Alumni UPDATE

Animal Science Alumni Association
Oklahoma State University
Spring 2018 Volume 45

15th Anniversary Gala Reunion

ASAA Celebrates 15 Years of Gala Tradition

2017 National Champion Livestock Judging Team

Faces to Watch
2017-2018 ASAA Scholarship Recipients

2018 Hall of Fame Chairback Honorees
Dr. Bob Wettemann
Dr. Gerald Horn
Greetings and thank you to the alumni of the OSU Department of Animal Science. I am honored to be your department head. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first five and a half years getting acquainted with animal science alumni across the state of Oklahoma and the country.

I am very excited about the upcoming Gala Reunion and the opportunity to honor National Champion Livestock Judging and Meat Evaluation Teams who represented OSU through the years. We hope each of you who judged on these national champion teams will return to Stillwater for the 2018 Gala Reunion April 6. As you know, our department is well-known for fielding successful judging teams. The 2017 National Livestock Judging Contest win makes 18 National Champion Livestock Judging Teams at OSU, only two wins behind Iowa State University.

We are also blessed with outstanding faculty and staff. Dr. Darren Hagen joined our faculty in late July as a Genomics Specialist. He will teach animal genetics this spring and graduate-level genomics this summer. He is establishing a vibrant research program focused on animal genomics. We have also been fortunate to hire Dr. Janeen Salak-Johnson as our Animal Behavior and Well-Being Specialist. Previously an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois, Dr. Salak-Johnson joined our faculty in late December and will work to establish her research lab in the spring.

During the past year, the department has experienced numerous success stories, including construction of the Ferguson Family Dairy Center free-stall barn and Helms Hall, student housing. Please join us on April 5, 2018 as we kickoff Animal Science Weekend with the grand opening of the new facilities! I look forward to meeting many of you in 2018 at the Oklahoma Youth Expo in OKC March 6-16 and during the Animal Science Weekend in Stillwater April 6-8.

The next time you are in Stillwater, please stop by and say hi!
About the ASAA

The Oklahoma State University Animal Science Alumni Association is a non-profit organization focused on promoting the profession of animal science. This is accomplished by providing scholarship and judging team support, encouraging student enrollment in animal science, improving awareness of educational opportunities and organizing events and activities for alumni.

The Alumni Update is published once a year and mailed to all animal science alumni. Beginning in 2020, the Alumni Update will be mailed to current ASAA members only. The Alumni Update may also be accessed online at osuanscialumni.com.

If you received more than one copy, please share with a friend. Additional copies may be requested on a first come, first served basis. To request copies or update a mailing or email address, contact: osuanscialumni@gmail.com or 405-747-1977. If you would prefer to receive an electronic version only, let us know!

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For regular updates about the ASAA and the OSU Department of Animal Science, like us on Facebook!

@OSUANSIALumni
@OKStateANSI

FACES TO WATCH

2017-2018 ASAA Scholarship Recipients

ON THE COVER

Our Tradition of Excellence began in 2003 and has developed a rich history of excellence the past 15 years. See story on page 12. Cover by Julianna Albrecht.
**WYATT CATRON**

**HOMETOWN:** Stilwell, Oklahoma  
**CLASSIFICATION:** Junior  
**MAJOR:** Animal Science  
**OPTION:** Pre-vet

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO COME TO OSU?**
I fell in love with OSU after I toured campus and met with Mrs. Jansen and Dr. Stein. Once I learned about all the options and opportunities available, I immediately knew this is where I needed to be. The department of animal science has always felt like home since my first year on campus. Everyone is always so welcoming and friendly. Wanting to be a part of the Cowboy family was one of the main reasons I chose Oklahoma State and the department of animal science.

**WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS?**
My future aspirations include attending vet school here at OSU and working with large animals and producers to maintain a safe and wholesome food supply.

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**BRITTANY LIPPY**

**HOMETOWN:** Manchester, Maryland  
**CLASSIFICATION:** Junior  
**MAJOR:** Animal Science  
**OPTION:** Biotechnology

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO COME TO OSU?**
I came to OSU looking for a place to call home for four years. I fell in love with the campus, the people, and the atmosphere of our university. I was looking for competitive and respected judging teams, helpful and knowledgeable professors, and student organizations which also aligned with my passions. I found all of these things in our department of animal science and am constantly amazed by the new opportunities I find everyday.

**WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS?**
I hope to pursue a master’s and doctoral degree in animal reproduction. I then want to work in the industry for a few years to receive the experience needed to provide a beneficial education to future generations, with the ultimate goal to become a professor.
JERA PIPKIN

HOMETOWN: Republic, Missouri
CLASSIFICATION: Junior
MAJOR: Animal Science & Agricultural Communications (double major)

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO COME TO OSU?
I was inspired to come to OSU by the legacy of the Cowboy family. I knew if I attended OSU, I would be welcomed with open arms and encouraged to reach my highest potential. Thanks to the support from the faculty and my peers here, I know I have become the best version of myself. The Cowboy family is the greatest asset OSU has to offer.

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS?
My career aspirations are to pursue a master's degree in agricultural business, and then begin a career in agricultural marketing. Beyond this, I hope to return home to help manage my family's fifth-generation Angus operation as well as own my own agricultural marketing firm.

GRANT WILBER

HOMETOWN: Cherokee, Oklahoma
CLASSIFICATION: Sophomore
MAJOR: Animal Science
OPTION: Pre-vet

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO COME TO OSU?
I originally made plans to judge livestock for two years at a junior college; however, Dr. Stein convinced me to come tour the OSU Department of Animal Science instead. The day I toured, I was sold. I knew in my heart the department of animal science would not only push me to become a better student, but it would also make me a better person because of the people I would be surrounded by.

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS?
My career goals are to attend vet school here at OSU, then return home and begin a large animal practice. I hope to have the opportunity to better the science behind animals by ensuring the best health possible for livestock.

