

Animal Science Update

The Department of Animal Sciences

Newsletter

2021-2022

Chair's Message



by Carol Bagnell, Ph.D., Chair

Welcome to the 2021-2022 edition of the *Animal Science Update*! This has been a year of changes.

Changes in Faculty. **Dr. Nick Bello** (pictured top right) was promoted to Professor 1 this year and is also working with me as Associate Chair in [Animal Sciences](#). In addition, **Dr. Troy Roepke**, Associate Professor, who has provided leadership in developing a school-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Plan, was recently appointed Associate Dean of DEI for the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS). **Dr. Bill Belden** (pictured bottom right), Associate Professor, joined the Animal Sciences faculty in 2013, working on circadian clock biology and taught a well-received course in Molecular and Cellular Physiology. Following a Spring 2022 sabbatical at the University of Rochester, Bill has retired from Rutgers.



In terms of new faculty hiring, I'm pleased to introduce our two new Teaching Instructors: **Taylor Barnes Ross** (pictured top left), Ph.D., comes to Animal Sciences from the University of Nebraska and Texas A&M University where she earned her Ph.D. in animal sciences education. Her passion for improving undergraduate animal sciences education make her an important addition to our Animal Sciences faculty. **Henry "Hank" Bignell** (pictured bottom left), M.S., returns to Rutgers having held positions in extension-related teaching at three land-grant universities: University of Florida, Cornell, and Rutgers. Consequently, he brings a wealth of information about animal agriculture, and production that will serve our undergraduate students very well.

We are also pleased to welcome **Dr. Igor Shmarakov**, a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Animal Sciences who started September 1. Dr. Shmarakov is from the Ukraine where he completed his doctoral training and has served as a tenure-track Associate Professor in Biochemistry there for more than ten years. Following receipt of a Fulbright Award to study retinoid metabolism at Columbia University in New York, Dr. Shmarakov was appointed to the Columbia University faculty as an Associate Research Scientist. He has an exciting research program planned that focuses on the metabolic and signaling roles of retinoids (Vitamin A and its metabolites) and their impact on multiple physiological systems.



Changes in Staff. **Dr. Kathy Manger** (pictured top left) retired in late fall 2021 after many years of extraordinary service to Animal Sciences. Kathy's attention to detail, proof-reading skills, and "getting it right" cannot be matched. In our Animal Sciences Business Office, **Damien Carroll-Debose** moved to the Department of Environmental Sciences at Rutgers with his promotion to Business Manager. Now Animal Sciences is one of three departments that **Elizabeth Lyimo** (pictured top right), Business Manager III Supervisor, supports. Liz comes to us from University Research Financial Services. Our most recent hire is **James Taylor** (pictured bottom right), Business Assistant, who is assisting faculty and students in all things purchasing. Another new staff member is **Laura Mitchell** (pictured bottom left), Program Coordinator II, who supports our large undergraduate Animal Sciences Program. Laura comes to us from the [SEBS Office of Academic Programs](#) and brings with her a great deal of of experience in helping students.



Undergraduate Program News

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

Great news! As of this writing, we have been informed that we don't have to wear a face covering in classrooms. Here's to hoping that the pandemic cycle is winding down! In 2022-2023, the [Animal Sciences undergraduate](#) program's goal is to maximize the number of in-person classes and improve student participation and engagement. Further conversations revealed that this was a campus-wide issue and not just an Animal Sciences issue. Therefore, I worked with the Office of Academic Programs to pilot the [grow@SEBS](#) program. The goal of this program is to incentivize students to become more engaged in cocurricular activities and do more peer-peer networking. The students will earn badges in five competencies: SEBS Spirit; Academic Success and Major



Exploration; Career and Professional Development; Diversity, Inclusion, Civic, and Global Engagement; and Leadership Skills and Teamwork. Students can develop their cocurricular transcript that they can share with future employers.

Animal Science Students Can Take a Semester Abroad! [Rutgers Global](#) provided a grant to map curriculum for Study Abroad opportunities, and the courses that are of value for the Animal Science curriculum have been identified across three global partners: University College of Dublin, Ireland; Seoul National University, South Korea; and University of Melbourne, Australia. These three partners will join CELA Belize (experiential learning in summer-winter sessions) as future destinations. Watch out world, here we come!

