



Friends of Animal Sciences Newsletter

June 2007 - Volume I, Issue II

From the President's Desk

Hello Alumni and Friends,

Happy holidays and I hope the New Year brings you continued success and happiness.

As you know, we (Dr.'s Dodson and Benson in particular) have been diligently working hard with the Development Office staff and the WSU Foundation to make the necessary changes to our bylaws so that we are in compliance with state and federal laws and with best practices set forth by the WSU Foundation.

We received these proposed changes from the Dean today (December 17th) and your Board is currently reviewing them with the intention of providing input on the changes to the Dean.

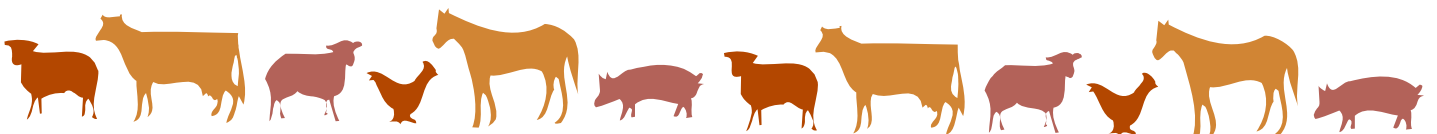
I appreciate your patience and support as we work through this. I am confident that we, as a group, will be stronger once we iron out these changes to the bylaws.

I wish you happy holidays and a great new year!

Heidi




Heidi Thomsen



Dr. Reeves's Retirement Gala



Over 130 people attended the event. A good time was had by all.

On September 29, a retirement party was held for Dr. Jerry Reeves at the Ensminger Livestock Pavilion on the WSU Campus. The recently renovated facility was decorated in Fall colors, with a distinctive livestock theme, including decorative stencils on all the tablecloths with Jerry's brand - BarR () made by Holly Neibergs. The food included pork BBQ and all the fixin's provided by Memorable Events Catering.



Former student Ching Fong Chang came all the way from Taiwan. To the right is former student Tom Platt.

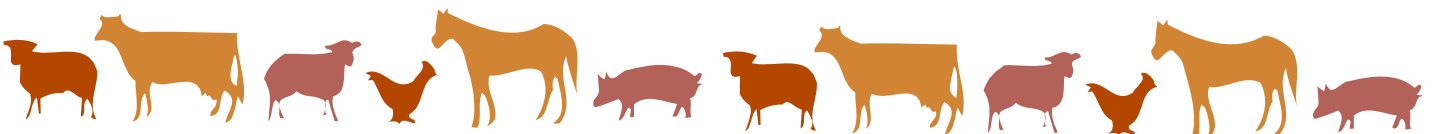
Friends and family came from all over the U.S. to show their support for Jerry; one former student flew in all the way from Taiwan! Jim Kinder, one of Reeves' earliest graduate students, served as the MC and did a fine job. After 37 years at WSU there were many people that had things to say about Jerry and how he greatly impacted their lives. The 'guys' related stories of Reeves' ferocity on the basketball court and his fearless hunting skills. There was reminiscing of road trips to Animal Science meetings, 'Bovill Runs' and learning the important skill of breaking the bottom out of a beer bottle.



Jerry being presented with an original elephant footprint from former student Janine Brown.

Former student, Dave Grieger, played the guitar and sang a song written just for the event. He probably should keep his day job, but it was hilarious nonetheless. Jerry appeared relieved that most of the stories were not terribly embarrassing. Perhaps some memories are better left unsaid!

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Reeves's Gala *Continued*

Reeves (*Continued from page 2*)

On a more serious note, excerpts from a letter his postdoctoral advisor and Nobel Laureate, Andrew Schally, wrote were read that reflected on the role Jerry played in the race to discover GnRH, and his important contributions to the field of comparative endocrinology. One thing that was very clear is that Jerry will long be remembered as an outstanding mentor, and that many of his trainees have gone on to important careers in an array of disciplines. You could see so much pride in the faces of Jerry's family, including his parents who are in their 90's, as the evening progressed. And Jerry, in return, thanked everyone for coming and saying nice things, and also keeping it clean!.



Jerry with parents and friends.