ADDITIONAL 2017 - 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Julianna Albrecht | Howard, SD
Hallie Barnes | Porter, OK
Sage Becker | Wellman, IA
Adriana Brongo | Rcho Sta Marg, CA
Lauren Janak | Cedar Park, TX
Justin Jensen | El Reno, OK
Jessica Judge | San Luis Obispo, CA
Kallie Lampe | Cheney, KS
Lakan Light | Garber, OK
Courtney Mapes | Alva, OK
Erin Massey | Colleyville, TX
Clayton McGuire | Waverly, AL
Rylie Merritt | Rockwall, TX
Taylor Neilson | Meeker, CO
Clark Reuter | El Reno, OK
Charles Sasscer | Park Hall, MD
Rachel Scott | Georgetown, TX
Clara Smith | Prosper, TX
Lonny Trehal | Kiowa, CO
T he Oklahoma State University Animal Science Alumni Association held the first Cowboy Tailgate for animal science alumni and friends Nov. 18, at the Oklahoma State University vs. Kansas State University football game. The tailgate was located at the corner of Athletic Avenue and North Knoblock Street, courtesy of Tom and Tricia White.

There were drinks, food and rivalry football games streamed at the tailgate location. Randy Renbarger, ASAA vice president, smoked two hogs for guests to enjoy.

“We wanted to provide another event for the alumni members and friends, in addition to the gala,” said Megan Bryant, ASAA executive secretary. “The tailgate gave alumni members the opportunity to network and cheer on the cowboys.”

Even though the cowboys fell to the wildcats, the Cowboy Tailgate was still viewed as a win. Tune in next fall for more information on the 2018 Cowboy Tailgate.

By Kiera Leddy

Alumni and friends gather to socialize and watch rivalry football games.

Old Timers Judging Contest

April 7, 2018  Totusek Arena

9:00 a.m.  Old Timers Judging Contest Registration
10:00 a.m.  Old Timers Judging Contest
6 Classes- Beef (2), Swine, Sheep, Horse, Goat
11:30 a.m.  Old Timers Contest Results
Four members per team and two divisions based on graduation year

Division 1: 1990 and after
Division 2: 1989 and earlier

The high team will receive OSU ASAA quarterzips

Old Timers Judging Contest

ASAA board members Scott Bulling, John Jeffrey, Clay Burtrum and Randy Renbarger enjoying the tailgate.

Animal science alumni Lacey Vedral, Colton Castle, Mary Hunt and Megan Bryant are ready to cheer on the cowboys.

Officials provided by the 2017 National Champion Livestock Judging Team and 2017 Reserve World Champion Horse Judging Team
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE JUDGING TEAMS

2017 NATIONAL CHAMPION LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

1ST
NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION
ARIZONA NATIONAL
FORT WORTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO
DIXIE NATIONAL
HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO
AKSARBEN
TULSA STATE FAIR

ALL-AMERICANS:
JESSICA JUDGE, FAITH ONSTOT AND HOPE ONSTOT
HIGH-SCORING TEAM IN ORAL REASONS,
CATTLE, SWINE AND SHEEP AT NAILE.
OSU’S 18TH LIVESTOCK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

Team members include Jessica Judge, San Luis Obispo, CA; Jennifer Bedwell, Fairview, OK; Brandon Collopy, Gilson, IL; Justin Jensen, El Reno, OK; Faith Onstot, Granger, TX; Hope Onstot, Granger, TX; Layna Bond, Galatia, IL; Jacob Postin, Lewistown, IL; Tyler Clark, Covington, OH; Clark Reuter, El Reno, OK; Grant Colvin, Russellville, IN; Mike Scott, Townsend, DE; Amber Cox, Morrison, OK; Mackenzie Spisak, Fredericksburg, TX; Karen Hiltbrand, Hamilton, OH; Lonny Trehal, Kiowa, CO; Cheyenne Jones, Campbellsville, KY; Blake Tucker, North Platte, NE; Clay McGuire, Auburn, AL; and Carter Ward, Plattsburg, MO. The team was coached by Dr. Blake Bloomberg, and assisted by Ashley Judge, Kyndal Reitzenstein and Tim Hubbard.

Online Scholarship Auction
Can’t join us in Stillwater?
Join the ASAA Scholarship Auction online!
Support animal science students by purchasing artwork, cowboy attire and so much more!
Don’t miss your last opportunity to purchase the No. 1 Brick and Photo, which will retire after this year’s Gala Reunion.

April 6, 2018
Register and view items at www.ASAAgala18.gesture.com
Team members include Charley Rayfield, Bainbridge, GA; Alexandria Schut, Belding, MI; Jera Pipkin, Republic, MO; Brittany Lippy, Lineboro, MD; Jacob Green, Muldrow, OK; Wyatt Catron, Stilwell, OK; Jennifer Apple, Greenfield, IN; Hallie Barnes, Hulbert, OK; Corbin Cowles, Rockfield, KY; Ciara Smith, Prosper, TX; Coby Wilson, Vilnoia, AR; and Gabrielle Strickland, Calabasas, CA. The team was coached by Dr. Gretchen Mafi and Morgan Pfeiffer.

Team members include Kayleigh Crane, Fishers, IN; Emily Haak, Molalla, OR; Brooke Catterton, Harwood, MD; Hannah Allaben, Noblesville, IN; Mattie Lemmons, Claremore, OK; Krista Rodney, Bentonville, AR; Karli Jones, Big Cabin, OK; and Ronnie Weaver, Cleveland, OK. The team was coached by Dr. Steven Cooper and Marissa Chapa.

Team members include Charley Rayfield, Bainbridge, GA; Alexandria Schut, Belding, MI; Jera Pipkin, Republic, MO; Brittany Lippy, Lineboro, MD; Jacob Green, Muldrow, OK; Wyatt Catron, Stilwell, OK; Jennifer Apple, Greenfield, IN; Hallie Barnes, Hulbert, OK; Corbin Cowles, Rockfield, KY; Ciara Smith, Prosper, TX; Coby Wilson, Vilnoia, AR; and Gabrielle Strickland, Calabasas, CA. The team was coached by Dr. Gretchen Mafi and Morgan Pfeiffer.
2017 DAIRY JUDGING TEAM

3RD NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

ALL-AMERICAN: TAYLOR LEACH

Team members include Taylor Leach, Linwood, KS; Leanne Van der Laan, Agra, OK; Gerret Boer, Turlock, CA; and Carly Olufs, Petaluma, CA. The team was coached by David Jones.

MEAT ANIMAL EVALUATION TEAM

2017 RESERVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The team won the meats division.

Team members include Amber Cox, Morrison, OK; Katie Friederichs, Walcott, IA; Julianna Albrecht, Howard, SD; Hope Onstot, Granger, TX; Faith Onstot, Granger, TX; Carter Ward, Plattsburgh, MO; Michelle Helm, Geary, OK; Cheyenne Jones, Campbellsville, KY; Lonny Trehal, Kiowa, CO; Clark Reuter, El Reno, OK; Clay McGuire, Auburn, AL; Brandon Collopy, Gilson, IL; Jessica Judge, San Luis Obispo, CA; Justin Jensen, El Reno, OK; Mike Scott, Townsend, DE; Jennifer Bedwell, Fairview, OK; Blake Tucker, North Platte, NE; Layna Bond, Galatia, IL; and Mackenzie Spisak, Fredricksburg, TX. The team was coached by Dr. Gretchen Mafi and Dr. Blake Bloomberg.

NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION

2017 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

All five students placed in the top ten individually.

Team members include Dylan Price, Norris City, IL; Rebecca Janes, Peotone, IL; Nicole Wurzel, Hanford, CA; Hana Murphy, Nelsonville, MO; and Rachel Scott, Georgetown, TX. The team was coached by Natalie Baker.
Adam Brockriede
Agrilabs
Barry & Roxanne Pollard
Beadles Portrait Gallery - Heather Beadles
Biozyme, Inc.
Buck Cattle Company - Jirl, Brenda & Bailey Buck
Certified Angus Beef - Clint Walenciak
Dennis & Marta White
Dibble & Son Furniture & Photo Art
Dino Cornay
Farm Credit Associations of Oklahoma
Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma
Global Animal Products - Ken Ridenour
Gretchen Mafi
Griswold Cattle Company - John Griswold
Hardzog's Gifts
Holy Cow Couture - Britanny Pillars
J & K Auto
Jackson Diamond Jewelers
John Jeffrey
Ken Holloway
Linda Cline
Macy Griswold Photography
Micro Technologies - Mark Shaw
Morgan Satterwhite
Northside Cleaners
Oklahoma Joe's
P & K Kingfisher
Paula Alexander
Phileo Lesaffre Animal Care
- Matt Cravey
Randy Renbarger
Reflection Pools
Residence Inn, Stillwater
Scott & April Bulling
Shorty's Hattery
Stelzer Auction Services
Sweeney Enterprises
Tener's Western Outfitters
The Happy Toy Maker
Tom & Tricia White
Tyson Food Research & Development Team - Jeff Hensley
Deere & Company - Wes Robinson
Whiskey Creek Boutique
Zoetis - Dalton Brown, Brett Burk, Dr. Doug Hilbig, Bill Jordan, Dr. Jeff Sarchet, Greg Thurston, & Tom White

*Purchased the #1 Brick **Purchased the #1 Photo

Amy Anderson
Barry & Roxanne Pollard
Bill & Joy Troub
Billy Ashe
Blake Wilson
Bobby & Pam Bryant
Brian McEntire
Carroll Sturgeon
Charlie Sasser
Clay Zwilling
Crabtree Farms - Joe Crabtree
Cynda Clary
Dale & Tammi Didlot
Dennis & Marta White
Dusty Rich
Eddie & Ruth Sims
George Clift
Jarold & Jennifer Callahan*
Jeremy & Summer Leister
Jerry Fitch
Jerry White
John Jeffrey
John & Gaye Pfeiffer**
Julianna Albrecht
Justin Crosswhite
Juston Stelzer
Kass Pfeiffer
Kent Barnes
Layna Bond
Linda Cline
Marcia Reeves
Mark Johnson
Megan Bryant
Micca Brown
Phil Stoll
Randy Renbarger
Rob Richard
Rob Shuey
Robert Adams
Robert & Kari Hodgen
Rodney Orrell
Sarah Helm
Scott & April Bulling
Shari Holloway
Steve & Patty Armbruster
Steve Renbarger
Terry Imke
Tim Lindsey
Tom & Tricia White
Tom Sturgeon
Tyler & Beth Norvell
Thank you to everyone who attended the 2017 Gala Reunion! We had another successful reunion because of the support of nearly 400 alumni, students and friends who attended the event.

The 2017 Scholarship Auction raised $27,668 thanks to our generous donors and buyers. With the help of Dusty Rich, member of the 1961 Champion Livestock Team, we raffled a “one-of-a-kind” OSU knife, donated by Tom Black and Bruce Shaw. This fundraiser generated $18,200 in scholarship funds. Congratulations to Lee Haygood, winner of this collectible item.

The Don Wagner Hall of Fame Chairback Campaign raised $30,640 in support for the Willard Sparks Beef Cattle Research Center. The ASAA dedicated $25,000 in matching funds. In total, the campaign generated $55,640.

“One-of-a-kind” OSU Knife, valued at $1,800 (left). Rodney Orrell and John Jeffrey presented Bill Troub with the Totusek Brand of Excellence award (center), and Gerald Horn also presented the award to Steve and Patty Armbruster (right).

We honored all eight World Champion Horse Judging Teams (left) and all 18 National Champion Meat Judging Teams (center). We also celebrated our 50-Year Meat Judging Team (right), and the 50-Year Livestock Judging Team, both teams competed in 1967.

Together, the 2017 Gala raised $101,508!
As you walk into a room of old, familiar faces, a wave of nostalgia sets in. You see a group of long-retired livestock judges sitting at a table, laughing and talking about the good, old days – 40, 50, even 60 years ago. These young-at-heart cowboys feel like family, and their memories feel like yesterday. Welcome to the Oklahoma State University Animal Science Alumni Association’s Gala Reunion.

The tradition began 15 years ago, as a livestock judging team reunion, said Wayne Shearhart, past ASAA president. He said the reunion was a solution to bring more people to the Old Timer’s Judging Contest held on Saturday morning of the Animal Science Weekend.

Shearhart said Robert Totusek, past animal science department head, along with past OSU Extension specialist and ASAA secretary-treasurer, Joe Hughes, knew something needed to change. Totusek called and asked Shearhart to come to Stillwater to visit with him and Hughes about potential ideas, Shearhart said.

