

# ANIMAL SCIENCE STOCK REPORT

Fall 2006

## Donations advance facilities enhancement

With the completion of the new Beef Center, the construction of the new Animal Nutrition Center and the planned construction of a new Meat Processing Center, friends and supporters of the Animal Science Department have played a major role.

Most notably, John and Gay Lau, owners of the Modesto-based Yosemite Meat Company, demonstrated their support to the future of Cal Poly with a \$1 million donation to be used towards the building of the new Meat Processing Center.

"This new Meat Processing Center will allow the students to learn modern equipment in a modern facility where they can create consumer-driven products," John Lau said.

The major donation was not the first time the Lau family has given to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. They have also provided funding for a meat processing scholarship and have donated to Western Bonanza and the Ag Ambassadors, a student leadership organization.

To express gratitude for the Lau's continual support, the Animal Science Department has chosen to name the Meat Processing Center in honor of the Lau family, an acknowledgement John Lau said was unexpected.

"It's a real honor to be associated with the Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences," he said.

The \$1 million Lau donation, in combination with \$1 million in state funding the Animal Science Department received for the Meat Processing Center, make up less than half of the facility's expected \$5.25 million price tag. To finance the remainder of the cost, the department is looking to friends and family, and is also asking for industry support.

With the construction of the Animal Nutrition Center, expected to be completed early next year, the feed industry stepped up with the donation of equipment. Scott Equipment Company, CMP/Roskamp Champion, and APEC, to name a few, provided the department with much needed and appreciated equipment, as well as discounts and donations, for the Animal Nutrition Center.

To provide recognition to those who have backed the Animal Science Department, a list of donors is included on pages six and seven of this issue. The department is extremely grateful for the ongoing support in the creation of learning facilities that will most definitely serve to enhance the learning possibilities for its students. -P



Above: from left to right: Steven Lau, Andy Thulin, Gay Lau, former College of Agriculture Dean Joseph Jen, and John Lau in front of the Lau family's Yosemite Meat Company. Background: Construction moves forward on the new Animal Nutrition Center, located adjacent to the Poultry Center.

Equipment Donors - Animal Nutrition Center	
Company	Donation
APEC	\$48,230
CMP /Roskamp Champion	\$99,897
Cardinal Scale	\$9,416
Central Coast Scale	\$550
Clayton Industries	\$8,229
Eastern Instruments	\$17,855
ROTEX, Inc.	\$9,953
Scott Equipment Company	\$51,819
Supreme International	\$21,036
Thiele Technologies	\$33,260



# The Vision Continues

*“Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be.” - Kahlil Gibran*

*From Department Head Andrew J. Thulin*

How time flies when you are having fun! To think that back in 2002 we were contemplating the enhancement of several animal science facilities and just beginning the planning process. Today, the new Beef Center is completed and every day significant progress is being made on the construction of the new Animal Nutrition Center. It is very exciting to witness the second of four new facility construction projects becoming a reality. The Beef Center, the Animal Nutrition Center, the soon-to-be-built Meat Processing Center, and the expansion of the Beef Cattle Evaluation Center are vital in the continued development of the hands-on learning that takes place within the Animal Science Department.

The department has grown by over 150 students during the past few years, and the new learning and research facilities are critical to handle the increase. The enhanced facilities are technologically state-of-the-art to enable students to learn and grow in an environment that mirrors the industry they will enter post-graduation. For example, the Beef Center enables expansion of the embryo transfer, animal identification, and heifer development programs; the Animal Nutrition Center expands the research capabilities for animal food processing; and the Meat Processing Center accommodates the rise of consumer-driven ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat products with lab space designated for the innovation and production of each.

To finance these important projects, the Animal Science Department received \$8 million in state money, which makes up about half of the estimated \$16 million cost. The department must obtain the remaining \$8 million, of which nearly \$3.0 million has already been raised, through private donations.

The department's new facilities will allow Cal Poly Animal Science to be well positioned for continued excellence in the future. As most of you know, our program includes far more than just ordinary labs and courses, it facilitates hands-on and sustained structured encounters with theory and practice augmented by enterprise projects, senior projects, and applied research. This requires additional investment in Cal Poly's

teaching and learning environments. The Lau family's generous donation to the Meat Processing Center and the equipment donations to the Animal Nutrition Center are two ways that individuals and industries have shown their support for the future of Animal Science. Every donation is crucial to putting the department one-step closer to completing these facilities and thereby enhancing the education of every animal science student.

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 Animal Science to help us supplement our limited state resources and develop a new generation of leaders prepared to make their mark on the industry.

