



The Holiday Season is one of excitement – a time for reflection. As I look back at the past year, it is clear that the Department continues to grow and “accelerate”; accelerate in a way where more is being done by faculty, students, and staff. And, what is being done is occurring at a remarkably high level that is being recognized nationally and internationally. Much of this is captured in this issue of Hoofprints.

Our undergraduate major is thriving and continues to be the most popular (based on size) in the College. We have expanded our equine science program, added courses to our small animal science course portfolio, and remodeled our biotechnology teaching program. As you will read herein, our judging teams have excelled! Our four undergraduate student clubs are highly accomplished and, in my opinion, are at the “top of the stack” nationally. This all resonates in a way that is most positive for our marketing efforts. I spend a lot of time engaged in “branding” activities-- that is, promoting the Department activities, and the incredible portfolio of teaching, research and extension programs that we conduct. All of these programs occur as the result of the incredibly hard work the Department employees put forward. I am fortunate to be able to work with a very, very dedicated and talented cohort of colleagues!

The Holiday season is a special time of the year to celebrate. I encourage you to enter the New Year eager to pursue all that is possible in a way that moves society forward in a positive manner.

Happy Holidays!

*Terry D. Etherton
Department Head and
Distinguished Professor of Animal Nutrition*

Graduate student news

In July, Krupali Patel and Dana Pape Zambito, advisees of Ron Kensinger, defended their theses.

Neil Brown, advisee of Gabriella Varga, defended his dissertation in August.

Comings and goings

Dr. Burt Staniar joined the department in August as an assistant professor of equine science.

Dr. Ron Kensinger has accepted the position as Head of the Department of Animal Science at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He leaves Penn State after 25 years of service. The Department hosted a reception for Ron on December 7.

Rich Stup will be leaving the Department of Dairy and Animal Science to start a new position on January 2, 2008 as branch manager of the Susquehanna Valley office of AgChoice Farm Credit.

Melissa Oatley is a new support staff member, working with Jon Oatley.

Paula Morgan filled the staff assistant position vacated by Carol Ertley in July.

Yang Yang is a new post-doc in Wansheng Liu’s lab. She received her Ph. D. from China Agricultural University last summer.

Suzie Reding is a new graduate student working with Jon Oatley.

Awards and honors

Ronald Kensinger was selected as a 2007 recipient of the "Community of Teaching Excellence" award in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Ron Kensinger and Jud Heinrichs were among 26 faculty and staff in the College of Ag Sciences who were honored in November at the Nittany Lion Inn for their 25 years of service to The Pennsylvania State University.

E. Scott McAllister, VMD, received the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program Outstanding Service Award. He is the owner of Centre Equine Practice in Centre Hall, Pennsylvania. He has provided veterinary care for horses in several counties for over 25 years. A passionate and dedicated supporter of the 4-H Horse Program, Scott has served as the state show veterinarian since 1985. He has been the veterinary judge for the state 4-H competitive trail ride since 1988 and is involved with numerous Penn State and 4-H activities.

Scott also is an active volunteer for the Penn State Stockmen's Club, the College's Alumni Society Board of Directors, the Department's Equine Science Program, Agricultural Council, and other university activities. He is an enthusiastic Penn State alumnus and maintains a strong commitment to give back to the university without any expectation of recognition.

Scott freely shares his time and expertise to educate youth and promote excellence in the 4-H Horse Program. Everyone involved in the Program are fortunate to have his involvement and willingness to donate many long hours.

Four Animal Sciences majors were among eight Penn State students have been selected as College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society 2007 Internship Award winners. The award, which includes a \$750 stipend, was established to encourage students to enroll in internship courses offered within the College of Agricultural Sciences. Winners are chosen on the basis of an internship plan, a final report on the internship, an employer evaluation and a letter of recommendation from

the internship course supervisor. The Animal Sciences recipients were:

Brynn Kepler, daughter of Nancy and Lindsay Deppen and David Kepler of Herndon. An Animal Sciences major, Kepler was an intern with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg. She is a graduate of Line Mountain High School.

