Undergraduate Scientist in the Spotlight

Submitted by Dr. Derris Burnett

Ms. Rebecca Humphrey is a Junior majoring in Animal and Dairy Sciences and has recently undertaken several research projects with the Meat Science and Muscle Biology research group under the guidance of Dr. Derris Burnett and Dr. Thu Dinh. Rebecca started as a volunteer in our lab in January 2016 and has since co-authored 2 peer reviewed abstracts and prepared 2 posters for presentation at the 2016 Joint Annual Meetings for the American Society of Animal Science in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has become very familiar with the analytical techniques used in our lab and is a sponge for new knowledge and information. Rebecca has also been awarded an Undergraduate Research Scholars Program grant in the amount of $5000 and will continue to work with the Meat Science and Muscle Biology group through the next academic year on a range of projects. With these accomplishments so early in her academic career, Rebecca has demonstrated a passion for science and a commitment to excellence that will propel her to success upon graduation. We are proud to have Rebecca on our team as an Undergraduate Researcher and look forward to watching her career continue to blossom as an Animal Scientist!
Austin Chiappetta, a junior biology and biochemistry double-major at the University of Northwestern in St. Paul, MN, has completed research in Dr. Erdogan Memili’s laboratory at the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences (ADS). Austin presented his poster “Epigenetic Regulation of Male Fertility through Sperm H3” at the Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium at Mississippi State University on Friday July 29, 2016. His research and fellowship were funded by the National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program on Computational Biology directed by Dr. Andy Perkins of MSU’s Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE). Austin’s research was a collaboration between ADS and CSE and he plans to present his findings to his peers in the classroom at his home institution and at an international scientific conference in the United States.
MSU's Maroon Institute for Writing Excellence announces 2016 graduates

Submitted by Dr. Erdogan Memili

STARKVILLE, Miss.—Eleven Mississippi State faculty members are new graduates of the university’s Maroon Institute for Writing Excellence program.

Now in its fourth year, the three-week intensive institute recently trained teachers from nearly a dozen university departments to modify course syllabi to incorporate more writing-to-learn strategies into class assignments.

The professional development program is part of “Maroon and Write,” which is the university’s quality enhancement plan—QEP, for short—to improve undergraduate writing and learning skills across all colleges, curricula and class levels. The QEP is required to maintain accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

As part of the 30-plus hour workshop held during May, participants read a variety of theory-related literature selections and engaged in activities such as journaling, free-writing, peer-evaluation and reflective essay development. In coming semesters, they will incorporate many of the activities into their respective courses.

In addition to teaching one QEP course that incorporates writing-to-learn techniques and a formal writing component, MIWE graduates will continue interacting with the Maroon and Write QEP staff throughout the school year.

Learn more about MIWE and Maroon and Write QEP at www.qep.msstate.edu, www.facebook.com/QEPMSU and www.twitter.com/MSUQEP.
Mississippi State Summer Horsemanship Clinics

Submitted by Dr. Clay Cavinder

To prepare MS 4-Her’s for the Southern Regionals, two clinics were held in Starkville and Canton, both on July 18-19. The first photo is from the Starkville clinic with 11 youth riders participating. Clinicians were ADS students, Jillian Hatcher and Hannah Miller. The second photo is from the Canton clinic with 17 youth riders participating. The Clinicians were ADS students, Samantha Miller and Ashley Palmer.
Homeplace Producers Feeder Calf Board Sale
Submitted by Cobie Rutherford

On August 1st, Dr. Brandi Karisch, Cobie Rutherford, Dr. John Blanton and Liz Caldwell attended calf sale in Hattiesburg, MS. In attendance were nearly 40 producers, extension agents, and spectators. Videos are posted on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/MSStateExtBeef/

Deep South Stocker Conference
Submitted by Dr. Cobie Rutherford

The 2016 Deep South Stocker Conference was held on August 3rd and 4th in Carrolton, Georgia. Representing the Animal and Dairy Sciences Department was Dr. Brandi Karisch, Cobie Rutherford, Tucker Wagner, and Liz Caldwell. Hosted by the University of Georgia, the conference offered participants new knowledge on stocker production economics, managing stocker health, Veterinary Feed Directive usage, and forages – specifically summer annuals. Attendees also heard from acclaimed cattle handling expert, Dr. Ron Gill from Texas A&M. The conference wrapped-up with a tour of an order buying operation in Georgia.
As an invited key note speaker, Dr. Erdogan Memili presented “Sperm macromolecules associated with bull fertility” at the 10th Biannual Conference of Association for Applied Animal Andrology (AAAA) in Tours, France, between June 24 and 26. Dr. Memili was funded through conference support by AAAA and the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR). Although Dr. Memili’s talk was last on the agenda for the day, it was well attended. This is a testament to the interest in the quality research conducted in our Department.
2016 Refereed Publications:


