



Animal Sciences News

Volume 24, Number 9

September, 2008

September Calendar

- 9/1/08 **Labor Day Holiday** (University closed).
- 9/12/08 **Birthday Cake and Coffee**, Staff Lounge, 2:30 p.m.
- 9/18/08 **University Day**, LaSells Stewart Center (featured Speaker Dr. Carol Geary, President, Association of American Colleges and Universities, 10:30 a.m., followed by outdoor lunch, Expo in the Alumni Center, and dessert in the Sports Performance Center.
- 9/26/08 **CAS Kick-Off BBQ for new students**, Strand Ag Hall lawn, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
- 9/29/08 **Classes begin.**

Three “Farewells”

The Department bids a fond “farewell” to three faculty this fall – **Clint Sexson, Jill Davidson** and **Jesse Warntjes**.

Clint Sexson is moving on to a new phase in his life as a high school teacher in Pilot Rock, Oregon. Clint first joined the Department in the fall of 1999. He came as a graduate student and to help Tom Hill in coaching the Livestock Judging Team. As Tom began to retire from this role, Clint took over increasingly as coach and led the team to several championship competitions. A number of years ago, Clint was also asked to add management of the Soap and Berry Creek Ranches to his duties. Clint was a great teacher, highly respected by students. He

was an excellent Livestock Judging Team coach, as well as ranch manager. We will miss Clint’s steady personality and all of us wish him the very best at Pilot Rock High School.

Jill Davidson has decided to move back to the Midwest and join Land O’Lakes at their nutrition research farm in Lees Summit, MO. Jill will have the opportunity to work more closely with dairy cows in her new position, and will also be closer to her home in Ohio. We’ve enjoyed getting to know Jill over the past year and wish her the very best in her research and development position with Land O’Lakes.

Instructor **Jesse Warntjes** has accepted a position teaching Vocational Ag and coaching the Livestock Judging Team at Crater

High School in Central Point, Oregon. Jesse earned his BS with us, an MS in dairy nutrition at U.C. Davis, and had come back to start a Ph.D. program here. He decided not to pursue the Ph.D. and filled in for us last year to teach ANS 313 and help with the ANS 121 labs. We all wish Jesse the very best as he returns home to Crater High School.

Travel

Candace Crony is an invited speaker for the 2008 International Forum for Women in Dairying to be held in Madison, WI, September 28-29. The panel is on “Global Perspectives on Animal Welfare and Consumer Issues – What can we do in production agriculture to address consumer issues and confidence,

specifically concerning animal welfare and well-being?"

Chanda Engel, Klamath Extension agent, attended the NIRS (Near-Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy) Forage and Feed Testing Consortium Seminar hosted by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore, OK, August 11-13. Chanda is a member of the NIRS Consortium, serving on the membership and intellectual property committees. The consortium's mission is to improve accuracy and understanding of forage and feed testing through standardizing and monitoring instruments, updating/developing new equations, and participating in forage testing research.

News and Notes



Matt and Val Cannon foster family

The Summer, 2008, issue of "Kindness," a quarterly publication of Heartland Humane Society, features an article on **Matt and Val Cannon**, "A Fabulous Heartland Foster Family." Foster families "expand the walls" of Heartland's animal shelter. Over the holiday last winter, Matt and Val provided foster care for four litters of

kittens! Even though they ended up adopting one of the babies, Matt and Val continue to offer much appreciated foster care.

Karen de Cler (BS, 1992) shares an update with us. Karen worked for a couple of high-tech companies in Europe after graduating, and then, missing the wide-open spaces, initiative taking and diversity of people in North America, she immigrated to Canada five years ago. Her dog moved with her from Oregon to Europe to Canada. She has worked for multinational companies in Vancouver and Victoria in the field of Health, Safety, the Environment and Regulatory Affairs. Believing that prevention can be more effectively addressed in frontline healthcare, she currently is applying for medical school.

Former student and Withycombe Club member **John Nyberg** (BS, 1970) caught and released a wild hawk that had flown into the Poultry building at the Oregon State Fair, on opening day.

Jim Oldfield's daughter, Kathy Sansone, recently took part in the annual Hood to Coast Relay. The race, which starts 6,700 feet up on Mount Hood, runs 197 miles and ends at sea level, at Seaside. It draws 1,000 teams of 12 runners each. Kathy ran with a Salem team.

The Polk Soil and Water Conservation District presented **Gene Pirelli** with the "Educator of the Year" award at their annual meeting in mid August. The award was in recognition of Gene's efforts with staff training for Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS) districts in northwest Oregon and for his career contributions to the livestock producers and 4H youth in Polk County. Congratulations, Gene, on a job well done.

Ron Scott (BS, 1975) called with greetings recently. Ron headed the Experimental Fur Farm for a number of years and later worked with Tom Savage in his poultry program and in Fred Menino's lab. Ron continues to live in Medford.

