

Have You HEARD

UF/IFAS DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES
NEWSLETTER VOL.7 | SPRING 2023

Spring 2023

**UF/IFAS Department
of Animal Sciences**

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Cover Photo



Students riding horses at the Sale in the Swamp Preview. Photo Credit: Catherine Wofford . See page 1.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear alumni, friends and supporters,

This semester has brought success, connection and recognition to our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

This time of year is filled with extension programming and stakeholder interaction for our faculty, staff and students. Our department hosts about 30 events a year, both large and small. In the Spring alone we see some of our largest events of the year including the Ruminant Nutrition Symposium, Family Day at the Dairy Farm and Beef Cattle Short Course. The 34th Annual Ruminant Nutrition Symposium enjoyed attendance of 250 participants and Family Day at the Dairy Farm attracted about 1,000 visitors touring 14 informational stations. The 72nd Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course was held in May, and we saw an attendance of 303 people. These events are continuously growing in participants because of the innovation of our faculty, staff and students. For more information on these events flip to page 14.

This volume of Have You Herd has a special focus on our Equine Specialization. Our Horse Psychology and Training (P&T) course is a unique two semester course that our students gravitate toward because of the connections formed between both the horses and the equine faculty. This course culminates in the annual Sale in the Swamp where our students show off their handy work and participate in selling the animals they worked so hard to train. Flip to page 12 to read more about the P&T and the student experience.

Our department prides itself on graduating students who become leaders in the animal sciences industry. Trey Warnock is an alumnus who stands among the leaders and innovators of our industry. This semester he was honored by the University of Florida's Alumni Association as one of the "40 Gators Under 40." Not only is Trey continuing to excel in his career, but he is giving back to this department in more ways than one. He pours into our students every year with his regular presence in the Careers course and this year shared his knowledge of the futures market at our Beef Cattle Short Course. To read more about Trey and his endeavors turn to page 4.

Please enjoy our latest newsletter which follows. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to move the ANS mission forward. We could not do what we do without our alumni, friends and stakeholders who generously support our efforts in so many ways. Whether you are giving through financial support, your time to speak to our students, or providing jobs and internships, we cannot say thank you enough. If you are interested in giving, please visit <https://give.ifas.ufl.edu/animal-sciences-giving/> to learn about various giving opportunities or feel free to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

John Arthington
Professor and Chair



John Arthington
PROFESSOR & CHAIR

Alumni Spotlight



Thomas M. Warnock III, “Trey,” received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Department of Animal Sciences (UF/IFAS ANS) in 2008 and 2010, respectively. After finishing his master’s degree Warnock moved to Texas. He is now a risk manager and partner at the Amarillo Brokerage Company, LLC in Amarillo.

Despite having earned two degrees from the institution, Warnock did not originally plan on attending UF. Warnock said he visited the UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department (FRE) with a friend when he met Paul Willis. Willis introduced Warnock to ANS after learning of his interests in the beef industry.

“Tim Marshall toured me around some of the facilities at ANS and explained to me what was available to me in the department,” said Warnock. “I quickly fell in love and got serious about my community college studies.”

As an undergraduate, Warnock’s studies had a focus in beef cattle production and included courses like Beef Cow-Calf Management. Outside of class, Warnock was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity and judged on the UF Collegiate Meats and Live Animal Evaluation Teams. He was also a student worker at the Beef Teaching Unit, which was a highlight of his undergraduate experience.

“Being able to work out there in an environment right on the campus, across the street from apartments where people are walking by staring at you was a lot of fun,” said Warnock.

Like most undergraduates, Warnock participated in several industry-focused internships. His first internship was at Lykes Bros. Inc., a cattle and citrus operation in Okeechobee, under Mike Milicevic. He then interned at the Williamson Cattle Ranch in Benjamin, Texas under UF alumni Jake Cowen.

Towards the end of his time at Williamson Cattle Company, ANS Associate Professor Todd Thrift approached Warnock with an opportunity to work with him on a master’s degree. His assistantship was partially funded through a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) grant with ANS Professor Emeritus Dwain Johnson. Warnock’s time was split between assisting with meats-focused courses, research with Dr. Johnson, and working as a HACCP Coordinator in the UF Meats Processing Center.

“I did some applied research under Dr. Thrift,” said Warnock. “It mostly pertained to animal husbandry techniques within the cow-calf sector.”

After completing his master’s degree, Warnock began a Ph.D. program at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University (TAMU) in College Station, Texas. Warnock said he was not sure about this decision initially, but continued with it as it was the path of least resistance. TAMU sent Warnock to conduct research in Amarillo, where he made a life-changing decision.

“The stars aligned, and it became very apparent that I needed to find something else to do, so I left my Ph.D. program,” said Warnock. “When it came to the sausage-making of being a Ph.D. student at a prestigious university like Texas A&M, I didn’t have the want to be there.”