“We needed more people to show up to the event, because the year before, we only had 10 to 11 people,” Shearhart said. “My suggestion was we should have a get-together on Friday night and could invite all of the judging teams to have a reunion.”

So, Totusek and Shearhart began planning the reunion, and Shearhart said they mailed invitations to past judging team members.

“We only had about 90 people register for the event, so we planned for 155 meals, just in case more people showed up,” Shearhart said.

In a hotel banquet room set for a maximum capacity of 125 people, 265 animal science alumni and friends arrived for the first Gala Reunion in 2003, he said.

“I was so surprised,” Shearhart said. “We gave out awards for teams with the most people there, the oldest team, and who traveled the farthest. It seemed like we had people in the room from every state in the union. Some teams there graduated for more than 60 years.”

Although they did not prepare for enough food or space, the event was a success, Shearhart said.

“We had the whole lobby and hallway filled with tables and chairs, and at one point, it felt like there were 400 people in there,” Shearhart said. “I guess people just like to sit down and visit, so they enjoyed being there with their friends, regardless. I think that’s what keeps them coming back, year after year.”

He said his favorite memory from past galas was being able to work with integral animal science leaders, like Totusek, who was also Shearhart’s livestock judging coach.

Following the early years of the event, Kim Brock, past ASAA executive secretary, said he could see the potential attendance and financial growth opportunities for the Gala Reunion.

“When I was asked to serve as the ASAA secretary, starting in 2007, I analyzed the things that were generating the most money, which included memberships, selling the no. 1 brick and photo in the scholarship auction, and arena chairback sales,” Brock said.

He strategized how to use the Gala Reunion, which was already an event, to raise money to support animal science students and grow the other financial aspects of the ASAA.

“There are nearly 300 chairbacks in the arena that have individual names and contributors, some go back to as far as 1988, when the arena was built,” Brock said. “These chairback sales had generated excellent income for the ASAA; however, these chairbacks do not include our most powerful group of alumni – judging teams – so a judging team chairback section was established in 2007.”

He said people have enough pride and tradition to give back, regardless of the size of the contribution. Making a donation toward a chairback is a way for alumni to support student scholarships and judging teams in smaller ways that will add up over time, he said.

Thus, he initiated the idea of honoring groups of judging teams at the Gala Reunion. The first group, teams coached by Totusek, were honored in 2008, he said.

“This group was older, but they were, by far, one of the most generous groups of alumni,” Brock said. “They purchased nine livestock team chairbacks for the Dr. Totusek teams.”

Throughout the years, the Gala Reunion has honored several specific judging team and animal science groups, Brock said. As of today, OSU livestock, meat, horse, dairy and meat animal evaluation judging teams have purchased 141 chairbacks, totaling more than $63,000, he said.

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“Honestly, the judging team
chairback section and the focus on judging team groups had to go hand-in-hand, because those groups of old timers are going to contribute to put their name on a team chairback,” Brock said.

“Then, they come out to the arena with their buddies and stand there, see their chairback, and are proud to have their team’s chairback permanently recorded in the rich tradition of OSU judging success.”

In 2009, the ASAA crafted a new campaign to honor and support Hughes, who had pancreatic cancer, by starting the Hall of Fame Chairback Campaign, Brock said.

The Hall of Fame Chairback Campaign became a continuous gala tradition to honor individuals, who have been significant leaders in the department of animal science, and to raise funds through the OSU Foundation for the individuals’ respective causes, Brock said.

With the growth of the Gala Reunion, Brock said to better accommodate for the size and needs of the event, they switched locations from the primary host hotel to the Wes Watkins Center on OSU’s campus. Eventually, the event was moved to the ConocoPhillips Alumni Center in 2013 where the event is still held today, Brock said.

“My hopes are that this event continues to be successful and raises even more money for judging teams and scholarships,” Brock said.

With similar anticipations, Clint Rusk, animal science department head, said he is optimistic the event will continue to expand with the participation of more recent graduates.

“I hope we can continue to grow the number of lifetime members in the alumni association and get more recent alumni,” Rusk said. “The sooner our alumni start giving back to the department, the more connected they will feel and the more likely they will become lifelong supporters.”

Rusk became department head in 2012, and he said he thought and still believes the ASAA is the strongest of its kind in the nation.

“Other than a possible athletic booster club, I can’t imagine a departmental alumni group with more passion and dedication to their alma mater and their home institution than the ASAA,” Rusk said.

With that in mind, Rusk said he was overwhelmed by his first gala experience.

“I had been told to prepare for a busy weekend, and I did, but it was even more exciting and spectacular than I could ever have imagined,” Rusk said. The Gala Reunion has not changed from its initial objective – a chance for the department to invite and celebrate loyal and dedicated alumni from across the country.

“The Gala Reunion helps maintain the enthusiasm and excitement among our alumni,” Rusk said. “They love getting together and visiting with former teammates and renewing old acquaintances.”

Megan Bryant, currently serves as the ASAA executive secretary. She said she recalls her first experience at the Gala Reunion.

“It was my junior year, 2010, and I was a member of the livestock judging team,” Bryant said. “By the stories being told by alumni and the way everyone was interacting and reminiscing, it was like the department’s own version of homecoming. Even as a student, I could tell it was something special.”

Bryant said there is no doubt the gala will continue to grow, and with growth comes more scholarship dollars for our current students and judging teams.

“Those students are the future of the ASAA and animal agriculture,” Bryant said. “We want to support them throughout their educational and extracurricular endeavors.”

The ASAA will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Gala Reunion on April 6, 2018, Bryant said. She is looking forward to celebrating the history and success of the tradition.

“The ASAA and department is beyond blessed to have had a strong legacy of great leaders, like the late Dr. Totusek and Dr. Hughes, along with Wayne Shearhart and Kim Brock, who established the gala, and have built it up to what it is today,” Bryant said.

She said, at the end of the day, no other university or department of animal science can match the alumni and friends who continually travel back to Stillwater to attend the event. “They are the reason the Gala Reunion is the unprecedented event that it is today.”

