In celebration of its centennial anniversary, the animal science department hosted the “Friends and Alumni 100-Year Reunion” on May 16-18, 2003. With nearly 700 friends and alumni in attendance, the weekend proved to be the largest reunion ever to be held at Cal Poly, and one that will not soon be forgotten.

Weekend events started Friday at Cal Poly’s Leaning Pine Arboretum. The “Drinks and Grazing” event offered wine tasting from eight local wineries including Foley Vineyards, Lincourt, Wild Horse and Edna Valley, live music, and a selection of Cal Poly and industry partners’ meat products from Farmer John, Zacky Farms, Brawley Beef and Superior Farms.

As the main event drew near, Saturday began with the most talked about attraction of the weekend, the Escuela breakfast sponsored by the American Simmental Association. Home of the student managed commercial cowherd at Cal Poly, the Escuela Ranch brought back many memories for those alumni in attendance. A crisp morning set a perfect background to the ranch-style breakfast as groups of old friends gathered to catch up on the last 50 years.

After breakfast, attendees had the option of touring the animal units, taking a wine tasting tour of Edna Valley Winery or visiting San Luis Obispo and the surrounding area. Most chose to visit the animal production units and saw the changes made over the years, as well as visiting the newly completed biotechnology and embryology laboratory and the embryo transfer lab at the horse unit.

“A Century of Heritage
Department history compiled in book

One hundred years of animal science and husbandry at Cal Poly are remembered in “A Century of Heritage.” In honor of the animal science department’s centennial anniversary, faculty, emeriti, and friends of the department came together to create a collection of photographs and memories.

“Up to this point, the department had no history aside from what was in the university archives. ‘A Century of Heritage’ essentially packaged up the past one hundred years in a beautiful book,” said animal science department head, Andy Thulin.

The success of the book is due to the hard work and dedication of John Stechman, Roland Pautz, Ken Scotto, James Flanagan, Richard Johnson, Russell Anderson, Robert Rutherford, Robert Vance, Katy Murphy, Wallace Glidden, Jon Beckett, Mike Hall, Wendy Hall and Andy Thulin. These individuals met weekly for four months compiling and sorting through information for the book.

“It is hoped this book represents the reader’s experiences at Cal Poly and stirs fond memories of education in the classroom and facilities, and of working with livestock on campus agricultural lands,” stated John Stechman in the foreword to the book.

“A Century of Heritage” is available for purchase at El Corral Bookstore for $35.

To purchase the book log on to www.elcorralbookstore.com or call 800.367.0771
What a great year 2003 was for the Animal Science department at Cal Poly! The seeds for the success were sown during September 2002 at a luncheon with retired faculty Dick Johnson, Ken Scotto, and Jim Flanagan. We discussed a common vision for a centennial celebration for the Animal Science department. I encouraged them to consider helping to write a book, about the history of the department since 1903. As the old saying goes, “Bite off more than you can chew, then chew it. Plan more than you can do, then do it,” we did it. With the help of these gentlemen, other emeriti, faculty, students, and many volunteers, the 100-year reunion was a great success! The history of the animal science department was captured in the new book “A Century of Heritage,” which now documents this great program over the years. To those of you who attended this largest reunion ever held at Cal Poly, we truly enjoyed having you as our guests and hope to see you again.

The department continues to receive exposure and recognition as a premier program. The new embryology and biotechnology laboratory was used this summer to produce an interactive training DVD to simulate management of major disease outbreaks (animal and human) in the U.S. The training DVD will be used to train agency administrators for the USDA. The popular TV show “Animal Planet” selected Cal Poly animal science to film an episode for their “That’s My Baby” program. They spotlighted student Rachel Sachar foaling out Cal Poly mare “Remedy Anne” at the equine center. The program also featured our artificial insemination program, as well as flushing and manipulating equine embryos in the new embryology lab. This TV program has been aired nationally and has provided great exposure for our program. In addition to many new technologies we have deployed in our teaching and learning program, our strong tradition of training students in the disciplines of livestock production and management remains the cornerstone of the department.

While we recently celebrated the many successes of our first 100 years, we must continue to strive for excellence. Preparing for continued success during our second century requires additional investment in Cal Poly teaching and learning environments. With a combination of State funding and private contributions the animal science department struggles to make much needed improvements to existing facilities. The department has grown from about 400 to over 600 students in recent years and needs to develop new innovative teaching and learning facilities designed for both the present and the future. Learn by doing education is labor-intensive and is increasingly a capital-intensive enterprise, due to the rapid evolution of technology. To continue to translate our educational vision into reality, we must invest in the renewal of instructional and applied research laboratories, equipment, and support for technologies that enhance our teaching and learning efforts.