Photos Provided by Trey Warnock

About a year after leaving A&M, Warnock took a position as an intern at the Amarillo Brokerage Company, LLC. The company specializes in risk management and commodity investments for all sectors of the beef industry across the country. He quickly moved up the ranks, becoming a broker's assistant and now partner.

"We facilitate risk management through using the Chicago Mercantile Exchange futures options for things like live cattle, feeder cattle, corn and wheat," said Warnock. "We are also a livestock insurance agency and write livestock insurance as a risk management strategy."

Warnock's career success was recently recognized by the University of Florida's Alumni Association, as he was honored as one of the "40 Gators Under 40." This award is given to alumni members who are 39 or younger and have significantly impacted their company, industry, or field.

"It's almost hard for me to say this, but to be honored in that way along with the others who received the award was humbling," said Warnock. "I am also really proud that I was able to represent the College of Ag, the Department of Animal Sciences, and food animal production."

Warnock stated he thinks students should be active in student organizations, as it helps to prepare individuals to work with varying personalities and beliefs in the workplace. He also believes students should take time to think about what they want their future to be like. Warnock wishes he would have spent more time thinking about his future while he was in



school, as he did not feel prepared to step into the world.

"The reason I ended up in some complicated positions later in life was because I never really stopped and said what am I doing now and what I want to be doing in a year or two years," said Warnock.

With Amarillo Brokerage Company's widespread reach, Warnock often runs into UF and ANS alumni. Many of the alumni he runs into are performing extremely well in the industry, with jobs ranging from management to sales to production. He says the level of performance from UF alumni impresses him.

"Turning out students that the industry is desiring for, for any type of role at that, makes me proud of the College of Ag and Department of Animal Sciences," said Warnock. 🦎



In Five Years

Alumni Spotlights of ANS alumni who graduated five years ago



Erin Jones
Extension Agent
Suwannee County

Erin graduated from the department in 2018 with a food animal specialization. Shortly after graduation, Erin accepted a position with Etheridge Cattle Company as Manager of Operations. She believes the relationships she built through her internships with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, INC. and Suwannee Valley Feeds, along with Block & Bridle, allowed her to land the job. She is now a Livestock and Natural Resources Extension Agent in Suwannee County. She also is the leader of the Small Town Clovers 4-H club in Suwannee County.

Advice to a Senior: Life is not perfect but is what you make it! If you can find a job you love you will never have to work a day in your life!

Involvement while at UF: Block & Bridle, Gator Collegiate Cattlewomen, Live Animal Meat Evaluation, Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers



Meghan Jessee
Public Health Veterinarian
USDA-FSIS

Meghan graduated from the department in 2018 with a specialization in animal biology. After graduation, she attended the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. After finishing her DVM, Meghan accepted a job with the USDA-FSIS as a Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian. As an undergrad, she was heavily involved in the Panhellenic Council, where she served as assistant director of philanthropic events and vice president with her sorority, Delta Zeta. She also volunteered at the UF Beef Teaching Unit and Swine Unit.

Advice to a Senior: While times may be hard after college remember that you've been through challenges before and have come out on top!

Involvement while at UF: Delta Zeta, UF Panhellenic Council, UF Pre-Veterinary Club, Preview Staffer



Taylor McCormick
Associate Veterinarian
Newberry Animal Hospital

Taylor graduated from the department in 2018 with an animal biology specialization. Since graduating from our department, Taylor obtained her DVM from the University of Florida, got married, and found a job she loves. She is currently an Associate Veterinarian at Newberry Animal Hospital. Taylor worked in a small animal hospital as an undergraduate, which helped her develop professional skills, including technical skills, that are vital to her role now!

Advice to a Senior: Find a job that values mentorship! You will be constantly learning new things so having a team that supports you and wants you to succeed is important.

Involvement while at UF: UF Pre-Veterinary Club



Garrett Stephens
Fishing Charter Captain
Florida Keys

Garrett graduated from the department in 2018 with a specialization in animal biology. Since graduating, Garrett has had several internships and paid positions in wildlife rehabilitation, including one with SeaWorld's Animal Rescue Team. After being furloughed in 2020, Garrett returned to the Florida Keys where he became a licensed charter captain. In addition to being a captain, Garrett is an underwater videographer for two popular fishing shows!

Advice to a Senior: Don't be afraid to take opportunities and experiences that take you out of your comfort zone. You never know what it could lead you to!

Involvement while at UF: UF Football Team



Rachel Keyt
Elementary Teacher
Sacramento, California

Rachel graduated from our department in 2018 with an equine specialization. Since graduating from the department, Rachel changed her career pathway to education. She earned her Master of Arts in Education from the Alder Graduate School of Education. Rachel completed an internship at Camp Illahee, a summer camp for girls. She taught horseback riding lessons and horse care to camp attendees. This experience helped her learn that she wanted to pursue education.

Advice to a Senior: Take chances on opportunities that help you develop as a professional and don't be afraid to try something out, even if it doesn't work out!

