

Agriculture and Extension Faculty/Staff

Awards

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018

3:00 p.m. ■ Plains Room ■ Memorial Union

Reception and refreshments
immediately following the awards program

NDSU

VICE PRESIDENT FOR AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award

This annual award established by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station recognizes outstanding faculty and Research Extension Center principal investigators with 10 or fewer years of service. The recipient must have made a significant research contribution that addresses an applied problem or increases the basic knowledge of the area investigated.

■ Aaron Daigh

Assistant Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Soil Science)

"Dr. Daigh's most valuable asset is his ability to take complex scientific concepts and break them down into bite-sized pieces that people can understand."

Aaron Daigh joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2013.

Daigh's primary areas of research include heat, water and salt transport in agricultural soils relating to reduced tillage, residue management, tile drainage, cover cropping, regional weather and climate, and soil properties. He has accomplished significant on-farm research to develop water-saving and soil health management practices. These trials have used farm-scale plots to better translate the research to farming practices.

He also has done extensive research on removing salts, primarily from oil-produced water spills, from the soil. His innovative approach to salt removal has the potential to revolutionize the reclamation of oil well-produced water spills and soils negatively impacted by soluble salts.

Daigh has helped generate more than \$4.2 million in grants, authored or co-authored 33 refereed journal articles and three book chapters, and made 125 presentations.

He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

■ Mukhlesur Rahman

Assistant Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

"Dr. Rahman has taken on the challenge to advance flaxseed and canola production by discovering specific genetic factors associated with important production traits."

Mukhlesur Rahman joined NDSU as a research assistant professor in 2010 and became an assistant professor in 2012.

Rahman was hired to manage the relatively new canola breeding program and later took on the role of continuing the flaxseed breeding program. The most tangible result of his efforts are the release of one flaxseed and one canola cultivar.

Recently, Rahman expanded his canola breeding program by developing higher-oil canola and more disease resistance in canola varieties, traits that producers and industrial users of canola were seeking. Additionally, he is working to increase linolenic acid in flaxseed to meet the demand from consumers, industry and producers.

Rahman has authored or co-authored 37 refereed journal articles, made 54 presentations and generated nearly \$1.8 million in grants.

Rahman earned B.Sc. Ag. and M.Sc. degrees from Bangladesh Agricultural University, an M.S. degree from Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, and a Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba.

■ Sheela Ramamoorthy

Associate Professor
Department of
Microbiological Sciences

"Her ability to excel as an original-thinking theoretician, critical experimentalist and tool builder are rarely, if ever, found in the same person."

Sheela Ramamoorthy joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2012 and became an associate professor in 2017.

Her primary areas of research are virology and immunology, with a focus on vaccinology and diagnostic test development. She has diverse expertise in veterinary infectious diseases of economic importance and their detection and prevention. Her basic research has improved understanding of the pathogenesis mechanisms and transmission of viral agents involved in the porcine respiratory disease complex, particularly porcine circovirus 2 (PCV2).

Ramamoorthy's work has resulted in several vaccines and diagnostic tests for veterinary infectious diseases, including two vaccines that have been patented by NDSU.

She has helped generate more than \$2.3 million in grants, authored or co-authored 42 refereed journal articles and one book chapter, and made 30 presentations.

Ramamoorthy holds a BVSc (DVM) degree from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, an M.S. degree from Oklahoma State University and a Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic and State University.

■ Kendall Swanson

Professor
Department of Animal Sciences

“Dr. Swanson is an accomplished scientist [who] makes other scientists around him better due to his ability to successfully collaborate within other disciplines.”

Kendall Swanson joined NDSU as an associate professor in 2010 and became a professor in 2015.

Swanson’s research focuses on improving the efficiency of feed use and reducing the environmental impact of beef cattle production systems. He has examined the influences of diet and management systems on cattle feeding behavior and assessed alternative feeding programs to reduce feed costs in feedlot cattle, backgrounding cattle and wintering beef cow programs.

His research program also has increased the cattle industry’s understanding of how diet and feeding management influence feeding behavior. In addition, he has provided information on the practical use of ethanol byproducts and crop residues in cow-calf, and growing and finishing cattle diets.

Swanson has authored or co-authored 93 refereed journal articles and three book chapters, made 50 presentations and generated more than \$5.6 million in grants.

He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky.

■ Lei Zhang

Associate Professor
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Dr. Zhang’s research is a unique fit for North Dakota’s booming energy and housing market.”

Lei Zhang joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2013 and became an associate professor in 2018.

Zhang’s research focuses on assessing factors affecting the housing market, such as the local and national economic impacts of policies. Those policies include the earned income tax credit and monetary policy. Her research also analyzes the impact of policies on regionally important sectors, such as agriculture and energy.

She has made recent contributions to North Dakota in two main areas: the impact on the agricultural sector of road dust from shale oil development, and the impact of flood hazards on neighborhood property values.

Zhang has authored or co-authored 15 refereed journal articles and two book chapters, and made 20 presentations.

She earned a B.A. degree from Henan University of Finance and Economics, an M.A. degree from Sichuan University, and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from the University of Texas.

Eugene R. Dahl Excellence in Research Award

This annual award established by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station recognizes outstanding faculty and Research Extension Center principal investigators with 11 or more years of service. The recipient must have a distinguished research program in basic or applied sciences that has gained significant recognition in the state, region or nation and/or internationally.

■ Joel Caton

Professor
Department of Animal Sciences

"He is a distinguished scholar and scientist whose work has received national and international recognition and acclaim."

Joel Caton joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 1988, and became an associate professor in 1994 and a professor in 2000.