Our success will depend on the active involvement of stakeholders like you, who are passionate about Cal Poly and the industries and organizations we serve. I encourage you to partner with the Cal Poly animal science department to help us leverage limited State resources to develop a new generation of leaders with the technical knowledge, people skills, and problem-solving abilities to flourish in this new century. To learn more about opportunities for supporting the Cal Poly animal science program and our great students, please feel free to contact me at 805-756-2419 or athulin@calpoly.edu.
Dinner, dancing and 100 years in animal science history came together for the main event Saturday night in the Farm Operations building, commonly known as “The Farm Shop.” Guests circled around tables decorated with flowers and bottles of Chardonnay from President and Mrs. Warren J. Baker's collection, Pinot Noir from Tolossa, and a fine Cabernet Sauvignon from E&J Gallo. Hors d’oeuvres of sausage, San Luis Obispo sourdough bread and vegetables from Apio were circulated while old friends mingled.

Over 500 guests enjoyed a delicious ribeye dinner provided by Harris Ranch, and throughout dinner they had a chance to look over 64 silent auction items donated from the community and related industry companies. Col. Rick Machado sold 31 items and packaged deals to the highest bidder. The evening’s events wrapped up with a night of dancing to the classic tunes of Monty Mills and the Horseshoe Band.

The weekend concluded with a Poultry Industry breakfast at the Judging Pavilion, giving participants one last opportunity to reunite. Guests learned how to make perfect omelets, while being coached by poultry club members. California Poultry Federation, Pacific Egg and Poultry Association and California Grain and Feed Association sponsored this final event.

As those who built this department in the early years enjoyed the Cal Poly Animal Science 100-Year Reunion, the students, staff and professors responsible for the department today worked to ensure the weekend’s success. A course, ASCI 570, was developed for students interested in organizing and directing the production of this major event. Wendy Hall mentored the thirty-one undergraduate and graduate students enrolled.

The Friends and Alumni 100-Year Reunion welcomed guests from across the country as they represented classes as far back as 1931. The department, known for its learn by doing style, community spirit and reputation in the animal science industries, looks forward to the next 100 years.

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Investing in Animal Science

For over a century, animal science has enjoyed a wonderful learn by doing tradition of excellence. As the current faculty and students chart a course into the future to even greater achievements, private support from dedicated alumni and friends will play an increasingly important role in our success. There are several ways you can partner with the department to provide much needed resources. In addition, some giving methods may provide you with attractive financial and tax benefits. For more information contact Dr. Andy Thulin at 805.756.2419.
Tradition Continues
Cal Poly fields Livestock Judging Team

After a two-year absence, the Cal Poly Livestock Judging Team is back. Coach Forrest Mangan leads this year’s team of six students. Mangan, a graduate student and part-time lecturer at Cal Poly, has high hopes for the team.

“I want to get the Cal Poly name out again and rebuild the tradition of Cal Poly being competitive in livestock judging,” Mangan said.

As a member of Cal Poly’s last judging team (2001), Mangan knows just what kind of dedication it takes to succeed. The team members spend about 30 hours per week practicing judging and reasons. Practice that will pay off when the team competes at shows like the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado; the Arizona National Livestock Show in Phoenix, Arizona; the Houston Stock Show and Rodeo in Houston, Texas; the Grand National Livestock Exposition (Cow Palace) in San Francisco; and the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

“To stay competitive we need to stay on the road,” explained Mangan. The team plans to attend as many competitions as possible this year; however, lack of funds may prove to be a limiting factor.

Cal Poly first fielded a team in 1948, coached by Lyle Hoyt. Hoyt donated the original Cal Poly Livestock Judging Team buckle to the animal science department during the 100-Year Reunion. Cal Poly won the National Championship in Louisville for the first and only time in 1977.

Dressage Team at Cal Poly
University approves new equestrian team

Dressage is an equestrian sport in which judges award points for the performance of the horse and rider in a series of movements, testing both the rider’s control and the horse’s training. At competition, the school hosting the show provides all the horses used. A drawing at the beginning of competition assigns horses and riders; the riders are then given ten minutes to warm up the horse before entering the ring.

Three years ago a group of students formed a Dressage Team, although didn’t gain recognition from Cal Poly until this year. The team is part of the national organization, Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA), along with other schools such as U.C. Davis, U.C. Santa Cruz, and Stanford.

Teams consist of four riders with varying levels of ability ranging from intro to first level, which is the most advanced level of collegiate dressage. Cal Poly usually sends two to four teams to each competition.