By Julianna Albrecht
Denis White is a graduate and lifetime supporter of Oklahoma State University. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science in 1964 and 1969. He went on to receive his Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition from Texas A&M University in 1972. At OSU, he was a member of Block and Bridle, enjoyed playing intramural sports, and a member of the 1963 Livestock Judging Team.

“Some of my favorite memories come from being on the judging team and traveling with the other team members,” Dennis said. “As we traveled we got to meet lots of producers and different people we would not get to meet if we didn’t judge.”

Dennis has held many leadership roles within the ASAA and OSU Foundation. He was chairman of the committee that raised funds for the Dr. Totusek Endowed Chair and co-chaired the DASNR Branding Success Campaign. Currently, he serves as a governor for the OSU Foundation, holding a position on the Dean’s Advisory Council for DASNR.

Even though his wife, Marta, is not a graduate of OSU, she found it easy to connect with the cowboy community. She grew up in Czechoslovakia and came to the U.S. in 1968 when the Russians invaded her home country. “Going to the games and other activities, I have met so many people,” Marta said. “I am involved and support OSU, so there’s a lot of friends I have made.”

The Whites believe it is extremely important to join the ASAA in order to stay connected and up-to-date. “It is important to keep up with what is going on with others,” Marta said. Dennis and Marta believe it is important to give back. “So much of what I gained and accomplished in life was because of the faculty, classmates and receiving a good education,” he added.

The Whites have been influential supporters within the OSU Department of Animal Science throughout their lives. They have sponsored multiple chairbacks in the Totusek Arena, were the first private donors to fund a chair for animal science, and endowed the Dennis and Marta White Animal Science Graduate Student Fellowship. “If somebody helped you in the past to make your life better, try to reciprocate; try to give back,” Marta said.

Dennis and Marta moved back to Ninnekah, Oklahoma, after their retirement from Eli Lilly and Company. They formed a stocker cattle partnership with Dennis’s brother, Jerry White. They moved to Stillwater last year to retire for the second time. The Whites said moving to Stillwater gave them the opportunity to be more involved in OSU activities and be closer to the many friends they have made in Stillwater over the years. They enjoy attending football and basketball games, and are looking forward to being involved in more university events.

Kylee (Willard) Deniz is a passionate advocate for agriculture and proud alumna of Oklahoma State University. Deniz received her bachelor’s degrees in animal science and agricultural communications in 2011. Today, Deniz serves as the Director of Marketing and Producer Outreach for the National Pork Board in Clive, Iowa.

While at OSU, Deniz was involved with Block and Bridle, Collegiate Cattlewomen, the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and was a member of the 2009 Livestock Judging Team. Deniz credits livestock judging for providing her many opportunities. The judging program allowed her to be a part of a unique community because it has such a strong following. “It [judging] helped with being 800 miles from home in Colorado,” Deniz said.

Livestock judging also helped with scholarship assistance as well as building her professional network. Deniz highlights her time livestock judging to be the most impactful and memorable. “It was a real honor and privilege to mark cards for the university,” Deniz said. “In addition to my team’s success, being named an All-American livestock judge will forever be a favorite memory of mine.”

Through an assistantship with the Food and Agricultural Products Center, she was able to continue her education pursuing a master’s degree in agricultural communications, which she completed in 2013. “I was able to stay and connect with the animal science department through my graduate assistantship as well as work on my communication skills,” Deniz said. “It was a neat way for me to keep my network with OSU, and learn and stay in Stillwater.”

In her current role with the National Pork Board, Deniz is able to return back to her roots. “I took this position as it gave me the opportunity to get back into animal agriculture,” Deniz said. Deniz coordinates all Pork Checkoff trade show presences, assists in the 41-state pork association marketing programs, and collaborates with the youth swine organizations, National Junior Swine Association and Team Purebred.

OSU helped Deniz reach her career goals in ways she did not expect. “Oklahoma State put me on a path I didn’t know I was going to go down,” Deniz said. “I was connected to more people than I ever dreamed I could have.”

OSU also played an influential role in helping Deniz reach her personal goals. “Agriculture is in my roots,” Deniz said. “The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at OSU helped me stay connected to agriculture, and my parents are proud of where I am today.” Deniz lives outside of West Des Moines with her husband Mike and their dog Halle. They enjoy attending livestock shows, visiting their families in California and Colorado, and cheering on the Cowboys.
ob and Mary Shuey met at OSU as undergraduates. Their time together in classes and as members of the 1979 meat judging team created an everlasting bond. Married for 36 years, they now live in Dakota Dunes, S. D.

Rob graduated in 1981 with a bachelor’s degree in animal science with a business option. He was involved in Block and Bridle, played intramural softball and worked for the department of animal science meat lab for three years. He was also a member of the 1980 livestock judging team.

Originally from Ohio, Rob had two schools on his mind after high school: Ohio State and Oklahoma State. Both offered superb animal science departments. However, Rob believed Oklahoma State offered a great teaching faculty, a premier beef center and a competitive judging program. Secondly, he believed he would gain a better personal relationship with the faculty at Oklahoma State. In the end, it proved to be the right choice for him.

“Dr. Totusek and the other faculty played a tremendous influence,” Rob said. “I chose to go to Oklahoma State because I thought the faculty were more progressive. I ended up being exactly right on that.”

Rob began his career in the meat processing and packing industry with IBP, Inc. in Emporia, Kan. Today, Rob serves as the Senior Vice President of International Trade for Tyson in Dakota City, Neb. In his position, he is in charge of all international fresh meat sales for beef and pork. He travels to China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Germany and Mexico.

OSU helped Rob achieve his personal and career goals. His main goal was to stay in the agricultural industry and have a rewarding job. “I was able to take my background and OSU education to get started, work hard and improve with the company,” Rob said.

Judging taught him time management through balancing his time, communication skills, and gave him friends he remains in contact with today. “I came out of the university very well prepared, because of the judging background and the ability to communicate with people,” Rob said.

Mary Shuey, an Oklahoma native, graduated in 1981 with a bachelor’s degree in animal science. She was involved in Block and Bridle, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and the 1980 meat animal evaluation team.

