



Department of Animal and Food Sciences

Home of Champions

Texas Tech University

Fall 2010

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Striving for Honor by Serving Others



As American citizens, we are afforded a stable and safe food supply that we often take for granted when sitting down to eat a steak at dinner. Some may not realize how lucky we really are. Many countries are faced with food safety issues they are unable to fix on their own due to a lack of resources and knowledge.

However, with extensive research and food safety awareness conducted by individuals in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences in conjunction with the International Center for Food Industry Excellence a team effort is being used to improve the quality of beef, provide more jobs and advance the standard of living in Mexico.

"The work in Mexico has been going on for two years now," Professor Mindy Brashears said. "We engaged in the work in Mexico to assist them in improving food safety within the country as food-borne illness is the number one cause of death in children under five in Mexico."

Several graduate students including Ansen Pond, Shanna Ward and Claudia Bravo are conducting research under Professors Mindy Brashears and Mark Miller to determine the prevalence of Salmonella in beef and pork in various markets in major Mexico cities. Additionally, their research also involves determining how pathogens are transferred to humans through the system in beef feedlots and harvest operations.

"We have also improved the safety of processing plants importing meat to the US which has an economic influence on the trade relationship with Mexico and the US," explained Brashears.

"In addition to the elaborate research, workshops, presentations and training seminars are also being conducted by Dr. Todd Brashears and his graduate students to determine knowledge gained from the workshops and behavior changes that result from an increase in knowledge."

In October, representatives from the Mexican Meat Industry attended a three-day workshop that entailed food safety, meat quality attributes, and carcass fabrication at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

"Knowledge gained during this visit and the networking opportunities offer great potential for future food safety research in Mexico," said Alejandro Echeverry, assistant professor in Food Microbiology. It also strengthens the relationship between the Department of Animal and Food Sciences and the industry."

With all of the success in Mexico, there is now word of the group reaching out to other countries to become a part of their food safety transformations.

"Kevin Pond, Claudia Bravo, Ansen Pond and I attended the second Latin American symposium on food safety in Bogota, Colombia," explained Echeverry. "Three different posters of current food safety research conducted in Mexico were presented successfully which was followed by an additional meeting with representatives from Colombia's Beef Cattle Federation."

Following the meeting in Bogota, the faculty and students traveled to Medellin, Colombia, where they met with representatives from the Colombian National Learning Service (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje, SENA), Claudia V. Bohorquez and Carlos Trujillo, to discuss future projects.

In October, the SENA representatives visited Texas Tech University and a memorandum of understanding for future collaboration between the two organizations was signed.

The future looks promising as the Department of Animal and Food Sciences with the International Center for Food Industry Excellence strive for excellence by serving other countries in need by aiding them in establishing a stable food supply, changing a way of life, and boosting their economy.

~ by Faith Jurek



Texas Tech Livestock Judging Team Finishes Third at International Competition

Texas Tech University's 2010 Livestock Judging Team finished third at the recent North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky., on Nov. 16. The team was narrowly defeated by Oklahoma State University and Kansas State University who finished first and second. Only 32 points separated the top three teams. Texas A&M University and Minnesota rounded out the top five teams overall.

The contest tested the contestants' knowledge of cattle, sheep, and swine as well as their oral reasons. Thirty teams gathered from across the nation to compete for the title.

The Red Raiders won the performance beef division, were second in the cattle division, third in the sheep division, and fifth in the swine division.

"Although the students were disappointed that the National Championship eluded us this week, I am still extremely proud of the resiliency, work ethic, and integrity they have demonstrated throughout the year representing themselves, the Department of Animal and Food Sciences and Texas Tech University", said Assistant professor and coach Ryan Rathmann. "They proved to be competitive throughout the entire year consistently placing towards the top at every contest. They competed at an impressive level; we just got beat by a near perfect performance."

