

Agriculture and Extension  
Faculty/Staff

# Awards

**Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017**

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.*

## ■ Teresa Bergholz

Assistant Professor  
Department of  
Microbiological Sciences

*"Dr. Bergholz has established a dynamic and productive food safety research program that serves the citizens of North Dakota and provides excellent research training opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students."*

Teresa Bergholz joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2012.

The major focus of Bergholz's research is understanding how environmental stresses impact the ability of foodborne pathogens to survive on foods and be transmitted through the food supply. She aims to develop effective postharvest treatments to reduce consumer exposure to foodborne pathogens on produce and low-moisture foods, and to develop novel control strategies for the pathogen *Listeria monocytogenes* on ready-to-eat foods.

In addition, her group is investigating the metabolic pathways *Listeria monocytogenes* uses to grow on foods, as these may be developed into targets for new and more effective control measures.

She has authored or co-authored 16 refereed journal articles, four of which were published in "Applied and Environmental Microbiology," the top-ranked journal in microbiology, and given 34 presentations. She also has helped generate more than \$770,000 in grants.

Bergholz holds two B.S. degrees and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

## ■ Amitava Chatterjee

Assistant Professor  
School of Natural Resource Sciences  
(Soil Science)

*"Dr. Chatterjee's basic and applied approach to research has been impressive to watch grow, and to see its impact to Agricultural Experiment Station stakeholders."*

Amitava Chatterjee began his career at NDSU in 2011 as an assistant professor.

Chatterjee's research explores fertilizer management practices to increase the nutrient use efficiency of North Dakota's cropping systems. He also is investigating the controls of crop, soil and water management factors on nutrient losses.

He has accomplished significant on-farm research trials to develop crop- and site-specific nutrient management practices and has evaluated the potential of a nutrient stewardship program for the Red River Valley. His research initiatives have played a critical role in addressing the questions and needs of local growers and commodity groups, and have explored diverse nutrient management issues of crops grown in the Red River Valley.

He has helped generate about \$1.3 million in grants, authored or co-authored 40 refereed journal articles and five book chapters, and made 34 presentations.

Chatterjee has a B.S. degree from Visva Bharati, India; an M.S. degree from Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, India; and a Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming.

## ■ Lauren Hulsman Hanna

Assistant Professor  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Dr. Hanna's efforts in student training, research team development, grant writing and publication have positively contributed to the establishment of a genetic improvement of livestock program that provides great value to both the academic and production livestock arenas."*

Lauren Hulsman Hanna joined NDSU in 2013 as an assistant professor.

Hanna's research focuses on animal breeding and genetics, and specifically how quantitative genetics is applied to the production system for genetic improvement of livestock.

She is a recognized expert in the areas of genetic and genomic predictions of merit for livestock, particularly cattle, as well as methodologies to investigate genomic associations for production traits of interest. Her multidisciplinary research projects strive to get a complete understanding of economically important production traits that impact cattle and other livestock producers.

In addition to her livestock research, Hanna conducts research into teaching methods she uses in her undergraduate animal breeding and genetics course.

She has authored or co-authored 10 refereed journal articles, given 16 presentations and helped generate more than \$56,000 in grants.

Hanna obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.

## ■ Jeremy Jackson

Associate Professor, North Dakota Center for the Study of Public Choice and Private Enterprise Director Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics

*"Dr. Jackson's impressive accomplishments in research are bringing benefits to the department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, CAFSNR, the university and the people of the state of North Dakota."*

Jeremy Jackson started at NDSU as an assistant professor in 2009 and became an associate professor in 2016.

Jackson's research on the social effects of economic freedom has attracted significant external funding and led to the establishment of the North Dakota Center for the Study of Public Choice and Private Enterprise in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. Jackson serves as center director.

His work has increased knowledge surrounding the implementation of earmarked taxation by state governments. He also has explored the potential impact of environmental regulation on the dairy industry and examined intellectual property rights related to the experimental-use licensing of agricultural biotechnology.

He has helped generate more than \$135,000 in grants, authored or co-authored 12 refereed journal articles and two book chapters, and made 26 presentations.

Jackson received a B.A. degree from Baylor University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.

## ■ Zhulu Lin

Assistant Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

*"Dr. Lin's research on soil and water resources engineering has provided a prominent source of consideration and is highly relevant in assessing the direct issues of the potential effects of drainage on flooding in the Red River Basin."*

Zhulu Lin started at NDSU as an assistant professor in 2008.

Lin has been developing a nationally and internationally recognized research program at NDSU in the area of soil and water resource engineering.

On a regional level, Lin and a student conducted a watershed-scale modeling study to investigate expanded subsurface draining in the Red River Valley. Several regional and local authorities, including the Red River Basin Commission and North Dakota State Water Commission, requested a copy of the paper for their policymaking processes.

His collaboration with other researchers has led to grants totaling more than \$2.2 million. He also has authored or co-authored 30 refereed journal articles and two book chapters, and made 32 presentations.

He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from East China University of Science and Technology at Shanghai and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

## ■ Juan Osorno

Associate Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"His commitment to improving dry bean production has been recognized worldwide by his peers, large-scale bean producers and farmers in developing countries."*

Juan Osorno came to NDSU in 2007 as an assistant professor and became an associate professor in 2013.

Osorno leads the largest dry bean breeding program in the world, which has developed into regional, national and international collaborations on traditional and genomic-based breeding methods.

