

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



**Department of Animal Science**



## **2021 Graduate Student Scholarships & Awards**

### **AGAS Officers for 2020-2021**

*President* - Matthew Schulte  
*Vice President* - Krysten Fries-Craft  
*Secretary* - Julie Opgenorth  
*Treasurer* - Elizabeth Messersmith  
*GPSS Representative* - Wade Wuebker  
*Fundraising Chairs* – Maddi Wiersema & Abbey Jantzi  
*Philanthropy Chairs* – Cori Siberski & Kayla Lucas

### **AGAS Officers for 2021-2022**

*President* – Grace Moeller  
*Vice President* – Cori Siberski  
*Secretary* – Emma Rients  
*Treasurer* – Logan Johnson  
*GPSS Representative* – Sarah Elefson  
*Fundraising Chairs* – Erika Johnson and Zoe Kiefer  
*Philanthropy Chairs* – Sophie Breuer and Kayla Elmore

## **Duane and Shirley Acker International Fellowship - \$2,000**

*To foster international experiences for graduate students*



### **Sonia Rodríguez Jiménez**

**Sonia Rodríguez Jiménez** is from the north of Spain. After obtaining her DVM, she joined U.C. Davis as a visiting research scholar in dairy veterinarian medicine. She then obtained a M.S. degree in Dairy Science at SDSU. Afterwards, she joined Iowa State University for her Ph.D degree in Animal Science. Sonia's research involves the function of the immune system in lactating ruminants during different stressful conditions (i.e. heat stress, transition period). In particular, she is interested in identifying how immune activation alters systemic metabolism and reprioritizes nutrient partitioning away from economically important phenotypes. On her first PhD project, Sonia collaborated with Trouw Nutrition R&D (in conjunction with ISU and AnS alumnus Dr. Victoria Sanz-Fernandez) and lived in the Netherlands to spearhead the live phase of the project. Sonia's goal is to implement her scientific and research knowledge with farmers to support domestic animal health and farm profitability.

## **John Airy Endowed Graduate Scholarship - \$2,500**

*For significant research accomplishment related to beef cattle breeding and management*



### **Emma Rients**

**Emma Rients** is from Towanda, IL, and earned her B.S. in Animal Science from Southern Illinois University. She is currently pursuing her M.S. degree in Animal Science at Iowa State University, with a focus on feedlot nutrition. In her research, Emma seeks to better understand the interaction between growing muscle and inflammatory markers called myokines. With a strong undergraduate research foundation, Emma has quickly found success both at the farm and in the laboratory. Besides research, Emma was crucial to the successful transition of ANS 419 (Advanced Nutrition) to an online platform last fall. As the TA for the course, Emma brought insight and dedication to the classroom, helping Dr. Hansen deliver a strong online experience for students. Emma plans to pursue a Ph.D. after graduation.

## **Arthur and Muriel Anderson Scholarship - \$1,500**

*For excellence in academic performance and interest in swine science*



### **Chloe Hagen**

**Chloe Hagen** is from Stockton, IA and discovered her interest in swine production while working in Dr. John Patience's lab as an undergraduate assistant. Chloe received her Bachelor's of Science degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Animal Nutrition with Dr. Laura Greiner. Chloe's research has focused on understanding compensatory or reduced growth and how nutritional modifications to pig diets may be used to reduce the impact. In her first project, Chloe evaluated how to alter diets to improve pig growth rate after nutrient restriction to better understand the impact of diets used during COVID market disruptions on marketing programs and growth predictability. Chloe's goal is to be involved in the swine industry as a technical service nutritionist.

## **Charles H. and Inez M. Callahan Memorial Scholarship - \$2,000**

*For excellence in academic performance and outstanding leadership in extracurricular activities relating to poultry*



### **Meaghan Meyer**

**Meaghan Meyer** earned her M.S. with Dr. Bobeck in August 2019, with a thesis focused on the effects of a unique form of environmental enrichment on broiler chicken welfare, behavior, and performance outcomes. Since earning her MS, Meaghan has continued on as a PhD student in Dr. Bobeck's lab. While continuing PhD work in broiler welfare and environmental enrichment, she has also expanded into meat quality and woody breast outcomes positively altered by exercise. Apart from welfare and behavior-based research in broilers, Meaghan has worked on optimizing a metabolic assay in laying hen and broiler immune cells, and has piloted multiple broiler feed-additive performance and gut health-focused trials. Additionally, Meaghan is surveying undergraduate students for an ongoing teaching study regarding opinions of the poultry industry before and after education. Meaghan's work has resulted in 14 abstracts and 11 peer-reviewed publications.