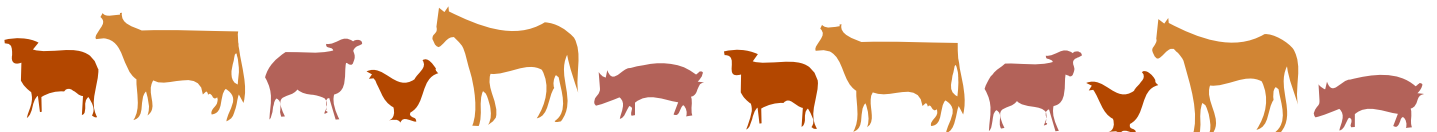
He said he was looking forward to spending more time on the river tending his cattle and being with his family

Dr.'s Martin & Gaskins Scholarships Established

With the retirement of Dr. Everett Martin, and the upcoming retirement of Dr. Gaskins (to be announced soon), scholarship accounts have been established in their names. Presently, Dr. Martin's account is about half-way to the \$25,000 required for a full (permanent) endowment, and Dr. Gaskin's account has just been started. If you would like to donate to these scholarship opportunities, please send a check to:

**Name) Scholarship Fund
Department of Animal Sciences
116 Clark Hall
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164**

All donations are fully tax-deductable, and you will received acknowledgement from the department and the college.



Alumni News

Dr. Janine Brown conducts research to better understand the reproductive biology of endangered species. She joined the National Zoological Park (NZP) in 1991 to Co-Head the Endocrine Research Laboratory at the Conservation & Research Center (CRC) and now Heads the zoo's Elephant Reproduction Program. She trains fellows,



Janine with a baby elephant in Maesa, Thailand

students and volunteers in basic and applied research methods, specifically in the areas of endocrinology and theriogenology. She is devoted to increasing knowledge that will lead to better management and conservation of endangered species. Dr. Brown coordinates one of the world's largest and most productive endocrinology laboratories that benefits wildlife species. This laboratory is used for the research of Dr. Brown and her students, but it also is a service laboratory for other zoological institutions from the USA and abroad. Research efforts are connected to the scientific disciplines of behavior, reproductive endocrinology and stress management. Specific research areas include studying reproductive and behavioral relationships in felids (e.g., cheetah and clouded leopard among others) and rhinoceroses (e.g., African white, African black and Indian one-horned).

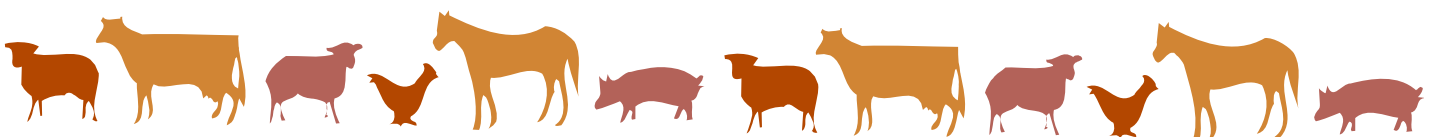
She also is a world authority on elephant reproductive biology. Her laboratory plays a key role in *ex situ* management plans for Asian and African elephants in the U.S. and in range countries like Thailand and Sri Lanka. Dr. Brown collaborated in the development of a successful artificial insemination technique for elephants, and consistently works with other institutions interested in understanding and overcoming infertility problems in *ex situ* elephant populations. She also oversaw the development of non-invasive techniques for monitoring gonadal and adrenal activity through the analysis of steroids excreted in urine, feces and saliva. As a result, she now has amassed an extensive database for more than two dozen species demonstrating the diversity of estrous cycle dynamics, seasonal activity and ovulatory mechanisms.



Janine with Asian elephant in Kerala, India

This methodology has also proven invaluable for assessing ovarian responses to ovulation induction procedures, leading to improved assisted breeding protocols, such as those used with artificial insemination.

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Alumni News *continued*

Brown (*continued from page 4*)

Brown's projects often are linked to her relationships with the Species Survival Plans (SSP) of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. She is a Reproductive Advisor to the Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), Rhinoceros Taxon Advisory Group and the Elephant SSP/TAG, providing advice and direct research assistance to improve breeding management. Dr. Brown practices capacity building through training of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and interns who will carry on this important,

multidisciplinary work in the future. She coordinates training workshops in endocrine techniques as part of university courses in the U.S. and technology transfer efforts in countries like Thailand and China. Dr. Brown has more than 120 publications in the peer-reviewed literature, including several book chapters and review articles. She is a frequent invited lecturer at national and international scientific conferences, and serves on the Editorial Boards of scientific journals, including *Biology of Reproduction*, *Zoo Biology*, and *Animal Reproduction Science*.

