



Notes from the Department Head

By F. Abel Ponce de León

Are we ready to transcend our limits and limitations?

Let me see if I can describe what each one of us must be experiencing. We know, as a public institution, we are facing a budget reduction due to reduced state income and the current national economic trends. We are also experiencing increased operational costs at all levels in the university. We have recently approved and finalized the reallocation of research support and are embarking on the reorganization of the farm animal facilities. We are experiencing more demands for teaching, research and extension/outreach efforts. Aside from these general issues affecting every one of us in different measures, there are also specific issues affecting each of us in particular ways.

Indeed we are going through vexing times. The uncertainties we face create a disorienting environment. We tend to cling to what we know and defend the status quo because it seems safe. When times are difficult, we focus on smaller details and everyday issues because it is difficult to look at a bigger picture. We become more the “me” than the “we”, more the “present” than the “future”. We all agree that times are difficult, and predicting the future - always a difficult task - is even more difficult. However, it is imperative at these times to see the future; it is at these times we need to see the big picture. Today’s decisions, made under the pressures of this historical moment, will have a significant impact on our future. Hence, the question, are we ready to transcend our limits and our limitations? Are we ready to change the terms of the conversation from “me” to “we” and from the “present” to the “future”?

Let me give an example with a focus, at this time, on our dairy program. What I describe below was described a decade ago. I am not claiming the idea.

Ten years ago DAS and ROC dairy faculty decided the dairy program needed one dairy farm located at Rosemount for the conduct of research and teaching. Clearly this has not occurred. We continue to support four dairy herds with a total of +/- 400 cows. During this time, we made use

of the facilities and animals in the best possible way and designed research projects that could be undertaken at each of these facilities. We have done well with what we have. Nevertheless, it is clear from our dairy group discussions, we are severely limited by constraints peculiar to each facility. We have not abandoned the original idea of a larger teaching/research herd, but in its absence, we support the continuation of what we have. Essentially we are “frozen” in action and time. Because we perceive this inaction, six months ago we decided to support the development of such a herd with the SROC at Waseca. Development of this herd should allow us to do some of the dairy modernization that we all talk about.

As we look at programs and reallocation of resources at departmental, college and university levels, I believe it is very valid to ask the following questions:

- *What does an ideal teaching/research dairy program look like?*
- *How close are we to that ideal situation?*
- *What are our current strategic advantages?*
- *What is our niche and what is needed to implement it?*
- *Is the proposal of one dairy herd still valid?*
- *Being a dairy state, what do we need to do to increase our presence in the national arena?*

These questions might sound crazy, and the proposal for this kind of discussion may be an exercise in futility in light of the economic realities we face. Do not believe that I am naïve and do not recognize that there are competing personal, group, unit, college and university agendas - I do. And because I do, I am asking each of you to transcend your own limits and together do the necessary work to overcome all possible limitations.

These are the questions requiring solid answers to allow us to more confidently influence the reallocation of resources. Remember, reallocation does not always mean losing resources. I propose we invest time and effort in defining these questions and finding answers for the benefit of our students, the industry and Minnesota.

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If you would like to contribute information (articles, upcoming events, announcements of special achievements, etc.), please contact Bonnie Rae, Acting Editor.

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The next issue of
AnSci Connection
will be published
November 1, 2002.

The deadline for
submitting articles
is 12:00 p.m. on
October 30.

Bronze Bull Sculptor Talks

A year ago, two giant bronze bulls appeared on the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus; a third bull will be added October 7. The artist, Peter Woytuk, will talk about the process of making the bulls and his other monumental bronze sculptures on October 8, 7:00 p.m., at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Road, Minneapolis. There is no charge for the event.

The bulls are cast in bronze and lounge in the open space across the street in front of Haecker Hall, home to the Department of Animal Science. Woytuk slightly altered their shapes, which he explains are "fatter, larger, thicker. They are big, simplified shapes on a large scale, convex, concave masses." Woytuk fabricates the molds for the huge sculptures at his studio in Connecticut, and ships them to a foundry in China or Thailand to be created.