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. Learn more about the 2022 recipients.

Francesca Buchalski (Academics and Research Award) graduated *summa cum laude* in January 2022. Throughout her undergraduate career, she assisted with student and faculty research at the Rutgers Equine Exercise Physiology Laboratory, focusing on how performance enhancing drugs and products affect the exercising horse. This summer, she entered her first year at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine with the goal of becoming an ambulatory equine veterinarian.

Sarah Florentine (Academics and Research Award) has worked on several research projects for the [Equine Science Center](#) as an undergraduate research assistant. In summer 2022, Sarah attended an internship program at the PURPAN Institute in Toulouse, France, where she studied agriculture and worked on a farm for two months. She is also applying to veterinary school this cycle and hopes to become an equine veterinarian in the future.

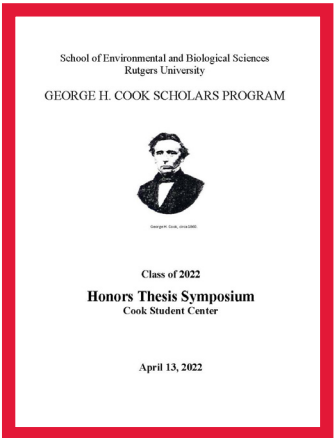
Jenna Lorippo (Academics and Research Award) has worked as a veterinary assistant, an Honors undergraduate research student in Dr. Bagnell's lab and the Equine Research Facility under Dr. Carey Williams, and as a junior docent mentor, then later as an animal care intern, at Staten Island Zoo. Jenna has been accepted to Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine to pursue studies in small-animal or mixed-animal practice and is expected to graduate with her DVM in May 2026.

Shyanna Thomason (Academics and Service Award) graduated in January 2022. She assisted Dr. Carey Williams, Extension Specialist and Associate Professor, with research at the [Equine Science Center](#), where they looked at pasture growth and rotation, and how diet can influence a horse's glucose and insulin levels and voluntary protein intake. Shyanna's goal in attending veterinary school is to become a practicing mixed-animal veterinarian. She also plans to mentor others interested in this profession and give back to her community.

Dr. Rex L. Gilbreath Memorial Award. This award was established in memory of Dr. Gilbreath, a former associate professor of animal sciences, Alpha Zeta Professor of the Year, and researcher in the field of swine nutrition. The 2022 recipient, **Naomi Topale**, has worked as a veterinary technician at a local clinic; assisted in a primate dietary, ecology, and physiology lab here on campus; and became an undergraduate teaching assistant (TA) for classes at the Rutgers farm. Naomi started attending the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine this fall.

George H. Cook Scholar Program. The following seniors have completed their honors theses and have graduated as [George H. Cook Scholars](#), Class of 2022 (their advisors are listed in parentheses). If not affiliated with Animal Sciences, students' major or advisor's department is listed.

- **Francesca Buchalski** (McKeever): The Effects of an External Nasal Strip on Equine Thermoregulation During Exercise
- **Katie Eick**, (Williams): Equine Nutrition Evaluating Forage Particle Size Measurement Protocols
- **Samuel Fisher**, Exercise Science (Roepke): The Effects of Chemical Menopause and Dietary Fatty Acid Content on Hypothalamic Gene Expression
- **Sarah Florentine** (Malinowski): Evaluating Facial Behaviors as a Measure of Stress in Equine Assisted Interventions
- **Rhys Hagen** (McKeever): Effect of Acute Exercise on Fluid and Electrolyte Balance as Measured Using Two Techniques
- **Jenna Lorippo** (Bagnell): Effects of Lactocrine Deficiency on Neonatal Porcine Uterine Development
- **Erin Miners**, Biological Sciences (Bagnell): Porcine Testicular Development: Effects of Lactocrine Deficiency
- **Josee Westrich** (Meers, Plant Biology): Role of Bacterial sRNAs within Outer Membrane Vesicles & their Contribution to Antibiotic Resistance of *Lysobacter enzymogenes* C3



Instagram and Twitter Accounts Launched in January. In January, we increased our [social media](#) presence to further foster student and community engagement by launching [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, in addition to our [Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channel. We post academic calendar reminders, scholarships, internships, and employment opportunities as well as publicize events sponsored by the department, SEBS, and other Rutgers offices. Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook at [@RutgersAniSci](#).