The team began their competitive year with an impressive win at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo., and recently ranked second at the American Royal in Kansas City, Kan.

Two Red Raiders finished in the top-ten overall. Peyton Wilde, a senior from Wall, finished seventh overall and Caleb Crosswhite, a senior from McKinney finished eighth overall.



Photo courtesy of Joey Hernandez

In addition to Wilde and Crosswhite, team members include:

Riggin Barham, a senior from Blooming Grove
Brittany Boxwell, a senior from Perryton
Kirby Carpenter, a senior from Kiowa, Colo.
Chelsea Clifton, a senior from Kingfisher, Okla.
Josh Cribbs, a senior from Plant City, Fla.
Collin Corbin, a senior from League City
Meagan Igo, a senior from Plainview
Tyler Maltzberger, a senior from Helotes
Josh McCann, a senior from Newport, Va.
Stormie McClurg, a junior from Nazareth
Chance Neff, a senior from San Angelo
Brandon Reeves, a junior from Mt. Solon, Va.
Henry Ruiz, a senior from Eagle Pass
Ben Scott, a senior from Douglas, Ga.
Martin Shaw, a senior from Hilmar, Calif.

The team is coached by Rathmann, graduate student Bryan Bernhard and under graduate student Josh Flohr.

Three Texas Tech team members were selected to the All American Team, as well. Crosswhite, Igo and McCann all received this prestigious honor based upon their scholastic achievements, community service and contest performance.

"The intelligence and make-it-happen selfless attitude of these students is unmatched amongst their peers. I look forward to the future impact these students will have both professionally and personally on other people in their life due to the skills they have developed through participation in livestock judging", said Rathmann. "I can promise that they will make a difference!"

Meat Science Academic Quiz Bowl Team Repeats as National Champs

Texas Tech University's Meat Science Academic Quiz Bowl Team won back-to-back national championships, taking the top spot once again June 23 at the 63rd Annual Reciprocal Meat Conference in Lubbock. The Red Raider team added to national titles won at the competition in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009.



Staff Photo

"These students have studied and worked hard for months and dedicated themselves to excellence," said **Mark Miller**, Texas Tech's San Antonio Livestock Exposition Distinguished Chair in Meat Science. "I was so excited that our teams finished first and second for the first time in school history."

The 2010 team members included:

• Adam Copeland, a senior from Katy
• Collin Corbin, a senior from League City
• Caleb Crosswhite, a senior from McKinney
• Mai Lee Holmes, a junior from Katy
• Tyler Maltzberger, a senior from Helotes
• Markus Miller, a junior from Abernathy

• Nathan Reeves, a junior from League City
• Martin Shaw, a senior from Hilmar, Calif.
• Troy Tarpley, a junior from Fort Stockton
• Loni Woolley, a junior from Grandview
• Tech seniors Abby Long and Matt Bruton coached the team.

Separately, Long and Corbin were presented Undergraduate Academic Scholastic Achievement Awards at the meeting for their outstanding academic achievement and leadership in the meat science industry.

Meat Judging Team Places Second at International

Texas Tech University's Meat Judging Team ended their season on a winning note with the selection of two Red Raiders as first team AMSA All-Americans and the team taking second place over the weekend at the International Meat Judging Competition in Dakota City, Neb.

"We were undefeated at six of seven national contests during the 2010 judging season, making this team one of the most successful teams since meat judging began at Texas Tech in 1938," said Mark Miller, the meat judging team coach and Tech's San Antonio Livestock Show Distinguished Chair in Meat Science.

The Red Raiders were edged out of the top spot at nationals by Colorado State University who posted a score of 4,160 points and won the event by only 38-points. Rounding out the top five in this year's event were Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University and Texas A&M University. Officials indicated that 17 universities from across the nation competed in the event.

In terms of individual achievement, Loni Woolley, a junior animal science student from Grandview, won high individual honors with a score of 1,061. She was joined in the top rankings by teammate Trevor White, a junior from New Home. He scored 1,042 points and finished fifth overall.