Throughout his career, Woytuk has been drawn to certain animal forms and was recently proclaimed "the greatest animal sculptor of the Western world in the closing years of the 20th century" by *The International Herald*. Currently, Woytuk's sculptures are displayed in collections of Dean Witter Reynolds in New York, Diane Von Furstenburg in New York, the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut, Kenyon College in Ohio, and the North Carolina Zoological Park in Ashboro among others.

SOURCE: Shelly Willis, Public Art on Campus Coordinator; Ann Benrud, Director of Public Affairs

Graduate Student Profile:

José Antonio Renteria Flores

Those who are familiar with him call him Antonio. He is the fourth in a family of five boys who were born and raised in Mexico City. Antonio's mother is a retired elementary school teacher and principal; his father is a retired General from the Mexican Air Force. Since his youth, Antonio has been interested in farm animals. His grandfather on his mother's side had a small farm outside the city where the family would visit every Sunday. On his father's side, his grandfather dedicated a big part of his life to working in the fields, mainly growing corn and sugar cane.

Antonio graduated with a D.V.M. from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) campus Cuautitlan (FES-C). He specialized in animal production with an emphasis in swine production at the UNAM campus in Mexico City (FMVZ). While working on his specialization, he enrolled in the M.S. program in swine nutrition (FES-C). Two years after completion of his M.S., he came to the University of Minnesota to pursue a Ph.D. degree.

Antonio's D.V.M. thesis was related to the use of Salinomycin and Avoparcin in growing finishing swine diets. While working on his M.S., he became involved in different projects related to swine nutrition. His M.S. thesis was on the effect of chromium picolinate in the diets of growing finishing pigs. For his Ph.D. dissertation, which he is working on under the direction of Drs. Lee Johnston and Jerry Shurson, his focus is on the inclusion of soluble and insoluble fiber in the diet of gestation sows.

Antonio has been married for 15 years. He and his wife, Pilar, have two beautiful angels, Rebeca (14 yrs) and Alejandra (13 yrs). After graduation, they plan to return to Mexico to work and teach. One of Antonio's interests is sports. He is a fan of the Golden Gophers, Timberwolves and Twins, but when it comes to football, he likes the Dallas Cowboys.

Birthday List

October

1 - Joseph Rust
4 - Theresa Anttila
5 - William Head
8 - Joanna Stachowiak
Wanda Weber
13 - Erik Ballinger

15 - Ebener Ballinger
David Warner
17 - David Galitz
William Hansen
19 - Amy Eppen
Ross Templeton
20 - Natalie Williams
24 - Jesse Williams

27 - Robert Touchberry
30 - Eleanor Lease
31 - Richard Phillips



Alternative Swine Production Systems Field Day and Appreciation Day a Huge Success!

After much anticipation, and many somewhat stressful weather prediction sessions, the day finally arrived... the Alternative Swine Production Systems Appreciation Day and Field Day held August 1, 2002, at the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) in Morris, MN. Fortunately the weather was perfect, which meant that both the pigs and people could put on a great event for visitors. There were 148 visitors in attendance, including 12 legislators, approximately 80 producers (using both conventional and alternative housing systems), Deans and Faculty from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (COAFES), representatives from the National Pork Board, Minnesota Pork Producers, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA) and the Land Stewardship Project (LSP) just to name a few. Certainly a diverse range of visitors were there, which was one of the goals of the day.



Visitors touring the facilities at the Alternative Swine Production Systems Field Day and Appreciation Day.

The day started with a tour of the alternative swine production systems research facility, and a demonstration of the handling and sorting facility

for pigs. Lee Johnston spoke about the grower and finisher hoops, and Rebecca Morrison covered the gestating sow hoops. The group then adjourned to the horticulture gardens for a feast of whole hog roast, fresh sweet corn and local foods (courtesy of the Alternative Swine Production Systems Program). During the lunch hour, legislators, producers and university faculty had the opportunity to thank those involved in getting the alternative swine production systems program underway. After lunch, research and marketing sessions were held in the administration building. Lee Johnston, Sam Baidoo and Rebecca Morrison spoke about the research they are currently conducting in the alternative swine production research facility. Then there was the opportunity to listen to Colin Wilson (an alternative swine producer's perspective) and a marketing panel consisting of Jim VanDerPol ("off farm" marketing) and Julie Carlson (Niman Ranch).