As an expert in ruminant nutrition, Caton's primary research focuses on grazing livestock nutrition and strategic supplementation, digestive physiology and intestinal function, mineral nutrition and metabolism, and maternal nutrition and developmental programming.

His research program is multi-disciplinary and highly collaborative, and it has provided key data in nutrient supplementation, pregnancy outcomes and maternal nutrition, and nutrient transfer from the cow to the calf. His program also contains a strong student-focused mentoring component. He has trained 42 graduate students, five postdocs and more than 35 undergraduate students.

Caton has helped generate more than \$5.9 million in grants, authored or co-authored 176 refereed journal articles and 11 book chapters, and made 127 presentations.

He received an M.S. degree from the University of Missouri, and a B.S. degree and Ph.D. from New Mexico State University.

■ Luis del Río Mendoza

Professor
Department of Plant Pathology

"Dr. del Río's research interests and skills are meeting the needs of canola producers in the state while advancing science."

Luis del Río Mendoza joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2001, and became an associate professor in 2007 and professor in 2016.

Del Río Mendoza investigates the biology and management of diseases affecting canola production in North Dakota. His program focuses on the epidemiology and genetic resistance to three fungal diseases: Sclerotinia stem rot (SSR), blackleg and clubroot.

His research has contributed to the registration of two biological fungicides and two chemical fungicides to manage SSR. He also developed the Sclerotinia risk map and calculator to help growers make fungicide spray decisions. They have eliminated unnecessary applications and resulted in significant savings.

He has authored or co-authored 58 refereed journal articles and four book chapters, made 120 presentations and helped generate more than \$2.8 million in grants.

Del Río Mendoza earned an associate degree from Zamorano University, B.Sc. and M.S. degrees from the University of Puerto Rico, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

■ David Rider

Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Entomology)

"His research, especially over the last five years, has established him as a leading world authority on the Pentatomidae."

David Rider joined NDSU in 1991 as an associate professor and became a professor in 2005.

Rider's laboratory conducts research on the systematics of various insect groups. As a part of his research, he names and describes new species, genera and tribes in the superfamily Pentatomoidea and studies the relationships among them to develop more meaningful classifications.

He also conducts faunal studies or surveys on insect species of concern in the region. He and his colleagues collect specimens of selected insect groups to determine their pest or conservation status. His surveys help producers make informed control decisions. In addition, Rider oversees the North Dakota State Insect Reference Collection.

He has authored or co-authored 92 refereed journal articles and five book chapters, made 80 presentations and generated more than \$1 million in grants.

Rider obtained a B.S. degree from Purdue University, an M.S. from Auburn University and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University.

■ Saleem Shaik

Professor
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Dr. Shaik is quite proficient in quantitative methods, and he has clearly demonstrated the ability to identify and analyze important empirical issues in agricultural economics.”

Saleem Shaik joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2007 and became a professor in 2018. He also has served as director of the Center of Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies since 2015.

Shaik’s work focuses on the economics of production and how domestic policies impact farm performance. He has maintained a productive research program in risk management, agricultural policy and productivity analysis, and his research is regularly cited by leading experts in his field.

Additionally, he has designed research programs that directly involve and benefit educational instructors in the North Dakota Farm and Ranch Business Management Association. He has benchmarked efficiency ratios using farm-level enterprise data, empirically validating performance measures.

He has made 111 presentations, authored or co-authored 40 refereed journal articles and six book chapters, and helped generate more than \$1 million in grants.

Shaik holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching Award

This annual award recognizes outstanding teaching faculty with 10 or fewer years of service in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. The award encourages and rewards excellence in teaching at all levels and among all disciplines.

■ Peter Bergholz

Assistant Professor
Department of Microbiological
Sciences

"He always allows his students to think for themselves and come up with their own creative solution."

Peter Bergholz joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2012.

Bergholz's teaching philosophy is that learning should be designed carefully and engaging. Two of his courses, General Microbiology II Lab and Microbial Genomics, exemplify his subject mastery and the development of challenging course material. He works to update his courses continuously.

He regularly incorporates student-centered learning activities to empower students to take responsibility for their learning. To ease the stress of taking students out of their comfort zones, he developed a comprehensive and clear syllabus that includes detailed and specific learning goals, detailed descriptions of assignments and a detailed course schedule. He also often stays late in the lab to help students complete experiments.

His students appreciate the way he challenges them and provides the support they need to solve problems on their own.

Bergholz obtained a B.S. degree from the University of South Carolina and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

■ Leah Brueggeman

Instructor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Soil Science)

"Her ability to engage everyone and get things done while making it enjoyable is something I wish every teacher had."

Leah Brueggeman joined NDSU as an instructor in 2015.

Brueggeman teaches as many as eight labs for Introduction to Soil Science each semester. The labs cover the entire discipline of soil science, including mineralogy, morphology, chemical properties, physical properties, biology and fertility. Her mastery of the subject helped her fit effortlessly into the teaching role.

Since she started, Brueggeman has updated the laboratory in many ways, including changing the floor layout to maximize space for students, and upgrading audio-visual and lab equipment. The upgrades allowed her to design exercises on soil biology that captivate her students.

Her students say she is engaging and takes time to connect with them during class and on a personal level. She circulates the lab to work with students one-on-one and often continues conversations with students outside of class.

Brueggeman earned a B.S. degree from Washington State University and an M.S. degree from the University of Idaho.

■ Lisa Christenson

Associate Professor of Practice
Department of Animal Sciences

"Dr. Christenson shows the kind of dignified, knowledgeable and effective teaching practice and leadership that is a model for faculty on the NDSU campus."

