Chair’s Message
by Carol Bagnell, Ph.D., Chair

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all our lives. Creating a department newsletter was put on the back burner in Spring 2020 while contingency planning for remote instruction and other pandemic-related tasks became the priority for all.

Along with Spring 2021 daffodils, tulips, and flowering trees comes a renewal of hope. Many people have already been vaccinated, and younger individuals are looking forward to receiving their shots. Fall 2020 and Spring/Summer 2021 course offerings, while primarily virtual, have included in-person experience-based education courses on our campus farm, although with fewer numbers to allow for social distancing. We look forward to welcoming even more students back to campus in Fall 2021! In addition, we are planning for the future with the creation of an Animal Sciences Strategic Plan for teaching, research, and outreach and a Faculty Hiring Plan aimed to achieve our strategic planning goals.

Switching Hats. There have been some changes in Bartlett Hall. As of July 2020, Professor Wendie Cohick (pictured top right) completed six years of service as Department Chair in Animal Sciences. She has taken a major leadership position in Martin Hall as both SEBS Dean of Research and Graduate Education and NJAES Director of Research. We thank Wendie for her service and wish her well. Following Wendie’s departure, I assumed the chairmanship of Animal Sciences – a role I had for six years (2008-2014) before serving as Director of the Graduate Program in Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences (2014-2020). Associate Professor Troy Roepke (pictured right) took over my GPD role.

Retirements. Professor Larry Katz retired in July 2020. He joined our faculty in 1989 and was our department chair for two terms before serving as the director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension from 2008 to 2018. He taught Lab Animal Science: Management and Techniques, created the ever-popular Companion Animal Science course, and gave lectures in several of our courses as well as General Biology. Along with his research assistant, Susan Becker, M.S., Larry mentored many undergraduate and graduate students as they investigated the endocrine basis of sexual behavior in ruminants. Susan (pictured left with Larry) retired in July 2019, after being part of Rutgers Animal Sciences since 1982, when she began her undergraduate studies. Her duties have included managing the Equine Research Facility and the white-tailed deer herd. She was a teaching instructor from 2014 until her retirement.

Speaking of retirements, our long-time department secretary, Tory Gombosi (pictured left), retired in July 2020. She came to us from Athletics, where she supported various teams and the team doctor, in February 2011. It was only then, she said, that she began learning “the true extent of academic life and research.” Tory quickly became an integral part of the department and she will be missed! Stacey Pontoriero came on board part-time in March 2021 to help with administrative work. Stacey joins staff members Damien Carroll-DeBose, Aaron DeLaRosa, Kathy Manger, Jeannette Mullins, and Tejal Talati.

Spotlight on Diversity. Associate Professor Troy Roepke was recently appointed SEBS Equity Advisor, acting as a liaison between our school and the new Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement. Rutgers is currently in the development stages of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Plan. Troy was also appointed as a co-chair of the SEBS DEI Strategic Plan Steering Committee. This committee is gathering DEI information at SEBS and designing strategies and metrics to achieve short- and long-term goals over the next decade. These activities are geared toward building a more inclusive and equitable environment for faculty, staff, and students at SEBS and Rutgers – the “beloved community” envisioned by new RU President Jonathan Holloway.
Undergraduate Program News

by Aparna Zama, Ph.D., Undergraduate Program Director

We had a very eventful year and we managed to come through it because we all worked together! During the COVID-19 pandemic, we discovered new ways to improve instruction. Even when we return to all in-person classes, we’ll use some of the lessons learned during remote instruction to enhance our teaching.

Provost’s Teaching Fellows Program. Drs. Anna Hausmann, Barry Jesse, and I have been invited to be in the inaugural cohort of the Provost’s Teaching Fellows Program. Each fellow will redesign some aspect of their courses for AY2021-2022 using best practices as supported by teaching and learning scholarship. The program will include opportunities to share goals, build networks, and discuss various elements of course redesign. Stay tuned!

