

CENTER FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE (CAWS) UPDATE

December 2014

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

As 2014 comes to a close, the steering committee and members of CAWS have several accomplishments to celebrate and new goals to work toward in the coming year.

The response to the CAWS membership call resulted in 19 approved members with diverse areas of expertise representing Veterinary Medicine, Animal Sciences, Agricultural Economics, and Nursing. Strong interest in affiliate status has been expressed by students, staff and various faculty. Although only formalized in July, CAWS was extremely well represented in the media this year. The Center and its members were featured in traditional agricultural publications such as Feedstuffs Foodlink, Brownfield Ag news, and Meatingplace.com as well as prominent popular press such as NPR, The New Yorker, Politico, USA Today, and National Geographic.

Several new research, teaching and extension collaborations were established between CAWS members, and with various Purdue University programs, as well as academic, government and industry groups focused on animal welfare.

CAWS had its monthly seminar series kicked off by none other than the renowned Dr. Temple Grandin and is planning its inaugural annual Animal Welfare symposium in late spring.

As we look forward to 2015, CAWS anticipates establishing research, teaching and outreach priorities, announcing a new RFP (Request for Proposal) for research in Animal Welfare Science, and the opportunity to compete for graduate student travel awards. Instrumental in the early successes of CAWS have been those faculty who served throughout the year on the steering committee. Sincere thanks are extended to Drs. Alan Beck, Nadine Dolby, Nancy Edwards, Don Lay, Bill Muir, Tracy Vemulapalli, Nicole Olynk Widmar and to our new administrative assistant, Melissa Schwartz. Read on for more details about our work and happy holidays!

CAWS STEERING COMMITTEE

The CAWS Steering Committee and Dr. Rab Mukerjea are in the early stages of outlining the strategic planning process for the Center for Animal Welfare Sciences. CAWS members will begin reviewing the outcomes of the initial planning stages and will work on the vision and goals for the Center early in Spring term.

CAWS Welcomes Associate Professor, **Dr. Kolapo Ajuwon** of Animal Sciences to the Steering Committee. Dr. Ajuwon originates from Nigeria and became a CAWS member because “Animal welfare is a major factor affecting productivity of livestock in commercial settings. My work in the area of heat stress is directly related to animal welfare because heat stress affects the well-being of animals. My research in this area is aimed at minimizing the metabolic effects of heat stress and its negative impact on swine welfare.”



CAWS will be looking to further expand the steering committee in Spring, 2015.

CAWS ACTIVITIES & AWARDS

Sponsorships: CAWS sponsored two graduate teams to compete at the 14th Annual Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest in East Lansing, Michigan. Out of the five international teams competing in the graduate division, the Purdue Gold team received 1st place overall and Chris Byrd received 2nd place as an individual. The two teams included **Chris Byrd, Nichole Chapel, Melissa Voigt** and **Amber Sizelove** as Purdue Gold, and **Gabriela Morello, Chris Guegge, Amy Robinson Junker,** and **Juaying Hu** as Purdue Black. Congratulations to the team and their coach, Dr. Maja Makagon!



http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/Connections/NOW/Pages/Animal_welfare_team.aspx
http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/in_focus/index.html

Events: Purdue University Center for Animal Welfare Science held a special seminar featuring **Dr. Temple Grandin** to discuss "Animal Welfare and Society Concerns — Finding the Missing Link." Over 200 attendees were present and CAWS was featured in Indiana Agri News and WLFI-TV 18 as a result.



CAWS partnered with the Purdue Lectures in Ethics, Policy and Science (PLEPS) to sponsor **Dr. Gary Comstock's** presentation of his research "Feeling Matters: The Role of Animals in Sustainable Communities." Dr. Comstock is renowned for his consideration of ethical issues around agriculture and for facilitating thought-provoking discussions of agricultural biotechnology in his book, "Vexing Nature."

Awards: **Dr. Maggie O'Haire**, Purdue Assistant Professor of Human-Animal Interaction, was presented with a research fellowship award at the American Australian Association's annual benefit dinner. Dr. O'Haire was recognized for her collaborative research on the human-animal bond with institutions in the United States and Australia.

In more good news, **Dr. George Moore, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology**, was recently awarded the Distinguished Diplomate Award from the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine in recognition of his significant contributions to the specialty of veterinary preventive medicine.



*Welcome to our new
Visiting Scholar*

Noémie Guérin, a Master's student from the University of Rennes, France, received a competitive scholarship to travel to Purdue University as a visiting scholar to work with Dr. Maggie O'Haire. Noémie will be with us until the end of May 2015.

CAWS IN THE MEDIA

CAWS has been highlighted on television, radio, print and social media; coverage of the new Center has been featured in The New Yorker, Politico, USA Today, AgriNews, the Alberta Farmer Express, Reuters Newswire, WISH-TV News, The Bulletin of the Australian Psychological Society, companion Animal Psychology, Psychology Today, Connect: Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Midwest Producer, the American Animal Hospital Association, the Organic Consumers Association, Humane Heartland and many more!

CAWS COLLABORATIONS

International collaboration between CAWS and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences



Swedish University of
Agricultural Sciences

Elin Hirsch, a PhD candidate studying applied ethology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, spent six weeks as a visiting scholar this fall in Dr. Croney's lab. Ms. Hirsch collected data for her thesis project at the Humane Society of Indianapolis on the behavior and welfare of group housed cats. Additionally, while here she discussed plans for ongoing research collaborations between CAWS and the Centre for Feline Behavior and Welfare. Dr. Judith Stella and Dr. Croney will be visiting Sweden in March 2015 to further develop research and outreach collaborations in this area.

