ADSA® Presidential Report

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ADSA had a very good year in 2014–2015, but with some challenges that will continue. That good year was fueled by several components. First are our members—the volunteers like you who not only make a commitment to serve but follow through with effort and results. But this is also more challenging in some areas; for example, how do we get representation at the Board level to better reflect our current membership demographics? That necessitates finding members able and willing to do the work now required of elected board members, and of board appointees, such as secretary/treasurer, and editor-in-chief. These positions now require more work, making them less of simply a traditional “honor” and résumé item. Next is our only ADSA employee, Executive Director Peter Studney. His experience and expertise over nearly 10 years have brought ADSA to another level of success in many ways. ADSA also utilizes independent contractors, who provide a high level of service: Ken Olson working with S-PAC and in various industry-related areas; Larry Miller with Discover Conferences, Molly Kelley with the Student Affiliate Division (SAD) and Discover Conferences, and Kasey Klein with the Graduate Student Division (GSD). Perhaps least heralded is the work provided by FASS and its employees, including service provided to ADSA by Cara Tharp (meetings and related areas) and Vicki Paden (membership). The FASS staff team works very well together to provide excellent support to our volunteers and to the Association and Foundation.

ADSA Buyout of ASAS and PSA Ownerships in FASS

It is precisely because of the high level of service, deep experience, and cost-effective services provided by FASS that ADSA undertook the buyout of the other 2 founders (“owners” of FASS—the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and the Poultry Science Association (PSA). The specific needs and degrees of reliance on FASS staff had diverged for the mission-critical operations of ASAS, ADSA, and PSA. With ADSA utilizing FASS to the maximum extent possible, in essence as FASS goes, so goes ADSA. When ADSA had the opportunity to buy out the ownership interests of both ASAS and PSA, a due diligence process took place over a period of 7 months that included hiring ADSA’s audit firm to create 3-yr balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow pro formas for the double buyout and, as much as possible, for several other more disruptive/less desirable alternatives to this buyout. I would be remiss in not acknowledging the ongoing interactions and efforts of my counterpart presidents who made this happen—Debra Aaron of ASAS and Todd Applegate of PSA.

Journal of Dairy Science (JDS)

We are now into the second 5-year agreement with Elsevier, which was hired to sell and market JDS worldwide. FASS continues to handle all aspects of editorial and production very efficiently and effectively. This year, JDS will publish over 9,000 pages of scientific content, more than doubling the number of pages over the last 15 years. At the same time that pages have so dramatically increased, the Impact Factor has continued to increase—a dual occurrence that Elsevier finds unique. Again, many people make this happen: the editor-in-chief, FASS editorial and production staff, section editors, reviewers, and those who submit manuscripts for review and publication. Those increased pages published come primarily from authors outside the United States, who contribute 70% of manuscripts published. The composition of the Editorial Board increasingly reflects the countries of origin of those manuscripts. The journal is ranked second of 55 journals in the Agriculture, Dairy, and Animal Science category, with a 2014 Impact Factor of 2.573, and is ranked second (3.071) by 5-year Impact Factor. JDS ranks first by Eigenfactor Score, which removes self-citations, and first by total citations. In the Food Science and Technology category (using the same Impact Factor), JDS ranked 22nd of 123 journals for 2014 Impact Factor and 21st by 5-year Impact Factor. In this category, JDS was ranked third by Eigenfactor Score and by total citations. The ma-
Annual Meeting

At Orlando in July, a record attendance of 3,340 was set for a two-society joint meeting of ADSA and ASAS. Why the continuing growth in attendance at JAM? Here are reasons for attending JAM that I enumerated at the Opening Session in Orlando: presenting scientific research, whether by graduate students or established researchers; attending scientific presentations and interactions with presenters; networking and interacting with former or newer colleagues; learning about products, programs, and services by companies in the exhibit hall; ongoing education in respective areas of expertise; meeting socially with old friends while making new friends; and seeking jobs or employees. Organizing and conducting such a massive program is a major strength of FASS. In July 2014, a 60-page document outlining program chair instructions was developed by FASS and approved by the ADSA Board for the 2015 JAM. Planning the JAM involved over 180 volunteers from both ADSA and ASAS. All of the above captures why ADSA is committed to continuing to work with ASAS to organize and conduct future JAM meetings after 2020; ASAS has committed to meeting separately in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, so ADSA has had to do likewise. From ADSA annual membership surveys and post-JAM surveys, members and JAM attendees tell us they want to continue the JAM as it has been held since 2000.

Professional Membership

Total members have increased 15% over the last 6 years. Over 30% of professional members are from outside the US and Canada. Thus, we are increasingly reflecting those members in various ways: composition of JAM scientific program committees, JDS authors, composition of JDS Editorial Board, recognition of frequent JDS authorship, and ADSA Awardees.

Student Divisions

A record number of university chapters—24—was represented at the 2015 SAD JAM program, which is directly related to having local key faculty advisors. We cannot recognize their efforts too much, and that is how I got started in ADSA over 50 years ago. It is increasingly difficult for undergraduate students to carve out time from summer internships and jobs to attend JAM, but they do it. The majority of SAD members participate in regional SAD meetings and Dairy Challenge programs. Information about SAD programs and activities can be found at their website: http://www.adsa.org/Membership/StudentResources/StudentAffiliateDivision.aspx.

DISCOVER Conferences

A major milestone was reached when the 30th DISCOVER Conference, Creating an Enduring US Dairy Production Sector, was held on November 2–5, 2015. The unique discussion format on a single topic continues to attract more attendees than can be accommodated without diminishing the discussion format. Attendees come from many US states and other countries and represent a mix of academic, industry, consultants, and others.

S-PAC

In its 10th year, S-PAC continues to grow, with 529 proceedings from 57 conferences now in the database. Two conferences and 20 proceedings have been added since December 2014, with others on the way. Seeking to expand the scope of our offerings, emphasis is now on additional Spanish language and dairy foods proceedings.

ADSA Foundation

The major ADSA Foundation project instituted was a comprehensive revision of the nearly 25-year-old Large Dairy Herd Management book. The third edition will be an e-book to facilitate more frequent future updates of what has become a worldwide reference utilized by a variety of users in many ways. A conference will be held from May 1–4, 2016, to unveil chapters and content for attendees. Dave Beede is leading the joint conference and e-book effort. Make plans to attend this landmark conference now; registration is open: http://www.adsa.org/Meetings/LargeDairyHerdManagement.aspx.

Financial Status

At the end of 2014, ADSA’s total assets were just under $10 million, with total net assets of $9.3 million. Most of these funds are in the JDS Endowment Fund. As the original goal of $8 million nears, we have under-
taken a current review of the original financial projections, such as a 5% return on investment, to ascertain the best mix of investments and returns into the future. The objective of the endowment fund is to provide investment income to replace member page charges for publishing in JDS. The ADSA Foundation investments continue to do well. The FASS buyout was financed with a very low cost, low risk, simple leveraged process, and will be fully repaid by FASS over time as they enter a new phase of development and growth.

Continued ADSA membership commitment and participation will be a major factor in how ADSA continues to fare in the future. If you have comments on ADSA issues, please let me know at andhil@swbell.net.