This has been a year like no other in my 38 years working in the Land Grant System. There is stress in all sectors of livestock production, processing, and distribution. We are ending an academic year with all students finishing this semester with distance education and online classes. Still, we are looking to the future and we are using this Spring 2020 issue of the ADS Newsletter to highlight our faculty and student award winners. Normally, we would introduce our award winners and discuss them at the spring awards banquet. However, that’s not possible this year.

Finally, we are making progress on our Athens purebred beef cattle herd to be run by students, with faculty oversight. The location will be at the Down Under Farm, located at the end of South Milledge Road. Here are a couple of pictures of the excavation for the working area and corral. Thus, while we are dealing with the present situation, we are planning for the future.
Distinguished Research Professor Ignacy Misztal

The University of Georgia’s Distinguished Research Professor for 2020 has been awarded to Dr. Ignacy Misztal. This award recognizes senior faculty who are internationally recognized for their innovative body of work and its transformational impact on the field. The Professorship is awarded to faculty working at the very top of their discipline, who are recognized as a preeminent leader in their field of study.

Dr. Misztal is the best computational animal breeder in the world. He has the unique ability to conduct research that addresses major challenges in animal breeding with the end result of providing computationally efficient methods for the application of genetic models that are directly used by both scientists and the industry.

His efforts have brought significant national and international recognition to UGA, and are very deserving of being named a Distinguished Research Professor.

Also, Dr. Misztal earned the prestigious title of D.W. Brooks Distinguished Professor in 2017.

Watch the YouTube video

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- John Bernard
- Lohitash Karumbaiah
- Franklin West
- Student scholarship recipients

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Ignacy Misztal
D.W. Brooks and Distinguished Research Professor
The Early Career Scholar Award recognizes the scholarly achievements of junior faculty whose research, creative activities, and scholarly achievements indicate an aggressive trajectory towards an exceptional, sustained research career and an eminent rise to international stature in the field of study.

Dr. Lourenco began as an assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Dairy Science at the University of Georgia in December 2015.

During her time at UGA, Dr. Lourenco has established herself as an expert in genomic selection and she has been a prolific publisher of research. She has earned international recognition that has attracted researchers and others to her lab from Brazil, Italy, Canada, Macedonia, Poland, Belgium, and the Netherlands and she has been invited to speak about her research to geneticists, or otherwise make presentations, in Brazil, Macedonia, Poland, Sweden, Russia, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada, a level of recognition rivaling that of well established full professors. Dr. Lourenco has worked closely with beef cattle associations, dairy breeding companies and associations, pig breeding companies, a chicken breeding company, and two USDA fish research units.

The largest cattle registry organization in the USA, the American Angus Association, adopted Dr. Lourenco’s methods for genetic beef cattle evaluation in the United States in 2017. She has demonstrated that her methods are more accurate, easier to arrange, and faster to run than the methods used previously. Her work has also set new standards for beef cattle evaluation in the world. She became a reference in the Animal Breeding and Genetics field and has a key hole in the genetic improvement of farm animals. Dr. Lourenco truly shows extraordinary promise for a bright and illustrious career in front of her.
The American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) has awarded our professor, John Bernard, with the 2020 Nutrition Professionals Inc. Applied Dairy Nutrition Award.

The ADSA is an international organization of educators, scientists, and industry representatives who are committed to advancing the dairy industry and keenly aware of the vital role the dairy sciences play in fulfilling the economic, nutritive, and health requirements of the world’s population. Together, ADSA members have discovered new methods and technologies that have revolutionized the dairy industry.

This award recognizes that John Bernard has made significant contributions to the dairy industry and recognizes his outstanding achievement in research, teaching, extension, and industry in applied dairy nutrition.

Since joining the University of Georgia in 1998, John Bernard has developed an outstanding applied research program to address issues that producers can readily adopt while discovering new information to increase our understanding of forage management, byproduct utilization, and general nutrition. Dr. Bernard effectively uses the information generated from his research program in his extension programming to help dairy producers and their advisors improve production, efficiency, and overall profitability.