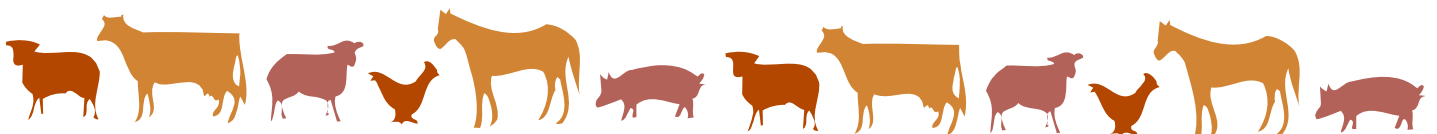
After receiving his BS degree from Rutgers University and a MS degree from



Bruce Manning

Washington State University (WSU), **Bruce Manning** worked for the Animal Sciences Department at WSU until his retirement in the early 1990's. It was at that time that Bruce decided to start a second career, so he moved to Auburn, Alabama, where he competed for and received a PhD degree. His research was to purify a newly discovered mycotoxin [fumonisin B1] and examine its effect on channel catfish performance. Bruce also worked with a few other Fusarium mycotoxins and their effects on catfish and tilapia while at Auburn. In 1999, he accepted a position at the National Warmwater Aquaculture Center (Mississippi) as a postdoctoral researcher to evaluate the effects of aflatoxin on the performance and health of channel catfish. He has subsequently expanded the mycotoxin research to include 3 or 4 other grain-associated mycotoxins and their effect on channel catfish, the effects of different levels of omega-3 highly unsaturated fatty

See **Manning** | Page 6



Alumni News *continued*

Manning (*continued from page 5*)

acids in catfish fillet using low levels of purified marine fish oil in the diet, and his most recent research has focused ways to improve catfish health through nutritional applications. Mainly, he has been working on understanding the causative agent of a type of anemia that occurs in pond-raised catfish. While Bruce's life is fairly well devoted to doing research with fish, he has been able to travel to discuss his findings

[China, Ecuador, and Ireland]. In his spare time, Bruce takes care of six Arabian horses [two of which he brought from Pullman when he retired]. Bruce also farms seventy acres [hay and soybeans]. Bruce's email address is: bmanning@drec.msstate.edu, and he would be glad to hear from any other alumnus. According to Bruce: "The Palouse is a great place to live. I especially liked the openness of the area and being able jump on a horse any time I felt like it."



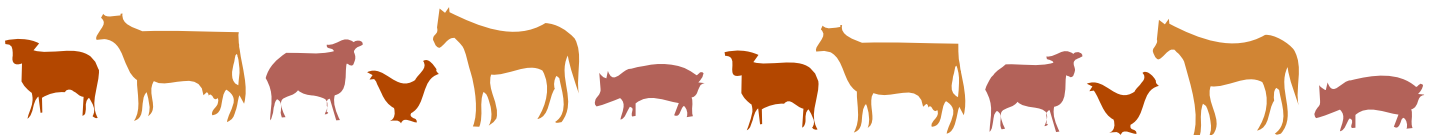
Melinda Fernyhough

Melinda Fernyhough graduated with a BS degree in Animal Sciences (2000), a DVM from the WSU Veterinary School (2004) and a PhD from WSU (Animal Sciences; 2006). After practicing in a small animal clinic for 1 year, Melinda accepted the position as Manager of Scientific Affairs with Hartz, Inc. (Secaucus, NJ).



Elaine Grings

Dr. Elaine Grings received her PhD from WSU in 1986. She recently left her USDA position in Miles City and accepted a position as a Livestock Scientist with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nigeria. Although the Institute is headquartered in Kenya, she will be located on the campus of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan, a city in southwestern Nigeria (about 150 miles north of Lagos).



