

Students, Faculty win 2020 Gamma Sigma Delta Honors

Each year, the Kansas State University Eta Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, recognizes outstanding students and faculty.

Student Teaching and Research Awards

Undergraduate Research Awards:

Olivia Harrison, Linnea Rimmer, Macie Reeb

Graduate Student Awards:

MS Teaching – Karen Schneck

MS Research – Ellen Mendez

PhD Teaching – Tej ManTamang

PhD Research - Javier Fernandez

Thanks to the committee:

Chad Miller, Chair; Adam Ahlers, Elizabeth Boyle, Nathan Hendricks, and Judy O'Mara.

Faculty and Alumni Awards

Faculty Awards:

Outstanding Teaching – Drew Ricketts

Outstanding Advising – Valentina Trinetta

Outstanding Research – Ignacio Ciampitti

Distinguished Faculty – Evan Titgemeyer

Thanks to the committee and Jenny Bormann, Chair

Three undergraduate students are being recognized for their research projects that they have completed.

Olivia Harrison



Olivia, a senior in Animal Sciences and Industry has a focus of Production and Management. She has a passion for the agriculture industry and has been involved in many different clubs and societies on campus. Her research focused on evaluated pelleting in nursery pig diets, which was directly supported by the National Pork Board. She has presented her research in multiple venues, including winning 2nd place at the American Society of Animal Science Meeting.

Linnea Rimmer

Linnea is a junior in the Animal Sciences and Industry program. She has had a couple valuable internships, including a research and development internship with Merck last summer. Linnea’s research involved better understanding goat feed, specifically, gaining additional insight on the impact of titrating levels of dried distiller grains as a replacement for soybean meal. Linnea also had the opportunity to present research at the American Society of Animal Science Meeting, earning a 1st place representing the department undergraduate class research project.



Macie Reeb

A junior, focused on biosciences in the Animal Science program, Macie Reeb conducted research looking at resting periods for feedlot cattle, after transport and prior to receiving vaccines and the effect on vaccine titer and blood metabolites. Her research work earned her the Outstanding Research Poster for the Animal Science Department and an opportunity to present at the Midwest American Society of Animal Science meeting in Nebraska.



Masters Teaching

Karen Schneck

Karen is a second year MS student in the Horticulture and Natural Resources Department. She has been a TA for two different courses in the department. Karen has excelled in the TA role and loves to teach and help others learn about horticulture. She is genuinely concerned about student learning and engagement. One student noted that “she would continually strive to make the class material easy and fun to learn.” Karen noted that in her teaching philosophy that she “believes lessons can be enhanced with adding humor and honest enthusiasm. When topics may be particularly boring for students, she says “I try to spice it up by trying to make them laugh.”



PhD Teaching

Tej ManTamang

Tej is a 4th year PhD student in the Horticulture and Natural Resources Department. He has been a TA for the Introductory Horticulture course in the department for three years and serving as the lead TA this past year. Dr. Keeley nominated Tej for the award noting that he was confidently able to completely turn over the lab section to this last fall and Tej did a very professional job. One student noted that over the semester, Tej regularly “walked around the lab room observing and communicating with students, providing help and assistance as needed.” Tej says “his teaching philosophy is very simple. I try to put myself in the shoes of my students and see how students want to learn. I always want my students to come with an enthusiasm to learn something new.”



Masters Research

Ellen Mendez

Ellen is a second year MS student in the Food Science program, working with Dr. Valentina Trinetta. Ellen's research has focused on the study of *Listeria monocytogenes* biofilm and how that hurdle can be effectively overcome to control the bacterial growth in food processing environments. Her research has focused on three different parts, including aspects of environmental conditions of biofilm growth, biocides effects on the biofilm, and the phenotypic and genotypic responses of the bacteria to sanitizers. Her work will assist in developing effective strategies for controlling the pathogen in food processing environments.

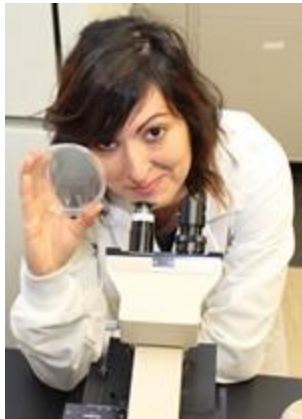
PhD Research

Javier Fernandez

Javier is a third-year PhD student, working with Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti of the Agronomy department. Javier's work is focused on determining the physiological determinants of nitrogen dynamics on corn hybrids in response to genotype and field management interactions. His specific objectives focused on late season fertilizations and grain yield, describing nitrogen uptake and allocation dynamics across different nitrogen fertilization strategies and genotypes, and working to provide cognitive framework to describe the how plant nitrogen status and carbohydrate availability influence yield.



Four faculty received recognition for professional excellence:



Outstanding Advising Award, Valentina Trinetta

Dr. Valentina Trinetta is an Assistant Professor of Food Science in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. She advises undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the Food Science Club. According to one of her students, “As an advisor, Dr. Trinetta is exceptional in the way she is always present and accessible, while constantly stimulating critical thinking and individual skills from every member of our team in a way that we all can succeed in our differences and backgrounds.”

Outstanding Teaching Award, Drew Ricketts

Dr. Drew Ricketts is an Assistant Professor of Wildlife and Outdoor Enterprise Management in the Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources. Dr. Ricketts teaches 5 different classes and advises students in the WOEM program. He engages students on many levels, earning their trust and being relatable to them, but at the same time challenging them to learn deeply.



Outstanding Research Award, Ignacio Ciampitti

Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Crop Production and Cropping Systems in the Department of Agronomy. Dr. Ciampitti has developed an outstanding applied research program and in a few years, he has made significant research contributions in the area of crop production, use of new technologies, and agronomy. He is PI or co-PI on \$20 million worth of grants and has published more than 70 refereed papers.

Distinguished Faculty Award, Evan Titgemeyer

Dr. Evan Titgemeyer is a Professor of Ruminant Nutrition in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. Dr. Titgemeyer's research program has focused on protein and amino acid utilization in growing cattle, resulting in improved diet formulations and decreased nitrogen secretion. He has authored or co-authored 157 peer reviewed journal articles and mentored many graduate students and post-docs. He recently served as the interim department head for Animal Sciences and Industry.

