS.”
-LINDSAY DACUS

FACILITY UPDATES WE'RE GROWING

In the last edition of the AVS Corner we highlighted the renovations at the PEC, but the work didn't stop there! AVS has made a number of other updates within the last year. The meat lab coolers and freezers were renovated, and a new dry storage unit was added. New floor sealant, wall and ceiling treatments, and new electronic cooling monitors have modernized the facility. Clemson's Woodburn Barn, which is managed by the Block and Bridle club, was repaired and restored to working order after a fallen tree caused significant roof damage. In Poole Agricultural Center four labs have been updated, including three research labs and a teaching lab which can also be used as a wet lab and classroom with two-way video capability. Lab renovations included physical updates such as new, more functional layouts, new cabinetry and countertops, high quality lighting, new hoods, and chemical resistant flooring. The university provided funds for the full gutting and renovation of these labs. At the Equine Center, a new barn was constructed to house boarded horses that are in a training program with one of the staff members. It was completed in March 2016 and features six stalls, along with a wash rack and a tack room. We hope you'll come by to see all of the updates yourself!

-KIM HILL & LESLIE WARD



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT DR. LONG

Here in the Animal & Veterinary Science Department we are lucky to have faculty who are passionate about their jobs, faculty like Dr. Nathan Long! He has been in the AVS Department at Clemson University for approximately four years. Before coming here, he worked in the Animal Science Department at the University of Arizona for a little over a year. He is originally from Sandy Springs, South Carolina and received his undergraduate degree from Clemson. After traveling west to further his education, he decided to come back to Clemson to be closer to his family.

After completing his undergraduate degree, Dr. Long received his MS from the University of Georgia and his doctorate degree from Oklahoma State University. He then did his post-doctorate work at the University of Wyoming. He currently teaches Beef Cattle Techniques and Beef Production, and has previously taught Principles of Animal Nutrition. His favorite part of his job here at Clemson is doing research. He currently has three research projects that he is working on with the help of three graduate students and three undergraduate students.

In his down time, Dr. Long's favorite activities include farming and horseback riding. He and his wife have a farm, on which they raise beef cattle and have nine horses that they enjoy riding. We are very grateful to have Dr. Long back in Clemson to share his wisdom about cattle management and handling!

-LESLIE WARD

STAFF THANK YOU THEY'VE GOT OUR BACK

Behind the scenes of every great department are even greater support staff that keep the wheels and cogs of departmental operations greased and turning. Without these individuals, departmental progress would grind to a halt. AVS support staff navigate multiple and often confusing university systems and keep the Department Chair, faculty and students abreast of the latest university policies and procedures. If it weren't for our friendly, passionate, and professional support staff, there is a good chance our wheels might come off altogether, both as a group and individually! We would like to take a moment to introduce our staff and also to let them know how much we appreciate everything they do. When you are in town, please feel free to drop by and say hello, and thank these professionals for keeping your department great.

Opal Rousey has worked at Clemson for 19 years and has been the Administrative Assistant for the Department Chair since 2010. She has an Associate's Degree in Office Systems Technology from Tri-County Technical College. Her favorite thing about her job is connecting with people. Her favorite things to do in her free time are making crafts with her granddaughters and spending time with family.

Kathy Still has been a Student Services Manager in the AVS Department for four years. She came to us from Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. She has a degree in Administrative Management from Clemson. Her favorite part of her job is working with students. When she is not at work, she enjoys walking, hiking, boating, and spending time with "her" dogs Max and Maggie that live with her next door neighbor.

Kathy Boggs has worked at Clemson for 20 years and has been the Accountant for the AVS Department for four years. Her favorite part of her job is interacting with people, and over the years she has gotten to know people from all areas of the University. When she is not working, she enjoys camping, spending time with her granddaughters, and going on mission trips with her church.

Our newest addition is Mrs. Lauren St. Clair. She started her role as the Student Registration Coordinator this semester. Read more about Lauren in our "New Faces" section!

