Inside this issue

4 FACULTY NEWS
9 STUDENT NEWS
14 SWINE SALE
15 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KELLY MORELLO, GLOBAL VETERINARY ALLIANCE
19 PERFORMANCE HORSE SALE
20 DEPARTMENT NEWS
24 NEW ENTERPRISE: WOODS HUMANE SOCIETY

(Above) Kelly Morello (Animal Science, ’15) and a colleague help a patient recover from surgery; a student checks eggshell quality at the Poultry Unit.
(Front Cover) Veterinary students with the Global Veterinary Alliance along with community members and their animals in Quilaca, Nicaragua.
Dear friends,

It hardly seems possible that another academic year has flown by for the Animal Science Department! We have enjoyed a remarkable year of growth, development, change and expansion as we continue to forge a new, unified identity with the dairy science program.

This year we welcomed several new faces to the faculty and staff in Animal Science. We are already enjoying the energy and vitality that comes with fresh ideas, expertise and enthusiasm from our newest colleagues Rodrigo Manjarin, Sarah Senff, Julie Yuhas and Morgan Bing.

Our students continue to be our inspiration and focus. This year, the Animal Science Department’s Equestrian and Dressage Teams, North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Team and both Men’s and Women’s Polo Teams won regional competitions and earned the right to advance to national level competitions.

We have developed synergies among the animal science and dairy science programs this year, and will continue to examine both curricula with the goal of delivering the best possible education in both majors. To do this, we have to have the best faculty and staff. We think we do and apparently the college agrees. This year, Professor Mark Edwards was honored with the Rava Ranches Sustained Excellence in Scholarship award, and Animal Nutrition Center Director Carl Whisenant was honored with the Ocean Mist Outstanding Staff Award. Congratulations to each!

It is truly an exciting time in the Animal Science Department as we move forward in the planned renovation and construction activities at the Equine Center. We hope you will visit us soon so that you can see what an amazing facility we will have, thanks to the generosity of Peter and Mary Beth Oppenheimer as well as all of our generous supporters. Pardon the dust and upheaval right now, but we think it will be well worth it in the end.

I hope you enjoy this opportunity to see a few of the many activities and accomplishments that marked 2016-17. We hope you will visit us in the coming year. We look forward to sharing old memories and building new ones.

Warm Regards,

Jaymie Noland, D.V.M.
Department Head
Hitting the Ground Running

NEW EQUINE CENTER MANAGER, LECTURER JULIE YUHAS BRINGS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE TO THE ROLE

Without hesitation, Julie Yuhas left her job at the West Coast’s largest and most technologically advanced horse hospital in Los Olivos to teach equine courses at Cal Poly and manage the Animal Science Department’s Equine Center.

As a registered veterinary technician, Yuhas administered anesthesia to horses undergoing MRIs and assisted during surgery and exams. “It’s a long, complicated process to perform an MRI on a horse,” Yuhas explained. “They are given general anesthesia and must be closely monitored during the entire process, which can take up to four hours.”

When the position to manage Cal Poly’s Equine Center opened, Yuhas “jumped.” A lifelong horse person who grew up in rural Orcutt, California, she has always been drawn to horses. “It’s in my blood,” she said. “They’re amazing animals—such gentle giants.”

She is also drawn to teaching. She has been a guest lecturer at the veterinary technician program at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria and owned and operated a training business for over a decade, teaching 20-25 lessons a week. “That’s when I discovered my passion for teaching and for connecting people with horses.”

Yuhas came to Cal Poly in summer 2016 with a background in performance horse training and herd health and foaling management. She teaches ASCI 290: Mare Care Enterprise, ASCI 290: Foaling Enterprise, and ASCI 490: Quarter Horse Yearling Sales Prep Enterprise, a new enterprise Yuhas helped develop and implement.

“We have a select group of well-bred quarter horses that our students are working with in the new enterprise,” Yuhas said. “They’re getting the horses ready to take to the National Cutting Horse Association’s Futurity Sale in Ft. Worth, Texas, in December. It’s one of the most prestigious quarter horse sales in the world, and our students are participating in every aspect of it. Proceeds from the sale go back into our equine program.”
Six students are working with the yearlings to halter break, tie and groom them. The horses are put on an exercise program, a feeding regimen, and are routinely bathed, clipped and loaded in and out of a trailer. “Our students work with the horses to make them more gentle,” Yuhas said.

Yuhas understands that teaching students to work with horses has certain challenges. “Working with living, thinking creatures adds another dimension to the equation,” she said. “We are trying to accomplish a goal, but a horse isn’t a machine; it isn’t always going to react in a predictable manner. It takes a while to learn the skills and gain the knowledge to notice and react to horses’ behavior.”