Lisa Christenson joined NDSU as an assistant professor of practice in 2012 and became an associate professor of practice in 2018.

Christenson continually refines the courses she teaches to increase student learning and engagement. Her memberships in professional organizations help her improve her teaching and provide students with a learning environment that meets their needs. She was a member of the first cohort of the National Science Foundation-funded "Gateways ND" active learning in the science, technology, engineering and math disciplines group.

Additionally, she has created several courses for the Veterinary Technology Program and Animal Science major, including Small Mammal and Exotic Animal Health and Husbandry, and Anthrozoology. As she refines these courses, she keeps the mindset and objectives of her students in mind.

Her students say she is encouraging and supportive of their efforts in and out of the classroom.

Christenson holds a B.A. degree from Concordia College and a D.V.M. from the University of Minnesota.

■ David Englund

Lecturer
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

"I never have seen a teacher at any level of education so committed to improving the way a course was taught."

David Englund joined NDSU as an adjunct faculty member in 2013 and became a lecturer in 2014.

Englund continually reevaluates and improves his teaching methodology and delivery of course content. In the past year, he has shifted his content delivery from primarily lecture-driven courses to courses with much higher student engagement. Rather than passively receiving information, his students are engaged in active learning with intentional pauses to improve student focus.

Despite teaching mostly nonmajors, student ratings for his classes are significantly above department and university averages. When he took over AGE 244, the instructor rating for the course was the highest it had been in 10 years.

His students say his enthusiasm for economics inspired them to improve and that his concern for student success is apparent in the effort he puts into his classes.

Englund obtained a B.S. degree from Bemidji State University and an M.S. degree from South Dakota State University.

■ Rebekah Oliver

Assistant Professor of Practice
Department of Plant Sciences

"She explains the most difficult and complicated subjects in simple and easy words, captivating everyone's interest and imagination."

Rebekah Oliver joined NDSU as an assistant professor of practice in 2012.

Oliver believes students learn best when they find enjoyment in what they are doing. She keeps students interested in finding the "why" rather than "what" and fosters their ability to apply underlying principles to solve problems.

She makes sure she always is available to her students. If her office hours conflict with students' schedules, she makes other arrangements to see them. In addition, she responds to the needs of students by scheduling evening review sessions before tests and developing guided notes to encourage more drawing, diagramming and labeling of figures. She also remains current on developments in genetics.

Her students say she makes everyone feel comfortable about asking questions and participating in discussions. Her joy in students' success and growth is apparent to them through her teaching style and availability for one-on-one instruction.

Oliver holds a B.S. degree and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award

This annual award recognizes outstanding teaching faculty with 11 or more years of service in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. The award encourages and rewards excellence in teaching at all levels and among all disciplines.

■ Edward “Shawn” DeKeyser

Professor/Director
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Natural Resources Management)

“Dr. DeKeyser’s tremendous contributions to teaching demonstrate his incredible passion and deep commitment to students, and his pride as an educator at NDSU.”

Shawn DeKeyser joined NDSU in 2000 as a research specialist/lecturer. He became an assistant professor in 2007, associate professor in 2011 and professor in 2017.

DeKeyser has created from scratch three independent courses: River and Stream Resource Management, Wetland Resources Management, and Rangeland Planning and Analysis. The latter has been developed as an interdisciplinary capstone course that integrates all School of Natural Resource Sciences majors: Soil Science, Range Science and Natural Resources Management.

Teaching means more than a transfer of knowledge to DeKeyser. It is a way for him to impart his passion for his discipline. He believes students learn better when they can experience real-life applications of theory, and as a result, he has incorporated many hands-on approaches in his classrooms.

His students say his passion is infectious and that his courses are very high quality.

DeKeyser earned a B.A. degree from Jamestown College and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Tom Gustad

Instructor
Department of
Microbiological Sciences

“His organization and thoroughness are unparalleled, and he combines this with personal experience to effectively communicate course content to students.”

Tom Gustad joined NDSU as a research specialist in 1986. He became a lecturer in 2001, senior lecturer in 2006 and instructor in 2010.

Although Gustad teaches lecture and lab classes, he excels in the lab courses. He updates and maintains a comprehensive lab manual for his Animal Cell Culture Techniques and Immunology and Serology lab classes. He also brings technical skills from his previous experiences as a lab technician and has remained active in research by contributing technical expertise to student and faculty projects across campus.

Gustad has demonstrated a commitment to teaching scholarship. He has attended more than 40 pedagogical lunches and seminars on campus, and he attends a national conference on teaching every year.

His students say his lecture and lab procedures are well organized and easy to follow, making them easier for students to understand.

Gustad holds B.S. degrees from South Dakota State University and an M.S. degree from NDSU.

■ Burton Johnson

Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. Johnson is a truly gifted teacher who is dedicated to the success of his students by empowering and challenging them to be actively involved in learning.”

Burton Johnson joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 1998, and became an associate professor in 2004 and professor in 2010.

Drawing from his experience, Johnson continues modifying Principles of Crop Production, a core course for Crop and Weed Sciences majors that he has taught since 1999. The course now includes more hands-on activities to engage students in the learning process.

He also updates the course to include current research topics and case studies so students have the newest information available. His goal is that students gain a strong foundation to build on for other courses, and he creates a nonthreatening learning environment for the students to enhance their critical thinking and teamwork skills.

His students say he has a sincere desire for them to succeed, and he is passionate and knowledgeable about his subject.