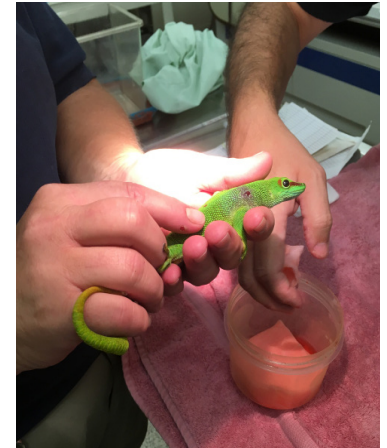


STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

HANDS ON LEARNING FOR AVS TIGERS

The AVS Department has long felt that internships provide an important avenue for facilitating learning and developing hand-on skills. Internships allow students to strengthen skills that they learn in class, to gain practical knowledge in the field of Animal Science, and to determine which aspects of the industry they want to go into. Each student is required to keep a journal of their internship experience, in which they record each day what they learned and what skills they utilized as they worked at their internship. At the end of their internship, each student creates a video highlighting the things that they learned. One intern, Brianna Cornachio, reports, "I enjoyed being able to successfully release animals back into the wild after rehabilitation" while interning at Volunteers for Wildlife. Dani-Irene Chaney, who interned at the Holland Military Dog Hospital, had the opportunity to see what it was like to be an Army veterinarian. She shared, "I think that every student should do an internship as part of their college experience!" The internship program will soon have its own page on the Clemson AVS website with examples of student internships. Be sure to check back to learn more!

-LESLIE WARD



Jillian Western participated in an internship at the Greenville Zoo this past summer. She most enjoyed taking care of the animals, particularly reptiles because "at Clemson [we] don't get much exposure to them." Her internship allowed her to observe the role of veterinarian in a zoo setting and has been the highlight of her Clemson experience!

FROM THE FIELD: CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

SIGMA ALPHA

THE WOMEN OF AGRICULTURE

This semester, the Tau chapter of the Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority initiated eighteen new members into the Alpha Psi class! This was the biggest group initiated in quite a while, and the sorority benefitted greatly by all that the new members had to offer. New girls added to the 36 active members alongside several alumni that continue to be involved. Another new face to the group was a faculty advisor, Dr. Patricia Layton, a professor in the Forestry and Environmental Conservation Department. With Dr. Layton's help, the sorority became more involved on campus, and even began partnering with the Louisiana State University Chapter of Sigma Alpha, located in Baton Rouge. Members shipped over fifteen boxes worth of donations to sisters and other organizations in Louisiana who were impacted by the recent flooding. Other accomplishments this semester included the Alumni Parent Tailgate and the CAFLS Tailgate. The girls look forward to the upcoming events in the spring, such as the 6th Annual Stud Auction and the sisterhood retreat. Please email satauchapter@yahoo.com to join our email list and national newsletter!



-RACHEL PAYNE



SWINE CLUB

PIGGING AROUND

In their second semester active on campus, Swine Club continued to grow and participate in events. Members participated in their first show this year at the South Carolina State Fair in Columbia. Only one member had previously shown pigs, so this was a learning experience! Five crossbred barrows from our own Starkey Swine Farm were exhibited in showmanship classes. The group of students showing were instructed by Miss Richelle Miller and practiced with their barrows for several weeks leading up to the show. Members also took a tour of Walker Century Farm located in Anderson, South Carolina to get an idea of how pasture pork was raised. Swine club hopes to continue to show each semester and promote the industry as a whole.

-KIM HILL



WAVS

BREAKING INTO 2016

In the Fall 2016 semester WAVS was very focused on student leadership and community service. Several former Lifeguards (student mentors) applied and were interviewed for four student leader positions meant to act as liaisons between the advisors and the WAVS new members and Lifeguards. This fall, new WAVS and their Lifeguards went on a scavenger hunt around campus to orient the new girls to Clemson University, stopping at essential places such as Cooper Library, Fike, the Union, and Harcombe dining hall. WAVS was very active in volunteering at Crossroads Animal Rescue where they socialized puppies and helped maintain a clean environment for both animals and employees. In addition to helping local animals, WAVS also cooked a meal for families in need in Oconee County's only homeless shelter, Our Daily Rest. The ladies of WAVS also supported one of their own by selling PuraVida bracelets to raise money for one member's mother who has been diagnosed with cancer. WAVS members attended tutoring for two of the toughest classes, chemistry and biology, to help build a solid foundation for the rest of their time at Clemson. Finally, the ladies also attended a Professional Development and Dress Seminar at Pixie and Bill's to round out the semester!