His regional collaborative efforts include breeding for better canning ability and resistance to a new race of bean rust. Nationally, he leads educational efforts of the Common Bean Coordinated Agricultural Project. His worldwide collaborations have brought 400 new lines of genetic materials from Africa and South America.

Additional research areas include improvements in kidney bean tolerance to root rot and bacterial blights, and developing a predictive model for node addition rate.

Osorno has authored or co-authored 37 refereed journal articles and three book chapters, and has helped generate more than \$12.8 million in grants.

He earned a B.S. degree from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Palmira, Colombia, an M.S. degree from the University of Puerto Rico and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

# 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.*

## ■ Carolyn Hammer

Associate Professor, Equine Science  
Program Director  
Department of Animal Sciences

*“Dr. Hammer is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert in equine science, and with a relatively small research appointment, Dr. Hammer has been a productive scientist and has been active in publishing data, training graduate students and securing grant funds to support her program.”*

Carolyn Hammer started at NDSU in 2005 as an assistant professor and became an associate professor in 2011.

Hammer’s research in equine science includes efforts to evaluate the impact of maternal nutrition on pancreatic development and insulin production in foals. This work has application to multiple species of interest to North Dakota’s livestock industry.

She also has an active research program investigating the relationships between the anatomy of the limb, foot and hoof, and lameness in horses.

Her training and expertise as a veterinarian and physiologist add another dimension to all areas of her research.

She has authored or co-authored 24 refereed journal articles and four book chapters, given 33 presentations and helped generate more than \$157,000 in grants.

Hammer obtained a B.S., an M.S., a D.V.M. and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

## ■ Frank Manthey

Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*“His program and expertise are highly regarded and sought by durum producers in the Midwest, millers, and national and international pasta companies/manufacturers.”*

Frank Manthey began his career at NDSU as a research associate in 1985 and became an assistant professor in 1998, an associate professor in 2004 and professor in 2013.

Manthey’s research program addresses the relationship between durum wheat quality and end-use quality. In response to a changing food industry, he expanded his efforts to include the development of fortified pasta.

A significant result of his research on fortifying pasta was the development of Barilla ProteinPLUS, a fortified product that contains flaxseed and pulse flour.

Manthey oversees the only durum quality laboratory in the U.S. and thus has had a direct impact on the durum and pasta industries and been instrumental in the quality evaluation of many durum breeding lines.

He has helped generate more than \$3.3 million in grants, and has authored or co-authored 72 refereed journal articles and five book chapters, and made 114 presentations.

Manthey received a B.S. degree from Purdue University, and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from NDSU.

# 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.*

## ■ Loren Baranko

Lecturer  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Her excitement and enthusiasm for classroom instruction is contagious. It's almost like a magical power that inspires students to engage in the process of active learning."*

Loren Baranko joined NDSU in 2015 as an animal sciences lecturer.

Baranko has stepped up to cover a variety of classes as the Department of Animal Sciences has experienced major changes in teaching faculty. Using a multitude of teaching tools that focus on core material, research, current events and best practices, she actively prepares students to be the next generation of innovative thinkers and contributors to the agriculture industry.

Every semester, Baranko critically reassesses her classes, updates material to include current issues in the industry and searches out ways to make the material understandable for her students. Her excellence in educating students is evident in the positive reviews she receives from student evaluations.

Her students say she genuinely cares about every student and their learning outcomes.

She holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU.

## ■ Greta Gramig

Associate Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"Greta is a dedicated instructor who is totally committed to the success of her students."*

Greta Gramig started at NDSU in 2008 as an assistant professor and became an associate professor in 2016.

Gramig has developed challenging, rigorous and creative course material in the classes she teaches.

In one of her classes, she conducted a hands-on classroom experiment in which students grew plants in the greenhouse to discover nitrogen use dynamics between wheat and two weed species. She plans to run the study again and publish the results.

In her weed identification class, she recognizes that some students already have strong weed identification knowledge, so she uses small groups to encourage students to work together and learn from each other.

Her students say she is an outstanding teacher and mentor whose passion for her area of research and her students' learning is evident every day.

She earned a B.S. degree from Montana State University, and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

## ■ Lei Zhang

Assistant Professor  
Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics

*"Professor Zhang has the passion for teaching and in-depth knowledge of the subject matter that every exceptional teacher needs."*

Lei Zhang came to NDSU in 2013 as an assistant professor.

Zhang's main goals are to generate interest in and inspire students to study economics. To reach these goals, she shows students the charm of economics with real-world examples and explains concepts so students can form the habit of thinking like economists to make optimal decisions.

She uses a variety of methods to enhance student learning, including video clips, case studies, activities, experiments, and student presentations and debates. She often asks students to talk about their own experiences to help them apply the knowledge to their own lives.

Her students say she has a knack for getting them to understand challenging material and is quick to acknowledge their successes.

Zhang obtained a B.A. from Henan University of Finance and Economics, Zhengzhou, China; an M.A. from Sichuan University, Chengdu, China; and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Dallas.

# 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.*

## ■ Michael Christoffers

Associate Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"I have only known a few faculty members who have contributed to NDSU's goals through teaching, mentoring, research and service as has Dr. Christoffers; he is truly one of the best of the very best."*

Michael Christoffers began his career at NDSU in 1998 as a postdoctoral research associate and research scientist. He became an assistant professor in 2001 and an associate professor in 2007.