Johnson obtained a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Siew Hoon Lim

Associate Professor
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Siew provides a constructive and engaging educational environment that instigates students’ passion for knowledge and discovery.”

Siew Hoon Lim joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2005 and became an associate professor in 2015.

As an experienced economics professor, Lim has reviewed two intermediate-level microeconomics textbooks authored by well-known microeconomists. She continues to stay abreast of the latest developments in her field and to update her course materials accordingly.

In her Intermediate Microeconomics course, she has adopted digital adaptive learning tools to allow students to assess their own learning. She also has incorporated workout problems, pop quizzes and real-world examples to give her students time to process what they are learning.

Her graduate-level Econometrics course requires students to carry out an empirical research project that students find challenging but highly beneficial.

Her students say she makes economics accessible and understandable, and that she helps them see social and policy issues differently.

Lim earned a B.S. degree from Bemidji State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

■ Tara Swanson

Lecturer
Department of Animal Sciences

“Tara not only has the capability to teach well, but she also is extraordinary at creating an environment where students feel safe to learn.”

Tara Swanson joined NDSU as a lecturer in 2006.

In an effort to reach every student, Swanson incorporates a multitude of teaching and learning styles in her courses. These strategies include active learning, guest lecturers, field trips and hands-on application of subject matter.

In her Introduction to Equine Studies class, she uses a flipped classroom approach to teach about the history of the horse. Students read the history chapter of the text before class and come to class prepared for an interactive activity and discussion. She also leads two industry tour courses to give students a real-world look at the equine industry domestically and internationally. Students gain exposure to unfamiliar practices and explore their interest in the industry.

Her students say she truly cares about their success and prepares them well to enter the professional world.

Swanson holds a B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska and an M.S. degree from NDSU.

William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Excellence in Advising Award

This annual award recognizes the contributions of faculty and staff who have demonstrated excellence in advising undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources and/or its student organizations.

■ Erik Hanson

Assistant Professor
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

"Erik creates meaningful, encouraging relationships with students in a variety of areas."

Erik Hanson joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2016.

Although Hanson formally advises three graduate students, he continues to mentor many long after they've left his classroom for the last time. They frequently seek his advice on career opportunities and graduate school applications, and he has provided multiple recommendation letters.

Through his open-door policy, he typically interacts with his advisees multiple times per week and offers them invitations to industry events, guest teaching opportunities and informal conversations on current issues.

Hanson continues his mentoring as Agribusiness Club adviser, and served as the chaperone for the club's trip to Kansas City in February 2017. In addition, he responds to undergraduate students' questions about course registration, internship or scholarship opportunities and transferring to NDSU from other Tri-College institutions.

Hanson earned B.A. and B.S. degrees from Minnesota State University Moorhead, an M.S. degree from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

■ Torre Hovick

Assistant Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Range Science)

"Torre is an excellent adviser because he believes in his students."

Torre Hovick joined NDSU in 2014 as an assistant professor.

Hovick's door always is open to all students, and he conducts a weekly meeting with his advisees. He meets with each student for 30 to 60 minutes. These meetings are intended to keep their relationship open and current, and help guide them to succeed in their studies, writing and research.

He also works with the students as a team. This approach allows the students to experience new projects and learn new techniques, teaching styles and science, and develop the skills they need on their first professional job.

In addition, he encourages his students to work with other professionals in the university system and other agencies and land managers, and be engaged with the scientific and land management communities.

Hovick received a B.S. degree from the University of Northern Iowa, an M.S. degree from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

■ Stacey Ostby

Co-director/Lecturer
Department of Animal Sciences

"Her students have grown to appreciate her advice and experience in assisting them to meet their educational goals."

Stacey Ostby joined NDSU as a lecturer in 2009 and added the title of the Veterinary Technology Program co-director in 2012.

She advises about 30 students annually, and creates a face-to-face relationship with them from the start. She nurtures this personal relationship and strives to meet with each advisee at least twice a year to learn more about them as a person and their goals. As a result, students feel comfortable approaching her with questions and concerns throughout their academic career.

In her adviser role, she helps her advisees make a long-term plan for their academic courses and find externship opportunities and on-campus resources to assist them. The last phase of her on-campus advising is helping students plan for graduation.

However, her relationship with advisees extends many years beyond that. She continues to act as a professional reference and resource for graduates seeking a job change.

Ostby holds a B.S. degree from NDSU.

■ Todd West

Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

"He is genuinely interested in working with students for their academic success and professional development."

Todd West joined NDSU as an associate professor in 2011 and became a professor in 2017.

As the horticulture undergraduate program coordinator, West meets with prospective students and their parents to discuss the program. He gives them a tour that includes teaching (classrooms and greenhouses) and research (labs and greenhouses) facilities.

Once students declare horticulture as their major, he meets with them individually to assess which option they should pursue and assigns them to an appropriate adviser. Even though the students are assigned to other advisers, they often stop by West's office to chat about courses, career or personal life.

He also assists students as they apply for scholarships and internships, writes recommendation letters for them, and is the major adviser for the NDSU Horticulture and Forestry Club, which includes leading their fundraising activities.

West obtained a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin, and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University.

Excellence in Extension Early Career Award

NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational programs. Individuals with 10 or fewer years of service to NDSU Extension are eligible for nomination. Nominees must hold an Extension appointment and be in the 2000 job band.

■ Andrew Friskop

Extension Plant Pathologist
Department of Plant Pathology

"Dr. Friskop has developed a strong and relevant Extension program on the management of cereal diseases in the state."

Andrew Friskop joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension plant pathologist in 2013.