Involvement while at UF: Extreme Dance Co., Gatorship

Student Spotlight



UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences (ANS) senior Jenna Mason started her journey in the animal agriculture industry at a young age. Eight-year-old Mason began riding and competing in the hunter jumper discipline, which sparked her passion for the equine industry. This passion led her to pursue a bachelor's degree in animal sciences with an equine specialization.

"I had been involved in the equine industry, as I worked in several barns throughout high school but was unsure which route I wanted to go specifically," said Mason. "I had thought about going pre-vet, but I wanted be more involved with training and working with horses on more of a day-to-day basis."

As an equine specialization student, Mason took classes like ANS Associate Professor Lori Warren's Relationship of Form to Function in Horses. Often called Form to Function, the course allows students to connect their knowledge of anatomy and physiology to the conformation and athletic performance of horses. Mason said Form to Function was her favorite class out of the equine curriculum.

"During the labs, we were able to apply what we were learning in lecture in a fun, hands-on way," said Mason.

Horse Psychology and Training (P&T), taught by Lecturer Joel McQuagge, is a year-long course where students combine their knowledge of equine behavior and training techniques to start a horse under saddle. Mason was part of the 2021-2022 class, where she had a western pleasure prospect.

Her horse was the highest selling horse in the 2022 Sale in the Swamp at \$30,100.

"Joel taught us a lot about working with horses and helping each other," said Mason. "It was great to see our horses grow from long yearlings to two-year-olds who are ready to be sold."

Mason returned to the P&T class this past year as a teaching assistant. It was a unique experience for her, as she had to learn the personalities of all the yearlings and students.

"It's been great to apply what I've learned with my experiences with other horses and help them to grow together as a team," said Mason.

Outside of coursework, Mason was heavily involved in ANS through extracurricular activities. She participated in undergraduate research, was a member of the horse judging team, and competed with the UF Hunt Seat team.

In her freshman year, Mason worked in ANS Associate Professor Samantha Brooks' equine genetics lab. This was during the early phases of Brooks' artificial intelligence project, which is using technology to help pinpoint lameness in horses and later connect it to their genetics. Mason's responsibilities consisted of organizing videos of horses based on descriptions.

"A lot of my part was done remotely during COVID, which was great for me I was able to do it from home," said Mason.

Mason was one of six members of the 2021 UF

Horse Judging Team. The team traveled to several competitions, with locations ranging from College Station, TX to Oklahoma City, OK. Mason said that she gained many professional skills through being a judging team member.

“As a judging team member, I learned a lot about the different disciplines and how to judge,” said Mason. “Learning how to give a set of reasons allowed me to develop my communication skills, as we needed to be clear and concise.”

As a member of the UF Equestrian Club, which encompasses four competition teams, Mason competed on the Hunt Seat Team. Members of the Equestrian Club are expected to participate in social, fundraising, and community service events within the club. These activities provide fellowship opportunities for the members and allow for unity between the teams.

“I met a lot of people at these events from different equine backgrounds, including some of my best friends,” said Mason.

On the Hunt Seat Team, Mason served as captain and co-captain during her junior and senior years. Hunt seat is a discipline where riders are judged on their execution of a pattern and their position during the ride. Riders are placed in classes based on their experience level and can compete in fences or flat classes.

“I competed in the Open Fences and Open Flat classes,” said Mason. “I ended this past season as third overall in the region.”

Equine specialization students must complete an industry internship as part of their curriculum. Mason worked at Kirby Bridge Brook, a hunter jumper training and sales barn in Williston, Florida. Her responsibilities included daily care of the horses and riding about five horses a day.

“I got a lot of hands-on experience, especially since it was a sale barn,” said Mason. “With new horses coming in, I got to work with several types of horses in terms of breeds and disciplines.

Mason was also given a horse to compete with at the World Equestrian Center for the summer, as the barn would also be competing. Through her internship, Mason made a connection with a barn in Europe that works with young horses. She will be working for them in Europe for the summer.

After she returns from Europe, Mason plans to work for Kirby Brook Bridge as an assistant trainer. Eventually, she would like to open her own training and teaching facility near the World Equestrian Center. 🐾





Photo Credit: Shelby Thomas

Dr. Peter Hansen and Tatiane Maia explaining the Miri TL.

Binational Embryology

Dr. Peter Hansen joined the faculty at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in 1984 and began his career in the Department of Animal Sciences (previously Dairy Science Department) in 1986. His research focuses on the fields of biology and embryology with a primary focus on dairy cattle.

Today, Dr. Hansen is a Distinguished Professor who is constantly recognized for his innovation and pursuit of research. Most recently he was recognized as one of the top 20 Animal Science and Veterinary Scientists in the world coming in at number 20.

Hansen's lab consists of 8 scientists working to improve reproductive function in cattle and the effectiveness of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) through embryo transfer. In fact, they recently received a grant to purchase a piece of equipment, the MIRI TL, that will assist in their exploration of this ever-growing area of science.

