

## **Department of Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education 2019-2020 Annual Report**

### **Introduction / Activities**

The students, staff and faculty in the Department of Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education had many significant accomplishments during the academic year of 2019-2020. We have approximately 800 majors in the department. We are serving these students with the same number of tenured and tenure-track faculty as compared to when we had 250 majors.

In our opinion, we have one of the most active departments on campus in terms of student clubs, competitive teams and other “out of classroom” activities. Most of these activities require a considerable time commitment from our faculty and staff and many times these commitments are during evenings and/or weekends. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated group of faculty and staff, including Ms. Debbie Russell, an extremely hard working and very dedicated administrative assistant.

Our faculty and staff serve as advisors and support personnel to seventeen different student clubs or organizations within our department: Jordan College Ag. Ambassadors, Dairy Club, Poultry Science Society, Meat Science Club, Young Cattlemen’s Association, Pre-Vet Club, Red Wave Classic Show and Sale, Bulldogger’s Rodeo Club, Block and Bridle, Equine Science Club, Meyers Livestock Judging Team, Meats Judging Team, Dairy and Swine Show Teams, Farm Bureau Discussion Meet, Ag. Education Club and FFA Field Day Committee.

The accomplishments of the department were highlighted by one of our undergraduate students, Mr. Cameron Standridge, receiving the Deans Medal for the Jordan College. This is the second year in a row that one of our students has won this award. Cameron is also a graduate of the Jordan College Honors Program and he will join us this fall for his master’s degree program on a Harvey/Jordan Assistantship.

We are proud that two of our faculty members, Dr. Amanda McKeith and Dr. Avery Culbertson continue to do an outstanding job of teaching the courses associated with the Honors Program. In addition, our department continues to have a high number of students accepted into the Honors Program and a high number of faculty members that are serving as mentors to these outstanding young professionals.

Dr. Steve Rocca coaches the students that are involved with the Farm Bureau’s Collegiate Discussion Meet Contest. For the 7<sup>th</sup> time, we had the state individual champion and the state champion team. Mr. Austin LaSalle was the state winner and Dr. Rocca had 3 of the 4 top finalists. In addition, last year’s winner Mr. Sam Looper was a national semi-finalist.

Mr. Brad Mendes, under the guidance of Mr. John Cordeiro, has done an outstanding job in coaching our Livestock Judging Team. This past year, because of COVID-19 their year was cut short this spring.

Mr. Uhuru Adem completed his second year as our Rodeo Team Coach. Like the Livestock Judging Team, the rodeo team's year was cut short because of COVID-19. This past fall, the Livestock Judging and Rodeo Teams both hosted highly successful Tailgate activities for the Jordan College.

The team hosted their Annual Fresno State Bulldogger's Collegiate Rodeo, a highly successful event. The Rodeo Club also hosted a very successful dinner and dance that served as an excellent fund-raiser for the group. We have continued our involvement with the Rodeo Advisory Committee. The members of this committee continue to provide very valuable input and advice to our department and the Jordan College.

This year we had a number of pre-vet students gain admission into veterinary school programs, another very significant accomplishment. Dr. Gayle O'Bannon deserves much of the credit for this accomplishment. She and Dr. Fabio Iared do an outstanding job advising our "Pre Vet" students, the largest emphasis area within our department.

We continue to host our Animal Sciences Advisory Committee for either one or two meetings per year. This group of industry leaders has provided some very valuable input to our department and we look forward to their input in the future. The Ag. Education Advisory Committee continues to provide valuable advice to our Ag. Education faculty as well.

The younger faculty members in our department continue to do an outstanding job. They have brought energy and many positive things to our faculty including increasing the focus on research in our department and increasing our presence on social media. We also continue to use the services of Mr. Geoff Thurner a great deal in this area. He has been a good addition to the Jordan College in our opinion. The addition of the Jordan College Advising Center and a College Internship Coordinator have also been great additions to the Jordan College, in our opinion.

Dr. Amanda McKeith, our graduate program coordinator, has energized our graduate program. Because of her leadership, we believe the quality of the program has increased greatly. She along with Dr. Steve Rocca were successful in redesigning our graduate program. This new program allows us to offer a graduate degree in Agricultural Education, a goal of ours for many years. Recently we reached a milestone of having 10 graduate students projected to be in our program during this coming fall semester.

Dr. Rocca continues to do an outstanding job in coordinating the Jordan College Ag. Ambassadors. Approximately 80 students are involved with this activity. This year he was assisted by Dr. Sharon Freeman. The students come from most of the different academic departments within the college. This year because of COVID-19, their recruitment activities were reduced, and they ended the year with approximately 30 different outreach

events, which include visits to community colleges and high schools throughout the state. In addition, they host numerous groups that visit Fresno State for farm and campus tours during the year.

Our Agricultural Education Program was successful in credentialing twenty-nine new teachers, the highest number ever. That record will not stand for long however, in the coming year we expect to credential approximately 40 new teachers.