Alumni News *continued*

Hasan Ülker graduated with a degree in Animal Science (1986), and obtained his MS in 1992 in Turkey. He came to the US to compete for the Ph.D. degree in 1993. He spent two years in Ohio State University, and then moved to Pullman in 1995 to work with



Dr. Jerry Reeves (Ph.D. in Animal Sciences was awarded in 1997). While he was student he was a Teaching Assistant in AS 454 (Artificial Insemination and Pregnancy Detection). He went back to his home country to continue his studies on reproductive physiology, and he taught basic animal science and advanced reproduction classes in Turkey. He obtained grants to attend short-term international advanced courses held in Spain (2001) and Tunisia (2002). He also continued to collaborate with Dr. Reeves from Turkey, whereby he was recently awarded with a six month Fulbright Fellowship to return to study at WSU (2006). The main focus of his present research at WSU is to evaluate and

improve different aspect of the sterilization vaccine developed in Dr. Reeves' laboratory. Since a new approach was proposed in their vaccine study he extended his time to stay at WSU for one additional year. Hasan's research focus in Turkey deals with controlling reproduction in farm animals [either improve or decrease reproduction] depending on the need. Presently, he is trying to enhance his knowledge in molecular genetics to be able to have a chance to make a better contribution to international animal science. While in the US, he is spending some of his time becoming familiar with the sheep farming/industry. He believes that there is never an end in learning. His biggest goal while he is here is to establish a scientific collaboration with WSU scientists and his colleagues at his home country at the departmental level first, and if it works, then at college level. He likes traveling, visiting natural and historical scenes, taking pictures, watching movies and sports [his favorite sports to play are soccer and basketball]. Hasan is happily married with a 12 years old son attending Lincoln Middle School in Pullman.

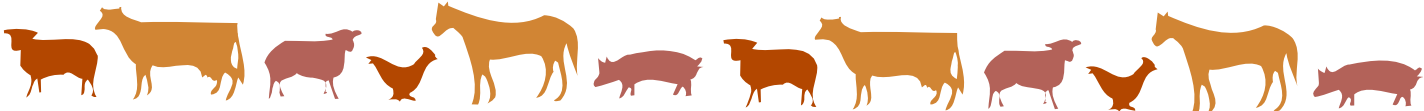


Rachel Davey

Rachel Davey (BS '06) is the daughter of Rodney and Terrie Davey of Kuna, Idaho. From a very young age Rachel expressed a love for horses, and continued to develop that love as she grew up.

Growing up on a small ranch she learned about hard work, dedication, and accomplishment working with horses. Around age eight she began showing and competing in the Quarter Horse show ring. Rachel has ridden many different disciplines from three-day eventing, western pleasure, to reining and working cow horse. She has

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Alumni News *continued*

Davey (*continued from page 7*)

been actively involved with the American Quarter Horse Association, since she began showing, and has no plans of stopping any time soon. As a youth participant she served in many leadership positions for the Idaho Quarter Horse Youth Association. From 2000-2002, Rachel competed her two Quarter Horses at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship show in the reining and working cow horse events, whereby she consistently finished amongst the top ten in the world. She continued to show her horses through her undergraduate education and was always willing to lend a helping hand to any fellow horse lover. Although horses are a huge part of her life, she was also very involved in her church,

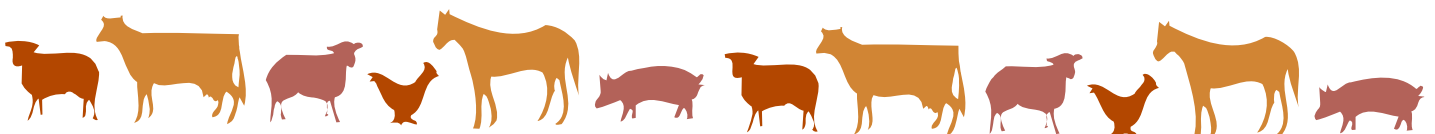
playing her fiddle, and extra-curricular activities such as honor society. All her life Rachel strived to become an equine veterinarian, and chose to attend Washington State University (WSU) for her undergraduate education. Once there she became very active in University Recreation playing on the WSU women's ice hockey team, and serving on the Sports Club Federation Council. Her senior year at WSU she served as president of the Sports Club Federation and captain of the WSU women's hockey team. Rachel is now continuing to pursue her life-long goal of becoming an equine veterinarian by attending Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. She plans on returning back to the Northwest once finished with school and specialize in equine internal medicine or lameness.



