

Animal Science Weekly September 21, 2009



Inside this issue:

- Graduate students honored with Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award
- Agriculture community mourns loss of noted Texas A&M educator, scientist
- Upcoming events

Graduate students honored with Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award

COLLEGE STATION – Three graduate students in the Department of Animal Science are the recipients of the recently established Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award in Animal Science, in recognition of their important contributions as graduate students to the undergraduate student experience.

Coral Dworaczyk, Kevin Curley, Jr., and Lyda Garcia were each honored during a special ceremony held September 18 on the Texas A&M University campus.

The Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award was created in remembrance of Dr. Edwards, who served as associate head for the Department of Animal Science and spent more than two decades working with graduate students. One of his major activities was coordinating the teaching assistantships for the department, helping to ensure the best graduate teachers possible for the courses taught.

“Dr. Edwards felt strongly about

ensuring our graduate students were the best teachers that they could be so they could provide the best education possible to undergraduate students,” said Dr. Gary Acuff, head of Animal Science. “This award is being presented to three students who were nominated by faculty members and were chosen by the selection committee as having excelled in meeting Dr. Edwards’ standard for teaching performance.”

Dworaczyk, from Portland, Texas, is currently seeking a doctorate degree in physiology of reproduction under the direction of Dr. Martha Vogelsang. As a master’s student and now as a doctoral student, she serves as an instructor for six different courses and has been responsible in some capacity for every course taught in the equine science section.

“Coral has provided a real service to our department and to its students (See **Graduate Teaching Award** page 2)



Left, Cathy Edwards and Sigrid Edwards, daughter and wife of Dr. Ronnie Edwards, were present for the announcement of the first Ronnie L. Edwards Graduate Teaching Award, presented by Dr. Gary Acuff, department head, far right, to Coral Dworaczyk, Lyda Garcia and Kevin O. Curley, Jr.

Agriculture community mourns loss of noted Texas A&M educator, scientist

COLLEGE STATION – Dr. H.O. “Harry” Kunkel, former agriculture dean and professor emeritus in the departments of animal science, biochemistry and biophysics, and nutrition and food science at Texas A&M University, died September 15 at College Station Medical Center. He was 87.

Kunkel served as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences from 1967-1988, and associate director and director of Texas AgriLife Research from 1962-1972.

In these top administrative positions, Kunkel established Texas A&M’s Agricultural Research and Extension Centers in 11 locations around the state. This achievement helped focus Texas A&M’s agricultural expertise on addressing agricultural and natural resources problems in practically every Texas region.

Kunkel returned to the classroom in 1988, after serving 20 years as the nation’s longest-tenured dean of agriculture. Then-Texas A&M president Dr. Frank Vandiver praised Kunkel’s role in making the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences nationally prominent.

“Many of our agricultural programs are pre-eminent in their particular fields, and the college overall ranks among the very best,” Vandiver said. Under Kunkel’s leadership, academic programs were expanded to include degrees in forestry, nutritional sciences and genetics, and the departments of forest science and horticultural science were established.

Kunkel earned his bachelor’s degree in animal husbandry and his master’s degree in biochemistry and nutrition from Texas A&M. He received his doctorate in biochemistry from Cornell University.



“We deeply mourn the passing of a great educator, scientist and administrator,” said Dr. Mark Hussey, vice chancellor and dean of agriculture and life sciences for the Texas A&M University System. “For 40 years, Dr. Kunkel had a major influence in helping find new discoveries relating to animal and human nutrition. His teaching roles had a great impact on students here in the college. His presence here for many years well beyond his retirement will leave a lasting memory.”

After his early graduation from Texas A&M, Class of 1943, he served in the U.S. Army in the Philippines during World War II and in the postwar occupation of Japan. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves until he retired as lieutenant colonel in 1982.

Kunkel was preceded in death by his son, Geoffrey Kunkel, of College Station, and his parents, Hugo and Matilda Kunkel, of Olney. He is survived by his wife of 48 years Beverly; daughters Virginia Kunkel of College Station and Sheryl Kunkel Stolte of College Station; and grandsons Geoffrey Stolte of McKinney, Texas, and Zackary Stolte of College Station.

The family requests that donations in honor of Dr. Kunkel be made to The Geoffrey and James Kunkel Scholarship Fund, in care of the Texas A&M Foundation. Gifts should be made payable to Geoffrey and James Kunkel Memorial Scholarship Fund (33012). The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. Checks should be mailed to Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2811. Please include a note indicating that the gift is in memory of Dr. H.O. (Harry) Kunkel.

(Story written and provided by Texas AgriLife Communications.)

Graduate Teaching Award

(continued from page 1)

by her diligence and dedication to teaching excellence,” according to her nomination packet.

Curley, from North Smithfield, Rhode Island, is pursuing a doctorate degree in physiology of reproduction under the co-direction of Dr. Tom Welsh and Dr. Ron Randel. Curley is a Tom Slick Senior Graduate Fellow and also a U.S. Senator Phil Gramm Doctoral Fellow. He has coordinated all labs for ANSC 433 for the past two years and has served as a teaching assistant for ANSC 481, ANSC 491 and ANSC 242.

“Kevin meets the spirit of this award because his sustained, sincere interest in the education and development of undergraduate students is consonant with the philosophy of Dr. Edwards,” commented one

nominator.

Lyda Garcia, from Hebronville, Texas, graduated in August 2009 with a doctoral degree in meat science, under the direction of Dr. Jeff Savell. She taught labs for ANSC 307, coached the meat judging team and assisted with Beef 101, Pork 101 and Beef 706.

Nomination comments included, “Lyda has a passion for teaching that is easily recognized by her students and instills in them a quest for excellence.”

The Ronnie L. Edwards Teaching Award in Animal Science will be presented yearly and winners are selected based on nominations and supporting letters from department faculty.

Upcoming events

Department of Animal Science Seminar (September 23, 2009 - 11:30 a.m. - Kleberg Faculty Lounge) - Dr. Valerie Balester, Texas A&M University Writing Center, will present "*Dealing with Plagiarism.*" Please contact Dr. Tryon Wickersham <tryon@tamu.edu> for more information.

2009 Saddle & Sirloin Club Fall BBQ and Auction (October 6, 2009 - 6:30 p.m. - Texas A&M Beef Center) - All faculty, staff and students are invited to attend. Dr. Larry Boleman will be guest speaker. Please RSVP by September 28 to Jennifer Ann Smith at 903-926-5514 or at <jenniferann.smith@yahoo.com>.

2009 Aggiefest Livestock Judging Contest (November 7, 2009) - For more information, please contact Mr. Jake Franke <jfranke@tamu.edu> at 979-846-7616.

2009 Aggiefest Horse Judging Workshop (November 7, 2009) - For more information, please contact Dr. Dennis Sigler <dsigler@tamu.edu> at 979-845-1652.

Fit to Finish Show Cattle Camp (December 12 and 13, 2009) - For more information, please contact Paul Maulsby <beefcenter@tamu.edu> at 979-862-4736.



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Please forward additions to the mailing list and future requests and events to Courtney Coufal <cacoufal@tamu.edu>