She hopes her students appreciate how valuable Cal Poly’s hands-on experiences are and that “they gain the skills, training and work ethic to be successful in whatever career path they chose.”

Yuhas earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science from Fresno State.

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EQUINE CENTER RENOVATIONS

Equine Center Manager Julie Yuhas is naturally excited about the renovations now under construction there. A new foaling barn will have six new stalls instead of two, and a camera will be in every stall, allowing students to monitor each mare. The stallion barn will still house four stallions, with a new reproductive technology lab and a large open space where students can work with multiple horses in a lab setting. The new pavilion includes a new 140-by-300-foot covered arena and additional round arenas and turnouts for horses. “We offer several riding classes each quarter in the arena where students learn to ride and train horses. The equestrian and dressage teams practice there as well,” Yuhas said. “This year students missed a lot of classes because of rain. The new covered arena will provide riders with an all-season, all-weather riding environment.” Construction has started this summer and is expected to take six months. Funding for the project came from alumni Peter (Agricultural Business, ’85) and Mary Beth (Home Economics, ’86) Oppenheimer as part of a $20 million gift to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and the Animal Science Department in 2014.
Back in Class

ALUMNA SARAH SENFF RETURNS TO THE CLASSROOM—THIS TIME TO TEACH

Horses have been a passion of Sarah Senff (Animal Science, ’11) since she can remember. One of the Animal Science Department’s newest lecturers—in equine science, of course—Senff grew up riding. She chose Cal Poly as an undergraduate because of its strong equine program. In her free time, she starts and trains horses for clients. She also volunteers at Partners in Equestrian Therapy, a therapeutic riding program, in Atascadero.

“I just can’t seem to get enough,” she said.

Good thing, because her classes are all about horses, too. She’s teaching ASCI 224: Equine Science, ASCI 265: Equine Behavior and Training, and ASCI 344: Equine and Human Communication, as well as ASCI 363: Undergraduate Seminar. She also assists with the Quarter Horse Enterprise.

Her Equine and Human Communication and Equine Behavior and Training classes place a lot of value on horsemanship. “They provide students with the training skills needed for young horses and help teach them ‘soft skills’ like problem-solving. When the students are having difficulty achieving a desired solution to a problem, they need to re-apply clear communication with the horse and other students. That skill is important beyond college.”

Senff has a specific interest in equine behavior. “I think to be successful, you have to acknowledge equine behavior and use that knowledge when training horses. It’s important to understand that horses are prey animals and we are considered natural predators. I aim to create a positive environment for horse and handler so they work together and contribute to and learn from each other.”

Before coming to Cal Poly, Senff taught agriculture courses at Liberty High School in Brentwood, California.

The only downside she has found at Cal Poly is that “quarters fly by. I wish I had more time to get to know and work with students,” Senff said, adding, “I was thrilled to have the chance to come back to serve the school that provided me with so many opportunities.”

The San Luis Obispo resident is engaged and planning a June 2018 wedding, “some-time after commencement.”
Making an Early Mark

RODRIGO MANJARIN CREATES STUDIO CLASSROOM, NEW ENTERPRISE COURSE

He arrived on campus less than two years ago, but already Rodrigo Manjarin, assistant professor of non-ruminant nutrition, has accomplished three firsts: obtained more than $250,000 in funds for graduate and undergraduate research, established the Animal Science Department’s first studio classroom and developed the new Iberian Pig Enterprise class.

Before beginning his tenure at Cal Poly, Manjarin was a postdoctoral fellow at the Baylor College of Medicine Children’s Nutrition Research Center, a Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service facility in Houston, Texas, for children with nutritional and metabolic diseases.

He came to the university in fall 2015 to teach, in part, because “doing only research, in which productivity is measured by the number of papers published or grants funded, was becoming monotonous.”

Manjarin, a doctor of veterinary medicine who also holds doctorates in reproductive physiology and non-ruminant nutrition, teaches ASCI 229: Anatomy and Physiology, ASCI 363: Undergraduate Seminar, and ASCI 420: Animal Metabolism and Nutrition. In fall 2017, he will teach the brand new ASCI 490: Iberian Pig Enterprise. The new course will be used to train undergraduate and graduate students in translational research as well as sustainable swine production on campus.

“Iberian pigs present a mutation in leptin receptors that makes them susceptible to develop Type 2 diabetes, hepatic inflammation and central obesity very early in life, representing a unique animal model to study these human diseases,” Manjarin said.

In March 2016, when he was asked to teach the laboratory section of the Anatomy and Physiology course, he took the lead in developing the curriculum for a studio class in which collaborative and interactive learning are emphasized.