Dr. Bernard currently serves as President of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists, is a member of the Applied Animal Science editorial board, and serves as a ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of Dairy Science, and Iranian Journal of Applied Animal Science and Heylon. Dr. Bernard has served as Past-President (2018-2019), President (2017-2018) and President-elect (2016-2017) of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists, Past-President (2016-2017), President (2015-2016), and President-elect (2014-2016) of American College of Animal Science. He has also served as an officer and member or chair on numerous committees of the Southern Branch of the American Dairy Science Association. His work in the area of applied dairy nutrition research and extension has and continues to have a positive impact, especially in the Southeast.

He continues to advance our knowledge base on the factors affecting dairy nutrition through his applied research and extension programs.
The University of Georgia has selected Lohitash Karumbaiah and Donnie Longenecker as UGA’s Innovation Fellows for spring 2020. The Faculty Innovation Fellows program aims to encourage faculty and staff of the University of Georgia to pursue their interest in commercialization and product development.

Fellows are immersed in the culture of innovation on campus, and given the time to pursue the connection between their innovative research ideas and industry. Through this process they will be given training in how to successfully translate a research project into a product on the market, and will also receive mentorship from fellow faculty and industry partners.

Karumbaiah is an associate professor of regenerative medicine in the Department of Animal and Dairy Science and the Regenerative Bioscience Center. He conducts preclinical research on invasive tumors and traumatic brain injuries. He previously underwent training through the UGA I-Corps Accelerator program, aiming to create solutions for these brain-related pathologies.

Ashley Crain UGA Today, 3/6/20
The CAES Alumni Association presented the 2019 awards at the 65th University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) Alumni Association Awards banquet on Oct. 4, 2019 at the Classic Center in downtown Athens, Georgia.

The 2019 Alumni Awards of Excellence were presented to four CAES alumni who have achieved excellence in their chosen fields or their communities. The 2019 winners are Charlie Broussard, Jaime Hinsdale Foster, Ken Foster, Andrea B. Simao, Sara Dunn, Tamlin Hall, and Franklin West.

**Franklin West**, PhD 2008, an associate professor in the Department of Animal and Dairy Science, is a global expert in stem cell biology, with a focus on stem cell reprogramming and stem cell therapies for neural injury and diseases including stroke and traumatic brain injury. He is also an international leader in the study of stem cells and brain science. West has distinguished himself as a teacher and mentor, guiding undergraduates and graduate students across the Department of Animal and Dairy Science and CAES.

Because of West’s effective mentorship and teaching, CAES students are racing toward success in the animal and dairy science field.
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Darren Seidel has been selected to receive a 2020 Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant in the amount of $1,953. This recognition documents that Darren’s teaching performance ranks in the top ten percent of all TAs serving the University.

Darren Seidel joined the University of Georgia Department of Animal and Dairy Science in January of 2018. Darren is originally from Sanderson, TX which is a very small town in Southwest Texas with a whopping population of 600, and his graduating class only had 12 students. After graduating high school, Darren attended Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX where he double majored in Animal Science and Geosciences. While in the process of earning this Bachelor’s degree he participated in intercollegiate wool, meats, and livestock judging. After receiving his B.S. degrees in August of 2015, he decided to pursue a Master’s Degree at Purdue University. His research thesis was titled “Investigation into the effects of temperature probe orientation on the Purdue Swine Cooling Pad” where he studied the effects of heat stress on swine production and animal welfare. Darren then decided to expand his knowledge into the microbial function of the rumen in sheep, goats, and cattle by coming to UGA to pursue his PhD in Animal and Dairy Science. His research has been focused on understanding how the microbes from the rumen can detoxify and utilize toxic phytochemicals found in plants common to arid regions of the country, and how these phytochemicals can affect foodborne pathogen microorganisms. After arriving at UGA, Darren received a National Science Foundation funded PhD Fellowship through the UGA Odum School of Ecology in “Interdisciplinary Disease Ecology Across Scales.” In his spare time, he works with several cattle producers on their farms in Oglethorpe County, GA, enjoys being outdoors most of all hunting and fishing. Additionally, he has become highly involved with improving the UGA sheep flock and has helped rejuvenate the flock genetics, and owns Seidel Livestock Company, a small Dorper sheep seedstock operation.