-ANNIE KATE HERLONG

FROM THE FIELD: CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



AVS AMBASSADORS

ALL ABOUT THE AMBASSADORS

AVS Ambassadors have kicked off what is sure to be a banner year with 14 enthusiastic members. The goal of an AVS Ambassador is to make every student, whether transfer, incoming, or prospective, feel welcomed in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. One of our new initiatives is to transition not only the new freshman class, but also our new transfer students into AVS. We began the fall semester with an ice cream social “meet and greet” for the transfer students, where they learned about our major and each of us. We assisted with the Welcome Back BBQ for all AVS students, where they had an opportunity to join clubs and meet their professors. We also dedicate each fall and spring to welcoming prospective/newly accepted students and their families into the department. We attended CAFLS fall recruiting events and spoke with prospective students about our experiences with academics, clubs, research, study abroad, and a multitude of other opportunities. These types of events contribute to improving our undergraduate numbers. Many of our AVS students cite these events as a major factor in why they chose Clemson, so we are extremely proud that our Ambassadors serve as such a positive face for AVS!

-SAMANTHA SANDERS



BLOCK AND BRIDLE

STILL WATERS

To kick off fall semester, new and returning members came together to build one of the best floats in the First Friday parade. Early in October new members officially joined the Block and Bridle family through the traditional day at the rodeo arena. As the club did last fall, they once again had the privilege of hosting the President’s Box for the Louisville game. On another note, this fall the club lost a mentor, helping hand, and one of the best story telling cowboys ever to grace Block and Bridle. Dr. Homer Lee Higdon III treated members like they were family, inviting them to his ranch in Florida for spring break trips, and serving as an example for the young men and women in our club. Block and Bridle held a barrel race named in his memory at the Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair. Heavy hearts mourned the loss of a great friend and Block and Bridle family member. A man with such faith in college students is hard to find, but that was just the kind of person he was. As Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another”, Dr. Higdon sharpened the minds of many Block and Bridle members, and he will be missed dearly by the Block and Bridle family.

-BREANNA KIMBRELL

PRE-VET CLUB

SO YOU WANNA BE A VET?

The Clemson University Pre-Vet Club had many great speakers come inform members about their future career as a veterinarian. We had Dr. Stafford, an equine vet from Pendleton, come and speak, and even more great speakers who all specialized in something different. This semester we also participated in the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians conference in Greenville. We had a booth and were able to network with the veterinarians participating in the conference! We also got the opportunity to sit in on the lectures given and learn about new medical advances in the veterinary field. Dr. Timmerman, a local holistic vet, held our second suture clinic this past semester, and members got to practice different types of sutures on fruits and learn how to draw blood on fake veins. This semester we started a new event where students applying to vet school can participate in mock interviews. This event was held after finals and included a panel of professionals to assist in interviewing students. Next semester we plan on taking a trip to a local zoo or aquarium to learn more about exotic animal medicine.

-REBECCA SCHENK

CLEMSON COLLEGIATE HORSEMAN’S ASSOCIATION

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE’S MOUTH

The Clemson Collegiate Horseman’s Association had a fall semester full of fun and educational activities. The annual Summers End and Trotting Round the Tree horse shows were successful and gave association members a chance to gain insight into the intricacies of running a horse show. Association advisor, Dr. Kristine Vernon, spoke to the group about career opportunities in the equine industry. Farm tours included a trip to Brook Valley Farm, an equine boarding facility in Anderson, SC and a trip to Joey McRae’s reining horse training facility. The group spent an afternoon at Denver Downs Farm enjoying the annual corn maze and harvest festival. Association members are currently planning activities for the spring semester, including farm tours and a trip to Kentucky for the National Convention. If you would like to become involved, or are interested in having students visit your operations, please contact Caroline Sox at cssox@clemson.edu.

-LESLIE WARD



FROM THE FIELD: CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

MAKING MEMORIES WITH THE 2016 TEAM

Another fall, another busy season for the Clemson University Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team. The team, consisting of Dorian Green, Hope Morris, Harris Jordan, James Scott and Lauren Scott, started the Fall season with a trip to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to compete in the Keystone International Livestock Exposition Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest where Dorian Green was awarded for her sheep judging skills and earned second high individual honors in the division. Most team members find the opportunity to travel to be one of the greatest perks of being a part of the team. It should come as no surprise that in addition to the farm stops for practice and experience, the team talked me into a detour to Hershey's Chocolate World for some "team bonding" on the way home from the contest!