“I had the opportunity to be Dr. Buchanan’s work-study student, and I believe I had an enhanced education because I was helping him document research,” Mary said. “It gave me an opportunity outside the classroom to learn and enhance my knowledge.”

Mary received her teaching certificate at Ohio Wesleyan University and her master’s degree in geoscience at Mississippi State University. She taught a variety of science classes, primarily biology, throughout her career as a high school teacher. Leadership skills she gained through involvement in Oklahoma 4-H and FFA carried through while at OSU. It helped her become a better teacher, Mary said. She found having an agricultural background was helpful in relating science to students. She helped kids from urban communities connect science to everyday life.

“If you take genetics, for example, and talk about GMOs, you can help students understand how they play an influential role in feeding the world,” Mary said. “Having an ag background helped me present science in a more relatable way.”

After 30 years of teaching, Mary recently retired and hopes to join Rob in more of his work travels. In their free time, the Shueys like to golf, travel and spend time with friends. Their son Spencer is a freshman at South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D.

By Kiera Leddy

Animal Science
LIFETIME ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Joined in 2017!

Steve Bailey | Diane Bedwell | Rashele Blakley | Micca Brown | Richard Coffey
Greg Connell | Kathleen Cullinan | Jolyn Easterwood | Kaylyn Groce
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The ASAA has nearly 600 Lifetime Members!
For a full list of members and to join visit: www.osuanscialumni.com.
Bob Wettemann is an Okie by choice, animal scientist by passion, professor by calling, and leader by nature.

The 2018 OSU Animal Science Alumni Association, Totusek Arena, Hall of Fame Chairback recipient has dedicated countless hours of work to the department, the study of animal science, numerous students and the livestock industry.

Growing up on a dairy in Guilford, Conn., Wettemann learned the importance of hard work and found his love for animal science, he said.

“There is no question about it,” he said. “Work must come first before anything else on the dairy.”

Wettemann earned his B.S. in dairy science from the University of Connecticut and his M.S. and Ph.D. in reproductive physiology from Michigan State University.

“As you ask questions and find answers, you apply the research to the real world,” he said. “That’s the most rewarding part of animal science, seeing it come to life in production.”

For the past 46 years, Wettemann has focused on providing research for the improvement of livestock reproduction.

Wettemann’s research has spanned the areas of heat stress effects in pig reproduction, heifer puberty, mastitis in beef cattle, and beef ovulation timing factors influencing detection of estrous.

“There is one area in particular which has brought national and international recognition to Wettemann and the OSU department of animal science, he said. “I am most proud of the probable evidence we put together to demonstrate that body condition scores determine the reproductive ability of cows,” Wetteman said.

In 1988, he published a paper on body condition scoring and its effect on reproductive performance in cattle. In 2010, it was the most read article in the Journal of Animal Science.

“there is nothing more exciting than having people from all over the world ask you a question about your research,” he said. Wettemann’s dedication to his research, students and the livestock industry has led to the numerous awards lining the walls of his office at work and at home.

The most meaningful of these honors are his time spent as the president of the American Society of Animal Science from 2008 to 2009 and being named Fellow in the ASAS in 2007, he said.

Despite the impressive number of awards and distinctions Wettemann has received, they are nothing compared to seeing his students become successful, he said.

“There’s the most rewarding part of my career has been my interaction with students,” Wettemann said. “I get to help students understand research and take the next step into research.”

Wettemann’s graduate, Ph.D and postdoctoral students now contribute to the world of animal science through their roles as scientists, university teaching faculty, department heads, and an associate director of an agricultural experiment station.

“I would like to think I had a little influence on some of them and their career successes,” he said.

Mentorship has always been one of Wettemann’s priorities in his role at OSU. His inspiration to be a great mentor came from his own mentors, EJ Turman and Don Wagner of OSU and Harold Hafs, graduate advisor at Michigan State, he added.

Wettemann came to work at OSU just a few years behind Wagner, past department head, fellow animal scientist and good friend.

“I have nothing but the greatest respect for what Bob has done,” Wagner said. “He is a true professional and a wonderful asset to the department.”

Few faculty members have embodied the breadth of knowledge from basic scientific components to the applied side of animal science as Wettemann does, Wagner said.

“He has done more to advance reproduction in cattle than almost anyone in the industry,” Wagner said. “Reproduction rates are 15 to 20 percent better nationally because of the system he was at the forefront of developing.”

Wettemann is effective in keeping alumni faithful to the department and inspiring loyalty from students and industry personnel, Wagner said.

“Professors like [Wettemann] set the standards, uphold them and accomplish them,” Wagner said. “His legacy includes enormous and wonderful contributions to the study of animal science and the positivity it enjoys at OSU.”

Wettemann’s legacy also lies in the advice he has given his students throughout the years.

“Do long-range planning but always be prepared to have plans change,” he said. “Be dedicated. A job worth doing is worth doing right.”

As he looks back on a job done right, Wettemann looks forward to continued work with the department of animal science, he said. Most importantly, the coming years allow Wettemann time to spend with his wife, kids, grandkids and cattle.
Gerald Horn grew up in the ranching and oil community of Andrews, Texas. His contributions to the livestock industry and the OSU Department of Animal Science have earned him the 2018 OSU Animal Science Alumni Association, Totusek Arena, Hall of Fame Chairback award.

Horn earned his B.S. degree from Texas Tech University in 1966.

“I had developed a strong interest in the area of animal nutrition,” Horn said. “At that time, the feedlot industry in the Texas panhandle was in its infancy and growing very fast.”

He attended graduate school at Purdue University where he completed his M. S. and Ph. D. degrees.

Following graduation, Horn spent four and a half years at the University of Georgia veterinary school teaching animal nutrition and biochemistry courses. In December 1974, Horn was offered a position in the OSU Department of Animal Science.

Soon after joining OSU, Horn recognized the unique role of dual-purpose wheat in the southern Great Plains. He provided vision and leadership that led to extramural funding for an expanded, multidisciplinary research and education program in that area, he said.

Through publications, field days, producer meetings and various other speaking appointments, Horn has shared his research with animal scientists and producers on both a national and international level.

“The beauty of working with producers is getting their perspective as to what is important,” Horn said. “As well as making some lifetime friends.”

