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The Gopher Dairy Club is grateful to have Forest Park Ayrshires as a key aspect to the continued success of both the University of Minnesota Junior and Senior Dairy Judging Teams. We are honored to award the 2013 Distinguished Service Award to Glen and Lois Nelson on behalf of their dedication and time to students whom partake in the judging program.

For many years, Glen and Lois Nelson of Milltown, WI have hosted the University of Minnesota Dairy Judging Teams to practice before their collegiate competitions begin. They have thoroughly enjoyed hosting the two teams due in part to the exemplary courtesy and respect both the students and coaches continue to show and are proud to be a small part of the development of the judging participant’s and program’s success.

Glen and Lois have been fortunate to have a herd of Ayrshires that have brought them many achievements. Throughout the years, the Nelsons have received 19 Constructive Breeder awards, two French trophies for high herd average in the United States and their home-bred cow, Our Dove, has set records for production within the state of Wisconsin and has been named the highest producer in the United States. They have also been recognized before the Wisconsin State Assembly and received Wisconsin Cow of the Year, whom was Image Excella, presented by former Governor Tommy Thompson. Glen and Lois consign cattle to state, national and expo sales and plan to do so for many years to come. The Ayrshire breed is thankful for the Nelsons genetic influences on the breed.

In 2006, Glen completed his Master’s in Agriculture Education; Lois also completed her Bachelor’s in Human Service that same year. While the couple took time for their education, they still continued to farm full time. Currently, Lois is working off the farm with a part-time position for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers as a meal site manager. Glen happily keeps up with the day to day tasks on the farm. The Nelsons have a daughter, Greta, who is employed as an elementary school teacher and continues to be an active Ayrshire breeder.

The Nelsons remain active in their community as 4-H adult leaders for dairy and encourage local youth to show their cattle as 4-H projects. They have even encouraged their son-in-law, Mitch, to become an eager learner of the dairy industry. With the Nelsons involvement in the dairy industry and their own community, Gopher Dairy Club is pleased to have Glen and Lois represented as the 2013 Distinguished Service Award Recipients.

By: Jenn Janak, Senior in Animal Science
Editors’ Message

Creating The Topline allows us to reflect on great accomplishments that the Gopher Dairy Club has seen over the past year. Students at the University of Minnesota can attest to the fact that each year brings new memories, experiences and opportunities. Many club members are actively involved in other aspects of dairy outside of the club, we believe it is important to recognize their outstanding accomplishments. As editors, we enjoy showcasing those unique moments. This year’s edition of The Topline is dedicated to Dr. J. William Mudge, whom passed away early this year. Dr. Mudge served as a co-advisor for the Gopher Dairy Club and was instrumental in getting the club started.

The highlights of our publication are the 2014 Distinguished Service and Golden Graduate award articles. These are the two biggest awards the Gopher Dairy Club bestows upon dairy men and women. A big thank you goes out to Ken Herbranson (Golden Graduate Award recipient) and Glen and Lois Nelson (Distinguished Service Award recipients). These three individuals have made a lasting impact as they promote the dairy industry throughout this great state of Minnesota and relentlessly lend their farms and animals for dairy judging. Congratulations on this prestigious honor and thank you for your contributions.

This year, our cover photo displays Como Park. This particular area of St. Paul is an attraction to many students who are looking for a serene getaway from the hectic campus life. Located nearly five miles from campus, Como Park was an excellent location for this year’s photo opportunities.

These photos wouldn’t be nearly as beautiful without Sonja Miedke’s photography. Sonja has been taking our cover photos for many years, and we appreciate her talents. For the last four years, Sonja has also been taking senior headshots. These continue to raise the quality and overall appearance of The Topline. Thank you Sonja for continuing to dedicate your time and talents to the club.

We are blessed with great campus organizations and agricultural companies that play an essential role in the success of The Topline. We would like to extend our gratitude to the organizations that have placed an advertisement in this year’s edition. Your contribution and support ensures that past, present and future members, as well as dairy industry leaders, get the opportunity to enjoy the memories of the Gopher Dairy Club.

Another thank you goes out to all of the club members that volunteered their time, writing skills and photos to The Topline. In particular, thank you to the yearbook committee members, Lisa Janak, Jensi Haler, Rachel Friese, Carmen Kryzer, Tatum Oddland, Tamara Gallegos, Emily Boser, Michael Schmitt, Erin Daninger, Lauren Servick and Kirsten Lawstuen; who lent a hand in editing, packaging and sending copies of The Topline. We would also like to thank alumni Lucas Sjostrom, and Steph Kasper for providing guidance and aiding in the editing process. Finally, thank you to Dr. Les Hansen, our advisor, for his time and direction.

Working on The Topline is a rewarding experience much in part to the support of the aforementioned individuals. We are grateful for our advertisers and proud to showcase the club’s many successes. Enjoy the 2013-2014 edition of The Topline.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Janak, Co-Editor 2012-2014
Cassie Olson, Co-Editor 2013-2015

The 2013-2014 Executive Team

President, Tyler Otte, is a senior majoring in Animal Science, Dairy Production emphasis from Randolph, MN. He grew up on his family’s dairy farm milking 500 cows with 1,500 acres of crop land, while also raising his own young stock. As a member of the Gopher Dairy Club, Tyler has assisted with judging contests, and is a member of the dairy judging team. On campus, he is also a member of Block and Bridle Club, Delta Theta Sigma Fraternity, Minnesota Royal, and Dairy Challenge. Upon graduation, Tyler hopes to return to the family farm.

Vice President, Stephanie Kasper, grew up on her family’s 350-cow Holstein and Jersey dairy operation in Owatonna, MN. Stephanie shows cows, has served as a county dairy process and was selected as a Princess Kay of the Milky Way finalist in 2011. On campus, Stephanie has been involved with National Agri-Marketing Association, Agricultural Education Club, Collegiate Agri-Women, and Beta of Clovia Sorority. She has also served as a co-editor of the Gopher Dairy Club yearbook, The Topline. She is majoring in Agricultural Education, and plans stay involved with her family’s dairy farm while pursuing a career in agricultural communications and marketing.

Treasurer, Elise Krause, is a senior in Applied Economics. She grew up milking 200 cows on a Registered Milking Shorthorn dairy farm in central Minnesota. While in Gopher Dairy Club, Elise has served as the Regional ADSA Chair, helped with FFA judging contests, and served as the Dairy Bar Manager. On campus, Elise is involved with Lambda Delta Phi Sorority, the Community Engagement Scholars Program, and the International Agriculture Club. Upon her graduation, Elise is interested in working abroad. She dreams of one day assisting a small dairy farm transform into a successful agritourism business.

Secretary, Erin Daninger, of Forest Lake, MN is a senior studying Agricultural Education. Erin grew up working on her family’s 60-cow dairy farm, where they began a microcreamery processing and bottling business through which they sell their milk in glass bottles across the Twin Cities area. In Gopher Dairy Club, Erin has served as the co-chair of the Judging Contests Committee, and also is a member of the dairy judging team. She is also a member of Beta of Clovia Sorority, the Minnesota Royal Executive Team, and Agricultural Education Club. Following her graduation, Erin plans to teach high school agricultural education.

Reporter, Jenn Janak, is a senior majoring in Animal Science, Dairy Production emphasis from Northfield, MN. Growing up, Jenn assisted on her neighbor’s farm. She showed cows through 4-H, and was selected as a Princess Kay of the Milky Way finalist in 2011. In Gopher Dairy Club, Jenn has served as The Topline co-editor, assisted with FHA judging contests, and the annual Gopher Dairy Camp. On campus, Jenn has been a member in Beta of Clovia Sorority and Collegiate Agri-Women. After graduation, Jenn plans on working in communications and marketing for the dairy industry.

Officer at Large, Kelsey Petitt, is a senior from Plainview, MN, completing her degree in Agricultural Education. Kelsey grew up doing chores on her family’s farm, and was involved with the Olmsted County Dairy Princess Program. In Gopher Dairy Club, Kelsey has helped with various judging contests, served as a camp counselor, and helped at the Gopher Dairy Bar. Kelsey has also been a member of Lambda Delta Phi Sorority, Agricultural Education Club, and the Minnesota Royal Executive Committee. Following graduation, Kelsey plans to work in the dairy industry for Minnesota Extension, or as a 4-H Program Coordinator.
A True Honor To Serve

By: Tyler Otte, Senior in Animal Science

Most of us know that college is full of opportunities! Attending my first Gopher Dairy Club meeting, it was a bit overwhelming to hear all the events and activities the club was involved in. Now as a senior, I understand how each activity plays a role in the club’s involvement on campus and the dairy industry. The Gopher Dairy Club and its alumni have provided great opportunities for its members throughout the years and this year is no exception.

The Gopher Dairy Club is one of the largest and most active student organizations on the St. Paul campus. The club currently has over 120 members involved in a variety of opportunities. The Gopher Dairy Club also offers the members leadership experience that can use in college and throughout their life time. Whether a member serves an executive officer, a committee chairs or is active on a committee each has the opportunity to gain experience and leadership that can benefit them as professionals in the dairy industry.

As many of you may know, ADSA and the banquet are our big spring events. ADSA was a hit as we once again brought home the best yearbook among the Midwest schools. This has led to great opportunities for students to showcase their writing skills with the Topline and has encouraged students to pursue related jobs in this field. The banquet was one that most will never forget through their careers as a Gopher Club member. As awards are dispersed, many enjoy the scenes of the senior trip and it brings back awesome memories for alumni and hopes of exciting adventures for those who will attend the trip in the future.

If you ask any member of the club, they will tell you the Minnesota State Fair is the busiest time of year. The twelve days are packed with watching cattle shows, looking at all the exhibits, eating as much fair food as one can consume and, of course, working in the Gopher Dairy Bar. The Dairy Bar has served as the best fundraiser for the club while also allowing the students to earn their ticket to California for the Senior Trip.

Our fall started off with our Alumni Event held at the World Dairy Expo. This was a tremendous chance for alumni and students to gather and discuss current activities the club is involved in. It was also awesome to see everyone discuss the great cattle that were there.

The social atmosphere that this event provides is one of the many memories people bring back from World Dairy Expo every year.

The Networking Event had an excellent turn out for its second year. Numerous students have received internships and jobs through this event. It also allows other students to expand their horizons and learn more about what interests them in the industry.

It has been a true honor serving as president this past year. The opportunities this club has given me are endless and I hope every member takes advantage of what GDC has to offer. I would like to thank my fellow officers, Stephanie Kasper, Erin Daninger, Elise Krause, Jennifer Janak and Kelsey Petit, for providing me with excellent help that I always greatly appreciated and for showing leadership in the club in many different ways. Thank you to our advisor, Les Hansen, for the endless guidance and suggestions to keep the club and myself in line. And finally, thank you to all the members.

-Tyler Otte
Golden Graduate Award Recipient, 2014: Ken Herbranson

By: Cassie Olson, Junior in Agricultural Education

The Gopher Dairy Club is honored to present the 2014 Golden Graduate award to Kenneth Robert Herbranson. Ken is one of four children raised by Robert and Mabel Herbranson on Brookside Farm. His parents led by example and taught the value of hard work, the importance of faith and family and the value of getting a good education. Ken’s education began in a one-room country school and eventually led him to graduate from the University of Minnesota in 1976 with Bachelor of Science degrees in both Animal Science and Agricultural Economics.

In the years that followed, Ken took on various positions in agriculture. Since graduating from the University of Minnesota, Ken has been a sales representative for Babson Brothers – Surge Equipment and Butler Manufacturing. In 1981, Ken returned to the family farm to farm with his father and brother, where they began expanding their 50-cow dairy. It was in 1996 that the family decided to build a new free-stall dairy, which today has a capacity for 500 cows. Along the way, they were also able to expand their land base to 2,000 acres and added 400 acres of irrigation to stabilize crop production.