"A professor in Israel who used to work in my lab approached me about obtaining joint funding to do research in Israel and the US," Hansen said. "The organization is called 'BARD' or the US-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund." The fund Hansen mentioned is a competitive funding program for beneficial, mission-oriented, strategic, and applied research of agricultural problems, jointly conducted by American and Israeli scientists. Hansen

and the Israeli professor, Zvi Roth, moved forward by writing a grant together wherein they do the same experiments in Israel and the US. Their teams are currently working to develop preliminary data to show the embryo can be grown. They will also see if any of the measurements their lab's are collecting predict survival.

The MIRI TL is a multi-room incubator with a built-in microscope and camera that continuously captures images of embryo developments until the day of transfer or preservation without any disturbances. The MIRI TL, originally used in human IVF, assists scientists in seeing a microscopic view of the progression of the embryo from its beginnings after fertilization until day 7.5 of development when it reaches a stage where it is ordinarily transferred into a cow.

The machine can hold up to 84 embryos at a time while taking photographs every 5, 10, or 20 minutes through timelapse photography. The images captured by the MIRI TL can be viewed in sequence as a video to depict the development of the embryo.

Biological scientist and Ph.D. student, Tatiane Maia described the steps their team goes through to create the embryos that eventually are used for IVF.

"The eggs are recovered from the cow and then allowed to undergo biochemical processes that make

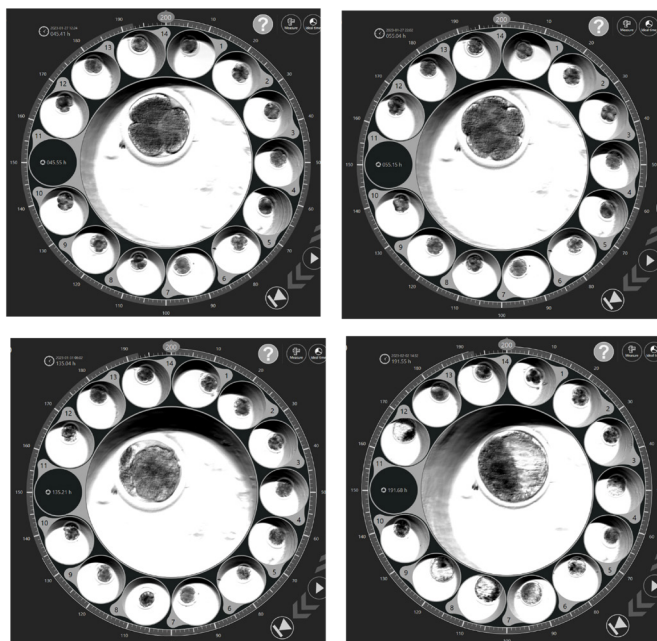
Spotlight



R: Embryos loaded into culture coin at day one of development, L: Culture coin to load embryos



Miri TL viewer and screen



R to L: 3 cells stages, 5 cell stage, Morula (> 32 cells) and blastocyst stage. The latter is an embryo at day 7.5 of development.

them ready to be fertilized. After 20 to 22 hours of culture, the eggs are fertilized by mixing with spermatozoa. The embryos are placed in the MIRI TL for observation the day after fertilization.”

Once placed into the incubator, the first images showing what is at first a one-cell organism are captured. Over the next seven and a half days the MIRI TL will continue to capture images depicting cell divisions and growth of the embryo. At the end of culture, the viable embryos can be transferred into