NESA Competition 2022

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

I would like to congratulate all of the Rutgers students who competed in the Northeast Student Affiliate of the American Society of Animal Science (NESA) competition at Delaware Valley University this past February. The competition consists of livestock judging (beef, dairy, horse, sheep, swine, and a surprise class), quiz bowl, and student presentations. There were four schools competing and 17 teams, with approximately 66 students (most teams consisted of four students, but there were two or three teams that only had three team members). Our students worked hard and the results showed! The teams and results are as follows:



Overall University:

- First:** Penn State
- Second:** Rutgers
- Third:** University of Delaware
- Fourth:** University of Massachusetts

Team Members: (all pictured after the awards ceremony)

- RU A:** Toby Lo (presenter), Abrianna Paris, Azrael Scarpelli, Dylann Cedeno
- RU B:** Andrea Campos (presenter), Jacob Gosses, Gentiana Lejca, Jenna Della Torre
- RU C:** Owen Donnelly (presenter), Talia Martianou, Erin Roehr

Livestock Judging: Rutgers had two individuals in the top ten: **Erin Roehr** in ninth and **Azrael Scarpelli** in second. Team A also took first place in judging!

Quiz Bowl: Rutgers Team B made it to the final four and took fourth place!

Presentations: They only placed the top six, but I am thrilled to say that **Owen Donnelly** placed second in presentations with his presentation titled "Seriously Doe: Let's Regulate Deer Farming!"

Overall Teams: Rutgers Team A placed ninth for overall team!



Graduate Program Highlights

by Troy Roepke, Ph.D., Graduate Program Director



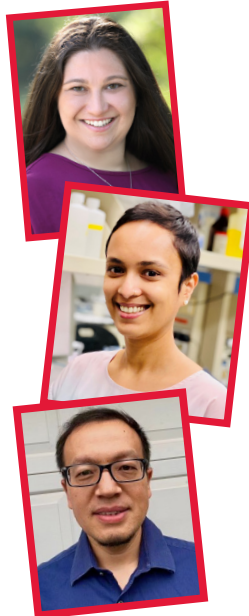
In my second year as GPD, we have recruited three doctoral students and two master's students to the [Endocrinology & Animal Biosciences \(EAB\)](#) program. One of the incoming doctoral students has received the highly competitive Dean's Fellowship to support her first year. EAB is also expanding its list of Rutgers courses available to students to meet the four core areas—endocrinology, physiology, biochemistry/molecular biology, and statistics. The 2021-2022 EAB Seminar Series was coordinated by Ken McKeever, Ph.D., and continued to be held virtually on Zoom. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the seminar series will be a mix of virtual and in-person seminars as well as graduate student presentations.

New Faculty. Since the last issue of this newsletter, we have welcomed three Rutgers faculty as new members of our EAB Graduate Program, building upon our strengths in neuroscience, toxicology, and reproduction.

Miriam Bocarsly, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Neuroscience and the Rutgers Brain Health Institute. Dr. Bocarsly started her lab at Rutgers NJMS in 2021 after postdoctoral training at NIH. Her lab studies the molecules, cells, and circuits that underlie food intake and the contributions to the development of disease states such as compulsive overeating, stress-induced eating, obesity, and anorexia.

Devanshi Jain, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Genetics in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers. Dr. Jain recently joined the faculty after postdoctoral training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Her research focused on the control of gene expression and post-transcriptional RNA regulation and genome defense mechanisms during gametogenesis.

Shou Xiao, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Ernesto Mario School of Pharmacy. Dr. Xiao moved to Rutgers in 2020 from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Xiao studies female reproductive biology and toxicology, including engineering an ovary-on-a-chip technology to assess the effects of toxicants on ovarian function. He participated in the Fall 2021 edition of Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology by lecturing on female reproduction.



New Students. In Fall 2021, we welcomed two students to the Ph.D. track.

Yeva Shamailova obtained her bachelor's degree in biology from Long Island University and then went on to graduate school for her master's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Pace University, where she studied amyloid properties in the vitelline layer of *C. elegans*. After graduation, she worked in an IVF clinic as a junior embryologist. She joined Dr. Elizabeth Snyder's lab at Rutgers to investigate male infertility.