CAWS Research Focused on Agro Tourism and Public Perceptions

Drs. Croney and Widmar from Purdue University, along with Agricultural Economics MS student Ann Cummins are collaborating with Fair Oaks Farms, Indiana Pork, and the Indiana Soybean Alliance to conduct in-depth research on the relationship between various lifestyle factors and consumers' perceptions of farm animal treatment and handling practices. It is increasingly critical to determine what factors influence public beliefs and attitudes about U.S. animal agriculture. It is also imperative to create opportunities for valuable public discourse relative to current and proposed food-system policies and regulations to develop food animal production systems that are respectful of the diversity of values, interests and needs of communities in Indiana and across the U.S. Stay tuned to the CAWS website as findings will be released in Spring, 2015.

CAWS PUBLICATIONS

1. Beck A.M. 2014. **The biology of the human-animal bond.** *Animal Frontiers* 4(3): 32-36.
2. Croney, C. C. 2014. **Bonding with commodities: Social constructions and implications of human-animal relationships in contemporary livestock production.** *Animal Frontiers*, 4(3), 59-64.
3. Edwards N.E. Beck A.M., Lim E. 2014. **Influence of aquariums on resident behavior and staff satisfaction in dementia units.** *Western Journal of Nursing Research* 36(10): 1309-1322.
4. Edwards N.E. & Beck A.M.. 2013. **The influence of aquariums on weight in individuals with dementia.** *Alzheimer's Disease and Associated Disorders* 27(4): 379-383.
5. McKendree, M. G. S., Croney, C. C., & Widmar, N. J. O. 2014. **Effects of demographic factors and information sources on United States consumer perceptions of animal welfare.** *Journal of animal science*, 92(7), 3161-3173.
6. McKendree, M. S., Croney, C. C., & Widmar, N. O. 2014. **BIOETHICS SYMPOSIUM II: Current factors influencing perceptions of animals and their welfare.** *Journal of animal science*, 92(5), 1821-1831.
7. Muir, W. M., Cheng, H. W., & Croney, C. 2014. **Methods to address poultry robustness and welfare issues through breeding and associated ethical considerations.** *Frontiers in Genetics*, 5, 407.
8. O'Haire, M.E., McKenzie, S.J., Beck, A.M., & Slaughter, V. 2013. Social behaviors increase in children with autism in the presence of animals compared to toys. *PLoS ONE* 8(2): e57010.
9. Croney, C. Spring, 2014. **Let's stay together: implications of social housing for laboratory pig management and welfare.** *The Enrichment Record*. P 14-19.
10. Croney, C. May 15, 2014. **Understanding Consumers.** *National Hog Farmer*.
11. Olynk Widmar, N. J. & D. L. Ortega. *Consumer Behavior Explained.* *The Dairy Mail*. June 2014. Pp. 43-47.
12. Widmar, N. J. O. & M. McKendree. "How do Consumer Perceptions Impact Your Market?" *National Hog Farmer*. April 15, 2014 Issue. Available at: <http://nationalhogfarmer.com/business/how-do-consumer-perceptions-impact-your-market>

Grants: Dr. Alan Beck received over \$460,000 from the Human-Animal Bond Research Initiative (HABRI) to continue supporting the Digital library.

Dr. Maggie O’Haire received \$25,000 from Launch the Future as well as \$31,874 from HABRI to continue investigating the benefits of the human-animal relationship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 19, 2015	Elanco Human-Animal Bond Lecture, “Animal Welfare: Why do we care and what does it matter?” by Dr. Candace Croney, Orlando, FL
February 18, 2015	2015 Midwest Women in Agriculture Conference. “Public Opinion, Social Pressures, and Purchasing Patterns: Consumer Demand for Livestock Product Attributes” by Dr. Nicole Olynk Widmar, Ann Cummins, and Elizabeth Byrd Merrillville, IN
Feb & March, 2015	Welfare Quality® protocol training course. Odisee University College and the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, Flanders, Belgium. Course offered in English.
March 11-12, 2015	Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act: A Workshop. Animal Welfare Information Center, Beltsville, MD
April 20-22, 2015	Assessment, Prevention and Alleviation of Pain and Distress in Laboratory Animals, Newcastle, UK
May 13, 2015	Scientists Center for animal Welfare IACUC Training Workshops, Cincinnati, Ohio
Aug 9-14, 2015	Behaviour 2015 Conference. “Virtual Reality: computer animations as a tool in animal behavior research symposium” Cairns, Australia

IN MEMORIAM



It is with sadness and deep gratitude for his contributions to the field of animal welfare science that we reflect upon the loss of Dr. Jack Albright, in February of this year. Jack served as a member of the animal sciences faculty at Purdue University from 1963-1996 and was a pioneer in animal welfare science. Among his many scholarly contributions, Jack created one of the first US teaching, research and extension programs focused on animal behavior and welfare. He was a leader in promoting low-stress animal handling and highlighting the importance of caretaker interactions with animals. Drawing on basic principles of animal behavior, movement and handling, Jack illustrated the relationships between the quality of care and management dairy cows receive and their productivity, behavior and overall well-being. His innovative efforts provided the foundation for the Animal Science Department’s history of excellence in animal welfare science. He leaves behind a legacy of scholarship and mentoring in animal welfare science that serves as an inspiration for CAWS. This newsletter is therefore dedicated to the memory of Dr. Jack Albright.

For more information or to provide feedback on CAWS, please contact Dr. Candace Croney (ccroney@purdue.edu). For membership information and forms, please visit: <http://www.ansc.purdue.edu/CAWS/>.