Horn worked to expand other stocker cattle research facilities and also conducted research on marbling development during the stocker-feeder phase of production.

As a professor at OSU, Horn taught five different courses and parts of a sixth course, including development of the senior-level stocker feedlot cattle management course in 1995.

In his role as a mentor and leader, Horn was the animal science graduate program coordinator for 15 years and served a short time as interim department head. He has served as major advisor and graduate committee member to more than 120 graduate students.

His former students are advancing beef cattle nutrition and management and providing leadership in academia, industry and administrative positions in the U.S., Argentina, Uruguay and Mexico, Horn said.

One of his colleagues, Steve Armbruster, said he considers himself fortunate to have worked with Horn and call him a friend.

Horn has set a high standard in the animal science industry as far as leadership and innovation are concerned, Armbruster said.

“He’s brought great recognition to the university for the quality of work he has done,” Armbruster said.

Armbruster said. “He’s the foremost authority not only in the U.S., but in the world, for nutrition and management in cattle grazing small grains.”

Horn’s leadership style makes him quietly effective as a professor, researcher and mentor, Armbruster said.

“He’s highly regarded by cattle producers,” Armbruster added. “He’s well respected by his peers and he’s highly regarded in the American Society of Animal Science. By any level or measure, he’s highly thought of.”

One of these peers is David Lalman, OSU professor and Extension beef specialist.

Horn’s contributions to OSU are capitalized by the leaders he mentored, in particular, his graduate students. His mentorship style is simple, Lalman said.

“Work hard,” Lalman said. “Then play hard when the work is done. He earns his students’ respect and expects his students to earn his.”

Respect also summarizes the legacy Horn continues to build through his career, Lalman said.

“It is respect for Dr. Gerald Horn,” Lalman said. “Respect for students who have graduated from his program. Respect for our department. Respect for the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Respect for Oklahoma State University.”

Horn has received various awards, including the 2016 ASAS Southern Section Distinguished Service award, the ASAS 1998 Animal Management award and the 2008 Fellow award.

However, it’s the more intangible things that Horn considers to be the most rewarding part of his career, Horn said.

“I have been privileged to work with undergraduate and graduate students both in and out of the classroom, faculty colleagues, outstanding staff and herdsmen, former students and alumni, commodity groups, industry personnel, producers and other stakeholders,” he said.

Each group has presented different challenges while also providing their own unique elements of inspiration and gratification, he added.

“When woven together, it becomes something very special and almost indescribable,” Horn said. “I owe a debt of gratitude to each of them for their support, comradeship and friendship and for blurring the lines between work and play.”

Although Horn still spends time in his office as to stay engaged in his profession, he has already started to enjoy the benefits of retirement.

“I am looking forward to spending more time with my family and friends, fly fishing on some of the legendary rivers across the U.S. and maybe revisiting some past hobbies like golf,” Horn said. “I may also become involved in some international agriculture education programs. One of the real benefits of retirement is the increased flexibility of time.”

By Ashley Hansen

“When you talk about Dr. Horn and Dr. Wettemann, I think of both of them as iconic legends in animal science at OSU, who have made tremendous contributions to the advancement of the livestock industry and have been very helpful to all of our students and alumni.” - Dr. Don Wagner
Thursday, April 5

Afternoon

Grand Opening of Ferguson Family Dairy Center

Ferguson Family Dairy Center

Friday, April 6

10:00 a.m.

Tour Gallagher-Iba Arena and Boone Pickens Stadium

Meet in southwest lobby

Gallagher-Iba Arena

11:30 a.m.

Lunch

O-Club

12:00 p.m.

ASAA General Membership Meeting

O-Club

5:00 p.m.

ASAA Gala Reunion

Social Hour

Cash Bar and Meal

ConocoPhillips Alumni Center

6:30 p.m.

ASAA Gala Reunion Program

Highlight of National Champion Livestock and Meat Animal Evaluation Teams

Recognition of 50-Year Teams, Hall of Fame Chairback Recipients- Dr. Gerald Horn and Dr. Bob Wettemann

Scholarship Auction

Live, spotlight and silent auction

Online auction in 2018

ConocoPhillips Alumni Center

Saturday, April 7

9:00 a.m.

Breakfast Gathering and Old Timers Judging Contest Registration

Totusek Arena

9:30 a.m.

National Champion Livestock and Meat Animal Evaluation Team Photos

Totusek Arena

10:00 a.m.

Old Timers Judging Contest

6 Classes- Beef (2), Swine, Sheep, Horse, Goat

Totusek Arena

10:30 a.m.

Tour Charles and Linda Cline Equine Teaching Center and Ferguson Family Dairy Center

Totusek Arena

11:30 a.m.

Old Timers Judging Contest Results

Totusek Arena

5:45 p.m.

Animal Science Banquet

Wes Watkins Center

Sunday, April 8

1:00 p.m.

Cowboy Classic Sale

Purebred Beef Cattle Center

A block of rooms has been reserved at the following hotels. Please specify “animal science” and make reservations by March 16.

Residence Inn by Marriott* 405-707-0588
Holiday Inn & Suites 405-372-2445
Cimarron by Best Western 405-372-2878
Hampton Inn & Suites 405-743-1306
La Quinta Inn 405-564-0599

*The Residence Inn by Marriott is an advertising sponsor of the ASAA

Visit www.anzi.okstate.edu/weekend for more information
EVENTS
REGISTRATION

Return by March 16

Name(s)______________________________________________________________

(Ladies, please include your maiden name if you were not married when you graduated)

Address________________________________________________________________

Email___________________________________________________________________ Phone______________________________________________

Please reserve tickets for the following events:

______Ticket(s) for Membership Meeting and Lunch $20.00 each___________
   Tour of Gallagher-Iba Arena and Boone Pickens Stadium included

______Ticket(s) for ASAA Gala Reunion $40.00 each___________
   Cash bar and meal
   at 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 6 at ConocoPhillips Alumni Center

______Animal Science Students $20.00 each___________

Registrations received after March 16 and walk-in guests will be an additional $10.00 each

Tickets for Animal Science Banquet at 5:45 p.m., Saturday, April 7 at Wes Watkins Center