Ken has been actively involved with the Midwest Dairy Association board, where he is currently serving as the secretary and MN Division Chair. He is also currently the Director of Lakes Area Coop in Perham, Minnesota, and serves on the Otter Tail County Economic Development Committee. In the past, Ken has also been involved with the Otter Tail County American Dairy Association Board, and the MN Dairy Profitability Advisory Committee for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Ken says, “The University became a window through which I began to see a larger world, learning what to ask, where to go and who to talk to in order to get things done. At the U of MN, St. Paul, I had the unique experience where I could feed cows at the dairy barn, visit with a veterinarian student and talk to an economics or dairy science professor, all in one day. I would do it all again in a heartbeat, maybe a bit less hurried, taking time to enjoy more of the social aspects of groups like the Gopher Dairy Club. In a world of seemingly endless choices for students, I heartily recommend the U of MN St. Paul. It has served me well.”

Ken is married to his wife, Joyce, a fellow University of Minnesota alum. They have been married since 1978 and have three daughters, all of whom have received their degrees as well. Ken is grateful and honored to have been chosen to receive this award, and thanks the Gopher Dairy Club for their recognition.
For dairy students and the dairy industry, change is on the horizon.

New precision-dairy technologies allow producers to more closely monitor their herds, to track what’s happening in the industry, and perhaps most importantly, improve their families’ quality of life. At the same time, national public policy debates around milk production and pricing will affect everyone from consumers to cows. Meanwhile, food, agriculture and environmental issues are taking on ever-greater importance around the world and in our hometowns.

It all adds up to a fascinating time to be a dairy student and future participant in the dairy industry. As you begin your careers, you have many reasons to be optimistic and happy that you chose this field. CFANS and the Department of Animal Science work hard to provide an environment that fosters discovery through our teaching, research and outreach. We’ve built a dairy science program that’s known and respected both locally and globally for its work in improving the management, health and nutrition of dairy cattle. Our partners in industry – your future employers and colleagues – support us in these efforts.

One of the most exciting new projects at the University of Minnesota is the MnDRIVE initiative. The 2013 Minnesota Legislature authorized an $18 million annual investment in the university to support four research areas: conserving our environment, discovering and treatments for brain conditions; robotics, sensors and advanced manufacturing; and securing the global food supply. CFANS’ role is largest in the latter two areas, both of which are important to the future of animal science and dairy science.

Our college also has begun to emphasize real-world experience through our experiential learning requirements. We’ve learned from alumni and employers that this kind of experience is crucial for students beginning their careers. CFANS graduates will work with a wide range of colleagues as they strive to find solutions to complex problems. For example, an animal scientist might work with agronomists and public-policy experts to develop crops that can be fed to livestock and at the same time contribute to environmental sustainability. That kind of a project, combined with internships and other workplace experiences, can help students learn how to work across disciplines and to collaborate with people who have different points of view.

That’s where your help is needed. We’ve made some strides, but as the next generation of scientists, you’ll be working with a broad array of people from many disciplines. How can we, as a college, take even greater advantage of the emerging opportunities in dairy science? How can we help you prepare for a career in your field, even as that field is rapidly evolving? Are there opportunities for lifelong learning that would help the dairy industry? Your opinions and ideas make a difference, and I welcome every opportunity to hear from you. CFANS is all about solution-driven science; we use critical and innovative thinking plus all the tools of the arts and sciences to make our planet a productive, friendly, and sustainable environment—to solve everyday problems.

Change Is On The Horizon

By: Dr. Brian Buhr, College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Interim Dean

Congratulations to the Gopher Dairy Club – what a great year. All of us in the Department of Animal Science value the members of the Gopher Dairy Club and celebrate your achievements with you. We are very proud of you and all that you do and bring to the Department and the profession. We appreciate the support that the club provides the department in fulfilling our missions of education and discovery. We are glad that you, the members of the Gopher Dairy Club, have chosen the University of Minnesota as your university ‘home’. We will continue to strive to provide exceptional learning and growing experiences that will allow you to develop to your full potential. We are so pleased and proud that you are here.

As members of the University of Minnesota Gopher Dairy Club, you are among the best in the nation. Your successes are a testament to your exceptional quality, and to the excellent experiential and interdisciplinary educational experiences you have taken advantage of here. We are thankful to you for being a vibrant part of our community. Your enthusiasm, excitement and fresh perspective invigorate the Department and University. You are our top priority. We know you will have a tremendous positive impact on the world and we take pride that upon graduation, over 90% of our graduates find employment and go on to make a difference.

Again, congratulations. You as students involved in our programs are our pride and joy. We look forward to our interactions as the future unfolds and to your successes and contributions.

GDC Leaves Tremendous Impact

By: Dr. Mike White, Head of the Department of Animal Science

About The Department of Animal Science

The Department of Animal Science is part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) on the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul Campus. Animal Science is the largest undergraduate major in CFANS and is home to some the largest and most active student clubs.

Mission Statement:
“Through education, research, and outreach we serve people by providing continued improvements in the efficient and humane production of animals and wholesome animal products.”
Kids, family and cows – in that order, some say are the priorities of J. William Mudge, better known as Bill. Many young people would agree that he gave them particular attention when they needed it most. The Gopher Dairy Club is proud to dedicate the 2014 edition of The Topline to Bill. For his outstanding accomplishments, the Gopher Dairy Club has commemorated his work by naming the Outstanding Senior Award after him as well. Bill served as co-advisor for the Gopher Dairy Club since its beginning and was instrumental in getting the club started.

A student of agriculture, dairy science and animal breeding, this Kansas native earned his Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D. degrees from Kansas State University. During his college days, Bill worked as the University’s herdsman and later as the operator of his own dairy farm. His love of cows carried him into other facets of the dairy industry. Bill joined the University of Minnesota staff in 1960 as an Extension Dairy Specialist. While at the University, he worked closely with dairy farmers, county agents, other extension specialists and DHA on feeding, breeding and management problems. He also authored numerous dairy-related publications and articles and was a key component to developing production testing programs for dairy cattle.

He was a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Dairy Science Association, National Mastitis Council, Minnesota Holstein Association and the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association of which he served as secretary and treasurer for many years. In 1986, Bill received the Gordon L. Starr Award, which is given to outstanding faculty at the University of Minnesota.

One of Bill’s greatest contributions to the dairy industry is his enthusiastic support of youth. He has judged countless county fairs, worked closely with many 4-Hers and has been a great asset to the Minnesota Junior Holstein Association. University students found him extremely eager to share his knowledge when it came to research papers and speeches. He was also an important link for student finding part-time jobs on campus in dairy extension.

Recently, Bill passed away. His everyday cheerful smile and friendliness are missed by many. Bill was recognized as an honorary advisor for the Gopher Dairy Club, as he continued to spread his enthusiasm and knowledge in the dairy club and on campus for many years after his retirement.

The members of the Gopher Dairy Club are proud to dedicate this edition of The Topline to Dr. J. William Mudge and name the Outstanding Senior Award on his behalf, for his dedication to the dairy industry, his enthusiasm and his support for the club. He was always more than willing to do anything he could to help students in our club. His service and advice were appreciated by all members.

I have grown up always being involved in dairy. Whether I was talking to a person in the cattle barn in barn clothes, or in a dress and crown as Princess Kay, I became even more aware that we all have the ability to share our stories and experiences with others. I am honored to be in a position where I can still hold true to the life and values I learned on the farm, but am also able to meet and engage with people from many different walks of life. I have been able to meet with senators and representatives, agricultural industry and organization members, and consumers. I’m also able to speak to kids all ages and focus much of my time around school visits. I now have many opportunities that were unimaginable to be before. Even though I am only a few months in, this experience has greatly impacted my life.

I am beginning my first year in Dairy Club at NDSU. Being in a club with fellow students with the same interest in cows is already a great experience, but it is through that organization that we, as college students can bridge the gap of knowledge that others have about our industry. There are many events and activities that the club is involved in to get out into the community and get involved on campus. That common voice we share is what really sets us apart from other on-campus organizations.

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I am honestly very lucky that I have been able to grow up learning the importance of a hard day’s work, and what it really takes to make getting dairy products easily at grocery stores possible. I have also been able to grow within my Princess Kay experiences. I am just grateful to have the opportunities I have to be able to speak about dairy. I now am able to really get my voice, and the voice of the 3,800 farmers I am able to represent this year, heard on a larger scale. We all have the ability to speak on what we love and know best, dairy farming. I am very thankful for the wide array of media avenues that are available to me, as well as the many events I am able to attend as the 60th Princess Kay of the Milky Way. This is a wonderful opportunity that I am very grateful to have. I could not be happier to join an amazing group of women that have been making a difference for the past 60 years, lending their time to best represent dairy farmers. I will never be able to say thank you enough to the farmers in the state, and my father, for making this all possible for me.

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Dairy Showcase Shows Success In Fifth Year

By: Jeni Haler, Freshman in Animal Science & Spanish and Portuguese Studies

The 5th Annual Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase was held on Sunday, August 25, 2013 in the AgStar Arena at the Minnesota State Fair. The program determines the top twenty five youth in the dairy industry across the state. It is a joint effort between the Minnesota 4-H Dairy Project Development Committee and the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association that strives in recognizing the involvement, dedication, and passion of Minnesota’s dairy youth.

A committee of judges selects the finalists from a scorecard format. Points are earned based on project leadership, dairy-related activities, community and church involvement, as well as a leadership portfolio, consisting of two short essay questions allowing youth to share how the dairy industry has impacted them. They must also receive a blue or purple ribbon in their class at the State Fair with bonus points awarded to reserve and champion honors to qualify for one of the top twenty five positions. Each finalist receives a monetary award, which is unveiled for the first time during the program on Sunday.

This year, the Gopher Dairy Club along with AgStar Financial Services was considered a “Bulk Tank Sponsor” for contributing $2,500 or more. The Dairy Showcase’s sponsorship has grown tremendously, nearly doubling in funds since 2010. To date, the total amount donated reaches over $114,000 with $33,000 coming from the 2013 Showcase.

There were five Gopher Dairy Club representatives in the showcase. Jeni Haler received 1st place honors, Mary Liebenstein placed 2nd, Eric Houdek was awarded 9th place, Austin Davis earned 10th place and Kayla Brown received 23rd place. The Gopher Dairy Club members have consistently had strong showings in the showcase since the program first started with GDC alumnus, Karen Anderson, as the inaugural showcase winner in 2009. Additionally, Kelsey Mussman took the honor in 2011, and Michael Schmitt in 2010 and 2012.

I am so grateful and honored to be selected as the 5th annual Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase winner. It’s exciting to be part of a program that has such a bright future and congratulates youth for their hard work and outstanding achievements. Each and every finalist is very deserving. It is humbling to be recognized for dedication to an industry that we are all so passionate about.

Thank you to all of the sponsors of the Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase. It is because of your generosity that the youth of our state have the amazing opportunity to be a part of something greater than themselves and represent the dairy industry on a new level. If you would like to be a sponsor for the program, please contact Steve Pooch at (651) 323-4210 or steve.pooch@mnstatefair.org.
The Gopher Dairy Club Banquet serves as a great opportunity for students, alumni, faculty and dairy enthusiasts to gather in celebrating achievements. The 29th annual event took place on February 17th, 2013 in the Grand Ballroom at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Minneapolis. The banquet highlighted club events and commemorated outstanding students and alumni.

The featured keynote speaker was Joel Groskreutz, CEO of Accelerated Genetics in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Joel shared his personal experiences as he spoke about dealing with life’s unexpected adversity in his main message stating “Attitude is the key to altitude.” Additional speakers included the Head of the Department of Animal Science, Mike White, as well as 2012-2013 Princess Kay of the Milky Way, Christine Reitsma.

Receiving the Distinguished Service Award were recipients Henk and Bonnie Van Dyk. This honorable award is presented to a club advocate, volunteer, or contributor. Henk and Bonnie Van Dyk own and operate Willows Edge in Richmond, Wisconsin, where they milk 125 cows. The Van Dyk’s are respected leaders in the dairy industry and have dedicated much of their time to serving numerous organizations, including the University of Minnesota dairy judging teams. For 14 consecutive years, the Van Dyk’s have consistently provided the judging team with quality, ready classes of Holstein animals to practice. Congratulations, Henk and Bonnie, on receiving this award, and thank you for your continued service and support.