The recent accomplishment Darren is most proud of is completing a Livestock Consulting Internship with Merck Animal Health this past summer. He gained a better understanding of how the animal health industry works and how adding phytochemicals to commercial production was viewed. The experience as a whole shifted his career perspectives toward a career in the animal agriculture industry instead of a professorship position in academia.

His future aspirations include finishing his PhD in December of 2020 and pursuing a technical service position in the animal agriculture industry.

2020 Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant

Madison Fagan has been awarded 2020 Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant in the amount of $2,000 to assist in UGA research activities.

Madison Fagan came to the ADS department in the fall of 2016 after graduating from NC State with a major in Animal Science. Madison completed her MS with a focus in equine nutrition in August 2018 under the direction of Dr. Duberstein. She is currently working towards her PhD with Dr. Duberstein and Dr. West.

Madison’s MS project focused on vitamin E supplementation in exercising horses. Her findings have been presented at multiple national and international symposia. She has also presented her work at several university symposia, including winning the Broadus Browne Award. She recently had her MS work accepted for publication and is also a co-author on an extension bulletin recently accepted for publication.

As part of her PhD work, Madison has assisted with a large NIH grant studying regenerative therapies for stroke using a pig model. She also conducted research in the equine field assisting with the development of a new gait capture and analysis program used to study equine biomechanics. More recently,
Madison has begun working on a project testing gut microbial transplantation as a therapy for traumatic brain injury using a piglet model. She received the Interdisciplinary and Innovative Research Grant for this project.

The Graduate School established both of these programs as part of its strategic initiative to support innovation and interdisciplinary research being conducted by doctoral students.

Benjamin Forbes Outstanding Dairy Science Senior Scholarship

This year’s Benjamin Forbes Outstanding Dairy Science Senior Scholarship recipient is Benjamin “Cass” Benson.

Cass is a senior who is a triple major in animal science, dairy science, and biological sciences. He is from LaFayette, GA. Cass’s activities and awards include:

• UGA Cattlemen’s Association
• Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program
• High school valedictorian

Cass has worked at the UGA Teaching Dairy as a farm hand, feeder, and milker. He currently works at a local animal clinic. He has maintained an outstanding GPA during his time at UGA and has received numerous recognitions for his scholastic achievements, including being named the Outstanding Senior Dairy Science Student for 2019-2020. Cass is planning to attend veterinary school following graduation and study food animal medicine.

Georgia Beef Commission Scholarship

This year’s Georgia Beef Commission Scholarship recipients are Abigail Sartin and Madison Walker.

Abigail Sartin is finishing up her third year at UGA and is double majoring in animal science and agricultural communications. Abigail’s activities and accomplishments include:

• UGA Block and Bridle Club
• UGA Cattlemen’s Association (secretary, vice president)
• UGA Livestock Judging Team
• Young Cattlemen’s Council (UGA representative)
• UGA Young Farmers and Ranchers
• Great Southland Stampede Rodeo Committee (hospitality chairman, programs chairman, livestock chairman)

Abigail is a State and American FFA Degree recipient. She has been on the Dean’s List at UGA and a recipient of a Georgia Cattlemen’s Foundation Scholarship. Abigail showed beef heifers in high school and is very interested in beef cattle genetics and reproductive physiology. She is also very interested in photography and graphic design. She would like to combine her passions and work for a livestock marketing company to photograph and design catalogs and promote the field of animal agriculture.