______Animal Science Students/Spouses $15.00 each___________

______Alumni/Spouses and/or Guests/Parents $35.00 each___________

To register for Animal Science Weekend online visit www.ansi.okstate.edu/weekend/registration

Please make checks payable to:
Department of Animal Science

Please list all names as you would like them on your name tags.
Names (please print) ____________________________________________________________________________

If ANSI alumni year graduated ____________

Return to ANSI Banquet, Department of Animal Science, 101 Animal Science Bldg.,
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-6051
For further information, call 405-744-6062
Partnership Opportunities

**Legacy Partner - $10,000**
- Reserved Table at Gala (Seats 10)
- Logo on Photo Backdrop
- Recognition on Marketing Materials
- Emcee Recognition
- Signage at Gala
- Recognition in Event Program
- Recognition in Alumni Update
- Recognition in Slideshow

**Tradition Partner - $5,000**
- Logo on Table Center Pieces
- Emcee Recognition
- Signage at Gala
- Six Tickets to Gala
- Recognition in Event Program
- Recognition in Alumni Update
- Recognition in Slideshow

**Heritage Partner - $2,500**
- Four Tickets to Gala
- Recognition in Event Program
- Recognition in Alumni Update
- Recognition in Slideshow

**Excellence Partner - $1,000**
- Two Tickets to Gala
- Recognition in Event Program
- Recognition in Slideshow

**Loyal & True Partner - $500**
- Two Tickets to Gala
- Recognition in Slideshow

To reserve your ASAA Partnership, tickets or for more information, please contact: Megan Bryant at 405-747-1977 or osuanscialumni@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for the 2019 Animal Science Weekend.

**Gala Reunion & Scholarship Auction**

April 5, 2019
Thank You!

To the following companies who are major sponsors of the OSU Department of Animal Science.

2017 OSU Department of Animal Science

Accomplishments

DASNR Champion
John Patrick Lopez

Outstanding Animal Science Senior
Chandler Steele

OSU Charles and Magda Browning Outstanding Freshman
Clay Daily

OSU Seniors of Significance
Emily Hart
Courtney Mapes
Taylor Neilson
Macy Perry

OSU Top Twenty Freshmen
Jacob Burch-Konda
Jordan Cowger
Cody Gingrich
Grant Wilber

Fulbright Scholarship Recipient
Sydney Stewart

Wentz Scholars
Sage Becker
Amber Hemple
Molly Meyer
Jacqueline Nichols
Sydney Stewart

Outstanding Young Animal Scientist Education Award
Dr. Ranjith Ramanathan

Southern Section of the ASAS
Adam McGee, 1st Place Oral Presentation
Courtney Spencer, 2nd Place Oral Presentation

Toluske Lecturer
Dr. Michael Galyean

OSU Homecoming Sweepstakes Award
Dairy Science Club

Outstanding CASNR Club
Pre-Veterinary Science Club

CASNR Award for Excellence in Teaching
Dr. Dan Stein

Alpha Zeta Outstanding Teacher Award
Dr. Steven Cooper
News from the Purebred Teaching Centers

OSU Denver 7132 was named Early Winter Calf Division Champion at the 2018 NWSS.

OSU-Cowboy McCutchen Ginger was the Grand Champion Holstein at the 2017 Tulsa State Fair.

Congratulations to the Pearson family! Baylor exhibited the Champion Division 1 wether at the 2017 Tulsa State Fair.

The OSU Sheep and Goat Center exhibited and sold the Champion Dorset wether at the Oklahoma Black and White Show and Sale in Chickasha, Oklahoma.

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OSU Ima Real Buck (OSU Top Gun x Nuggets Red Bucksis). This two-year-old buckskin gelding sold for $6,200 at the 2017 Cowhorse Classic.

Champion Overall and Champion Purebred Truckload at the 2017 National Barrow Show in Austin, Minnesota.
EXCELLENCE IS JUST A WORD TO SOME, BUT FOR THE ANIMAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, IT'S A TRADITION.

To continue to excel, support is needed to add to the Purebred/Teaching Center Endowments. Make your gift today.

As a sixth generation dairy farmer, I have increased my knowledge working at the Ferguson Family Dairy Center. I have gained hands-on opportunities that have broadened my dairy knowledge and sharpened my animal husbandry skills. Partaking in various farm chores, I have been able to further my education on dairy cattle nutrition, reproduction and calf care.”

— TAYLOR LEACH, Animal Science and Agricultural Communications, Senior

Working at the OSU Sheep and Goat Center has cultivated relationships and opened extremely beneficial opportunities for me on a personal and professional level. The Barn is a tremendous asset to the Animal Science Department, university and students regarding teaching, research and Extension. I have gained knowledge and experience that will be advantageous in my planned career as an agricultural education instructor.”

— BARRETT NEWELL, Agricultural Education, Senior

The Charles and Linda Cline Equine Teaching Center has greatly enriched my college experience. Working at an equine breeding farm, I’ve learned how to run and maintain a facility, from general pasture maintenance to equine health and reproduction. I have gained practical, industry skills, which a person simply cannot learn during a lecture. The experience makes me feel like an important member of OSU and proud to be a part of the animal science family.”

— REBECCA JANES, Animal Science, Senior

By joining us and contributing to these endowments, you are supporting the operation and maintenance of each Center, ensuring our facilities and purebred herds will be sustained for current and future Cowboys. Through your support, we will continue to employee some of the finest animal science students in the nation; propelling them into a bright future. Annual costs at each center often include student labor, feed, vet expenses, equipment and facility improvements. Individuals, companies or organizations who contribute $10,000 or more to an endowment fund will be recognized on a plaque in the respective Center.

The following endowments exist to support students, programs, and operations within the Department of Animal Science:

- Dairy Center Endowment Fund
- Equine Center Endowment Fund
- Purebred Beef Center Endowment Fund
- Sheep and Goat Center Endowment Fund
- Swine Center Endowment Fund
- Willard Sparks Beef Research Center Endowment Fund

For more information about how you can be a part of this important legacy, please visit OSUgiving.com/ansi or contact:

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Interested in serving on the ASAA Board of Directors or becoming a member of the ASAA?
Contact Megan Bryant at 405-747-1977 or osuanscialumni@gmail.com