Meanwhile, Nathan Reeves, a junior from League City, took the fifth high individual in the alternate division.

Other meat judging team members participating were:

- Mai Lee Holmes, a junior from Katy
- Jessica Kimbro, a senior from Paradise
- Katie Rose McCullough, a junior from Castle Rock, Colo.
- Markus Miller, a junior from Abernathy
- Troy Tarpley, a junior from Fort Stockton

Separately, Woolley and White were named 2010 First Team All-Americans by the American Meat Science Association. Members of the All-American Teams are selected based upon scholastic achievement and competition performance.

Finally, Tech's Tarpley was presented the Rachel Hamilton Spirit Award. The honor is given in recognition of the commitment, dedication and teamwork displayed during his meat judging career.



Photo courtesy of Joey Hernandez

Therapeutic Riding: Ground Breaking Center Expands in More Ways Than One

Texas Tech's Therapeutic Riding Center (TTRC) broke ground on June 14 on phase one of a three-phase project to construct a new therapeutic riding, teaching and research facility. Once completed, the expanded facility will feature an indoor riding area, classrooms and waiting rooms.

The additions will allow Texas Tech to provide more therapeutic riding and hippotherapy sessions. It will also broaden current research into the effects of equine therapy.

"This facility is being built specifically for equine-assisted therapy with accessibility in mind," said Heather Hernandez, program director for the center. "It will allow the TTRC to expand the number of clients that we see and provide a private place that not only minimizes distractions, but ensures that we maintain the confidentiality of our clients."

Formed in 1998 in collaboration between the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and University Medical Center, the TTRC provides therapeutic horseback riding and hippotherapy to children and adults with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities.

"This is a great day for us," said Heidi Brady, associate professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences and director of the TTRC. "Our needs have really grown over the past 12 years as demand for our sessions has increased, so I want to thank those at Texas Tech who have supported us and helped us raise money for construction, and acknowledge the hundreds of students who have made this a wonderful program for the riders."

The center is accredited under the Premier Accredited Center.



Photo courtesy of Norman Martin



Alums Highlight AFS Hall of Fame & Meat Science Recognition Banquet



Robert Albin
Graduate of Distinction Award



Ryan Biggs
Horizon Award



Boyd Ramsey - Establishment of
C. Boyd Ramsey Classroom
and Library



Paul Defoor
Horizon Award



Jeff Lansdell - Outstanding
Meat Science Alumnus



Dan Thomson
Graduate of Distinction Award



Todd Thompson
Distinguished Service Award

Texas Tech's Department of Animal and Food Sciences honored outstanding alumni performance at its Hall of Fame and Meat Science Recognition Banquet at the United Spirit Arena. Among those cited were:

• **Todd Thompson**, *Hall of Fame – Distinguished Service Award*. The Abernathy native is a longtime supporter and current chairman of the advisory board for Tech's Therapeutic Riding Center. He received his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Texas Tech and began his career with Merrill Lynch following graduation.

• **Paul Defoor**, *Hall of Fame – Horizon Award*. The Willis native is currently vice president and director of analysis at Cactus Feeders, which feeds 1 million head of cattle annually. He is past president of the Plains Nutrition Council. He received his bachelor's and doctorate degrees in animal science and ruminant nutrition from Texas Tech.

• **Ryan Biggs**, *Hall of Fame – Horizon Award*. The Panhandle area native is vice president of strategic planning for Abuelo's and currently serves as chairman of Tech's International Center for Food Industry Excellence. He was previously senior manager of product analysis and development with Brinker International. He received his bachelor's degree in food science from Texas Tech.

• **Dan Thomson**, *Hall of Fame – Advanced Graduate of Distinction Award*. The native of Clearfield, Iowa, is the director of the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State's College of Veterinary Medicine. He received his bachelor's degree and DVM from Iowa State. His master's degree is from South Dakota State and his doctorate is from Texas Tech.