**Scan here to
watch the
development
of a bovine
embryo!**

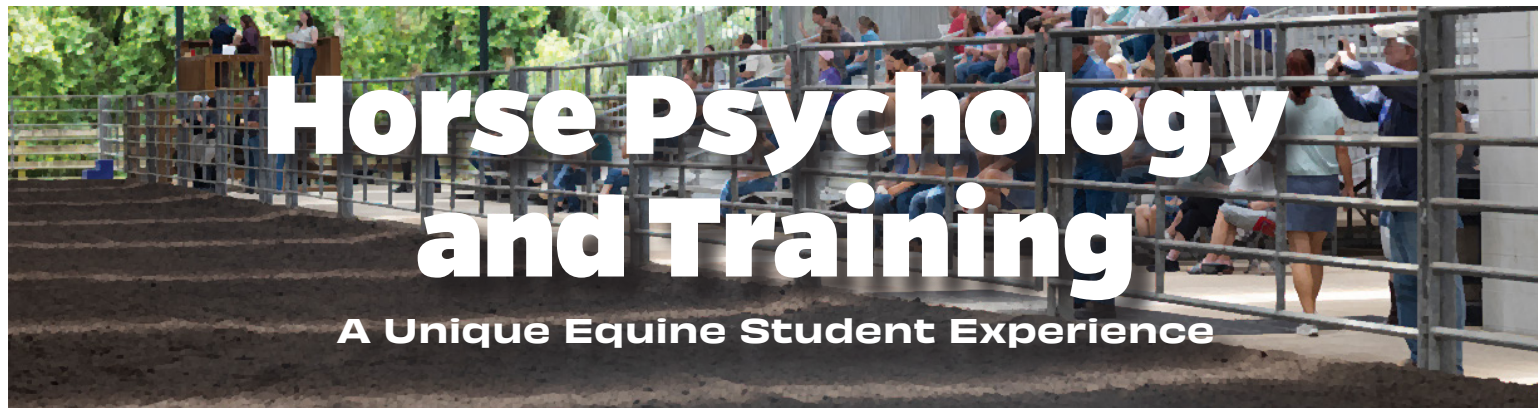


https://youtu.be/cg_JzRu_tgA

cows, frozen for transfer at a later time or used in various biochemical or molecular assays to assess the function of the embryo.

“At about day 7, the embryo starts to pump fluid into a cavity in the center and starts to rapidly increase in size. At this stage, the embryo is called a blastocyst because the cavity is called the blastocoele,” Tatiane said. “The protein coat surrounding the embryo gets thinner and thinner and eventually the blastocyst hatches through the protein coat in preparation for attachment to the lining of the mother’s uterus.”

Not all embryos make it to the blastocyst stage – the successful end of the process. Some never develop that far and are considered not viable. One of the questions Hansen’s lab hopes to answer is how to increase the number of embryos that successful develop to the blastocyst stage and can create a pregnancy after transfer to the cow. 🐮



There's no question the UF/IFAS Animal Sciences Department (ANS) offers some of the most unique experiences for undergraduate students. Two courses in particular, ANS 4218C Horse Psychology and ANS 4241C Intermediate Horse Training (both shortened to Psych and Training or P&T), are no exception. From fall to spring semesters, yearling and 2-year-old horses are saddle trained by students and sold in the annual ANS horse sale, "Sale in the Swamp."

Psych and Training is taught by ANS Lecturer, Joel McQuagge, Associate in Animal Sciences and equine instructor. McQuagge has worked for the department for 27 years and has played a major role in developing the equine science program, undergraduate equine courses, and the Horse Teaching Unit as we know it today. He has been teaching P&T for the last 25 years and has seen it grow into the class students take today.

"We went from teaching out of just a couple of wood rattle trap round pens and t-barn, to teaching in a covered arena to teaching with two uncovered round pens, then three round pens, then four round pens, then five round pens, and six round pens, then one walker and two walkers, and now we've got covers over a couple round pens. Being able to teach at that level of the facility quality has made a significant difference," Said McQuagge.

Another contributing factor to the success of this course is the way the yearling horses in P&T are handled from start to finish by a significant number of ANS students, faculty, and staff. They are bred by students in ANS 4318C Equine Reproductive Management class, monitored and foaled by the ANS 4231 Foaling Practicum, and halter broken in the ANS 4241 Weanling Handling Practicum.

"A combination of better horse handling practices in the early learning stages combined with the much greater quality of mare herd has made those babies able to learn at a much higher level and it's allowed us to teach at a higher level," McQuagge said.

The students enrolled in P&T are required to take a riding assessment with McQuagge prior to the start of the semester. Students are assigned to a horse based on their top horse preferences, discipline, and experience.

During the fall semester, students continue to introduce the horses to many different stimuli, things they might see in their everyday life. They are tied in common areas, taught to walk on the Walker, line driven and saddled. They are taught to respond to pressure in the shoulder area, the rib cage, the hind end, taught to drop their heads, and respond to verbal cues in the round pen (walk, trop, canter, and whoa). Some students will even get their first ride in before Christmas.



In the spring semester, students pick up where they left off and the rest of the class gets their first ride in quickly after. McQuagge is careful to make sure the riders and their horses are mentally and physically ready to ride.

“We work with the pace of the horse and the pace of the student. Everybody’s in a little different place,” McQuagge said. “Usually by February, some of them are out in the arena, and by March, everybody’s out in the arena.”

The annual Sale in the Swamp held every April concludes the class. Students will show off their horse at the sale’s preview day, and the online auction begins shortly after. COVID forced the program to move into an online sale, which ultimately has broadened the program’s national exposure.

An estimated 300 students have gone through P&T with McQuagge. Fifteen students successfully trained 17 horses this past fall and spring, including Jordan Bishman and Caroline Wright.

Jordan Bishman is a senior ANS animal biology specialization student. She was given the opportunity to train two horses throughout the classes. Her first horse, “UF For Good Reason” has the barn name “Reed” and is a hunt seat prospect. He’s out of sire, “IE Reason” and dam, “Dress the Part”. Her second horse, “UF Certainly Red”, barn name “Tormnd” is a Sorrel Gelding and ranch horse prospect out of sire “VS Code Red” and dam, “Certain Musketeer”.

Tormnd was unfortunately out with a lameness injury for most of the class, and ultimately was pulled from the sale. However, Bishman was able to start him under saddle in April and said he did extremely well considering the lack of time he was able to be worked.