Friskop has developed research-based information on fungicide use to manage Fusarium head blight in wheat. He has presented the information at multiple venues across North Dakota.

In addition, Friskop has used a corn disease survey effort since 2014 to identify problematic corn diseases and tailor research and Extension programs to the diseases posing the greatest economic risk. He has used videos, PowerPoint presentations, radio interviews and field day talks to highlight the importance of the most important corn disease in North Dakota: Goss' wilt and leaf blight.

His research benefits the state as well. He leads efforts to obtain funds from the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative to conduct fungicide trials across North Dakota. He also is involved in NDSU's spring wheat breeding program, and pulse and dry bean pathology research.

Friskop earned a B.S. degree and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Travis Hoffman

Extension Sheep Specialist
Department of Animal Sciences

"Dr. Hoffman has built a strong reputation throughout North Dakota serving as a resource for a variety of components for the industry."

Travis Hoffman joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension sheep specialist in 2016.

Hoffman has developed innovative programming to help North Dakota sheep producers improve their operations. That includes developing 20 workshops and fields days and 17 Extension presentations, and participating in 66 other Extension events. For example, he led an interactive webinar focused on lamb quality and wrote a book chapter for the "Sheep SID Manual on Lamb Quality."

When the U.S. Department of Agriculture changed rules on the labeling of lamb in end products, he made sure Extension agents and producers were aware of the changes.

In addition, he secured federal and state funding for research and has played a large role in promoting and recruiting youth for the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association's Starter Flock Program.

Hoffman holds a B.S. degree from South Dakota State University, and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from Colorado State University.

Excellence in Extension Award nominees continue on Page 12

■ Esther McGinnis

Extension Horticulturist
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. McGinnis’ efforts reveal a strong foundation of Extension and research activity, and a demonstrated role in making horticulture accessible to all.”

Esther McGinnis joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension horticulturist in 2013.

In about five years, McGinnis turned a nearly non-existent Extension Master Gardener Program into a program that meets national standards. That effort included redesigning the core course curriculum, teaching and facilitating classes, helping interns and volunteers find volunteer opportunities, and providing continuing education to retain current volunteers. The program has 184 active Master Gardeners in 31 counties.

McGinnis also has provided horticulture programming across the state, giving 155 talks to 6,238 people in the last five years and giving radio, TV and newspaper interviews, including 25 gardening segments on KVLV’s “North Dakota Today” program.

In addition, she is involved in research on bee habitat and the spotted wing drosophila’s threat to local fruit production.

McGinnis has a B.A. degree from Concordia College, a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School, and an M.S. degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

■ David Ripplinger

Extension Bioproducts and
Bioenergy Specialist
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Dr. Ripplinger has developed an Extension program that meets North Dakota’s energy needs.”

David Ripplinger joined NDSU as a research fellow in 2004 and became an assistant professor and Extension bioproducts/bioenergy specialist in 2011.

Ripplinger has developed and delivered a wide array of Extension programs in the bioenergy area, including an ethanol risk workshop for the industry, a bioenergy situation review and outlook, and a viewing of the “Powering the Red River Valley” movie.

As part of his Extension programming development, he conducts formal and informal needs assessments, and collaborates with faculty and research staff across the state, especially agronomists, soil scientists and agricultural engineers. He regularly partners with the bioenergy industry to support his programming.

He reaches his audiences in a number of ways, including electronically and face to face. He also serves as co-chair of the NDSU Extension Farm Stress team and the Farm Business Management program team.

Ripplinger received a B.S. degree and Ph.D. from NDSU and an M.S. degree from Iowa State University.

■ Acacia Stuckle

Extension Agent
Emmons County

“Acacia has worked tirelessly to provide education to a broad base of clientele.”

Acacia Stuckle joined NDSU as an administrative assistant in 2005 and became a special collections associate in 2007, and an Extension 4-H youth development and family and community wellness agent in 2012.

Stuckle works hard to identify local needs through a constant connection with partners and colleagues. As a result, she is developing and delivering educational programs and working with the county health departments on projects to address chronic disease prevention.

Other issues she addresses through her programming include alcohol and substance abuse, bullying, community vitality and getting youth civically engaged in their communities.

In addition, she delivers programs on food and nutrition for youth and adults, and succession planning for farmers and ranchers. She also has built a strong 4-H program in Emmons County that resulted in a 160 percent increase in youth involved in 4-H. She is on Extension’s 4-H Youth Development, and Leadership and Civic Engagement program teams.

Stuckle earned a B.S. degree from NDSU.

AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award

NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational programs. Individuals with 11 or more years of service to NDSU Extension are eligible for nomination. Nominees must hold an Extension appointment and be in the 2000 job band.

■ Dena Kemmet

Extension Agent
Mercer County

“Dena is a true Extension professional and a great representative of NDSU Extension.”

Dena Kemmet joined NDSU as an Extension agent in 2005.

As a family and community wellness agent, Kemmet develops and delivers educational programs in nutrition, health and wellness, personal and family finance, human development and family science, community and leadership development, and 4-H youth development. Programs she has delivered include Stepping On, Banking on Strong Bones, Boundaries, Nourishing Boomers and Beyond, Be Sun Savvy and Design Your Succession Plan.

Kemmet also became a certified counselor for the Senior Health Insurance Counseling program. She educates older adults on Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care and other related health coverage plans.

In addition, she is co-chair of the 4-H Youth Development program team and a member of Extension’s Human Development and Family Science program team. She also is on Extension’s Innovation Team, which identifies and encourages innovative approaches to fulfilling the Extension mission.