“Dressage is mostly an individual sport but IDA is designed to make dressage competition a team sport,” explained Katie Dougherty, Vice President of the Cal Poly Dressage Team.

Last year, Cal Poly sent five riders to the National competition in Bristol, Virginia placing first on the west coast and eighth in the nation.

“Cal Poly is known for predominately having western riding programs, but IDA helps represent the English side of equestrian sports. It’s important for our school to represent all aspects of the horse industry, especially since we’re an agriculture school,” Dougherty said.

This year looks to be another exciting season, with Cal Poly placing first in their initial competition. The Cal Poly team hosted an IDA show on November 15, and will host a second show on February 16, 2004.
Quarter Horse Enterprise a Success

For over 15 years Mike Lund has been leading the Quarter Horse Enterprise at Cal Poly. The enterprise allows students to develop skills in starting horses for snaffle bit and cutting horse futurity in-training sales. The project uses two-year-old Quarter Horses raised and bred at Cal Poly.

Each year six students are chosen for the project, although many more apply. To be selected students must show more than just an ability to ride. Academic standing, grade point average, future career goals, year in school, involvement at the horse unit, and past experiences all factor in. However, equally important are the student’s attitude, cooperation and responsibility. Students must go through an application and interview process and a riding evaluation.

“The enterprise puts students in charge of the project’s entire well-being. They are responsible for the health and training of the animals, but also the business side of everything, not to mention it’s a great networking opportunity,” said Lund.

At the beginning of each project, students develop a budget and then spend six months working on the horses, preparing them for a large sale. After the sale, students go through the budget again to see how successful they were. Students receive ten percent of the gross sales price from each horse.

October saw the completion of the 2003 Quarter Horse Enterprise with six horses sold at the National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity for an average of $4,125.

Western Bonanza Turns 20
Students Plan Premier Junior Livestock Show

“Our goal was to make it to 20 years, and here we are,” said Wendy Hall, lecturer and advisor to Cal Poly’s Western Bonanza. “It just gets bigger and better every year.”

The junior livestock jackpot show began in 1984 as a senior project with 100 entries of cattle. Twenty years later, Western Bonanza is one of the largest junior livestock shows in the west offering over 750 of the finest quality cattle, sheep and hogs. This year marks the first time for a market goat and specialty barrow show.

The show allows exhibitors, ranging in age from nine to 21, the chance to compete in market, breeding and showmanship classes. However, unlike other jackpots, Western Bonanza offers educational opportunities during the weekend. Exhibitors have entered in a Livestock Knowledge Contest, a Fitting Contest, and a Photo and Advertisement Design Contest.

Each year Western Bonanza is directed entirely by a class of students. Committees form early in fall quarter to begin the planning for the three-day event. “The students make the decisions, plan the weekend, and see the event through,” Hall explained.

Leading the class are three co-managers Robyn Christian, Grady Gallagher, and Shauna Trusas.

“Western Bonanza is a way for students to feel like they’re a part of something bigger than just school. They not only help put on one of the largest jackpot shows on the west coast, but they get to meet leading industry contacts and best of all see the experiences that we provide for junior exhibitors that weekend,” said Trusas.

This year’s Western Bonanza will be held at the California Mid-State Fairgrounds in Paso Robles on February 13-15.
New Faculty and Staff named to Department

Dr. Daniel G. Peterson began this fall as the animal science department's molecular biology, genomics and biotechnology professor. He attended UC Davis where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Peterson then moved to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he earned his Doctorate in animal science and nutritional biochemistry.

Peterson has been recognized for his research by the American Society for Nutritional Sciences, has received the prestigious Maynard Award from Cornell University for research and service excellence, and has been recognized for his teaching excellence by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University with the Golden Apple Award. He has collaborated with world leaders in molecular nutrition in his studies of the cellular mechanisms underlying bioactive nutrient compounds.

Ryan Holt was recently named as Cal Poly's new Poultry Technician. The Cal Poly graduate received a Bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in poultry management. Holt brings to the university valuable experience in the egg industry as well as packaging. He spent two years working for Rainbow Farms in Denair, California before moving to Washington to work with Foster Farms.

Holt oversees all aspects of the poultry unit, including the birds, facilities, egg sales and distribution, and the 21 students involved in various enterprises. Current projects at the poultry unit include adding tunnel ventilation to one of the broiler houses, and a cover for the rod conveyer that is used as part of the egg gathering system.

"I'm excited about the challenge of improving the facility and all the opportunities available here," said Holt of his new position.