Yet again, the Gopher Dairy Club had the opportunity to recognize several exceptional new club members. Roxann Achen of Ambia, Indiana, received the 2013 Douglas Siem Memorial Award, a $2,000 scholarship. In addition, 13 new student $1,500 scholarships were awarded to the following students: Nathan Daninger of Forest Lake; Austin Davis of Cokato; Nate Donnay of Glencoe; Matthew Hanson of Goodridge; Molly Herberg of Saint Peter; Eric Houdek of Caledonia; Mary Liebenstein of Northfield; Bret Otte of Randolph; Christine Reitsma of Sauk Centre; Katie Schmitt of Rice; Justin Siewart of Zumbro Falls; Wyatt Smith of Hamburg; and Dane Thompson of Turtle Lake, WI.

Furthermore, three current members were recognized for their impressive contributions to the club. Emily Krekelberg received the Outstanding Senior Award, the R.W. Touchberry Award was given to Rachel Nelson, and both Rebecca Groos and Kelsey Massman received the Outstanding Rookie Award jointly, which were both eligible as sophomores.

The dairy judging teams did remarkably well again this year, representing the University of Minnesota at the national level. Coached by Dr. Les Hansen, Scott Ellinghuysen and Alicia Thurf, the senior judging team members included Jacob Achen, Jayne Esch, David Hanson, Isaac Saifer and Theresa Twohey. Jacob Achen and Isaac Saifer each received the prestigious National Dairy Shrine Student Recognition Program Award, which was sponsored by Genex/CRI.

Another outstanding team to note is the Dairy Management Challenge Team coached by Marcia Endres with Jacob Achen, David Hanson, Kyle Mathews and Theresa Twohey comprising its senior membership. Minnesota Select Sires presented the National Dairy Challenge Awards to the team members.

This banquet is appreciated for the time it gives for each attendee to reflect on the memories made and the numerous accomplishments achieved throughout the year by the Gopher Dairy Club. Thank you to the alumni, faculty, dairy enthusiasts and the many supporters who continue to help uphold the Gopher Dairy Club’s status as one of the largest and most successful student groups at the University of Minnesota.
The Iowa State University Dairy Science Club welcomed area schools to Cyclone territory for the 2013 Midwest Regional American Dairy Science Association- Student Affiliate Division Conference. This year the conference was held over Super Bowl weekend from February 1-3. The Gopher Dairy Club had a strong showing at the annual event with over 70 members in attendance. The journey to the conference was a fun one with two buses being loaded to get everyone there.

The conference kicked off with a little competition in dairy quiz bowl. Although our Junior and Senior teams did not win this year, they still did well showing off their dairy knowledge! The official start of the weekend was made by welcoming all of the schools in attendance and with a speaker to help get attendees excited about the weekend of fun activities. To give the students a little bit of entertainment, Iowa State invited a hypnotist to have a little fun with some of our fellow peers. We were able to end the evening with a memorable dance and club skits, in which we took home third place.

Saturday was filled with education and celebrating successes from the year. Once on campus, members were broken up into five groups and were rotated between five breakout sessions. In these sessions we explored raw milk consumption, the Iowa State Dairy, agriculture entrepreneurship, advancing reproduction technologies, and attending graduate school versus starting in the industry right out of college. All of the sessions were very thought provoking and informative to the University of Minnesota students in attendance.

After the sessions and a delicious lunch, we returned to the hotel and got ready for a great banquet. At the banquet, the Gopher Dairy Club was excited to learn that we received top honors for our yearbook, The Topline, and that we had the highest attendance of any club. In addition, our very own Kelsey Mussman was elected to serve as the Midwest Region Vice President. The busy but fun Saturday was ended with another dance and opportunity for club members to socialize with students throughout the Midwest.

The members of the Gopher Dairy Club came back to campus with new knowledge of the dairy industry and many new connections. We thank Iowa State University for a great 2013 conference and we all look forward to the event being hosted by the Buckeye Dairy Club in 2014!
The national meeting of the American Dairy Science Association-Student Affiliate Division was held July 7-10, 2013 in Indianapolis, IN. Nearly 20 schools participated in SAD activities, which began on July 7, with two tours. First, students visited Kelsay Farms, LLC in Whiteland, IN. Kelsay’s is a sixth generation 500-cow dairy and 2,200-acre crop farm that also has a very successful agritourism business, hosting nearly 10,000 visitors annually. Students learned about how the farm educates consumers, especially school children, about the dairy industry. SAD members also had the opportunity to tour the world famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indy 500. We even got to kiss the bricks. Sunday concluded with an informal mixer at the Colts Grille.

Monday, July 8, featured the traditional Midday Mixer and Pizza Party. During the pizza party, SAD members had the opportunity to meet those students running for the national officer team for 2013-2014. Monday also saw the much-anticipated Quiz Bowl competition. Nine teams competed with Cal Poly and Washington State meeting in the Championship Round. Washington State walked away with the coveted traveling cow trophy. Tuesday was drawn to a close with a pool side pizza party at the student hotel.

Wednesday, July 10, was the final day of the SAD meeting, and there was certainly a lot going on. Students started the morning with another business meeting, where elections for 2013-2014 officers were held. Members then enjoyed a presentation by Howard Green of Elanco about feeding the growing population, from a dairy industry perspective.

The ADSA-SAD National Meeting was brought to a close with the Awards Luncheon. The Gopher Dairy Club, for the second year in a row, was awarded Outstanding Chapter Yearbook. Club member and outgoing SAD President Emily Krekelberg gave a farewell speech before announcing the new officer team.

The 2013 ADSA-SAD National Meeting was an enriching and educational experience for all who attended, and we are all looking forward to next year’s meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.

When I joined Gopher Dairy Club as a freshman, I knew right away that I wanted to be a leader in the club. I really looked up to the officers, yearbook editors and dairy bar managers. It was obvious to me that these were individuals who were passionate about the success of the club, not just themselves. Right away, I felt that passion for the Gopher Dairy Club.

The summer following my sophomore year, I attended the National Meeting for the American Dairy Science Association-Student Affiliate Division in New Orleans. In a moment of pure genius, quite possibly pure foolishness, I succumbed to my fellow GDC members’ suggestions to run for the ADSA-SAD National Officer Team. I was elected as Secretary-Treasurer, following fellow GDC member Mike Donnelly. I was proud to call myself a member of that officer team, but even more proud to represent Gopher Dairy Club. I saw it as another opportunity to make the club the best it can be, as well as helping clubs across the country achieve the same goal.

By the time the next national ADSA-SAD meeting rolled around, I had that same passion I felt for GDC. I wanted SAD to be successful; I wanted it to be an enriching experience for every member. Since I was only a junior, I decided to run for re-election onto the officer team. I knew that I risked the heartbreak of not getting re-elected, but that was just as they helped develop me. There are so many people I would like to thank for helping me make this journey such a successful one. First, to my national officer and advisor team: Cory Robbins, Mandy Brazil, Tyler Boyd, Anna Gibson, Pam Mayo, Mr. Dale Oliver, Dr. Kas Ingawa, Dr. Mary Sowerby, and SAD Liaison Molly Kelley. Deadlines would not have been met, National Meeting would not have been held and my sanity would not have been maintained without them. I would also like to thank Gopher Dairy Club for their support and enthusiasm and especially the 2012-2013 Executive Team, Theresa Twohey, Jacob Achen, Isaac Salser, Caity Durrow, Willie Coyne and Dr. Les Hansen for letting me stand on my ADSA soapbox on a regular basis.

Dairy Clubs at colleges and universities are an integral part in ensuring the future success of the dairy industry. They allow students countless opportunities to network, learn, have fun and become outstanding leaders. I can only hope that my year as ADSA-SAD President ignited that same spark of passion in other dairy club members.
Growing Leaders In Dairy

By: Emilie Lane, Senior in Agricultural Education

The 10th annual Gopher Dairy Camp was held June 9-11 at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. 71 youth in grades 6-10 from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and North Dakota took part in the three day camp, where they had the opportunity to gain skills in showing dairy cattle, further their knowledge about the dairy industry and make new friendships.

Camp kicked off with the participants competing in Minute To Win It games. Campers were able to meet the other members of their group and also earn “Moo money” to be used in the Gopher Gold Auction later that evening where they purchased the calf they would work with for the rest of camp. Monday morning started with workshops, where campers learned about preparing for county fair from Chaneen Haler; Dairy Nutrition from Dr. Noah Litherland; and showmanship from Eric Sonnek. Dr. Bob Horton from the Ohio State University also returned to camp this year to teach campers about dairy foods. After lunch, group-fitting demonstrations were held with professional fitters and the youth had time to clip and fit their calves.

To relax after the busy day, the group went to Tropics Waterpark.

Tuesday started bright and early with campers preparing for the showmanship contest. The showmanship contest was held in the Livestock Pavilion, and our judges this year were Lana Olson and Megan Herberg. That afternoon campers enjoyed a private tour of TCF Bank Stadium. Camp ended with an awards banquet that included a keynote speech from Elizabeth Olson, recognition of the top showmen, camp awards and door prizes.

Gopher Dairy Camp would not be possible without the help of many people including our counselors, alumni co-chairs, speakers, food service and our generous sponsors: Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association, Minnesota 4-H Foundation, CHS Foundation, Organic Valley, Minnesota Farm Bureau, UdderTech Inc., CFANS Student Board, Nicollet County ADA, Central Livestock, Land O’ Lakes, Riverview LLC, Modern Farm Equipment, Minnesota Select Sires, First District, AMPI, Farm Boy, Ag Star, Reuhling Milk Transfer, Brown Swiss Association and B & R Dairy Equipment. The help and support of all these people ensured another successful Gopher Dairy Camp. Thank you.

Left: Over 70 youth participate in an exclusive tour of the University of Minnesota’s TCF Bank Stadium on the last day of camp. Below: Alumni, Lana Olson, tests youth on their dairy knowledge at the Showmanship Competition.

Left: Professional fitters assist dairy campers with their heifers before the Showmanship Competition. Below: Campers of all skill levels participate in the showmanship contest.

Left: Youth begin bidding at the Gopher Gold Auction for the best heifer in the barn. Below: Showmanship classes are determined by experience and knowledge of showing dairy.

Left: Dairy camper participates in the Gopher Gold Auction as the assistant auctioneer. Below: Alumna, Lana Olson, tests youth on their dairy knowledge at the Showmanship Competition.
Despite Heat, New Flavor Attracts Many Fair-goers

By: Ben Thorpe, Senior in Animal Science
Elise Krause, Senior in Applied Economics

Another year is in the books for the Gopher Dairy Bar. Again, this year’s Dairy Bar was a great success and every member enjoyed his or her time working during the Minnesota State Fair. As the largest fundraiser for our club, it takes a lot of planning and hard work and wouldn’t be manageable without the help of all club members – this year was no exception. Club members battled through the two scorching heated weeks; luckily, the weekends were a little cooler for the students working in the Gopher Dairy Bar.

This year we tried out the new shake flavor – mango. It was an immediate attraction to all fair goers. Next year, the Junior Managers will have to make the risky decision to continue the popular flavor of mango or introduce something new. Again, we were grateful for the generous $10,000 sponsorship that Land O’ Lakes has given us for continuing to sell their shake mix and milk in Dairy Bar.

The funds raised at the Gopher Dairy Bar will be used for various club activities including the senior trip, regional and national ADSA-SAD conferences, Gopher Dairy Camp and the annual club banquet. Additionally, the club continually sponsors students with scholarships and is also able to donate funds back to dairy activities held throughout our hometown communities.

We would like to thank all the alumni who stop by and continue to support us, as well as all of the hard working Gopher Dairy Club members – we couldn’t continue to thrive as one of the top campus clubs without all of you. Hope to see you all back for the Great Minnesota Get Together in 2014.

Thank You Land O’ Lakes!
The Gopher Dairy Club extends our gratitude for the five year annual sponsorship of $10,000. We are now in our third year of this partnership and appreciate this token from Land O’ Lakes.