By emphasizing human genetics in his classes, Christoffers inspires students to become interested in their own genetic histories and the possibility of passing down traits to their descendants. He uses these opportunities to help students relate to the information taught, and the questions he receives from students demonstrate that they understand the implications of what they are learning.

Recently, Christoffers has emphasized higher-order thinking in his course objectives and has worked to develop successful methods of assessing these objectives.

His students say he has the ability to make complex subjects understandable and challenges them to think "out of the box."

Christoffers holds a B.S. from NDSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

## ■ Tom Gustad

Instructor  
Department of Microbiological Sciences

*"Tom's organization and thoroughness are unparalleled, and he combines this with personal experience to effectively communicate course content to students."*

Tom Gustad started at NDSU in 1986 as a research specialist and became a lecturer in 2001, a senior lecturer in 2006 and an instructor in 2010.

Gustad is consistently effective at teaching technical, specialized and general education courses. His experience as a lab technician and continued research activities contribute to student learning, and his well-organized syllabi are exceptionally detailed, leaving students no doubt about expectations.

Gustad motivates students to do well by providing stimulating and engaging material, being organized and knowledgeable, and caring about student success. Using current events, he challenges students to dig deeper into microbiology and infectious diseases. He also incorporates a number of active-learning and real-time assessment activities into his classes.

His students say his classes and labs are highly engaging and that his organizational skills and expertise contribute greatly to their ability to understand the material.

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

## ■ Siew Hoon Lim

Associate Professor  
Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics

*"Siew has the passion for teaching and the in-depth knowledge of the subject matter that every exceptional teacher needs. She has demonstrated enthusiasm for incorporating new teaching methods and new technology into her classes in order to improve student learning."*

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

Lim is deeply committed to students' academic success and believes that a big part of teaching is a genuine care for students. She provides a constructive and engaging educational environment that ignites students' passion for knowledge and discovery, transforms students' thinking and challenges them to take responsibility for their own learning.

She balances mathematical problems with numerous examples and applications, allowing students to see how mathematics and economics are used to solve problems in a tangible way. She also creates opportunities for students to interact and engage in collaborative learning.

Her students say she is known for her effective teaching techniques and her mentoring ability.

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

## ■ Sarah Wagner

Professor  
Department of Animal Sciences

*“Sarah Wagner is the embodiment of a seasoned, highly effective and dedicated professor who cares greatly for her students and has the unique ability to truly connect with them while guiding them to academic and career success.”*

Sarah Wagner came to NDSU in 2004 as an assistant professor and became a professor in 2016.

To ensure students in her Veterinary Pharmacology course are receiving the most current information related to drug regulations and new pharmacology standards, Wagner continuously reviews and updates course material. As an active member of relevant professional organizations, she stays connected with the industry and veterinary practitioners to ensure that what she is teaching in the classroom is applicable in the real world.

Wagner incorporates a variety of teaching techniques to accommodate different student learning styles, including the use of case studies, guest lecturers and field trips.

Her students say she is able to connect with them and inspire them to work hard and do their best.

Wagner holds a B.A. degree from Columbia University, a D.V.M. from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

## ■ Dennis Wiesenborn

Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

*“Dr. Wiesenborn genuinely desires student success and continuously goes out of his way to ensure it.”*

Dennis Wiesenborn started his career at NDSU as an assistant professor in 1989 and became an associate professor in 1995 and a professor in 2002.

Wiesenborn’s classes are rigorous and challenging, and he holds himself and his students to a high standard. He wants students to maximize their college experience in the classroom and through extracurricular activities, and his active support encourages them to do so.

He keeps his course material up to date and applicable to the industry. His field trips and lab experiments allow students to see how the information they are learning could translate into a career, and his real-world examples are designed to help students develop problem-solving skills they can apply in other classes and in their future careers.

His students say that the interest he takes in their success has encouraged them to become better students in all their classes.

Wiesenborn earned a B.S. degree from Texas A&M University and a Ph.D. from Rice University.

# 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.*

## ■ Marc Bauer

Associate Professor  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Marc is an exceptionally effective adviser because of the trusting relationship established from the very start."*

Marc Bauer started at NDSU in 1996 as an assistant professor and became an associate professor in 2002.

Bauer advises 65 undergraduate students, but others often seek him out for advice when they are unable to connect with their assigned adviser.

Students who Bauer advises are always well prepared for the course sequences in the program, and he ensures transfer students are able to have their courses transfer properly. His focus on high-quality advising directly contributes to the percentage of students who graduate from the program on time.

His door is always open to students, and students often are in his office throughout the day. He also serves as an adviser for FarmHouse Fraternity.

His advisees say he is empathetic and compassionate, and goes the extra mile to answer questions.

Bauer holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Nebraska and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky.

## ■ Erik Hanson

Assistant Professor  
Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics

*"Even though Dr. Hanson has been a faculty member in the department for less than two years, his interactions with students are already having a positive impact."*

Erik Hanson joined NDSU in 2016 as an assistant professor.

Hanson serves as an adviser for the Agribusiness Club and the instructor for the Farm Credit Fellows program, which pairs classroom education with off-campus training from AgCountry Farm Credit Services. In his two years at NDSU, he has worked to make these two opportunities for career preparation available to more students.

His efforts are yielding results. Applications to the Farm Credit Fellows program roughly doubled this year, compared with last year, and the number of candidates interviewed this semester is a record for the program's five-year history.