Experience-Based Education. Animal Science continues to be the most popular major at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. The campus farm, small-animal facilities, and research laboratories are integral to our program. Students enroll in hands-on animal practicums to fulfill their experience-based education (EBE) requirements, where they learn about the handling, management, feeding, reproduction, physiology, and behavior of beef cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and laboratory animals. They also have opportunities to assist with ongoing research projects and conduct independent research to study integrated physiology of animals at the whole system, cellular, and molecular levels. Because of pandemic-related reduction in class size in EBE courses as well as cancellation of some sections of farm-based courses and research opportunities, the EBE credit requirement was temporarily reduced for graduating seniors. (Pictured above is Luisa Jimenez, an undergraduate working in the Bello lab.)

Options in the Animal Science Major. At a recent department meeting, our faculty voted to combine the Equine Science and Production Animal Science options within our Animal Science major. The new option, which will be called the “Equine and Production Animal Science” option, will allow students to take a wider variety of courses. Next step is approval by the SEBS Curriculum and Educational Policy (CEP) Committee. We’ll keep you posted! (Pictured at left with Molly the horse are Alejandra Barnes and Payton Sweetman.)

Departmental Senior Awards. These endowed awards are presented to seniors in recognition of excellence in academics, research, and/or service to the Animal Sciences Department, SEBS, and Rutgers. The 2021 recipients are:

- **Academic, Research, and Service Award:** Madeline Procpoi
- **Academic and Research Award:** Sierra Daisey
- **Academic Award:** Ireland Lee and Emma Krall

George H. Cook Scholar Program. Many Animal Science faculty and students are involved in honors research through this program. The following students completed their honors theses during their senior year (their advisors are listed in parentheses). If not affiliated with Animal Science, students’ major or advisor’s department is listed.

**Class of 2021:**

- **Gabriella Acoury**, Biotechnology (Snyder; 12/2020 presentation): The Germ-Cell Specific RNA Binding Protein ADAD2 May Be a Novel piRNA Biogenesis Factor
- **Rifke Anolik**, Nutritional Sciences (Bello; 12/2020 presentation): Peripheral Orexin Levels in Binge Model Mice Using Plasma Analysis
- **Kamila Cieslik** (Malinowski): Combining Quantitative and Qualitative Behavior Assessments to Measure Equine Stress
- **Sierra Daisey** (Roepke): Behavioral Responses to the Modification of KNDY Neurons and Diet Induced Obesity
George H. Cook Scholar Program

Class of 2021 (continued):

- Sowmya Kodali, Biology (Roepke/Wiersielis): Behavior Effects of CVMS in Male and Female Mice
- William Mack III, Exercise Science (Bello): DHM (dihydromyricetin) Time Dependently Reduced Oral Ethanol Impairment
- Gemma Parente (Westendorf): Animal Waste Management Techniques on New Jersey Equine Farms
- Madeline Procopi (Uzumcu): The Effects of Perinatal Phthalate Exposure on Female Rat Reproductive Development
- Laryssa Rodriguez (Young, Env. Sci.): Inhibition of Methaneogenesis Using Brominated Compounds

Class of 2020:

- Giulia Arpino (Katz): Student Attitudes Towards Animals
- Camille Duchamp (McKeever): How Clenbuterol Can Alter Body Composition in Horses
- Katherine Fafara (Bagnell): Influence of Colostrum Intake on Boar Testicular Development
- Nupur Kadam, Animal Science/Biotech. double major (Sarkar): Beta 2 Adrenergic and Mu-Opioid Receptor Enhances Aggressiveness of MDA-MB-231 Breast Cancer Cell Line Using the ILK Signaling Pathway
- Danielle Kulyk (Roepke): The Role of GHSR Expression in KNDy Neurons in the Response to Diet-induced Obesity in Female Mice
- Alison Mautner, Biol. Sci. (Sarkar): The Effects of Stress and Alcohol on Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cell Proliferation
- Nardine Nasr (Bello): Dose-dependent Effects of Raspberry Ketone on Heart Rate and Blood Pressure in Female Mice
- Yassin Salah (McKeever): Pharmacokinetics of Therapeutic Clenbuterol Administration in Horses
- Kayla Salem (McKeever): Effects of Clenbuterol on EMG Readings in Standardbreds
- Zuzanna Szmacinski (Bello): Acute Feeding Suppression and Toxicity of Raspberry Ketone in Mice

