As you read this Stock Report, you will realize that our students and faculty are engaged in many different learn by doing activities. The Animal Science Department is large and diverse, united by students with a passion for animals and science. While most students enter our program intending to become a veterinarian, many change their career interests as they realize the exciting opportunities that are available in many different animal-related industries. Today, nearly half of our graduates go on to veterinary school or graduate school in areas such as animal nutrition, reproductive physiology, immunology and several other “-ologies.” The key is that we start with some of the most competitive and brightest students, and we help them build a plan to achieve their goals.

The department is changing and adapting to keep abreast of the rapid change that is affecting most industries associated with animals. We are coping with industry changes by adapting new technologies and investing in our facilities and infrastructure, in new faculty, and in continuous improvement as a learning organization.

We started this process nearly three years ago with the relocation of our old bull test facilities, the feed mill and the meat harvest facilities. The changing landscape allowed us to capitalize on an opportunity to create a vision of excellence in animal science, and to build state-of-the-art facilities – a beef center, an animal nutrition center, and a meat processing center. The Beef Center offers students a place to explore technologies such as embryo transfer and growth research. The new Animal Nutrition Center will allow students to learn cutting-edge processing and manufacturing of many different types of animal feeds, from cattle feed to horse feed to pet foods. The new Meat Processing Center will allow us to expand student learning and research into the rapidly growing areas of “ready-to-cook” and “ready-to-eat” product development. Who wins? Our students win, our faculty wins, and you win, because you have helped to make dreams come true and you have access to our industry-ready graduates.

We have developed brochures for the Meat Processing Center and the Animal Nutrition Center to articulate our vision for these facilities and how they will support our students, our faculty, and our industry partners. They also contain information about how you can help to complete these projects and make them a reality. If you would like a copy of these brochures, please email me at athulin@calpoly.edu.

Finally, as we continue to work together to invest in the future of young people, I want you to know how important you are to helping us attract the best and brightest faculty and students, and enabling our faculty to develop these great young people into industry-ready leaders. Thank you!
WESTERN BONANZA ‘BEEFS’ UP AWARDS

Cash prizes and awards were at an all-time high at the 23rd Annual Western Bonanza Junior Livestock Show, held from Feb. 16-18 at the Paso Robles Event Center. Over 500 exhibitors between the ages of nine and 21 competed for over $43,000 in cash prizes and $38,000 in goods, which included jackets, awards buckles, and garment bags.

As in previous years, the show included an A and B format, essentially giving exhibitors the opportunity to show their animals twice. In the A and B shows combined, 2042 head of livestock were entered in the steer, heifer, meat goat, lamb and hog shows. In addition to the livestock shows, Western Bonanza hosts the longest-running fitting contest in the state, where groups of three youth are given 20 minutes to prepare a steer or heifer for show.

Western Bonanza is planned and run completely by Cal Poly students. Over 70 students on eight committees organize every detail of the show. This year, for the first time ever, a paid intern served as the show’s general manager and assisted the three other management positions during the entire planning process.

Show organizers worked with 17 corporate and 135 private sponsors to finance prizes. Diamond Level corporate sponsors included Farmer’s Warehouse, Honor Specialty Feeds, Manna Pro Corporation, Nutrena, Pete Johnson Chevrolet Cadilliac, Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale, Show Chow, and Watts Trucking and Chopping. Emerald Level corporate sponsors included Associated Feed, Cattaneo Bros., Estrella Ranch (George and Sue Hearst), King Feeds, Kruse’s Perfection Brand, the Paso Robles Event Center, PROforma, Show Bloom, and W-W Livestock Systems.

EMBRYO TRANSFER FOAL TURNS ONE

Cal Poly’s first embryo transfer foal, referred to on campus as “ET,” was born in spring 2006 through a surrogate mare. Cal Poly students facilitated every aspect of the embryo transfer process. Exposure to such procedures gives an advantage to undergraduate students applying to veterinary school or preparing for a future in equine reproduction, said Matthew Burd, associate professor and equine reproductive physiologist. As a yearling, ET is currently training to enter the Quarter Horse Enterprise next year.

