



# GROWING

## SOUTH DAKOTA

A MAGAZINE BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2021 / WINTER 2022  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



## FROM THE DEAN:

*"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man."  
– George Washington*



South Dakota State University and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences are educating the workforce and leaders of tomorrow, making discoveries that guide the future of agriculture, and supporting the growth of existing and developing industries in South Dakota. Our students are learning and growing through outstanding classroom experiences and through the many teams, clubs and other extracurricular activities available at SDSU.

The impact of our educational programs is rooted in a philosophy of learning by doing, and students in CAFES are getting outstanding opportunities to put their classroom knowledge into practice. These high impact learning approaches help us to prepare career-ready graduates that will become the industry leaders of the future.






The research conducted in the college and through the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station not only makes new discoveries that extend the boundaries of scientific knowledge, but it also takes the knowledge of today and applies it to the current challenges facing our farmers, ranchers, conservationists and other stakeholders through our SDSU Extension program. Not only are we addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing our producers, natural resource managers, and health care practitioners, we are also exploring opportunities to expand existing industries and the creation of new sectors to drive economic development for our state. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences is proud to serve the South Dakota of today and our state in the future!

South Dakota Corn Endowed Dean of the College  
of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Killefer". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

Contact John Killefer at  
[John.Killefer@sdstate.edu](mailto:John.Killefer@sdstate.edu)

## FOLLOW US:

-  @SDStateCAFES
-  SDState Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences
-  @sdstatecafes
-  SDState - College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences
-  [sdstate.edu/cafes](http://sdstate.edu/cafes)

## READ ONLINE

Catch the latest issue of Growing South Dakota online anytime, anywhere.

Visit [openprairie.sdstate.edu/growingsd](http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/growingsd) to browse our magazine and so much more!

---

Have an address change? Let us know and we'll update our mailing list!

Send your new address to:  
[sdsu.cafesmarketing@sdstate.edu](mailto:sdsu.cafesmarketing@sdstate.edu)

# GROWING

## SOUTH DAKOTA

VOLUME 11, NO. 2, FALL 2021 / WINTER 2022

- 3** SDSU Launches New Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine
- 7** The 6th Generation Farmer
- 9** First-Gen Proud
- 11** Student Success
- 21** Alumni News
- 27** CAFES News and Updates
- 45** Jackrabbits Now and Then: A Current Student and Alumni Q&A

### ON THE COVER:

Russ Daly, SDSU Extension Veterinarian, State Public Health Veterinarian and Professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, discusses herd health with agricultural science student Collin Powell.

### MANAGING EDITOR

Lora Berg

### DESIGNER

Andrea Schubloom

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Greg Latza, Emily Weber,  
Christine Moening, Nicole Hudson

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Andrea Schubloom, Nicole  
Hudson, Sadie Vander Wal,  
Christine Moening, Ann Hess

### COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

#### John Killefer

South Dakota Corn Endowed Dean

#### Bill Gibbons

Director of the South Dakota  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
and Associate Dean of Research

#### Vikram Mistry

Interim Associate Dean of  
Academic Programs

#### Karla Trautman

Director of SDSU Extension

#### Lora Berg

Director of Marketing and  
Communications

*Growing South Dakota* is published by the SDSU College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. A total of 25,943 copies are printed on recycled paper by Forum Communications at no cost to the State of South Dakota.

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.

©2022 South Dakota Board of Regents



# SDSU LAUNCHES NEW PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

BY NICOLE HUDSON

**T**he collaborative Professional (DVM) Program in Veterinary Medicine between the South Dakota State University College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed its first cohort of 20 students this fall.

Each year, 20 students will be admitted into the program. Students in the program will spend the first two years of their veterinary education at South Dakota State University and before transferring to at the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine to complete their DVM degree.

South Dakota and the region have been faced with a shortage of veterinarians, especially those who work with food animals.

Veterinarians who understand rural and ranch communities as well as production animal health are needed in the administration, diagnostics, regulatory public health, and food safety sectors of the veterinary medicine industry. This program was developed to focus on rural practices and help address the shortage of veterinarians in the region. The program has created additional opportunities for South Dakota students to pursue careers in veterinary medicine and support the agricultural industry.

“When I applied to the program, I was super excited for the rural medicine aspect”, said Breanna Brown, Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine student from Sabin, Minnesota.

## Unique Opportunities at SDSU

The SDSU Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine provides its students many opportunities traditional veterinary medicine programs cannot. Compared to many other veterinary medicine programs, SDSU's Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine has small class sizes.

"Small class sizes are a huge advantage to our program" said Gary Gackstetter, former Director of the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine. "It won't take any work away from the students, but it will take away any barriers they might face in mastering a concept."

The small class sizes provide students the ability to create deep personal and professional relationships with their professors and their peers. The faculty to student ratio also allows for hands-on-training experiences and more one-on-one learning opportunities.

"The new South Dakota State University program interested me because it is such a small class size, and so far, that has been proven to be a really great part of the program," said Lauren Skogland, Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine student from New Richmond, Wisconsin. "We get to be a lot closer with our peers and it's a very collaborative program."

Though students enrolled in the SDSU Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine do not receive their DVM from SDSU, students in the program can receive a masters of biological sciences with a veterinary medicine specialization. Students admitted into the veterinary medicine program are allowed dual enrollment into the master's program, allowing them to simultaneously earn a master's of science while completing the PPVM course work needed for the DVM degree.

While at SDSU, students in the program will be trained in the recently renovated Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences building that is connected to the new South Dakota Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory on the SDSU campus.

"Our student have the advantage of being connected to the technologies and experts in our state-of-the-art veterinary diagnostic laboratory," said Gackstetter.

The updated facility features a new anatomy lab equipped with downdraft tables. The space also includes a parasitology and microbiology laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment. The clinical skills laboratory is equipped with examination tables, animal models for the students to master veterinary skills and more. The building also has an interactive classroom for group collaborations and two large classrooms for lectures. All the classrooms have been equipped with virtual learning technology that provides the opportunity to collaborate with their professors and peers at the University of Minnesota.

*"We get to be a lot closer with our peers, and it's a very collaborative program."*

*- Lauren Skogland, PPVM student*



**Right:** Russ Daly, SDSU Extension Veterinarian, State Public Health Veterinarian and Professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, educates Hailey Leibel, a current PPVM student on vaccines for beef cattle.



## How We Got Here

Over the last eight years, leaders within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine have been working together to get the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine started.

The collaboration began when the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine leadership approached South Dakota State University leaders about a potential cooperative program for veterinary medicine in 2014. Two years later, in 2016 an SDSU faculty taskforce completed a need and opportunities assessment for a school of veterinary medicine at South Dakota State University. In 2017, a memorandum of understanding was signed by SDSU and U of M leaders.

After consulting with the American Veterinary Medical Association and the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association for several years, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the South Dakota legislature approved the program and the first student applications were accepted in the fall of 2020.

“I want to express my thanks and gratitude for all of the hard work our Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine leadership, faculty and staff have put into this program,” said Killefer. “Their hard work has gotten this program operational.”

Students in the program will also have the opportunity to utilize the SDSU livestock units, including the Cow-Calf Education and Research Facility, the Equine Teaching Facility, the Dairy Research and Training Facility, the Sheep Research and Teaching Unit, the Swine Education and Research Facility and the Ruminant Nutrition Center, which are all within one mile of the SDSU campus.

“It’s so exciting to see the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine underway and our first cohort of 20 students doing well as they finished up their first semester,” said John Killefer, South Dakota Corn Endowed Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.





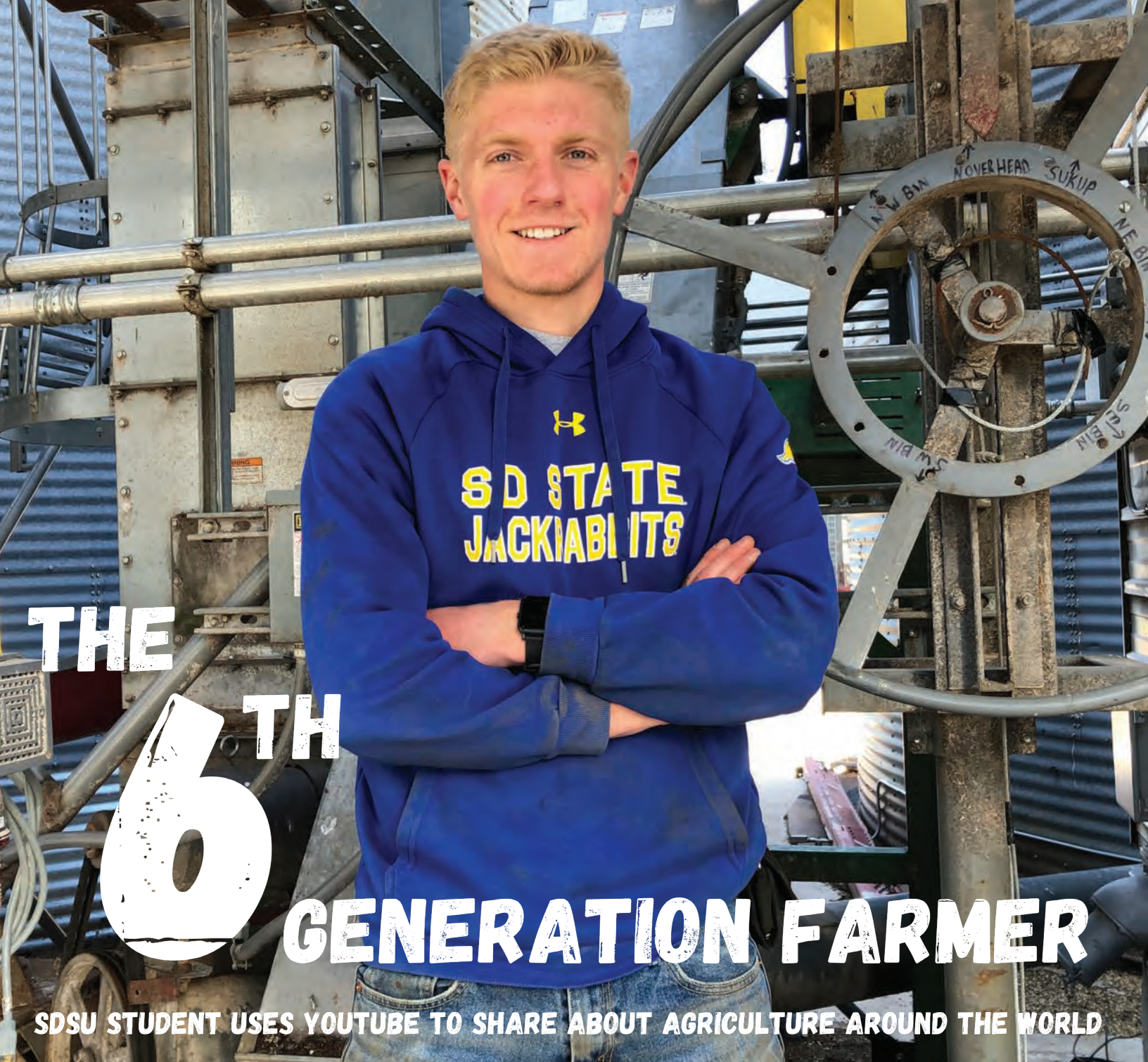
## PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM IN VETERINARY MEDICINE CLASS OF 2025:

*Pictured above from left to right, starting with the back row*

- |                             |                           |                     |                         |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Marissa Keenan            | South Bend, Indiana       | • Danica Loll       | Wahpeton, North Dakota  |
| • Lacey Prescott            | Franklin, South Dakota    | • Shannon McBride   | Shevlin, Minnesota      |
| • Lauren Skogland           | New Richmond, Wisconsin   | • Courtney Timmer   | Chaska, Minnesota       |
| • Laura Munger              | Brookings, South Dakota   | • Cassie Juberien   | Nicollet, Minnesota     |
| • Jana Bruce-Wattier        | Sioux Falls, South Dakota | • Mackenzie Bartles | Starbuck, Minnesota     |
| • Renae (Kaysler) Burggraff | Marion, South Dakota      | • Garret Drum       | Faith, South Dakota     |
| • Mariah Beckmann           | Slayton, Minnesota        | • Lauren Larson     | Mitchell, South Dakota  |
| • Breanna (Brown) Nelson    | Sabin, Minnesota          | • Ana Ruiz          | Watertown, South Dakota |
| • Hayley Leibel             | Timberlake, South Dakota  | • Alisha Hebl       | St. Paul, Minnesota     |
| • Maria Aesoph              | Orient, South Dakota      | • Kitana Honkola    | Eveleth, Minnesota      |

## PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM IN VETERINARY MEDICINE FACULTY AND STAFF:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Jane Christopher-Hennings, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department Head, Director of the Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory and Professor | • David Knudsen, Professor                                    |
| • Gary Gackstetter, former Director of the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine   | • Peter Moisan, Associate Professor                           |
| • Jessica Juarez, Assistant Director of the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine and Assistant Professor  | • Aziz Siddiqui, Assistant Professor of Physiology            |
| • Christopher Chase, Interim Director of the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine and Professor   | • Dr. Balaji Ramanathan, Assistant Professor of Anatomy       |
|  | • Alan Young, Professor                                       |
|  | • Beverly Cassidy, Lecturer                                   |
|  | • Rachel Runge, Laboratory Coordinator                        |
|  | • Sarah Vos, Coordinator of Recruitment and Academic Services |



# THE 6TH GENERATION FARMER

SDSU STUDENT USES YOUTUBE TO SHARE ABOUT AGRICULTURE AROUND THE WORLD

BY ANDREA SCHUBLOOM

For Carson Kahler, a senior agricultural systems technology student from Sherburn, Minnesota, agriculture has been his way of life since birth.