“I got really lucky with him being that he is such a quick learner,” Bishman stated. “Being back at work has been really good for his brain because he has a job now and I think he loves it.”

Bishman will be graduating this fall and hopes to attend veterinary school and specialize in large animal surgery or sports medicine. She said P&T prepared her for her future by increasing her ability to understand horses and sharpening her horsemanship skills.



Another student in the class, Caroline Wright is a junior ANS equine specialization student. She trained “UF Bet Your Limit”, barn name “Sebastian”, a Red Roan Gelding and ranch horse prospect out of sire, “Quahadi” and dam, “UF Guthrie Gal”.

“He is smart, talented, and athletic. I really love this horse and his eagerness to learn. He has taught me a lot about training techniques and has grown my confidence as a rider” said Wright.

This class offered Wright her first formal experience with saddle-breaking horses. She has had a number of takeaways from the course, including new friendships, improved riding skills, and personal growth.

“I have learned that training horses is not always a linear process. Just like us, horses have good days and bad days,” said Wright. “Sometimes it feels as though your progress is declining. However, this is what makes the success even better.”

Caroline will be graduating spring 2024 and hopes to return to ANS to earn her master’s degree. in animal science, studying equine reproduction. She will continue to work with Sebastian, as she is his proud, new owner!

The ANS department is grateful for the contributions from donors and stakeholders to the equine sciences program. With their continued support, we can continue to offer more educational experiences, like P&T, to future ANS students. 🐾

University of Florida

Fourth Annual Brahman Bull & Heifer Sale



The University of Florida (UF) Department of Animal Sciences (ANS) held its Fourth Annual Brahman Bull sale on May 12th. The sale bulls were born at the UF/IFAS Beef Research Unit and have been at the UF/IFAS Beef Teaching Unit since September 2021. They were used to teach Seedstock Marketing and Management to students in the spring semesters of 2022 and 2023. These students also collected all the post-weaning data on the bulls and played a big part in developing the catalog and the marketing plan. For the second year we displayed the bulls and heifers at the UF Beef Cattle Short Course prior to the auction which was conducted on Cattle in Motion.

The bulls were a select group of 2-year-olds from a contemporary group of almost 90 head. These bulls were gentle, moderate, easy fleshing and were selected for early fertility. Fifteen head were sold for an average of \$4,513. The high selling bulls were Lot 11 UF MR GATOR 699/1 and Lot 12 UF MR GATOR 716/1 purchased by Standridge Cattle Company of Oklahoma. The volume bull buyer was also Standridge Cattle Company with the purchase of 6 bulls.

Fifteen head of yearling heifers were sold in the second female offering from the UF herd. The average was \$4,480. The high selling heifer was Lot 24 UF MISS GATOR 658/2 purchased by Standridge Cattle Company of Oklahoma. The volume heifer buyer was also Standridge Cattle Company with the purchase of 6 females.

This sale has been a great learning experience for our students and instructors alike. It would not have been possible had it not been for the work of Danny Driver breeding the cattle. Shelby Thomas, Matti Moyer, Savannah Linzmaier and Jessica Czipulis were instrumental in filming the cattle and served as the publishing experts in developing the sale catalog. Dr. Pete Hansen was involved in the embryo work resulting in several of the bulls. Jesse Savell managed and fed the bulls and heifers to perfection and oversaw the UF Block and Bridle Club halter breaking the heifers. Additionally, he was involved in the selection from beginning to end. Lastly, we would like to thank Dr. Todd Thrift and the Seedstock Management and Marketing class for their continued involvement in the success of the sale. The Florida Cattlemen's Association helped with advertising the sale. This was truly a joint effort to make the fourth sale a great success. The Florida cattle producers and the Florida Brahman breeders continued support of our teaching efforts have been an integral component of our success. Proceeds from the sale go to support the Brahman project teaching, research, and extension efforts. We appreciate all the bidders who had interest in this year's sale and invite you to come back next year for our select offering of Brahman genetics.

University of Florida Sale in the Swamp

On April 29th, the University of Florida's Department of Animal Sciences closed out an online auction with Chad & Angela Johnson of Affinity Auction Group Chiefland, FL. This year, there were 16 started two-year-olds and 1 four-year-old that sold for \$191,300 collectively. The sale average was \$11,253. The high selling horse was the ranch bred filly UF Bikini Bottom (Natural Bottom x Bonita Bacardi) for \$22,600. The horses in this year's sale were bred by students in the Reproductive Management Practicum, foaled by students in the Foaling Practicum, halter broke and handled by the Weanling Handling class and started under saddle by the Horse Psychology and Training class.



72nd University of Florida Beef Cattle Short Course

The 72nd Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course was held from May 10-12, 2023 in Gainesville, Florida. A dedicated group of faculty, staff, sponsors, and many volunteers organized technical programs, discussions, demonstrations, exhibits and social functions for the 303 attendees. The organizers are immensely grateful for the support provided by stakeholder groups, the allied industry, and the UF/IFAS Office of Extension. More than 20 speakers delivered updates on Florida-relevant topics covering adding value to your herd through nutrition and management.