**For more information on how you can help, please e-mail me at [athulin@calpoly.edu](mailto:athulin@calpoly.edu) or call (805) 756-2419. Updates regarding the relocation of the different facilities can be found at [www.animalscience.calpoly.edu](http://www.animalscience.calpoly.edu).**

Facility	State Funds	Private Funds
\$4.0 million Beef Center	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000
\$5.25 million Animal Nutrition Center	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000 \$1,750,000 raised to date
\$5.25 million Meat Processing Center	\$1,000,000	\$3,250,000 \$1,000,000 raised to date
\$1.5 million Beef Cattle Evaluation Center	\$1,500,000	_____
<b>Total: \$16,000,000</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>

## Rodeo Hall of Fame inducts JoAnn Switzer



Andy Thulin with JoAnn Switzer and her four sons.

Longtime Cal Poly Rodeo supporter and Pozo native JoAnn Switzer was inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame in an August ceremony that included several Cal Poly attendees, including Animal Science Department Head Andy Thulin.

“JoAnn is well-deserving of this award for her leadership and support of rodeo and the cattle industry in California,” Thulin said. “She is also a valuable member of the Animal Science Department external advisory council, where she has provided immeasurable guidance on the department's strategic vision.”

The Rodeo Hall of Fame is sponsored by the California State Fair and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a notable dedication to the rodeo industry. This is an extreme honor as Switzer is one of only two well-deserving 2006 inductees.

In addition to her vital role in the organization of the Cal Poly Rodeo Boosters, Switzer is active in the San Luis Obispo County Cattleman's Association, San Luis Obispo County Farm Supply and the California Mid-State Fair. **-P**

# Calving Enterprise

## A one-of-a-kind student experience

Despite her beef ranch upbringing, animal science major Jamie Reece had no calving experience before the fall of 2005.

Now Reece estimates she has calved over 150 animals.

Between her work at the Cal Poly Dairy and two years on the calving enterprise, most recently as enterprise manager, Reece has become the go-to girl for calving questions.

She is one of 16 student participants in the recently concluded calving enterprise, a student-run, hands-on enterprise in charge of successfully calving over 80 heifers between August and October.

To even out the workload, enterprise members are split into groups which are then placed on a rotational schedule, with each group in charge of a 24-hour timeslot every four days.

Except for Reece, who is on-call at all times.

And although the heifers are fed at 10 p.m. nightly in hopes of inducing daytime labor, at times middle-of-the-night calving still occurs.

But the occasional late-night calls are not the hardest part of the enterprise manager position, Reece said.

Instead, she claims her greatest challenge is “teaching those without animal experience; getting students to think like the animal so that everything runs a little smoother.”

Mike Hall, professor and senior beef cattle specialist, serves as the calving enterprise supervisor, and said he tries to diminish his involvement throughout the enterprise to ensure students get a first-hand experience.

“Students really come alive when they are responsible in helping with the birth of a calf,” he said.

Enterprise members are fully immersed in the calving process, since they are in charge of all aspects of the enterprise, including feeding, calving, tagging, weighing, vaccinating and monitoring the health of heifers and calves.

For animal science senior Carrie Maylor, who grew up on ranches, getting to experience everything on her own was the enterprise’s biggest benefit.



Top: Three enterprise members work together to tag a new-born calf. Above: Enterprise manager Jamie Reece (far right) instructs other members.

And the enterprise is chock-full of unique experiences.

Maylor and Reece were both present for one particular occurrence in which the uterus of a heifer who had just given birth prolapsed. At 1 a.m., the enterprise members were forced to think on their feet and call for outside help in order to successfully save the heifer’s life.

“It woke me up at 1 in the morning,” Maylor said.

For Reece, the incident exemplified the surprises that can come from working with cattle.

“I really enjoy working with cattle, I’ve done it all my life,” she said. “It’s exciting when a calf is born, but it’s even more exciting when something goes wrong. You’ve always got to be on your toes.” -P

## Petty hired in tenure-track position

After two years as an animal science lecturer, Allen Petty was hired on as an assistant professor of non-ruminant nutrition



Allen Petty

earlier this year.

To land the newly created, tenure-track position, Petty beat out over 15 other candidates. As an assistant professor, Petty continues to teach non-ruminant nutrition, swine production and principles of animal science, and remains the swine center supervisor.

In the new position, Petty has undertaken a research assignment as well, and is now a senior project advisor.

As a Cal Poly Animal Science graduate himself, Petty said he understands the importance of senior projects and hands-on learning that are unique to Cal Poly.

“Working with undergraduate students to increase the standard of senior projects we have in the department is definitely a priority,” he said.

Petty’s new position puts more emphasis on other research as well, such as conducting nutrient balance experiments with newly-purchased metabolism crates that are now present in the swine program. The metabolism crates are one way Petty said he hopes to bring more enthusiasm to undergraduate education and implement Cal Poly’s “learn-by-doing” motto in a thought provoking way.