“No other studio class existed in the department, and the class had never been taught this way,” he said. “I envisioned it as a fully immersive and hands-on learning approach in which the students could explore main topics in anatomy and physiology by using the latest visual 3D technologies and student engagement tools, combined with multiple animal models and dissections, virtual and clinical labs, and histology sessions.”
“The class of 48 students is not just about memorizing material in a textbook,” he continued. “It is designed to develop and use students’ critical thinking skills—in a team setting—to understand how the different organ systems work together to keep organisms alive.

“Students run the show,” he said. “Grouped in teams, they present seminars and scientific papers, seek answers to their peer’s questions, complete thorough hands-on activities, and in a nutshell, take control of their own knowledge.”

Developing the studio class was a challenge that required multiple layers of work that included finding a new, more modern facility and 3D teaching software and desktops as well as preparing budgets, transporting skeletons and developing biosecurity protocols.

Manjarin also had to create an interactive syllabus that would allow students to easily navigate the studio’s different activities, such as competitions, games, quizzes, hands-on pursuits, dissections, histology, virtual labs and student research.

“The interactive syllabus was absolutely necessary to avoid chaos in the room, as it is not uncommon to have two or three different activities on the same day—sometimes at the same time—involving different teams,” Manjarin said. The class times also were tweaked to allow two weekly three-hour sessions.

He is impressed by the “extraordinary quality of Cal Poly’s undergraduate students” and hopes his methods “inspire young scientists to have their own scientific careers.”

Manjarin, 37, grew up in Leon, a small city in the northwest of Spain. During his down time, he enjoys the local wineries and restaurants as well as all the outdoor opportunities that come with living on the Central Coast.
THE CREAM RISES TO THE TOP

CAL POLY STUDENTS ARE TOP CONTENDERS AT REGIONAL DAIRY CHALLENGES

Cal Poly dairy science students were among the top contenders at the Western Regional Dairy Challenge Competition held at the University of Idaho in Twin Falls in February. Fifteen students traveled with their coaches, animal science faculty members Rich Silacci, Julie Huzzey and David Vagnoni.

Competitors, working on teams with students from other universities, assessed all aspects of a working dairy farm, including facilities, nutrition, financials, reproduction and animal health. Students came from Utah, Idaho, Washington and Alberta, Canada to compete.

The students collaborated on a 20-minute team presentation that detailed their observations and suggestions to a panel of judges. Teams were ranked on how well their evaluations matched the judges’ evaluations of the dairy operation.

Cal Poly dairy science seniors Frankie Gambonini, Camryn Spencer and Marilyn Van Beek won first place. Six students earned second place: agricultural science senior Miranda McCurry, dairy science seniors Tracy Nelson, Emily Butner, Katie Migliazzo, Emma Sills, and Elizabeth Russell.

(Cal Poly Dairy Science Modern Dairy Farm)

CAL POLY SWEEPS WESTERN NATIONAL SPRING COLLEGIATE DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST

Cal Poly dairy science students brought home top prizes from the Western National Spring Collegiate Dairy Judging Contest, part of the 102nd Richmond Black & White Days, held in Richmond, Utah, in May.

Two Cal Poly teams competed in the contest, which included 10 teams from Ohio State, Oklahoma State, Kansas State, and Modesto Junior College.

The Cal Poly Gold Team, comprised of Hannah Neer, Alexandra Gambonini, Elise Regusci and Elisabeth Regusci, took first place overall, first in placings and first in reasons.

The Cal Poly Green Team, comprised of Nico Marsigl; dairy science sophomore Jack Vander Dussen of Hanford; dairy science junior Hank DeVries of Buhl, Idaho; and dairy science freshman Brandon Almeida of Hilmar, placed third in reasons and sixth overall.

In individual placings Elisabeth Regusci placed first in reasons and overall; Gambonini placed second overall and third in reasons; Almeida placed second in reasons and fourth overall; and Elise Regusci placed sixth overall.

Participants, working on four-person teams, judged 10 classes of Holstein cattle. Each contestant then gave an oral presentation defending their placings for five of the classes.
An Intern in Kentucky

**SOPHIA CHAVEZ SPENDS SEVEN MONTHS AT RENOWNED HAGYARD EQUINE INSTITUTE**

Fourth-year pre-vet student Sophia Chavez spent more than half a year interning and learning from the country’s best equine veterinarians at the venerable Hagyard Equine Medical Institute’s McGee Medicine Center in Lexington, Kentucky.

From January to mid-July 2016, Chavez worked as a veterinary technician assistant intern at the Hagyard institute, which has been at the forefront of equine medicine for more than 140 years. The application process for the internship is competitive, with students from throughout the U.S. and beyond applying for one of about 40 spots annually.