Madison Walker is finishing up his second year at UGA. He is an animal science major from Grayson, GA. Madison’s activities and awards include:

• UGA Cattlemen’s Association
• UGA Wesley Foundation
• Grayson Youth Leaders president
• Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind
• UGA Deans List recognition
• UGA Horse Judging Team

Additionally, Madison has worked both as a ranch hand for Herbert Clubb & Sons Cattle Co. as well as a horse trainer for Pine Lane Farm. He also worked as an undergraduate lab researcher in the area of ruminant nutrition. Madison was named the Outstanding Animal Science Junior for 2019-2020. He is interested in cattle and horses, particularly in the area of reproduction and genetics. He would like to pursue a career in ranch management when he graduates.
**Cynthia Curtis Scholarship**

This year’s Cynthia Curtis Scholarship recipient is **Francesca Granberry**.

Francesca is a junior majoring in animal science. Francesca’s activities and accomplishments include:

- UGA Cattlemen’s Association
- UGA Dairy Science Club
- ADS spring break livestock study abroad trip to Uruguay
- UGA Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program
- Chick Fil-A Character Award (high school)

Additionally, Francesca has done undergraduate research at the College of Veterinary Medicine in the area of beef cattle health. She has worked at both the UGA Teaching Dairy as well as the UGA Livestock Instructional Arena. She has also served as a camp counselor for Camp Green Cove and has worked at the Georgia Center Hotel. Francesca has maintained an outstanding GPA at UGA and plans to attend the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine following graduation. She hopes to specialize in reproduction, and her goal is to one day help fill the need for food animal vets in rural areas.

**Katie Feldmann** is a sophomore animal science major from Oragonia, OH. Her activities and awards include:

- Young Farmers and Ranchers
- Warren County Bandits 4-H Club (President)
- Class Student Council (vice president)
- Warren County 4-H Judging Team
- 2018 High Individual Overall at Ohio State Fair
- 2018 All-State Judging Team Member for Louisville, KY
- Varsity soccer and varsity cross country member

Katie is very interested in industry research, primarily in the fields of livestock nutrition and genetics. She would like to eventually pursue a PhD in one of these fields and work to improve livestock efficiency while decreasing their impact on the environment.

**Chelsea Pusbach** is also finishing her second year at UGA and is an animal science major from Maysville, GA. Her activities include:

- UGA Block and Bridle Club
- UGA Young Farmers and Ranchers (Banks county YF&R chairman)
- UGA Pre-Vet Club
- National Honors Society (high school chapter president)
- Banks County 4-H
- UGA Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program

Chelsea was a four-time 4-H Master in high school (Horse Project, Poultry Project, Safety Project, and Dean’s Award for agriculture and environmental science). She was also a 4-H National Champion Horse Public Demonstration as well as a 4-H National Champion in Horse Public Speaking. She has worked at the UGA Large Animal Research Unit as well as interning with a local veterinarian for the summer. Chelsea plans to pursue a career as a food animal veterinarian after graduating.

**Dan and Nemah Daniel Scholarship**

This year’s Dan and Nemah Daniel Scholarship recipients are **Katherine Feldmann** and **Chelsea Pusbach**.

Landon graduated summa cum laude from Lake Land College. He has worked for Mauck Show Hogs and Shirley Show Cattle. He has also been a volunteer at many junior livestock shows in addition to volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. Landon would like to pursue a master’s degree in beef cattle nutrition or reproduction when he graduates.

**Drury Reid Willcox Scholarship**

This year’s Drury Reid Willcox Scholarship recipient is **Landon Tadich**.

Landon is a junior Animal Science major from Perry, GA. His activities and awards include:

- UGA Cattlemen’s Association
- UGA Block and Bridle Club
- UGA Miracle (membership development)
- Lake Land College Livestock Judging Team

Landon graduated summa cum laude from Lake Land College. He has worked for Mauck Show Hogs and Shirley Show Cattle. He has also been a volunteer at many junior livestock shows in addition to volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. Landon would like to pursue a master’s degree in beef cattle nutrition or reproduction when he graduates.
He would like to pursue a career in one of these two areas in addition to becoming a first-generation seed stock producer who raises high quality beef genetics along with show pigs for junior show projects across the country.