Website Changes. We are happy to announce that profiles of several recent graduates have been added to our department webpage’s Alumni page: Katherine Fafara ‘20, Dana Tsuchida ‘19, Caroline Pawlowski ‘18, and Ankita Gupta ‘17. Several Undergraduate Program webpages are undergoing revision, too. The Department COVID-19 Resources webpage includes videos from our November 2020 advising webinar and July 2020 virtual town hall to explain pandemic-related changes to the Fall 2020 course offerings as well as the EBE credit waiver and course substitution form, health and safety protocol for in-person farm courses, and other resources.

Focus on the RU Veterinary Science Club

by Shyanna Thomason, Veterinary Science Club Secretary (2020-2021); APVMA Delegate 2020-2021

The RUVSC has been very busy the last two years. During the 2019-2020 academic year, we had talks by representatives from vet schools such as Kansas State and Iowa State and by veterinarians involved with aquatic medicine and swine medicine. We also held events such as a banana suture lab, pet CPR and first aid, veterinary medicine Olympics, field trips, and multiple ice-cream destressors. The 2020 American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA) Symposium was held at Virginia-Maryland School of Veterinary Medicine, and our club members attended lectures and labs on managing finances, tips about applying to vet school, suture labs, equine chiropractic, alternative medicine, and other topics. Pictured right: Shyanna posing with the two therapy dogs, Moose and Derek, that vet students meet while attending VA-MD veterinary school.

The transition from the 2019-2020 to the 2020-2021 school year was met with many challenges due to COVID-19. The e-board did our best to ensure that the quality of these virtual meetings would be equal to those meetings held in person. RUVSC became the FIRST undergraduate preveterinary science club that Pride VMC spoke to. Other highlights included speakers from VOICE (Veterinarians as One Inclusive Community for Empowerment), Army veterinarians, an aquatic veterinarian practicing in Korea, and a tour of the swine facility at North Carolina State.

For our virtual 2020 Fall Mixer, we hosted a diverse panel of veterinarians from all over the country, including Rutgers alumni Marc Valiutuo, VMD ‘02 (Ecohealth Alliance), Jessica Schulze, DVM ‘01 (All Fur Paws Animal Hospital), and Samantha Mammen, DVM ‘12 (MCSPCA Vogel Veterinary Care Center). Club members asked questions regarding memorable cases the vets had encountered, the biggest obstacle they faced while becoming a veterinarian, the student debt crisis, information about their undergraduate experience, mental health within the veterinary medical field, and challenges within veterinary college. Each panelist then had their own breakout room where students could attend and ask questions in small groups to the panelist of their choice. (Continued on next page)
RU Veterinary Science Club (continued from page 3)

2021 APVMA Symposium was virtually hosted by Michigan State University and had lectures and labs that discussed increasing the diversity of the veterinary medical field, holistic reviews of applications, reading radiographs using GI foreign bodies, how to be professional when asking for strong letters of recommendation, interviewing tips, and careers in emergency medicine.

Our 2021 Spring Mixer featured several recent Rutgers alumni who are currently in veterinary school: Leena Roy ’19 (U Illinois), Kimberly Guzman ’17, RU-Newark (Michigan State), and Dayana Perez-Bonilla ’16 (U Penn). We look forward to the events being planned by the new 2021-2022 e-board (pictured above, from top left): Valerie Collado, President; Sarah Florentine, VP; Xochitl Mendez, Treasurer; Jacob Roth & Mya-Nicole Brooks, Activities Coordinators; Lisa Chueh, Secretary.