The alternative swine program plans to hold an annual field day to promote the research that is being conducting at the WCROC.

Many thanks to Wayne Martin, the Alternative Swine Housing Taskforce and WCROC staff for helping make this day a huge success.

Jerry Shurson and Jeff Knott Visit China

Dr. Jerry Shurson and graduate student, Jeff Knott, recently returned from a 10-day trip to Beijing, China. They were invited to the China Agriculture University, Ministry of Agriculture Feed Industry Center (MAFIC) to present seminars to faculty and graduate students on swine nutrition topics and discuss potential collaboration in swine research and teaching. MAFIC is the most highly respected university swine nutrition research program in China.

On one evening of the trip, Jeff met with over 80 graduate students to describe and discuss what life is like as a graduate student in the U.S.

During their visit, Jerry and Jeff had the opportunity to visit the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tianamen Square, Summer Palace, and the Ming Tombs.

U of MN Dairy Cattle Judging Team Results

Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Accelerated Genetics Contest, Viroqua, WI - September 15, 2002

MINNESOTA

5th Team Overall (of 20 teams)
3rd Team Holstein
4th Team Brown Swiss
4th Team Guernsey
5th Team Ayrshire

INDIVIDUALLY

Andy Sheehan - 8th Overall,
1st Ayrshire

Team Members

Phil Reiter, Kelly Rickeman,
Andy Sheehan, Kyle Sonnek

Team Rankings

1. Cal Poly #1
2. Oregon State
3. UW-Madison #1
4. Modesto
5. MINNESOTA
6. UW-Madison #2
7. Iowa State
8. UW-Madison #3
9. Michigan State #1
10. UW-River Falls #1

Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging All-American Dairy Show Contest, Harrisburg, PA - September 23, 2002

MINNESOTA

3rd Team Overall (of 15 teams)
2nd Team Oral Reasons (by 1 point)
1st Team Holstein

INDIVIDUALLY

(of 58 contestants)

Morgan Strusz - 3rd Overall, 2nd
Reasons (tied for 1st), 3rd Holstein

Ryan Griffin - 10th Overall, 9th
Reasons

Tara Sammon - 1st Brown Swiss
(49 on reasons)

Kelly Sheehan - 10th Reasons

Team Rankings

1. UW-Madison
2. Ohio State
3. MINNESOTA
4. Cornell
5. Virginia Tech
6. Penn State
7. Oklahoma State
8. Washington State
9. Illinois
10. Michigan State

National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest,
Dairy Expo, Madison, WI - October 1, 2002

MINNESOTA

4th Team Overall (of 27 teams)
1st Team Oral Reasons
1st Team Brown Swiss
1st Team Milking Shorthorn
4th Team Holstein

INDIVIDUALLY

(of 101 contestants)

Tara Sammon - 1st Oral Reasons,
7th Milking Shorthorn

Morgan Strusz - 1st Guernsey,
3rd Jersey, 4th Red & White,
10th Oral Reasons

Ryan Griffin - 1st Brown Swiss,
5th Milking Shorthorn

Kelly Sheehan - 9th Milking Short-
horn, 10th Holstein

Team Rankings

1. UW-Madison
2. Cornell
3. Oregon State
4. MINNESOTA
5. Penn State
6. UW-River Falls
7. Cal Poly
8. Illinois
9. Ohio State
10. Virginia Tech

Coach: Les Hansen

Assistant Coaches:

Scott Ellinghuysen

Denise Marti Johanson

Mike Redalen

Way to go, Team!

Abel Ponce de León Judges First State 4-H Chicken Barbecue Contest

The first State 4-H Chicken Barbecue Contest was held during the 4-H Poultry Show at the 2002 Minnesota State Fair. The contest was organized by Jacquie Jacob and sponsored by Gold'n Plump, who generously supplied the chicken and prize money. Eight 4-H'ers participated this year with ages ranging from 9 to 16 years. Two of the seniors that competed will represent Minnesota at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, KY in November; one will compete in the chicken barbecue contest, and the other in the turkey barbecue contest.

The participants of the state contest were judged on both their barbecuing skills and the quality of the final product. There were two judges for each of the criteria. Our own department head, Abel Ponce de León, volunteered as one of the product judges.