## New poultry nutritional immunologist hired

Also set to join the animal science faculty is nutritional immunologist Brooke Humphrey, who will come to Cal Poly in January from the University of Maryland.

“He’s one of the top young nutritional immunologists in North America who will provide tremendous leadership in our expanding animal immunology program,” said department head Andy Thulin.

Like Petty, Humphrey earned his bachelors degree from Cal Poly in Animal Science. When he joins the department full-time, Humphrey will take over as poultry center supervisor in an appointment that is 25 percent research and 75 percent teaching. -P

# Quarter Horse enterprise sells at three major events

September was a busy month for the Cal Poly Quarter Horse Enterprise.

The enterprise was responsible for selling a total of 17 Quarter Horses at three prestigious events, capped off by the Oct. 1 Cal Poly Bull Test and Quarter Horse Select Sale held at the newly completed Beef Center.

Between the three sales, which also included the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Sale in Fresno and the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Sale in Reno, the enterprise grossed over \$76,000. The highest selling horse, Peptos Foxy Lady, trained by Stephanie Sandwith, sold at the Reno event for \$8,500.

Two-year-old, cow-trained Quarter Horses were sold at both the Fresno and Reno events, while three-year-old, ranch-trained Quarter Horses were reserved for the Cal Poly sale.

“The students probably do more in this application than at any other college in the country,” enterprise advisor Pete Agalos said. “The fact that Cal Poly is out at high priority sales makes it apparent that the equine program is ongoing and moving forward.”

Agalos said the hard work and dedication of all enterprise members was evident at each of the events, and that Cal Poly was always represented with complete professionalism.

“I think the biggest aspect of the project is the student learning and experience,” he said. “This year’s students really did an excellent job.” -P



The enterprise members at the Reno NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity are from left to right: Stephanie Sandwith, Caitlin Oats, Mira Wills, Andrea Caras, Nicole Scholl and Katy Fornas. Enterprise members not pictured are Whitney Cox, Alison Dorsey, Lindsey Hewitt, Kristin Hughes, Heather Lovett, Missy Porter, Dawn Ross, Danielle Villanueva, Alicia Yocum and Sarah Zelonis.

## Field day most successful ever

At this year’s Bull Test Field Day, which took place on Sept. 30 in combination with the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull Test Sale, the Animal Science Department facilitated discussions on animal identification in front of the largest crowd in Bull Test Field Day history.

Speaking at the event were such names as Rob Cannell of McDonald’s Corporation and Wayne Morgan of Golden State Foods. Cannell illustrated the need for animal traceability from a consumer standpoint, while Morgan offered the same views from a processing perspective.

“Traceability inspires consumer confidence,” said Jon Beckett, professor and beef production specialist. Cannell emulated this idea, saying McDonald’s interest in animal identification stems from customer wants.

“McDonald’s is a major player in the buying of beef trimmings, so obviously the industry is extremely interested in hearing what they have to say,” said Robert Delmore, associate professor and meat specialist.

To discuss how animal identification is important in each industry sector, speakers were also present from Cargill Beef, Allflex USA, Farnam, Santa Margarita Ranch, 101 Livestock Market and the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

In order to demonstrate the Field Day’s message, all of the bulls auctioned off at the Oct. 1 Bull Test Sale were equipped with Radio Frequency Identification tags. Such tags will be USDA required on all cattle before long, Beckett said. -P



Above: Buyers examine sale bulls at the 50th Annual Bull Test Sale. Right: The sale ring at the newly completed beef center, where the event took place.

## New Beef Center hosts Bull Sale

The newly completed Beef Center hosted its first major event in October, with the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Cal Poly Bull Test and Quarter Horse Sale.

The new location, which has centralized Cal Poly’s beef program, was optimal for the event, said Mike Hall, professor and senior beef cattle specialist.

“It was very exciting to host the 50th Annual Sale with a grand opening of our new beef center,” Hall said. “Many compliments were given on the actual design and construction.”

Close to 400 people came out to bid on the 121 bulls sold, and Cal Poly recorded the highest selling bull, a Low Birth Weight Angus bull sold to Circle 7 Angus Ranch for \$7,200. Cal Poly also recorded the highest selling Multi-trait Angus bull, sold to U.S.P. Farm for \$5,500, and Sim-Angus bull, sold to Dry Creek Ranch for \$3,400.

The sale average came in at \$2,673.97, making the last three years the most successful in Cal Poly Bull Test history. -P



# Animal Science student recognized nationally

Animal Science student Sydney Knobel was recently named a recipient of the National Meat Association Scholarship Grant, an award that looks to recognize young people with strong futures in food science related fields.



Sydney Knobel in front of the Cal Poly Meats Lab, where she works.