Stephanie Totilo earned her bachelor's degree in animal science from Penn State University in May 2021. She joined Dr. Wendie Cohick's lab in April 2022 to study the effects of alcohol on mammary tumorigenesis.

Recent Degree Recipients.

Jennifer Weinert-Nelson, Ph.D. (Williams lab, September 2021) presented her dissertation defense seminar virtually on September 16, 2021, entitled "Integrated Warm- and Cool-Season Grass Equine Rotational Grazing Systems: Pasture Production, Grazing Behavior, Metabolism, and the Gut Microbiome." Her dissertation project evaluated production implications of incorporating warm- and cool-season grasses into an integrated rotational grazing system as well as effects on grazing behavior, glycemic and insulinemic responses, and the fecal microbiota of grazing horses. Jennifer was supported by departmental teaching assistantships and the Animal Sciences Graduate Fellowship during her education. Jennifer is currently a postdoctoral researcher at USDA's Agriculture Research Service (ARS) at the USDA-ARS, Forage-Animal Production Research Unit in Lexington, KY, studying the microbiome of ruminant animals. We send our best wishes for continued success to Jennifer!

Aditi Badrinath, M.S. (Snyder lab, October 2021) successfully defended her master's thesis on October 14, 2021, via Zoom, entitled "Application of the RiboTag Model to Define Translation Regulation by Two Testis-Specific RNA Binding Proteins." Aditi was supported by departmental teaching assistantships during most of her graduate education. Aditi's work is being finished up by our students in Dr. Snyder's lab prior to publication. We expect it to be finished up this fall. Aditi has just taken a job as a data analyst at a medical company in Grand Rapids! We are very excited for her and think the position is a great fit. She has been looking forward to moving back to the Midwest, where she grew up.



Scholarship Winner. Ph.D. candidate **Ellen Rankins** (pictured right) has been selected for a \$25,000 University and Louis Bevier Fellowship for the 2022-2023 academic year. In her dissertation research, supervised by co-advisors Drs. Karyn Malinowski and Ken McKeever, Ellen will study how equine-assisted services affect combat veterans with PTSD and the horses they interact with. The Bevier is a highly competitive intern fellowship with over a hundred applicants each year. This is also Ellen's second fellowship award in two years. Congratulations, Ellen!

GRIB 2022 Graduate Student Conference

by Kristyn Lambert, Ph.D. Student, Nutritional Sciences Graduate Program

The Graduate Research in Interdisciplinary Biosciences (GRIB) Conference, formerly known as the Nutrition, Endocrinology, and Food Science (NEFS) Conference, is an annual research conference designed to highlight graduate student work across multiple life science programs. This year's GRIB Conference took place on April 12 in the Douglass Student Center. Eighty students, faculty, and staff attended the conference, including thirteen poster presenters. (Pictured right is Candace Longoria, fourth-year student in the Kinesiology & Applied Physiology Ph.D. Program; Paul Breslin, Ph.D., Professor of Nutritional Sciences; and Joshua Miller, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences.)



President Jonathan Holloway (pictured left) opened the conference by detailing his excitement regarding inclusion in this graduate student-run event. He noted that it illustrated the University's commitment to research and highlighted the importance of graduate work and collaboration. Flipping to a presentation slide filled with headshots of the GRIB Planning Committee members, President Holloway remarked on how this group of graduate students exemplified "diversity in every sense of the word."

Dr. John Guers of Rider University delivered the research keynote on the potential therapeutic uses of exercise. **Dr. Traci McCarthy**, DPT, of the Kinesiology & Applied Physiology program, then described her research on the effects of exercise during pregnancy, and Food Science Ph.D. candidate **Ke Sui** discussed the potential of cannabidiol to alleviate estrogen deficiency-associated metabolic disorders. In the common interest keynote, **Dr. Rebecca Shansky** of Northeastern University discussed best practices for designing animal experiments using both sexes.