Being the sixth generation on his family's corn and soybean operation, Kahler looks forward to following in the footsteps of those who cultivated the soil before him and sharing what that looks like with people across the globe.

"My family has been doing this for six generations now," said Kahler. "Growing up, my brother and I would fight about who got to ride with our dad at the farm for the day. Every day after school, I would get off the school bus and do my homework as fast as I could so I could go out to the field."

## Getting Started

A few years ago, Kahler purchased a used drone from his cousin and, shortly after, his father encouraged him to use it to take footage of their family's operation.

"My dad had the original idea," said Kahler. "He told me I should take videos of our farming from year to year so that we can look back in the future and see how our operation was and I thought it was a cool idea."

At first, Kahler's videos were strictly comprised of drone footage that he posted to his YouTube channel to share with close friends and family members. However, that quickly changed when he



posted a planting video in spring of 2018 and a harvest video later on that fall. Over the course of the next year, his harvest video received over 130,000 views.

“It was originally just something I was doing for fun, but those 130,000 views got me my first 1,000 subscribers,” said Kahler.

With his first few videos performing so well, Kahler realized he had something more in the works and decided he wanted to start a vlog – a video blog.

“I figured I would try it out,” said Kahler. “I had never done anything like it before and I was very uncomfortable in front of the camera, but I learned as I went, and every time I made a video, I learned things that I could improve on.”

His first vlog that really grabbed the attention of YouTubers was on July 26, 2019, and reached 46,000 views. A few weeks later, he shared a farm machinery tour video that received over 57,000 views, which encouraged him to keep producing the vlogs.

What started out as his personal YouTube channel evolved into what he called “Farm Country Living.” But, as his platform continued to grow in popularity and Kahler realized he wanted to take vlogging more seriously, he figured his channel needed a new, more relevant name. Therefore, to reflect his role on the farm, he named it the “6th Gen Farmer.”

## Growing an Online Community

Without any prior video production or editing experience, Kahler had to do his research to teach himself the ways of vlogging.

“I’ve always watched other YouTubers, but little did I know, that when you turn on the camera, it is like giving a presentation to an auditorium, but you forgot your notecards,” said Kahler. “I really had to get myself used to that.”

Some of the biggest skills Kahler had to learn were video editing and content planning.

“I want to be sure I am filming what the viewers want to see,” said Kahler. “I always ask myself “what am I doing and why am I doing it?” But it is also important to have a sense of humor as well, and I think that is where I excel – when something goes wrong, I am not the type of person to get mad. Instead, I will laugh about it and learn from my mistakes.”

He also had to learn time management

and how to create a balance between his work and filming for his vlog.

“When I am on the farm and taking video, I try to be as efficient as I can,” said Kahler. “I don’t want my filming to take precedence over what I am actually doing, so I have gotten very good at multitasking.”

Kahler says one of the things he enjoys most about his platform is interacting with the online community.

“I am here to teach others about agriculture, yet I have learned so much from other community members,” said Kahler. “I absolutely love answering questions and responding to comments.”

His broad audience includes viewers from several different countries ranging from 13 to 70 years of age.

“When I first started, I remember telling my family that it would be cool if I hit 10,000 subscribers,” said Kahler. “It ended up taking less than a year and that blew my mind.”

Kahler’s vlog covers a variety of topics – from machinery and maintenance to planting, harvesting and spraying both conventional and organic crops, he is now educating more than 13,000 subscribers around the world who tune in each week to learn more about what he is doing on his family’s farm.

His vlog has even gained the attention of some agricultural companies, landing him a paid sponsorship from Teucrium, an exchange-traded fund (ETF) provider focused solely on U.S. agriculture.

## Growing His Platform

Because of his YouTube channel, Kahler travels home to Sherburn, Minnesota, nearly every weekend to film new content to show his viewers what is currently happening on their farm. When he returns to campus during the week, he usually spends between two to six hours editing the footage before posting the finished product. That way, viewers see his videos just three to four days after they are filmed.

Kahler has learned that posting his videos on a consistent basis greatly impacts his viewership and has made a goal to share one video each week.

“I always post my vlogs on Sundays,” said Kahler. “After I post a video, I check it a few minutes later and, usually, there are already a few hundred views.”

Kahler recognizes the importance of

sharing his life on the farm and sees it as a means of bridging the gap between those who live and work in agriculture and those who are unfamiliar with the industry.

“I like to help those who haven’t had a chance to be around agriculture to understand what actually happens,” said Kahler. “Agriculture is always changing, what goes into our food is always changing and our practices are always changing, so I think it is so important that farmers have an outlet to connect with consumers. It is important that farmers are telling our story and helping our consumers to be knowledgeable about the food they eat, the fuel they burn and the real differences between organic and conventional farming. I think consumers should know how products are made and I am absolutely honored that people love to see what I do every week.”

As for the future of the 6th Gen Farmer, Kahler has no intention to stop making videos. He plans to graduate from SDSU in December of 2022, and until then, will continue to farm with his family, focus on his YouTube channel, spend time with friends and work as an intern at C&B Operations, a large midwestern John Deere dealership, during the summer of 2022.

Following graduation in December, Kahler hopes to pursue a career in the industry while staying actively involved on the farm.

“My great-great-great-grandpa started our operation, and the fact that my brother and I have the opportunity to help keep it going is really special,” said Kahler.



# FIRST-GEN

# proud

BY ANDREA SCHUBLOOM

According to a study by NASPA, approximately 56% of undergraduates in the U.S. were first-generation students in the 2015-2016 academic year.

“Being a first-generation student is a matter of great pride for the student and his or her family,” said Vikram Mistry, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Interim Associate Dean for Academic Programs. “People are unable to attend college for various reasons, and when their sons and daughters do attend, it signifies great progress for the family and hope for the future. These first-generation students also become the symbols of hope and role models for younger siblings and relatives. When the first-generation students come from small close-knit communities, they truly are the beacon of pride and hope for the entire community.”

We asked some of our very own first-generation students why they are “first-gen proud” – this is what they said:



Jaylynn Frandrup

**SOPHOMORE  
AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS  
HASTINGS, MN**

*“ I am proud to be a first-generation student, especially since I am a part of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. Coming from a small family farm in Hastings, Minnesota, it was frightening to travel four hours to further my education. Being able to learn more about modern agriculture will lead me to be more confident in taking over my family’s farm someday.*

*After completing a year at SDSU, I can say Brookings feels like home and I cannot wait to be the first one in my family to walk across the stage with an SDSU diploma.”*

# Randi Tivis

**JUNIOR**  
**RANGELAND ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT**  
**UNION CENTER, SD**

*“ I am very proud to be a first-generation college student – I feel like a trailblazer of higher education! Of course, with every grand adventure comes a few bumps in the road. It is often scary to not know what to expect or when I have trouble making important life-changing decisions. Because I’m a first-gen, my parents don’t always know the right answer for me, since this is a new adventure for them as well! But my parents love, support, and life advice always helps me get back up again.*”

*I grew up on a ranch in western South Dakota, and I’m fired up to be at SDSU learning new things from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and to be able to bring home my new experiences and findings!”*



# Carter Espinoza

**SENIOR**  
**DAIRY PRODUCTION**  
**KASSON, MN**

*“ I am very proud to be a first-generation college student. Coming to college was intimidating at first because I did not know many people with college experience. It was hard to try and figure out how to put myself in the best position, financially and academically, to be successful in college. I hope, through my trial and error, that I can help my younger siblings and future generations of my friends and family attend college, if they choose to.*”

*I believe being a first-generation college student has helped me develop as a person and prepared me to help others in deciding whether to go to or how to navigate their way through college.”*





S  
U  
C  
C  
E  
S  
S  
S  
S  
T  
U  
D  
E  
N  
T  
S

# KEEPING THE **HOBO DAY** TRADITION ALIVE

BY ANDREA SCHUBLOOM

*Due to health and safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Hobo Day homecoming celebration looked different than in years past. Since SDSU was able to offer more on-campus activities this year, CAFES student and 2021 Hobo Day Grand Pooba, Marie Robbins, and the members of the Hobo Day Committee were able to keep the tradition alive on SDSU's campus this fall and celebrate with students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters in person on October 23, 2021.*

**M**arie Robbins, a senior agricultural business and agricultural communications student from Elkton, South Dakota, was selected to lead the 109th Hobo Day, the biggest one-day event in the Dakotas, as the 2021 Grand Pooba.

### Joining the Tradition

Inspired by former 2019 Grand Pooba, Jeanette (Klein) Linke, Robbins joined the Hobo Day Committee in the spring semester of her freshman year at SDSU. The committee is led by the Grand Pooba and three Assistant Poobas who manage events, parade and marketing teams made up of three smaller groups of committee members.

During her first year on the committee, Robbins served as the transportation coordinator for the parade team where she connected with members in the community who own classic cars and recruited them to drive their vehicles in the Hobo Day Parade. The following year, she served as the Parade Assistant Pooba where she worked with six other members of the committee to organize and facilitate the Hobo Day Parade.

“I learned a lot about leadership and really grew my passion for Hobo Day and SDSU while serving as the Assistant Pooba,” said Robbins. “After trying to plan Hobo Day during a pandemic, I decided to apply for the Grand Pooba position because I wanted to continue to be involved in the Hobo Day tradition, and I wanted to ignite a passion for SDSU in others.”

As Grand Pooba, her duties included leading weekly committee meetings, communicating with groups and leaders on campus and in the Brookings community and organizing the 2021 summer parade tour where the Hobo Day Committee visited towns across South Dakota and participated in local parades.

“For me, the role of Grand Pooba was an opportunity to carry on the tradition of Hobo Day that has been enjoyed by thousands of Jackrabbit alumni,” said Robbins. “Being surrounded by 17 other individuals on the committee who are just as passionate about Hobo Day as I am has been one of the greatest experiences I have had during college.”

One of the things Robbins enjoys most about Hobo Day is the parade and the iconic Bummobile. The Bummobile is a 1912 Ford Model T that has led the Hobo Day Parade every year since 1939, except 1942 when South Dakota State College canceled homecoming during World War II and in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Bummobile is one of my favorite aspects of Hobo Day because it is over 100 years old and is still running,” said Robbins. “There are not many things that have been around over 100 years that are still in operating condition, and I was very excited to learn how to drive it.”

When asked what makes Hobo Day special to SDSU, Robbins acknowledged that Hobo Day stands out because of the space it provides for students, alumni and supporters to gather and celebrate their college careers.

“College is often the place where people make big life choices,” said Robbins. “Hobo Day gives people a place to celebrate those decisions, no matter their age.”

### A Tradition Transition

Since 1912, Hobo Day has been SDSU’s beloved homecoming celebration, bringing thousands of alumni, students, supporters, community members and families from across the nation to

campus each year. Throughout the week leading up to Hobo Day, students on the Hobo Day Committee host several events for SDSU students and the community to take part in such as One Month Club, Bum-A-Meal, Rally at the Rails, Hobolympics, BumFire and more.

However, the unforeseen challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic forced members of the 2020 Hobo Day Committee to think differently and create unique ways for students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters to safely celebrate the 2020 Hobo Day tradition from both near and far since many of the traditional Hobo Day events, such as the Hobo Day Parade and Bum-A-Meal among others, were canceled.