The team will finish out the season in Louisville, Kentucky where they will compete in the National Championship Contest held at

the North American International Livestock Exposition. This will be the last contest for the 2016 team members - they have gone through countless practices, looked at more stock than they care to admit, and gained a unique understanding of the food animal industry in our country. Team members will mark their last and best cards and talk their last and most convincing sets of reasons and look back on the year with a smile and memories to last a lifetime.

-RICHELLE MILLER, COACH



POULTRY SCIENCE CLUB

WHAT'S PEEPING PEEPS?

The Clemson University Poultry Science Club (PSC) made new and exciting plans for the 2016-2017 school year. The PSC has been very focused on marketing the club to the general public through the use of t-shirts and koozies. Likewise, the club has also made plans to attend the annual International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) in Spring 2017 to connect with companies within the poultry industry.

The PSC engaged in a number of activities during the semester. Many members assisted with judging at 4-H poultry competitions throughout South Carolina and completed a number of service projects at the Morgan Poultry Center. The PSC also held many social events including football tailgates, hiking adventures, and an end-of-the-year Christmas party. We are excited to see what the spring semester has in store for the PSC!

-HAYLEY BOYD

DAIRY SCIENCE CLUB

A DAIRY HAPPY FAMILY

The Dairy Science Club started out fall semester with a "Dairy Social," a great time to meet new students, hang out with old friends, beat the heat with a big bowl of ice cream, and enjoy the company of the calves and cows. Guest speakers presented information about the latest trends in the dairy industry. During the semester, the show team was instrumental in building bonds between members, networking with professionals, and learning how to properly handle cattle. The show team members traveled around the state showing in several classes including a few at the SC State Fair. The club prepared a competitive team of students to attend Southern Regional Dairy Challenge in November. Members were also excited to promote the club at the CAFLS Tailgate event with a calf! The club is planning to attend the American Dairy Science Association's annual meeting in the spring, and continues to look for ways to improve in terms of academic activities, service opportunities, social occasions, and hands on events.

Are you an old member? Reconnect!

Facebook: @CUDairyScienceClub

Instagram: cu_dairyscience

Website: <http://www.clemson.edu/~cudsc>

-CALLIE RHOLETTER

STAKEHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

STERLING SADLER

The AVS stakeholder spotlight for this article is Mrs. Sterling Sadler. Being on the AVS stakeholder committee since it was formed, she puts most of her time and effort into the Clemson University Equestrian Center (CUEC). Working alongside Dr. Vernon, she has helped craft a master plan of where they want the CUEC to go in the future. Mrs. Sadler has shown Quarter Horses in amateur western pleasure classes for years, and currently owns mares that she loves spending time with out on her personal farm. However, that is not Sadler's full time job. At 63 years old, she is a full-time student at Francis Marion University- because Clemson is too far of a daily commute- pursuing a degree in History with collaterals in Spanish and Political Science. Sadler is currently a junior, and very proud of her 3.88 GPA! She believes that you are never too old to do what you want to do. Previously, Sadler has served as the state president for the conservation district, and presently, she has been elected by citizens of Florence County to be the commissioner for the Florence County Soil and Water Conservation District. In this role, she works with the Department of Natural Resources to help care for natural resources like soil, water, air, and wildlife. The Department of AVS is grateful for her work on the stakeholder board and looks forward to continuing to work with her in the future!

-LESLIE WARD AND PEYTON VOIRIN



CLEMSON EXTENSION STUDENT RUN OFFICE

OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

The Clemson Cooperative Extension's student run office is officially up and running! October 7th marked our first official day serving students, faculty, and members of the Clemson community. We had over 60 people attend our grand opening and Provost Jones even did us the honor of cutting the ribbon! Interns (including Raleigh Dawson, Sam Quinney, Hunter Morton, and Hope Morris), under the guidance of extension agents (Matt Burns, Lindsey Craig, Danny Howard, Corey Tanner and Charly McConnell) have already begun making an impact on students in the university by teaching dystocia classes to undergrads in animal science, attending the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, GA, setting up a booth at the CAFLS Tailgate, and speaking at the extension meet and greet, so students can learn more about opportunities in the student office. Program planning actively happens every day to make sure we best cater to students' interests. We are currently planning an Ag Awareness program, a farm city day on Bowman, wildlife management workshops, and food plot programs. If you're interested in an internship in the student office feel free to stop by, we would be happy to talk with you! Our office hours are 10-12 Monday-Thursday and 8-12 on Friday.