Gregory (Eli) Berger (pictured right), Endocrinology & Animal Biosciences Ph.D. candidate, described his work elucidating the role of orexin in binge eating, and Nutritional Sciences Ph.D. candidate **Esther Mezhibovsky** discussed the mechanism by which grape polyphenols may reduce diet-induced weight gain. Finally, **Dr. Alex Dainis** (pictured below), video producer/owner of Helicase Media, LLC, gave an insightful keynote on science communication as a career path.



The conference concluded by recognizing the winners of the poster competition: **Stephania Guzman** (first place), **Natasha Malonza** (second place), and **Emily Hanselman** (third place) for the graduate students, and **Sarah Sywanycz** (first place), **Jakub Suchojad** (second place), and **Veronika Hajduczka** (third place) for the undergraduates. In addition, this event would not have been possible without the support of our industry sponsors Research Diets and Campbell's, as well as the SEBS Dean's Office, IFNH, GSA, Douglass WiSE Program, and the departments of Nutritional Sciences, Animal Sciences, and Food Science. The GRIB team is incredibly grateful to the attendees, poster presenters, poster judges, and keynote speakers who made the GRIB 2022 Conference a success!

Dr. Troy Roepke and Kyle Hartmann Honored at SEBS Excellence Awards

On November 19, 2021, **Dr. Troy Roepke** (pictured top right with Dr. Laura Lawson, SEBS Executive Dean and NJAES Executive Director) and **Kyle Hartmann** (pictured bottom right with Dr. Thomas Leustek, Dean of Academic Programs), Public Relations Specialist for the Equine Science Center (ESC), were among the 2021 SEBS Excellence Award winners honored at the combined 27th (for 2020 winners) and 28th celebration held at the Cook Student Center. Dr. Thomas Leustek was the master of ceremonies. This annual Celebration of Excellence recognizes the “creativity, original work and ideas, innovation, effectiveness, integrity, leadership, impact, [and] community engagement” of faculty and staff. Dr. Roepke won the Faculty Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award for his work as SEBS/NJAES Equity Advisor and leading the development of a SEBS/NJAES diversity strategic plan. Kyle Hartmann won the Staff Excellence Award for his accomplishments in graphic design, daily operation of the ESC, strategic communications, and social media outreach.



2022 Horse Management Seminar Stayed Virtual

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

The Horse Management Seminar remained as a webinar series for 2022 and took place over three Tuesday evenings in February and had outstanding attendance! We had approximately 200 participants for each of the evenings. Attendees joined us from almost every U.S. state as well as Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Germany, Barbados, 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 \(ESC\)](#)! The themes for each of the nights were “Recent Advances in Veterinary Medicine,” “What’s New in Equine Genetics and Health,” and “Recent Advances in Equine Nutrition,” and they have all been uploaded to the library section of the ESC website: <https://esc.rutgers.edu/news/2022hmsrecordings>.

RU Farm Staff Member Rebecca Potosky Featured on *Faces & Voices of Rutgers*



Rebecca Potosky, a senior research animal worker, sat down with **President Jonathan Holloway** on the fifth episode of the first season of *Faces & Voices of Rutgers*, a video series in which President Holloway has conversations with students, faculty, staff, and alumni to showcase the amazing individuals that make up the Rutgers community. Rebecca and President Holloway discussed the university’s land-grant history, the department’s animal experience-based courses, and her passion for working with animals. Rebecca graduated from Rutgers in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in animal sciences. She teaches the goat and sheep sections of Animal Handling, Fitting and Exhibition (11:067:175) and Animal Handling, Fitting and Exhibition Supervisors (11:067:176), as well as Small Ruminant Practicum (11:067:202).

Dr. Karyn Malinowski Featured in *Extension 360* Podcast

Launched in December 2021, [Extension 360](#) showcases the programs and people of Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) and their impact on the everyday lives of New Jersey’s residents through discussions on such topics as agriculture, natural resources, food systems, nutrition, health and wellness, youth development, and more. In the January 25, 2022 episode, Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Director of the Rutgers Equine Science Center, talked to hosts Kathleen Howell, Associate Director of Administration with RCE, and Rachel Lyons, State 4-H Program Leader, Department Chair, and Associate Director of RCE, about her research and career and shared advice for Extension professionals just starting out or in the middle of their careers.