STUDENTS PREPARE FOR VET SCHOOL

Last year, the Cal Poly Animal Science Department boasted 28 students accepted to veterinary school out of 33 qualified applicants, and numbers for this year continue to grow. Below are three students already accepted to veterinary school for the Fall of 2007. From left to right: Ashley Palmer will attend University of Missouri, Marguerite Basso will attend UC Davis and Marlene Townsell will attend Colorado State University.

STUDENT COMPLETES INTERNSHIP WITH UNDERWOOD FAMILY FARMS

Aspiring large animal veterinarian Kyle Warkington got a sneak peek of his chosen career path with an internship at Underwood Family Farms. The Moorpark, Calif. situated Underwood Family Farms is a family-run operation specializing in agriculture entertainment, located on a portion of the 180-acre Tierra Rejada Ranch. As an intern, Warkington spent the majority of his time guiding horse-drawn farm tours and working at the farm’s Animal Center, which the animal science senior describes as “a scaled down version of Knot’s Berry Farm.”

Assisting with tour preparations and farm maintenance, Warkington gained experience with a number of animals, including the four Clydesdales and two Percherons used for the farm tours. In addition, Warkington worked hands-on with the Holstein heifer, miniature horse and donkey, two emus, two Alpacas, three Scotch Highland cattle, six draft horses, eight various breed sheep, a Yorkshire sow and her 10 piglets, 15 rabbits, 17 ponies, 20 Pygmy African goats, and a variety of chickens, pigeons, ducks and domestic turkeys that make up the farm’s Animal Center.

Warkington’s internship also allowed him to witness first-hand some of the veterinary procedures, nutrition requirements and handling practices discussed in his Cal Poly courses. He trusts that the practical experience he acquired at Underwood Family Farms will be invaluable on his quest to one day open his own veterinary practice.
75TH TURKEY BANQUET DRAWS INDUSTRY LEADERS

Generations of poultry enthusiasts were on-hand to celebrate the 75th Anniversary Turkey Banquet, held April 14 in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) lobby. Poultry science graduate Clem Cox (1948) along with retired poultry professor Roland Pautz were honorary co-chairs at the event, which also drew in Poly Royal founder Monty Montrose. Montrose, a 1932 poultry science graduate, participated in the first-ever Turkey Banquet in his Cal Poly student days.

“The Turkey Banquet provided a great opportunity to reconnect and visit,” said Andy Carlin, project manager for the Animal Science Department.

Animal Science Department Head Andy Thulin was in attendance to discuss the happenings within the department, and especially the poultry science program. Dave Wehner, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, then gave the college and university update.

Pictured above are several former poultry club presidents, including current president Ryan Jackson, who played a major role in the planning of the event.

DRESSAGE TEAM EARNS 5TH PLACE HONORS AT NATIONALS

The Cal Poly Dressage Team continued its year-to-year improvement, placing 5th nationally at the 2007 Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) Championships, held from April 29-30 in Long Valley, NJ. In the previous two years, Cal Poly finished 8th and 9th respectively, making 2007 the third consecutive year the team has bested regional competition and qualified for nationals.

In addition to the fifth place overall finish, two members of the dressage team earned individual accolades. On team competition day, Torie Dye earned top honors in first level, and in individual competition, Heather Brownlow was named reserve champion in training four.

Along with Dye and Brownlow, Kelly Hanseth and Sara VATnsdal represented Cal Poly in the team competition. Brownlow, Vatnsdal and Chelsea Harrison also participated in individual competition.

The IDA currently consists of over 550 members from 46 schools broken down into eight regions across the country. Cal Poly competes in the Western region against UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz and UCLA.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR VISITS AFRICA FOR USAID PROJECT

Animal Science Associate Professor Bob Delmore traveled to Ethiopia in March as part of a USAID project to increase Ethiopian meat and livestock exports. The trip was sponsored by the Texas A&M University-managed Ethiopia Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards and Livestock Meat Marketing Program, and Delmore was selected as the meat specialist.

During his March 9-24 visit, Delmore reviewed seven Ethiopian export abattoirs for their suitability for development of a beef export program to the Middle East. The abattoirs were evaluated for ante mortem systems, operational and plant sanitation, slaughter production systems, carcass chilling coolers, existing packaging systems, efficiency, facility design and human resources.