The Red Wave Classic Junior Livestock Show was again very successful and well attended. It is one of the largest junior livestock shows in California. This past year, the number of livestock entries exceeded 1000 for the fourth consecutive year. This activity serves as a tremendous recruiting activity for our department and the college in general.

Many of our faculty attend and take groups of students to both state and national conventions including the World Pork Expo in Des Moines, IA, California Cattlemen's Convention, the California Association of Meat Processors, the American Meat Science Association Meeting, the Reciprocal Meats Conference, the National Poultry Federation Meeting, and the Institute for Food Technologists Meeting. Many of these conferences this year, depending on when they occurred were virtual events.

This year the number of elementary school students that we hosted for a tour of the farm laboratory was significantly reduced because of COVID-19. This activity is coordinated by our students under the guidance of Ms. Debbie Russell, our departmental administrative assistant. A number of our agricultural communication students serve as tour guides for these groups, thus getting a chance to practice and improve their communication skills. This activity benefits the livestock industry because we are able to educate these students about "real life" production practices at an age when they are easily influenced and impacted.

Our faculty are very engaged in local, state and national industry groups and advising boards. In addition, many of our faculty judge livestock shows on a local, state, regional and national level. This involvement not only adds visibility and credibility to our program but also is effective in recruiting many outstanding students to not only our department but other departments within the Jordan College as well.

Our year was topped off by some of our faculty members receiving some very prestigious awards. Dr. Katy Tarrant received one of a very limited number of Outstanding Advisor Awards from the University and she was also granted early tenure and promotion. In addition, Dr. Steve Rocca was named the Outstanding Teacher for the California Ag. Teachers' Association San Joaquin Region. In summary, we feel the department had a very successful year that was highlighted by our faculty, staff and students achieving many great things.

## **Section 1. Professional Accomplishments**

### **a. Progress on 2019-2020 Goals**

#### **Agricultural Education**

1. Complete long-term planning for Agricultural Educational Vision for the Future – **Continual Progress**
2. Continue to strengthen the Agricultural Communications option – **Continual Progress (Dr. Culbertson taught AGED 166 in Spring 2020)**
3. Submit a proposal for an Agriculture Leadership Certificate - **Proposals submitted, approved and permanent courses were taught beginning in Spring 2019. Seventeen students earned Ag Leadership certificates, 7 of which were in 2019-20**
4. Increase the number of agriculture teacher credential candidates – **Significant Progress**
5. Recruit and select graduate students – **Significant Progress (Tim Truax recruited/ admitted for 2019-20, also received Harvey/Jordan Assistantship; for 2020-21 recruited/admitted two new students: Cameron Standridge, on Harvey/Jordan Assistantship and Rachel Coelho, Ag. Communications)**
6. Revise the Student Outcomes Assessment Plan - **Partially Completed**
7. Add new faculty member to replace Dr. Parham - **Completed (Dr. Sharon Freeman hired)**

#### **Animal Sciences**

1. Continue to assist new faculty in their acclimation process – **Partially Completed**
2. Continue to develop new courses that are a priority of our advisory committee - **Completed**
3. Continue to upgrade the Farm Laboratory units – **Limited Progress**
4. Continue outcomes assessment activities - **Continual Progress**
5. Continue to engage in fund raising activities – **Continual but limited Progress**
6. Continue efforts to eliminate “bottleneck” courses in our curriculum – **Good Progress**
7. Successfully locate and hire a new professor in the area of Equine Science –

## **Not successful – search failed**

### **a. 2020-2021 Goals**

#### **Agricultural Education**

1. Complete long-term planning for Agricultural Educational Vision for the Future
2. Continue to strengthen the Agricultural Communications option
3. Continue to strengthen the Agriculture Leadership Program
4. Maintain the number of agriculture teacher credential candidates
5. Recruit and select Agricultural Education graduate students
6. Revise and submit the Student Outcomes Assessment Plan

#### **Animal Sciences**

1. Investigate the opportunities to share some graduate courses with other institutions within the CSU System
2. Stabilize undergraduate enrollment
3. Maintain graduate program enrollment at 10 students allowing us to graduate 5 students per year
4. Continue to upgrade Farm Laboratory units
5. Continue outcomes assessment activities
6. Continue to engage in fundraising activities
7. Continue efforts to eliminate “bottleneck” courses in our curriculum

### **b. Challenges and Opportunities**

The major challenge that we faced this academic year was dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. All three of our most significant challenges were related to this crisis.

1) Moving all of our instruction to a virtual format. This easily would have been our greatest challenge this past year. I believe that most of our faculty did an outstanding job of making this transition and making it pretty much “on the fly.” Because many of our courses include “hands-on” laboratories, these courses were impacted more severely than the lecture only courses, but again I believe that our faculty were creative in how they dealt with this difficult situation.