## **Lauren L. Christian Graduate Fellowship - \$3,000**

*For excellence in academic performance and outstanding leadership in extracurricular activities relating to swine*



### **Grace Moeller**

**Grace Moeller** is a native of Hilliard, OH and graduated from The Ohio State University majoring in Zoology and with a minor in Dairy Science. Grace joined the Stalder group in fall of 2018, finished her MS degree in 2020, and is working on her PhD. Her research is focused on the impact of conformation traits on sow welfare and the association of traits with removal reasons and sow productive lifetime. Grace will expand her work to include beef cattle to broaden her animal welfare experiences. Grace's parents are both graduates of the Department of Animal Science with her Mom, Kim, receiving a BS and her dad, Steve, receiving his BS, MS and PhD in the Department of Animal Science.

## **Dr. and Mrs. M.E. Ensminger Scholarship - \$1,500**

*For excellence in academic performance, character and leadership*



### **Sophia Breuer**

**Sophia Breuer** grew up on a row crop and beef cattle farm in Burlington, IA. She received her BS from Iowa State in 2020. She joined the Stalder group in coordination with Dr. Kerr (USDA) in the fall of 2020 and is working towards her MS degree. Her research is focusing on oxidative stress and its effects on sow longevity in which she is evaluating over 300 females, for three parities, at a sow farm within the Carthage System. Sophia will finish her MS in the summer of 2022 and looks forward to continue working in the swine industry.

## **Dr. Gene Freeman Animal Breeding and Genetics**

### **Graduate Student Travel Scholarship - \$1000**

*For excellence in academic performance and an interest in working with dairy or beef cattle*



#### **Cori Siberski**

**Cori Siberski** is from Ames, Iowa. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science and master's degree in Animal Breeding and Genetics at Iowa State University. Cori's PhD research in the Koltes lab is investigating the use of precision technologies to predict future animal health and identify the impact of health events on feed intake and efficiency. Cori is passionate both about the dairy industry and teaching. She has served as a teaching assistant for five courses, as an assistant coordinator for the departmental learning community and is participating in the preparing future faculty program. After graduation, she hopes to find a job where she may utilize her animal breeding and data analytic skills to help dairy producers solve problems and teach students and producers how to best use new scientific findings in the industry.

## **William Riley Gillette Graduate Scholarship in Animal Science - \$2,000**

*In recognition of academic performance in the Department of Animal Science*



#### **Megan Abeyta**

**Megan Abeyta** is a 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD student working in Dr. Lance Baumgard's Nutritional Physiology program. She originally grew up in Fort Collins, Colorado, with little to no understanding of agriculture, which quickly changed when she participated in numerous internships, her favorite being at a sheep ranch, as a high school student. She came to Iowa State University for her Bachelor's degree in Animal Science where she continued to work a variety of jobs which exposed her to agriculture and research. Eventually, she became an undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Baumgard's lab, where she continued to work until she transitioned into her PhD position. Megan's current research focuses on "Hindgut acidosis" in dairy cows with an overall emphasis on intestinal barrier dysfunction and the stressors that can cause it. In the future, Megan hopes to obtain an industry job working as a technical consultant for the dairy industry.

## **William Riley Gillette Graduate Scholarship in Animal Science - \$2,000**

*In recognition of academic performance in the Department of Animal Science*



### **Janaka Wickramasinghe**

**Janaka Wickramasinghe** is originally from Sri Lanka. After obtaining his BSc, he joined a university in Sri Lanka as a lecturer teaching various classes of animal science. In 2017, Janaka joined Iowa State University for his MS degree in Animal Science choosing Dr. Appuhamy as the major professor. His MS research was focused on exploring the drinking water requirements of dairy calves. He completed the MS degree in 2019 and published two research articles in the Journal of Dairy Science. Janaka began his PhD in Animal Science with Dr. Appuhamy in fall 2019. His PhD research project is aimed at exploring nutritional strategies that mitigate stresses and improve the performance and welfare of dairy calves. He has completed three animal research trials and published several abstracts and several animal industry reports based on the results of those trials. Janaka is planning to graduate in May 2022 and, once graduate, he will return to Sri Lanka and resume his teaching duties as a university professor.