Kemmet earned a B.S. degree from the University of Mary and an M.S. degree from NDSU.

■ Macine Lukach

Extension Agent, Cavalier County
Region 3 Parent /FRC Coordinator/Educator
NDSU Extension

“Macine has tremendous passion to develop programs that have statewide application.”

Macine Lukach joined NDSU as an urban 4-H assistant in 1989. She became an Extension agent in 1992 and added the role of Region 3 Parent and Family Resource Center coordinator and educator in 2010.

During her years as an agent, Lukach has served on numerous program development teams to design and evaluate educational programs in family and community wellness, 4-H youth development and parenting. For example, she helped the state 4-H team design educational workshops for 4-H volunteers and NDSU Extension professionals on the 4-H Clothing Revue and 4-H Foods and Nutrition projects.

She also contributed to curriculum for middle and high school youth and their parents/caregivers on making good choices in technology use, and has been a leader in incorporating character education into many of her educational programs.

In her Parent and Family Resource Center role, she helps parents in six counties improve their parenting skills.

Lukach received a B.S. degree from NDSU.

Charles and Linda Moses Staff Award

This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agriculture and/or Extension by professional staff on and off campus. The recipient must have at least three years of continuous service in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.

■ Md. Saidul Borhan

Research Specialist
Department of Agricultural
and Biosystems Engineering

“Dr. Borhan, with rich experience in the field of his research combined with his zeal in research and innovation, is one high-quality researcher that any organization would be proud of.”

Md. Saidul Borhan joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2011.

Borhan conducts and supports research on air and water quality related to animal manure and agricultural waste management. He teaches students how to use instruments and helps them develop and design field experiments.

He is creative and innovative in exploring new research ideas and capable of finding alternative ways to solve problems. He also quickly fixes any problem related to sensors, analyzers and equipment to ensure continuous operation of sensing systems.

Beyond helping graduate students and colleagues, his efforts and dedication in the waste water management lab have led to numerous peer-reviewed articles.

Borhan obtained a B.S. degree from Bangladesh Agricultural University, an M.E. degree from the Asian Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Sonja Fuchs

Web Technology Specialist
Agriculture Communication

“Sonja is an excellent communicator who clearly articulates ideas and ensures that people understand.”

Sonja Fuchs joined NDSU as a web technology specialist in 2012.

Fuchs has three main areas of responsibility. She trains, mentors and supports Extension and Ag research personnel in creating website and social media content.

She also experiments with the latest mobile and online technology and helps Extension and Agriculture use it. In addition, she helps plan and organize websites and social media.

Her assistance has increased the number of people who visit and interact with Extension and Agriculture online and make use of educational programming and information offered. For example, she manages Extension’s drought assistance website, a respected resource throughout the U.S. She also helped launch Dr. Apple Tree, a tree disease diagnostic website that gets hundreds of views.

Fuchs holds a B.S. degree from NDSU.

■ Wanda Keller

Research Specialist
Department of Animal Sciences

“She understands that students are the future of scientific discovery and attention to detail is what makes scientific discovery relevant.”

Wanda Keller joined NDSU as a laboratory technician in 1984, became a chemist in 1985 and a research specialist in 1989.

Keller assists with basic and applied research in muscle biology and meat science. She processes and analyzes biological samples for various cellular/molecular components and metabolites, and conducts meat quality assessments using color score, mechanical tenderness evaluation and shelf life. She also reviews and revises manuscripts, theses and grants for the lab.

She is effective in optimizing methods for the most precise outcomes and is able to troubleshoot problems due to her diligence in understanding lab methods and protocols. She has spent large amounts of time helping students develop or learn new lab techniques and protocols.

She earned a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

■ Lorin Miller

Accountant
Department of Plant Sciences

“He exemplifies professionalism and collegiality through his interactions with and service to faculty, staff, students and stakeholders.”

Lorin Miller joined NDSU as an accountant in 2011.

Miller’s primary responsibility is providing direction for the Plant Sciences Department’s financial operations. This includes supervising the financial support staff, and overseeing and maintaining accounting and financial reporting systems to comply with university, private agency, and federal government regulations and needs. He also monitors all sponsored program budgets, and appropriated and local funds.

With his assistance, researchers are kept abreast of the status of their expenditures, including any shortfalls and the amount of time left to use funds on a project.

While the department was short-staffed, he took on additional responsibilities to continue providing all accounting services to the department.

Miller received an A.A.S. degree from North Dakota State College of Science and a B.S. degree from NDSU.

■ Daryl Ritchison

Interim Director
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network)

“Mr. Ritchison has been able to create novel measurements and applications, build and nurture a highly effective team, cultivate and improve relationships and support, and increase the visibility and reputation of NDAWN.”

Daryl Ritchison joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2014 and became interim director of the North Dakota Agricultural Network (NDAWN) in 2016.

Ritchison provides overall leadership on personnel, funding, fiscal oversight and strategic direction for NDAWN, which is composed of weather stations from western Montana to western Minnesota and provides highly-valued weather data and applications for the success of agriculture.

NDAWN has greatly expanded in spite of the economic downturn. During his tenure, NDAWN has grown from 73 to 102 stations, a 40 percent increase. Each new station establishes 125 square miles of research-quality weather data.

He also facilitates agricultural climatology research, and works with NDSU and others to develop and improve NDAWN applications.

Ritchison earned B.S., B.T., M.A. and M.B.A. degrees from Mankato State University.

■ Gary Willoughby

Research Specialist
North Central Research Extension Center

“His farming knowledge, mechanical skills and work ethic have allowed the center to conduct more research, obtain more research grants and saved NDSU hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

Gary Willoughby joined the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot as a research technician in 1998 and became a research specialist in 1999.

