ENDOWMENT PURPOSE
The Sesnon Endowed Chair in Animal Science was established through a property gift made by Porter Sesnon, Barbara Sesnon Cartan, and William T. Sesnon, Jr. The Sesnon family conveyed their Paiute Meadows Ranch in Humbolt County, Nevada, to the Cal Aggie Foundation, which managed the property pursuant to the terms of the gift deed. When the ranch was sold, a large portion of the proceeds, totaling almost $1.3M, was allocated to the Department of Animal Science to endow the chair.

RESEARCH
The main objective of my research program is to understand the fundamental principles of sustainable animal agriculture focusing on environmental sustainability and quantification of variables important to sustainability. The funds from the Sesnon Endowed Chair has allowed me to engage on several topics related to sustainability, including: (1) funding a post-doctoral fellow to work on impact of mitigation options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally and holistic assessment of where attention should be focused; and (2) providing outreach and intellectual leadership for various governmental institutions and other stakeholders including international programs.

TEACHING
I teach two undergraduate courses and one graduate level course, annually. I developed a new undergraduate course, "ANS 112 - Sustainable Animal Agriculture", which is part of the required set of courses for the college major in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems and has a wide appeal across campus. Student numbers have been growing year on year. I contribute to the IAD 10 (introduction to international agricultural development) class that has over 50 students on sustainable animal agriculture. I serve as major professor or co-advisor to 6 graduate students. I also trained 3 post-doctoral fellows.
and 1 project scientist. In addition, 14 visiting scientists were trained in my lab. Part of the endowment is used to support graduate students, particularly in the summer.

OUTREACH

I consider service and outreach to be an integral part of my appointment. I serve on numerous departmental and campus committees. Professionally, I frequently provide reviews of manuscripts, serve as an invited reviewer for promotion and tenure decisions, and as an external examiner on dissertation defenses at other universities. Recently, I was appointed to serve on the National Research Committee to update nutrition requirements for dairy by National Academy of Sciences. The endowment provides support for travel engagements, visiting stakeholders and professional organizations.

STUDENTS

The following students received some support from the Sesnon Endowment:
Holland Dougherty—Working on modeling sustainable beef production. She is almost done developing a model.

Luis Moraes—Developed energy partitioning model in lactating dairy cows, which will be published in peer review journal soon.

NEW AND UNIQUE ENDOWMENT USE

The endowment had allowed me to undertake modeling work that would not be funded otherwise. Four years of work in energetics has resulted in being appointed to serve on the highly prestigious committee that updates the nutrient requirement of dairy cattle (last one was in 2011). Members are selected out of thousands of researchers in the US and Canada through an extensive consultation process by the National Academy of Sciences.

LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL FUNDING

At the moment, I’m writing a grant proposal worth $4 million by leveraging the work that was funded through the endowment.

THANKS

The Sesnon endowment is very much appreciated for funding research at both basic and applied levels that may be high risk, but high return, as well. The research conducted is beneficial to the state, nation and worldwide. The continued support is appreciated as we try to come up with innovative ideas to sustainably feed the world.