-RALEIGH DAWSON



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MIKE CUDD AND TOM HAGOOD

Upon finishing an animal science degree at Clemson University, there are many options for careers. Different companies within different industries all over the world are continuously on the lookout for prospective students who have received the well-rounded education Clemson has to offer. Several of our graduates are now employed at Smithfield Foods, Hog Production Division.

Mike Cudd is one of those who began in the swine industry March of 1995 in their trainee program. From there, he moved up to managing several farms. By 1998, he was a farrowing department head on a 4,400 sow farm, farrow to wean. Shortly thereafter, he became a manager at a genetic nucleus farm. In July of 2009 he became a Land and Nutrient (LNM) Specialist who oversees land application of lagoon water, manages the crops produced off of those lands, retrieves soil samples, manages lagoon levels and equipment, and maintains good standing with state permit guidelines as well as state compliance.

Tom Hagood is another graduate currently employed with Smithfield Foods, Hog Production Division. His current position is the Director of Production for the West Region Multiplication group. As Mike did, Tom also worked his way up in the company holding several positions. He even worked as a safety manager for a few years. Tom works to manage a group of approximately 50,000 sows which serve as replacement breeding stock to customers in the internal commercial production group.

Both of these former students learned some valuable lessons here at Clemson. They learned what the real world was like from experienced professors and what it meant to have drive and work ethic. To relieve some stress, Mike who is now passionate about hunting, used to slip into the horse farm to fish the ponds at night!

-KIM HILL



Mike Cudd and several of his colleagues and interns met with students at the Fall 2016 CAFLS Career Fair.



NEW STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

MORE THAN A MAJOR

Students, faculty, and alumni that are familiar with the AVS community at Clemson love it. It's a tight knit group of people that give off a family aura. Last year I was an engineering major on campus, and transferring from one of the biggest majors at Clemson to AVS was a huge change. Being a new student in the AVS world, I had no idea what to expect, but now I can confirm what everyone within already knew- it's an amazing program with faculty and staff that are dedicated and passionate, students that are hardworking and helpful, and resources that are useful and incomparable. Another student, Caroline Vella, a transfer from College of Charleston explained, "I never thought I would have the ability to go out to several farms and get so much hands-on experience. Coming from a college in the middle of a city, it's such a unique experience to Clemson." Even more than that, we have faculty and staff surrounding us willing to help get everyone internships on some of the farms, or even somewhere else that suits the student's interests. A freshman this year, Morgan Blanton, says, "the AVS staff have been amazing. I've heard stories of counselors that didn't seem to care or weren't much of a help because you're on your own in college, but my experience has been the complete opposite." This kind of an environment is so important because not only do we have all of the opportunities the college and the major provide, but we also have people around constantly encouraging us go above and beyond the basic college experience. Being new to this major, many students worry about their ability to succeed. Although there will certainly continue to be challenges, everything I have seen so far suggests that there is something special about AVS, and I can't wait to see how AVS helps me and my fellow students grow throughout the rest of our college careers!

-PEYTON VOIRIN

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Dr. Tanya (Bruce) Thomas
Class of 2005 (B.S.)
Veterinarian
Lucknow Equine Veterinary Services
Camden, SC

Hillary Valdetero
Class of 2009 (B.S.)
Instructional Designer,
Adjunct Instructor
St. Luke's Health Care System,
College of Western Idaho
Boise, ID

Melissa Williams
Class of 2009 (B.S.)
Owner/Operator J&M Coastal
Construction
Hardeeville, SC
Veterinarian Technician
Banfield Pet Hospital
Savannah, GA

Elizabeth Carter
Class of 2011 (B.S.)
Biology Teacher
Palmetto High School,
Anderson One
Pendleton, SC

Laura Hayes
Class of 2012 (B.S.)
8th Grade Science Teacher
Northwood Middle School
Taylors, SC

Congratulation Melissa and
Jonathan Davis on your recent
engagement!