As a leading company in the dairy industry, we are proud to display Land O’ Lakes signage throughout our Dairy Bar.

We are proud to serve Land O’ Lakes Products!

Thank You!

Left: Gopher Dairy Club member, Matt Frenchick, dishes up a cold glass of milk for one of the customers. Middle Top: Chaneen Haler, Junior Dairy Bar Manager, fills up the strawberry shake machine. Middle: Tamara Gallegos prepares a vanilla milkshake just before close. Middle Bottom: Junior Dairy Bar Manager, Bryan Wendt, tops off the chocolate milk machine - one of our customers' favorites. Right: Dairy Bar Managers, Elise Krause (left) and Chaneen Haler (right) participate in butter making contest at the Land O’ Lakes Stage.
Minnesota Royal is held each spring to celebrate agriculture. The event primarily draws students in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences and those students that are involved in clubs on the St. Paul Campus, like the Gopher Dairy Club. In addition, faculty members and staff get involved by judging numerous events held throughout the week. MN Royal is an event that everyone looks forward to year after year; it allows people to meet and learn about other people and the organizations on campus. MN Royal began in 1916, as the 2013 celebration marked its 98th year.

Campus was in high spirits, as usual, and Gopher Dairy Club members were anxious to participate in all the events. Monday started the week off with skits from all the organizations that provided laughter for the entire night. On Tuesday, four members from each club went head to head in the Quiz Bowl Competition, which tested their knowledge of agriculture, MN Royal and the St. Paul Campus.

Wednesday was a busy day for members. The MN Royal run was held at the Coliseum this year and many of our members participated in the two mile run. That night, our singing abilities were put to the test with the Milk Maid Contest. Our royalty candidates milked a cow dressed as aliens as members sang “Milk Me,” a parody of Katy Perry’s “E.T.” Thursday was a big celebration with the Johnny Holm Band playing in the Livestock Pavilion. The MN Royal King and Queen were also announced that night. Our Queen candidate, Theresa Twohey, was selected as the 2013 MN Royal Queen. Ag Olympics were held on Friday.

The capstone competition of MN Royal was held on Saturday, with showmanship. Amateurs and professionals competed in lamb lead, sheep, swine, beef and dairy showmanship. The winners from each division went on to compete in an overall showmanship competition. An alumni barbecue was also held on Saturday allowing members to meet and network with U of M alumni. Throughout the week there were daily scavenger hunts and Stock the Trailer, a philanthropy event held in conjunction with MN Royal.

Due to the tremendous efforts of GDC members, the club was awarded third place in Quiz Bowl, first place in the Royal Run and third place overall. Thank you to all of the members who helped make MN Royal a success.
Fall Invite Made Possible With Help By All

By: Craig Betcher, Senior in Animal Science

The changing leaves and tired students all over campus was evidence that the fall semester was well underway and World Dairy Expo, the biggest week of the dairy industry, had come to a close. The University of Minnesota hosted the 2013 Minnesota State FFA Fall Invite on Tuesday October 8, at the Miracle of Birth Center on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. With World Dairy Expo being the first week of October, we had ample work force for this year’s contest.

The officials for the contest were the members of senior dairy judging team at the University of Minnesota, which was comprised of Tyler Otte, Doug Petzel, Erin Daninger and Jon Schmitt. In addition, graduate research student, Mike Donnelly, assisted in close placings. The contest was composed of six cow classes, with two of each; 2-year olds, 3-year olds and 4-year olds, one of which was the reason and questions class. Other classes included sire selection, pedigree, type and pedigree combination and group herd questions. There were over 214 FFA members in attendance making up 61 teams from across the state. The winning team was Kenyon Wanamingo FFA; this win was complimented by having two of the top five individuals: Erin Gudknecht (1) and Marcus Irrthum (3). The Caledonia FFA team followed them closely by a margin of eight points. Finishing closely in second place overall was Mikayla Erf of Stillwater FFA.

Gopher Dairy Club members take a lot of initiative in putting this contest together. GDC members assist with clipping, washing, and hauling cattle, in addition to highlighting, leading, officiating, listening to reasons and tabulating. We would like to thank everyone from GDC who helped ensure the contest was a success by donating several hours of their time. This contest helps young dairy enthusiasts practice their dairy knowledge and abilities. GDC looks forward to hosting the FFA Invitational Contest again next fall and in the years to come.

FFA Jackets, Cows And Competition

By: Rebecca Groos, Junior in Agricultural Education

The green grass is alive again, the sun shines brightly and second semester finals are almost upon us. Spring finally arrived to the beautiful St. Paul campus and yes, it was that time of year again – time for the sea of blue corduroy jackets. The 84th Minnesota State FFA Convention Dairy Judging contest was held April 29, 2013, at the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. This year’s contest had 220 participants competing and was officiated by a team of judges: Brad Rugg, David Hanson, Jacob Achen and Theresa Twohey.

For the first time in FFA State Dairy Judging history, participants gave two sets of reasons, thereby replacing linear evaluations. In addition to judging six classes of heifers and cows, contestants placed a pedigree class and ranked a sire selection class. The top teams in the contest were Norwood-Young America in third, second to Caledonia, and winning the contest by a margin of 38 points was the Lanesboro FFA Chapter – who represented Minnesota at the National FFA Convention last fall. Individually, Aaron Houdek from Caledonia was fifth, fourth from Stillwater was Kris-tin Erf, third went to Kayla Leiding from Lanesboro, second place was Trevor Otte from Randolph and the top individual of the contest was Emily Peiper from the Tri-City United FFA Chapter.

The dairy handling contest was going on at the same time since participants in that contest lead cattle for the dairy judgers. Judging the dairy handling contest were Doug Petzel and Tyler Otte. Erin Larson, from the New Richland-Heartland-Ellelendale-Geneva FFA Chapter won the contest with an almost perfect score. The contest went smoothly. Thank you to my co-chair, Craig Betcher, for assisting with all of the preparation of the contest and to GDC members who spent countless hours clipping, leading, highlighting cards and sorting scantrons for the event. A final thank you goes to Bill Hansen for behind the scenes work with loading cattle and volunteering his time and expertise.

Success would not have been possible without the work of these many volunteers. Bring on the fun next year; we’re ready for it.

Rebecca Groos & Craig Betcher- Judging Contests Committee Co-Chairs.

Freshmen & Sophomores


Winter West Coast Escape:  
Senior Trip 2014

By: Laura Rosenhammer, Senior in Animal Science  
Erin Daninger, Senior in Agricultural Education

Twenty-one seniors and chaperones Brent and Callie Czech made their way to sunny California on January 3rd for a ten day senior trip while Minnesota plunged into a deep freeze. The trip started in San Francisco with a mystical tour of the Winchester Mystery House. We toured Alcatraz Island and found a fitting spot for the rowdy members of the group. However, we all managed to escape the island to venture around Fisherman’s Wharf and downtown San Francisco. After crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, we made our way to Castello di Amorosa, an authentic Italian castle and winery. With the beauty of Napa Valley, wine, and even seeing the torture chamber, we all were satisfied with the stop and ready to begin the next segment of our trip, dairy tours.

Thirteen dairy farms and an organic almond farm piqued our interest over the next four days. Unique feedstuffs, manure separators, and incredible facilities taught us all a lesson about California dairy farming in the Central Valley. Most of all, we were struck by the hospitality, distinctive challenges, and down-to-earth mentality of the dairy farmers. A special thanks to our farm hosts: Hoekstra Dairy, Full Circle Dairy, Durrer’s Lorita Holstein Dairy, Anderson’s Organic Almond Farm, Wickstrom Brothers Dairy, Clauss Dairy, Bylsma Dairy, Dinomi Dairy, Vlot Brothers Calf Ranch, DeGroot Dairy, Airosa Dairy, El Monte Dairy, and Maddox Dairy. Our last day of tours included Hamilton Ranches Pecans and a lunch at World Wide Sires with their employees.

Everyone braved their fears at Knott’s Berry Farm amusement park in Los Angeles. After thrilling rides, we made our way to Hollywood Boulevard and Pantages Theater where we enjoyed an intricate production of the Lion King. The following day, Universal Studios awed everyone with their interactive rides and studio tour. Later that day, everyone searched for their favorite stars and enjoyed people-watching along Hollywood Boulevard.

We would once again like to thank our farm hosts and outstanding chaperones, Brent and Callie. They truly helped make this trip exciting and memorable. We appreciate their time and commitment to the Gopher Dairy Club.
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Craig Betcher

Major: Animal Science
Hometown: Plainview, MN
Parent’s Names: Julie Liebenow
Activities in GDC: Judging Contest Co-chair, Outstanding Senior Committee, GDC Representative for MN Royal, 4-H Dairy Project Committee
Other Activities: Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Dairy Judging
Future Plans: Pursue a career in the dairy industry dealing with genetics and reproduction or herdsmen positions.
Favorite Dairy Product: Ice cream because of its diversity of flavors and creative opportunities. Plus, it’s great on a warm summer day.
Favorite GDC Memory: All the shenanigans that happens at regional ADSA conferences.

Michaela Bengston

Major: Agricultural Education
Hometown: Kandiyohi, MN
Parent’s Names: Jerome & Kristine Bengston
Activities in GDC: Judging Contests, Dairy Networking Evening
Other Activities: University of Minnesota Transfer Student Ambassadors, Peer Mentor, FFA, Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and Beta of Clovia Sorority
Favorite Quote: “Your journey has molded you for the greater good and was exactly as it needed to be. Don’t think you’ve lost time. It took each and every situation you have encountered to bring you to the now, and now is right on time.”
Favorite Dairy Experience: Helping with the Minnesota State Showcase herd and having one of my very own cows be a part of the herd.

Becca Blodgett

Major: Animal Science - Dairy Production
Hometown: North Branch, MN
Parent’s Names: Wayne & Dawn Blodgett
Activities in GDC: Gopher Dairy Camp Committee, Dairy Camp Counselor, FFA Judging Contest, Regional ADSA, MN Royal
Other Activities: Lambda Delta Phi Sorority, Gopher Dairy Club, Block and Bridle Club, Agricultural Education Club, Hunting and Fishing Club
Future Plans: Have a job with a nutrition company as feed consultant or feed sales representative.
Favorite Quote: “It’s all fun and games until you have to wake up for chores” -Molly Herberg
Best Advice Received: Each day that goes by, you are as young as you’ll ever be and as old as you’ll ever get, so don’t dwell on the past and give yourself a brighter future.
**Jeff Borst**

Major: Animal Science - Dairy Production  
Hometown: Rochester, MN  
Parent’s Names: Matt & Julie Borst  
Activities in GDC: Judging Contests and Banquets  
Other Activities: Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, MN Royal Executive Team  
Twenty years from now I want to: Be managing a 3000+ cow dairy.  
Favorite Quote: “If the women don’t find ya handsome, they should at least find ya handy.” –Red Green  
Favorite Dairy experience: Growing up on my family’s dairy; it’s where I learned everything I need to know, well, almost everything.

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**Emily Boser**

Major: Animal Science - Dairy Production  
Hometown: Pierz, MN  
Parent’s Names: Colin Boser & Joan Sanoski  
Activities in GDC: Yearbook Committee, 2013 Gopher Dairy Camp Counselor  
Other Activities: Agricultural Education Club, Lambda Delta Phi Sorority, Delta Theta Sigma Little Sister  
Favorite Class & Why: Dairy Production Systems Management. It teaches you all aspects of what it takes to run a dairy farm and it is very hands on.  
Favorite Dairy Product: Chocolate milk because I really love chocolate.  
Favorite GDC Memory: My favorite GDC memory was going to ADSA. It was a ton of fun and I learned some really cool things from all of the sessions.