**Emory Lynn Scholarship**

This year’s Emory Lynn Scholarship recipients are **Clint Lee** and **Makenzie Driggers**.

**Clint Lee** is a sophomore animal science major from Eastman, GA. His activities and awards include:

- Georgia Junior Swine Boosters (senior board member)
- Showpig.com All Stars intern and ambassador
- FFA (chaplain, president)
- UGA Block and Bridle Club
- Governor’s Honor nominee
- UGA Young Farmers and Ranchers

Clint received a Top 5 Senior Swine Showman Award for three different years in high school as well as a Top 10 and High Individual Award in his area livestock judging contest. He was an honor graduate and top 10 GPA recipient from his high school. He has volunteered in numerous community service projects and also works as a herdsman for 3LEE Show Pigs. Clint comes from a family farm in rural south Georgia. He would like to pursue a career as a mixed animal veterinarian and return to his hometown to fill a need there for more veterinarians. He would also like to continue to help his family farm as well as run a show pig operation to support local youth that are involved in the junior livestock industry.

**Makenzie Driggers** is a freshman animal science major from Springfield, GA. Her activities and awards include:

- UGA Block and Bridle Club
- UGA Sigma Alpha Agricultural Sorority
- FFA (historian, treasurer, sentinel)
- National Honor Society
- Effingham County Livestock Association (mentor)

Makenzie has just completed her first year in college and is exploring different career paths in the swine industry. She has a strong interest in swine nutrition and potentially is interested in working for show feed companies to develop premier show feed for swine. However, she has also recently become interested in animal pathology and its affects on biosecurity in the livestock industry, especially African Swine Fever.

**Georgia Dairy Memorial Scholarship**

This year’s Georgia Dairy Memorial Scholarship recipients are **Benjamin “Cass” Benson, Hunter Swartz, Dawson Fields, Tina Green, and Garry Henderson**.

**Cass Benson** is a senior who is a triple major in animal science, dairy science, and biological sciences. He is from LaFayette, GA. His activities and awards include:

- UGA Cattlemen’s Association
- Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program
- High school valedictorian

Cass has worked at the UGA Teaching Dairy as a farm hand, feeder, and milker. He currently works at a local animal clinic. He has maintained an outstanding GPA during his time at UGA and has received numerous recognitions for his scholastic achievements, including being named the Outstanding Senior Dairy Science Student for 2019-2020. Cass is planning to attend veterinary school following graduation and study food animal medicine.

**Hunter Swartz** is a junior from Senoia, GA. Hunter’s activities and accomplishments include:

- UGA Dairy Science Club
- UGA Dairy Science Show Team (chair)
- UGA Commercial Dairy Heifer Show (chair)
- UGA Sigma Alpha Professional Sorority (Ag Awareness Committee member)
- UGA Great Southland Stampede Rodeo (Livestock Committee member)
- UGA Club Eventing Team
- UGA Collegiate Dairy Judging Team
- UGA Horse Judging Team
Before coming to UGA, Hunter was involved in countless 4-H state competitions in high school including dairy judging, dairy quiz bowl, horse judging, poultry judging, hippology, horse quiz bowl, DPA, and more. She was named the Outstanding Senior 4-Her and has been on the Dean’s List at UGA. She has numerous community service activities as well as being a Master 4-Her in multiple events. This year, Hunter was named the 2020 Georgia Ms. Agriculture USA. Hunter is passionate about agriculture and is considering a career path in either agriculture education or extension.

**Dawson Fields** is from Millen, GA. Dawson’s activities and awards include:
- UGA Dairy Science Club (treasurer)
- UGA Dairy Show Team (chair)
- UGA Dairy Judging Team
- High School FFA Dairy Show Team (chair)

Dawson is interested in the field of veterinary medicine, particularly food animal medicine. He was recently accepted into the Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program. He would like to pursue a career as a mixed animal veterinarian and work in rural Georgia.