Heather Williams
Class of 2013 (B.S.)
Asst. Show Team Coach and
Youth Riding Instructor
All American Arabians
Dallas, TX

Mady Kent
Class of 2015 (B.S.)
Reproduction Coordinator
Performance Equine Vets
Aiken, SC

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?

ANIMAL HOUSE

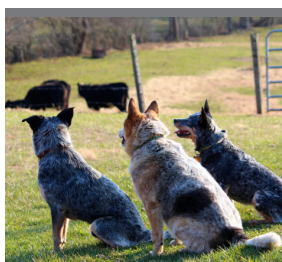
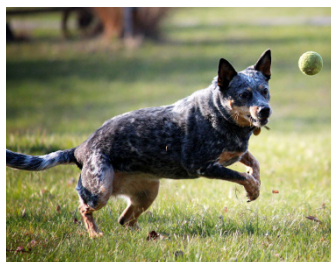
Did you know that nearly all of our faculty and staff not only talk the talk, but also walk the walk? Nearly all of the Animal and Veterinary Science faculty and staff own a pet of some kind. They have a wide variety of pets including dogs, cats, bunnies, chickens, beef cows, sheep and horses! Dr. Nathan Long takes the cake for the most pets; currently at home he has 2 dogs, 7 cats, 6 layers, 8 beef cows and calves and 9 horses.

-ANNIE KATE HERLONG



DR. TIFFANY WILMOTH

She has two cattle dogs Elle (left) and Joey (right). Elle is 4 years old and loves her tennis balls. Joey is 4 and was rescued from Central Missouri Humane Society. Joey loves toys but pigs are his favorite. Stuffed or squeaky, Joey can tell! She also has chickens and cats.

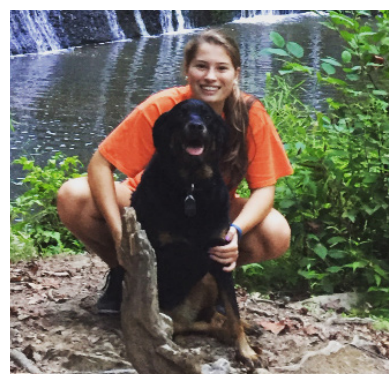
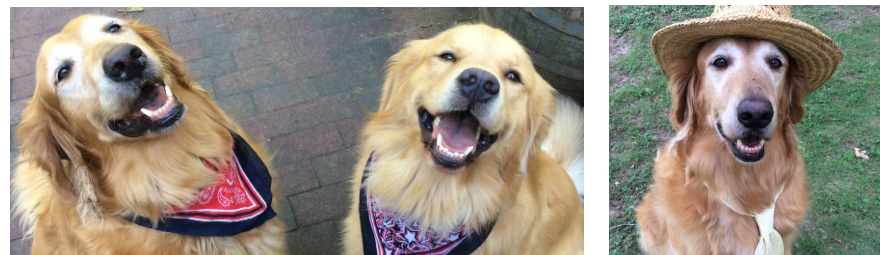


KATIE ELLIOT

She has two albino New Zealand White Rabbits, Draper and Sterling, that she rescued from a medical research facility in Charlotte, NC where they were to be euthanized. They were being used to test treatment of varicose veins. It took them a while to warm up to Katie but now they love ear scratches. Their favorite foods are carrots, lettuce, strawberries, peppers and papaya treats. Draper loves lying on the AC vents and they both enjoy destroying Katie's rugs.

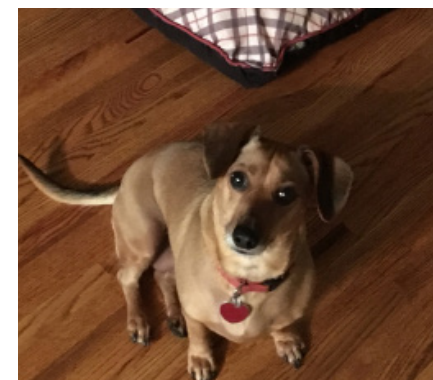
DR. HEATHER DUNN

Her "baby" Fenway is a golden retriever. He's 3 years old and goofy, goofy, goofy. He's "never had a bad day, and never had a cognitive moment either." Her other pup, Riggs, is a golden retriever. He's 8 years old and was a rescue from Adopt a Golden Atlanta. They've had him for 3 years.