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**Erin Daninger**

Major: Agricultural Education  
Hometown: Forest Lake, MN  
Parent’s Names: Pat & Sharlene Daninger  
Activities in GDC: Secretary, Judging Contests Committee Co-chair, University of Minnesota FFA Invitational Contests, Gopher Dairy Bar, World Dairy Expo GDC Reunion, Regional ADSA  
Other Activities: General Livestock Judging, Block and Bridle, Delta Theta Sigma Little Sisters  
Favorite Dairy Experience: Providing artificial insemination service to several different dairies and being able to see numerous unique operations.  
Twenty years from now, I want to: Have traveled the world.  
Best Advice Received: Make an effort to become familiar with what is going on in each of the different industries in agriculture. We can learn from one another and make improvements. Because in reality we are all trying to reach a common goal and we need each other.

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**Amber Erickson**

Major: Animal Science  
Hometown: Emmons, MN  
Parent’s Names: Marc & Tracy Erickson  
Activities in GDC: Dairy Bar, ADSA, Judging Contests  
Other Activities: General Livestock Judging, Block and Bridle, Delta Theta Sigma Little Sisters  
Favorite Dairy Experience: Providing artificial insemination service to several different dairies and being able to see numerous unique operations.  
Twenty years from now, I want to: Have traveled the world.  
Best Advice Received: Make an effort to become familiar with what is going on in each of the different industries in agriculture. We can learn from one another and make improvements. Because in reality we are all trying to reach a common goal and we need each other.

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**Rachel Friesa**

Major: Animal Science - Pre-Veterinary  
Hometown: Wanamingo, MN  
Parent’s Names: David & Becky Friesa  
Activities in GDC: Regional ADSA, Gopher Dairy Bar, Dairy Networking Evening  
Twenty years from now, I want to: Be doing what I love. I also hope to find a husband and live in the country where I can raise a few youngsters.  
Favorite Dairy Experience: Either when our cow went Excellent-95 or winning Grand Champion of the International Junior Holstein Show at World Dairy Expo! Both were amazing experiences that I will never forget!  
Favorite GDC Memory: When Kelsey Petit apologized to the entire club multiple times after reporting for her committee. “Kelsey, you’re not sorry!”

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**Kelsey Glaess**

Major: Animal Science & Applied Economics  
Hometown: Cannon Falls, MN  
Parent’s Names: Harvey & Pat Glaess  
Activities in GDC: Camp Counselor, Gopher Dairy Bar, Regional ADSA, Committee Chair  
Other Activities: Block and Bridle, Beta of Clovia Sorority, Delta Theta Sigma Little Sisters, MN Royal Executive Team  
Favorite Quote: “Don’t confuse your path with your destination. Just because it’s stormy now, doesn’t mean you aren’t headed for sunshine.”  
Favorite Class: Agri-Business Finance  
Best Advice Received: The biggest risk in life is the one you don’t take. Don’t ever look back with regret; just learn from your mistakes.
Jenn Janak

Major: Animal Science - Dairy Production  
Hometown: Northfield, MN  
Parent’s Names: Roger & Julie Janak  
Activities in GDC: Reporter, Topline Editor, Regional ADSA, Clothing Committee Chair, Judging Contests, Gopher Dairy Bar  
Other Activities: Beta of Clovia Sorority, Collegiate Agri-Women  
Future Plans: Have a communications and/or marketing position that allows me to stay connected to the dairy industry.  
Favorite Quote: “The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven’t found it yet, keep looking. Don’t settle. As with all matters of the heart, you’ll know when you find it.” – Steve Jobs  
Favorite Dairy experience: Representing Minnesota’s dairy farmers as a 2011 Princess Kay of the Milky Way with six other ladies from the Gopher Dairy Club.

Stephanie Kasper

Major: Agricultural Education - Leadership & Communications  
Hometown: Owatonna, MN  
Parent’s Names: Pete & Karen Kasper  
Activities in GDC: Vice President, Topline Editor, Senior Trip Committee, Dairy Bar and Judging Contests  
Other Activities: Collegiate Agri-Women, NAMA, Beta of Clovia Sorority and Agricultural Education Club  
Favorite GDC Memory: Working on the Topline was a very exciting and rewarding experience.

Ashley Kipka

Major: Animal Science - Pre-Veterinary  
Hometown: Foley, MN  
Parent’s Names: Kevin & Beth Kipka  
Activities in GDC: Secretary, Judging Contests Committee co-chair, Gopher Dairy Bar, Regional ADSA, World Dairy Expo, Clothing Committee Chair, and Judging Contests  
Other Activities: Lambda Delta Phi Sorority, Block and Bridle, General Livestock Judging Team  
Favorite Dairy experience: Traveling abroad and touring several dairy farms in Switzerland!  
Favorite GDC Memory: Attending Regional ADSA and having a blast with club members and students from other colleges.  
Favorite GDC Memory: Attending Regional ADSA and having a blast with club members and students from other colleges.

Elise Krause

Major: Applied Economics  
Hometown: Milmine, IL  
Parent’s Names: Curtis & Louanne Krause  
Activities in GDC: Treasurer, Dairy Bar Manager, Regional ADSA Chair, Scholarship Committee  
Other Activities: American Milking Shorthorn Society, Lambda Delta Phi Sorority, International Agriculture Club  
Future Plans: I am going to Australia to live and work there for a year to learn more about their agriculture and tourism industry. After that, I will see where life takes me!  
Twenty years from now, I want to: Be working in agritourism. I want to be able to help educate the public on how their food is grown and produced.  
Favorite Quote: “Not all those who wander are lost.” - J. R. R. Tolkien

Emilie Lane

Major: Agricultural Education - Leadership & Communications  
Hometown: Lakeville, MN  
Parent’s Names: Burel & Norleen Lane  
Activities in GDC: Gopher Dairy Camp Chairperson, Senior Trip Committee Chairperson  
Other Activities: Beta of Clovia Sorority, Delta Theta Sigma Little Sisters, Agricultural Education Club, CFANS Student Board  
Future Plans: In July, I will be getting married and starting the next chapter of my life.  
Favorite Class & Why: Current and Technical Competencies, because I learned that I could do anything, even put together an engine.  
Favorite GDC Memory: Attending Gopher Dairy Camp as an 8th grader, and then getting the opportunity to run it as a junior in college.

Miranda Lemke

Major: Animal Science - Poultry Industry & Business  
Hometown: Hutchinson, MN  
Parent’s Names: Jamie & Koreen Lemke  
Activities in GDC: Regional ADSA Committee  
Other Activities: Gopher Poultry Science Club, Beta of Clovia Sorority, Agricultural Education Club  
Future Plans: Live Production Supervisor for a poultry company in the Midwest  
Favorite Dairy Experience: Showing dairy with my best friend and her little brother from the farm back home. I also loved getting to name Cacedonia and Tatum, two of the cows I showed.  
Best Advice Received: Never be afraid of moving forward. The longer you wait for the future, the shorter it will be.
Tyler Otte
Major: Animal Science - Dairy Production
Hometown: Randolph, MN
Parent’s Names: Blake & Christine Otte
Activities in GDC: Regional ADSA, Judging Contests, MN Royal, Executive Team, Gopher Dairy Bar, Scholarship Committee
Other Activities: Delta Theta Sigma Fraternity, MN Royal Executive Team, Block and Bridle, Dairy Judging
Future Plans: Obtain a job as a herdserson at a dairy farm, and then eventually come back to the family farm to farm with my brothers.
Twenty years from now, I want to: Be milking 1,200 cows, farming with my family, get married to some cute blonde, have some kids, invest in something to make me millions!
Favorite Dairy Experience: Competing in both 4-H and Intercollegiate Dairy Judging. Nothing beats traveling around the country and looking at great cows!

Rachel Nelson
Major: Animal Science - Industry
Hometown: Rice, MN
Parent’s Names: Barb & Dwain Nelson
Activities in GDC: Social Committee, Banquet Committee, Gopher Dairy Bar
Other Activities: Block and Bridle, MN Royal, Delta Theta Sigma Little Sisters
Future Plans: After graduation in May, I will begin working for AgStar Financial Services, ACA in the crop insurance sales department located in Waite Park, MN.
Favorite Dairy Product: Yogurt, it’s a great start to my day for breakfast!
Favorite GDC Memory: Traveling to Iowa for Regional ADSA. The memories were never dull and will always be remembered!

Jordan Pahl
Major: Animal Science - Dairy Production
Hometown: Buffalo, MN
Parent’s Names: Bob & Lois Pahl
Other Activities: Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
Favorite Quote: “Now and then it’s good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy” - Unknown
Favorite Dairy experience: When I was nine and I bought my first heifer calf from my uncle. It was fun to be responsible for my very own animal and to see it grow and make the decisions about the breeding, health, nutrition, etc.
Favorite GDC Memory: Working in the Gopher Dairy Bar. It was busy, but fun to hang out with all the other members and talk with all the customers.

Kelsey Petit
Major: Agricultural Education - Leadership & Communications
Hometown: Plainview, MN
Parent’s Names: Bob & Barb Petit
Activities in GDC: Officer at Large, Social Chair, Banquet Committee
Other Activities: Lambda Delta Phi Sorority, Agricultural Education Club and MN Royal Executive Team
Favorite Quote: “Let your dreams be bigger than your fears, and your actions louder than your words.”
Favorite Dairy Product: Ice cream, I enjoy the many flavors and it is great to have on a hot day.
Favorite GDC Memory: I really enjoyed the Dairy Judging trips, it was great to travel to different farms and see beautiful animals and hangout with my friends.

Doug Petzel
Major: Animal Science
Hometown: Arlington, MN
Parent’s Names: Curt & Judy Petzel
Activities in GDC: Gopher Dairy Bar, Regional ADSA, Clothing Committee Chair, Judging Contest Official
Other Activities: Delta Theta Sigma Fraternity, Collegiate Dairy Judging Team
Favorite Quote: “You come to my restaurant, never order BLT”- Rob Schneider, Big Daddy
Twenty years from now, I want to: Be a rich dairy farmer!
Favorite Dairy experience: Working with the Supreme Champion this past year at World Dairy Expo.
Best Advice Received: “If you’ve got it, flaunt it.”

Laura Rosenhammer
Major: Animal Science - Dairy Production
Hometown: Sleepy Eye, MN
Parent’s Names: John & Patty Rosenhammer
Activities in GDC: Gopher Dairy Camp Counselor, Dairy Judging Contests Committee, MN Royal, ADSA
Other Activities: Agricultural Education Club, Lambda Delta Phi Sorority, Dairy Challenge
Future Plans: Return home to manage the family farm and expand the milking herd to 400-head and 3x milking.
Favorite Dairy Experience: Being selected as a Princess Kay finalist in 2012 and having all the finalists come to my farm to make a ‘Farming Ladies’ video
Favorite GDC Memory: ADSA my freshman year in River Falls.
Jon Schmitt
Major: Applied Plant Science - Agroecology
Hometown: Royalton, MN
Parent's Names: Mark & Natalie Schmitt
Activities in GDC: Outstanding Senior Committee, Judging Contests, Regional ADSA
Other Activities: FarmHouse Fraternity, Collegiate Dairy Judging
Favorite Quote: “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” - Theodore Roosevelt
Favorite GDC Memory: All three of the regional ADSA weekends have been full of stories and I’m sure that Ohio will be another experience for the memory books.

Calli Jo Smith
Major: Agricultural Education - Leadership & Communications
Hometown: Johnsburg, MN
Parent's Names: Randy & Valerie Smith
Activities in GDC: Clothing Committee, Membership & Social Media Chair, Gopher Dairy Bar, Judging Contests, State Convention Membership Booth, Dairy Networking Event and MN Royal
Other Activities: Delta Theta Sigma Little Sisters, Beta of Clovia Sorority, Agricultural Education Club, MN Royal Executive Team
Twenty years from now, I want to: Be happily married, have a family, enjoy my dream job as a marketing communications manager and have a lake house!
Favorite Class & Why: My favorite class was Mass Media Effects. This class was very compelling and I had an amazing professor!