Renee Norman, daughter of David and Aggie Norman of Liberty. An Animal Sciences major with a Business Management option, Norman was an intern with Ag Choice Farm Credit - Endless Mountains branch in Towanda. She is a graduate of Liberty Junior/Senior High School.

Levi Smith, son of Ron and Anita Smith of Shippenburg. An Animal Sciences major, Smith was an intern with Rawah Wilderness Ranch in Jelm, WY. He is a graduate of Big Spring High School.

Robyn K. Wirth, daughter of James and Darlene Wirth of Orefield. An Animal Sciences major, Wirth was an intern with Bell and Evans in Fredericksburg. She is a graduate of Northwestern Lehigh High School.

Awards were presented at the department's holiday luncheon held on December 19. Randy Swope received the Outstanding Staff Member Award. Kyle Grim received the Vern Hazlett Outstanding Student Worker Award. Service awards were presented to Pete LeVan (30 years), Ron Kensinger and Jud Heinrichs (25 years), John Comerford and Bill Weaver (20 years), Lisa Holden (15 years), Travis Edwards (5 years).

Stockmen's Club and Dairymen's Club

The first Dairy and Animal Science Football Tailgate, sponsored cooperatively by the Penn State Dairymen's Club and the Penn State Stockmen's Club, was held before the Wisconsin game

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in October. There were 270 people, including 40 Wisconsin ag alumni in attendance. The clubs are considering holding a similar tailgate again next year. Club members will have preference for game tickets.

The Stockmen's Club was recognized at the College of Ag Sciences Scholarship Banquet for having two endowments, the Glenn R. Kean and the Vern Hazlett reach the 10-year anniversary. Their winter business meeting will be held January 5, 2008 at the Harrisburg Holiday Inn East at 7:00 pm, with a social hour at 6:00. For more information, please contact Jana Peters at 814-863-4198 or jpeters@das.psu.edu.

Judging teams

Livestock

The Penn State Livestock Judging Team recently completed a successful fall season. They won one contest and had two team members win high individual in two of the five contests they competed in. Team members were Nichole Fogleman, Kyle Grim, Russell Larson, Deborah McAllister, and Amber Shollenberger.

At the Eastern National Livestock Judging Contest, Debbie McAllister had an outstanding day earning high individual in cattle, 2nd in reasons and swine, and 3rd in sheep on her way to high individual overall in the contest.

Debbie's win marked the third year in a row that a PSU member has won high individual at this contest. The team then won the livestock judging contest at K.I.L.E. for the second year in a row as they beat out teams from the University of Illinois, Ohio State University, University of Tennessee, Middle Tennessee State University and West Virginia University.

Penn State was high team in beef cattle for the 3rd year in a row. They were also high team in sheep and second in swine and reasons. The team had an especially consistent day as each member excelled in multiple categories. Nichole won high individual overall in the contest. She was 4th in

cattle and reasons, 7th swine, and 5th in sheep. Amber finished 2nd overall, 5th in cattle, 10th in swine, and 4th in sheep. Debbie finished 5th overall, 8th in cattle, 2nd in swine, and 7th in reasons. Kyle was 10th overall and 6th in cattle. Russell won high individual in sheep and was 6th in reasons. The team turned in another strong performance at the Stockman's Contest held in Frankfort, Indiana.

They took part in a mock contest at Purdue University on Friday and then competed in the Stockman's Contest held on Saturday. This contest awards individuals only, with no team awards.

However as a team they stacked up very well against the competition. Nichole Fogleman was 7th in cattle, 10th in swine and 9th overall. Debbie McAllister was 4th in swine. The team then competed at the American Royal Contest in Kansas City, MO and the North American International Livestock Expo, which is the national contest, held in Louisville, KY. The American Royal had 23 teams and 115 contestants and the National Contest had 26 teams and 130 individuals. Both contests were highly competitive.