SHANICE KROMBEEN

She has a Rottweiler, Labrador retriever mix named Bella. She is a rescue who loves the outdoors. Her favorite things to do are swimming, playing fetch, and going on hikes. Here she is hiking with her person at Brasstown Falls near Clemson!



KATHY BOGGS

She has a rescue dog named Sugar. After having a hard time finding a forever home she came to them in August 2013 at 12 weeks old. She didn't come with a pedigree but she is very smart, always entertaining and loving. They're happy she is a part of their family.



DR. JAMES STRICKLAND

He has two Ocicats named Mr. Biggs and Miss Littles. Miss Littles will sometimes play fetch and Mr. Biggs likes his person (Dr. Strickland's daughter, Ariana) so much that he will give kisses on demand. They are very playful and want their people close by at all times but also enjoy cuddling with each other.

NEW FACES IN AVS



NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION COORDINATOR

There are two new faces around the AVS department this semester. The first of which is Lauren St. Clair. Mrs. St. Clair, who is the new Student Registration Coordinator, came our program from Georgia State University, where she been working since 1995 as an administrative coordinator and assistant registrar. She has spent most of her time getting ready for and meeting new students, and her enthusiasm for her work has been impressive and contagious. She is most excited about working on a traditional campus where “it feels like a big family.”



DR. LASCANO'S NEW LAB TECHNICIAN

The other new face this semester is Saphala Dhital. Dr. Dhital is Dr. Lascano's new laboratory technician. At Clemson University, she will be the ruminant lab technician focusing on anaerobic fermentation, microbial profiling, and metabolite and nutrient analysis. She has two Master's Degrees which focused on the role of antibiotic resistant bacteria causing urinary tract infections in children and screening of antibiotics from microbial origin. She earned her PhD and was previously faculty at the University of Tokyo. She continued her work at both Massachusetts General Hospital and at Mississippi State University, and is now very excited to join the AVS department. She looks forward to spending time outdoors, “Clemson has a nice landscape and wide biodiversity of plants and flowers that makes everyday life good. I am also enjoying the nice weather at Clemson!” says Dhital.

-PEYTON VOIRIN AND ANNIE KATE HERLONG

GRADS ON THE GO



1. JESSIE TIPTON

Degree Program: Masters

Major Advisor: Nathan Long

Undergraduate Institution: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Hometown: Limestone, TN

Research focus: Weaning age and marbling in steers

“I chose Clemson because the AVS department is researching and publishing in areas of animal agriculture that are relevant to producers and changing trends within the industry.”



2. REBECCA KLOPP

Degree Program: Masters

Major Advisor: Gustavo Lascano

Undergraduate Institution: The Pennsylvania State University

Hometown: Bethel, PA

Research focus: Dairy nutrition

“I chose Clemson because I heard great things about the university from my professors at Penn State and Clemson offered me a position working with dairy calf nutrition which is exactly what I was looking for, so I couldn't pass up the opportunity.”

AVGSA

CHILI, 5Ks, AND T-SHIRTS, OH MY!

The Animal and Veterinary Sciences Graduate Student Association (AVSGSA) has had a busy year full of research and a little fun along the way! Several of the members ran a 5K race to benefit the Anderson County Disabilities Board and Sarah Adams even won her age group! Louisa Koch won best costume and overall, a great time was had. The group is working on planning their annual chili cook off, which is set to be held in late January 2017. This year's proceeds from the cook off will go toward the Lee Higdon Memorial Scholarship, which is set to be established by the end of this year and benefit students active in the Block and Bridle Club. We are excited to have another year where we can give back! The AVSGSA also finished a t-shirt sale for the department, and was able to sell over 90 shirts! Shirts will be available for sale in the spring as well, contact Louisa at louisab@g.clemson.edu for more information!