**Tina Green** is completing her third year at UGA and is from Fountain Inn, SC. She is double majoring in animal science and dairy science. Her activities and awards include:
- CAES Student Philanthropy Council
- UGA Cattlemen’s Association
- Georgia Beef Board Collegiate Beef Team

Tina has been both named to the Dean’s List as well as a Presidential Scholar at UGA. She works 20 hours a week in addition to being a full-time student. She is interested in the field of large animal nutrition, particularly cattle nutrition. She is also completing a certificate program for international agriculture. She aspires to travel abroad and learn different nutrition practices for cattle.

**Garry Henderson** is completing his second year at UGA and is from Duluth, Georgia. His activities and awards include:
- Dairy Science Club
- UGA Cattlemen’s Association
- Alpha Gamma Rho

Garry was involved in numerous high school organizations including National Honor Society, Army JROTC, Hispanic Organization for Promoting Education, and Beta Club. He was also a 4-time academic letterman in addition to a football and baseball letterman. Garry currently works for the UGA Meat Science Technology Center and is very interested in the field of meat science. His goal is to become a food animal veterinarian when he graduates.

**Jorja Cooper**.

Jorja is a freshman from Lyerly, GA. Jorja’s activities and accomplishments include:
- Chattooga Dairy Show Team
- Chattooga High Leadership Student Council (president)
- Chattooga FFA Chapter (president, vice president)
- Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation (vice president, event chairperson)
- Beta Club (president)
- UGA Dairy Science Club

Jorja participated in the Governor’s Honors Program, was a State Finalist FFA Agricultural Communication CDE, received STAR Chattooga FFA Greenhand and Chapter degrees, and was a Georgia FFA State degree recipient. She was named the Chattooga FFA Outstanding Member and Volunteer Award and she received her school leadership award for most community service hours. She was awarded the Chattooga Dairy Heifer Show Overall Grand Champion Showman. She also was selected by her high school to participate in the Tom Graves Leadership Summit. Jorja was named to the Dean’s List in her first year at UGA. She is looking into a variety of careers in the animal agriculture industry.

2020 Student Award Recipients

HD Thames Scholarship
This year’s HD Thames Scholarship recipient is Jorja Cooper.

Jorja is a freshman from Lyerly, GA. Jorja’s activities and accomplishments include:
- Chattooga Dairy Show Team
- Chattooga High Leadership Student Council (president)
- Chattooga FFA Chapter (president, vice president)
- Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation (vice president, event chairperson)
- Beta Club (president)
- UGA Dairy Science Club

Jorja participated in the Governor’s Honors Program, was a State Finalist FFA Agricultural Communication CDE, received STAR Chattooga FFA Greenhand and Chapter degrees, and was a Georgia FFA State degree recipient. She was named the Chattooga FFA Outstanding Member and Volunteer Award and she received her school leadership award for most community service hours. She was awarded the Chattooga Dairy Heifer Show Overall Grand Champion Showman. She also was selected by her high school to participate in the Tom Graves Leadership Summit. Jorja was named to the Dean’s List in her first year at UGA. She is looking into a variety of careers in the animal agriculture industry.
Herbert Henderson Scholarship

This year’s Herbert Henderson Scholarship recipient is **Miralee Shaffer**.

Miralee is a freshman from Dublin, GA who is double majoring in animal science and dairy science. Miralee’s activities and accomplishments include:

- UGA Dairy Science Club
- UGA Pre-Vet Club
- Boy Scouts of America (patrol leader, quartermaster, scribe)
- Future Farmers of America

David has been involved in numerous community service activities both through UGA and outside of UGA. He has served as a mentor for many programs. He was highly involved in Boy Scouts of America and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He has received numerous academic awards, was named to the Dean’s List at UGA, and has participated in undergraduate research. He currently works two jobs in addition to his studies and volunteer work, one as a lab assistant for UGA Cellular Biology and the other as a research student for the Department of Animal and Dairy Science. David has worked diligently to gain experience in all areas of the animal industry and would like to pursue a career as a mixed animal veterinarian following graduation.