NESA Competitions

by Carey A. Williams, Ph.D., Equine Extension Specialist

I would like to congratulate all of the Rutgers students who competed in the last two NESA (Northeast Student Affiliate of the American Society of Animal Science) competitions.

2021 Virtual NESA Competition: On March 20, two teams of Rutgers students competed in virtual livestock judging (beef, dairy, horse, sheep, swine, and a surprise class) and a virtual quiz bowl. One student from each team gave a virtual presentation on an animal science topic. There were 10 schools across the Northeast with a total of 21 teams. I am happy to announce that both our team presenters made it to the final round: Andrea Campos placed 4th and Toby Lo placed 5th. Pictured above at start of quiz bowl are Team A members Andrea Campos, Veronica Useche, Abrianna Paris, and Rebecca Szuminsky and Team B members Samantha Gulli, Owen Donelly, Toby Lo, and Shyanna Thomason.

2020 NESA Competition @ UNH: Last year, just before COVID, a group of our students traveled to the University of New Hampshire on February 15, to compete in the NESA competition. There were 8 schools competing, with 35 teams (140 students) in all; Rutgers had 3 teams. Rutgers Team B placed 3rd in judging, with Andrew Morace placing 2nd and Rebecca Szuminsky placing 4th individually! (Other Team B members included Zachary Newman and Veronica Useche.) All 12 members of the 2020 Rutgers teams are pictured at left.
Graduate Program Highlights
by Troy Roepke, Ph.D., Graduate Program Director

“We strongly believe that great science happens when each team member feels welcomed and encouraged to bring their true authentic selves to the lab.”

In July 2020, I began my tenure as Director of the Graduate Program in Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences (EAB) as Carol Bagnell moved back to the department chair position. In my first months as GPD, I worked with the EAB Graduate Student Organization (GSO) in writing a diversity statement for the program, which includes the sentence above (see animalsciences.rutgers.edu/graduate for the entire statement). We have also updated our instructions for prospective students as we move to a holistic admissions process. We’ll continue to update the website with more information for prospective students including videos from our current students. I also coordinated the 2020-2021 EAB Seminar Series, which was held virtually on Zoom and will continue to be so during Fall 2021.

New Faculty.
Since the last issue of this newsletter, we have welcomed three Rutgers faculty who are new members of our EAB Graduate Program. Each brings unique strengths and perspectives to share with students.

Christoph Buettner, M.D., Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Medicine, chief of the Division of Endocrinology, and the vice chair for Basic Research at RWJMS. Dr. Buettner moved to RWJ in the summer of 2020 from Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai. Dr. Buettner studies how obesity and diabetes disturb glucose and fat metabolism and impair the actions of the hormone insulin and how inflammation in the brain is involved in metabolic dysregulation.

Morgan James, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the RWJMS Department of Psychiatry and Brain Health Institute. Dr. James started his lab last summer after completing his postdoctoral training with Dr. Gary Aston-Jones, director of the BHI. Dr James studies the brain circuitry involved in motivational disorders, including addiction, binge eating, and obesity using animal models in combination with calcium imaging, anatomical tracing, opto- and chemogenetic and electrophysiological approaches.

Sally Radovick, M.D., is a professor and Henry Rutgers Term Chair, Department of Pediatrics in the RWJMS Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Radovick joined the faculty of RWJMS in 2015 after spending a decade at John Hopkins. Her research is on mechanisms of puberty, growth, and development of children focusing on hypothalamic neurons that control these processes. She is currently serving as the Ph.D. advisor to EAB student Nimisha Nandankar.

Recent Degree Recipients.

Nina Paranjpe, M.S. (Bagnell lab, October 2020) is a first-year veterinary student at the Kansas State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Her thesis, which she presented in a July 2020 Zoom seminar, was titled “Lactocrine deficiency alters postnatal uterine development.” The pig was the animal model she used to study the importance of the milk-borne bioactive factors that are transmitted from mother to nursing offspring (maternal programming).

