Bob Ebert Named ACWA's Father of the Year

by Emily Dent, Alabama Cattlewomen's Association

Members of the Auburn University College of Agriculture’s department of Animal Sciences joined the Alabama Cattlemen and Cattlewomen’s Association in honoring Bob Ebert as the Alabama Cattlewomen’s Association’s 2013 Father of the Year. On June 14, a reception and dinner was hosted by Grady and Connie Sparks at their ranch in Waverly, Ala. Ebert’s children and grandchildren were also in attendance—a surprise for the recipient, who was aware of the honor he received.

The evening opened with remarks from Grady Sparks and a welcome from Bea Jai Merriman, ACWA chair for the Father of the Year committee. Dr. Wayne Greene spoke about Ebert’s dedication to students in a variety of ANSC programs. Chandler Mulvaney, the Alabama representative for the National Beef Ambassador Program, praised Ebert’s ability to keep youth involved in agriculture and the beef industry. ACWA past president Carol Dent reflected on Ebert’s desire to support Cattlewomen and encourage youth to participate in cattle showing events.

Cathy Crow, 2013 ACWA President, presented Ebert with a platter and spoke about the kind words of each of the nominations that had been received for Ebert.

“I am truly humbled to be honored with such an award,” said Ebert. After a number of photographs, everyone enjoyed cake (red velvet with extra cream cheese icing—Ebert’s favorite), ice cream and fellowship.

http://www.ag.auburn.edu/ansc/news/EbertNamedFatheroftheYear.php
The Auburn University Alumni Association has selected animal sciences associate professor Christy Bratcher as one of three recipients of its 2013 Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award.

Bratcher and other alumni award winners will be recognized during halftime of the Arkansas State vs. Auburn football game Sept. 7 and also in two faculty awards ceremonies later in September.

Christy Bratcher, Ph.D
Associate Professor

CHAMPAIGN, IL, May 2, 2013 — The American Meat Science Association (AMSA) has announced that three young AMSA members are the recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Award, including Dr. Christy Bratcher from Auburn University. The award was established in 1992 and is designed to recognize and foster the development of young AMSA members who have demonstrated significant scientific skills in muscle foods research and technology that contribute to the animal products industry and the AMSA. The award is sponsored by Burke Corporation. Dr. Bratcher will be honored at a special awards banquet at the AMSA 66th Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 in Auburn, AL. Dr. Bratcher has built a very strong graduate student training program and currently mentors more graduate students than any other faculty member in the department. Her former graduate students hold key positions in the meat science industry across the country. She engages her students in real world researchable issues in partnership with industry, and takes students out into industry to see first-hand what their careers will be like. Incorporating these experiential learning opportunities in her students’ graduate training set her apart from the routine laboratory researcher. AMSA fosters community and professional development among individuals who create and apply science to efficiently provide safe and high quality meat defined as red meat (beef, pork and lamb), poultry, fish/seafood and meat from other managed species. For more information about AMSA and the Distinguished Achievement Award contact Deidrea Mabry, dmabry@meatscience.org.

AMSA’S 2013 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONORS DR. CHRISTY BRATCHER

Edited press release
Ag’s Rodning named among top young Auburn alums

by Ag Hill Update

College of Agriculture alumni Soren Rodning is one of the 10 Auburn University graduates who have been named winners of the Auburn Alumni Association’s 2013 Young Alumni Achievement Awards.

Rodning earned his bachelor’s degree in animal sciences in 2002 and went on to graduate from the College of Veterinary Medicine in 2006. He is now an associate professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and a member of the U.S. Army Reserve.

The association created the award to recognize extraordinary accomplishments by members of the Auburn family who are under the age of 40. Rodning was selected for significant achievement in his professional life and/or for distinguished community service, and he and the other 2013 winners will be featured in an upcoming issue of Auburn Magazine.
**Outstanding Student Achievements**

**Leanne Dillard**, Doctoral Candidate for the Department of Animal Sciences under professors Russ Muntifering and Frank Owsley, was selected as Auburn University’s 2012-2013 Outstanding Graduate Student Award honorees.

**Congratulations** to the following students who have recently completed their graduate programs:

- **Leanne Dillard** (Ph.D, under Drs. Muntifering and Owsley)
- **Carl Smola** (M.Ag., under Dr. Cummins)
- **Brooke Holloway** (M.S., under Dr. Soren Rodning)
- **Laura Tidwell** (M.S., under Dr. Brandebourg)

**Staci DeGeer and Kim Fisher**, both Doctoral Candidates for the Department of Animal Sciences under professor Christy Bratcher, were chosen as representatives from the United States to attend the International Livestock Congress 2013 Beef Conference in Calgary, Alberta.