## **Robert E. and Dorothy B. Rust Graduate Scholarship in Meat Science - \$500**

*In recognition of excellence in academic performance and demonstrated active interest in applied meat processing or allied industry*



### **Jacob Manternach**

**Jacob Manternach** is from Osceola, Iowa and completed his undergraduate degree at Iowa State University in Food Science in 2020. Jake first became interested in the food industry by working alongside his father in Fareway and HyVee stores in Osceola which continued at Iowa State through working in the ISU Meat Lab, competing on the ISU Meats Judging Team and completing internships with Tyson Fresh Meats and Land O'Frost Inc. He is currently finishing his first year of his Master's in Meat Science working with Dr. Terry Houser conducting research focused on improving the color shelf-life of aerobically packaged retail and food-service bacon. Additionally, he has been very active on campus as the President of the ISU Meat Science Club, coach of the ISU Meat Science Quiz Bowl Team, and has worked extensively with the ISU Meat Lab's "Feeding Iowans Program." Jake's career goals include working in Research and Development along with educating kids and adults about all things meat related.

## **Vaughn and Meg Speer Graduate Award - \$1,500**

*To provide graduate students in monogastric nutrition with a unique training/education experience*



### **Krysten Fries-Craft**

**Krysten Fries-Craft** completed her Master of Science with Dr. Bobeck in August of 2019. Her work examined the effects of alfalfa supplementation on the murine immune system and microbiota. She then continued on for her PhD with Dr. Bobeck. Krysten has optimized methods for the preparation of novel feed additives, learned methods for preparing maternally-derived IgY antibodies, and regularly does flow cytometry, ELISAs, proximate analyses, and H&E microscopy. She continues to collaborate with the Schmitz-Esser lab to learn laboratory techniques related to analysis of the microbiota. Krysten has experience with conducting broiler floor pen trials and has publications that encompass applied nutrition and examination of the immunological response to probiotic supplementation. Her work culminated in a top presentation award at Poultry Science annual meetings last summer in Canada. She has 12 peer-reviewed articles and 8 abstracts, and is continuing on with Dr. Bobeck for her PhD work examining the role of feed additives in altering coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis in poultry.

## **Thomas Sutherland Graduate Award for Excellence - \$750**

*For excellence in academic performance and significant accomplishment in research relative to tenure in the graduate program*



### **Sonia Rodríguez Jiménez**

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## **David and Jacqueline Topel Scholarship in Meat Science - \$2,000**

*For excellence in academic performance, leadership and involvement in campus activities, and promise of a career related to the meat industry*



### **Matthew Schulte**

**Matt Schulte** is an ISU BS and MS graduate. As an undergraduate, he was Block and Bridle President and recipient of the LN Hazel Award. As a graduate student, Matt is a familiar face and a dedicated participant in departmental mission activities. He has served as TA in five different courses and was the recipient of the prestigious Graduate College Teaching Excellence Award. Matt is an important part of the Meat Science team. He has served as Meat Science Club Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. He serves as a group leader or assistant at virtually every Meat Science Short Course program. Matt's current research is directed at developing a deeper understanding of how perimortem and early postmortem muscle metabolism influence fresh beef quality. He has developed several proteomic methods for these investigations. He is first author of two manuscripts and four abstracts. In total, he is author and co-author of 12 abstracts and 3 manuscripts. Matt is a student leader in the American Meat Science Association and has served as a director on the student board of directors for that organization. Matt is looking forward to a career in meat science that allows him to continue to serve animal agriculture.