Willoughby is responsible for conducting weed management studies to enhance weed management in agronomic crops. He works with registered, restricted and experimental pesticides in the field.

He also maintains equipment used in field, lab and greenhouse research. In addition, he maintains the center’s Agronomy Research Lab and Greenhouse facilities.

His organizational skills allow the center to conduct 60 to 80 research trials with about 15 crops on a research plot of about 250 acres. He also has used his welding skills to design equipment that meets researchers’ needs.

Willoughby obtained an A.A. degree from the North Dakota State College of Science and a B.A. degree from Minot State University.

Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award

This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agriculture and/or Extension by clerical staff on and off campus with at least three years of continuous service. The recipient must be in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.

■ Norma Ackerson

Information Processing Specialist
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

"Her organizational skills and work ethic are extraordinarily impressive and absolutely remarkable."

Norma Ackerson joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in 1993 and became an information processing specialist in 1995.

Ackerson assists faculty with exams, printing needs, appointments with students, class scheduling and evaluations. She assists undergraduates needing help with an adviser or other issues, and makes sure graduates have access to the building and a room.

In addition, she has been filling in for the department's account tech since August. That includes handling travel reimbursements, requests for payments and payroll for 34 graduate students and timecard people.

She also answers the departmental phone, orders office and teaching supplies, prepares mailings, distributes mail, and prepares PowerPoint presentations, flyers and posters for faculty.

■ Julie Bietz

Information Processing
Specialist/Student Services
Coordinator
Department of Agricultural
and Biosystems Engineering

"She has become an important person in the department, playing a key role in its continued success."

Julie Bietz joined NDSU as a Bison Connection (OneStop) associate in 2011, and became an information processing specialist and student services coordinator in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in 2014.

As student services coordinator, Bietz is responsible for a wide range of tasks, including assisting students with academic issues, maintaining student records, assisting with the Engineering accreditation process, administering and compiling student surveys, and assisting faculty with orientation and advising.

She creates a welcoming and supportive environment for students in the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABEN) graduate and undergraduate programs.

Additionally, her assistance during last year's accreditation site visit for the ABEN undergraduate engineering program was vital to the success of the accreditation process.

■ Lori Lymburner

Assistant to the Director
Extension Director's Office

"She puts her entire self into providing support not only to the director, but to the entire organization."

Lori Lymburner joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in 1984 and became the assistant to the Extension director in 1987.

Lymburner assists the Extension director, Extension Leadership Team and the organization as a whole. Her responsibilities include correspondence, reports, presentations, surveys, blogs and websites originating in the director's office, as well as employee recruitment and onboarding, fiscal management and application of policies.

She played a critical role in researching and preparing most of the documentation for an external review of NDSU Extension in 2017. She also developed documents to showcase the data and provided an overview of the results after the review was complete.

She recently began researching and writing the NDSU Extension history for 2003 to 2018.

■ Diane Pennington

Office Manager
School of Natural Resource Sciences

“Diane is absolutely one of the most important and influential assets of the School of Natural Resource Sciences, and I can honestly say she makes this a substantially better place to work.”

Diane Pennington joined NDSU in 2000 as an office manager.

Pennington is the office manager for Entomology, Natural Resources Management and Range Science. She handles daily communication and services for students, staff and faculty, as well as off-campus inquiries for three departments in the school.

Her duties range from hiring to ordering supplies to being the go-to administrative person for the school’s director. She also stays current on all procedural and policy changes and keeps faculty and staff informed about them.

In addition, she edits all promotional publications and makes sure they are consistent across the school, and maintains a Facebook account, where she shares current events, announcements and achievements.

■ Kelly Stehr

Administrative Assistant
Williston Research Extension Center

“Kelly’s performance is outstanding in all aspects, and she performs all her duties and responsibilities in a very efficient, courteous and professional manner.”

Kelly Stehr joined the Williston Research Extension Center in 2013 as an administrative assistant.

Stehr manages state and grant funds and budgets, and supports the work of the center director, Extension specialists and center staff. She also serves as a receptionist, supervises summer employees, ensures that all center staff are up to date on training, and manages and updates the center’s website and Facebook page.

Her other responsibilities include completing the center’s annual research update, and assisting in planning field day events, tours, meetings and the MonDak Ag Research Summit. She also trains administrative assistant interns.

In addition, Stehr takes the initiative to learn new human resource, accounting, purchasing, grants and budget software programs.

■ Aimee Thapa

Administrative Secretary
Department of Plant Pathology

“Aimee has an outstanding work ethic, tackles the challenges that come her way and is always willing to help everyone around her.”

Aimee Thapa joined NDSU as a technician/lab receptionist in 2010 and became an administrative secretary in 2012.

Thapa assists Extension faculty, the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory diagnostician and the department head by greeting visitors and answering their questions or directing them to the appropriate person to address their questions.

She also answers departmental phones, handles the mail, processes invoices, packages and ships samples, and processes travel and expense reports.

In addition, she organizes Extension workshops, edits the “NDSU Extension North Dakota Field Crop Plant Disease Management Guide,” edits and distributes the “NDSU Extension Crop and Pest Report, organizes summer crop scouting projects and maintains numerous Extension web pages.

Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award

This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agriculture and/or Extension by support staff in technical and paraprofessional, crafts/trades or services positions on and off campus with at least three years of continuous service. The recipient must be in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.

■ Cora Crane

Grant Coordinator
Department of Plant Sciences

"She is absolutely vital to the success of the department."