His advisees say he has made an impact on the futures of many students.

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

## ■ Dean Steele

Associate Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

*"Dr. Steele is student-focused and offers inspiring, encouraging and valuable advice to help students achieve their highest educational goals and prepare them for a professional career."*

Dean Steele came to NDSU in 1991 as an assistant professor and became an associate professor in 1997.

From the time Steele first meets with advisees, he empowers students to take ownership of their academic program. He sees his role as adviser as one of service, helping students be more efficient with their plans.

After many years of advising Agricultural Systems Management (ASM) students, Steele developed a list of suggested electives that have been incorporated into the ASM curriculum guide to save students time and help other faculty improve their advising.

His advisees say he takes his role of advising very seriously and has guided them to take classes that led to internship and full-time career opportunities.

Steele earned a B.Ag.E. from the University of Minnesota, an M.S. from South Dakota State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

## ■ Todd West

Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"Dr. West is a teacher who helps students build the foundation for success."*

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

West has served as the Horticulture Undergraduate Program coordinator since 2012. In this role, he meets with prospective and incoming students to discuss their goals and assign them to an appropriate adviser in the program.

West actively assists his advisees by connecting them to opportunities that match their educational and career goals, and stays in communication with them through each semester.

Additionally, West maintains close ties with industry professionals across the region and nation. He asks them what they are looking for in potential employees and advises his students accordingly to ensure they have the skills and experience that will help them find employment.

His advisees say he encourages them to seek classes and opportunities that have helped them in their educational and career paths.

He holds a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University.

## Myron and Muriel Johnsrud Excellence in Extension/Outreach Award

*The NDSU Extension Service established this annual award to encourage and reward exceptional engagement in programming and innovative Extension/outreach practices by full-time county, area and state educators with an appointment in NDSU Extension and 10 or fewer years of professional experience. This includes work in a professional position prior to being hired by NDSU Extension and experience as an NDSU Extension employee. The recipient receives a professional development stipend that Extension administration matches.*

### ■ Miranda Meehan

Extension Livestock Environmental Stewardship Specialist  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Miranda's multifaceted programs effectively communicate research findings to Extension agents, livestock producers and land managers in a way that facilitates active learning and adaptation."*

Miranda Meehan started at NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist in 2015.

Meehan has made great strides in developing a presence in the state. Having gathered input from Extension agents, Research Extension Center personnel, industry stakeholders, individual producers, and state and federal agencies, she has created programming designed to meet their needs.

Meehan uses a dynamic approach to address frequently asked range and forage management questions by improving the technical capacity of Extension agents and developing new tools to aid them in making science-based decisions. Such tools include a web-based calculator and a mobile app.

Evaluations from her ditch hay, corn silage quality and drought-stressed forage programs revealed that Extension agents experienced greater producer interaction, increased knowledge and understanding of forage sampling protocols, and an increased ability to interpret forage analysis as a result of their participation.

Meehan obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

### ■ Acacia Stuckle

Extension Agent  
Emmons County

*"Acacia develops and delivers exceptional programs, cultivates long-lasting relationships, is well-respected by partners, clientele and colleagues, and is a complete joy to work with."*

Acacia Stuckle joined NDSU as an administrative assistant in 2005 and became an Extension agent in 2012.

Stuckle delivers targeted family and community wellness programs to youth and older adults. The relationships she has created through her adult programming have allowed her to increase the number of adult leaders and volunteers for her youth programming by 157 percent in the past several years.

Understanding the research on how much more successful 4-H youth are than their peers, Stuckle has invested time in building a strong 4-H program in Emmons County. She also has been instrumental in providing innovative programming in community vitality, bringing Youth Lead Local workshops to youth in the Emmons, Logan and McIntosh tri-county area.

Stuckle has formed numerous partnerships to seek input and build relationships, including serving in local leadership and volunteer positions with the Linton Chamber of Commerce, the Tri-County Tourism Alliance, and several councils related to health and wellness.

Stuckle earned a B.S. degree from NDSU.

# AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award

*The NDSU Extension Service established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension work by full-time county, area and state educators who have an appointment with NDSU Extension and 11 or more years of professional experience. This includes work in a professional position prior to being hired by NDSU Extension and experience as an NDSU Extension employee.*

## ■ Hans Kandel

Extension Agronomist  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"Dr. Kandel has the rare ability to be very detailed and analytical in his research and at the same time be very creative and innovative in developing educational programs."*

Hans Kandel started at NDSU as an Extension agronomist in 2007.

Kandel's work focuses on management practices to produce high-quality, high-yielding broadleaf crops, including soybeans, sunflowers, canola, dry beans, field peas and flax. He collaborates with researchers in the Department of Plant Sciences to overcome production challenges for producers in North Dakota. His water management forums capture the most relevant information available.

As an expert in his field, Kandel has responded to 4,200 telephone, email and in-person questions from growers and crop consultants, and has given 308 media interviews. He knows producers value timely information on varietal performance, so he summarizes and publishes annual yield variety trial data for canola, field peas, soybeans, sunflowers, flax, dry beans and alternative crops.