Dr. Carey Williams Receives 2021 Governor’s Award for Horseperson of the Year

by Kyle Hartmann, Public Relations Specialist, Equine Science Center

The 2021 Governor’s Award for Horseperson of the Year was presented to Dr. Carey Williams, who has served Rutgers University as the Equine Extension Specialist since 2003. She accepted the award at the 65th Annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Celebration at the Horse Park of New Jersey on June 1, 2022. Dr. Williams’s work has focused in the areas of equine nutrition and exercise physiology. She is a leader in the field of antioxidant supplementation and oxidative stress in horses, and her antioxidant work has been recognized nationally and internationally in the nutrition and veterinary fields. More recently, Dr. Williams has expanded her research into the area of forages, pastures, and helping horse farm owners create an environmentally impactful farm. (Pictured from left to right: Joe Atchison III, New Jersey Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Director of the Division of Marketing and Development; Dr. Carey Williams, Rutgers Equine Science Center Associate Director of Outreach, Extension Specialist, and Department of Animal Sciences Professor; and Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Director of the Rutgers Equine Science Center.)



Dr. Karyn Malinowski Receives the 2021 Harness Horse Youth Foundation’s Service to Youth Award

by Kyle Hartmann, Public Relations Specialist, Equine Science Center



Dr. Karyn Malinowski received the 2021 Harness Horse Youth Foundation’s Service to Youth Award on Friday, August 5, 2022, during a ceremony at the Meadowlands Racetrack. She has spent much of her career working with youth in 4-H programs, and with her students and staff, helped to develop the website portal [Equine Science 4 Kids!](#) Her extension project entitled, “Careers in the Green Industry: Youth Sow Seeds for Their Future,” which involved horses and adjudicated youth, has served as a model for similar programs worldwide. Dr. Malinowski has competed in amateur harness racing and won a race with a record-setting pace as the second-fastest time for a female driver at the Meadowlands.

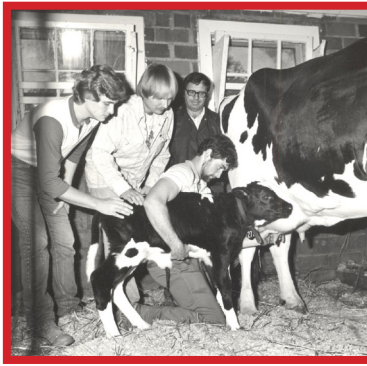
The 13th Annual Pioneers in Endocrinology Workshop Returned as a Hybrid Event

The Pioneers in Endocrinology Workshop is an annual event for scientists interested in issues concerning endocrine and metabolic health, endocrine gland cancers, nutrition, neuroscience, environmental toxicology, and alcoholism and drug abuse. Focusing on a different theme each year, the workshop features two guest speakers and a luncheon, followed by a poster session displaying advanced endocrine research being conducted at Rutgers and other universities. It had been canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic, but it returned on October 21, 2021, at the Busch Student Center as a hybrid event with the theme “Covid-19 and Insulin – The 100th Anniversary of the Discovery of Insulin.” The two guest speakers presented their lectures from their own institutions virtually and were projected onto a screen in the Multipurpose Room in front of a mask-bearing live audience.

Dr. Dipak Sarkar, director of the [Rutgers Endocrine Program](#), hosted approximately 60 attendees. He and Dr. Wendie Cohick, SEBS Dean of Research and Graduate Education, presented the opening remarks. Then Louis Amorosa, M.D., Endocrinology, Metabolism and Nutrition, gave a historical perspective about the history of insulin and introduced the first speaker, Mark A. Atkinson, Ph.D. (pictured right, on screen), from the University of Florida. His lecture was titled “Lessons from the Human Pancreas: Re-writing the Textbooks on How Type 1 Diabetes Develops.” Dr. Sue Shapses, director of the Human Nutrition, Exercise and Metabolism Center, NJ-IFNH, introduced the second speaker, David Ludwig, M.D., Ph.D., from Harvard Medical School, who presented “The Carbohydrate-Insulin Model: A Physiological Perspective on Obesity and Metabolic Disease.”