The interns receive valuable hands-on experience assisting world-class veterinarians in treating horses with acute and chronic diseases and injuries and in long-term recovery care.

“It’s a full-blown hospital with an intensive care unit,” Chavez said. “We treated foals that had experienced a complicated birth or a lack of oxygen, some that couldn’t breathe or stand on their own. The severity ranged from general life support to colitis to post-op care. There was also an isolation barn to keep patients with contagious infections separate from the others.”

Chavez, the only intern from Cal Poly, was pleasantly surprised by the level of responsibilities she was entrusted with. “I didn’t expect to be doing what I ended up doing,” she said. “As a student, I thought I would be gathering supplies or restraining the patients. But after a week of intensive training, I was doing everything that a veterinary technician does, including administering medication.”

Working at weeklong stints in barns within the Hagyard hospital, Chavez was assigned her own patients. “I took vitals every couple of hours, more frequently on intensive care babies that were being fed through a tube. I turned the foals that couldn’t stand on their own. I administered different medicines at different times per the doctor’s instruction. I charted everything on a computer; I had a game plan,” Chavez explained.

The hospital operates on three shifts: a day shift from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; swing shift from 3:30 to 11:30 p.m., and night shift from 11:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. “The general internship is structured so you get to experience every shift,” Chavez said. The paid internship is generally six months long, but Chavez stayed on nearly seven months to garner as much experience as she could. She believes it was time well spent.

“This was one of the best life experiences I could have gotten in college,” Chavez stressed. “I worked full time at a job; it was very ’real.’ I supported myself completely; paid my own bills. I worked over 40 hours a week, which prepared me for a full-time job.”
“I also learned to work with a large team of people,” she continued. “People from different age groups and different places and walks of life. I learned how to be an adult, and I learned that I really love the line of work I chose.” She had once questioned that choice when a veterinarian she volunteered with told her that, at just 5 feet tall, Chavez should consider a different line of work.

“Horses are very big animals. Working with them can be intimidating,” she admitted. The internship, however, helped Chavez put those doubts to rest. “It was reassuring to realize that I am going into the right field,” she said. Chavez was especially grateful for the extensive hands-on opportunities the internship provided and was surprised at how advanced the medicine is. “Kentucky is horse country,” she said, “and the finances were available to treat these patients. Being able to see such intensive procedures was pretty amazing.”

The rewards were also pretty amazing. “Working with an extremely ill patient and then watching it go home after weeks in the hospital was the greatest feeling,” she said.

Her two-quarter internship delayed her original June 2017 graduation date, but that doesn’t faze her in the least. She plans to apply to veterinary school over the summer.

Posters and Presentations

Gabriella Hernandez (Animal Science, ’17) took second place at the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Midwest Undergraduate Oral Competition in Nebraska for her presentation on a study to determine if a commercially available accelerometer could be used to detect behavior in pigs.

Molly McGuckin (Animal Science, ’16) took third place at the 2016 ASAS Undergraduate Student Poster Competition in Utah, where she presented results of her senior project research involving the use of amino acids to stimulate cell mammary growth with the long-term objective of improving efficiency of milk production. McGuckin is working on her master’s degree in the animal science program.

Victoria Smith (Animal Science ’17) was the only undergraduate selected to speak at the Pediatric American Society Meeting held in San Francisco in May. Her research focused on understanding the mechanisms underlying necrotizing enterocolitis in neonates.

(Above, L to R) Professor Lindsey Hulbert of Kansas State University, Cal Poly animal science seniors Gabriella Hernandez and Tivon Brown and Professor Rodrigo Manjarin.

Student Selected to Serve on Agriculture Future of America Advisory Team

Animal science junior Sarah Dreyer was selected to serve on the Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Student Advisory Team. Ten team members were selected through a competitive application process. They will serve as ambassadors between AFA, their college campuses and AFA’s corporate partners.
After winning the regional title at the U.S. Polo Association’s 2017 Western Intercollegiate Regionals, the Cal Poly women’s and men’s polo teams competed for the national title at the Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club in early April.

The Cal Poly women’s team, which is ranked fourth nationally, was narrowly defeated by Cornell University by a score of 8-6. The Cal Poly men’s team, ranked sixth nationally, was also defeated by Cornell, 20-6.

At the regionals, held in March, the Cal Poly women’s polo team beat Montana State with a score of 16-2 in the semifinals and beat Washington State 21-2 in the finals. The men’s team defeated Oregon State 22-2 in the semifinals, advancing to the finals against Montana State and winning by 20-2.

Also at regionals, dairy science major Jillian Tietje and animal science major Trista Noland were honored as all-star women players. Biomedical engineering major Theo Anastos and environmental management major Sage Ellington-Lawrence were honored as all-stars from the men’s team. In addition, biomedical engineering major Leah Torres received the coveted sportsmanship award.