Jenna Barker

Jenna Barker (BS '07) is the only child of Joe and Trish Barker of Colville, WA where she was born and raised on her parents commercial beef cattle operation and farm. At a young age, Jenna was introduced to the hard work and determination it takes to farm and run cattle. This is where her desire to become a large animal veterinarian was born and where she began working towards this career goal by showing cattle at the age of nine for over ten years and also volunteering and working at the local Colville Animal Hospital (CAH) for over four years. Coming to Washington State University (WSU) was an absolute must in her book because all three vets she worked for at CAH all received their DVM from the

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Alumni News *continued*

Barker (*continued from page 8*)

WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. While being a student and employee in the Animal Science Department, Jenna is very involved in extracurricular activities such as being a fourth year member of Cougar Cattle Feeders where she has held the position of feedsman and public relations for two years, a fourth year member of Block and Bridle where she has held the position of secretary, treasure and this year as president, and also a fourth year member of

the Organization of Future Veterinarians where she has held the position of secretary. In preparation for vet school, Jenna has gotten the opportunity to live and work at the WSU Beef Cattle Center for the past three years where she is responsible for feeding, calving and day to day care of the cattle along with her fellow roommates and co-workers. In the next five years, Jenna hopes to be out of vet school and live somewhere in the inland northwest where she can have her own clinic specializing in large animal reproduction and nutrition.

Some Ideas from Mike Dodson

In an effort to “lead with our history,” I am throwing-out some ideas for the group to embrace for 2008. Whether you do these or not is your call. However, instead of waiting for the by-laws to become final, I suggest that we show WSU why we are important to them.

- I would like to propose to everyone that is a member of the Friends of Animal Sciences

find one alumnus (that is not a member), and get them to join our group. Details of joining may be found on the FAS website.

- In addition, I would like to ask if there is some alumnus who might want to spearhead a fund raising drive to establish a (specifically-marked) Friends of Animal Sciences scholarship. Total amount needed: \$25,000.

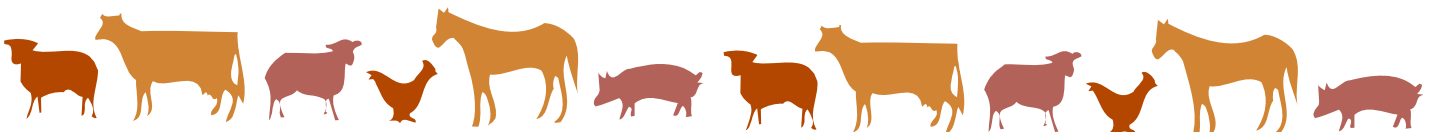
Honor Roll of Lifetime Donors

Paul Patterson
Joe Blake

Heidi Thomsen
Steven Aust

Mike Dodson
Randy Repp

Joe Niemann
Charles Gaskins



Friends of Animal Sciences Washington State University Membership Application Form

Annual Memberships:

- \$25 Individual
Please check one:
- Alumni
 - Affiliated
 - Student
 - Associate/Honorary

- \$200 Business

Lifetime Memberships:

- \$500 Individual – may be paid over the course of one year.
Please check one:
- Alumni
 - Affiliated
 - Student
 - Associate/Honorary

- \$2,000 Business

Donation: \$ _____

Membership Categories:

ALUMNI: Any person who has received an Animal Science degree from Washington State University.

AFFILIATED: Any faculty member of the WSU, Department of Animal Sciences or any faculty member who is in association with the WSU, Department of Animal Sciences.

STUDENT: Any student who is currently enrolled in a WSU, Department of Animal Sciences' class.

ASSOCIATE/HONORARY: Any person who does not qualify for the previous categories and is in support of WSU, Department of Animal Sciences, either by monetary means or volunteering his/her time, effort or skills, as deemed by the Board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
First/Middle or Maiden/Last Name or Name of Business

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

First WSU Degree _____ Major _____ Graduation Year _____

Did not graduate from WSU

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check (Payable to Friends of Animal Sciences)

VISA Master Card

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Card Holder's Signature _____

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION (optional)

Employer Name _____

Job Title _____

Employer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Return your completed application with payment to:

Department of Animal Sciences
Friends of Animal Sciences Fund
Washington State University
117 Clark Hall
P.O. Box 646310
Pullman, WA 9164-6310