A question-and-answer session subsequent to each lecture was led by Drs. Carol Bagnell and Nick Bello. The workshop was sponsored by the Rutgers Endocrine Program; Rutgers-RWJMS Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Nutrition; the Department of Animal Sciences; the NEXt Center, NJ Institute of Food Health and Nutrition; and industry colleague Research Diets. All contributions to the workshop were generous and much appreciated.



Dr. James Wohlt (1945-2022)

by Carol Bagnell, Ph.D., Chair, and Stacey Pontoriero, M.P.A., Senior Program Coordinator and Newsletter Editor

Dr. James E. Wohlt grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. He earned his bachelor’s degree in animal husbandry from Kansas State University and later his master’s degree from the University of Maine and his doctorate from the University of Illinois. He joined the Rutgers Animal Sciences faculty as an assistant professor in 1977 and retired as Professor Emeritus in 2010.

Following his retirement, Jim returned to Wisconsin to care for his mother and run their family dairy farm. He also served as the Animal Sciences undergraduate program director for many years. Dr. Wohlt was all about the students, the student clubs, and the farm. His lab was on the third floor of Bartlett Hall but the Cook Campus farm was where he spent much of his time. Those of us who worked with him knew his dedication to Animal Sciences. Dr. Wohlt passed away in July 2022 at the age of 77. May he rest in peace.

New Leadership For the Rutgers University Board for Equine Advancement

by Kyle Hartmann, Public Relations Specialist, Equine Science Center



The Rutgers University Board for Equine Advancement (RUBEA) has elected the new co-chairs who will lead the board over the next four years. RUBEA’s mission is to assist the Rutgers Equine Science Center in its decisions regarding its equine teaching, research, and outreach and to promote and support these activities through fund-raising and advocacy efforts.

Exiting co-chairs Dr. Amy Butewicz and Mr. Warren Zimmerman stepped down at the November 2021 RUBEA meeting when the new co-chairs Ms. Beth Gates (*pictured top left*) and Mr. John Goedecke (*pictured bottom left*) were inaugurated. Since then, Ms. Gates and Mr. Goedecke led their first meeting as co-chairs in February 2022 and are currently working to increase new board membership.



“We look forward to working with them to accomplish many of the goals that have been set for both the Center, as well as the equine community at large,” said Equine Science Center Director, Karyn Malinowski. “I would also be remiss if I did not mention the phenomenal leadership of our previous co-chairs Dr. Amy Butewicz and Mr. Warren Zimmerman,” she continued, “If our new co-chairs are anything like our previous ones, we are in for some truly amazing work.”

Laura Lawson, Executive Director of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Executive Dean of the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences; as well as Carol Bagnell, Professor and Department Chair of the Department of Animal Sciences, have also joined RUBEA as ex officio members, and board members are excited to have some of the SEBS/NJAES administration represented.

Photo Credits: Page 1: (*left, from top to bottom*) Dr. Carol Bagnell, Dr. Taylor Ross, Hank Bignell, Dr. Kathy Manger, Laura Mitchell; (*right, from top to bottom*) Dr. Nick Bello, Dr. Bill Belden, Dr. Igor Shmarakov, Liz Lyimo, James Taylor. Page 2: (*left, from top to bottom*) Dr. Aparna Zama, Francesca Buchalski, Sarah Florentine, Naomi Topale; (*right*) Jenna Lorippo, Shyanna Thomason. Page 3: (*top right*) George H. Cook Scholars Program; (*bottom*) Dr. Carey Williams. Page 4: (*left, from top to bottom*) Dr. Troy Roepke, Yeva Shamailova, Stephanie Totilo; (*right, from top to bottom*) Dr. Miriam Bocarsly, Dr. Devanshi Jain, Dr. Shou Xiao, Dr. Jennifer Weinert-Nelson, Aditi Badrinath. Page 5: (*top left*) Ellen Rankins, (*center left*) Melissa Woortman, (*right*) Charul Mishra and Payton Harmon. Page 6: (*right*) Moira Keihm, (*left*) Nick Romanenko. Page 7: (*top right*) Kyle Hartmann, (*center left*) Nick Romanenko, (*bottom right*) Jennifer Chudy-Simon. Page 8: (*top first and second*) Dr. Kathy Manger, (*top third*) Clint Berger, (*top fourth*) Nick Romanenko; (*left*) Beth Gates, John Goedecke.