Qiaoqiao Zhu, Ph.D. (Belden lab, May 2020) defended her dissertation in February 2020, just before the pandemic hit. Her research titled “Crosstalk between long non-coding RNA and circadian chromatin” examined this crosstalk to better understand clock gene expression. As a senior biology major at Wuhan University (a Top 10 Chinese school), Qiaoqiao was selected to join an accelerated bioscience program that prepared top students for pursuing graduate education abroad. She secured a China Scholarship Council fellowship from the Chinese government in support of her Ph.D. research. We send our best wishes to Qiaoqiao, back home in China!

Mariana Saboya, Ph.D. (Cohick lab, October 2019) completed her dissertation, “The effects of fetal alcohol exposure on mammary epithelial cell subpopulations and tumorigenesis,” in July 2019. She works as a research scientist at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Ali Yasrebi, M.S. (Roepke lab, October 2019) has continued in his position as lab manager par excellence of the Roepke lab, following the May 2019 completion of his thesis, “ERE-independent estrogen receptor alpha signaling in feeding and exploratory behaviors.” Ali is pictured at left with Roepke lab members at his celebratory party in the Perry Library: Gwyn Vail (Toxicology), postdoc Dr. Kim Wiersielis, Dr. Troy Roepke, Ali Yasrebi, and Kristine Conde (Neuroscience).
Graduate Program Highlights (continued from page 5)

Scholarship Winner. Ph.D. candidate Ellen Rankins (pictured right) has been selected for a $20,000 P.E.O. Scholar Award for the 2021-2022 academic year. In her dissertation research, supervised by co-advisors Karyn Malinowski and Ken McKeever, Ellen will study how equine-assisted services affect combat veterans with PTSD and the horses they interact with. Dr. Malinowski wrote, “Ellen is most deserving of this recognition and brings great exposure for our EAB program!”

Graduate Dean Retires. Dr. Jerome Kukor will be retiring on July 1, 2021, after serving as Dean of the School of Graduate Studies for 13 years. We thank him for his leadership! He has been a member of the Environmental Sciences faculty for 24 years. Dean Kukor is pictured (right) at the 2008 Ag Field Day Goat Show.

NEFS 2021 Graduate Student Conference

Post-Conference Summary by the NEFS 2021 Planning Committee

The 13th Annual Nutrition, Endocrinology, and Food Science (NEFS) Graduate Student Conference took place virtually on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. We welcomed 96 attendees, including 21 poster presenters, to the event. The annual NEFS Conference is the result of collaborations between the Nutritional Sciences, Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences, and Food Science Graduate Student Organizations (GSOs). Graduate students in the three GSOs work together to plan and implement the conference, providing an opportunity to network across disciplines and to learn valuable project management and teamwork skills. After being forced to cancel the conference last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year the NEFS Planning Committee took on the challenge of successfully planning and executing a virtual event – a first in the history of the NEFS Conference!

The event featured keynote presentations from Dr. Martha Susiarjo of the University of Rochester, Dr. Michael Hamm of Michigan State University, and Mr. Kyle Shadix of PepsiCo. Graduate student speakers Kevin Tveter, Chelsee Holloway, and Dushyant Kshatriya presented some of their research through keynote talks. Over the week leading up to the conference, registrants were able to access the virtual poster session on the NEFS website* to view recorded poster presentations in lieu of the traditional in-person poster session. During the lunch break, attendees had the opportunity to join Zoom breakout rooms with the virtual poster session presenters to ask questions and network. The event concluded by recognizing the winners of the poster competition (listed on our website along with our sponsors).

Thank you to the many attendees, poster presenters, poster judges, and keynote speakers who made this year’s virtual event a success!