“Everyone on the committee was consistently positive, focusing more on what we could do rather than what we could not do,” said Robbins. “We had to adapt quickly, and I believe that Hobo Day 2020 was a success because the committee worked hard to provide safe, exciting experiences for the campus and community.”

Although the 2020 Hobo Day celebration and activities looked different than they have in years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Robbins was hopeful that the SDSU tradition would be something to look forward to on October 23, 2021.

### Keeping the Tradition Alive

“We were able to use what we learned in 2020 to be more prepared for the following year,” said Robbins. “One of our biggest challenges was how to share what Hobo Day is all about with the student body.”

In the fall of 2021, the university started to adjust their COVID-19 policies and transition the SDSU campus back to its normal environment, which allowed Robbins to plan for the cherished Hobo Day activities that students and community members look forward to each year.

Because of the non-traditional celebration in 2020, the Hobo Day Committee had to rethink marketing strategies for the big event in 2021, as many of the freshman and sophomore students had never experienced a traditional Hobo Day.

“We had a relatively new committee as well, so training everyone and providing the knowledge that coordinators needed to be successful in their respective roles on the committee was very important,” said Robbins. “Weekly committee meetings, team meetings and one-on-one meetings helped us to be successful in communicating information within the committee and to everyone on campus and in the community.”

The BumFire event had approximately 300 students in attendance, which is the largest crowd the event has ever seen. Students gathered behind the Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium for a large bonfire to enjoy hot chocolate and to socialize with their peers. Additionally, over 650 students participated in Bum-A-Meal, which was near the participation the event had in 2019 when it was last held. Bum-A-Meal is an event where members of the campus and local communities host groups of students in their homes for an evening meal during Hobo Week.

“Overall, I would say that our efforts to share information about Hobo Day worked very well,” said Robbins. “We were able to overcome the information barrier caused by COVID-19, and all of the events held during the week were very successful. Hobo Day has stood the test of time for over 100 years, and I really could not be more excited for the next 100 years of Hobo Day.”



# PRECISION CONNECT '21

Inaugural Precision Connect Event Provides Student-Industry Networking

BY SADIE VANDER WAL

The inaugural Precision Connect event was held on September 10, 2021, at the Raven Precision Agriculture Center. The event, held the day before the center's grand opening, allowed students in the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department and Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science Department to network with industry representatives and showcase their internship experiences.

At the event, over 90 students enrolled in the precision agriculture and related programs presented on their internship experiences. Parents, internship supervisors and industry representatives were invited to attend and celebrate the students' achievements and the opening of the Raven Precision Agriculture Center.





"I think the really cool thing about this event was the excitement the students had for it," said Nicholas Uilk, Instructor in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering. "Every student put their full effort into creating a great poster and preparing for the event. They were all very proud of their achievements and enjoyed being able to share with industry members what some of their summer internships and projects entailed."

In addition to student presentations, the event included tours of the building and opportunities for students to network with industry representatives.

"The 2021 Precision Connect event was a unique way for students such as myself to show off our internship experiences and also network with industry leaders," said Aubrey Weishaar, senior agronomy student from Lemmon, South Dakota. "Personally, this event meant so much more to me than just a networking opportunity. It was special to know that we as students were the beginning of a new era in agriculture. The new Raven Precision Agriculture Center is going to bring so many opportunities to students at SDSU, and I'm excited to see what new innovations and successful students will be a product of this addition to our programs."

Companies in attendance included C & B Operations, CHS, Agtegra Cooperative, Sage Engineering, AgriVision Equipment, AGCO

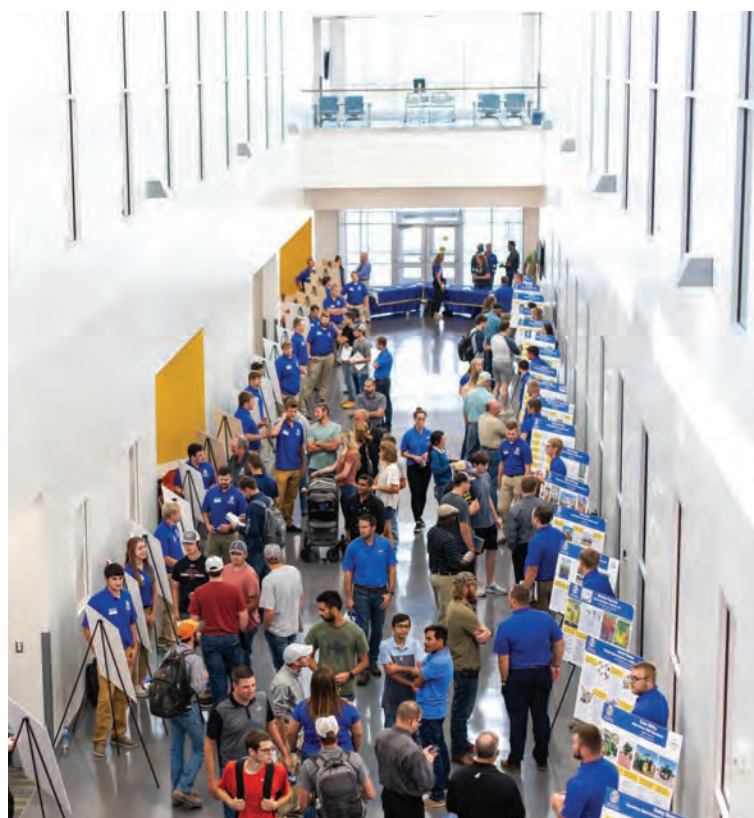
Corporation, Butler Machinery, Crystal Valley Cooperative and many others.

Uilk hopes to continue building opportunities for students by hosting the event annually.

"In the future, we plan to add group sessions that will allow students and industry representatives to discuss the qualities of a good internship program from both perspectives," said Uilk.

Precision Connect also served as a kickoff for the Raven Precision Agriculture Center's grand opening, which was held the day after the student event. After breaking ground on the building in fall 2018, construction wrapped up during summer 2021. The center brings the Departments of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science under one roof, which were previously housed in separate buildings on campus.

"It is great letting industry members interact with our students at an event where students have the chance to share their knowledge," said Uilk. "By having company representatives walk to each student's poster and ask questions about their internship experiences and career aspirations, the students have the chance to truly connect with those industry professionals and show them what they know. It really creates a unique networking environment for our students to thrive and showcase their talents."





## SDSU LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM NAMED RESERVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

BY SADIE VANDER WAL

The South Dakota State University Livestock Judging Team was named the Reserve National Champion Team at the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest held at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 15, 2021. This is the highest SDSU has placed at the national contest since 1996.

“Being crowned the Reserve National Champion Team caps off a great season for one of the most talented teams I have had the pleasure to coach,” said Brady Jensen, SDSU Livestock Judging Team Coach. “Not only will they go down in the history books at SDSU as one of the great livestock judging teams, but I think in 20-30 years, we will all look back and realize how special this team was after they have accomplished all their life goals.”

In addition to being named reserve national champions, the team placed third in cattle, fourth in swine and fifth in sheep, performance cattle and reasons.

The 2021 team members include: Bronson Smith, animal science student from Powell, Wyoming; Clay Sundberg, animal science student from Arlington, Illinois; Ellie Sennett, animal science and agricultural science student from Waynetown, Indiana; Kodie Doetzel, agricultural science student from Lipton, Saskatchewan; Murray Perkins, animal science student from Buchanan, Tennessee; Stratton Wotowey, animal science student from Fort Collins, Colorado; Peyton Sundsbak, animal science student from Des Lacs, North Dakota; and Russell Pluimer, animal science student from Montpelier, Indiana. The team is coached by Brady Jensen and assisted by Tommy Norman, animal science master’s student from Luverne, Minnesota.

**Top:** Pictured (left to right) Back Row: Brady Jensen (coach), Russell Pluimer, Kodie Doetzel, Clay Sundberg, Tommy Norman (assistant coach), Dr. Joe Cassady (Dept. Head of Animal Science). Front Row: Murray Perkins, Bronson Smith, Ellie Sennett, Stratton Wotowey, Peyton Sundsbak.

### Notable individual results from the contest include:

- Stratton Wotowey: sixth overall, second in cattle and eighth in swine
- Bronson Smith: sixth in swine
- Peyton Sundsbak: eighth in cattle

“On behalf of the Department of Animal Science, I want to congratulate the members of the SDSU Livestock Judging team on completing the season as Reserve National Champions,” said Dr. Joe Cassady, Head of the Department of Animal Science. “Members of the team, under the guidance of coach Brady Jensen, worked very hard to earn this recognition. I am especially proud of the way our team represented the Department of Animal Science and South Dakota State University.”

The team has competed in 12 different contests throughout the year, placing in the top five at nearly every contest. Additionally, two team members have won high individual honors at a contest this year, with Smith winning the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Sennett taking home the gold at the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic. Both Sennett and Smith were the first SDSU team members in the school’s history to win either of those contests.

“To be excellent at livestock judging, you have to be a quick decision maker, incredible public speaker, excellent time manager, and in total control of your emotions in high pressure situations,” said Jensen. “But what set the 2021 team among the elite was their undeniable ability to be true stockmen and stockwomen.”

The North American International Livestock Exposition concluded the 2021 team’s judging season. The 2022 team will kick off their season in January at Cattlemen’s Congress in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



## CAFES PREXY COUNCIL RAISES MONEY TO SUPPORT CAFES STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

BY NICOLE HUDSON

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) Prexy Council raised \$21,611 from 170 donors during its February 2021 campaign to help establish an endowment.

The CAFES Prexy Council is establishing an endowment that will support student clubs and organizations. The endowment will also help promote agriculture on campus through programs and events such as campus-wide Ag Day, the CAFES Ice Cream Social, the CAFES Career Fair and more.

“We are so appreciative of all the support we received from this campaign from industry members, current students, alumni, SDSU faculty and staff and community members,” Cara Teigum, 2020-2021 CAFES Prexy Council president, said. “The future of Prexy Council is bright thanks to those who believe in our goals and mission.”

The council has a goal to raise \$50,000 over the next five years to put toward the endowment fund.

Cargill, South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts, South Dakota Soybean and several other industry donors supported the campaign through donations and sponsoring challenges that helped the council hit benchmarks within the campaign.

“It’s been really fun to see students, clubs, alumni, faculty, staff and industry come together to support this cause,” Mary Christensen, CAFES Prexy Council adviser, said. “It has been

rewarding to see how important this cause is to everyone.”

The council is still accepting contributions to the endowment. Donations can be sent to the SDSU Foundation or the CAFES Academic Programs office Christensen said. Donations will also be accepted on One Day for State on Sept. 8, 2022.

The Prexy Council is made up of representatives from each of the 38 clubs within CAFES and is overseen by an executive board that organizes meetings and events for CAFES students. Every year, the council hosts the CAFES ice cream social and campus-wide Ag Day.

The ice cream social provides students the opportunity to meet members of CAFES clubs and learn more about what each organization has to offer. Campus Ag Day is a celebration that promotes agriculture to all students. CAFES clubs and industry sponsors set up booths in the University Student Union and other campus locations to promote agriculture on campus.

The council also sponsors a speaker that gives a presentation on a relevant topic in the agriculture industry.

“I’m really excited about the future of Prexy Council because this endowment will allow students to branch out and be creative in creating events and resources to promote agriculture,” Sadie Vander Wal, 2020-2021 CAFES Prexy Council secretary and treasurer, said.

SDSU’s campus-wide Ag Day celebration is scheduled for April 11, 2022.

**Top:** Students and faculty interact at the 2021 CAFES Ice Cream Social hosted by the CAFES Prexy Council.



# A PASSION FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

*SDSU student Kendra Goplin uses her passion for educating others about agriculture to assist teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading her to the National FFA Convention stage*

BY ANDREA SCHUBLOOM

Growing up on a dairy operation outside of Osseo, Wisconsin, freshman agricultural education student Kendra Goplin was exposed to agriculture at a very young age. She participated in 4-H, FFA and showed dairy cattle for nine years of her youth, and it was during those years that she discovered her passion for agricultural education.

Goplin recalls being asked questions about her cattle that made her realize that not everyone understood the agricultural industry like she did.

"I remember someone asking me how long it would take for a steak to grow back after it was harvested from my dairy cow," said Goplin. "After that conversation, I told myself that I had to do something about the knowledge gap surrounding agriculture."

With her mother as her agricultural education teacher, Goplin became a member of the Whitehall FFA Chapter in the seventh grade, and it was in the seventh grade when she started her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) in agricultural education

**Left:** Kendra Goplin is presented with her award by Miriam Hoffman (left), 2020-2021 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President, at the 94th National FFA Convention & Expo. Goplin's mother and FFA advisor, Melinda Goplin, is pictured to her right. Photo courtesy of the National FFA Organization.

entrepreneurship and placement. In addition to her SAE, Goplin was also involved in quiz bowl, dairy judging, parliamentary procedure, creed speaking, employability skills and discussion meet throughout her middle school and high school FFA career.

