



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

WELCOME

F. Douglas Reed, Director, Race Track Industry Program
Robert Collier, Head, Department of Animal Sciences

MR. DOUG REED: Thank you. Welcome first of all to the 32nd Annual Symposium. It's hard to believe. Those numbers seem to go by faster and faster; 32. Starting to date myself.

But it's good to be here again my first note would be to apologize to all of you for the weather this week, and make my apologies to you. But it is winter, so please excuse me. You should be able to accept that.

(Chuckles)

Next thing I'd like to do is — and I'm very proud to do this — is to introduce my boss. We all have bosses. Well, almost all of us. Jim Bouley down there, who's been our court reporter for years, is probably the only one in here that doesn't have a boss, he does whatever he wants. And I'll warn the speakers, he will make up whatever he wants to make up, so what you say might not be what's in the transcripts.

MR. KARL GAGESCH: He's already warned us about that.

MR. REED: But you might be jealous. My boss, he's never around, lets me do whatever I want. So you can be a little jealous. I probably have the best boss there is in the world. And of course I say that sarcastically.

He is a great boss, and probably most importantly in a university or academic setting, the Race Track Industry Program, it's probably important to have an advocate, and he certainly is that. He's a very strong supporter of our program within the university world, and certainly provides support, protection and all those other things for the Race Track Industry Program.

So please help me welcome Dr. Bob Collier, our department head.

(Applause)

DR. ROBERT COLLIER: Thank you, Doug. And on behalf of the Animal Sciences Department I want to welcome all the attendees to the 32nd Annual Symposium.

The Race Track Program is a very important component of the Animal Sciences Department, having produced over 400 graduates now; they represent about a third of our undergraduate student population which totals around 160 students in Animal Science.

This program is internationally recognized for the quality of not only the faculty but the students and the quality of the students that leave this program.

I want to encourage everyone to go through and read the profiles of the students who participate in the Race Track Program. You'll find some really interesting people become part of this program and go on and become leaders in the industry.

In fact, Dorothee Kieckhefer, one of our undergraduates, is not only the outstanding senior for the department this graduation, but for the College of Agriculture as a whole. So it just underscores the quality of the students who are part of the Race Track Program.

You have a great program outlined again by the Race Track faculty, and also an eminent group of speakers, so I know it's going to be a great week for everyone.

I hope you enjoy the weather. Doug was apologizing; I think the high in the Midwest is lower than our low — or our low today was going to be not as good as their high in — I think it was going to be 10 degrees across most of the Midwest for a high. I think this afternoon will be in the mid-60s. So it's not going to be that bad here in Southern Arizona.

Welcome to everyone. And I'll turn the program back over to Doug. Hope you have a good week.

(Applause)

MR. REED: Thank you, Dr. Collier. And thank you for recognizing the students. And that's the main reason we're all here.

To get things started, one organization I'd like to recognize, not a sponsor but a partner — I call them our gaming content partner — the Innovation Group this year has partnered with us. Steve Rittvo is with us, and his crew. We appreciate their help. They've been very instrumental in conjunction with the gaming content of this conference, so we thank the Innovation Group for their help.

I'd also like to introduce the staff of the Race Track Program. This conference takes a lot of work and it's not a lot of people, but certainly they do a tremendous job; the faculty, students and staff. Dr. Ron Allen, Wendy Davis, Steve Barham, the faculty.

This doesn't just happen overnight, it's a long-range project for us with teaching being our number one job. I always kid that this is our night job and takes a lot of planning in the summer and that sort of thing. So it's not something that we throw together overnight, and sometimes things are planned well ahead of time.

So if you want to help or have suggestions for future years, try to think on our calendar line if you can; it would be helpful. Give us a holler in the summer, not two weeks before the event starts.

Are there any students here? If any students of the Program are here — they're all out working usually this first session because there's so many people registering. But I want to say something besides what Dr. Collier said about our students, and I think I speak on behalf of the other faculty.

We always have great students, but this year and last year have been particularly fun. And the faculty has talked amongst ourselves about that. It's really fun right now, the group we have. They're energetic, the diversity of the group is phenomenal, and I mean that in all ways.

It's a very diverse group from, I think, 18 to 60; we've got just about every nationality right now as students, and international too.

It's really a fun group, an inquisitive group. I barely — probably didn't get through my material this semester because I had so many questions in class. They are an energetic group, and it's nice to see it skewed a little younger too, which is interesting. And I feel, although anecdotal, very positive for the industry that we're getting skewed a little younger in the students. So I think that's something that hopefully all of you can capitalize on too. Because I think we need to have diversified work forces to attract a diversified clientele. So please give a round of applause to our students.

And also I forgot — I'm sorry — Betty Prewitt and Denise Pharris, our executive staff, administrative staff; so please give them all a round of applause.