Former Horse Center Instructor **Angela White**, her husband, Marshall, and two-year-old daughter, Savannah, plan to move from their home in Corvallis to Eugene, where Marshall has taken a position with BowTech, a company selling archery equipment.



September Birthdays

Troy Downing	11
Dawn Salazar	11
Fred Menino	17
David Froman.....	25
Jill Davidson.....	25
Steve Davis.....	26
Jim Males	28
Matt Cannon.....	28

An Interview with Graduate Student Hannah Morris



Hannah with chicks in enriched environment.

Where did you spend your growing up years? Are you a native of Oregon?

No, I am not a native of Oregon. I was born in England and lived there until I was 8 years old. My family moved to Hong Kong in 1993 where we lived for four years until the Chinese Handover took place in 1997. We then moved to San Diego where I went to middle and high school. My parents still live in San Diego and I plan on moving back down there when I am done with my Master's.

What got you interested in agriculture/animals?

My dad is Welsh so I had a little farm exposure growing up when we visited my grandparents. They raised sheep and occasionally had ponies which I loved to sit on. My first horse experience was when I was two and sat on this very fat Shetland Pony my granddad was stabling. I have been hooked on horses ever since. We have always had pets and I have always had a love for animals but a trip to a Chinese zoo really solidified my desire to help animals and try to make a difference. We were at the Giant Panda exhibit and these two older Chinese boys were poking at the animals with sticks. Nobody was telling them to

stop, so I did and, according to our tour guide, got a mouthful of unpleasant Cantonese fired back at me. I was so angry that I continued to harass the boys until they left the poor animals alone. It was also at this time that I started to take an interest in zoo enrichment. A lot of the exhibits at the zoo were barren and lots of the animals were showing stereotypic behaviors such as pacing and self mutilation. At the time, I didn't know what the causes of these behaviors were, but I knew I wanted to help those animals if I could.

What brought you to OSU?

I got my Bachelor of Science at UC Davis in 2007 with an emphasis in Animal Behavior. Dr. Croney brought me to OSU. When I was looking at Graduate Schools, I researched all the professors I could work with and Dr. Croney seemed like a really good fit for what I wanted to do. I contacted her when I submitted my application and, when she told me I might be able to do behavior and enrichment work at the Oregon Zoo, I pretty much decided OSU was for me. The zoo project didn't end up working out but the chickens I am working with now are really fun and very cute at the moment since they are only a week old. The focus of my work is on enrichment and cognition in chickens.

What type of research are you doing here?

We are looking at the effects of environmental enrichment on behavior and learning in female ISA brown layer chickens. We have visual, auditory, and nutritional enrichment as well as live plants for them to hide under and behind, perches, and a litter box filled with sand for them to dust bath in. Every day, I sit in with the enriched groups and if the chicks approach me, I reward them with mealworms in hopes of decreasing their fear of humans. We will be conducting human approach tests, barrier tests, and aerial predator tests as well as presenting them with novel containers and novel foods. The goal is to see a difference between the enriched and unenriched groups in the time it takes them to complete learning tasks and in their responses to humans.

So far, we have gotten some great results in our enriched groups. Although the earliest age for perching I have so far come across in the literature is eight days, my chicks started perching at three days of age. They are using their pen space very well and are already losing their down. They will look like adult birds in no time! We are making progress with the human interactions and there is already a noticeable difference between the fear responses of the unenriched groups versus the enriched groups. The chicks are definitely enjoying their sand boxes; they

scratch at it and eat the bigger particles and several of them are dust bathing in it already. With my lack of previous experience with chickens, especially chicks, I am amazed at how quickly they are learning things and I am very excited to watch them get older and see how they do on our learning tasks.

When you finish your degree, what would you like to do?

My goal has always been to work in the zoo industry either as a zoo keeper or an education ambassador. An alternative would be to work within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) as an enrichment specialist. As long as I am working with animals, I am sure I will be happy.

Outside of your work at OSU, what do you enjoy doing?

I love to relax at home and watch movies and I really like gardening. I am somewhat of a clean freak so I enjoy cleaning and organizing. I would love to be horse riding at the moment but I had wrist surgery last November and lost a lot of movement in my left hand so I haven't really ridden since even though I want to.

Let us know something about yourself others might not know.

I love to bake and absolutely adore chocolate so if you ever need someone to provide baked goods for a baked sale, I'm your girl! ☺

Football season is here and *football sausages* are being stuffed at the Clark Meat Center!

They will be out of the smokehouse and ready for sale at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 3.



Small footballs - \$5.00

Large (6 lb) footballs - \$25.00

In the retail store this week:

T-Bone steaks - 7.99/#

Porterhouse steaks – 8.99/#

Sirloin steaks – 4.99/#

Ribeye steaks – 7.99/#

Store hours:

Summer - Thurs, Fri, 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Closed September 25-26.

Fall term – Wed, Thurs, Fri, 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.