Cal Poly’s teams, coached by staff member Megan Carter Judge (B.S., Agribusiness, ’00; M.S., Agribusiness, ’10), include seven women and five men. In addition to Anastos, Ellington-Lawrence, Noland, Tietje and Torres, team members include animal science major Miriam Flock, master’s education student Hannah Heitzig, environmental management major Bridget Hobscheid, agriculture business major Connor Kanen, computer engineering major Jeremy Kerfs, biomedical engineering major Maggie Papka, agriculture business major Stone Rush.

“We are looking forward to growing our alumni base. Having beautiful new facilities on campus to host matches will provide a tremendous boost for the visibility of the sport of polo,” said Coach Megan Judge.

Judge owns and manages the Central Coast Polo Club in San Luis Obispo. She is a U.S. Polo Association-certified arena polo umpire and instructor and has been coaching for more than 20 years.
Thanks to the efforts of assistant professor C.K. “Vincent” Yeung, the Cal Poly Dairy Products Judging Team returned to the national stage after a five-year hiatus to compete in the 95th annual Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest, held in Madison, Wisconsin, in April.

Cal Poly has a long history of participating in the national contest, but because of recent retirements and changes in personnel, the team had been dormant the last few years. Even so, students and alumni continued to express interest and support for this contest, hosted by the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association and supported by the National Dairy Shrine.

“It’s a privilege for me to be given the opportunity to revive the team,” said Yeung. “The level of excitement was unbelievable. We trained intensively during winter quarter, and the students were an absolute joy to work with.”

Team members Elizabeth Russell and George Schmidt, both dairy science seniors; Madalyn Vieira, dairy science freshman; and Cody Davis, a graduate agricultural education student, judged six categories of products, including milk, cheddar cheese, cottage cheese, strawberry yogurt, butter and ice cream based on flavor, body/texture and appearance. More than 50 contestants from 14 universities and colleges in the U.S. and France competed.

Cal Poly’s team finished 11th overall. Individually, Russell ranked seventh in the butter category and 8th in ice-cream; Vieira ranked 10th in milk.

“This was a great learning experience for our students, and the team has set a goal of finishing in the top five within the next three years,” Yeung said.

The contest benefits all students by providing them additional knowledge about the quality of dairy products and how to critically evaluate them. They are exposed to the variety of sensory attributes that characterize dairy foods and learn about the sensory properties that can be modified within dairy foods.

“We are grateful for Dr. Yeung’s efforts to energize this important area of dairy science,” said Animal Science Associate Department Head Leanne Berning. “It is critically important that students are exposed to the dairy products sector and learn how product characteristics affect consumer desire for dairy products.”

The team, coached by Professor Vincent Yeung (L), was comprised of (L to R) Elizabeth Russell, Madalyn Vieira, George Schmidt and Cody Davis.
The highest-priced boar fetched more than $1,600 at Cal Poly’s first online swine sale, held March 26.

In all, 19 project pigs weighing between 50 to 60 pounds were sold at an average price of $700 each during the online auction. Proceeds from the sale go toward funding and improving the university’s Swine Unit, according to Lee Rincker, Swine Unit manager and animal science lecturer.

The buyers represent local and national 4-H and FFA organizations from five states, including California, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Maryland.

“Online sales are not new to the show pig industry,” said Rincker. “They allow us to showcase our genetics to a broader customer base and offer buyers the convenience of not having to be here in person to place a bid.”

The sale was handled by Willoughby Livestock Sales, a leading industry auction and show sale company.

With 40 commercial and show quality breeding sows at the Swine Unit, Rincker plans to hold a swine sale every spring and is considering adding an additional auction in the fall.

The sale is another positive Learn by Doing activity for students, who “were involved in the event from the beginning,” Rincker said. “Students handled the daily care and management of the pigs. They took the pictures, made the videotapes, prepared information for the auction platform, and marketed the sale through social media.”

The sale was deemed a success. “We were very pleased with how our pigs were received,” Rincker said.

For details about the online sale and the specific animals sold, go to: https://www.wlivestock.com/Willoughby/Sale/calpoly032617. Readers can like the Cal Poly Swine Unit on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/Cal-Poly-Swine-Unit-529963727176157/.
In 2015, during her first year of veterinary school at UC Davis, Kel-ly Morello (Animal Science, ‘15) embarked on a 10-day service-oriented trip to Nicaragua with a group of like-minded veterinarians and veterinary students to provide medicine and epidemiology-based research to underserved communities. The group, traveling under the auspices of the nonprofit International Veterinary Outreach (IVO), put on seven mobile wellness and spay/neuter clinics in six communities in and around Jiquilillo.