Dr. Robert J. Delmore, Jr. has joined the faculty in the animal science department. He teaches meat science, processed meat products and Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) courses and will have oversight of Cal Poly's USDA inspected harvest and meat processing facilities. Delmore is a graduate of Cal Poly in food science and received a Master's in animal science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned his Doctorate from Colorado State University in animal science with a concentration in meat science.

Delmore brings with him a wealth of industry experience; most recently, he was the Vice President of Technical Services for the Clougherty Packing Company - Farmer John Meats. In this position, he directed all company food safety, microbiology, Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Point systems, quality assurance and research and development.

Delmore has received national recognition including Meat Processing Magazine’s Rising Star Distinction in March 2000, and was one of eight meat industry professionals recognized as a rising star in the meat and poultry industry.

Animal Science at Cal Poly continues to grow and thrive because of generous donations from alumni and friends. Today's animal science graduates are trained with the most up-to-date equipment and technology because of supporters like you.

Thank you for your support and belief in our program!

Thank You
Curriculum Updated

The animal science department has added approximately 30 new courses to the curriculum. Most of these courses are upper division, however some lower-division courses have been significantly revised as well.

"Many students felt that there weren't enough upper-division courses. The lower-division courses would create an interest in a topic, but there weren't enough course offerings for them to pursue those interests in greater depth," explained Dr. Jon Beckett, "so we added new courses, mostly science based, that increase the rigor and offer challenging topics that were otherwise not significantly addressed."

The new curriculum allows students the opportunity to study more subjects in greater detail. "There are topics that each specie has in common, and the lower-division species classes had redundant information, so we took that material out and created a whole new class. This allows the faculty to now go into a greater depth and breadth of material within each species," said Beckett.

ASCI 450: Computer Applications in Animal Science is an example of one of the new courses. Students gain computer skills, specifically with Excel as it relates to livestock production. This addition is due in part to response from industry leaders who indicated their needs for employees who had greater quantitative and analytical skills.


A committee of several faculty members in the department worked to develop the new curriculum. Part of the challenge faced was increasing the number of classes without increasing the faculty. Beckett explained, "the changes in the curriculum are meant to increase the knowledge base for students regarding the use of new technologies in animal production. Consistent with the tradition of the animal science program, the focus is on the application of these tools to increase animal productivity."

“We will continue to strengthen our learning program for students to understand cutting-edge technologies, along with transferable skills, such as leadership, team-building and effective communication skills,” said Andy Thulin, animal science department head.

47th Annual Bull Test Sale

Each May, approximately 300 bulls are consigned to Cal Poly’s annual Bull Test. Bulls come from throughout California, as well as the surrounding western states. However, in order for a bull to make the October sale it must be indexed at 100 or better, and pass soundness and semen evaluations.

Over fifty students involved in the Bull Test Enterprise oversee the daily care of the bulls. Among other responsibilities, this includes marketing the bulls, record keeping, sale preparation and daily health checks. "We get a lot of exposure to the industry and hands-on production experience," said Erin Lacy, 2002 Bull Test Secretary. "Students working on this project learn how to run a bull test; what we’re doing here is very similar to what people are doing at all the other bull tests."

The 47 annual Bull Sale took place on Sunday, October 5, 2003 at the Cal Poly Beef Unit. One hundred seventeen yearling bulls were sold for an average price of $2,200, the second highest average in the past 20 years. "The success of the event was due in part to moving the sale to a weekend," explained Mike Hall, Cal Poly senior beef specialist. "Parking has always been an issue during the week, and moving the date helped increase attendance and create a more relaxed environment."

As part of a new housing project, the beef unit, including bull test, will soon be relocating to the Chorro Creek Ranch.
Department Activities

Cal Poly’s Collegiate Cattlemen Club sent a delegation of men and women to attend the California Cattlemen and Cattlewomen’s Associations Annual Convention. The event was held in Reno, NV at John Ascuaga’s Nugget November 19-21, 2003 and was a joint venture between the California and Nevada Cattlemen and Cattlewomen’s Associations. Over 15 students from Cal Poly listened to speakers and participated in committee meetings. Students representing Chico State, Fresno State and Sierra College were also in attendance. Two animal science students were recognized for their achievements at the convention: Shauna Trusas won a speech contest about country of origin labeling, and Stephanie Quinn was named Collegiate Cattlemen of the year for 2003-04.

2004 Calendar of Events

January 28-31  NCBA Convention; Phoenix, AZ
February 13-15  Western Bonanza
   17  Ram Sale
April 16-17  Open House and Poly Royal
   17  Ram Sale
      7-8  FFA State Finals
      22  Ranch Horse Sale
June 12  Spring Commencement
October 2-3  Bull Test Sale & Field Day