An SAE is a work-based learning experience with a connection to the agriculture industry, and to be an FFA member, students are required to have an SAE and be enrolled in agricultural education classes. As students develop and expand their SAE, they can apply for and be recognized with proficiency awards at the state and national levels.

“Proficiency awards recognize students for their time and dedication to hands-on experiences and work-based learning projects outside of the classroom,” said Laura Hasselquist, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education at SDSU.

### Educating Early

Goplin started her SAE with what she called the “Potty Press” where she created informational fact sheets and hung them on the back of bathroom stall doors to teach others in her school about agriculture. She also helped teach agricultural safety to third graders and got involved with her school’s agricultural literacy program. Goplin eventually became the leader of the program and changed it to be held during the school day instead of after school, in order to reach more students.

As a sophomore in high school, she became the youngest person ever appointed as her county’s Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator where she taught fourth and fifth graders about agricultural topics.

“Usually, an adult served in that role,” said Goplin. “Hopefully, we can encourage other state Farm Bureaus to include students in their programs as well.”

### Assisting During the Pandemic

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, agricultural educators had to adapt many of their hands-on classroom activities and transform them into activities that could be done virtually or in a hybrid format. Goplin noticed the stress

this was causing her mother and other teachers and wanted to step in and do her part to help.

“Virtual learning was so new, and I knew my mom needed help,” said Goplin. “I started by taking her lesson plan about dairy and reformatted it into a virtual lesson plan. It was very effective because students at home and students in the classroom were all learning and doing the exact same things and no one had to feel left out.”

After witnessing the effectiveness of her lesson plans in her mother’s classes and home FFA chapter, Goplin quickly realized that her plans could be beneficial to other teachers in the area as well.

“I created digital interactive notebooks and sent them out to over 200 ag teachers in Wisconsin for free,” said Goplin. “One teacher told me that I saved her almost three weeks of work.”

### A Journey to the National Stage

Between educating her peers and youth in her school and assisting teachers with virtual lesson plans, Goplin logged over 1,000 service hours for her SAE project and was ready to apply for a proficiency award in the summer of 2021.

However, Goplin was no stranger to this process, as she had applied at the state level and received a gold ranking as a freshman and was the state runner up in both her sophomore and junior years. As a senior, she placed first in Wisconsin, making her a candidate for the national award. In August of 2021, Goplin was notified that she was one of the top four finalists in the nation, among others from North Carolina, Missouri and Oklahoma.

“I didn’t let COVID stop me,” said Goplin. “I think that is what set me apart – I still wanted to teach.”

She completed an initial interview with the selection committee via Zoom in September, before stepping onto the stage at the 94th National FFA Convention and Expo in October where she was announced as the national Agricultural Education – Entrepreneurship and Placement Proficiency Award winner.

“It was a big goal for me,” said Goplin. “I went to my first National FFA Convention in the eighth grade and I told

my mom, who was my FFA advisor, that it was a goal of mine to be on the national convention stage, so just being there on stage was a goal checked off for me. When they called my name, I was shocked. It was extra special for me because our state FFA advisor ended up passing away in June of 2021 and he was one of my biggest mentors and supporters – so, I was also on stage for him.”

Even though Goplin achieved her goal of being on the National FFA Convention stage, she doesn’t plan to end her FFA career there. This coming summer, she plans on running for a state officer position in Wisconsin and applying for her American FFA degree, the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, that is given to members to demonstrate the effort applied toward their SAE and to recognize their premier leadership abilities and involvement in their communities throughout their time as FFA members.

Additionally, she plans to apply for another award within the National FFA Organization – the American Star Award. Four American Star Awards are given to members across the U.S. who have mastered skills in production, finance, management and/or research.

Goplin’s work she put into her SAE project has led her to an internship with Vivayic, a learning design company, where she is working on national agricultural literacy efforts creating educator guides and small agricultural newspapers for children that teachers can purchase to use in their classrooms.

“It is really exciting because the work I am doing now is very similar to the resources I was creating when I was working toward my proficiency award,” said Goplin.

Although she has several years left of her undergraduate career, Goplin looks forward to her career after college when she hopes to continue creating supplemental resources for educators such as lesson plans and agricultural curriculum.

“Kendra has a passion for educating youth about the agriculture industry, and we are very lucky to have her in our program,” said Hasselquist.





# ALUMNI E W S





## WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SCIENCES ALUM

# KEVIN ROBLING

## LEADS SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

BY ANDREA SCHUBLOOM

2008 wildlife and fisheries sciences alum Kevin Robling was recently selected by South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem in April of 2021 to lead the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks as the new department secretary.

After graduating from SDSU with his bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences in 2008, Robling pursued graduate school and earned his master's degree in wildlife sciences in 2011. In addition to being a student, he played as an offensive lineman for the SDSU Jackrabbits football team and was a member of the All-Conference Academic teams in 2006, 2007 and 2008, All-

Conference in 2007 and 2008, Academic All-American in 2008, and went on to receive a NCAA post-graduate scholarship.

"One of my favorite memories from my time at SDSU was beating NDSU in 2007 for the conference championship in front of a huge home crowd and then beating them again in 2008 in the FargoDome in front of their home crowd," said Robling.

While at SDSU, Robling found his college football coach, John Stiegelmeier, and professor, Jonathan Jenks, to be most influential; he credits Stiegelmeier for inspiring him to make a difference each day and Jenks for providing him with meaningful mentorship



throughout his time as a student and into his professional career.

He particularly found his large mammal ecology class to be most interesting and one that he continues to find helpful in his role today.

“We took a field trip to the Black Hills to capture and radio collar mountain lions and bighorn sheep – that is where I realized large mammal research and management was the specialized career path I wanted to pursue,” said Robling.

### An Early-Found Passion for the Outdoors

“My father introduced me to the great outdoors and took me hunting and fishing starting at a very young age,” said Robling. “When I was 12 years old, I remember learning about wildlife biology through 4-H, and I have pursued that passion ever since.”

Growing up and working on a family farm near Lydia, Minnesota, Robling credits his upbringing for his strong work ethic, which he believes has largely contributed to his career success.

“My mother was a state senator in Minnesota for 16 years, and I really learned how to communicate and develop relationships from her,” said Robling. “My desire to lead a team and focus on teamwork developed early on through my involvement in 4-H, high school and college sports and throughout my professional career.”

### Turning a Passion into a Career

Shortly after earning his graduate degree, Robling began his career with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks as a wildlife resource biologist in Sioux Falls in 2011, then worked as a big game wildlife biologist in Rapid City from 2012-2017 and a special projects coordinator in Pierre in 2018. He went on to serve as the deputy secretary in Pierre from 2019-2020 and the interim secretary in December of 2020 before stepping into his current role.

During that time, Robling was recognized with several awards, including the 2014 Outstanding Performance and 2015 Outstanding Teamwork Awards from the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, and was named the 2016 Wildlife Manager of the Year by the South Dakota Bowhunter’s Association.

Through his various roles, he has been involved in strengthening the big game research and management program in South Dakota, expanding recreational opportunities on public lands, reducing participation barriers and simplifying regulations.

Most notably, he was assigned to a special project in 2017 in regard to non-meandered waters, which are bodies of water overlying private property that have flooded as a result of years of rainfall and that are not part of a meandered basin. Robling was tasked with bridging the gap between landowners and outdoor enthusiasts to allow hunting and fishing on non-meandered waters. His efforts included creating agreements, discussing opportunities with landowners, trying to keep waters open and opening waters that had previously been closed. As a result of his work on the project, Kelly Hepler, the previous department secretary, appointed Robling to his previous position as deputy secretary.

In his role as department secretary, Robling says he most looks forward to working with landowners, farmers, ranchers,



sportsmen and women and other outdoor enthusiasts who have a passion for conservation, wildlife, hunting, fishing, trapping and camping.

“I truly believe the awesome outdoor recreational opportunities we have here in South Dakota greatly contribute to the excellent quality of life of the folks who live here and our visitors,” said Robling. “It is our job as a department to conserve our state’s outdoor heritage, connect people to the outdoors and to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations.”

So far, he says building relationships, finding compromise and strengthening the state’s outdoor heritage have been the most rewarding aspects of his career. Specifically, his favorite part about working for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has been striving to make a difference each day and the people and passionate staff on “Team GFP.”

Outside of work, Robling enjoys spending time outdoors with his family.

“My wife Holly, who is also an SDSU grad, and I have deep roots in agriculture, and we continue to grow our cow-calf herd today to ensure our three children Reese (4), Sawyer (4) and Cash (2) also develop a strong work ethic and a love for the outdoors,” said Robling. “When I’m not at home or in the office, my family and I are outside, and we are outside a lot! From camping in our state parks to big and small game hunting across the state, people can find me on a lake, in a tent or camper, on a horse, or on a tractor feeding my cows with one of my kids by my side.”

As an SDSU alum, Robling encourages young adults to consider pursuing careers in the in the fields of wildlife and fisheries, conservation, natural resource management and law enforcement.

“If students have a passion for the outdoors and serving people, this career is a perfect fit,” said Robling. “It truly is where a passion turns into a career.”



# PURSUING A PASSION FOR **DAIRY** ACROSS THE WORLD

*A native of Tianjin, China, May 2021 dairy manufacturing graduate Sijin Wang shares about her experience as an international student at SDSU and what she has enjoyed most about starting her professional career at Saputo, Inc. as a Quality Assurance Supervisor.*

INTERVIEW BY ANDREA SCHUBLOOM

---

**Q. What made you want to pursue your college education at SDSU?**

**A.** I originally heard about SDSU from my relative and heard that SDSU had an awesome dairy program.

**Q. Who/what inspired you to pursue a career in the dairy industry?**

**A.** Before I came to SDSU, I had no dairy background and did not know what I wanted to do in the future. Dairy classes, internships and my experience working at the SDSU Davis Dairy Plant provided me with a better understanding of the dairy industry and led me to decide that this is the industry I wanted pursue my full-time career in.

**Q. Describe what it was like coming to the United States and South Dakota for the first time.**

**A.** I grew up in a city with a population of over 15 million people, so South Dakota seemed almost too peaceful for me to get used to at first! It was the first time I came to another country alone and even the smallest thing was a challenge for me, due to language barriers. The unknowns of the next four years ahead in the U.S. made me really excited and nervous at the same time.

**Q. What was most surprising to you when you first arrived to the United States?**

**A.** I have learned English in school since I was 11 years old, and I thought I spoke good English, but when I first arrived, I had a harder time communicating with people than I anticipated I would. I was surprised that the English I learned is not the same way people speak here.

**Q. How did you incorporate your heritage into your time at SDSU?**

**A.** I was a member of the Chinese Students Scholars Association in 2019, and we held a China Night event on campus to introduce Chinese performance, food and culture to other students.

**Q. What is your favorite dairy product and why?**

**A.** My favorite dairy products are chocolate ice cream and bacon cheddar cheese. I had never eaten cheddar cheese before I came to SDSU, so that was new to me. It tasted just fine the first time I tried it, but I really liked it after I got used to it!

**Q. What was your favorite part about your program?**

**A.** The SDSU dairy program provides students with a wide variety of opportunities, and the SDSU Davis Dairy Plant and the Dairy Research and Training Facility gives students experience and knowledge that can't be learned anywhere else. The department offers an abundance of scholarship and job interview opportunities every year, which provides students a competitive advantage when looking for jobs.

**Q. What will you treasure most about your time at SDSU?**

**A.** I would say every moment and experience at SDSU is invaluable for me. The time I spent at SDSU opened my mind, changed the way I think and really expanded my knowledge. My experiences also helped me understand myself better and work on my weaknesses – I feel more brave now than I have any other time in my life.

**Q. Throughout your years at SDSU, what are you most proud of yourself for?**

**A.** Throughout my years at SDSU, I was anxious about the challenges from school and life here in the U.S., but I never thought about giving up. I'm proud of myself for making an effort to persevere every time I felt anxious.

**Q. Why would you encourage other international students to attend SDSU?**

**A.** SDSU is in a safe and peaceful town and people are friendly here! Professors and staff members are also very patient and happy to help you.

**Q. What else would you like to share about your experience?**

**A.** When I was in high school, I never thought I would study abroad in the United States. Now, I believe the four years I spent at SDSU is totally worth it and was even better than I could have imagined.