“The trip was a huge eye-opener to the type of veterinarian … and even person … that I want to be,” Morello said. “The team that brought me to Nicaragua, and all of the community members we worked with on my first trip, were so inspiring that I have since thrown myself into this mission of providing veterinary care to underserved communities.”

As it turned out, IVO’s clinics served as the catalyst for three UC Davis veterinary students—Natalie Crowe, Abigail Fosdick and Melissa Rothstein—to form Global Veterinary Alliance (GVA), a nonprof-it agency with a mission that expanded upon IVO’s original field clinic goals. “GVA is dedicated to providing—in a sustainable and collaborative way—veterinary medicine, education and research to

Above: Four veterinarians, one technician, 13 students, one driver and a community liaison traveled to Nicaragua in December 2016 to provide veterinary support to the community.
communities in need around the world,” Morello said. “One way we attempt to reach our goal is by running field clinics. During our fieldwork, we hold vaccination and wellness clinics to address animal health concerns, perform research to better understand the diseases that affect the area, educate community members on animal health, and help control animal overpopulation. We evaluate and treat small animals, such as dogs and cats, as well as larger animals like pigs, cattle and horses.”

Morello and Fosdick created GVA’s first student chapter at Davis, California, recruiting more than 100 members within a few months. The two led a group of four veterinarians, one technician and 13 students to Nicaragua in December 2016.

“We set up seven mobile clinics over 10 days,” Morello said. “Every day we traveled with supplies in a repurposed school bus and set up a fully functioning veterinary clinic with wellness and surgical capabilities. The trip was a huge success; we saw 400 wellness patients and performed roughly 60 spay/neuter surgeries.”

Morello, who is the acting president of GVA, is also serving as the clinic leader for two upcoming trips in 2017 that will serve the same six Nicaraguan communities that IVO and GVA have served in the past: Jiquilillo, Cosiguína, Padre Ramos, Potosí, El Tintal and Quilaca.

“It takes about six months for our team to raise the funds to purchase medical supplies for our trip, calculate the inventory needed to serve the communities, train the members who will be part of the field clinic team, and take all of the appropriate safety measures to maximize the potential for an effective trip,” Morello said.

Using a six-part training series created by Morello and Fosdick, the volunteer students are educated in clinic flow and fractious animal handling; suturing, gowning and gloving; anesthesia preparation, induction, monitoring and recovery; ethics and cultural sensitivity; client communication skills in Spanish; and emotional and physical wellbeing.

GVA has partnered with a Nicaraguan veterinarian who serves as an advisor for community relations. “With his
help, we hope to improve our clinic and bring on more Nicaraguan veterinarians and veterinary students so that we might one day be able turn the mobile clinic over to community leaders,” Morello explained.

Morello, who was named Cal Poly’s 2015 Animal Science Outstanding Senior Award winner, is on track to graduate from UC Davis with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 2019. She then plans to pursue small animal emergency and critical care medicine in the U.S. and continue nonprofit international medicine through GVA and other nonprofit organizations.

When recalling her Cal Poly education, Morello said, “The most valuable gift my professors gave me was the opportunity to use everything I learned, be it in a barn monitoring pregnant mares, behind a microscope identifying cells, or in a pasture herding sheep. I was always learning by doing. My fellow Cal Poly alums and I at Davis are more than comfortable jumping into every opportunity to put our veterinary curriculum to use. For some, that opportunity was across country borders to put on a veterinary field clinic.”
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ACHIEVE THE NEW
CAL POLY ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER

Cal Poly is the premier pre-veterinary medicine program in the state, yet our current Vet Clinic does not support the level of hands-on learning and research our students deserve. Help us achieve our vision of a new Animal Health Center where students can learn about animal health and welfare by working directly with Cal Poly’s animals in a state-of-the-art, 14,000-square-foot clinic.

For more information, contact Russ Kabaker, assistant dean for advancement and external relations.

rkabaker@calpoly.edu
805-756-6235
PERFORMANCE HORSE SALE RAISES MORE THAN $131,000 TO BENEFIT CAL POLY EQUINE CENTER

Cal Poly’s annual Performance Horse Sale on June 3 brought in $131,350, all of which will benefit the university’s Equine Center.

At this year’s sale, 25 horses were auctioned, including 15 3-year-olds, seven 2-year-olds and three broodmares with foals.

The auction is the largest fundraiser for the Equine Center, a nearly 700-acre multi-use educational facility. The pinnacle of the Equine Center is its breeding program, an ideal Learn by Doing experience that allows students to participate in the breeding, foaling, training and riding of Cal Poly quarter horses and thoroughbreds.