Excerpts from NEFS Conference Opening Remarks by Dr. Wendie Cohick, SEBS Dean of Research and Graduate Education:

Thanks to everyone for taking the time to join the NEFS virtual conference. I want to emphasize that this is a completely student-run conference with students deciding on the program, choosing and inviting the keynote speakers, organizing the poster session, handling registration, and of course the dreaded fund raising....

It’s been wonderful to see this conference grow and develop from its inception in 2008 to its present form.... Over the last few years, they have worked out the organizational details to ensure a smooth transition of leadership from year to year without reinventing the wheel each year. They’ve developed an organization structure with co-chairs of the conference and subcommittees with chairs and members. This is all laid out on their website*, so if you haven’t seen it, I encourage you to take a look.

This year...they had to organize a virtual conference. I asked Kristyn who in IT helped them set it up and her answer was “we found a template on the website and figured it out ourselves.” I thought, wow, this is a truly amazing group of young scientists.

*sites.rutgers.edu/nefs-conference/
Get to Know the Animal Sciences Department’s Postdoctoral Fellows

by Stacey Pontoriero, M.P.A., Program Coordinator

Dr. Shaista Chaudhary (pictured top right) earned her doctorate in neuroscience from Jamia Hamdard University in New Delhi. She has been a member of Dr. Dipak Sarkar’s endocrinology lab since 2019, where she investigates the effect of fetal alcohol exposure on the development of aggressive tumors in the pituitary.

Dr. Lihong Hao graduated from the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Program, where she studied pharmacology and physiology. She joined Dr. Sue Shapses’s lab in 2015 and Dr. Nick Bello’s lab in 2019. Her research focuses on glucose homeostasis, food intake, and body weight control in overweight/obesity.

Dr. Sayani Mukherjee received her Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Calcutta in West Bengal and has been a postdoc in Dr. Sarkar’s lab since 2016. She studies the role of cell signaling in fetal alcohol research and effects of beta-endorphin neuronal transplants on aging-induced type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Bénédicte Rousseau specialized in molecular biology at the University of Nantes in Nantes, France. She started working in Dr. Sarkar’s lab in December 2016 and examines the signaling pathways involved in the effect of both adrenergic and opioidergic systems in the aggressiveness of triple negative breast cancer.

Dr. Kimberly Wiersielsi received their doctoral degree in neuroscience from Temple University in Philadelphia. Kim started at Rutgers in 2018 in Dr. Troy Roepke’s lab. They study maternal exposure to organophosphate flame retardants on offspring development, and intermittent fasting and how it effects cognition in aged male and female mice.

2021 Horse Management Seminar Went Virtual

by Carey A. Williams, Ph.D., Equine Extension Specialist

Our first ever virtual 2021 “Horse Management Seminar” webinar series took place over three Monday evenings in February and had outstanding attendance! We had over 200 participants for each of first two and over 150 attendees at the final webinar evening. Attendees joined us from 39 U.S. states as well as Canada, Australia, Mexico, Peru, and Brazil. For the first webinar in the series, over 70% of the participants completing the post-event evaluation indicated that it was their first time attending any event (either virtual or in-person) hosted by Rutgers Cooperative Extension or the Equine Science Center (ESC)!

All of the webinars have now been uploaded to the Library section of the ESC website: esc.rutgers.edu/news/2021-horse-management-seminar-webinar-series-archived-webinars/.

Virtual Reunion of the Bagnell Lab Alumni

Dr. Carol Bagnell and Research Associate Tehyun Ho recently visited with former undergraduate and graduate student members of their lab. Pictured below (from top left) are Julie Wang ’19 (Johns Hopkins Graduate School), Dana Tsuchida ’19 (Oregon Vet School), Dr. Ho, Dr. Bagnell, Katherine Fafara ’20 (U Georgia Vet School), Nina Paranjpe, M.S. ’20 (Kansas State Vet School), and Ashley George, Ph.D. ’18 (UC San Francisco, Postdoctoral Fellow).