Ben Thorpe
Major: Animal Science - Dairy Production
Hometown: Cold Spring, MN
Parent's Names: Jeff & Becky Thorpe
Activities in GDC: Dairy Bar Manager, Regional ADSA, Judging Contests
Other Activities: Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
Future Plans: I plan to get a job as a Dairy Nutritionist.
Favorite Quote: “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” - Mahatma Gandhi
Favorite Class & Why: Dairy Production Systems Management because I enjoy the practical tools and techniques learned to manage a dairy. Jeff Reneau can really teach how to look at a dairy with a different viewpoint.
Best Advice Received: You always have to be willing to sweep the floor in order to succeed.

Megan Thurk
Major: Agricultural Education
Hometown: Lakefield, MN
Parent's Names: Chris & Jodi Thurk
Activities in GDC: Fall Invitational, Clothing Committee, Senior Trip
Other Activities: Agricultural Education Club, Beta of Clovia Sorority
Future Plans: Teach agricultural education in rural Minnesota.
Favorite Class & Why: Doc Pete’s Rural Leadership Development class, because he makes the material interesting to learn and has a story for everything.
Best Advice Received: Sometimes you have to say no and do what you want to, not what everyone else wants you to do.

Reba Van Beusekom
Major: Chemistry & Environmental Science, Policy & Management
Hometown: Delano, MN
Parent's Names: Tim & Lisa Van Beusekom
Activities in GDC: Gopher Dairy Camp Committee
Other Activities: Beta of Clovia Sorority, TimberSports Team, Forestry Club, Minnesota Environmental Engineers, Scientists and Enthusiasts
Future Plans: Work for an environmental consultant either in the private sector or for a corporation.
Favorite Quote: “The journey between what you once were and who you are now becoming is where the dance of life really takes place.” - Barbara de Angelis
Favorite GDC Memory: Spending time with members and working the Gopher Dairy Bar at the Minnesota State Fair.

Thank you, Seniors!
Junior Team Sweeps Viroqua, Impresses At N.A.I.L.E.

By: Janna Sorg, Senior in Animal Science
Michael Schmitt, Junior in Animal Science

A
fter two weeks of visiting elite dairy farms throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota, the junior dairy judging team arrived in Viroqua, WI. Traveling with the team were coaches Dr. Les Hansen, Alicia Thurk, Scott Ellinghuysen and Isaac Salfer.

The University of Minnesota – Gold Team started the year off strong by winning the Accelerated Genetics Dairy Cattle Judging contest by a 33-point margin. The University of Minnesota team also placed first in oral reasons by a 19-point margin, 1st in Brown Swiss, 1st in Holstein, 1st in Milking Shorthorn and 2nd in Jersey.

Team members were Kelsey Mussman, Janna Sorg, Erin Daninger, and Michael Schmitt.

Individually Mussman was 1st overall, 1st in oral reasons, 1st in Jersey, 1st in Brown Swiss. Sorg was 7th overall, 3rd in Holstein, and 5th in Jersey. Daninger was 8th overall, 2nd in oral reasons, and 2nd in Milking Shorthorn. Schmitt was 10th in oral reasons and 1st in Milking Shorthorn.

In a unique situation, the University of Minnesota was able to have a second judging team compete at Viroqua this year. Leading the team was Nick Reps placing 5th overall and 6th in reasons propelling the team to a 4th place finish. Other team members included Andrew Plumski, Andrew Hetke and Rebecca Groos.

The team’s success continued as they talked their way to the top at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. Janna Sorg was 10th overall, 4th in reasons, 2nd in Jerseys and 3rd in Guernsey. Kelsey Mussman was 1st in Holstein, 1st in Milking Shorthorn and 2nd in Jersey. Team members were Kelsey Mussman, Janna Sorg, Erin Daninger, and Michael Schmitt.

Limited Practice Does Not Stop Senior Dairy Team

By: Doug Petzel, Senior in Animal Science
Jon Schmitt, Senior in Applied Plant Science

The University of Minnesota Senior Dairy Judging team competed at both the All-American Dairy Judging Contest held in Harrisburg, PA as well as the National Collegiate Dairy Judging Contest in Madison, WI this past fall. With a short amount of practice the team still managed to place 1st in Brown Swiss in Harrisburg.

The University of Minnesota placed 2nd overall in the National Collegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held September 30 in conjunction with World Dairy Expo, Madison, WI. Nineteen 4-year colleges competed for honors. The University of Minnesota team also placed 2nd in oral reasons, 1st in Guernsey, 1st in Holstein, 2nd in Jersey, 5th in Milking Shorthorn, and 5th in Red & White. Team members were Doug Petzel, Arlington; Erin Daninger, Forest Lake; Tyler Otte, Randolph; and Jon Schmitt, Rice.

Individually, Petzel was 3rd overall, 5th in reasons, and 1st in Holstein. Daninger was 4th overall, 1st in reasons, 2nd in Holstein, 2nd in Jersey, 2nd in Milking Shorthorn, and 3rd in Guernsey. Otte was 15th overall, 6th in Jersey, and 9th in Guernsey, and Schmitt was 10th in Guernsey. Dr. Les Hansen, Scott Ellinghuysen, Alicia Thurk, and Isaac Salfer serve as coaches for the 2013 dairy cattle judging teams for the University of Minnesota.

The fifth senior judge, Craig Betcher of Plainview, competed this fall at North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. The team placed 3rd overall and was 1st in reasons.

Individually Mussman was 1st overall, 1st in oral reasons, 1st in Jersey, 2nd in Holstein and 4th in Brown Swiss. Sorg was 7th overall, 3rd in Holstein, and 5th in Jersey. Daninger was 8th overall, 2nd in oral reasons, and 2nd in Milking Shorthorn. Schmitt was 10th in oral reasons and 1st in Milking Shorthorn.

In a unique situation, the University of Minnesota was able to have a second judging team compete at Viroqua this year. Leading the team was Nick Reps placing 5th overall and 6th in reasons propelling the team to a 4th place finish. Other team members included Andrew Plumski, Andrew Hetke and Rebecca Groos.

The team’s success continued as they talked their way to the top at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. The team was 1st in reasons by nine points and 3rd overall. The team placed 1st in Guernsey, 2nd in Jersey and 4th in Holstein. Leading the team was Michael Schmitt who was 7th overall, 5th in Guernsey, 7th in Ayrshire and 10th in Jersey. Janna Sorg was 10th overall, 4th in reasons, 2nd in Jerseys and 3rd in Guernsey. Kelsey Mussman was 1st in reasons, 13th overall, 2nd in Guernsey and 5th in Holsteins. Craig Betcher was 8th in Ayrshires.

The junior judging teams excelled at contests this fall and look forward to exciting challenges in Harrisburg and Madison next year.
World Dairy Expo Is A Success For Gopher Dairy Club Members

By: Christine Reitsma, Sophomore in Applied Economics & Agricultural Education

Each year, dairy enthusiasts from across the world gather to celebrate the best of the industry at World Dairy Expo. This year, 2000 dairy animals were exhibited in addition to businesses sharing exciting new technologies with the world. Over 40 active Gopher Dairy Club members had the incredible chance to join in this tradition as they traveled to Madison, Wisconsin to not only showcase their talents, but to learn from industry professionals. During the course of the 5-day event, members partook in collegiate judging contests, took the lead in show rings and attended the annual Alumni Reunion.

The University of Minnesota has plenty to be proud of after this year’s event. The Collegiate Judging Team placed second overall in the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest with three members placing in the top twenty individual scoring. In addition, Gopher Dairy Club member Rachel Friese and her cow Whitaker-KK Goldie Rose came away with the Grand Champion of the International Junior Holstein Show. We could not be more excited for the members who competed in these contests.

Gopher Dairy Club members of all ages had the chance to connect (or reconnect) at the Alumni Reunion held on Friday, October 4. This event continues to be a highlight of World Dairy Expo as it allows members to network and form connections with University Alumni who continue to work within the dairy industry. Over 90 alumni gathered with current members at the Coliseum Bar and Grill to share the achievements the club has made over the past year. With every passing year, the Alumni Reunion continues to grow and provide excitement for past and present dairy club members. This event is a way to reminisce on past club accomplishments as well as look to future achievements. Our club’s future is bright and we cannot wait to share it with other dairy enthusiasts.

The event was a great time for all in attendance and we look forward to catching up at next year’s World Dairy Expo.
Minnesota Shines At National 4-H Dairy Conference

By: Rel Seykora, Chaperone of the Minnesota Delegation

Twenty-one Minnesota 4-H dairy youth attended the 59th National 4-H Dairy Conference, September 29th through October 2, 2013 in Madison, Wisconsin. The high school juniors and seniors were chosen to attend based on their accomplishments in the 4-H dairy project, leadership activities, and their passion for the dairy industry.

Upon arrival at the Lowell Center on the University of Wisconsin Campus, the Minnesota 4-Hers exchanged state pins and got acquainted with approximately 150 outstanding 4-H dairy delegates from 27 other states and 3 Canadian providences. The mixer was followed by a banquet and inspirational speaker. The delegates were treated to a banquet and a nationally known speaker for every meal throughout the conference.

Busses departed at 7 a.m. sharp Monday morning for tours of ABS Global, Hoard’s Dairyman Magazine Headquarters, Hoard’s Dairyman Farm (Guernseys and Jerseys), Nasco International, and the National Dairy Shrine Museum at Fort Atkinson.

On Tuesday morning, delegates were kept busy with educational seminars related to dairy industry hot topics, youth leadership, dairy product promotions, and dairy food chemistry. Tuesday afternoon, students boarded the bus for the always popular Crave Brothers Farm and dairy processed foods. After viewing the cows, the delegates enjoyed an “old fashioned Wisconsin barbeque” and barn dance.

Wednesday morning was filled with education workshops on the UW campus on dairy management, genetics, reproduction, biotech, finance, and nutrition. At noon, the delegates again boarded the bus; but this time the destination was the World Dairy Expo to attend a luncheon in their honor and view the many commercial exhibits and best show cattle in the world.

4-H Delegates enjoying the barn dance at the Crave Brothers Dairy.

On Wednesday evening the 4-Hers enjoyed a farewell dance with their new dairy friends from throughout the United States and Canada. A pizza party and reminiscing lasted well into the morning hours. In addition to all of the friendships gained, the conference was a great opportunity for the delegates to learn leadership skills and be exposed to the many career opportunities that the dairy industry has to offer. The Minnesota delegation was financially supported by CHS Inc., Gopher Dairy Club, Midwest Dairy Association, MN Corn Growers, Ag Star, and the Upper Midwest Dairy Industry Association.

Animal Science Barbeque Attracts Students From All Majors

By: Bret Otte, Sophomore in Animal Science
Mary Liebenstein, Sophomore in Animal Science

Each spring semester, students in Dr. Anthony Seykora’s Introduction to Animal Science class have the opportunity to show a dairy animal in the Annual Showmanship and Animal Science Department BBQ. Students of all majors are able to gain experience through this unique opportunity. Agricultural Education and Nursing students alike are able to break their calves to lead. Along with this, students are able to experience the washing and clipping of their animals for show day. Many of the participants are always Gopher Dairy Club members.

Throughout the spring semester students have the chance to work with the dairy calves owned by the University of Minnesota and get hands-on experience with the cattle. The spring semester starts with students in the Intro class dehorning, taking weight and height measurements, freeze branding and giving vaccinations to the calves. Once they have obtained enough knowledge about the dairy species, a group of two or three students are assigned a calf to work with and show at the end of the semester. These groups spend weeks preparing for the showmanship competition. Each group must halt break the calves and learn about clipping and fitting their animal for the show ring. They also learn about different showing techniques and skills.

On the day of the showmanship competition students wash their calves and work to prepare them to look their best in the show ring. Students are placed in the classes based on their showing experience. These range from little experience to experts. Members Tyler Otte and Doug Petzel were the judges for this year’s contest. They worked with individuals and tested their knowledge of the animal and judged them based on their showing abilities. They both made sure that the students had an educational, yet fun, experience.