Mark A. Lea Memorial Scholarship

This year’s Mark A. Lea Memorial Scholarship recipients are **David Rizo**, **Mallory Lee**, and **Dorothy Paige Paschal**.

David Rizo is completing his third year at UGA as an animal science major. David’s activities and accomplishments include:

- UGA Large Animal Critical Care Team
- Second Chance Ag Dawgs (mentor)
- UGA Pre-Vet Club
- Boy Scouts of America (patrol leader, quartermaster, scribe)
- Future Farmers of America

Mallory Lee is just finishing up her first year at UGA and is an animal science major. Her activities and awards include:

- FFA (parliamentarian, reporter)
- Marching Band (section leader, captain)
- National Honor Society
- 10th place National High Team in Meats Evaluation (FFA)

Paige Paschal is an incoming freshman in the fall of 2020. Her activities and awards include:

- FFA (secretary, president)
- National Honor Society
- Student Council (secretary)
- Georgia FFA State Degree

Paige has been involved in showing livestock and would ultimately like to pursue a degree in animal science with a minor in business. She is very interested in the field of animal health and would like to do research in the area of animal medicine. She would ultimately like to pursue a career as a veterinary pharmacist so that she can assist people in the livestock industry and share her passion for livestock health.
2020 Student Award Recipients

Nesbitt Flatt Scholarship

This year’s Nesbitt Flatt Scholarship recipient is Kalia Henry.

Kalia is completing her third year at UGA as an animal science major. Her activities and awards include:

• UGA One Health Club
• UGA Pre-Vet Club
• UGA Refugee Outreach
• IMPACT Service Breaks (site leader)
• UGA Young Democrats
• President’s List

Kalia has been involved in countless community service activities including many IMPACT service break trips, TABLE, Food 2 Kids, Meals on Wheels, and volunteer work with the Athens homeless shelter, just to list a few. She has worked many jobs ranging from a farm technician at Healing Hands Youth Ranch to an intern at the UGA Large Animal Emergency Hospital.

Kalia has maintained an outstanding GPA and has been involved in undergraduate research during her time at UGA. She is currently pursuing positions across the country for summer REUs (Research Experiences for Undergraduates through the NSF). She is particularly interested in the intersection between human and animal health and would like to ultimately pursue a doctorate degree in veterinary medicine along with a master’s degree in public health.

Kalia aspires to work for the CDC within the Zoonotic Disease Department. She attended a study abroad program in 2018 in Botswana and South Africa that sparked her interest in health on a global scale. She would like to ultimately use her degrees to help implement animal and human health strategies in other countries as well as within the rural United States. She would also like to use her knowledge to promote an interest in and appreciation for animal agriculture.

Rebecca and Louis Boyd Scholarship

The inaugural Rebecca and Louis Boyd Scholarship recipient is Alyssa Rauton.

Alyssa is completing her third year at UGA and is from Waynesboro, GA. Alyssa’s activities and awards include:

• UGA Dairy Science Club (president, Commercial Dairy Heifer Show chair, Farm Tour chair)
• UGA Dairy Show Team
• UGA Dairy Judging Team
• UGA Block and Bridle Club
• UGA Poultry Science Department avian ambassador
• UGA Student Philanthropy
• UGA Sigma Alpha Professional Sorority (ag awareness chair, fundraising chair, chaplain, Ag Hill representative)
• Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program

Alyssa has assisted with many community service projects through the UGA Dairy Science Club and UGA Block and Bridle Club. She has worked both at the UGA Teaching Dairy as well as at the UGA Poultry Research Farm. Alyssa is very interested in the food animal industry. She plans to attend veterinary school following graduation and hopes to one day work for the USDA as a consulting veterinarian for dairy farmers across the state of Georgia.