Kandel holds B.S. and Ing. degrees from RHLS Deventer in the Netherlands, an M.S. degree from the University of Reading, England, and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

## ■ Dena Kemmet

Extension Agent  
Mercer County

*"Dena is a passionate, gifted Extension educator who continually looks for ways to make the best use of available resources, skills and collaborations to address public needs."*

Dena Kemmet joined NDSU as an administrative assistant in 1991. She became an Extension agent in 2005 and served as an interim northwest district supervisor in 2017.

Kemmet has delivered several targeted programs to address local needs of diverse audiences in her county. She works effectively with fellow Extension agents, specialists and administration to identify programming needs and collaboratively develop educational programs.

To address the needs of the 17 percent of Mercer County residents who are over age 65, she became a certified counselor for the Senior Health Insurance Counseling program to advise individuals on Medicare, Medicaid and other related programs.

Based on input from local stakeholders, Kemmet was heavily involved in developing the Boundaries program due to requests for a program focused on rule and boundary setting for students in grades seven to 12. She collaborated with local organizations to ensure buy-in and robust participation in the program.

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

## ■ Macine Lukach

Extension Agent  
Cavalier County

*"She is a tireless leader who gives hours of work to her programs and projects for the betterment of Cavalier County, the state of North Dakota and our entire country."*

Macine Lukach came to NDSU in 1982 as a program assistant. She became an Extension agent in 1992 and added duties as a parent educator/coordinator in 2010.

Her passion for developing programs has been essential to help the state 4-H team in designing educational workshops for 4-H volunteers and NDSU Extension professionals. She easily transforms programs into action by teaching evidence-based nutrition programs, such as the Banking on Strong Bones curriculum.

Working closely with a team of Extension agents, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction staff, a youth leader and community partners, she helped develop a comprehensive civic engagement program combining Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today with other Extension civic engagement programs.

As an Extension parent educator, she is required to deliver programs that are evidence-based and transformational. Lukach consistently has met all requirements and has strong data to indicate she is making a difference.

She obtained a B.S. degree from NDSU.

## ■ David Ripplinger

Bioproducts/Bioenergy Economist  
Department of Agribusiness  
and Applied Economics

*"His work as a bioenergy and bioproducts specialist has provided producers with valuable research-based information on a wide variety of bioenergy and bioproducts topics."*

David Ripplinger started at NDSU as an associate research fellow in 2004. He became a research assistant in 2011 and an assistant professor and bioproducts/bioenergy economist in 2012.

Ripplinger regularly seeks input from colleagues and industry to develop programs that meet the needs of stakeholders. Recently, he held the second annual industry roundtable with North Dakota corn and ethanol industry representatives. He conducts periodic needs assessments with farmers, Extension agents, lenders, project developers and economic development specialists.

He is director of NDSU's BioEnergy and Products Innovation Center, which was created to provide the state and region with comprehensive bioenergy and product resources. He also is chair of the National Extension Energy Initiative, a professional organization for Extension energy professionals that builds partnerships with government agencies to better meet the needs of farmers, ranchers, small-business owners, homeowners and communities.

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

## ■ Rick Schmidt

Extension Agent  
Oliver County

*"Rick Schmidt serves as a great example of how a county-based Extension agent can positively impact people's lives and communities through quality Extension programs and being a bridge between the public and our land-grant university."*

Rick Schmidt began at NDSU as dairy herd assistant in 1990. He became a barn manager for the Sheep Unit in 1991 and an Extension agent in 1993.

Shortly after he joined Extension, Schmidt recognized the need for farm safety programming. He established the Tractor Safety School for youth on safe handling of tractors and other farm equipment. He has hosted the school for 22 years. About 300 youth have completed the course.

With his knowledge of livestock production, he recognized that genetic selection may be the most important factor in determining profitability for livestock producers. Together with Animal Sciences Department faculty members Carl Dahlen and Lauren Hanna, Schmidt created a publication to help ranchers better understand livestock genetics. He also designed exercises to help ranchers determine the financial outcomes of their choices.

He holds a B.S. degree from NDSU.

## ■ Gerald Stokka

Extension Veterinarian and  
Livestock Stewardship Specialist  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Dr. Stokka has made important contributions to North Dakota's livestock industry over his career and has a positive rapport with diverse audiences."*

Gerald Stokka came to NDSU in 2012 as an associate professor and livestock stewardship specialist. He became the Extension veterinarian in 2014.

The new Food and Drug Administration regulations related to the use of antibiotics have become one of the most important areas of programming for the livestock and veterinary medicine community. Stokka secured funding from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture that allows him to provide educational programming on the proper use of antibiotics, diagnosing illness in cattle, low-stress animal handling, tissue residue avoidance and recordkeeping.

Stokka's programming also incorporates broader concepts of stewardship as it relates to animal health and reducing antimicrobial use through improved animal care and husbandry. This incorporates the role of genetics, nutrition, management and animal handling into a comprehensive animal management effort to reduce the need for antimicrobial use in livestock.

He earned a B.S. degree from NDSU, an M.S. degree from Kansas State University and a D.V.M. from Iowa State University.

# 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 Service.*

## ■ Joel Bell

Research Specialist  
School of Natural Resource Sciences  
(Soil Science)

*"Joel's technical and mechanical breadth has been invaluable to the research efforts across the Soil Science Department, and the faculty, staff and students equally rely on him and appreciate his kindness and support."*

Joel Bell joined NDSU as a research specialist in 1991.