## **Harold L. and Esther G. Wilcke Scholarship - \$1,250**

*For significant research related to the nutritional requirements of domestic animals or poultry*



### **Chelsea A. Iennarella-Servantez**

**Chelsea A. Iennarella-Servantez** is from Aurora, IL. She earned both her BS and MS degrees at Iowa State in Animal Science. During her MS, Chelsea's thesis research focused on the health effects of diet in dogs under the direction of Dr. Cheryl Morris. After completing her MS, Chelsea accepted a position in the veterinary biologics industry as a research scientist before returning to Iowa State in 2018. Chelsea is currently in her third year of a dual-DVM/PhD program co-majoring in Animal Physiology and Biomedical Sciences (Cell Biology) under the direction of Drs. Karin Allenspach and Jon Mochel. Chelsea's PhD research focuses on the pathophysiology of diet-induced gastrointestinal and systemic inflammation and associated changes at both the cellular and clinical level using the translational dog model. Following graduation, she plans to complete a medical residency training program to become a board-certified veterinary nutritionist. Chelsea's ultimate career goal is academia with her time split between research, teaching, and clinical practice.

**Esther and Richard Willham Graduate Scholarship**  
**in Animal Science - \$1,000**

*In recognition of out-of-the-ordinary creativity in graduate student education*



**Sonia Rodríguez Jiménez**

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**Iowa Poultry Association Scholarship,**  
**in Honor of Tom J. Zanios - \$1,000**

*For excellence in academic performance and interest in the poultry industry*



**Kayla Elmore**

**Kayla Elmore** graduated with her BS in Animal Science in spring 2020 and joined Dr. Bobeck's lab to begin her MS in Fall 2020. She served as a TA for Dr. Bobeck's animal science 223 poultry science course this fall, and was integral in the success of a hybrid course with a laboratory component. She is currently working on in vivo and in vitro projects examining environmental, chemical, pathogen, and disease stressors on energy metabolism in poultry cells, including primary isolated immune cells and sperm cells. Her MS also includes a sustainability and welfare component, and she will supervise an interdisciplinary research project this summer in conjunction with the ISU horticulture department. She has been incredibly flexible and adaptable since she began her graduate career during a challenging pandemic!



**Department of Animal Science**  
**Graduate Award for Outstanding Teaching**

***For teaching excellence by a graduate student***



**Matthew Schulte**

**Matt Schulte** is an ISU BS and MS graduate. As an undergraduate, he was Block and Bridle President and recipient of the LN Hazel Award. As a graduate student, Matt is a familiar face and a dedicated participant in departmental mission activities. He has served as TA in five different courses and was the recipient of the prestigious Graduate College Teaching Excellence Award. Matt is an important part of the Meat Science team. He has served as Meat Science Club Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. He serves as a group leader or assistant at virtually every Meat Science Short Course program. Matt's current research is directed at developing a deeper understanding of how perimortem and early postmortem muscle metabolism influence fresh beef quality. He has developed several proteomic methods for these investigations. He is first author of two manuscripts and four abstracts. In total, he is author and co-author of 12 abstracts and 3 manuscripts. Matt is a student leader in the American Meat Science Association and has served as a director on the student board of directors for that organization. Matt is looking forward to a career in meat science that allows him to continue to serve animal agriculture.





**Department of Animal Science**  
**Graduate Student Excellence Award**

***For outstanding achievements and exceptional performance in teaching, research and outreach activities***



**Josué Chinchilla-Vargas**

**Dr. Josué Chinchilla-Vargas** is from Costa Rica. Josué attained his BS from Zamorano University in 2015. In 2016 he joined the Rothschild group working on his MS degree focusing on food security and the effects of climatic factors on livestock production. He obtained his MS under Dr. Rothschild's guidance in 2018. After this he continued his work pursuing his PhD under the guidance of Drs. Rothschild and Stalder majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Animal Breeding and Genetics. His research focused around novel genetic traits to improve animal performance under harsh environments. Josué has a passion for working on issues related to improving food security and identifying ways to meet food needs in developing countries. In October 2019, Josué married his wife Krystal who received her DVM in 2020 from Iowa State University. They currently live in Las Vegas, Nevada where Dr. Krystal joined a small animal clinic veterinary practice. Dr. Chinchilla-Vargas will be starting a post-doc at the University of Wisconsin, Madison after graduation.