The Penn State team finished a respectable 12th in swine at both contests. At the Royal, Nichole was the high member on the team with Russell and Debbie in the top 25 in sheep and swine, respectively. At the National Contest Amber was the high PSU member. Debbie, Amber, and Nichole finished in the top 25 percent in swine reasons, cattle, and cattle reasons respectively.

Dairy

The Penn State Dairy Cattle Judging Team had a great season this fall. Team members include Charlene Barlieb, Pen Argyll; Trisha Knight, Airville; Turner Swartz, Port Royal; and David Wilson, Port Royal. At the All-American Invitational Contest in Harrisburg, the team ranked first for oral reasons, Holsteins, and Guernseys on their way to a sixth-place overall finish.

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Individually, Turner Swartz was high individual for Guernseys and placed third in Holsteins. Knight placed third in oral reasons, fourth in Holsteins and Guernseys, and fifth in Ayrshires, while Wilson placed third in Guernseys. Nineteen schools participated in the contest. At Eastern States Exposition, the team placed first for Jerseys and Milking Shorthorns and third in oral reasons. Barlieb placed fourth overall, and Wilson was high individual for Milking Shorthorns.

The Penn State dairy judging team had a terrific day at the World Dairy Expo! They were the top team overall by a large margin (over 20 teams participated). They also were 1st in reasons, 1st in Ayrshires, Brown Swiss and Jerseys, and top five for the remaining four breeds. Charlene Barlieb was the high individual and top in reasons, Trisha Knight was 2nd place and 2nd in reasons, Turner Swartz was 9th, and Dave Wilson was 13th and 10th in reasons.

The PA 4-H team was 9th out of 30 teams and Ben Cashell (PSU freshman) was 14th.

Student clubs

Collegiate Horsemen At Penn State (CHAPS)

CHAPS had an exciting fall semester, and is looking forward to a busy spring. This fall, CHAPS participated in Penn State's Homecoming parade. Members walked and rode through the parade route, and the horses were a bit hit with the crowd. In addition to the parade, CHAPS also held our annual hayride and bonfire for members and friends.

CHAPS also has been busy with fundraising. They helped the Penn State Equestrian Team run their concession stand at each home football game, and assisted at a competitive trail ride. This spring, they are looking forward to attending the American Collegiate Horsemen's Association national convention in Aiken, South Carolina.

Block and Bridle

Penn State Block and Bridle club attended their National Convention October 17-21 in Kansas City, Missouri hosted by Kansas State and Fort Hays State. Nineteen students accompanied by Adviser Dan Kniffen participated in one of the nine available industry tours.

In addition, a series of thought provoking industry seminars were presented to challenge the participants to become engage in agriculture. During the award breakfast, the Penn State chapter was recognized for several projects selected from more than 35 schools present.

The club activity report placed second in the nation, the yearbook and the scrapbook each placed fifth, and Kyle Grim was selected as the second place outstanding Junior in the nation. Please congratulate all the club members for the positive recognition for The College of Agriculture.

Dairy Science Club

Congratulations to the Dairy Science Club for their achievements at the ADSA Student Affiliate Division meetings held in San Antonio. Here are the results:

- First place in Outstanding Chapter, Yearbook, Scrapbook (coordinated by Sarah Tuttle), Digital Yearbook, Website
- First place presentation in Production Division (Steve Miller) and Dairy Foods Division (Genny Christ)
- Third place presentation, Original Research Division (Emily Yeiser), and Outstanding ADSA Student Affiliate Student—(Emily Yeiser).

Renee Norman completed her term as Secretary/Treasurer and was elected Second VP for this year. The quiz bowl team of Brent Schuler, Margi White, Jared Daubert, and Dave Wilson won first place.

Alumni news

Leslie Firth and Candace Croney were honored in October as Outstanding Alumni of the College.

Firth, who also was named the 2004 Penn State Animal Science Distinguished Alumnus, served for 37 years as a senior extension agent and county extension director for Penn State Cooperative Extension in Mercer County.