The Ethiopia Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards and Livestock Meat Marketing Program, which is funded by USAID, is working to increase the exports of cattle, sheep and goats in order to provide for market-led economic growth, poverty reduction and improved livelihoods in Ethiopia.
RENOUDED ANIMAL NUTRITIONIST COMES TO CAL POLY

Veteran animal nutritionist Mark Edwards joined the Animal Science Department in spring to lead the university’s equine nutrition program. Using the department’s recently modernized equine facilities, Edwards brings his expertise to contract research, as well as more fundamental equine research.

Edwards’ experience in applied nutrition extends beyond work with horses to include over 850 animal species. Most recently, he served as supervising animal nutritionist for the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., where he administered the organization’s clinical nutrition program. Previous to that, Edwards served for 11 years as head of animal nutrition at the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park.

“Dr. Edwards is a world-renowned comparative animal nutritionist who will provide tremendous leadership for our new equine nutrition program,” said Animal Science Department Head Andy Thulin.

Edwards attended Miami University in Ohio for his bachelor’s degree in zoology, before earning his Ph.D. in comparative animal nutrition from Michigan State University. Edwards has also contributed as a committee member for the National Research Council’s Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

CAL POLY GRADUATE JOINS ANIMAL SCIENCE FACULTY

Cal Poly Animal Science graduate Brooke Humphrey returned to the department in January as a specialist in nutrition and immunology. In his assistant professor role, Humphrey heads research in poultry nutrition and health, which includes supervision of the poultry center, as well as the quail, broiler and laying enterprises.

Humphrey returns to Cal Poly from the University of Maryland, where he served as an assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences. While there, he obtained over $260,000 in grant funding for studies on poultry growth, immunology and nutrition.

“Dr. Humphrey is a very talented poultry nutritionist with a strong background in immunology,” said Animal Science Department Head Andy Thulin. “He will provide great leadership in our research and teaching efforts in these areas.”

Humphrey earned his bachelor’s degree from Cal Poly in 1998, before heading to UC Davis for his master’s in animal science and his Ph.D. in nutrition and avian immunology.

DEPARTMENT HIRES NEW POULTRY CENTER MANAGER

Steve Soderstrom joined the Animal Science team in January as manager of the Poultry Unit, where he is responsible for the feed and care of the unit’s 7,000 broiler chicks and 5,000 laying hens. As poultry center manager, Soderstrom also oversees all egg sales and deliveries, as well as general management of the center.

Since earning his bachelor’s degree in animal science from Cal Poly in 1982, Soderstrom has remained in the San Luis Obispo area. For nearly 25 years he has managed the family farming and ranching operations in San Luis Obispo County. In 2005, his daughter graduated from Cal Poly with an agriculture communications degree.

Aside from his Cal Poly responsibilities, Soderstrom is also involved with the Morro Bay National Estuary, the Edna Farm Center, Farm Bureau and Aggie Backers, a booster club for the San Luis Obispo High School FFA.
One down, two to go.

Cal Poly’s new Beef Center is now entirely constructed and fully utilized, making it the first of three major animal science construction projects to reach the finish line. Since its grand opening in October, marked with the 50th Annual Bull Test Sale, the Beef Center has added a student residence, and continues to enhance its office and two laboratories inside the multi-purpose building.

Next up is the Animal Nutrition Center, expected to be a fully-functioning feed-mill by August, followed by the Meat Processing Center, which will go to bid this fall.

The three new buildings are designed to raise the bar in animal science education and bring the Cal Poly program into new territory when it comes to industry involvement. Both the Meat Processing Center and the Animal Nutrition Center are intended to increase industry collaboration, with allotted space for product testing and development.

The Meat Processing Center will emphasize food safety and allow special focus for the ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat foods that continue to increase in popularity. Companies can utilize the facility’s test kitchens and work alongside Cal Poly students and staff for product innovation, creating a mutually beneficial environment.

The Animal Nutrition Center will operate similarly, providing a safe environment for all stages of animal feed processing, and allowing companies worldwide to utilize the space for manufacturing research and product design.

With the exterior of the Animal Nutrition Center already constructed, the Animal Science Department can now focus on installing the facility’s state-of-the-art equipment, constructed by Ibberson Company and shipped to Cal Poly in May.