Thank you to Dr. Anthony Seykora and his wonderful wife, Rel, for helping to make the contest and BBQ possible. They were able to arrange the meal in order to host over 400 people in attendance. The Animal Science BBQ is always an enjoyable experience for all those involved including the Animal Science Department and many members of the Gopher Dairy Club.
The 64th National Dairy Shrine Awards Banquet was held September 11th, 2013, in Harrisburg Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the All American Dairy Show. The Banquet, which is traditionally held in Madison at the World Dairy Expo, was moved to Harrisburg this year to celebrate the All American’s 50th Anniversary. Each year, the National Dairy Shrine honors dairy producers, breeders and industry leaders who have made a sizeable impact on the Dairy Industry they belong to. The National Dairy Shrine also sponsors scholarships to recognize students who will become the dairy leaders of tomorrow. Once again, several members of the Gopher Dairy Club were honored with scholarships from the National Dairy Shrine.

For the third year in a row, a Gopher Dairy Club member claimed the top award in the Student Recognition Award Scholarship for graduating seniors. Jacob Achen was awarded the $2,000 scholarship award. Also receiving a Student Recognition Award and a $1,000 scholarship was Isaac Salfer. Freshman, Johanna Knorr received the 1st place ($2,500) McCullough Scholarship.

Five Gopher Dairy Club members were selected for the National Dairy Shrine and Dairy Management Inc. Milk Marketing Scholarship. The $1,000 awards went to Rebecca Groos, Chaneen Haler, Nick Reps and Michael Schmitt. Schmitt also received the $1,500 Klussendorf/McKown Scholarship.

Altogether, these seven Gopher Dairy Club members were honored with $12,000 in awards. We are very proud of their achievements and are glad to have them as part of our club. Thank you to the National Dairy Shrine for providing these opportunities for students and congratulations to all of the award winners.

“Knowledge and Brotherhood in a Bond of Union”

Delta Theta Sigma Fraternity

“We, the members of Delta Theta Sigma Fraternity, in order to promote agriculture, to secure a higher degree of scholarship, to foster the spirit of brotherhood in our vocation, and to insure social and cultural unity do promote our organization to the fulfillment of these ideals.”

Delta Theta Sigma - Delta Chapter
University of Minnesota
1485 N Cleveland Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108

www.deltathetasigma.org (651) 645-8787

Members Claim Top Awards At National Dairy Shrine Banquet

By: Johanna Knorr, Freshman in Animal Science

Jacob Achen (left) claims top honors for the Student Recognition Award Scholarship program in 2013. Isaac Salfer (right) also receives a $1,000 scholarship from the National Dairy Shrine.

By: Dr. Leslie Hansen, Advisor

The Gopher Dairy Club was formed on November 11, 1982, so the club reached its 30-year anniversary during the 2012-13 academic year. The inaugural recognition banquet of the club was held two and a half years after the formation of the club on March 16, 1985. The banquet immediately became an annual tradition, so the Gopher Dairy Club is celebrating the 30th anniversary of annual recognition banquets in 2014.

Thirty different Presidents of the Gopher Dairy Club have emceed the recognition banquet over the years – they are an incredible collection of leaders. Also, the Distinguished Service Award has been presented at each of the 30 banquets, and that collection of individuals and families have had a huge impact on the success of the club over the years. The first recipient of the Distinguished Service Award – Dr. Garth Miller – received the award posthumously.

Dr. Miller brought the U of M’s dairy cattle judging program back to national prominence in the late 1960s and early 1970s but, unfortunately, he passed away at only 39 years of age. Dr. Miller would be very pleased with the success of both the Gopher Dairy Club and the U of M collegiate dairy cattle judging program today.

Members of the Gopher Dairy Club continuously garner national recognition, and that has been especially true with the scholarship program of National Dairy Shrine. Once again, in what has become a tradition, members of the Gopher Dairy Club received 25% of the scholarships awarded competitively at the national level by that organization in 2013.

However, the success of the Gopher Dairy Club is measured mostly by the huge impact of its former members on the dairy industry – both on and off the farm. The club provides a strong sense of community for dairy enthusiasts among students at the University of Minnesota. And, the interpersonal connections provide a life-long sense of community for the club’s alumni, who are high-impact leaders for the dairy industry.

Featured Department Staff

By: Jeffrey K. Reneau, DVM, MS

I have had the good fortune to watch the Gopher Dairy Club blossom from its very beginning in 1982. It has truly become a highly valued student institution here at the University of Minnesota. It is the premiere student organization on the St. Paul Campus.

I have personally known many of the GDC members, had them in class, watched them grow personally and academically, watched friendships blossom and seen how these graduates remain connected alumni. I have even had the privilege of having sons and daughters of some GDC alumni in class. It doesn’t get much better than that.

This strong student community teams with energy. It is action plus enthusiasm personified. In and out of the classroom, GDC students are genuinely interested in each other’s success and wellbeing. I recommend that every student with dairy interests join the GDC. There is no better extracurricular experience on the St. Paul Campus.
Vita Plus & Ag Partners Cooperative Intern

This summer I had the opportunity to do a joint internship with Vita Plus and Ag Partners Coop, based out of Goodhue, MN. Throughout the summer I completed three research projects pertaining to dairy nutrition for Vita Plus, while working closely with the Ag Partners customers and nutritionists. In late May, I started my internship by riding with all of the dairy nutritionists based out of the Goodhue office. This enabled me to be introduced to many of their customers, as well as get a feel for what my own farm visits would be like once I started my projects.

My first project was a study of data from nine farms that use feed management software. I took backups of the farm’s DairyComp305 and feed management programs and compared that data to determine how effectively the farmers were using the programs, and how to help them utilize the software more efficiently to increase profit on the farms. The second project I completed involved taking daily DairyComp305 backups at the farms to determine what the normal daily milk weight variance was at each operation. Once those numbers were compiled, we were able to compare the farms together to see how each farm could lessen the daily variance. The third project was tracking the daily rumination minutes from a herd that was using SCR Rumination Collars for their breeding program. I was able to compare the daily rumination minutes to feed changes, weather events, as well as components to determine if there was a correlation.

Throughout the summer I also had the opportunity to attend the Precision Dairy Conference, take a two-day tour of the ViCor facilities in Mason City, IA and attend the Vita Plus summer workshop with all of my colleagues. I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with Ag Partners and Vita Plus.

- Aly Schwartau

American Milking Shorthorn Society Intern

This past summer I had the chance to intern with the American Milking Shorthorn Society located in Beloit, WI. Throughout the summer I had the opportunity to work with the Executive Secretary and society board on number projects and tasks. I registered animals into the AMSS Herdbook, helped organize on-line materials, communicated with breeders on a daily basis and worked on special projects assigned to me as needed.

My favorite part of my internship was being in the office and getting to see a different side of the dairy industry. I never knew how many phone calls come in each day and how much mail the breed society gets. After working for only a summer, I gained a new appreciation for all of the work that all registered breed societies do.

My internship also gave me the opportunity to make connections with people in different breeds and learn about other breed policies. The American Milking Shorthorn Society is based out of the Brown Swiss Association’s office, so I had the chance to learn more about Brown Swiss and their office staff. Getting to see the collaboration between two breeds and how they trouble shoot problems that arise was something that I really enjoyed.

Overall I would encourage any student interested in registering dairy cattle to apply for an internship with a breed society because it is really something that can only be experienced.

- Elise Krause

New Chester Dairy Intern

This past summer I had the opportunity to work as a herdsman intern at New Chester Dairy, a part of the Milk Source Company, in Grand Marsh, WI. I worked 12 hour shifts beginning at 5am. My first two weeks as an intern, I held the position as a roving for the two 80-cow rotary parlors. My responsibilities as the rover were to reattach fallen milk units, to make sure units were attached properly and take cows back to their designated pens once the milk pen was completed.

After two weeks, I was assigned as an associate to maternity care. I was responsible for distributing feed evenly among feed aisles with a skid steer and bucket and for pushing up feed with a skid steer pusher. I was then put to work full time in maternity. I was responsible for moving close up dry cows to the front and front of the pens while pens were being cleaned. I was in charge of bringing calving cows out of the pens into the maternity pens and to check to make sure the calf was coming correctly and aided in pulling out calves. I was also required to take care of newborn calves. I aided in helping moving far off dry cows to close up dry cow pens.

- Allison Pieper

AMPi Intern

This summer I had the great opportunity to intern with AMPi in the New Ulm Butter Plant. AMPi’s New Ulm plant has the capacity to produce 3 million pounds of finished product a week with over 20 production lines and multiple brands. I was involved with their quality assurance team and also worked with product information management. My internship with AMPi was a chance for me to learn more about the processing side of the dairy industry.

Living on a dairy farm I was always involved in the production side of the industry, and our involvement ended when the milk truck drove out of the drive way. The creameries and processing facilities are just as important in promoting the dairy industry and have a lot investing in meeting consumer demand for dairy. My biggest take-away from my internship was to see how the co-ops and processors work hard to take milk from a farm and turn it into a safe quality product for consumers.

My project this summer was to create an information sheet for each product that the New Ulm plant produces. Each brand and size of product has a unique packaging, nutrient and coding requirement and my project brought all of the information together into one file for each product. I also worked with the quality assurance team learning about the USDA grading system and Safe Quality Food (SQF) protocols.

Near the end of the summer I was able to help make the 90 lb blocks that are used to create the Princess Kay sculptures at the Minnesota State Fair. It was a great way to cap off the internship and it gave me a tangible way to see what I had worked on and how it would it ultimately reach the consumer. I’m grateful for the opportunity I had this summer with AMPi and for all of knowledge I gained of the processing side of the dairy industry.

- Rob Sexton
Farmstead Cheese Company Intern

This past summer I had the opportunity to work for the Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company which is located in South Woodstock, VT. I received the internship through the American Jersey Cattle Association and the Fred Stout Experience Award. During my internship I was able to partake in every aspect of the operation. While working at the VT Cheese Company I was able to work and gain knowledge on the farm and cheese side of the operation. Each day I would work in the cheese room or in the packaging room and then work on the farm. The farm milked about 70 cows and consisted of every breed except for Guernseys. I assisted with many aspects on the farm including milking cows, nutrition and calf care. When I was not working on the farm I was able to assist with the cheese making process. This was a tremendous experience because the head cheese makers allowed me to be very involved in the process. They entrusted me with many duties and allowed me to learn a tremendous amount about value added products.

I really enjoyed the entire experience because of the outstanding people that I worked with. They were more than willing to teach me about the entire cheese making process and make my internship very enjoyable. I learned a tremendous amount of information and wouldn’t trade the experience for any other. It was a very good experience to be out of the Midwest and learn more about dairy farming and the different challenges that they face in different parts of the country. I would highly recommend the internship to other students.

- Wyatt Smith

Minnesota Holstein Association Intern

This past summer I had the opportunity to work as an intern for the Minnesota Holstein Association. I applied for this internship because I wanted to see more of Minnesota’s dairy industry by attending shows throughout the state. Plus, I wanted to meet and connect with more of Minnesota’s dairy farmers. My summer began with preparing for the prestigious Minnesota State Holstein Show. My task was to record entries and put together the program for the Junior Show. During the week at State Show, I checked in animals, took pictures, recorded results, answered many questions for exhibitors and assisted with keeping the show running smoothly by helping wherever I was needed. Next, I traveled to our Field Day host’s farm and saw robotic milkers in action for the first time.

Throughout the summer I traveled to several district shows. At these shows I brought and sorted out ribbons, recorded placings, tallied breeder and exhibitor points, directed awards and took pictures. After each show I went home and recorded the results on an excel spreadsheet, then I merged them into a word document, proof-read, and submitted the results and pictures to a dropbox for my boss to put on our website and in our fall publication. In addition to shows, I wrote several articles to appear in our magazine or online. By doing interviews for my articles, I met several new dairy farm families and took pride in being able to share their story with others. My internship experience connected me with many other Holstein enthusiasts throughout the state. It also gave me freedom to work independently by choosing my own article topics and attending district shows without a supervisor. Since my hours were part-time and I worked from home, I learned to schedule time to work and set my own deadlines. Luckily, my previous internship had prepared me with the computer skills to get results typed up efficiently and format show programs on my own. I recommend this internship to anyone who loves attending high quality Holstein shows and enjoys traveling.