**Department of Animal Science**  
**Graduate Student Excellence Award**

***For outstanding achievements and exceptional performance in teaching, research and outreach activities***



**Leticia P. Sanglard**

**Leticia Sanglard** defended her PhD in Animal Breeding & Genetics this past April, under the guidance of Dr. Nick Serão. Leticia is originally from Brazil, earning a BS degree in Veterinary Medicine from Federal University of Viçosa (pronounced as Visoza) in 2016. In Fall 2016 she started her MSc with Dr. Nick Serão at NC State and moved to ISU in 2017 to finish her MS in 2018. In her PhD, Leticia led multiple projects in swine genomics, sow and male reproduction, antibody response to infection and vaccination, and microbiome. Leticia is a highly motivated student that is a leader among AB&G graduate students, previously being the treasurer and then the president of the ABGGSO. To date, Leticia has published 20 peer-reviewed manuscripts (seven as first author) and 45 abstracts presented at scientific meetings (17 as first author), in addition to being the first or co-author of eight other peer-reviewed manuscripts currently submitted or about to be submitted. Her outstanding performance as a graduate student has already granted her innumerable prestigious awards, such as the Research Excellence Award, Teaching Excellence Award, Iowa State University Graduate College Scholarship, National Swine Improvement Federation's Graduate Student Award, and more. Leticia is leaving ISU to University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a Postdoctoral Research Associate.





**2020 - 2021 Iowa State University**  
**Graduate College Research Excellence Award**

*to recognize graduate students for outstanding research accomplishments  
as documented in their theses and dissertations*

**Johana Mayorga**

**Josué Chinchilla-Vargas**

**2020 - 2021 Iowa State University**  
**Graduate College Teaching Excellence Award**

*to recognize and encourage outstanding teaching achievement by  
graduate students*

**Leticia P. Sanglard**



## **Other Awards**

### **Yulu Chen:**

US-Based Early Career Researcher Scholarship for International Conference of Quantitative Genetics, 2020

### **Jian (Mark) Cheng:**

US-Based Early Career Researcher Scholarship for International Conference of Quantitative Genetics, 2020

Print and Grace Powers Hudson Scholarship: Excellence in research, Iowa State Univ., 2020

### **Emma Helm:**

2020 COVID-19 Graduate Student Research Impact Award

### **Amy Petry:**

2021 (March) Stahly/Peo Outstanding Swine Nutrition Graduate Student Award (MW ASAS)

2021 (March) Young Scholar Award (MW ASAS)

2020 (December) Marshall, Graduate College Commencement Exercise

2020 (August) Rising Star in the Swine Industry, National Hog Farmer magazine

2020 (August) Pinnacle Award, International Ingredient Corporation

2020 (June) Up and Coming Leader, Pork Magazine

### **Leticia Sanqlard:**

Animal Science Young Scholar (ASAS Midwest Meeting)

Graduate Student Award, National Swine Improvement Federation

### **Matt Schulte:**

Robert Cassens Scholar Award (2020 - Awarded by the American Meat Science Association) - Awarded to a PhD student to support efforts in completing and communicating research, and establishing a network for their meat science career.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place PhD Research Competition - 2020 International Congress of Meat Science and Technology: Muscle Biology/Fresh Meat Quality division

Paul and Candace Flakoll Scholarship (2020) - Designated for students in the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Science in a graduate program of Animal Science, Food Science or Human Nutrition with a focus on nutrition.

### **Beth Zuber:**

2020 International Congress of Meat Science and Technology MS poster competition, 3<sup>rd</sup> place

The Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University wishes to thank all donors and sponsors for the support of the graduate scholarships.

Thank you to the Animal Science Graduate Affairs Committee, Dr. Thomson (Department chair), and Cory Walker (Cost Center Manager) for their time and effort over the last year in planning, reviewing and coordinating the Animal Science graduate programs and students.

**Graduate Affairs Committee**

Dr. Nicholas Gabler – Director of Graduate Education

Dr. Anna Johnson

Dr. Aileen Keating

Dr. Rodrigo Tarté

Dr. Nick Serão

Dr. Ken Stalder

Rose Mary Ross (Animal Science Graduate Student Services Specialist)