Animal Science Department Head, Abel Ponce de León, prepares for another bite at State 4-H Barbecue Contest.

The contestants were given charcoal and starter fluid - no self-starting charcoal was allowed - and they were judged on how well they started and controlled their fires. They each barbecued four chicken halves and were judged on how they handled the chicken, especially with regards to food safety. A wide variety of different techniques and recipes were used, making it an interesting contest to watch. Some even got to try out the final products.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Homecoming Week

October 7, 2002

7th Annual Harvest Bowl Farmers' Share Breakfast & Auction

October 12, 2002, 7-10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Student Center

COAFES Career Day

October 15, 2002, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

North Star Ballroom, St. Paul Campus

College Student Career Program International Poultry Exposition

January 22-24, 2003

Atlanta, Georgia

The College Student Career Program is an excellent opportunity for students to interview with poultry-related companies. It is also an opportunity to see the wide scope of the poultry industry. Every segment of the poultry and egg industry is represented at the International Poultry Exposition: feed milling, live production, hatchery, processing, further processing, packaging, commercial egg, marketing, and all support activities. In 2002, nearly 1,000 exhibitors filled more than 16 acres of display area in the Georgia World Congress Center with every conceivable product and service used by these industry groups. Approximately 19,000 decision makers from around the world attended the show. It is a great opportunity for students to see the latest products and services for the poultry industry, to hear speakers addressing cutting-edge issues, and to network with potential peers from other universities throughout the U.S.

The program is co-sponsored by Elanco Animal Health and the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association who cover the cost of hotel rooms for eligible students. Any students interested in participating in the 2003 program should contact, Jacquie Jacob (email: jacob150@umn.edu; phone: 612-624-2766) as soon as possible.

Tech Tips

By Chris Buzzetta

In case you missed the e-mail, the central University e-mail system started a spam filtering service on September 30. To activate this service for your e-mail account, you will need to follow these steps:

- Logon to <http://www.umn.edu/validate>
- Go to "Incoming E-mail Controls"
- Choose "Allow e-mail from well-behaved servers (recommended for most users)"
- Choose "Scan mail with SpamAssassin"
- Click on "Submit"

You will still be able to see what messages were blocked by following these steps:

- Logon to <http://www.umn.edu/validate>
- Go to "Show Blocked Incoming Mail"

You should start seeing a reduction in the junk mail you receive. We tech people at the University are going to help the central e-mail office identify spam mail sources and help tweak the system so that it works more smoothly. For more information see:

<http://www1.umn.edu/oit/security/junkmail.shtml>

Looking for the best prices on computer components and equipment? Check out this web site:

PriceWatch@ - Street Price Search Engine at <http://www.pricewatch.com/>

Congratulations to...

Carrie Barrett, Senior Office Specialist, on her new job with Purina's Pet Food Division beginning October 7.

Gang Xi (Marcia Hathaway's graduate student) and his wife, Hong Ying, on the September 7th birth of their son, Kevin.

Thomas Nortey (Sam Baidoo's graduate student) and his wife, Helen Joy, on the birth of their second child - a boy. Christian was born September 23.

Position Announcements

Complete details, descriptions and requirements for application are listed in the "Position Announcements" book in 305 Haecker Hall.

- 60 Assistant or Associate Professor.** The Department of Veterinary Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign is seeking applications for two full-time annual tenure-track or clinical positions in the area of Veterinary Gross Anatomy. To ensure full consideration, send curriculum vitae and names of three references by November 1, 2002. Starting date on or after January 21, 2003.
- 61 Equine Medicine and Surgery Internship.** The Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University is accepting applications for two 1-year internships. Application deadline is December 15, 2002. Positions begin June 23, 2003.
- 62 Animal Genomics/Molecular Biologist.** The Animal Science Department at Cal Poly State University is seeking a full-time, 10-month tenure-track assistant/associate professor. Review of applications begin October 16, 2002. Starting date is negotiable, but September 16, 2003 is preferred.
- 63 Assistant/Associate Professor of Animal Science.** The Animal Science Department at Texas A&M University has a 12-month tenure-track position open. Closing date for applications is December 1, 2002. The position will be available in January 2003.

Through education and research, we serve people by providing continued improvements in the efficient and humane production of animals and wholesome animal products.

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