**Q. What have you enjoyed most about your first few months working at Saputo?**

**A.** I enjoy everything here, but I would say the thing I enjoy most is the work atmosphere. For me, being at Saputo is like being in a family. I'm responsible for directly supervising lab employees to maximize the productivity of assigned shifts and areas at the highest quality and food safety standards. This includes training employees, planning, assigning and directing work, addressing product and employee complaints, and resolving problems. I learn new things every day at Saputo!





# N CAFES W S



# BOB THALER

## AWARDED SDSU DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AWARD



BY ANDREA SCHUBLOOM

Recently recognized for his professional accomplishments at the South Dakota State University Celebration of Faculty Excellence, Dr. Bob Thaler, Professor of Animal Science and SDSU Extension Swine Specialist, was presented as the 2021 recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award.

The Distinguished Professor Award is the university's ultimate academic recognition presented to those who have reached the pinnacle of their careers through distinguished performance and national or international recognition. It is given in acknowledgment of a professor who is a model of professional accomplishment in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, and is the highest level of scholarly distinction given to any faculty member who exemplifies good character, professional integrity and outstanding citizenship within the university community.

"Dr. Thaler is an outstanding example of a distinguished professor because of the impacts that he has made on those that he unselfishly serves," said John Killefer, South Dakota Corn Endowed Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. "He has influenced the careers of vast numbers of students, is a true professional colleague and has made our swine industry among the best in the world."

Growing up on his family's diversified farm in Wagner, South

Dakota, Thaler discovered his passion for livestock at a young age. With the intent to become a veterinarian, Thaler attended SDSU and graduated with an animal science degree in 1982. After not getting accepted into veterinary school, he decided to change course and instead attended graduate school at SDSU where he earned his master's degree in swine nutrition in 1984.

"Since it was 1982 and we were in the middle of the farm crisis, there was no room for me on the family farm, there weren't many jobs and I was unsure of my future," said Thaler. "Providentially, in my last semester, I was taking swine production with Dr. Rick Wahlstrom, and he changed my life forever. He asked if I was interested in graduate school, but I had no idea what that meant at the time. After he explained it to me, I thought I'd get my master's in swine nutrition and then get into vet school. However, after just one semester, I was enjoying graduate school so much that I never thought about vet school again, and the rest is history."

Upon graduating with his master's degree, he then attended Kansas State University where he completed his Ph.D. in swine nutrition and immunology in 1988. Shortly after, Wahlstrom, his master's degree advisor, mentor and friend, retired, which provided Thaler and his wife, Karen, with an opportunity to return home to South Dakota where he began his career with SDSU Extension conducting production-focused research at the

Southeast Research Farm near Beresford.

"I was able to start my career at SDSU surrounded by legends – Dan Gee in teaching, George Libal in research and Leon Wrage in Extension," said Thaler. "It would be hard to find a better trio to learn from."

Throughout his 33 years at SDSU, Thaler has taken on many different roles in teaching, research and Extension. In 1996, his role shifted to a 25% teaching and 75% Extension appointment.

At SDSU, he has created two different agricultural study abroad classes to China and Vietnam and an online swine nutrition class as part of the online swine science certificate program. Other courses taught by Thaler include a variety of animal science, range science, swine production and animal nutrition classes.

"I found that I loved teaching," said Thaler. "Being married to the world's best teacher in my wife, Karen, helped, and any success I've had can be directly attributed to the support of her and our three children Allyse, Sarah and Noah. When you think about it, the only difference between teaching and Extension is the age of the audience and where the teaching takes place."

From 2005-2008, Thaler served as head of the Department of Animal and Range Sciences. Following that role, he was able to resume his Extension and teaching responsibilities and continue conducting research.

Thaler says his work as an SDSU Extension Swine Specialist has changed significantly over the years. Environmental Training for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), Pork Quality Assurance and Transport Quality Assurance programs have become a common way to answer producers' questions and help South Dakotans who are less familiar with the swine industry understand the impact pork production has on rural communities and the state.

"We don't hold county meetings anymore, and there are a lot fewer producers now," said Thaler. "However, the level of expertise and professionalism of the pork producer today is extremely high, and that changes what we do and how we do it."

Over the course of his career, Thaler has authored several books and chapters, and written over 150 articles for various SDSU Extension and industry publications. Additionally, he has participated in and produced several educational videos, episodes of the iGrow TV show and presented at numerous conferences and meetings for other institutions and industry organizations across the United States.

For his efforts in teaching, research and Extension, Thaler is a recipient of nearly 30 different awards. His SDSU accolades include the 2020 Dr. Richard Wahlstrom Animal Science Award for Excellence in Scholarship, the 2016 Global Engagement in International Education/Student Engagement Award, the 2006 and 2000 College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Teacher of the Year Award, the 2005 SDSU President's Medal of Honor, the Gamma Sigma Delta Award for Extension and Teaching, the Director's Award of Excellence in Extension for leading the manure management programs, the Dean's Team Award for the

Biostress Center of Excellence program and the South Dakota Extension Merit Award. Thaler was also the David Fee Memorial lecturer in 2006, an N.E. Hansen invited lecturer and is a member of the Epsilon Sigma Phi Honorary Extension Fraternity.

"While not awards, two projects that I am very proud to have been involved with are the development and complete funding for the SDSU Swine Unit enhancement project completed in 2016 for \$7.4 million, and the development and funding for the Wahlstrom Room in the Animal Science Complex in 2008 for \$150,000," said Thaler. "Through the relationships developed by SDSU animal science faculty over many years, I was part of a team that was able to bring together a diverse coalition of industry leaders, farmers, and supporters to complete the project."

Other honors include the Governor's Ag Ambassador Award from former South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard in 2015, several awards from the South Dakota Pork Producers Council, a Fullbright Scholarship to Vietnam National University of Agriculture in 2018 and the National Pork Board's Innovation Award in Teaching and Extension in 2003 among others.

Thaler has also served as member of the Executive Board of the National Pork Board's Swine Education Committee in 2020, was a delegate-at-large for the National Pork Producers Council's Pork Forum in 2019, a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board in 2018, a member of the South Dakota Ag and Rural Leadership Board of Directors in 2017

and served on the Farmland Industries University Advisory Board from 1996-1998.

"Dr. Thaler is recognized locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally as a leading educator in pig production," said Joseph Cassady, Head of

the Department of Animal Science. "He is a true professional and passionate promoter of South Dakota State University."

In regard to his international impact, Thaler has consulted extensively for the U.S. Soybean Export Council, the U.S. Grains Council, the U.S. Meat Export Federation and the U.S. Dairy Export Council resulting in over 30 trips to China, and multiple trips to Vietnam, Russia, the Philippines, Thailand, Venezuela, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, Columbia, Peru, South Korea and Malaysia.

When asked what led him to his current career, Thaler says it was God's plan for his life.

"I'm living proof of the saying 'be grateful for unanswered prayers,'" said Thaler. "I get to work with talented colleagues, great producers, exceptional students who become producers, and excellent allied industry partners. Today SDSU is one of the few land grant universities that still values and expects strong undergraduate teaching and is a place where the Extension does make a positive difference in people's lives. As one of my friends from private industry told me, 'we have the world's best jobs because we get paid to help our friends,' and after 33 years here, the people I work with aren't students and producers, they're family and friends."

***"Dr. Thaler is recognized locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally as a leading educator in pig production. He is a true professional and passionate promoter of South Dakota State University."***

# 2021 Celebration of

Once a year, the faculty of South Dakota State University come together to celebrate and recognize successes through the Celebration of Faculty Excellence event.

BY SADIE VANDER WAL, NICOLE HUDSON & ANN HESS

## Emmanuel Byamukama

F.O. BUTLER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN OUTREACH



Emmanuel Byamukama, Associate Professor and South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension Plant Pathology Specialist was selected as the recipient of the 2021 F.O. Butler Award for Excellence in Outreach. Named after the Chicago industrialist, F.O. Butler awards are presented to faculty who achieve the highest levels of excellence in their respective roles that lead to lasting contributions to the well-being of the people of South Dakota.

“It is very humbling to have been selected for this award,” Byamukama said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to make a contribution, however small, towards crop production. I am grateful to the great team I work with and for an enabling environment at the department, college and university levels here at SDSU.”

A native of Uganda, Byamukama received his bachelor’s in agriculture and master’s in crop science from Makerere University in Kampala before moving to the United States. He completed his doctorate in plant pathology from Iowa State

University in 2008 and then served as a postdoctoral research associate, first at ISU, and then at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, before joining SDSU in 2013.

Byamukama’s outreach program is aimed at helping producers manage crop diseases effectively, profitably and sustainably. He has given more than 100 presentations and published over 250 Extension materials to provide producers and other stakeholders current and relevant information on plant disease management.

His research generates unbiased information and has resulted in 31 authored or co-authored peer-reviewed papers. In the last seven years, he has attracted more than \$2 million in externally generated funding to support his research and Extension programs.

The impact of his Extension program is estimated to have saved producers millions of dollars from prevented yield loss and avoidance of unnecessary fungicide application. Byamukama said he naturally enjoys helping others and finds it rewarding when producers’ crops are profitable due to his recommended interventions.



# Faculty Excellence

## Rosie Nold

### EDWARD PATRICK HOGAN AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

For her efforts in providing instruction to hundreds of students every year, coordinating the department's undergraduate curriculum and many other contributions, professor of animal science and assistant department head Rosie Nold has been awarded the 2021 Edward Patrick Hogan Award for Teaching Excellence at South Dakota State University.

The award was established to recognize faculty excellence as it relates to the teaching role, to encourage and motivate good teachers and to contribute to the stimulation of more effective teaching at all levels of education.

"Dr. Nold cares deeply about our students, and she works diligently to enable their success," said Dr. Joe Cassady, Head of the Department of Animal Science. "She pushes students out of their comfort zone and encourages them to try new things." Originally from Pipestone, Minnesota, Nold received her bachelor's degree and Ph.D. from SDSU and her master's degree from Kansas State University. She then spent nearly ten years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as an Extension Youth Livestock Specialist and seven years in several SDSU Extension administration positions before transitioning to her current teaching and assistant department head roles with the Department of Animal Science.

Since coming to SDSU, Nold has been honored with the 2020 Gamma Sigma Delta Excellence in Teaching award and the 2018 Fishback Honors College Advocate award, in addition to being named a finalist for the

CAFES Teacher of the Year and the Fishback Honors College Teacher of the Year awards multiple times. She also received the 2018 J. Walters McCarty Advising Award and the 2016 F.O. Butler Award for Excellence in Extension.

As the introductory course to the animal science major and one of the required courses for the animal science minor, Introduction to Animal Science is taken by hundreds of students every year, all of whom are taught by Nold. While teaching assistants lead many of the course's labs, Nold coordinates each lab section and teaches a few of them herself, including an honors section every fall. She also teaches a Livestock Evaluation and Marketing course.

Students often seek Nold's guidance as they navigate their degree paths, future career plans and other academic decisions. She also mentors several students enrolled in the Fishback Honors College and coordinates the department's wool judging and academic quadrathlon teams.

"Very few people care more about students' long-term success than Dr. Nold," said Bob Thaler, Professor of Animal Science and SDSU Extension Swine Specialist. "She challenges our students to do more than they thought possible, and then does everything she can do to help them achieve those goals."



# Howard Bonnemann

TIMOTHY J. NICHOLS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING



Howard Bonnemann, Lecturer in the Department of Dairy and Food Science, received the 2021 Timothy J. Nichols Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Student Advising. This award honors faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in advising and mentoring undergraduate students.

Bonnemann is currently in his 24th year as a faculty member with the Department of Dairy and Food Science. In 1997, he returned to SDSU as Plant Manager for the department. He managed the plant for 14 years and oversaw the design and construction of the Davis Dairy Plant.

Bonnemann has been the academic advisor for all undergraduate students in the Department of Dairy and Food Science for the past 10 years. He also serves as

the undergraduate coordinator for the Dairy Manufacturing, Dairy Production and Food Science programs. In addition to his advising and coordinating duties, Bonnemann teaches 11 courses in the department from the 100 level up to the 500 level.

Bonnemann received his bachelor's degree in Dairy Manufacturing from SDSU in 1982. In 1984 he graduated with a master's degree in Dairy Manufacturing from SDSU. He then obtained a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from SDSU in 1987.

Prior to his return to SDSU, Bonnemann spent 10 years in the dairy industry as a Product Development Manager for two dairy and food companies and served as a Quality Control Director for a fluid milk processing facility.

# Anne Fennell

OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER

Anne Fennell, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science, received the 2021 Outstanding Researcher Award at the SDSU Celebration of Faculty Excellence.