Firth, who received his bachelor's degree in 1958 and master's degree in 1961, also pioneered the Pennsylvania Dairy Management and Profitability Program from 1990 to 1996 and worked as an extension agricultural economist in Poland on a Polish-American extension project.

Candace Croney, associate professor of animal science at Oregon State University, was awarded the Outstanding New Professor Award from the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State in 2003. That same year, she was also a recipient of the Humane Society of the United States Animals and Society Teaching Award.

Croney earned her master's and doctoral degrees in animal sciences from Penn State after completing her undergraduate education at Cook College of Rutgers University. While a student at Penn State, Croney worked as a graduate research assistant for the Department of Dairy and Animal Science.

Walter Wurster, class of 1956, Dairy Farmer and Educator, was honored in November during the Nittany Lion Fall Classic as the 2007 Distinguished Dairy Science Alumnus. Walter B. Wurster, a retired dairy farmer and Chester County Extension Agent, was named the 2007 Penn State DAS Dairy Science Distinguished Alumnus.

A 1956 dairy science graduate, Wurster was recognized at the Nittany Lion Fall Classic on November 10. Although he was born and raised in South Philadelphia, the son of a candy maker, Wurster chose to study dairy science at Penn

State. While there, he was inducted into Phi Eta Sigma, freshman honorary; The Coaly Society; and Phi Kappa Phi. He was a member of Delta Theta Sigma fraternity, the 1954 Dairy Judging Team and Penn State Farmer magazine. In 1954 he was Reserve Champion Fitter of the Dairy Expo.

At his graduation, he was a Student Marshall for the College of Agriculture, and had earned a commission in the Army and the Distinguished Military Student Award.

Upon his discharge from the Army, he worked at the Herb Gans Farm and as a herdsman at Ardrossan Farms.

By 1958 he rented his father-in-law's farm in Collegetown, and under his tutelage, Wurster learned the practical knowledge needed to operate a farm. He and his wife Nancy purchased a 132-acre farm in Bedminster Twp., Bucks County - Holly Hill Farm.

Over the next 28 years, he increased the herd from 40 Registered Ayrshires to 120 Registered Holsteins and farmed 300 acres. The herd had top production, 4-H show champions and registered cattle sales.

His sons, David (Ag Ec '80) and Tom (Ag Eng '85) were involved with the farm at an early age, and David took over the farming operation in 1988.

Active in the PA Farmers Association, Wurster was a state director and treasurer for the PA Holstein Association. He was named a Master Farmer in 1984.

He worked for seven years as a Penn State Extension Agent in Chester County with responsibilities in dairy, agronomy, water quality and 4-H, and he was superintendent of the PA Junior Dairy Management Contest for seven years.

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When Chester County faced reassessment, Wurster developed a computer program that placed an agricultural value on each individual soil type in the county to create a farm's assessment under the Clean and Green Act.

Upon its implementation by the county, the calculations protected farmland from huge tax increases based on development value. In 1996, he placed his own farm in the PA Farmland Preservation program and sold it to a local farmer so it remains an active dairy farm.

Always a community leader, he worked to secure tax relief for Bucks County farmers in the early 1970's under Act 515. In 1979 he was elected to the Pennridge School Board and served 16 years - four years as President.

He was on the local technical school board of directors for 15 years. As 4-H leaders, he and his wife led the Unami 4-H Club that grew to 125 youth over an eight-year period.

Currently, Wurster serves as treasurer for the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, the oldest agricultural society in America, founded in 1785.

After his wife Nancy died in 1989, he married Jean Phillips and today they enjoy spending time with their nine grandchildren, delivering Meals on Wheels, volunteering at the Dublin Fire Co. and traveling.

Still busy, he serves on the township zoning board, is an election official and helps his son who owns and operates the Dublin Agway store.

Hoofprints is edited by Dr. Daniel Hagen, Hoofprints brings you up to date on the recent notable activities of the faculty and staff of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science.

To see an online version of this newsletter go to das.psu.edu/hoofprints.

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