As a part of his primary responsibilities, he performs field and laboratory studies on soil health, soil salinity and soil physics, with an emphasis on enhancing agricultural productivity. In addition to basic soil characterization tests, he is involved in complex investigations in soil microbiology, molecular biology and biochemistry. He assists research investigators in preparing field and laboratory experimental plans, literature searches and data analysis, and plotting figures for reports and publications.

He is highly proficient in the operation, maintenance and repairs of analytical and farm equipment. He is responsible for method development, frequent replacement of consumables, and software and statistical updates.

In his frequent visits to cooperating farms, he discusses research plans with farmers and demonstrates an ability to effectively convey science from research findings in a language to which farmers can relate.

Bell earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU.

## ■ Sonja Fuchs

Web Technology Specialist  
Agriculture Communication

*"Sonja's role is essential in Ag Communication and for Extension and Agriculture faculty and staff."*

Sonja Fuchs started at NDSU as a web technology specialist in 2012.

One of her major contributions is providing assistance when county Extension and Research Extension Center staff develop or update their webpages. She helps them think about their intended audience, provides examples of innovative websites for them to review, and then assists them in creating pages or making necessary changes to existing pages.

She also works with Extension specialists and agents on creating web and Facebook pages for specific programs. Recently, she helped launch Dr. Apple Tree, a tree disease diagnostic website, managed Extension's drought assistance website, and is helping revamp the Farm and Ranch Stress and Annie's Project websites. Her assistance significantly increased the number of people who visit and interact with Extension and Agriculture webpages.

Additionally, she develops numerous training sessions, webinars and how-to videos related to the Ag Content Management System, social media content creation and management, and other web-based tools.

Fuchs received a B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

## ■ Patrick Gross

Research Specialist  
Department of Plant Pathology

*"Pat has been an instrumental part of the department of Plant Pathology, and his scientific curiosity and hard work have made everyone he works with more productive and successful."*

Patrick Gross began at NDSU as a research specialist in 1990.

His main responsibility in the barley pathology program is to establish technically and scientifically sound experiments in the greenhouse and field, and to maintain, rate and harvest genetic materials. He collates all phenotyping and genotyping data so it is tracked easily and available for subsequent experiments. This includes making hundreds of crosses, tracking lineages and keeping inventory of multiple genotypes for disease resistance and malting quality characteristics as the program generates millions of genetic marker data points.

He also is responsible for the maintenance and operation of equipment. In addition, he supervises undergraduate and graduate students, and provides advice and assists them with their experiments. This includes teaching and working with multidisciplinary graduate students and new technologies, such as engineered nanomaterials, and he quickly adapts protocols to accommodate the data needed.

Gross holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU.

## ■ Shelley Horne

Research Specialist  
Department of Microbiological Sciences

*"Shelley will go out of her way to help with whatever you ask of her."*

Shelley Horne came to NDSU in 1998 as a postdoctoral research associate and became a research specialist in 2004.

She has contributed to North Dakota agriculture through her research on diverse topics ranging from gene regulation in food pathogens to the development of a food-relevant animal model for one of those pathogens.

Horne is listed as first author on three peer-reviewed journal articles and a co-author on many others. She has contributed to the writing of more than 20 papers and 100 grant proposals, and uses strong attention to detail to edit all writing the lab puts out.

As a lab manager, she has contributed to the education and training of all students who have gone through the lab, many of whom have gone on to successful careers across the state and country. Her students say she creates a strong sense of family in the lab that greatly enhances the learning environment.

Horne obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees and a Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota.

## ■ Nurun Nahar

Research Specialist  
Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

*"She has the technical skills, organization and professionalism to maintain a safe, efficient and friendly working environment in the lab."*

Nurun Nahar joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2008.

She is responsible for lab safety, equipment maintenance and repair, and training new students in standard protocols. In addition to her onsite management duties, she conducts her own research experiments and works with associate professor Scott Pryor on experimental design, data analysis and preparation of peer-reviewed publications for that research.

Because Pryor's lab is several blocks from his office, he depends on Nahar when he is unable to be there. She handles problems professionally and keeps him informed about progress. In a recent example, she saved the lab more than \$4,000 by identifying a problem with equipment and working with the supplier to get replacements free of charge.

Nahar also works closely with students and mentors them in data interpretation and experimental setup and analysis.

She has B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and an M.S. degree from the University of Manitoba.

## ■ Terry Skunberg

Research Specialist  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Whenever a project was scheduled at the Animal and Physiology Center, I knew I would have a great rate of success simply because Terry would be on my team to help the whole project reach its greatest potential."*

Terry Skunberg came to NDSU as an agriculture research technician in 1984 and became a research specialist in 2010.

Working in the Animal and Physiology Center for more than 20 years, Skunberg has contributed to nearly every research project, program or activity conducted there. He dedicates himself to departmental and university programs through efficient and effective management of the animal core facilities.

He is responsible for management of the facility, data collection, large-animal handling and supervision of personnel.

He provides guidance and support for many aspects of research projects and uses problem-solving skills to adapt pen design and holding facilities to meet specific needs of each project.

In addition to caring for the animals and facilities, he has trained countless students on the practice of animal husbandry and has become a mentor for many of his student workers.

*Moses Award nominees  
continue on Page 14*

## ■ **Albert Jody VanderWal**

Research Specialist  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"With 36 years of service working in the dry bean breeding program, Jody VanderWal has contributed to the state's agriculture by helping to develop important dry bean varieties for the region."*

Jody VanderWal started at NDSU as a lab assistant in 1979 and became a research specialist in 2003.