• **Robert Albin**, *Hall of Fame – Graduate of Distinction Award*. The longtime CASNR administrator served as associate dean for research and as interim dean, in addition to being named a distinguished alumnus. He received his bachelor's and master's degree

in animal husbandry from Texas Tech. His doctorate is from the University of Nebraska.

• **John Burns**, *Meathead of the Year*. A distinguished administrator at Texas Tech for decades, he has served as CASNR's dean, as well as provost of the university. He founded the Texas Tech University Teaching Academy. His bachelor's degree and master's degree are from New Mexico State. His doctorate in zoology and endocrinology is from Indiana University.

• **Monica Hightower**, *Albert Usener Award*. The Wichita Falls native manages the Southwest Farm & Ranch Classic agricultural tradeshow, the National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, and Cornerstone Group, a video production firm. She serves as president of the Texas Tech Animal Science Alumni Association. She received her bachelor's degree in animal business management from Texas Tech.

• **Jeff Lansdell**, *Outstanding Meat Science Alumnus*. President of CEV Multimedia, he works with the management group in product development, marketing, sales and distribution. He was awarded the Aubrey Davis Family Award for outstanding leadership (2005). He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in meat science and muscle biology from Texas Tech.

Separately, program officials cited the strong performances of the 2010 National Champion Meat Science Quiz Bowl Team in addition to commemorating the 20-year anniversary of the 1990 Meat Judging Team and the 10-year anniversary of the 2000 Reserve National Champion Meat Judging Team.

Meanwhile, one of the evening's highlights was recognition of the establishment of the Dr. C. Boyd Ramsey Meat Science Classroom and Library and the recognition of the San Antonio Stock Show's contribution to the Meat and Food Science and Therapeutic Riding Programs in Jimmie Ruth Evans' honor.

~ Written by Norman Martin



Photo by Faith Jurek

Graduate Student Spotlight



Jerrad Legako

“Jerrad is a great student. In fact, he is one of the only grad students who is trying to use the equipment we have and has an ability to understand and use separation chemistry.”

Everyone likes to enjoy a good steak every now and then. But who's to say what qualifies as “the best” flavor? Texas Tech University doctoral student, Jerrad Legako, is one of the researchers in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences that is trying to determine the qualities of beef flavor and its impact on consumer palatability or eating quality.

Native to Lubbock, Texas, Legako said that after growing up working with his dad in the crop science industry, he always knew he would do something science related. Although he was not exactly sure which science he would end up studying, Legako received his undergraduate degree in biology from Texas Tech University.

Following his graduation from Texas Tech, Legako moved to Stillwater, Okla., and pursued a master of science in food science at Oklahoma State University. His path then led back to Texas Tech where he began his current research working under Associate Professor Chance Brooks.

“Characterizing beef quality is not new,” Brooks stated. “What’s unique about Jerrad is that he is relating his research to consumer panels.”

Brooks quickly identified the factors that made Legako stand out as a graduate student.

“Jerrad is a great student. In fact, he is one of the only grad students who is trying to use the equipment we have and has an ability to understand and use separation chemistry,” Brooks said when describing him. “He is just a good teacher that interacts really well with the public.”

Considering Legako is taking a new approach in his research, he has faced a few difficulties.

“My research has been challenging,” Legako explained. “There are a lot of unknowns involved with it; however, I do enjoy that aspect. My hope is that we can at the very least take some small steps that will ultimately have a positive impact.”

Legako recently returned from a trip to Ireland where he worked for two weeks with several of the world's top flavor researchers. This gave him even more insight into his research specialization area.

Aside from his research, Legako also participates in the TEACH (Teaching Effectiveness And Career enHancement) program.

“TEACH is a fellowship that I applied for that is campus-wide for Ph.D. students,” Legako said. “There are 19 of us that were selected, and it’s a way to hone my teaching skills.”