Cora Crane joined NDSU in 2013 as a grant coordinator.

Crane notifies faculty of potential grants, reviews the accuracy of the grant budget and checks whether budget items are allowable, formats and strengthens the budget justification, and timely submits the grant package to the granting authority.

She assists with 250 to 300 grant submissions per year for the 43 faculty members in the department, as well as five U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service employees. She searches for new grant opportunities and keeps up to date on policies, requirements and deadlines for all of the grant programs relevant to the various disciplines.

In 2017, she took on the role of purchasing card manager, overseeing the department's 72 purchasing cards and allocating charges to the proper funding accounts.

■ Christie Erickson

Assistant Lab Manager
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Soil Science)

"She excels in her job performance and she passes on this attribute to the lab as a whole, making her an indispensable asset to the lab."

Christie Erickson joined NDSU as a soil lab technician in 2011 and became an assistant lab manager in 2014.

As assistant lab manager, Erickson's primary focus is on client relations. She determines a client's needs and works with the lab manager and staff to meet those needs in a timely manner.

To improve her ability to provide recommendations to homeowners, she researches homeowner issues and recently audited the Master Gardeners class. If the lab is unable to help a customer, she connects the person with other faculty and staff.

Erickson also is responsible for soil mechanical analysis tests, clay mineralogy slide preparation and other tests as needed. She has been collaborating with staff at the University of Minnesota's soil labs on database and software issues.

■ Justin Gilbertson

Agriculture Research
Technician/Animal Caretaker
Department of Animal Sciences

"His consistently strong work ethic and reliable communication not only have won the trust and respect of his supervisors, facility and staff but also earn him the gratitude of the graduate and undergraduate students."

Justin Gilbertson joined NDSU as an agriculture research technician in 2009 and added animal caretaker to his duties in 2010.

Gilbertson's primary responsibility is ensuring the welfare of livestock used for research and education at the Animal Nutrition and Physiology Center (ANPC). He also maintains research buildings, equipment and machinery; helps supervise student workers; and prepares feedstuffs for animal diets.

He also collects dietary and environmental data, cleans cages and pens regularly, and trains students in animal caretaking, equipment and facilities operation, and work and safety protocols.

As part of his job, Gilbertson works with all the species of research animals and most of the Animal Sciences Department staff and faculty.

■ Dave Haasser

Graphic Designer
Agriculture Communication

"Dave's creativity shines through his Ag Communication graphics work."

Dave Haasser joined NDSU as a graphic designer in 1997.

Haasser provides support for educational programs by producing materials for print, web and video, and presentations for employees under the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs and NDSU Extension.

Among the materials he designs are publications, brochures, newsletters, magazines and curriculums.

He also creates logos and social media graphics, develops illustrations and infographics, and produces template designs for PowerPoint presentations and posters.

In addition, Haasser worked with an Ag Comm team to update the NDSU Extension website. That included designing the home page and secondary pages that give the site a fresh, modern look and make information easier to find.

2017 Award Recipients

Larson/Yaggie
Excellence in Research

*Juan Osorno,
Plant Sciences*

Eugene R. Dahl
Excellence in Research

*Frank Manthey,
Plant Sciences*

Earl and Dorothy Foster
Excellence in Teaching

*Loren Baranko,
Animal Sciences*

H. Roald and Janet Lund
Excellence in Teaching

*Sarah Wagner,
Animal Sciences*

William J. and Angelyn A. Austin
Excellence in Advising

*Marc Bauer,
Animal Sciences*

Myron and Muriel Johnsrud
Excellence in Extension

*Miranda Meehan,
Animal Sciences*

AGSCO Excellence in Extension

*Rick Schmidt,
Oliver County Extension*

Charles and Linda Moses
Staff Award

*Shelley Horne,
Microbiological Sciences*

Donald and Jo Anderson
Staff Award

*Shannon Ueker,
Plant Sciences*

Rick and Jody Burgum
Staff Award

*Thomas Brown,
Animal Sciences*

2018 Faculty/Staff Award Nominees

**Larson/Yaggie
Excellence in Research Award**

Aaron Daigh
Mukhlesur Rahman
Sheela Ramamoorthy
Kendall Swanson
Lei Zhang

**Eugene R. Dahl
Excellence in Research Award**

Joel Caton
Luis del Río Mendoza
David Rider
Saleem Shaik

**Earl and Dorothy Foster
Excellence in Teaching Award**

Peter Bergholz
Leah Brueggeman
Lisa Christenson
David Englund
Rebekah Oliver

**H. Roald and Janet Lund
Excellence in Teaching Award**

Shawn DeKeyser
Thomas Gustad
Burton Johnson
Siew Hoon Lim
Tara Swanson

**William J. and Angelyn A. Austin
Excellence in Advising Award**

Erik Hanson
Torre Hovick
Stacey Ostby
Todd West

**Excellence in Extension
Early Career Award**

Andrew Friskop
Travis Hoffman
Esther McGinnis
David Ripplinger
Acacia Stuckle

**AGSCO
Excellence in Extension Award**

Dena Kemmet
Macine Lukach

**Charles and Linda Moses
Staff Award**

Md. Saidul Borhan
Sonja Fuchs
Wanda Keller
Lorin Miller
Daryl Ritchison
Gary Willoughby

**Donald and Jo Anderson
Staff Award**

Norma Ackerson
Julie Bietz
Lori Lymburner
Diane Pennington
Kelly Stehr
Aimee Thapa

**Rick and Jody Burgum
Staff Award**

Cora Crane
Christie Erickson
Justin Gilbertson
David Haasser