Most of the auctioned horses were bred, foaled and trained by Cal Poly students over three years as part of the Quarter Horse Enterprise project. All the horses were trained to work cattle, ride on trails and perform arena work such as stops and turn-arounds. Students spend hundreds of hours with their assigned mounts, making sure they are gentle and well adapted to anything a trail or arena can show them.

The Quarter Horse Enterprise Project and sale is managed entirely by students. Each year 15 to 20 students are selected to start and train Cal Poly bred quarter horses and some donated horses. The horses are trained for both performance and ranch work.

More than 100 people turned out for the sale and for the event’s first-ever meet-and-greet session, held the Friday evening before and the main event. The 2017 Performance Horse Sale kicked off with a silent auction and included lunch followed by a preview of the horses and a live auction.

On sale day, students demonstrated the horses’ athletic ability under saddle during arena and cow work. Potential buyers visited with the student trainers at a meet-and-greet to learn more about the horses’ characteristics. Students also gave demonstrations of Western dressage, and Zoetis, a global animal health company, gave a presentation on horse health.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the job they did, not only in the training they put on the colts but also because of the professionalism of the sale they produced,” said Animal Science Department Lecturer Lou Moore-Jacobsen. “Because of all their hard work, it was a huge success!”

For more information on the annual event, contact Moore-Jacobsen at 805-441-8648 or hmooreja@calpoly.edu.
A Passion for Pets

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT THAT TREATS PETS OF HOMELESS BECOMES PART OF VET ENTERPRISE

One day a month, San Luis Obispo’s homeless population can get more than a meal, a shower and access to laundry facilities at Prado Day Center. During Doggy Days at Prado Day, they can also have their beloved pets examined, vaccinated and treated by two Cal Poly veterinarians—both members of the Animal Science Department faculty—and a group of pre-vet students.

The unique vet clinic, founded in 2014, was the brainchild of then-students Sasha Greenlee (Animal Science, ’17) and Megan Parry (Animal Science, ’15). When they started their community service project, they had no idea it would become a permanent part of the Animal Science Department’s Veterinary Enterprise class, taught by Drs. Kim Sprayberry and Jennifer Staniec.

After Parry graduated, Greenlee and Ben Jankovitz (Animal Science, ’17) continued the program until they graduated in June this year. Then they handed the reins to Sprayberry and Staniec.

“Ben and I wanted the program to be sustainable,” Greenlee said. “Megan and I created it to help a population that really needs it. It’s exciting and humbling that Cal Poly wants to continue this project.

“When we presented the idea to Department Head Jaymie Noland, she was fully on board,” Greenlee continued. “It’s incredible to know that I started something that made a permanent difference.”

The Veterinary Enterprise enrolls about 15 students every quarter. The student managers of Cal Poly’s Vet Clinic—a separate operation from the vet clinic held at Prado Day Center—oversee the general operation of the Prado clinic, while Sprayberry and Staniec offer their professional expertise in giving vaccines and performing health exams.

“By incorporating Doggy Days into the enterprise, not only are the students able to have hands-on experience providing basic animal care, they are also able to learn fundamental skills utilized in managing a veterinary practice, such as processing inventory, scheduling and coordinating services, creating and following a budget and developing client communication proficiency,” Staniec said. “We are dedicated to continuing the original mission that Megan, Sasha and Ben created and to providing Cal Poly students the opportunity to contribute to their local community.”
Sprayberry and Staniec supervise the students while the students examine the animals, draw blood, give some vaccines and perform various other clinical duties.

The students’ volunteer efforts are rewarded twofold. They gain invaluable firsthand clinic experience and learn important life lessons that cannot be taught in the classroom.

“The enterprise gives pre-vet students great practice giving vaccines,” Greenlee said. “They also learn how to deal with people and, in this instance, how to be compassionate toward people who are dealing with hardship.”

Sprayberry agreed. “The students experience the gift of being able to communicate with the warmth of a smile, eye contact, a handshake or hug, and giving care to an animal whose love for the client is about all that person has in the world,” Sprayberry said. “This is a large part of what veterinary medicine is all about—caring for others by caring for their pets.”

And the Learn by Doing lessons the students acquire along the way are tremendous. “The students take what they’ve learned in anatomy, physiology, nutrition, companion animal care and dentistry into the immediacy of an open-air exam room,” Sprayberry said.

Certain procedures, such as administering the rabies vaccination, must be done by a licensed veterinarian. Sprayberry and Staniec assist with those treatments.

The students see mostly dogs at the clinic, though they have also treated cats. Greenlee recalls one woman who owned two Pomeranians, both dogs now deceased. The woman “was so immensely grateful” that she would bring treats to Greenlee and Jankovitz at every clinic.