Acknowledgments: I wish to thank all those who provided stories and photos for use in this issue. A special thanks to Stacey Pontoriero, M.P.A, Shyanna Thomason ‘21, and Veronica Useche ‘22 for rustling up signed model release forms and to Janice Geiger for lists of our G.H. Cook Scholars. Kristyn Lambert (Nutritional Sciences Ph.D. student; Cohick lab) graciously provided the photo of the EAB GSO members and drafted the NEFS post-conference summary with Ellen Rankins. Grateful acknowledgment to Stacey Pontoriero and Drs. Bagnell, Roepke, and Zama for their critical review of the text and layout; Julie Sayo, M.F.A., for recommending fonts; and Carl Esser, B.F.A., for technical assistance. ~ Kathy Manger, editor
Harold D. Hafs, Ph.D. (1931-2021) ~ Scholar, Farmer, Mentor, Friend

by Carol Bagnell, Ph.D., Chair, and Kathy Manger, Ph.D., Newsletter Editor

There is a new addition to our display case on the first floor of Bartlett Hall. With the help of faculty and staff, we now have a memorial plaque to honor Dr. Harold D. Hafs and recognize his contributions to the Rutgers Department of Animal Sciences.

Harold grew up on a livestock farm in Wisconsin and earned his B.S. in dairy science from U. Wisconsin and later his M.S. and Ph.D. in animal physiology from Cornell. His academic career at Michigan State’s Dairy Science and Physiology Departments spanned from 1959 to 1980. He moved to New Jersey in 1980, when he was appointed vice president for Animal Science R&D at Merck.

Following his retirement from Merck, as VP for Animal Health and Agricultural Scientific Affairs, Harold joined the Rutgers faculty as a visiting professor in animal sciences. He went on to serve as professor (1994-2006) and chair of the department (1995-1999). After stepping down as chair, Harold continued to mentor our faculty and enrich our department. He was instrumental in supporting the Cook Campus Farm, including the construction of a heifer barn (pictured above). On the basis of his research impact in animal sciences, Dr. Hafs was recipient of numerous scientific awards and had over 320 publications to his credit.

Following Harold’s retirement from Rutgers, he returned to Michigan with his wife, Carol. He continued to be active in the American Society of Animal Science and other associations. Dr. Harold Hafs passed away in March 2021 at the age of 89. May he rest in peace!

Animal Handling Supervisors Trained in Fall 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Spring 2020 sections of Animal Handling, Fitting and Exhibition (11:067:175) and Animal Handling, Fitting and Exhibition Supervisors (11:067:176) were cancelled, as were the 2020 Rutgers Day/Ag Field Day animal shows (the capstone event of those courses). Our department received special permission to offer the Supervisors course (176) in Fall 2020 so that there would be enough trained supervisors to mentor the novice students in the Spring 2021 offering of 175. Enrollment was limited to allow for social distancing, and masks were worn by all.

Students enrolled in the Cattle, Swine, Small Ruminant (Sheep/Goat), and Horse sections of 176 learned the actual supervisor skills one morning per week (1 credit). These students then came back in Spring 2021 to become supervisors and coordinators for the Animal Handling (175) classes.

Photos and videos of the shows were posted on Rutgers Day live streams for viewing by the community (rutgersday.rutgers.edu). These photos were posted on the Facebook pages of Rutgers Farm (right) and Rutgers University Teaching Herd-RUTH (left; Mariah Clarke and Mazel). Dr. Carey Williams taught the horse section; the farm staff taught the other sections.

Our faculty and students (Animal Handling and the Practicums) are deeply grateful for the dedication of the Rutgers Farm staff members Felicia McCloskey, Rebecca Potosky, Anthony Sacchetti, and Kelly Vuong as well as Research Farm Supervisor Laura Comerford and Research Farm Manager Clint Burgher.

Support Rutgers Animal Sciences: animalsciences.rutgers.edu/giving.html