Poly put her "ahead of" her colleagues

By Ryder M. Beery-Animal Science

Rachel Oxley, animal science graduate, came to Cal Poly with veterinary school as her final goal.

Oxley started college in 1989 and graduated in March of 1994 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. "I was prepared to take the next year off and travel before applying to vet school," Oxley said. "The constant discouraging words I heard from everyone made me hesitant to apply."

With a cumulative grade point average of 3.36 and low hopes of being accepted, she applied to one school, Oregon State University (OSU). Much to Oxley's surprise, she was accepted and found OSU was just the school she was looking for.

Her grades were not the only qualification considered upon application. "OSU was looking for a well-rounded student. They wanted someone who had experience and an ability to communicate and work with people," said Oxley.

"The fact that Cal Poly was a hands-on university put me ahead of my colleagues as far as dealing with animals and people," said Oxley. "I gained invaluable experience from Cal Poly, especially the many enterprise projects I participated in."

For Oxley, vet school means four years of hard work and dedication. The course load each quarter varies from 22 units to 28 units. The program at OSU gives students a chance to study, not only at the campus in Oregon, but also at a campus in Washington. They spend their first year in Oregon, the next year and a half in Washington and their final year and a half in Oregon doing internships.

Oxley attends classes Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with approximately five to six hours of study each night.

"My hopes after graduation are to be a small-town doctor like James Herriot," said Oxley. Her final piece of advice to aspiring veterinarians: "Don't let people discourage you, keep applying and continue to get experience. If you truly love animals, go for it!"-P
Animal Science is on the road to discovery

By Cara Acosta - Journalism

Cal Poly’s second annual Open House, titled "The Road To Discovery," took place April 21 and 22.

Scheduled events included a beef showmanship contest, necropsy demonstration and embryo display.

“The beef showmanship contest has been going on for 10 years,” said Mike Hall, beef cattle specialist. “Showing an animal is mandatory for animal science students enrolled in 260.” Hall was in charge of orchestrating the event.

Sixty exhibitors, both novice and advanced showmen, took part in the contest. Steve Meleiros, Cal Poly alumnus, judged the contest. The contest was held at the Livestock Judging Pavilion Saturday afternoon.

Dr. Heidi Hamlen, animal science faculty, organized a necropsy (animal autopsy) demonstration at the campus veterinary clinic. The display included necropsy specimens and skeletons of horses, cattle and sheep. A human skeleton was on exhibit for comparison.

“Embryo displays, comprised of examples of embryo transfer, were part of the Open House exhibits. Others showed the embryos at various stages of fertilization,” said Dr. Bill Plummer, animal science faculty. -P

Faculty Corner:
Vet students gain new resources

By H.J. Hamlen, D.V.M, M.S.

Students in the College of Agriculture will benefit from the recent additions of veterinary science textbooks to the Kennedy Library Collection.

Cynthia Berg, representative of Harcourt Brace and Co, and W.B. Sanders Publishing Co., generously donated four textbooks. All the books have been published during the last two years and include: Equine Surgery by Auer, Current Veterinary Therapy 3-Food Animal Practice by Howard, Diagnosis and Treatment of Large Animal Diseases by Doherty and Mulville, and The Athletic Horse-Principles and Practice of Equine Sports Medicine by Hodgson and Rose.

Dr. Leanne Berning, dairy science faculty member, added to the collection by donating copies of classic textbooks covering the subjects of lactation, feeding and nutrition. All of these textbooks are available to students in the reserve section of the Kennedy Library. The library purchased an additional seven veterinary textbooks which will be located in the stacks. Each of these textbooks represents current, state-of-the-art resources for students interested in understanding the complexity of animals. It is hoped that students will find the veterinary textbooks useful as extracurricular reading while studying anatomy and physiology, preparing for senior seminars and learning about clinical conditions that may affect animals under their care in the future.-P
Another year quickly rolls to a close

By Marytina Marshall-Graduate Student

The animal science department celebrated the culmination of another year at the annual year-end banquet at the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge on May 20.

Faculty members and students gathered to socialize and celebrate in the success of a department full of bright young stars.

During the course of the evening students recognized faculty with gifts and verbal thanks for their efforts and time.

The faculty recognized students who exhibited outstanding performance throughout the year.