Robert Lowrey Scholarship

This year’s Robert Lowrey Scholarship recipients are Ashley Victoria Richardson and Austin Wiggins.

Victoria Richardson is in her second year at UGA majoring in animal science. She is from Bowdon, GA. Victoria’s activities and accomplishments include:

• Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program
• UGA Cattlemen’s Association
• UGA Pre-Vet Club
• National FFA Organization
• UGA Student Alumni Association
• Georgia FFA Region Rally
• Georgia FFA Summer Leadership Camp
• Science Olympiad (team captain)
Victoria was heavily involved in FFA while in high school and received numerous awards including 3rd place Area Livestock Evaluation Team, 1st place Area Land Judging Team, 3rd place Area Forestry Team, 1st place individual FFA job interview competition, High individual Land Judging, 2nd place individual North Region Goat Production Placement Proficiency, and many, many other FFA awards. Victoria wants to own her own mixed animal veterinary practice, working with both everyday pet owners as well as farmers. She would like to combine her love of science and math with a career in animal agriculture.

Austin Wiggins is just finishing high school and plans to attend UGA this fall. Austin is from Forsyth, GA and his activities and accomplishments include:

- 4-H (vice president, teen leader)
- FFA (historian, president)
- Georgia Junior Cattlemen’s Association (chapter relations, vice president of state board)

Austin has been involved in countless community service activities through FFA, 4-H, and his local church. He has also garnered numerous awards in both FFA and 4-H including Star Greenhand Award, Star Farmer Award, Reserve Champion AOB Heifer at the Georgia Futurity, Best Middle GA Steer at the West Central GA Show, Senior Showmanship Winner at the Middle GA Market Lamb Show, Master 4-H Awards in Turkey-Q and Beef Production, and countless other awards. Austin is passionate about the fields of animal science and soil science. He has worked as both a farm hand as well as an assistant for a soil science company. He would like to eventually start his own seed stock company and be a successful cattle producer as well as a soil scientist.

S.E. Milk Dairy Checkoff Scholarship

This year’s S.E. Milk Dairy Checkoff Scholarship recipient is Mary Kennemer “Kenne” Hillis.

Kenne is completing her junior year at UGA and is from Evans, GA. She is double majoring in animal science and dairy science. Her activities and awards include:

- American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) Student Affiliate Division (secretary-treasurer)
- UGA Dairy Science Club (secretary, vice president)
- UGA Block and Bridle Club
- UGA Cattlemen’s Association
- UGA Pre-Vet Club

Kenne has worked 20 hours a week at the UGA Teaching Dairy as a calf feeder and milker and is currently employed as a veterinary assistant in Athens. She placed 3rd in the Regional ADSA Production Paper Presentation competition and 2nd in the National ADSA Production Paper Presentation competition. She also placed 2nd in the Regional ADSA Original Research Paper Presentation. Kenne was named our Outstanding Dairy Science Junior this year. Kenne plans to pursue a career as a large animal veterinarian and would like to work for the USDA, eventually also being involved in local agricultural politics.

Walter Forbes Outstanding Senior

This year’s Walter Forbes Outstanding Animal Science Senior is Morgan Rowan.

Morgan is double majoring in animal science and dairy science. She is from Valdosta, GA and came to UGA in the fall of 2016. Morgan’s activities and accomplishments include:

- UGA Cattlemen’s Association (president)
- UGA Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority (chaplain)
- UGA Livestock Judging Team
- UGA Dairy Science Club
- UGA Food Animal Veterinary Incentive Program Scholar
- UGA Dean’s List
- Lowndes FFA Herdsmen Award Beef Production
- Georgia Junior Cattlemen’s Association scholarship recipient
- Georgia Beef Board scholarship recipient

Morgan also owns and manages her own cattle herd in Valdosta, GA. She has a strong interest in livestock reproduction and reproductive technologies. She plans to attend veterinary school following graduation and will pursue a career as a food animal veterinarian.