AVS RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

AVS has been busy this year presenting research and publishing papers to disseminate important research findings! See something that looks interesting? Let us know! More information is available on the AVS website at clemson.edu/avs.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Ferdous F, Saski C, Bridges W, Burns M, Dunn H, Elliott K, et al. 2016. Transcriptome profile of the chicken thrombocyte: new implications as an advanced immune effector cell. *PLoS ONE* 11(10): e0163890. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0163890

Hurley SG, Lackey BR, Tate PL, and Gray SL. 2016. Xenoestrogens from household plastics bind estrogen receptors and affect cell proliferation. *Journal of the South Carolina Academy of Science: Vol. 14: Iss. 1, Article 5*. Available at: <http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/jscas/vol14/iss1/5>

Lascano GJ, Alende M, Koch LE, and Jenkins TC. 2016. Changes in fermentation and biohydrogenation intermediates in continuous cultures fed low and high levels of fat with increasing rates of starch degradability. *J. Dairy Sci.* 99:6334-6341.

Lascano GJ, Koch LE, and Heinrichs AJ. 2016. Precision-feeding dairy heifers a high rumen-degradable protein diet with different proportions of dietary fiber and forage-to-concentrate ratios. *J. Dairy Sci.* 99:7175-7190.



PRESENTATIONS

Dunn H, Elliott K, Curtis C, Ferdous F, Burns M, Saski C, Bridges W, and Scott T. May 2016. A Novel Model Of Pre-Pubertal Mammary Gland Development In Multiple Species. *Mammary Gland Biology*, Burga, LU, Italy.

Ferdous F, Saski C, Bridges W, Burns M, Dunn H, Elliott K and Scott T. Sept 2016. Global Transcriptome Profile Of The Nucleated Platelet. *Platelets 2016: 9th International Symposium*, Wellesley, MA, USA.

Jones JC. Aug-Feb 2016. Manuscript Publishing and Peer Review Tips. *European Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging Conference*, Wroclaw, Poland.

Koch L. July 2016. Recovering Lactating Dairy Cows From Diet-Induced Milk Fat Depression Using Corn With Different Starch Degradabilities. *ADSA-ASAS Joint Annual Meeting*.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT HORSEING AROUND

Graduate student Rebekah Strunk started her equine exercise physiology research this semester, with the goal of determining how a rider's experience and ability affect a horse's gait and behavior. She is currently working with Dr. Kristine Vernon and a group of undergraduate creative inquiry students to analyze data gathered over the summer. The tests consisted of pairing an experienced rider and an inexperienced rider and recording videos of them riding the same horses. The videos were analyzed to determine whether there were differences in stride length, stride frequency, and behavior; and to determine whether those differences were correlated with differences in rider experience. All of the testing took place at the Clemson University Equine Center. In addition to assisting Rebekah with her project, undergraduate research assistants are working in groups to develop questions and do research for their creative inquiry projects. The research project and the creative inquiry projects should be completed at the end of the spring semester.

.-LESLIE WARD



WHATS GOING ON?

2017 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING AVS-RELATED EVENTS

JANUARY

- January 11: Classes Start
- January 11: Western Show (2) Lander University January 28

FEBRUARY

- Hunt Seat Show Georgia Southern University February 4
- Hunt Seat Show Lander University February 18
- Western Regionals Lander University February 19
- IPPE January 31-February 2 Atlanta, GA

MARCH

- Hunt Seat Show College of Charleston March 4
- Hunt Seat Regionals Georgia Southern University March 5

APRIL

- Possible Western Show Clemon University April 8

MAY

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

JUNE

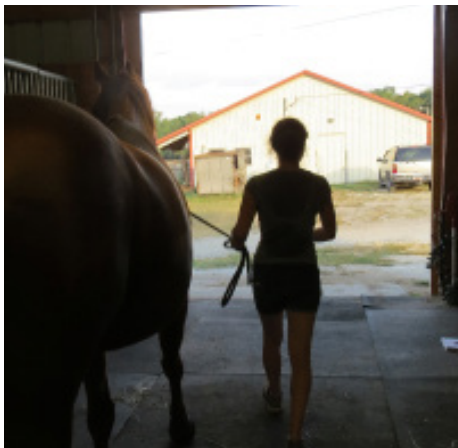
- ADSA June 25-28 Pittsburgh, PA

JULY

- ADSA, ASAS JAM July 19-23
- Destination Clemson dates posted in January
- LNA Livestock Exhibition

- Equine events
- Clemson AVS Department events
- General Events

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





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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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