Legako explained that the TEACH program provides doctoral students with the opportunity to create a professional teaching portfolio, gain class feedback through instructor videotaping and peer observations, and create a project with a faculty mentor.

When asked about his future plans, Legako explained that while he is interested in an academic position, he is also looking at industry jobs that would allow him to continue focusing on research. However, no matter what Legako decides to do in the future, he appreciates how Texas Tech has impacted his life.

“My experience at Texas Tech has been great,” he said. “All of the faculty here create a very positive environment for learning and growth. I have been provided with experiences and opportunities that I will always be thankful for.”

~ Written by Faith Jurek

On Track: CASNR sets **NEW ENROLLMENT RECORD**, doctoral students on the rise

Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources reached a benchmark in student enrollment with a record number of students signed up for classes in the fall semester, university officials report. Final enrollment stood at 1,785, up 5.6 percent from last fall's 1,685.

"It's a very positive sign," said John Burns, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The numbers for individual departments were:

- Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics: 338 (Grad: 45/Undergrad: 293)
- Department of Agricultural Education & Communications: 300 (Grad: 59/Undergrad: 241)
- **Animal & Food Sciences: 464 (Grad: 67/Undergrad: 397)**
- Department of Landscape Architecture: 146 (Grad: 19/Undergrad: 127)
- Natural Resources Management: 279 (Grad: 50/Undergrad: 229)
- Department of Plant & Soil Science: 238 (Grad: 99/Undergrad: 139)
- Agricultural Undecided: 15 (Grad: 9/Undergrad: 6)

CASNR's undergraduate enrollment this fall was up 5.2 percent at 1,437. More specifically, the Department of Animal and Food Sciences' undergraduate enrollment was up an impressive 11 percent this fall after a 9 percent jump in fall 2009.

The total number of CASNR doctoral students this fall was 138, a 22 percent rise from just two years ago when the count was 107. The Department of Animal and Food Sciences currently has 33 doctoral students.

Meanwhile, Texas Tech as a whole surpassed previous enrollment records for the second straight year, eclipsing 31,000 students for the first time. Final enrollment for fall 2010 was 31,637 – an increase of 1,588 from the previous record set last fall.



Texas Tech Officials Announce Strategic Hiring of Noted Animal Science Researcher

As Texas Tech continues its journey toward Tier One status, administration officials announced the strategic hirings of seven respected researchers who will help grow the university's research capabilities. Among the newly added faculty members is Guy Loneragan, now a professor with the Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

Loneragan, who joined the Tech faculty in July, was formerly an epidemiologist and associate professor at West Texas A&M University. He also served in adjunct faculty roles at Texas Tech, Colorado State University, Kansas State University and Texas A&M University.

"Texas Tech is very attractive to me," Loneragan said. "I have worked with people at the university for the better part of the last ten years, and I've always been impressed by the quality of the researchers on this campus. They really are of international renown, and now Texas Tech clearly has world-class facilities, and ultimately the whole package coming together provided just such an exciting opportunity."

Loneragan's research focuses primarily on epidemiological approaches to food safety, specifically filling data gaps concerning pre-harvest ecology and mitigation of *E. coli* O157, Salmonella and antimicrobial drug resistance. In addition to food safety, he works on epidemiological aspects to animal health and well being.

"Mindy Brashears, director of Texas Tech's International Center for Food Industry Excellence brings a track record of successful research to Texas Tech," said Loneragan.

"Guy and I have worked extensively together for the past nine years," she said. "He will play a very significant role at Texas Tech with the International Center for Food Industry Excellence and our research program."

Hiring of these researchers is one of the key elements in becoming a Tier One research institute, university officials stressed. "To reach Tier One status, we cannot take small steps forward," said Texas Tech President Guy Bailey. "We must make a quantum leap."