Knobel, who is looking forward to a future in the meats industry, is one of only eight students nationwide to receive the award for the 2006-07 school year. She will be presented with a certificate to recognize the scholarship in February, at the 2007 MEATXPO in Las Vegas.

“It feels great to be recognized on a national level and

it only strengthens my dedication to the meats industry,” she said. “I hope to be able to give back to the industry as much as possible when I am done with school.”

Knobel, who works at the Cal Poly Meats Lab and recently completed an internship with Washington Beef, said before college she never planned to become so involved in meat science.

But in her freshman year Knobel took ASCI 211, an introductory meat science course, and was hooked.

She now seems certain her future lies somewhere within the meats industry, and after completing her undergraduate coursework hopes to go on to earn a Masters Degree and possibly a Ph.D thereafter. -P

# Students Present Posters at Animal Nutrition Conference

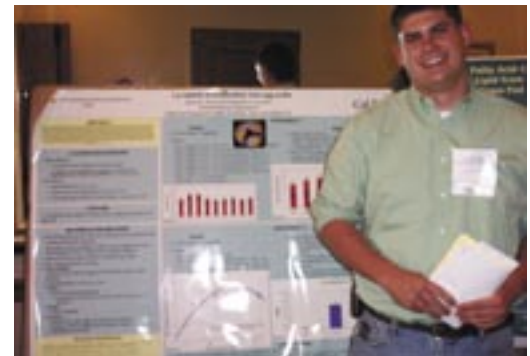
Three animal science students left their mark in Fresno at this year's California Animal Nutrition Conference, where they each presented posters based on prior research.



Christine Schaefer, who is now attending veterinary school at University of California, Davis, took home a second place award for her poster based on her senior project. She also presented her data at an international poultry forum in Atlanta earlier this year.



Sarah Benoit's poster focused on data she gathered while on an internship at the Washington National Zoo in 2005. Benoit recently began studying for her master's degree at the University of Maryland College Park and will be continuing her research at the Washington National Zoo.



Graduate student Jake Olson's poster included portions of his senior project and master's thesis. He presented further data during summer's Poultry Science Association conference in Edmonton, Alberta.

# Fall 2006/Winter 2007 Calendar of Events

## NOVEMBER

23 - Dec. 2

NRCHA Futurity Championship Show - Oklahoma

## DECEMBER

8

Last Day of Classes

16

Mid-year Commencement

17 - Jan. 7

Academic Holiday

## JANUARY

19

Ag Showcase Job Fair

8

Winter Quarter Begins

## FEBRUARY

16-18

Western Bonanza - Paso Robles Event Center

## MARCH

24 - April 1

Academic Holiday

# a special thanks you to all of our donors

The Animal Science Department is sincerely appreciative of all donations. Each and every gift helps the department tremendously. Due to the large amount of generous donations to the department, the Stock Report is not able to include the names of all of the almost 2,000 organizations and individuals who have given to Animal Science. The following is a list of those who have given \$1,000 or more since January 2000. For a complete list please visit [www.animalscience.calpoly.edu](http://www.animalscience.calpoly.edu). Sincere thanks to you all!

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a special thank you  
 to all of our donors

# New research laboratory constructed for the Animal Science Department

After over a year of planning and construction, the Animal Science Department now boasts a new, state-of-the-art research laboratory.

Assistant professor Dan Peterson headed the project and worked to ensure that the lab included the most technologically advanced research equipment available.

"It's an incredibly functional lab," he said. "One of the best I've ever been in and definitely one of the best on campus."

The new lab is located in what was originally a laboratory and small animal room, which was remodeled into office space in 1999.

However, with the continual impaction of the department's other research space, the department decided to convert the office space back into a laboratory.

The Animal Science Department funded the physical remodel of the lab with money from the McOmie Trust, a trust established in 1975 by Lorenzo and Judith McOmie and designed to support research at both Cal Poly and UC Davis. Peterson outfitted the lab with new equipment purchased from his research budget.

The space is primarily used for research by animal science undergraduate and graduate students, although a handful of biomedical engineering students utilize the lab for research purposes as well.

"It's really nice to have a space where all of my students can work together and share ideas where they won't conflict with a class needing to use the space," Peterson said. **-P**



Undergraduate and graduate students pose in the new research lab. From left to right: Shavahn Loux, Marc Ledesma, Dan Peterson, Amanda Saribalis, Kelly Shaw, Kat Hillman, Jeff Fesler (in back), Brent Fujimoto, Carrie McPherson-Kimmell, Tasha Johnson, Jackson Adams, Vanessa Heagle and Jake Olson. Not pictured, but also using the laboratory, are Melissa DaValle, Molly McLaughlin and Karen Shaw.

## ANIMAL SCIENCE STOCK REPORT

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