Fennell is currently in her 29th year as a faculty member with the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science. In 1992, Fennell joined the faculty at SDSU as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks. In 2000, she spent a year on a sabbatical faculty appointment at Oregon State University in Corvallis. In 2007 Fennell served as a visiting professor to INP-ESNAT in Castanet, France. She also served as a visiting professor to the University of Verona in Verona, Italy in 2010.

Fennell's research programs are focused on the genetic, physiological, and phenotypic aspects of grapevine dormancy, cold hardiness and chilling fulfillment, and more specifically, to identify genes, pathways and genetic architecture which impact sustainable production of grapevine and

other perennial systems. She has developed a nationally and internationally recognized grapevine system biology and genomics research program and transitions the knowledge to applied research.

Fennell has been a primary investigator or co-primary investigator on \$44.67 million in national research projects. She has contributed to state, national and international research agendas through the National Grape Research Alliance, BioSystems Networks/Translational Research (BioSNTR), National Science Foundation Committee of Visitors, NSF International Research and Education Collaboration for Grape Functional Genomics, and European Cooperation in Science and Technology INTEGRAPE.

Fennell's academic responsibilities include several graduate level courses, including fruit crop production systems, molecular plant physiology, crop physiology and a graduate seminar.



# GAMMA SIGMA DELTA

## AWARDS & INITIATION

BY NICOLE HUDSON

*The South Dakota State University chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, hosted the spring Awards and Initiation Ceremony on April 20, 2021, where they welcomed new members and honored faculty who have made an exceptional impact in teaching, research, SDSU Extension and more.*

### 2021 HONORARY SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to Mary Christensen

Mary Christensen, Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication and Agricultural Science (ALECS) Coordinator – Advising and Student Retention, was awarded the Gamma Sigma Delta 2021 Honorary Service Award. In her role as ALECS Coordinator, Christensen oversees the over 350 students enrolled in the program and teaches the ALECS first-year seminar classes.

In addition to her duties as ALECS Coordinator, Christensen coordinates advising for the over 1,600 students enrolled in CAFES. She personally advises approximately 150 of the students enrolled in the ALECS program. Christensen also leads the advising team for New Student Orientation.

“The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science is very fortunate to have Dr. Mary Christensen as an advisor to students, and colleague to faculty and staff,” said Vikram Mistry, Interim Associate Dean of CAFES Academic Programs. “Her work with students is highly impactful. She is totally dedicated to helping them succeed and navigate through challenges in a compassionate manner. She is also a “go-to” person for CAFES advisors and faculty on academic matters. On top of these activities, she is an outstanding advisor to the Prexy Council. Mary performs at a high level and gently inspires other to excel.”

In addition to her academic advising duties, Christensen serves as advisor to the CAFES Prexy Council, the college’s student council of club leadership. She also provides mentorship to students through the LeadState program.



### 2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Awarded to Dan Gee

Dan Gee, professor emeritus in the Department of Animal Science, received the Gamma Sigma Delta 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award.

During his time at SDSU, Gee taught two key classes in the Department of Animal Science, Introduction to Animal Science and Livestock Evaluation and Marketing. He served as an academic advisor to hundreds of students during his time with SDSU. Gee also coached a nationally competitive Livestock Judging Team every year.

“While at SDSU, Dan was the gold standard of what makes an exceptional educator,” said Robert Thaler, Professor and SDSU Extension Swine Specialist.

Gee was awarded the SDSU College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Teacher of the Year in 1970, 1989, 1993 and 1998. He also received the Gamma Sigma Delta Excellence in Teaching Award in 1984.

After retiring from SDSU, Gee went on to establish the South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership Program (SDARL). After developing the leadership skills of more than 150 South Dakota agriculturalists over 5 classes, he retired from his role with SDARL.

Following his time with SDARL, Gee helped lead the completion of the \$1 million Kohler-Gee Endowment for the SDSU Livestock Judging Team. He also helped raise funds for the new SDSU Swine Education and Research Facility and the SDSU Cow-Calf Education and Research Facility.

Gee was recognized in 2004 as an SDSU Distinguished Alumni. In 2011, he was awarded the inaugural South Dakota Agriculture Ambassador Award.

# GAMMA SIGMA DELTA

## AWARDS & INITIATION

### 2021 FACULTY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Three faculty awards are given in the areas of research, teaching and Extension:

#### Faculty Award of Excellence in Research

Crystal Levesque, Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Science, was awarded the Gamma Sigma Delta 2021 Faculty Excellence in Research Award.

Levesque's research has been focused in two specific areas within swine production. She has focused on defining maternal nutrient requirements to optimize offspring pre- and post- natal development and on the impacts of alternative feeds and dietary additives on piglet growth, immune function and gut health post-weaning.

Levesque's research has helped improve sow nutrition to produce a heartier offspring. As a result, it has increased efficiency, reduced antibiotic use and reduced non-renewable resource input.

Levesque has received over \$4.1 million in external research funding since she began at SDSU. In the last five years alone, she has had 26 refereed publications, published three book chapters, 51 Extension publications and 67 conference proceedings.

When Levesque isn't working on her research, she spends her time overseeing graduate students in the Department of Animal Science and teaching an undergraduate swine production course. She is known for developing her graduate students to their fullest potential.

"Dr. Crystal Levesque is an exceptional researcher that positively impacts her students, the university and the swine industry," said Joseph Cassady, Animal Science Department Head.



#### Faculty Award of Excellence in Teaching

Douglas Prairie, Instructor in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, was awarded the Gamma Sigma Delta 2021 Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award.

Prairie has taken the 20 years of experience he has gained through his time in the industry and brought it into the classroom. He has helped design labs for the new Raven Precision Ag Center that will provide students with a more realistic lab experience. Prairie has also been on department curriculum committees, helping develop the courses his students take.

Prairie has introduced several courses to SDSU that have given students direct exposure to industry standard tools. In 2021, he introduced a course that explores Finite Element Analysis software tools used in machine design. Prairie also facilitates industry-sponsored design projects for senior agricultural engineering students. Companies and organizations such as AGCO, Bobcat, Raven, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and others bring their real design problems, and SDSU senior design teams provide solutions.

"Doug's strength is the many years of industry experience he brings into the classroom," said Van Kelley, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department Head. "He is able to help students connect textbook theory to practical career skills they need and will use during internships and throughout their careers."

Prairie is also the advisor for the highly successful SDSU Quarter Scale Tractor team. In 2018, the team won the international competition, defeating 28 teams from other universities from around the world. The team also placed second in 2017 and 2019.



# GAMMA SIGMA DELTA

## AWARDS & INITIATION

### Faculty Award of Excellence in Extension

Sara Bauder, SDSU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist, was awarded the Gamma Sigma Delta 2021 Faculty Excellence in Extension Award.

Located in the Mitchell regional Extension Center, Bauder has shown her commitment through her creative outreach activities such as Friday Farming, a weekly Facebook video series that provides updates on crop conditions throughout the growing season.

“I am so pleased that Sara has been recognized by Gamma Sigma Delta,” said Karla Trautman, SDSU Extension Director. “Sara is dedicated to serving the South Dakota agricultural community, her discipline and SDSU Extension. This recognition is a testament to the exceptional work that Sara provides in her professional role to stakeholders and the land grant mission that is the foundation of SDSU Extension.”

Bauder has spearheaded several other outreach efforts such as coordinating the Crop Hour Webinar, a virtual winter crop production clinic that is hosted on the SDSU Extension YouTube Channel. Bauder also shares weekly summaries of the Agronomy Weekly newsletter on the SDSU Extension Agronomy Facebook page.



## 2021 POSTER COMPETITION WINNERS

Winners of the 2021 Virtual Gamma Sigma Delta Poster Competition were announced at the awards ceremony:

### Undergraduate Poster Competition Winners

1. Riley Mounsdon, junior ecology and environmental science, natural resource law enforcement and wildlife and fisheries sciences triple major, Finding the Sweet Spot for Control: Age and Growth Rate Relationships of Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) in Eastern South Dakota
2. Madison Kovarna, senior animal science major, Effects of Virtual or In Person Supplemental Instruction on Exam Scores of Introduction to Animal Science Students
3. Jessica Kading, senior wildlife and fisheries sciences major, Documenting Macrophytes and their Habitat Preference in Southeastern South Dakota

### Graduate Poster Competition Winners

1. Ratul Kalita, Department of Dairy and Food Science, Studying the Influence of Sampling Variability on Microbial Analysis of Milk
2. Adalaide Kline, Department of Animal Science, Use of Pregnancy-Associated Glycoproteins to Determine Fetal Age Throughout Gestation in Cattle
3. Talia Everding, Department of Animal Science, Quantifying Cortisol in Hair on Sows Housed in Pen and Stall Gestation

### Ph.D. Poster Competition Winners

1. Christian Ramirez Camba, Department of Animal Science, Gestating Sow Model for Protein and Amnio Acid Deposition
2. Ruchika Kashyap, Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science, Possible Shift in Sensitivity of Phomopsis Stem Canker Fungi, *Diaporthe helianthin* and *D. gulyayae*, in Sunflower Tebuconazole Fungicide
3. Ajoy Saha, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Impact of Conservation Practices and Soil Physical Properties on Field Hydrology: How Sensitive is the Soil Plant Atmosphere Water (SPAW) Model to Changes in Soil Properties?



## 2021 GAMMA SIGMA DELTA INITIATES

Gamma Sigma Delta initiated 23 new members during their 2021 Spring Awards and Initiation Ceremony. To be invited to join Gamma Sigma Delta, initiates must show exceptional academic or professional performance and show promise of leadership.

### Undergraduate Initiates:

- Clay Carlson, animal science student
- Jessica Kading, wildlife and fisheries sciences student
- Shailey Marczak, animal science student
- Lydia Meredith, dairy manufacturing student
- Mary Nold, horticulture student
- Murray Perkins, animal science student
- Sadie Vander Wal, agricultural communications and animal science student

### Graduate Initiates:

- Joy Amajoiyoi, Department of Agronomy, Horticulture, and Plant Science
- Taylor Andrews, Department of Animal Science
- Shannon Dierking, Department of Animal Science
- Mohamed Elfaruk, Department of Dairy and Food Science
- Johanna Jorgensen, Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science
- Ruchika Kashyap, Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science
- Alexandria Kelly, Department of Animal Science
- Adalaide Kline, Department of Animal Science
- Shayanti Minj, Department of Dairy and Food Science
- Emily Mioberg, Department of Natural Resource Management
- Kaayva Rathnakumar, Department of Dairy and Food Science

### Faculty Initiates:

- Anthony Bly, Extension Soils Field Specialist
- Jiyul Chang, Lecturer in the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science
- Jimmy Gu, Professor in the Department of Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering
- Ryan Samuel, Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal Science
- Lin Wie, Associate Professor in the Department of Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering

Initiates pictured (from left to right): Back row: Ryan Samuel, Lydia Meredith, Alexandria Kelly, Shannon Dierking, Sadie Vander Wal, Murray Perkins. Front row: Jiyul Chang, Ruchika Kashyap, Shayanti Minj, Mary Nold, Adalaide Kline, Taylor Andrews.



# NATALIE HOYES

## RECEIVES 2021 WALT MCCARTY ADVISING AWARD

BY NICOLE HUDSON

**N**atalie Hoyes, Professional Advisor in the Department of Animal Science at South Dakota State University, received the 2021 Walt McCarty Advising Award in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

“The Walt McCarty Advising Award is a huge honor to even be nominated for, much less receive,” said Hoyes. “I always strive for excellence with doing the best that I can for my students and help set them up for success. I am so grateful to work with amazing students in the Department of Animal Science who make my job very enjoyable.”

The Walt McCarty Advising Award is presented to an academic advisor to promote the importance of and stimulate excellence in academic advising and provide recognition to outstanding advisors of undergraduates in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

“Natalie is an outstanding advisor who cares about her students and enables them to succeed through sound advising, plan of study management and mentorship,” said Vikram Mistry, Interim Associate Dean of Academic Programs. “She adds immense value to the student experience as they work toward academic and personal goals. Natalie makes her department and the university a warm and welcoming place for students and truly captures the intent of this award.”

Hoyes advises approximately 300 students in the Department

of Animal Science every year. She provides mentorship to students within the department by helping them develop academic and career plans throughout their time at SDSU. She also helps students navigate campus resources including the SDSU Student Health and Counseling Center, Financial Aid Office, and more. Hoyes also supports the department by assisting the departmental clubs, judging teams, and other experiential learning opportunities.

