CAWS members had a very productive spring and early Fall, 2016. First, the CAWS 2016 symposium was again well attended. Over 140 participants attended from diverse organizations, including USDA APHIS, Michigan State University, University of Illinois, University of Notre Dame, Cargill, Elanco, Zoetis, Indiana Council for Animal Welfare, the Pet Food Institute, Belstra Milling and many others. Ten CAWS students presented posters. All were recognized for their contributions. CAWS members who organized and led the poster session were Jiqin Ni (Steering Committee), Brianna Gaskill and Audrey Ruple. CAWS members continue to have their work well represented in the media. Bill Muir’s work on genetics associated with animal welfare struck a chord with those concerned about the implications of genetic engineering of animals used for food production and impacts of genetic selection for fast growth. His work in these areas which has been ongoing for two decades received significant media coverage from diverse outlets. Likewise, Maggie O’Haire’s research on human-animal interactions, continues to generate high media and funder interest. Research conducted by Dr. Nicole Widmar on consumer perceptions of animal welfare and corporate social responsibility was also picked up by several ag media sites. Read on to learn more about the impactful work of our members and how well it is resonating publicly.

The first CAWS RFP was released in March, 2016. Six applications were received and three were funded. Congratulations to the inaugural recipients, Drs. Marisa Erasmus, Jiqin Ni and Nicole Widmar! We are excited to offer another opportunity for seed funding in 2017 and hope to see even more applications.

CAWS students continue to shine. The high quality of their work was well represented at the May symposium and at various national conferences at which they presented. See highlights on the Center’s website. Happy holidays and read on for more details about our work!
CAWS Activities and Events

The first awardees of the CAWS RFPs were announced in June 2016. Six applications were received. Recipients of the 2016 awards were

Dr. Marisa Erasmus, Animal Sciences, “Effect of Probiotics on Social Stress-Associated Injurious Pecking Behavior in Laying Hens”

Dr. Nicole Widmar, Agricultural Economics, “Understanding Consumer Perceptions of Dairy Cattle Welfare: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Informing Markets, Technology Adoption, and Food Markets”

Dr. Jiqin Ni, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, “Analysis of sound and activity levels as non-invasive measures of turkey well-being”

External reviewers evaluated the proposals; those reviewers were Todd Callaway (Agricultural Research Service-USDA), Margaret Gruen (North Carolina State University), Joleen Hadrich (Colorado State University), Lisa House (University of Florida), Anna Kate Shoveller (University of Guelph), Yvonne Thaxton (University of Arkansas), and Hongwei Xin (Iowa State University).

Look for information in mid-December about the 2017 RFP process.

CAWS co-sponsored Dr. Raymond Anthony, University of Alaska Anchorage, “Am I really responsible for ensuring a sustainable food future?” as part of the Purdue Lectures in Ethics, Policy, and Science series.

As part of the same lecture series, CAWS also co-sponsored Dr. Gary Varner, Professor of Philosophy at Texas A&M University who spoke on the topic “Ethics and Animal Companions”.

Fei Fei Yan (Animal Sciences), Graduate Student of CAWS member, Heng-Wei Cheng, was recognized as the 2016 Featherston Outstanding PhD Student.

Dr. Amy Bauer (Comparative Pathobiology), postdoctoral scholar with Dr. Croney, won a Best Poster award from the Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine in the Foodborne Agents category for her poster based on her thesis research directed by CAWS member, George Moore. The poster was entitled “The role of species richness in infectious disease studies: A preliminary inquiry based on Coxiella burnetii.”

Dr. Maggie O’Haire received the first Early Career Scholar Award from the International Society for Anthrozoology at their conference in Barcelona. The award is for outstanding scholarly achievement in the field of human-animal interaction.
Grants

Dr. Alan Beck received a grant from George Mason University focusing on extending digital scholarship through a port of the PressForward publishing platform in the amount of $10,000.

Dr. Candace Croney received a grant from the World Pet Association focusing on “Establishing Voluntary Care Standards for Commercial Dog Breeding in Indiana” in the amount of $20,000.

Dr. Brianna Gaskill received a grant from Charles River Laboratories focusing on “Effects of Cage Space on Mouse Behavior” in the amount of $9,978.

Dr. Brianna Gaskill received a grant from the American Association for Lab Animal Science Development focusing on “An Efficient and Effective Protocol for Playfully Handling Rats” in the amount of $21,000.