Awards presented included: Outstanding Senior, Society of Animal Scientists Recognition and the Tim O'Neil Memorial.

Rika Nitchske, Tim O'Neil Award recipient, said it was an honor and a pleasure to be placed in the same field as someone like Tim O’Neil.

Following a delicious tri-tip dinner and a well-run awards ceremony, the disc jockey cut loose with country music and everyone took to the dance floor for two stepping and western swing.

Clubs responsible for the banquet were Cutting and Reining and Boots'n'Spurs.

The Stock Report

During the last two years of publication, The Stock Report has been solely dependent upon the continued support of alumni and industry subscribers. The upcoming year is unlike years of the past. In order to continue producing The Stock Report, the animal science department and its students will again be requesting the help of the readership to support the publication in the upcoming year. Donations of any amount are appreciated. If you wish to make a donation please use the perforated box and mail it to the address below. Thank you again for your continued support. -P

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Faculty Showcase Part II

Gene Armstrong

Stats: Teaches Applied Horse Practices and Equine Behavior Modification; advises Ranch Horse Enterprise, Farrier Science and Blacksmithing.

He received his B.S. from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo in animal husbandry. "I enjoy watching students learn from animals. Students learn to communicate with animals via subtle body language." -P

Dr. Bob Spiller


He received his B.S. from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in poultry science, his M.S. from California Polytechnic State University in general agriculture and his Ph.D. from Oregon State University in poultry nutrition physiology. "The new curriculum's flexibility is great for poultry." -P

Roland Pautz

Stats: Teaches in the poultry career elective area; advises Poultry Club and Brooding Project.

He received his B.S. from Oregon State University in Poultry Science and his M.S. from Oregon State University in Poultry Management. "I appreciate that we keep courses current with changing developments. The animal science industry is always up and coming." -P

Roger Hunt


He received his B.S. from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo in farm management and his M.S. from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in general agriculture. "The new curriculum has inspired more student involvement with their advisers." -P

Rob Rutherford

Stats: Teaches Sheep Production, Sheep Management, Issues in Animal Agriculture, and Food Systems 1; Advises Ram Project, Serrano Project, Lamb Feeding Project, and Sheep Unit.

He received his B.S. from U.C. Davis in Agricultural Education and his M.S. from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo in General Agriculture. "We get a new bunch of students every year. No two days are ever the same and I enjoy the freedom to continue to learn and do different things." -P

By Ryder M. Beery - Animal Science

Stock Report History

The Stock Report was started by Marytina Marshall, graduate student, in 1993. She graduated this June and the Stock Report's new editor is Ryder M. Beery, animal science senior. The Stock Report is a biannual publication funded by the support of its readership, mainly alumni and industry members.

We would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to the Stock Report to ensure its continued publication.
After 38 years dedication keeps him involved

By Marytina Marshall-Graduate Student

Dedication, understanding, and a belief in education and the future are just a few of the factors that keep Dick Johnson involved with the animal science department.

Dick Johnson, professor emeritus of animal science, taught for a total of 38 years. He graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in animal husbandry followed by an M.S. in animal nutrition from Washington State University. Despite his retirement, Johnson remains current on the ever-changing face of education in the department to which he dedicated so many years.

Johnson began his teaching career in 1950 and assumed the role of livestock judging coach in 1952. He coached the team for 15 years. "Coaching the team is definitely one of the highlights of my career," said Johnson. "Every so often I get a phone call from a member who is in town and wants to go to dinner and that's nice."

Johnson considers teaching to be the most important role he played. He taught feeds and feeding, sheep production and swine production.

"I really enjoyed the lecture/lab combination teaching style," said Johnson. "We would talk in the morning and then go out and apply what we learned in a real situation. "Labs and enterprise projects give students tremendous opportunity, even today."

In addition to teaching and coaching, Johnson was department head for 16 years. Despite the amount of time required by such an undertaking, he continued to advise Boots 'n' Spurs Club and supervise sheep and swine enterprise projects. Even today, students will find Johnson out and about on campus for his regular visits.

Johnson is very involved with the community in San Luis Obispo. Whether giving tours to children at the County Historical Museum, working with friends of the library or participating in activities organized by the men's group at the Methodist church, Johnson is as busy today as he was 38 years ago. -P

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