In 2020, Hoyes led the development of the Animal Science Student Ambassador Program. She developed the responsibilities, qualifications, and other guiding documents for the program, and led the application and selection process for the first two years. Hoyes works with the Animal Science Student Ambassadors to coordinate prospective student visits and mentor freshman students in the department.

“Natalie demonstrates excellence and professionalism in all her activities and interactions with students, colleagues, faculty, staff and visitors,” said Rosie Nold, Assistant Department Head and Professor in the Department of Animal Science. “Her commitment to excellence manifests itself through her passion for working with students. She has been a leader and role model in developing a culture of support and achievement for and among students.”

**Top:** Hoyes (center) discusses course requirements and class schedules with two CAFES students.

# DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

BY SADIE VANDER WAL

### AMANDA BLAIR

#### WAHLSTROM ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP

The South Dakota State University Department of Animal Science presented Dr. Amanda Blair, Professor of Animal Science and SDSU Extension Meat Science Specialist, with the 2021 Richard Wahlstrom Animal Science Award for Excellence in Scholarship.

The award, given every year in honor of Distinguished Professor Emeritus Richard Wahlstrom, recognizes a faculty member in the Department of Animal Science who exhibits outstanding scholarship in the areas of teaching, research, Extension and/or outreach.

Graduating with her bachelor's and Ph.D. from Purdue University, Blair accepted a teaching and research role at SDSU in 2007. During her time as an assistant professor, Blair received numerous teaching accolades on campus, including the Students' Association College of Agricultural and Biological Sciences Teacher of the Year, the Edward Patrick Hogan Award for Excellence in Teaching, Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award and the F.O. Butler Award for Excellence in Teaching. Blair's commitment to education was recognized nationally when she was awarded the 2010 New Teacher Award through the United States Department of Agriculture Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences awards program.

Serving as advisor to 12 graduate students during her career, Blair provides each of her student researchers with experiences that will help enhance their abilities and prepare them for their future career goals. This dedication to her students' success is further evidenced by each of her Ph.D. students achieving first or second place in national or regional research competitions before graduating.

In 2014, Blair's teaching responsibilities shifted as she

### DUANE WULF

#### DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE 2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Dr. Duane Wulf received the 2021 South Dakota State University Department of Animal Science Distinguished Alumni Award on April 16, 2021, at the department's annual awards program.

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni of the department whose accomplishments have impacted the agriculture industry, communities and individuals across the state, nation and world. Contributions of Distinguished Alumni include outstanding professional accomplishment, sustained service to agriculture or distinguished leadership.

Originally from Morris, Minnesota, Wulf graduated from SDSU with bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science in

1989 and 1993, respectively. While an undergraduate student, Wulf was a member of the 1987 meat judging team, academic quadrathlon team and Block and Bridle. He later received his doctorate from Colorado State University before accepting a position as an assistant professor and state meat extension specialist at The Ohio State University. Three years later, Wulf transitioned back to SDSU as a professor of animal science with teaching and research appointments.

During his 10 years as a faculty member at SDSU, Wulf was recognized for his strong teaching ability through his numerous accolades, including the 2001 and 2007 College of Agricultural and Biological Sciences Teacher of the Year Award and the 2007 American Meat Science Association Distinguished Teaching Award.

In 2009, Wulf and his family moved to Mexico to pursue mission work. His mission's goal included providing practical

added the title of SDSU Extension Meat Science Specialist to her job description. With a 75% research and 25% Extension appointment, Blair's research program has expanded to encompass more applied research, and her SDSU Extension efforts involve programs relating to enhancing consumer understanding of meat production and products and educating livestock producers about meat products and the meat industry.

Through her Extension role, Blair also works with multi-disciplinary teams to solve livestock production problems and to disseminate information to stakeholder groups through programs such as Beef 2020 and beefSD. Both programs have proven to positively impact cattle producers and their operations, with Beef 2020 increasing participants' knowledge of carcass traits and value and beefSD participants increasing their production acres, herd sizes and profitability.

"I enjoy working with my colleagues and interacting with producers and industry stakeholders to help producers make management decisions leading to economic, ecological and sociological sustainability, and in turn, contributing to ongoing agricultural production and rural community viability in South Dakota," Blair said.

"Dr. Blair has demonstrated the ability to achieve excellence in teaching, research, and Extension," Dr. Joseph Cassady, Head of the Department of Animal Science, said. "SDSU is fortunate to have her as a faculty member."





education, training and career opportunities to fatherless and underprivileged youth, which he accomplished by establishing The Fatted Calf, a nonprofit organization dedicated to glorifying and obeying God by providing training and career development to underprivileged youth. Through the organization, Wulf and his team created three businesses to provide an avenue for youth to develop these career-essential skills: Carnisimo, a value-added meat processing company, Rancho Agua Viva, a cattle ranch and seedstock company, and Carnisimo Burgers, a restaurant. He was also part of a group that established Expo Esperanza, a youth summer program and exposition similar to county fairs in the U.S.

After dedicating 10 years to mission work in Mexico, Wulf moved back to the U.S. and currently serves as an associate professor at the University of Arizona.

Wulf attributes being on the meat judging team and later

## SARAH VOS

### OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN ANIMAL SCIENCE

South Dakota State University's Department of Animal Science awarded Sarah Vos, a senior animal science student from Caputa, South Dakota, the 2021 Outstanding Student in Animal Science.

The outstanding student award was developed to recognize students with strong involvement in community service, leadership positions on and off-campus and extra-curricular activities while still maintaining a high level of academic performance. All clubs in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and faculty members in the Department of Animal Science had the opportunity to nominate an animal science student graduating in either May or December 2021 for this award. Nominated students were then invited to submit an application consisting of a personal statement and a summary of his or her collegiate activities. A committee selected the award recipient based on academic performance, organizations and activities, community service, leadership, undergraduate scholarship activities in research, teaching or extension.

"Sarah's recognition is not just about what she has accomplished, but also about how she has grown, given back and will continue to use the skills gained through her experiences here," Dr. Rosie Nold, Department of Animal Science Assistant Department Head, said. "Outstanding academic achievements coupled with involvement in wide range of activities, from rodeo team to CAFES Ambassadors to Fishback Honors, in her own words 'truly changed my life.' The Animal Science Department is very fortunate to have students like Sarah who contribute to courses and activities and develop relationships and help change us for the better also."

A 4.0 student, Vos' accolades have proven her commitment to both academic and extracurricular success during her time at State. Within the Department of Animal Science, she has assisted fellow undergraduate students as a teaching assistant in three different

coaching the team as a graduate student at SDSU for leading him to his career in meat science and teaching. Having numerous former students become leaders in the industry, making their own impact and improving the lives of those around them has proven to be one of his biggest accomplishments throughout his career.

"I can think of no one that practices the core values of SDSU's current mission and vision any better than Duane and Ann Wulf," Dr. Rosie Nold, Department of Animal Science Assistant Department Head, said. "Dr. Wulf has been and continues to be people-centered, inclusive and innovative. He has used his animal and meat science skills to help bring life-changing improvements to the quality of life of youth and others. We are very proud to have him as a Distinguished Alumni of the Animal Science Department."

classes and was a member of the 2021 academic quadrathlon team that placed second at the Midwest American Society of Animal Science competition. As a member of the SDSU rodeo team, Vos spent three to five hours every day either at practice or exercising her horses. Competing in goat tying, breakaway roping and barrel racing, she has earned numerous college rodeo honors over the last four years, including multiple placings in goat tying at Great Plains Region rodeos, the Stephanie William Memorial scholarship and National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Academic American.

Graduating with Fishback Honors College distinction, Vos completed 24 credits of Honors curriculum, including completing an independent study project on bosavirus in bison with Dr. Christopher Chase, professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences.

Vos has also served as a CAFES ambassador, a member of Mortar Board Honor Society, rodeo club secretary and Little International horse judging superintendent during her college career.

After graduating in May 2021, Vos started a full-time position as an accounting and administrative assistant at Western Dakota Insurers in Rapid City. This fall, she transitioned back to her Jackrabbit roots after accepting a position with SDSU's Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine as coordinator-recruitment and academic services.

"I was a pretty timid freshman, but now I would consider myself more confident and outgoing," Vos said. "For that, I have the many people I have met through my involvement in different activities to thank. My whole experience at SDSU has truly changed my life."

Other nominated students for this award included Abigail Carlson of Saint Bonifacius, Minnesota, Elle Moon of Wall, South Dakota, Madison Kovarna of Merrill, Iowa, Tommy Norman of Luverne, Minnesota, Jacob Rausch of Hoven, South Dakota, Kendra VanDeest of Lafayette, Minnesota and Riggen Zelinsky of Brookings, South Dakota.

Top (from left to right): Award winners Amanda Blair, Duane Wulf (third from right) and family and Sarah Vos.



# Champions of Animal Agriculture

## DEROUCHEY'S HONORED WITH FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD

BY CHRISTINE MOENING

**F**red and Joan DeRouche of Mitchell, South Dakota, were honored with the Friends of the Department Award at the 2021 South Dakota State University Celebration of Animal Science Accomplishments and Excellence (CASAE) during the spring semester of 2021.

“We find joy in giving back to the university because that’s where it all started for us,” Fred said. “We wish we could do more but we do what we can. We hope it’s a little bit of an inspiration to others to consider giving back to the college too.”

The Friends of the Department Award honors a person who has impacted the students, staff, and faculty of the SDSU Department of Animal Science through various forms of contributions, from educational opportunities to financial support.

“Fred and Joan were instrumental in the development of both the new SDSU Cow-Calf Unit and the Swine Education Research Facility and are the only individual donor at the top level for the

Swine Unit,” said Dr. Bob Thaler, Professor and Extension Swine Specialist at SDSU. “Due to their leadership and foresight, we have the best swine and cow-calf unit combination in the entire Land Grant system.”

The DeRouches have played an integral role in the lives of agriculture students at SDSU. Their support helped build the Swine Education and Research Facility and the Cow-Calf Education and Research Facility, which draws in students seeking hands-on experience and research opportunities. Over 1000 students use the swine and cow-calf units for labs in their classes annually and these state-of-the-art facilities provide the ability to train students while conducting research in an environment similar to how pigs are raised on farms, according to Thaler.

For the Department of Animal Science, their support goes beyond dollars and cents, according to Dr. Cody Wright, Professor of Animal Science. He describes them as genuine people and “champions for animal agriculture”. For many years, they



have been champions for animal agriculture, the Department of Animal Science, and SDSU. One can often find them at fundraising events such as the SDSU Beef Bowl, Lamb Bonanza, and Pork Classic and almost always supporting students in the stands at Little "I", according to Wright.

"They supported our SDSU Extension programs and judging teams when they were active producers, they were leaders in their national breed associations, they developed three sons into proud SDSU alumni, and have continued that support with their donations of time and financial resources," Thaler said.

"They are truly humble leaders and supporters of our department and have made a lasting impact throughout the years."

Although almost 50 years removed from SDSU, Fred and Joan "always want to stay in touch with what's going on", according to Fred. As basketball and football season ticket holders, they make it to campus often. Fred currently serves on the SDSU Animal Science Swine and Beef Advisory Councils. Whether it's for SDSU Swine Day, advisory meetings, or Little "I", they traditionally visit the Animal Science Complex, the Student Union, and get some SDSU ice cream while they're here.

"Looking back on our career and the things we were able to do, it all came from the work, knowledge, and contacts we had with SDSU," Fred said.

While attending SDSU, Fred spent three years working at the university's swine unit. He graduated in 1972 with a degree in Animal Science. He was a member of Block and Bridle for 4 years, served on Little International staff, and was champion swine showman in the 48th Little "I". Fred attended church on Sundays at Pius XII Newman Center on campus and often did homework there. Joan completed her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Mount Marty College and was involved in Student Nurses club. The high school sweethearts began their legacy in agriculture after their wedding in December of 1971.

Following graduation, they started a purebred Chester White hog herd in Mitchell, S.D. which developed into a commercial feeder pig operation and a source of crossbred gilts, along with the purebred hogs. Within a few years, the DeRouchey Swine Farm became a national leader in Chester White genetics, traveling nation-wide to deliver hogs to their customers. They

were involved in South Dakota Pork Producers Council activities, national swine shows, and state and national swine and breed associations.

In 1981, they moved to Pukwana, S.D. where they raised their three sons, Jon, Joel, and Jeff. All three were active in Brule County 4-H and Chamberlain FFA as officers and went on to receive their American FFA degrees. Following in their dad's footsteps, all three sons attended SDSU. They all were involved in Little "I" and Block & Bridle during their time there. Since graduating from SDSU, Jon works for Schreiber Foods as the Vice President of Operations, Joel is a professor and swine specialist for Kansas State University, and Jeff is currently the Pharmacy Operations Manager at Avera McKennan.

