



January 2009

From Terry Etherton

As I write this article on a blustery November day, I am reflecting on three events that recently occurred on campus that merit celebration and illustrate the legacy of the Department.



On November 18, the Stockmen's Club and Dairymen's Club celebrated their 2nd Annual Dairy and Animal Science Alumni Tailgate at the Ag Arena. We had a big crowd, lots of fun, and a silent auction to support our scholarship program...it was a great success!

The Dairy Science Club, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, hosted the 25th Annual Nittany Lion Fall Classic sale on November 8. A huge crowd of buyers celebrated the silver anniversary of our sale.

This speaks volumes about the value of the sale to the dairy industry, the legacy of how a great idea can last for a long time, and provide a terrific learning experience for our students.

Speaking of a long-term legacy, we had an Angus Production sale on November 7 to celebrate the fact that the Department has had an Angus herd for 97 years! There are only 10 other Angus farms/ranches in the United States that have been around this long or longer. The sale was part of a merchandising class – another great learning experience for our students, and the sale was successful!

These events represent different ideas that were launched over a span of almost a century! I have come to appreciate that building a legacy takes place step-by-step, and over time. In June Ken Snyder filled the barnworker/milker position vacated by the retirement of Steve Miller.

The great success the Department has had in building legacies over the decades reflects the hard work of countless talented employees – present and past!

This issue of *Hoofprints* presents recent happenings in the Department, and how we serve the greater good and continue to grow our legacy.

All the best for a Happy New Year!

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

Comings and Goings

❖ **Christopher Raines** has joined the department as an assistant professor in the meats area. He moved to this area from Kansas State University, where he recently completed his Ph.D.

❖ **Cathy Walker** is our new staff assistant, serving as receptionist in 324 Henning.

❖ **Paul Wangsness**, former department head, retired at the end of June after 37 years of service to Penn State. Paul continues part-time in his role as senior associate dean while the search to fill that position is conducted.

A reception was held on December 19 to honor Paul for his years of service to the department and college.

❖ **Lewis (Lew) Trumble and Bethany Bickel** joined the department as Equine Extension Associates on September 1.

Trumble and Bickel have multicounty responsibilities, and assist our state equine extension specialist Pat Comerford and 4-H Horse Program Development Committee in providing support to county extension educators and volunteers for 4-H Horse Program development at the county, regional, and district levels.

Lew provides support for counties in the western half of the state, including counties in 4-H Horse Districts 1-6. Bethany works in eastern counties, 4-H Horse Districts 7-11.

A list of counties in each district is available on the 4-H Horse Program Web site at das.psu.edu/pdf/districts.pdf.



Awards and Honors

❖ **Larry Specht**, Professor Emeritus, was honored as a National Dairy Shrine Living Pioneer at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI in October. The shrine recognizes more than 11,000 individuals who have contributed to the shrine's goals.

❖ In October, **Harold Harpster** was named to the Pennsylvania Livestock Association Hall of Fame during the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg for his contributions to animal agriculture.

❖ **Hannah Atkins**, Animal Science major and Poultry and Avian Science minor, has been awarded one of four national scholarships from the National Poultry Food and Distributors Association.

❖ **Amy Pyle** and **Bill Weaver** were honored by the College for 25 years of service to the University in November.

❖ At the holiday luncheon on December 17, **Lori Bardine** received the 2008 Outstanding Student Barn Worker, Vern Hazlett Award, and **Nadine Houck** received the 2008 Outstanding Staff Member Award. Service awards were presented to **Chad Dechow**, **Chris Grant**, **Nadine Houck**, **Jason Monn**, and **Michele Moyer** (5 yr); **Robert Mikesell** (10 yr); **Brian Egan**, **Virginia Ishler**, and **Edward Mills** (20 yr); **Amy Pyle** (25 yr); **Vivian Baumer**, **Eugene Corl**, and **Dan Hagen** (30 yr); and **Harold Harpster** (35 yr).

Undergraduate Programs

The Equine Science Minor, begun in 2002, continues to grow in enrollment. Currently, 49 students are enrolled, and 41 students below 4th semester standing have expressed intent to enroll. Approximately one-half of the students in the minor are majoring in Animal Sciences.

This provides us with a public relations opportunity to expose students to the science and management principles that students in the Animal Sciences major experience. Plans have been made to evaluate the minor by conducting a survey of graduates in the near future. Alumni of the Equine Science minor are asked to contact **Karen Vines** at kvines@psu.edu about this survey.

Faculty News

Burt Staniar, Assistant Professor of Equine Science, lectured on Care and Nutrition of the Young Growing Horse at the Southern Maryland Conference on Equine Nutrition. He also gave a talk on equine nutrition and gastrointestinal physiology at Wiscoy Pet Store in State College.

Extension Programs

Ken Kephart and **Chet Hughes**, interim extension director in Lancaster County, co-authored "Assessment of Producer Implementation of Pork Quality Assurance Good Production Practices." The article reports on a study that examined the adoption of best-management practices by producers.

John Comerford recently presented an invited paper on "Biofuel Production and Intensive Livestock Production in the US" to the British Society of Animal Science in England. He also presented a lecture and toured the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute Centers in Northern Ireland. High feed-grain prices and the growing interest in "natural" foods have spurred both consumers and farmers to consider grass-fed beef, and a recent study done by Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences researchers may reinforce this trend. Read the full story at live.psu.edu/story/33769/nw1.

Graduate Student News

❖ **Jorge Elizondo-Salazar** completed his Ph.D. and is now on the faculty of Animal Sciences at the University of Costa Rica.