To aid in financing the $5.25 million Animal Nutrition Center and $5.25 million Meat Processing Center, the Animal Science Department recently worked with locally-operated Verdin Marketing, Ink. to create two top-of-the-line vision brochures.

The support of these projects has been immense, including an array of industry leaders dedicated to ensuring the enhancement of Cal Poly’s animal science education.
Lindsey Koroly’s December graduation marked the conclusion of two college careers. With her departure from Cal Poly, Koroly took with her Bogart, a 2-year-old yellow lab who became an animal science staple over the past year.

Since November 2005, when Koroly and Bogart were first united, they have been virtually inseparable. Koroly agreed to train the then 7-month-old as a Guide Dog after he proved too rowdy for a young girl who had first taken on the task.

“He was really bad when I got him,” Koroly said. “He didn’t know anything he was supposed to know.”

Bogart began training immediately and accompanied Koroly everywhere, from farmer’s market to parties to class, where he soon became a favorite student. Before long, he had mastered the basic guide dog training commands of “sit, stay, wait, down, ok, come, let’s go, and do your business.”

With the needed skills intact, in May 2006 Bogart was recalled to the Guide Dog California campus in San Rafael.

“It was really sad because on one hand I was losing my best friend, but on the other hand I knew I was doing it for a really good cause,” Koroly said.

However, while in San Rafael, pinpoint cataracts were discovered in Bogart’s eyes, which do not significantly affect his vision, but which do prevent him from becoming a Guide Dog. As the puppy trainer, Koroly was then given the option of resuming care of Bogart, to which she immediately agreed.

After researching search and rescue, Koroly made the decision to begin training both herself and Bogart for California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA) certification, an estimated two-year process.

“It’s a huge commitment and it’s something that is all volunteer, but it’s something that is fun and rewarding,” she said.

After about four months of search and rescue training 4-to-5 times a week, Bogart was able to locate someone almost a mile away. With continued training, he will eventually be able to alert to any human remains and human scents within a given area.

Koroly said that Bogart’s warm coat, independent thinking and high work drive are all qualities which make him an ideal search and rescue candidate. And Bogart knows when it is time to work and when it is time to play.

“He’ll go from zero to crazy in about two seconds,” Koroly said. “He’s super goofy.”

Koroly’s experience with Bogart has only furthered her commitment to a career working with animals. She hopes to continue her education in veterinary school, where Bogart will no doubt become another campus favorite, and eventually become a small animal veterinarian.
Thanks to generous individuals interested in furthering thoroughbred education, Thoroughbred Enterprise enrollment has more than doubled in the past three years, with 35 students now actively involved in the program. Focused on the sales preparation of yearlings, the enterprise is currently preparing six yearlings for sale, five of which are nominated for the Barrett’s Select Sale in Pomona, Calif. Remaining yearlings are then sold at the Pleasanton Mixed Sale in Sept. The enterprise has also accumulated 10 mares, including two stakes winners, all donated by various local breeders.

Currently, 14 students are working hands-on with the yearlings, with additional students working for consigners at various thoroughbred sales. Events attended by enterprise members last year included Cal Cup, Santa Anita Derby, Barrett’s sales, Pleasanton Yearling Sale, Harris Ranch California Thoroughbred Breeder’s Association Fall Seminar and two farm tours. This year, 18 enterprise members attended the Santa Ynez Thoroughbred Breeders Association Annual Banquet and were on hand to help present Walter Thomson, a long-time Santa Ynez Valley rancher and Animal Science Department supporter, with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Thoroughbred Enterprise has also worked to develop intern programs with breeding farms in Kentucky, and two Cal Poly students are set to participate in internships within the next year.

The Cal Poly Equestrian Team sent two riders to Nationals following excellent showings in Regional, Western Semi-Final and Zone competitions.

After placing second in Advanced Western Stockseat at Regionals, Dawn Ross traveled to Ohio for Western Semi-Finals, where she finished fourth in her division, qualifying her for Nationals. Also attending Nationals was Jessica Moylan, who automatically qualified for Zones, where she placed second in Novice Hunt Seat to secure her bid to Nationals.