**Johnathan Broady** (pictured on the far right) was the 2nd Place winner in the 2013 RMC graduate student poster competition.
ANIMAL SCIENCES WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS!

116 FRESHMEN  48 TRANSFER
J-1 Scholars are a way of developing international relationships with our foreign colleagues that are focused on similar animal agriculture research and education programs. The J-1 Exchange Scholars program is designed to increase intercultural understanding between local and international communities through educational and cultural exchange. The exchange of visiting scholars promotes interchange, mutual enrichment, and linkages between research and educational institutions in the US and foreign countries. Dr. Russ Muntifering has worked in close partnership with colleagues from Spain on environmental aspects of forage production for a number of years. As part of this continuing partnership Ph.D. graduate student Hector Calvete Sogo from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain is a J-1 Scholar working in Dr. Muntifering’s laboratory for the summer. Hector is studying the productivity and nutritive quality of forage species in a Mediterranean grassland community known as a ‘dehesa’. A dehesa is similar to our silvopastoral systems of Alabama; but, different in terms of dominant plant species. Dr. Lee Chiba is hosting a J-1 Scholar, Marcia De Souza Vieira, that is a Ph.D. student form the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil. Marcia is studying swine nutrition in Dr. Chiba’s laboratory and making a significant contribution to on-going swine nutrition research. Erica Kimura Barboza, Carla Medola and Gabriel Martineli are MS graduate students from the Sao Paulo State University in Botucatu, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Erica and Carla are working with Dr. Christy Bratcher on a Meat Science program and Gabriel is working with Dr. Wayne Greene on an Animal Care and Well-Being program. These J-1 Scholars add a different dimension to our educational program as they interact with our faculty and graduate students.
Meet Our Alumni

**WHO?  MATT CHRISTJOHN, DVM**

**B.S., 1991 Animal Science /Pre-vet**
**DVM, 1995**

**WHAT career did you choose?**

I am the owner and operator of Large Animal Veterinary Services, a practice concentrating on farm animals - mainly cattle and horses with an expertise in herd health management.

**WHY this career?**

After working on a farm with Tennessee Walking horses, I realized I was interested in husbandry and animal production.

**HOW did AU impact your career choice?**

Animal & Diary Science classes at Auburn further exposed me to cattle handling, husbandry, and animal production. The Advanced Reproductive Techniques course offered in the agriculture curriculum exposed me to artificial insemination as well as extensive ‘hands on’ experience with cattle on a weekly basis. Also, Meat Science courses opened my eyes to post-harvest animal production.
After winning the NCEA Huntseat and Overall Championships this spring, the Auburn Equestrian Team is setting their sights on another national championship. The team lost only two members of their national championship squad so their roster is loaded with experienced seniors and talented underclassmen.

The Tigers have four home meets this fall. They start the season with two non-conference match-ups against Fresno State University on September 28 and University of Tennessee – Martin on October 19, both beginning at 10 a.m. South Carolina and Georgia round out the fall season home schedule with meets at 10 a.m. on November 9 and 3 p.m. on November 15, respectively. More information on the AU Equestrian Team can be found through the Auburn Athletics web site, [http://www.auburntigers.com/sports/w-equest/](http://www.auburntigers.com/sports/w-equest/).

Christy Bratcher, Barney Wilborn, Heidi Finegan and Soren Rodning, ANSC, and Leonard Bell, POUL “Inactivation at various temperatures of bovine viral diarrhea virus in beef derived from persistently infected cattle,” in Journal of Animal Science

Cynthia McCall and Patricia Tyler, ANSC, “Cribbing behavior of horses consuming ad libitum concentrate feed,” in The Professional Animal Scientist

Elizabeth Wagner and Patricia Tyler, ANSC, “A comparison of weight estimation methods in adult horses,” in Journal of Equine Veterinary Science

John Lin and Russell Muntifering, ANSC, and James Holliman, BBREC, “Productivity and nutritive quality of dallisgrass (Paspalum dilatatum) as influenced by cutting height and rate of fertilization with poultry litter or commercial fertilizer,” in Agricultural Sciences

Walter Owsley and Russell Muntifering, ANSC; Charles Wood, AGRN; and J.L. Holliman, BBREC, "Productivity and nutritive quality of Johnsongrass (Sorghum halapense) as influenced by commercial fertilizer, broiler litter and interseed white clover (Trifolium repens)," in Applied and Environmental Soil Science