When VanderWal started working with NDSU's dry bean breeding program, it was the youngest public bean breeding program in the U.S. It since has evolved to become one of the largest and most important programs in the country. VanderWal's discipline and commitment to the program contributed to its success.

In his role, he is responsible for handling thousands of lines/genotypes every year and is in charge of breeding records for approximately 10,000 research plots spread across seven locations in the region. His supervisor trusts his ability to make wise, on-the-spot decisions independently. He works long hours seven days a week during the harvest season and is committed year-round to finishing every job on a timely basis.

VanderWal holds A.A.S. and B.S. degrees from NDSU.

## ■ **Gary Willoughby**

Research Specialist  
North Central Research Extension Center

*"For 20 years, Gary's work ethic and mechanical skills have significantly increased our research capabilities and saved NDSU thousands of dollars every year."*

Gary Willoughby began at NDSU as a research specialist in 1998.

He assists in conducting weed control and cropping systems research, coordinates the preparation and maintenance of research plots, mixes and applies pesticides for weed control studies, and maintains equipment used in field research.

His welding skills have saved the center thousands of dollars. His work includes two small-plot no-till drills, a row-crop planter, a harrow, two bicycle sprayers and two tractor-mounted sprayers. He built many of these from scratch, demonstrating his knowledge and ingenuity, and some of the features of his equipment have allowed the center to conduct important studies that otherwise would not have been possible.

Additionally, he has become a source of information for the media on biodiesel and has been interviewed by reporters across the state and beyond.

He obtained an A.S. degree from the North Dakota State College of Science and a B.S. 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 Service.*

## ■ **Jerie Little**

Administrative Secretary  
Department of Microbiological Sciences

*"Jerie has always been a conscientious and dedicated employee who can be relied on to carry out her responsibilities on time and to a high standard."*

Jerie Little joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in 2005.

Due to an extended illness of one colleague and the resignation of another, she was the only person staffing the department's front office for much of the year. Rising to meet this challenge, she has shown grit, initiative and a tremendous sense of duty and responsibility.

She picked up critical responsibilities, including payroll, purchasing and invoice processing, with very little lead time. She learned the new skills to accomplish these duties all while meeting her regular responsibilities and maintaining a professional and friendly demeanor to all who entered the front office.

She is proactive in addressing issues and keeps on top of policy changes and deadlines. In the past year, she has attended five professional development opportunities and arranged one-on-one sessions to learn PeopleSoft Finance.

## ■ **Edith Nelson**

Administrative Assistant  
Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics

*"Edie is personable, and she maintains a proper balance of professionalism with an easy-going nature that improves the work environment of the department."*

Edith Nelson came to NDSU as an administrative secretary in 2003 and became an administrative assistant in 2017.

As the go-to person in the department, she handles a number of tasks, including formatting faculty research reports and other documents, submitting research reports to online databases, assisting faculty with coursework, producing the annual departmental newsletter, answering general questions or directing callers to the best person to answer those questions, and maintaining the department's website.

She also assists faculty, researchers and graduate students by proofreading documents for grammar and sentence structure, serving as a resource on general software issues and acting as backup for the administrative secretary.

She balances the ability to work independently with an understanding of when input and feedback from research staff and faculty are important to ensure work is completed correctly.

## ■ **Debra Peters**

Administrative Secretary  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"She not only does her job extraordinarily well, she consistently goes above and beyond to meet the needs of our department and college."*

Debra Peters started at NDSU as an administrative secretary in 2011.

She provides day-to-day administrative support to the Department of Animal Sciences across a broad spectrum of activities for the more than 90 regular employees, as well as the more than 100 time-slip employees. She also actively relays information about the department and presents information and directions to visitors.

Her focus is on providing exceptional service to internal and external customers through a team-driven approach. She performs many tasks that are not specifically assigned to her, including course permissions, administering make-up tests, maintaining department inventories, coordinating facility requests, inputting invoices and assisting with department events.

She consistently takes on new tasks and seeks ways to save money or do things more efficiently, which directly relates to the mission of providing creative, cost-effective solutions to current problems.

*Anderson Award nominees continue on Page 16*

## ■ Shannon Ueker

Administrative Secretary  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"Shannon Ueker never leaves a person without finding a solution to that person's present problem or need."*

Shannon Ueker began at NDSU as an administrative secretary in 2012.

She has become the face of the Plant Sciences graduate program. She is the first to welcome new graduate students upon entering the program and makes them feel at ease in their new surroundings. She has improved her efficiency to enable her to take on a greater number of students. Graduate students frequently come to Ueker with questions regarding curriculum, exams or graduate school policies, and she coaches students to ensure timely graduation.

She also supports the Extension Master Gardener program, which trains and supervises more than 200 active volunteers throughout the state. Her organizational skills and initiative have led to the implementation of systems that improved the efficiency of the program without sacrificing personal connections.

Her strong communication skills help her defuse tense situations with empathy. She uses creativity to develop promotional materials and brochures.

## ■ Melanie Ziegler

Administrative Assistant  
Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

*"Melanie excels as an administrative assistant for all department faculty; she is the go-to-person to get something done, find an answer or determine the process to accomplish something."*

Melanie Ziegler joined NDSU in 1998 as an administrative assistant.