2) Supervision and mentoring student teachers was a challenge as they were taken out of the classroom and our faculty could not meet with the student teachers in a typical “face to face” format. One of the major strengths of our Ag. Education program versus some of the other programs in the state is that we still require two semesters of student teaching. The first semester is part-time and the second semester is full-time student teaching. So again this was a major challenge and as it appears right now, this challenge will occur again this coming fall semester.

3) The cancellation of so many events such as FFA Field Day, Meat and Dairy Industry Appreciation Dinners, Collegiate Rodeos, Livestock and Dairy Challenge Contests, and many professional and industry conference and annual events. One of the major strengths of our program is the numerous clubs and organizations in our department. Students have the opportunity to gain a significant amount of professional development through involvement in these organizations and the activities that are associated with these organizations. Those learning opportunities all came to an abrupt halt when the campus closed down.

In terms of opportunities, the three most significant opportunities are highlighted below:

1) It appears that our graduate program will reach the milestone of having 10 students in the program this coming fall. This will allow us to graduate approximately five students per year, a University requirement. Our hope is that we may be able to join forces with other programs such as Food Science and Nutrition and create a broad MS degree that will allow us to reach that requirement more easily.

2) One of the positive things that will come out of the COVID-19 situation in my opinion is that our faculty are becoming much more proficient in the use of various technologies that they will be able to continue to use in the future to enhance their courses. In addition, some of the educational resources that they either developed or found during this past spring will be used in the future to enhance their courses as well.

3) The impact of our Ag. Education Program getting to almost 30 student teachers is significant for not only our program but the entire Jordan College. In our opinion, whatever University is turning out the best student teachers today will have priority access to the best incoming students in 5 to 10 years down the road. Most high school Ag. Teachers will typically try to direct their best students to the school that they attended. This was one of Cal Poly's major strengths for many years. It is now ours not theirs.

## **Section 2. Unit Accomplishments**

### **a. Student Success: Graduation Rates and Retention Rates**

In our department, we take great pride in trying to be very engaged with our students and we take a very active role in advising. Most of our faculty members provide "one on one" advising. In addition, over the past few years, we have added some group advising sessions in the evening or over the lunch hour that have been very effective. We are very appreciative for the assistance from the Jordan College advisors and we feel they have been great additions to the college. Mr. Terence Wan does an outstanding job servicing our students and helping our faculty members with advising assistance.

Our department either meets or exceeds the University averages for both graduation and retention rates for both our Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education programs.

Our department was very engaged with Ms. Mary Willis. We have continued that level of engagement with Mrs. Imelda Dudley, the Jordan College Internship Coordinator. Mary organized a Career and Internship Fair that was part of our Welcome Back BBQ. Imelda has continued this activity. The Career Fair has been a great and very valuable addition to our welcome back activity.

We maintain very close contact with our students. We are working very hard and are making good progress on reducing “bottleneck” courses in our curriculum. However, this is not an easy task when we continue to receive large numbers of new students each fall. We have a Pre-Vet Orientation class. Two years ago, we added an A Sci Orientation course. Both courses help us greatly to get our students oriented and “on track” to achieve academic success during their collegiate careers.

#### **b. Operational performance**

Dr. Sharon Freeman joined our faculty in August and she has been an excellent addition in our opinion. We have strengthened our equine program by getting two lecturers, Dr. Fabio Iared and Mr. Jason Contreras more involved in operations at the Quarter Horse Unit. We have continued to increase the involvement of graduate students in the teaching of undergraduate courses and laboratories, various activities, and operations on the farm laboratory. The quality of our graduate program is now a bright spot in the department in the opinion of the department chair. The quality of the research that is being conducted and the training that these students are receiving is very comparable to many high quality land grant institutions throughout the country in our opinion.

We are always supportive of faculty and staff development. The University has numerous development activities that are available for both new and more experienced faculty members. A number of our senior faculty members are always encouraging and trying to mentor our younger faculty members. In our opinion, Jordan College 101 was a great idea of our college administration and will pay multiple dividends for younger faculty as they progress through the RTP process.

Listed below are the mentors of our junior faculty members: Dr. Rosco Vaughn for Dr. Avery Culbertson and Dr. Sharon Freeman and Dr. Art Parham for Dr. Kyle Thompson. These mentors all serve very important roles in helping these young professionals become highly successful and productive faculty members.

#### **c. Broadening and deepening relationships with external audiences**

We have been fortunate the last few years to receive some very large gifts that will benefit our students and our programs for many years. We are very appreciative of Mrs. Alcidia Freitas Gomes and all of her staff at Ag One for all of their efforts in this area. They are highly qualified and skilled professionals. In our opinion, we are very fortunate to have them as members of the Jordan College.

This year, because of COVID-19 we were not able to host the Dairy Science and Meat Science industry appreciation banquets or events. Both of these events have been excellent fund raising activities in the past. In addition, because of COVID-19 we were not as aggressive in pursuing other opportunities with industry stakeholders.