- Laura Rosenhammer

Genetic Services Intern - Accelerated Genetics

This summer I had the opportunity to work with Accelerated Genetics as their summer Genetic Services Intern. I was the only one hired in this role which gave me a lot of flexibility. It was a great experience to enhance my teamwork and communication skills while becoming more independent.

I was stationed out of Baraboo, WI and traveled all over Wisconsin. My main responsibility was to locate daughters of Accelerated Genetics bulls to use for professional pictures for marketing purposes. I found the location of cows in a certain area of the state and formulated a road trip to see all of the cows in one day. I visually graded the cows based on confirmation and compared them to other daughters by the same sire. If cows were of picturing quality, we would return at a later date to take their picture. I even took a week-long trip to New York and found cows to picture.

Along with finding the cows, I also assisted during the picture process by clipping, washing and grooming the cows. It was very rewarding to see cows, which I found and prepared, to be in the sire directory. Another one of my responsibilities was to assist in planning and hosting international and membership tours. This was really enjoyable to spend time with a group of people from Turkey. I was able to do ride-alongs with many different people in the company also. This was a great way to gain a better understanding of the internal working of an AI company. Additionally, I wrote press releases on sires that received their daughter proof this summer.

Overall, this was a great experience to improve upon my communication and leadership skills. I highly recommend this position to those interested in dairy genetics with ambition and an eye for cows.

- Michael Schmitt

United Farmers Cooperative Intern

This past summer I had a feed internship with United Farmers Cooperative, also known as UFC. I was based out of theupdated Feed Mill and worked directly under the Feed Department Manager, Steve LeBrun. My primary objective over the summer was to gain an understanding of the feed mill and learn as much as possible. I really enjoyed the entire experience because of the outstanding people that I worked with. They were more than willing to teach me about the entire cheese making process and made my internship very enjoyable. I learned a tremendous amount of information and wouldn’t trade the experience for any other. It was a very good experience to be out of the Midwest and learn more about dairy farming and the different challenges that they face in different parts of the country. I would highly recommend the internship to other students.

- Andrew Plumski

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- Michael Schmitt

Farmstead Cheese Company Intern

This past summer I had the opportunity to work for the Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company which is located in South Woodstock, VT. I received the internship through the American Jersey Cattle Association and the Fred Stout Experience Award. During my internship I was able to partake in every aspect of the operation. While working at the VT Cheese Company I was able to work and gain knowledge on the farm and cheese side of the operation. Each day I would work in the cheese room or in the packaging room and then work on the farm. The farm milked about 70 cows and consisted of every breed except for Guernseys. I assisted with many aspects on the farm including milking cows, nutrition and calf care. When I was not working on the farm I was able to assist with the cheese making process. This was a tremendous experience because the head cheese makers allowed me to be very involved in the process. They entrusted me with many duties and allowed me to learn a tremendous amount about value added products.

I really enjoyed the entire experience because of the outstanding people that I worked with. They were more than willing to teach me about the entire cheese making process and made my internship very enjoyable. I learned a tremendous amount of information and wouldn’t trade the experience for any other. It was a very good experience to be out of the Midwest and learn more about dairy farming and the different challenges that they face in different parts of the country. I would highly recommend the internship to other students.

- Wyatt Smith
This summer I had the thrilling opportunity to work at Palmyra Farm in Hagerstown, Maryland. Palmyra farm has been run by the Creek and Shank families since 1950, with the purchase of their first couple Ayrshires. Over the last 50+ years they have had 70 Ayrshire bulls and 15 Holstein bulls enter AI stud companies. In addition to this they have had over 116 All American nomination Ayrshires and 46 All American Ayrshires. Palmyra milks 170 cows twice a day in a double-7 parlor, raises all their own replacements, contracts out all the crops, and sells their own cheese.

Over the course of the summer my regular duties included: helping teach the lease girls how to show and how to work with their heifers, feeding calves, performing general cow care, treating sick animals, breeding cows, and giving flush shots. Some of my special projects were to: help build the calf supply storage shed, re-do the entire fence, take care of IV’s and pumping of sick cows, and work with heifer calf management. I really enjoyed the chance to work with and help show some of the greatest Ayrshire cows out there and not to mention the awesome families I worked for. Another thing I really enjoyed was that most of the family was diversified i.e. Mary took care of marketing embryos and cheese, Mike sold buildings and equipment for GEA, and Ryan was the herdsman for the farm.

I strongly encourage others to check this out or other opportunities away from home to help you grow as person and find out what you like and don’t like. I enjoyed every second of my summer as I learned a lot, and made excellent connections, with one the most influential women in the dairy industry as a friend and reference.

- Craig Betcher

U of M West Central Research & Outreach Center Intern

This summer I had the opportunity to work at the University of Minnesota’s West Central Research and Outreach center in Morris as the Dairy Intern. Growing up on a 50-cow dairy, I wanted to try something different and see what it was like to work in the research field and with organic animals. The West Central Research and Outreach dairy milks 230 cows all together, 90 organically and 140 conventionally. Since it is a research facility there are many different breeds and many crossbreds. They are milked in a double-9 switch parlor.

On a daily basis my responsibilities would range from bringing cows in from the pastures in the morning, to making new fence and moving waters, weighing calves, pregnancy check, heat checks and I even veered off the dairy path and helped weigh piglets and made wooden fly traps. As a research farm we would take daily feed and forage samples and took milk samples from each cow every two weeks. We had to make sure we had a wealth of valuable data so we could record the data and use it in the research.

I worked on two special research projects: the C-Dax Pasture Meter and SCR Activity and Ruminator Monitor. The main project I became interested in was the Fly Traps and the Spalding Cow Vac. These are both different ways to remove and capture flies before they entered the milking parlor. I became more familiar with the different kinds of flies because it was my job to count the flies that were on the cows. I also needed to flag manure, net flies for research and handle the cows through the fly traps.

It was great to work with diverse projects and great people this summer, try something different and keep working for an industry that I have true passion for.

- Kelsey Petit

Hilmar Cheese Company Dairy Intern

This summer I was selected to be one of the Hilmar Cheese Company Dairy Interns. I was selected to be the intern on the Clauss Dairy Farm. I received this internship because last summer I was selected to be a Hilmar Cheese Intern in Dalhart, TX, and the owners told me that they wanted me to work for them in California this summer.

This summer I worked on two registered Jersey farms every day, Clauss Dairy Farms (CDF) and SunWest Jerseys. Richard Clauss and his three daughters own both dairies. On CDF we were milking around 1,800 cows three times a day on a 50-cow rotary parlor and averaged about 62 pounds. SunWest Jersey was milking around 1,200 cows twice a day in a double-12 parallel and averaging a little less than 60 pounds per cow throughout the summer.

The majority of my summer was spent working as an assistant herdsman. Doing this, I did a lot of work on the computer or more specifically DairyComp. On DairyComp I would set up the handheld computers for what we were doing the next day. Our weekly chores consisted of giving BST on Monday, herd check on Tuesday, dry cows on Wednesday, then on Thursday and Friday we would move cows on CDF and SunWest, respectively. Then on the weekends I would have one day off and the other day I usually milked and treated the hospital cows. While I was working there, I also got to spend a week with the feed manager and helped with monitoring feed intakes and making changes on the Feed Watch program. When in the feed department, we monitored the feed inventory and I also got put in because the application window was so narrow that there was simply no time. One key thing that I learned this summer is that I like sales, but marketing isn’t my cup of tea. I would definitely recommend working for Helena for anyone that doesn’t mind putting on a lot of miles in a summer and enjoys traveling to test plots and taking pictures for marketing purposes.

- Jon Schmitt

Helena Chemical Company Intern

During the summer of 2013, I worked for Helena Chemical Company based in Royalton, MN. I had a split internship where half of my time was spent at the retail location and the other half of my time was spent working for the wholesale representative that covers the state of Minnesota. At the retail location, I was responsible for managing part of the experimental underground irrigation project as well as delivering chemical and fertilizer to farmers. For my wholesale time, I traveled to plots around the state and took pictures of test plots to record growth stages of plots and advantages throughout the season of our products.

I really enjoyed working for Helena Chemical Company mainly for the family atmosphere of the company. The people that I worked for were a lot of fun to work with – even if the weather was a pain. At least a third of the plots that were planned to be put in were never
A Tradition In The Making:
Dairy Networking Evening

By: Kelsey Mussman, Junior in Agricultural Education

The Gopher Dairy Club continues to work towards providing networking opportunities for all our members. On October 17th, the club held the second annual, Gopher Dairy Club Networking Evening. This event was started in hopes of giving members an opportunity to network one-on-one with dairy companies from across the Midwest. The events was held at the Ramada Plaza, and included a career fair for students to network with business professionals as well as learn more about job opportunities and internships. The event ended with a dinner with industry professionals. Over 45 of our members attended the event along with 11 companies.

The Gopher Dairy Club is in the works of revamping the event in order to make it the most beneficial to our members and campus. As our club is home to many agricultural leaders, we strive for an elite event that members of the club can truly benefit from by making personal connections with professionals. Students have a wonderful opportunity to network and make connections within in the industry. This year’s event was a huge success and we anticipate next year’s to be no different.

“The Dairy Networking Evening was a wonderful opportunity to visit with professionals from the dairy industry. I was able to make several connections that would not have been possible without this great evening!”
- Jenn Janak

“The Dairy Networking Evening was a relaxed and engaging evening that provided a wonderful opportunity to visit with the next generation of agriculture professionals and my fellow industry peers. The students came ready to visit and learn more about AMPI. I enjoyed visiting with them and making connections that led to summer internships this year and potentially full-time coworkers in the future.”
- Sarah Schmidt

Gopher Dairy Club members attending the 2013 Dairy Networking Evening.

Industry representatives in attendance at the 2013 Dairy Networking Evening.
Once spring finals were in the books and the end of May neared, eleven anxious GDC members boarded a plane bound for Switzerland. There was a buzz of excitement as we prepared for the international experience of a lifetime. This international experience is known for the gorgeous mountain views and Brown Swiss dairies.

While in Switzerland, our schedule was full of great activities. The highlight of our two-week adventure was touring dairy farms. During the first part of our trip, we stayed at Plantahof College as we enjoyed nearly a week of farm tours. We visited farms that ranged from eight cows to one with more than 100 that boasted a sixteen cow rotary parlor.

Strawberries, who doesn’t love them? Our whole group had their fill of strawberries as we had a real field experience. We were able to tour a berry farm and walked the strawberry fields while enjoying mountain views and fresh strawberries. Even in May, we managed to see snow as we traveled up the small, winding mountain roads to an altitude of 10,000 feet and saw a working lock and dam with captivating views.

Snow wasn’t the typical June weather for Switzerland, even in the mountains, and neither was the rain we experienced throughout the trip. Despite the many days of gloomy weather, we enjoyed the view of the foggy mountain caps and our tours. We also took a trip to a family owned winery and learned about grape production in the mountains.

The next part of the trip was home stay visits. In pairs, we departed to different parts of the country and had diverse experiences. Following our home stays, we moved closer to Luzern, Switzerland and stayed in a hostel. On the way, we stopped in Burglen to visit the elite GS Alliance show dairy. GS Alliance is home to the Supreme Champion of the 2012 & 2013 Swiss Expo, Decrausaz Iron O’ KALIBRA, EX-96. The group was pictured with O’KALIBRA and admired her superior dairy strength.

This dairy was much different than the others we visited as it featured a stanchion barn with box stalls and tunnel ventilation nestled into the mountainside.

Nearing the end of our trip, we also visited a sheep dairy and a water buffalo dairy to round out our livestock experience. In addition, we rode a cable car up Mount Shilthorn while enjoying James Bond theme music.

The highlight of the trip for many was gaining a vast understanding of Swiss Mountain Agriculture. After much anticipation, we stopped in to watch a Swiss man make leather straps for cowbells and had the opportunity to purchase a bell to bring home to ring in our favorite memories of Switzerland.

Dairy farmers in Switzerland prefer to milk Brown Swiss for their quality milk components to produce cheese as a byproduct.
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