Every year, this event connects the beef cattle community and provides an environment to network and share their knowledge and experiences. Don't miss out on the 73rd Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course May 8-10, 2024. We hope to see you there!



Photo Credits: Jessica Gzipulis



34th Annual Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium

The 34th Annual Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium was held February 20-22, 2023. The event was a great success this year, with over 250 attendees. The Symposium is recognized as one of the premier conferences for gathering the latest information about advances in the nutrition of dairy and beef cattle. Attendees represent regions all over the world, and speakers represent the University of Florida and many other land-grant institutions across the country. These eighteen speakers led discussions in feed efficiency, essential nutrients, feed hygiene, pathogen control, heat stress, and much more. This year, the committee hosted a Brazilian BBQ for the opening reception and offered beef from Florida Cattle Ranchers. One attendee described the food as, “possibly the best piece of meat I have ever eaten in my life”. Thank you to Dr. Jose Santos (event chair), Animal Sciences faculty, graduate students, support staff, and events sponsors for their contributions to the success of this year’s symposium.



UF/IFAS photos by Catherine Wofford

Open Gate

On March 4, 2023, the UF/IFAS Animal Sciences Department “opened the gates” to more than 100 middle and high school students interested in pursuing a future in the animal industry. This was a brand new event and was an immediate hit—with 571 shares on Facebook and reaching event capacity in only four hours! We showcased the Beef Teaching Unit, Horse Teaching Unit, and Meat Processing Center. Through the help of our incredible faculty, staff, and ANS Ambassador team, we offered educational sessions at each unit, including ultrasound demonstrations, palpation and fetal development lesson with “Lulu” (bovine simulator), live carcass demo, and more. Students were exposed to opportunities within our department and the diverse career options in animal sciences industry.



Photo Credits: Shelby Thomas



The seventh UF/IFAS Family Day at the Dairy Farm (FDDF) was held at the UF Dairy Research Unit on Saturday, February 11, 2023. Returning for the first time since 2019, the event welcomed around 1,000 visitors to the farm—despite the rainy and cold weather. The 13 educational stations covered a variety of topics within the dairy industry, including feed rations, genetics, reproduction, milking, milk quality.

Family Day at the Dairy Farm covers the largest public audience of any of the UF/Animal Sciences departmental events. This is crucial to transparent dairy education for the local community and our extension mission. The event would not be possible without the Animal Sciences faculty, staff, and student volunteers, as well as the Florida Dairy Farmers Inc. and the generous sponsors of the event.



Congratulations

Superior Accomplishment Awards



John Bromfield
Academic Personnel



Nicole Monval
Clerical Office Support



Tessa Schulmeister
Scientific & Technical

UF Faculty Awards



Amie Imler
Faculty Advisor/Mentor
of the Year Award



Antonio Faciola
Faculty Doctoral
Mentoring Award

Graduate Student Awards



Zack Seekford

Association for Academic
Women's Emerging Scholar
Honorable Mention Award



Cecilia Rocha

James Davidson Graduate
Travel Scholarship

Undergraduate Student Awards



Gabriella Kabakchieva

E.T. York Jr Medal of
Excellence Finalist



Madison Daigle

Top 10 CALS Senior

Awards & Recognition

Academic Quadrathlon Team

- Team members include: Jordan Bishman, Douglas Natoce, Emma Schoenfeld, and Gina Tran
- Team members competed as a team against 12 other universities at the regional meeting, which was held in conjunction with the ASAS Southern Sectional Meeting in Raleigh, NC. The team placed in several categories:
 - 3rd Overall Lab Practicum (14 stations); 1st in Equine and Meats, 2nd in Dairy, 3rd in Poultry
 - 9th Overall in Quiz Bowl
 - 6th Overall in Written Exam
 - 1st in Oral Presentations
 - 6th Overall team

Animal Welfare Assessment Team

- Team members include: Carmen Burner, Daniel Dolfi, Nick Espina, Coach Emily Lindner
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Animal Welfare Assessment Contest in Raleigh, NC.
 - 10th overall score in division
 - 8th in live assessment reasonings in division

Brahman Show Team

- Team members include: Melissa Babinecz, Mikaela Martin, Vicky Mann, Grace Oyer, Payton Rethmel, Hadley Wimsatt, Coach Jesse Savell, and Coach Allyson Trimble
- The team halter broke and exhibited 2 bulls and 2 heifers.
- The team participated in three shows:
 - Florida State Fair in Tampa, FL
 - Osceola County Fair in wKissimmee, FL
 - Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Houston, TX

Horse Judging Team

- Team members include: Lina Ascarrunz, Trinity Calugar, Megan Granum, Zoe Kline, Paige Scullin, Lelia Warne, and Jessie Wolfkill
- The team competed at the State Florida 4-H and FFA Contest.