Dr. Maggie O’Haire received a grant from Elanco Animal Health for “Celebrating the Bond: An Empirical Evaluation of Psychosocial Outcomes from Canine Companionship” in the amount of $639,718.

CAWS Members in the Media


Dr. Alan Beck is in The Punch article “Interacting with pets can lower blood pressure”, by Olufemi Oboye 2/5/2016. www.punchng.com/interacting-with-pets-can-lower-blood-pressure/

Dr. Alan Beck is in the Pacific Standard article “Are pets really good for us?” by Rick Paulas 2/10/2016. The article is also republished in The Weed under the title “Are pets really good for people?” 2/17/2016.

Dr. Alan Beck is in the Parent Herald article “How your pets can make your life better”, by Mark Oliver Rondobio 2/18/2016. http://www.parentherald.com/articles/21382/20160218/pets-make-life-better.htm


Dr. Candace Croney is in the Canadian Cattlemen article “Pointing people in the direction of simple science”, by Brenda Schoepp, 1/14/2016. http://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/2016/01/14/pointing-people-in-the-direction-of-simple-science


Dr. Candace Croney is in the “ohmidog” article “Program works with Amish in southern Indiana to improve breeding conditions”, by John Woesendick, 5/24/2016. www.ohmidog.com/tag/center-for-animal-welfare

Dr. Candace Croney was on WLFI News for the report “Purdue working with dog breeders”, by Brad Oppenheim, 5/25/2016. http://wlfi.com/2016/05/24/purdue-working-with-dog-breeders

Dr. Candace Croney is in the Washington Times Herald article “Purdue center, Amish dog breeders work to create standards,” by the Associated Press, 5/31/2016.

Dr. Brianna Gaskill is quoted in the STAT article “Lab mice have a chill, and that may be messing up study results”, by Ike Swetlitz, April 19, 2016. www.statnews.com/2016/04/19/lab-mice-temperature/

Dr. Brianna Gaskill is in the Slate article “Some animals are more equal than others”, by Daniel Engber, April 11, 2016. www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2016/04/the_animal_welfare_act_may_be_50_but_it_is_still_ignoring_some_of_the_most.html

Dr. Bill Muir (Animal Sciences) was featured on NPR discussing welfare issues pertaining to the debate on fast growing chickens. http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/03/30/472167748/why-whole-foods-wants-a-slower-growing-chicken
Dr. Bill Muir was interviewed by David Sloan Wilson, President of the Evolution Institute, on his program “This View of Life”. When the Strong Outbreed the Weak. https://evolution-institute.org/article/when-the-strong-outbreed-the-weak-an-interview-with-william-muir/

Presentations by CAWS Members

Dr. Candace Croney gave the Elanco Human-Animal Bond lecture “Friends, Family or Food? Factors Shaping Perceptions of Animals and their Welfare Implications” at the Purdue University Veterinary Conference in September, 2016.


Dr. Candace Croney announced the launch of the Canine Care Certification program at the World Pet Association’s SuperZoo trade show in Las Vegas, August, 2016.

Dr. Brianna Gaskill presented a lecture titled “Stressed out! The consequences of environmentally induced stress on mouse models” for the Laboratory Animal Science BioConference Live web conference (February, 2016) that focused on how nests insulate mice from cold laboratory temperatures, reducing thermal stress. Her studies are also referenced in a new edition of a textbook entitled, “Comfortable Quarters for Laboratory Animals”.


Dr. Bill Muir participated in the Purdue Conference Event “Dawn or Doom ’16: Is Technology Moving Faster than our Ability to Understand?” His presentation was titled “The Science and Science Fiction of GMOs: With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility”.

Dr. Maggie O’Haire co-presented a workshop “Overview of a Novel Video Behavioral Coding System for Human-Animal Interaction” at the Purdue University Center for the Human-Animal Bond Conference in November, 2016.

Publications by CAWS Members


Weng, H-Y., Yadav, S., Olynk Widmar, N. J., Ash, M., Cooper, M., and Croney, C. 2016. Modelling the time


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Upcoming Events on Animal Welfare

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 5, 2017</td>
<td>Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) IACUC Training Workshop, College Park, MD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18, 2017</td>
<td>CAWS annual symposium, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19, 2017</td>
<td>Canine Welfare Science Forum, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27-29, 2017</td>
<td>UFAW Measuring animal welfare and applying scientific advances - Why is it still so difficult? University of London, Surrey, UK</td>
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Scenes from the 2016 CAWS Symposium