“She probably couldn’t afford to do that,” Greenlee said. “She always let us know how much she appreciated our services. One of her dogs had congestive heart failure, and we treated that dog for a really long time. The owner never would have been able to afford the services of a regular veterinarian.

“And even though both her dogs are now gone, she comes to every one of our clinics and still brings us goodies,” Greenlee continued. “She comes and talks about her dogs. It’s heartwarming to know what a difference we made and how happy she was.”

“This is a large part of what veterinary medicine is all about—caring for others by caring for their pets.”
About 150 guests celebrated at the Spring Dairy Banquet, held June 3 at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo. Parents, students and donors attended the event, at which $35,000 in scholarships was awarded. Faculty presented updates on the judging team, Quiz Bowl and Dairy Challenge activities throughout the year. The highlight of the evening came when the Outstanding Seniors were announced. Graduating senior Marlena Wagner earned the Academic Achievement Award with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Francesca “Frankie” Gambonini, Katie Migliazzo and Marilyn Van Beek were named Outstanding Seniors in recognition of their academic performance, leadership skills and overall involvement in the dairy science program, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, and the university at large.

Above: Outstanding 2017 Dairy Science seniors (L to R) Katie Migliazzo, Frankie Gambonini, Marlena Wagner and Marilyn Van Beek; guests mingle at the annual banquet.
DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES END OF ACADEMIC YEAR AT ANNUAL BANQUET

The Animal Science Annual Banquet, held June 11 at Thousand Hills Ranch in Pismo Beach, attracted about 200 students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni and VIPs. During the evening, nearly $15,000 in scholarships was awarded to 14 students for the coming 2017-18 academic year. Nine students were celebrated as Outstanding Seniors: Paige McGlothren (GPA), Anna Bechtold, Danielle Clenet, Camille DesRochers, Olivia Duner, Allison Hall, Ashley Higginbotham, Ysabella Ruiz and Marie Wiemann. In addition, three seniors received the Tim O’Neil Award: Justin Adam, Haley Korenak and Elizabeth Vanherweg. The banquet is organized by members of the Student Advisory Council.

1. Department Head Jaymie Noland congratulates Ysabella Ruiz on her award.
2. Outstanding seniors pose with department faculty.
3. Celebration was the main course at the Animal Science banquet.
4. Co-emcees Elizabeth Vanherweg and Marie Wiemann entertained the crowd.
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ANIMAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT PARTNERS WITH WOODS HUMANE SOCIETY TO OFFER ENTERPRISE IN ANIMAL CARE

Ten animal science students interested in animal welfare and veterinary medicine were the first participants in an inaugural enterprise course offered spring quarter in partnership with Woods Humane Society, a nonprofit animal shelter in San Luis Obispo.

The course, Animal Shelter Enterprise, was developed by lecturer Heather Harris, who is also a shelter veterinarian at Woods. The class material covers the shelter’s departments of animal intake, medical assessment, surgery, behavior, animal care, adoption and community and educational outreach.

Students learn about the spay/neuter program, how the animals flow through the shelter and how to maintain a healthy shelter population. Students are also required to volunteer at the shelter for up to four hours a week. As volunteers, they assist with daily shelter tasks, such as feeding and socializing animals; cleaning, grooming and walking dogs; and doing laundry.

“Students are getting direct Learn by Doing experiences working in a shelter and are being introduced to possible career opportunities,” Harris said. “The class connects students with a comprehensive skillset that prepares them to enter any aspect of the animal arena.”

Ten Cal Poly students took a class in animal care through a partnership between Cal Poly’s Animal Science Department and Woods Humane Society.
During the weekend of Feb. 10–12, the Cal Poly Meat Science program hosted the California Association of Meat Processors (CAMP) convention. The annual convention provides participants—meat processors and universities with meat science programs—an opportunity to meet and engage in workshops, share ideas, see what’s new at an industry tradeshow and enter a cured meat and sausage competition. This year, Chico State, UC Davis, and Cal Poly students attended. Several students from each university submitted their own unique recipes for Italian sausage to be judged during the competition. Cal Poly animal science sophomore Connor Smith earned the Champion Award in the sausage category. Cal Poly animal science graduate student Morgan Metheny won the Reserve Grand Champion Award in the bacon division for her apple cinnamon bacon. Cal Poly Associate Professor Ike Kang, who has expertise in processed meat products, served as a competition judge. The weekend was a great opportunity for learning, networking and some friendly competition. The Cal Poly Meat Science program looks forward to attending next year’s convention at UC Davis.
Animal Science faculty and staff celebrate with some of the department’s 142 graduates during the 2017 June commencement.