Livestock Judging Team

- Team members include: Keely Agnini, Riley Decker, Katerina Fiol, Isabella Franco, Christopher Hernandez, Taylor Riel, Bianca Ruiz, Harley Seay, Katie Turner, Morgan Yoder, and Coach Allyson Trimble
- The team participated in three contests:
 - Dixie National in Jackson, MS.
 - Southeastern Livestock Expo in Montgomery, AL.
 - Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Houston, TX.

Meat Judging Team

- Team members include: Melissa Babinecz, Brett Capra, Macey Farinha, Victoria Malinowski, Isabel Ribiero, Jeremy Summers, Kaley Tamanini, and Coach Elizabeth Chmielewski.
- Southwestern Meat Judging Contest
- Southeastern Meat Judging Contest:
 - 1st in Team Specifications
 - 3rd in Team Beef Judging
 - 3rd Team Overall
 - Brett Capra: 8th Overall Individual
 - Melissa Babinecz: 9th Overall Individual



Awards & Accomplishments

- ANS Professor, **Josè Santos** was recognized as a 2022 Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- ANS Associate Professor, **Zongliang Jiang** was awarded the Early Career Achievement Award by the International Embryo Technology Society.
- ANS staff members **Patti Best**, **Bryon Davis**, and **Renee James-Parks** were recognized for 25 years or more of employment in the department.
- ANS Associate Professor, **Philippe Moriel** was awarded the 2023 Extension Award by the American Society of Animal Science.
- ANS Graduate student, **Vinicius de Souza Izquierdo** was awarded the Joseph P. Fontenot Appreciation Club Graduate Student Travel Scholarship by the American Society of Animal Science.
- ANS Professor, **Raluca Mateescu** was presented with the ABBA International Brahman Friend of the Year Award.
- ANS graduate student, **Zack Seekford** was awarded the Association for Academic Women's Emerging Scholar Honorable Mention Award.
- ANS Associate Professor, **K.C. Jeong** was the recipient of 2023 University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship.
- ANS undergraduate student, **Gabriella Kabakchieva** was recognized as a finalist for the E.T. York Jr Medal of Excellence.
- ANS undergraduate student **Madison Daigle** was recognized as a Top 10 Senior in CALS.
- ANS undergraduate **Jordan Bishman** received an Undergraduate Scholars Program Award.
- ANS graduate student **Cecilia Rocha** received the James Davidson Graduate Travel Scholarship from CALS.



K.C. Jeong



Josè Santos

- ANS Graduate Advisor, **Renee Parks-James** was recognized for 30 years of service.
- ANS Lecturer, **Amie Imler** was named Faculty Advisor/Mentor of the Year for both the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the University of Florida.
- ANS Associate Professor, **John Bromfield** was recognized with a division-level Superior Accomplishment Award.
- ANS Research Administration Manager, **Jesse Savell** was recognized for 15 years of service.
- ANS staff members, **Jasmine Corbit** and **Allyson Trimble** were recognized for five years of service.
- ANS Associate Professor, **Antonio Faciola** was awarded the 2023 University of Florida Faculty Doctoral Mentoring Award.
- ANS Agricultural/Food Scientist II, **Tessa Schulmeister** received a division-level Superior Accomplishment Award.
- ANS Research Coordinator II, **Kathy Arriola** for 10 years of service.
- ANS Administrative Assistant, **Nicole Monval** was recognized with a UF-level Superior Accomplishment Award.

Upcoming Events

Summer Youth Judging Camps

Small Ruminant Short Course

Ram Test Sale

Internship Seminar

Little International

Dairy Production Conference

Livestock Education &
Certification for Agriculture Law
Enforcement

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

We enjoy hearing updates from our alumni!

- Do you have internship or job opportunities for animal sciences students?
- Are you interested in speaking in an undergrad class about your career?
- Would you like to be featured in a **Have you HERD** Alumni Spotlight?

**Visit our website to learn how to be involved with the UF/IFAS
Department of Animal Sciences!**

**CONNECT WITH US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA @UF_ANSCI**



SMALL RUMINANT SHORT COURSE

September | 29-30 | 2023

RAM TEST SALE

September 30, 2023

Straughn Center | UF Horse Teaching Unit

Topics Include:

Parasite Management

Reproduction

Marketing

Pasture Management

Economics

Nutrition

Herd Management

Meat Science

Scan for more
information:

Small Ruminant
Short Course



Ram Test Sale



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Congrat



Spring 2023

Congratulations

UF/IFAS photos by Catherine Wofford



3 Graduates!

Have You HERD? | 27

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GIVING

Your generous donation to the UF/IFAS Animal Sciences Department will provide support for our students, faculty and staff.

To support ANS, our scholarships and more, visit [**give.ifas.ufl.edu/animal-sciences-giving/**](https://give.ifas.ufl.edu/animal-sciences-giving/).

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