She provides administrative support for the department head and all faculty. Her duties include preparing minutes for faculty meetings, coordinating advisory board meetings, calendar scheduling, maintaining office supplies, making travel arrangements, preparing facilities work orders, proofreading correspondence and maintaining department databases.

When the department lost its account technician and the position was not filled due to budget reductions, she accepted the responsibility of learning the system to complete critical tasks. Since then, she has effectively been fulfilling the responsibilities of two positions for the benefit of the department.

She takes care to ensure tasks are completed in a manner that is fiscally and socially appropriate for the university, whether that means overseeing budget spending or ensuring department correspondence represents the university appropriately.

# 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 Service.*

## ■ Chris Anderson

Print and Copy Services  
Production Manager  
Agriculture Communication

*"Chris always goes the extra mile to provide high-quality products with quick turnaround and low prices to Print and Copy Services customers with a smile, even with tight deadlines and equipment breakdowns."*

Chris Anderson started at NDSU as a press operator in 2006 and became the Print and Copy Services (PCS) production manager in 2013.

In this position, he directs, organizes and plans the daily activities of production center staff and is involved in all phases of production of printed materials, including numerous Extension publications such as crop production guides, letterhead and envelopes, 4-H literature, certificates, posters and fliers, as well as a variety of projects for the entire NDSU campus.

Anderson is customer-oriented, doing everything he can for the unit to produce high-quality products that reflect well not just on PCS but on all of NDSU. His forward thinking has increased efficiency and quality of equipment and services, saving costs and streamlining processes.

Additionally, his technical skills have saved PCS thousands of dollars in repair costs.

## ■ Thomas Brown

Assistant Herdsman  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Thomas sets a wonderful example of our mission to maintain excellent husbandry of all animals housed within our unit, as well as the dedication it takes to ensure all their needs are met."*

Thomas Brown came to NDSU as an agriculture research technician in 2011 and became an assistant herdsman in the same year.

As assistant herdsman, Brown maintains all areas of animal husbandry and facility cleanliness at the NDSU dairy facility. He aids in research projects conducted at the facility, assists with animal procurement and utilization for educational courses, ensures all daily milking procedures are completed, feeds and cares for young stock, and supervises student employees.

Understanding that the lives of hundreds of animals are left in his hands seven days a week, Brown takes his position seriously and ensures no animal is left unattended. He is dedicated to learning all he can about the agriculture industry, seeking training as new technologies or procedures emerge and pursuing a B.S. degree.

## ■ Cora Crane

Grant Coordinator  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"Cora is a highly professional and pleasant person who continually keeps projects moving smoothly in Plant Sciences."*

Cora Crane joined NDSU as a grant coordinator in 2013.

As grant coordinator, Crane oversees all aspects of the grant application process, such as reviewing the budget, ensuring policies and rules are followed, obtaining proper signatures and making sure grants meet the application deadline. She also is purchasing card manager for the department and ensures cards are used properly and that correct funding is applied.

Crane is recognized by Plant Sciences staff as the subject matter expert on grant budgets, policies and submittal. Staff depend on her to know where an application is in the process and go to her with any questions about the process.

She seeks opportunities to attend training that will keep her up to date on grant application rules from a variety of sponsors, and her dependability has led to her selection to assist with the Hatch Project review process.





# 2016 Award Recipients

Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research

*Robert Brueggeman,  
Plant Pathology*

Eugene R. Dahl Excellence in Research

*Kimberly Vonnahme,  
Animal Sciences*

Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching

*Christina Hargiss,  
School of Natural Resource Sciences – NRM*

H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching

*R. Jay Goos,  
School of Natural Resource Sciences – Soil Science*

William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Excellence in Advising

*Shelly Swandal,  
Agribusiness and Applied Economics*

Myron and Muriel Johnsrud Excellence in Extension

*Andrew Robinson,  
Plant Sciences*

AGSCO Excellence in Extension

*Carl Dahlen,  
Animal Sciences*

Charles and Linda Moses Staff Award

*Skip Anderson,  
Animal Sciences*

Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award

*Sharon Lane,  
Agriculture Communication*

Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award

*David Pearson,  
Hettinger Research Extension Center*

# 2017 Faculty/Staff Award Nominees

**Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award**

Teresa Bergholz  
Amitava Chatterjee  
Lauren Hulsman Hanna  
Jeremy Jackson  
Zhulu Lin  
Juan Osorno

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

Carolyn Hammer  
Frank Manthey

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

Loren Baranko  
Greta Gramig  
Lei Zhang

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

Michael Christoffers  
Thomas Gustad  
Siew Hoon Lim  
Sarah Wagner  
Dennis Wiesenborn

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

Marc Bauer  
Erik Hanson  
Dean Steele  
Todd West

**Myron and Muriel Johnsrud Excellence in Extension/Outreach Award**

Miranda Meehan  
Acacia Stuckle

**AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award**

Hans Kandel  
Dena Kemmet  
Macine Lukach  
David Ripplinger  
Rick Schmidt  
Gerald Stokka

**Charles and Linda Moses Staff Award**

Joel Bell  
Sonja Fuchs  
Patrick Gross  
Shelley Horne  
Nurun Nahar  
Terry Skunberg  
Albert Jody VanderWal  
Gary Willoughby

**Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award**

Jerie Little  
Edith Nelson  
Debra Peters  
Shannon Ueker  
Melanie Ziegler

**Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award**

Chris Anderson  
Thomas Brown  
Cora Crane