After 25 years in the swine seedstock industry, Fred and Joan started DeRouchey Cattle Company (DCC) in 1994 raising purebred Maine Anjou. They quickly became one of the nation's top Maine Anjou breeders and were very successful in producing some of the breed's most impactful genetics while selling cattle to almost every state and Canada.

Fred and Joan are native to Hoven, S.D. where they both grew up on farms. Fred was raised on a diversified farm with a purebred SPF Hampshire herd and Joan was raised on a diversified farm with crops and livestock. Fred's first pig was a 4-H project and was delivered by train from the Sears & Roebuck catalog.

While retired in Mitchell, South Dakota, Fred and Joan continue to serve their community. They are members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church where Fred is a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus and they serve as board members on the Catholic Community Foundation of Eastern South Dakota. They enjoy traveling and visiting their grandchildren, family, and friends. Two of their memorable trips were pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Poland.

Over the years, they have maintained strong connections with SDSU while supporting animal science students. They established the Fred and Joan DeRouchey Family Endowed Scholarship in Animal Science and the DeRouchey Family Endowed Scholarship in Swine Production.

While they are appreciative of the award, it is secondary to seeing the benefits of SDSU students using the new swine and beef facilities and having the opportunity for scholarships, according to Joan. Some role models, Fred's parents, instilled in them the importance of giving. Faith, devotion to God, and dedication to the industry led Fred and Joan to where they are today. "Students, your best path to success that you can choose is to develop an 'Attitude for Gratitude,'" Fred said.

The DeRouchey family encourage students to think of the places that have influenced them and find ways to give back. During their recognition, they left everyone with a few words of wisdom. "Don't be shy about expressing your gratitude to others," Fred said. "Whether you are a current student, a first-year graduate or a 50-year SDSU alumni, a way to express gratitude is to develop the habit of financially supporting the college with your treasures... whether small or large they all make a difference in the continued growth and success of South Dakota State University for future generations."

# MARIE LANGHAM

## RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

BY NICOLE HUDSON

Marie Langham, Professor in the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science, retired in January 2021 after 30 years of dedicated service at South Dakota State University.

Originally from East Texas, Langham received her associate's degree from Henderson County Junior College (Trinity Valley Community College) in 1973. She completed a bachelor's degree at (East Texas State) Texas A&M University-Commerce in botany in 1975. Langham completed her master's in botany in 1977. She went on to study plant pathology and graduated with a Ph.D. in 1987 from Texas A&M University.

Following the completion of her Ph.D., Langham was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with the Beetle Transmission of Viruses Group. Four years later in 1991, she accepted a position with SDSU.

Langham's primary academic responsibilities during her time at SDSU included teaching Principles of Plant Pathology, which she taught since coming to SDSU in 1991, until her retirement in January.

"One of the things I loved about teaching the class was just introducing people to the concept of plant pathology," said Langham. She also taught graduate courses including Viral and Bacterial Diseases of Plants and co-taught a Field Diagnostics course in the summers. Langham oversaw graduate students studying in the department as well.

When she wasn't spending time with students, Langham focused on her plant viruses research program. One of her primary research projects involved a collaboration with the SDSU Winter Wheat Breeding Program. Realizing that Wheat Streak mosaic Virus is one of the major disease problems impacting winter wheat in South Dakota, Lanham worked with the SDSU wheat breeders to evaluate the lines they developed to determine virus susceptibility and severity.

"Her impact on our research and teaching programs was great," said David Wright, Department Head of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Sciences. "Her research helped document winter and spring wheat varieties that had durable resistance to many plant diseases and many of these varieties are widely grown in South Dakota and the region."

Langham worked on the initial report of Bean Pod Mottle Virus in South Dakota and collaborated with the SDSU Soybean breeder at the time to evaluate soybean susceptibility. Langham also



developed a method to perform field inoculations on soybeans. She was one of two national coordinators on the Legume ipmPIPE. The goal of the research program was to combine research and extension in a nationwide outreach effort to develop materials for producers to evaluate the direction of future research in legumes.

Langham received the Edward Patrick Hogan Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1995 for her outstanding accomplishments in teaching.

"She was named Teacher of the Year by undergraduate students because of her highly effective way of teaching plant pathology, a discipline that is very important to both agricultural and urban communities," said Wright.

Outside of her academic and research responsibilities, Langham served as the advisor to the Agronomy Club for three years. She contributed to formation of SDSU policy during her time on the SDSU Faculty Senate and served as the secretary for two years. She also participated in outreach activities by collaborating with SDSU Extension personnel on joint publications and presenting at research farm field days. Langham would also contribute to the SDSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic by assisting in the diagnosis of uncommon cases.

"What's kept me here is that I love the interaction that I am able to have at SDSU with the students," said Langham. "I think you have more and better interaction with students here than you do in a lot of colleges. I always enjoyed working with my students in my classes or with student workers and the students who were doing graduate degrees under me."



**PRESIDENT DUNN RECEIVES  
VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD  
FROM THE SOUTH DAKOTA SOYBEAN  
RESEARCH AND PROMOTION COUNCIL**

BY SADIE VANDER WAL

President Barry H. Dunn was awarded the 2021 Visionary Leadership Award by the South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. The award is presented to an outstanding individual making a positive impact in South Dakota agriculture every year.

“President Dunn speaks of ‘imagining our future,’ but he does more than imagine the future - he is creating it,” said Jerry Schmitz, Executive Director of the South Dakota Soybean Association and South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. “He is an incredible leader devoted to building and reinforcing excellence at South Dakota State University by, in his own words, ‘committing to sustainable economic growth and prosperity, agricultural productivity and food production, the stewardship of our natural resources, healthy communities and enhancement of the arts and humanities.’”

The award recipient is voted on by the South Dakota Soybean Checkoff Board. “President Dunn’s visionary leadership has not only helped to make SDSU a university recognized nationwide for its innovation in education, research and community outreach, but a world-class developer of talented leaders to transition us to a bright and prosperous future,” said Schmitz.



**Jackrabbits**  
Land Legacy



*Land of*  
**OPPORTUNITY**

Visit [sdstatefoundation.org/JLL](https://sdstatefoundation.org/JLL) to learn about the gifting options unique to South Dakota State University.

**FINAL RESULTS**

**276**  
*DONORS*

**\$134,318**  
*RAISED*

One day for **STATE**

**You're not just gifting land.  
You're investing in  
South Dakota's future.**

Create a legacy that lasts beyond your lifetime by gifting land and land assets that go to support the academic and athletic programs most important to you at SDSU.

# JACK RABBITS NOW & THEN



## Kristy Cullinan

**Major:** Natural Resource Law Enforcement

**Associate Degree:** General Education

**Hometown:** Glendive, Montana

**Graduation Year:** December 2021

### Q. What brought you to SDSU?

**A.** In high school, I decided I wanted to be a game warden. Most people get a wildlife and fisheries management degree or a criminal justice degree, but I knew I would ultimately need skills from both areas. So, I started looking for programs that would prepare me to graduate and get right out into the field, and that's how I found SDSU. It's one of only five or six schools in the U.S. that has a natural resource law enforcement program that really gets students prepared to start their careers.

### Q. What is the best part about being a Jackrabbit?

**A.** I've really enjoyed feeling a part of a community – being nine hours away from home makes it hard to visit during short breaks. However, over the last two years, SDSU has really started to feel like a home away from home to me, and I attribute that to the amazing people both on campus and in the Brookings community.

### Q. What are you looking forward to about your career?

**A.** I am most looking forward to being out in the field and working with the public. I'm also excited to get younger generations involved in the outdoors. A big motivator for me is the notion that I will have played an important role in the conservation of our natural resources and, hopefully, the same things I got to enjoy while growing up are around for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to enjoy also.

### Q. So far, what is your most memorable experience at SDSU?

**A.** During Feb. 2020 just before the university shut down due to COVID-19, I was taking a large mammal ecology class and we had the opportunity to travel out to the Black Hills to capture and collar bighorn sheep for a research project. Getting to work with graduate students and multiple different biologists taught me a lot – not to mention seeing the use of a helicopter to capture and handle wild bighorn sheep. Overall, it was a remarkable experience and one that I will never forget.

### Q. Do you have any hobbies?

**A.** One of my biggest hobbies is horseback riding. I grew up around horses and have competed in pleasure, English riding, and rodeo. It's something that really relaxes me and is how I often spend my free time while at home.

## Joel DeRouchey

**Degree:** Animal Science, B.S. Swine Nutrition, M.S. and Ph.D.

**Years at SDSU:** 1993-1997

**Hometown:** Pukwana, South Dakota

**Current City:** Wamego, Kansas



### Q. What is your current job title and place of employment?

**A.** I work at Kansas State University in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry as a professor and as a Swine Extension Specialist and Program Leader for animal sciences.

### Q. Describe your typical day at work.

**A.** Every day is different, which keeps my daily activities fresh and exciting. I work with 12-14 M.S. and Ph.D. swine graduate students as part of the K-State Applied Swine Team, interact directly with swine producers in Kansas, across the U.S. and internationally, and spend time with undergraduates and other faculty involved in various livestock species and program areas.

### Q. What has been most rewarding about your career?

**A.** Guiding young professionals to their career paths and helping them build a foundation and network in the swine industry.

### Q. What is the best piece of advice you've been given?

**A.** Success is not owned, it is rent due every day.

### Q. As an alum, why would you encourage young adults to pursue a career in the fields of agriculture, food and environmental sciences?

**A.** Rewarding careers are endless in the agriculture-related industries. The ability to have an influence in the future of food production is as exciting now as it ever has been in the history of the United States.

### Q. How do you like to spend your spare time?

**A.** With my wife Julene and our 3 children James (18), Jenna (16) and Jacob (14) at their 4-H/FFA activities, sports events and showing livestock.

### Q. Is there anything else you would like to share?

**A.** SDSU has a national reputation as one of the top land grant universities, and it takes alumni support to assure it remains in this distinction. Please share your time, talents and financial giving to support current and future students of SDSU.

## CREATING A BETTER FUTURE

My wife and I were recently gifted a small wooden chest by my grandparents. This chest was once owned by a sailor that sailed the Mediterranean Sea in a dhow boat running a trade route from the Middle East to the eastern shores of Africa. In its original use, the chest contained all the worldly possessions of the sailor. Over the course of a century and trading between many hands, it fell into the possession of my grandparents. My grandparents used the chest in a similar manner as the original sailor – keeping small tokens of their life together. Recently, we asked my grandmother to sit down with us as we went through the chest item by item reliving the memories and experiences shared between her and my grandfather. As we went through the chest and she described the significance and meaning behind each treasure and token, it was evident that my grandparents centered their lives around two common themes – bringing people closer together and laying the groundwork for a better future.

Over the past several years, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences has been working toward a campaign goal where we focus on building a better future through bringing people closer together. One of the ways we can do this is by creating endowments.

An endowment is a tool utilized by foundations to bring financial support to scholarships, faculty or programs in perpetuity. This works by placing a sum of money in an account, and interest generated from the initial investment funds the area of need over time. Endowments are tools that give the university the ability to bring people closer together by removing the burdens of today and allowing our students and faculty to dream and reach a better future.

South Dakota State University has done a tremendous job over the past decade creating the places that bring us closer together. Now it is our time to give our people the resources and tools they need to create a better future by removing today's challenges. We do not need to wait for tomorrow – we can make the investment today that will bring us closer together. Just like any investment, the interest will only compound over time.

*Mark Sandager, '11*



## SCHOLARSHIPS AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

### OUR STUDENTS HAVE BOLD DREAMS AND AMBITIONS FOR THEIR FUTURE.

Scholarships change their lives and contribute to their success at SDSU.

 **BOLD  
& BLUE**  
The Campaign for SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE SDSU FOUNDATION:

605-697-7475 | [info@sdstatefoundation.org](mailto:info@sdstatefoundation.org)  
[www.sdstatefoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.sdstatefoundation.org/scholarships)  
815 Medary Avenue, Brookings, SD 57006



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

Berg Agricultural Hall  
1148 Medary Ave.  
Brookings, SD 57007



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

## **2022 Spring Schedule of Events**

### **Pork Classic**

Saturday, February 12 | 2:00 p.m.

### **99th SDSU Little International**

Friday, April 1 & Saturday, April 2 | 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

### **SDSU Jackrabbit Stampede**

Friday, April 8 & Saturday, April 9

### **Ag Day**

Monday, April 11 | 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### **Commencement**

Saturday, May 7