"Attracting new, high-profile faculty members is one way to increase not only the caliber of research that Texas Tech can do in the future, but also the quality of education students can receive," he said.

Taylor Eighmy, vice president of research, added that through the strategic hiring process, the university will increase its national research visibility.

"Texas Tech has a wonderful opportunity to strategically expand externally funded research, promote economic development and further its creative activity," he said. "Hiring top-level researchers such as these will ensure Texas Tech's future credentials as a top public research university."

Achieving National Research University designation, or Tier One, would put Texas Tech into an elite category of universities. National research universities have annual research expenditures of at least \$100 million. They offer more than 50 doctoral degree programs and have more than 1,000 tenure track faculty. They also usually have large undergraduate populations and offer a wide-range of undergraduate degrees.

Salute to Excellence; AFS graduate inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame



Alvin Davis, a Texas Tech University alumnus and prominent leader in the cowboy culture and ranching heritage movement, has been named to the National 4-H Hall of Fame. The Post native was among 16 honorees from around the country selected to receive the annual honor.

Hall of Fame Award recipients are recognized for their lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H, officials noted. As a sophomore at Texas Tech, Davis received the Moses Trophy, a historical national 4-H leadership award. At the time it was the highest honor that a 4-H club member could receive.

Davis' induction ceremony was held Oct. 8 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md. He will be the first former 4-H member from Texas to be inducted, though five former 4-H extension agents have been inducted from the Lone Star state in the past.

The 4-H Hall of Fame was established about a decade ago as a part of the 100th anniversary celebration of 4-H work in the United States. The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents sponsored the celebration and it partners with the National 4-H Council and National Institute of Food and Agriculture in the operation of the National 4-H Hall of Fame project.

Davis received a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Texas Tech in 1952. While at the university he was president of the Tech 4-H Club and Tech Rodeo Association. He was director of the rodeo association's first National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association approved rodeo in 1950.

Meanwhile, Davis was a member of several other Tech organizations, including the Agriculture Club, Saddle Tramps, International Livestock Judging Team, and the Block and Bridle Club. He was later named one of Texas Tech's outstanding animal husbandry alumni and was the first inductee to the Texas Tech Rodeo Hall of Fame. He was named one of Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Distinguished Alumni in 2001.

Following graduation Davis worked as executive vice president and a director at two national banks in the region, and later operated a mail order western awards business and owned several western retail stores. Eventually, he returned to Lubbock to serve as executive vice president and general manager of the National Ranching Heritage Center. During that time he founded National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration.

UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Texas Tech Invitational Judging Contests – Thursday, March 31

- Register at www.judgingcard.com

Animal and Food Sciences Spring Banquet – Saturday, April 9 at 6 p.m.

- Join us at Cagle Steaks to celebrate the accomplishments of our students

Texas Tech Meat and Livestock Judging Camps – June 5-7 and June 9-11

- Registration information will be posted in February at www.afs.ttu.edu

State FFA Convention – July 12-15, Texas Tech University

Youth Beef 706 Program – July 19-20

- Hosted by the Department of Animal and Food Sciences with the Texas Beef Council

- Registration information will be posted at www.afs.ttu.edu and www.meatscience.ttu.edu

4-H Livestock Ambassador Program – July 25-27

- Hosted by the Department of Animal and Food Sciences with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service

“Thank You”

To the many friends and alumni

who supported the Texas Tech judging program during the 2010 Holiday Season by purchasing a Raider Red Meats Ham, Brisket or Prime Rib. More than 1250 items were sold. All proceeds help support the judging teams who represent the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at competitions across the nation. Your support is greatly appreciated!



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Save the Date

for the Department of Animal and Food Sciences Spring Banquet



**Join us as we recognize our outstanding seniors and the accomplishments
of the department's students and organizations.**



**Cagle Steaks
Saturday, April 9, 2011 ~ 6:00 p.m.**



Parents, friends and alumni are invited to attend.