This year’s National Competition was held May 3-6 in West Spring- field, Mass. Ross placed sixth in her class out of 14 riders. Moylan did not place in her class, which included 20 riders.
Ninth-generation Californian Lauren Scheller is clearly excited about the cattle industry.

"I just love the history of working with the land and on the land," says the animal science major, and current president of Cal Poly's Young Cattlemen's Club.

Her passion for the industry is perhaps why Scheller was recently named California's Young Cattlemen Member of the Year for 2005-2006, an honor a Cal Poly student has been distinguished with three out of the past four years. And Scheller is a well-deserving recipient. Aside from heading the local chapter, she also serves as vice president of the state chapter, taking on even more responsibility than in the statewide secretary and Cal Poly vice president roles she assumed last year.

"It's a great way to meet other students interested in ranching or the beef industry," she says of the club. "It's also a way to see the broader spectrum of the industry."

The Young Cattlemen's Club is a branch of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) that is run through four university locations in San Luis Obispo, Davis, Fresno and Chico. The club aims to introduce future generations to various aspects of the cattle industry, mainly through guest speakers, trips and conventions.

To fund the various costs, the Young Cattlemen's Club partners with the Livestock Judging Team to organize the Western Treasures Dinner and Auction, which is held the evening before Cal Poly's annual Bull Test Sale.

In October, members of Cal Poly's Young Cattlemen's Club took a two-day tour of three ranches in the Hollister area to observe how different ranchers run their operations throughout the state. In January, nine club members attended the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Convention in Nashville to hear from motivational and economic speakers, and meet industry leaders. And Scheller said this year's statewide officer team is working to organize an event which would allow club members to meet with CCA lobbyists and tour the capital building.

"It is important to see how the process works in Sacramento because we are so far removed from it here in San Luis Obispo," Scheller said.
A RICH HISTORY OF TRADITION

BY CRISTINA GIACOMINI

Traditions are a deep-rooted part of the Cal Poly Animal Science Department, and the livestock judging team is no exception. Since the glory days of the '70s and '80s, the Cal Poly livestock judging team has seen its highs and lows.

But the current interest of the team is on the upswing, spurred by the 2005 team’s 11th place finish at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) and an 11th high individual by team member Brady Cerda. This drive is further motivated by current coach Erin Thompson, a graduate of Texas Tech, and former member of a competitive livestock judging team that placed fifth at NAILE.

“My biggest hope for this team is that they continue to grow in their livestock evaluation skills and use what they learn in their future endeavors,” Thompson said. “They are a tremendously talented group of young people and I look forward to seeing each of them continue to make Cal Poly proud.”

This year’s seven-member team is continually gaining experience in preparation for November’s NAILE. The team has thus far judged in Arizona, Colorado and Texas, and will also compete in events at the Cow Palace and in Kansas City before the year’s end.

Prepared for the hard work ahead of them, the 2006-2007 team is looking to fill the shoes left by the great names before them, when Cal Poly livestock judging was a force to be reckoned with.

Throughout the latter part of the 1970’s and into the early 1980’s, Cal Poly was home to one of the most competitive livestock judging teams in the nation. Coached by Bill Jacobs, the 1976 team finished a heartbreaking second place in nationals, falling short of first place by just one point, only to redeem themselves the following year with a national championship, which again was decided by a mere point.

As Jacobs stated, a competitive livestock judging team “pulls in the best for the college of agriculture.” Students who compete on a livestock judging team experience the highest level of learning as they are challenged to carefully analyze and class livestock and then to effectively communicate their reasoning behind the class placement.

Taking a cue from the pioneers before them, this year’s team turns to the future as they prepare to form a legacy all their own.

*The Animal Science Department is working to compile a database of livestock judging alumni. If you were ever a member of Cal Poly’s livestock judging team, please email your name, major and graduation year to Jolene Ross: jwross@calpoly.edu
Close to 2,000 California high school students were on-hand the weekend of May 5-6 for the FFA State Judging Finals. The Cal Poly hosted event included livestock, equine, poultry and small animal judging.

For more information on giving to CAL POLY ANIMAL SCIENCE, please visit http://giving.calpoly.edu/ or call the Animal Science Department at (805) 756-2419

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