❖ Congratulations to **Brian House** on successfully completing his M.S. defense.

❖ **Gustavo Lascano**, Ph.D. candidate in Animal Science, is on international graduate study leave. He spent the fall semester at the Lethridge Research Centre in Alberta, Canada, to be followed by three months at Zamarana University in Honduras, three months at Wageningen University in The Netherlands, and a 2-month stay at the University of Bologna, Italy. His focus is dairy heifer nutrition.

❖ **Geoff Zanton**, Ph.D. advisee of Jud Heinrichs, successfully defended his dissertation in November.



January 2009

Alumni News



Paul R. Shellenberger, Professor emeritus of Dairy Science, was recognized as the 2008 Dairy Science Distinguished Alumnus on November 7.

Shellenberger received His B.S. from Penn State in 1957 in dairy science-production and his M.S. in 1959.

He earned his Ph.D. in animal nutrition in 1964 from Iowa State University. Shellenberger's contributions to the Department through his outstanding teaching and advising more than 7,000 students during his time at Penn State has had a lasting impact on the department's teaching and advising program.

Paul joined the Dairy Science faculty in 1967 after serving the Texas Agricultural Extension Service as a dairy specialist for two and a half years. In that position, he worked with County Agricultural Extension Agents and their program committees in a 29-county area of north Texas.

His college teaching career began at Tarleton State College, where he taught introductory courses in dairy science and agricultural economics and served as a student adviser.

He has received several awards for his teaching and work with advising. Those awards include The Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching (1975), the Ralston Purina Teaching Award (1983), the Golden Key National Honor Society Outstanding Faculty Award (1983), the AMOCO Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching Performance (1985), the Undergraduate Student Government's Excellence in Advising Award (1991), the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award (1996) and the Excellence in Advising Award presented by the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society (1996).

The Dairy Science Club named him dedicatee for the Dairy Expo in 1986. He was named the dedicatee by the Block and Bridle Club for the Little International Livestock Show in 1988 and again in 1997.

He was recognized by Delta Theta Sigma fraternity with their Alumni Service Award in 1989. Shellenberger cofounded the Penn State Dairyman's Club with the late Gus Branding in 1977.

Through his encouragement of several female students in the College, a chapter of Sigma Alpha (Sisters in Agriculture) was established in 1989.

He was a member of the American Dairy Science Association, the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, the American Society of Animal Science, Dairy Shrine and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology.

Shellenberger represented the College faculty on the University Faculty Senate for 20 years, serving as secretary, member or chair of several key committee. He served as Marshall at the College's commencement programs for many years.

A native of Dover, Pennsylvania, Shellenberger is a graduate of Dover Area High School. He retired in 1997 and enjoys spending time with his wife Joan, and their two grown children and their families. Paul and Joan currently reside in Franklin, Indiana.

In November, **Donald Orr**, president of JBS United, Inc., was recognized as the College's 2008 Outstanding Alumnus.

Dana Putnam, vice president and general manager of animal nutrition and health for the Balchem Corporation, was recognized as the College's 2008 Outstanding Recent Alumnus in November.

The **Stockmen's Club** continues to raise funds for its undergraduate scholarship endowments. The silent auction held at the DAS Tailgate on November 15 raised \$1,927 for the Club's Memorial Award for Freshmen Students.

Continued on Page 4



Donations made payable to Penn State may be mailed to the College of Ag Sciences, Ag Development Office, 232 Ag Administration Bldg. University Park, PA 16802. Note on the memo line: "PSSC Freshmen Award." The Club's next event is the Annual Business Meeting on January 10, 2009 at the Harrisburg East Holiday Inn. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.

About 230 people attended the Dairymen's and Stockmen's Clubs' **Second Annual Football Tailgate** on November 15 prior to the Indiana game. A TV broadcast of the game allowed those without tickets or who wanted to avoid the rainy day view the game from the comfort of the indoors. Next year's tailgate is planned for September 26 (Penn State vs. Iowa). For more information about the Stockmen's and Dairymen's clubs, see das.psu.edu/stockmen and das.psu.edu/dairymen.

Judging Teams

The **Horse Judging Team** was 7th overall at the judging contest of the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. In the Senior Division, **Cayce Walter**, an Animal Sciences major, was high individual overall, 2nd high individual in halter, 4th in oral reasons, and 8th in performance.

Other team members were **Erin Gray**, **Hillary Grube**, **Danielle Peters**, and **Kristina Pry**. In the Senior Division, Pry was 9th high individual in halter, with the team placing 5th.

Hillary Grube was 18th high individual in performance, with the team placing 6th. The team also placed 8th in oral reasons. Animal Sciences students **Constance Anderson**, **Krystal Miller**, and **Elaina Rader**, competed in the Junior Collegiate Division. Miller was 12th in halter, 15th in reasons and 18th overall. Rader was 13th in halter, 21st in performance, 24th in reasons and 15th overall. Anderson was 24th in halter, 23rd in reasons and 20th overall.

Ten teams competed in that division. The Senior team competed at the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Contest and the AQHA World Championship Show Horse Judging Contest in November in Oklahoma City, placing 12th in Halter, 10th in Performance, 10th in Reasons, and 11th overall.



Penn State Livestock Judging Team at the All-East Contest. Left to Right: Coach Wendall Landis, Rick Jones, Mike Woods, Chris Molinaro, Chrissy Chyko, Alison Walker, Chris Davis, Ashley Ruscio, Tiffany Dean, Adam Zurin

The **Livestock Judging Team** successfully competed in 5 contests this fall.

Team members **Chrissy Chyko**, **Chris Davis**, **Tiffany Dean**, **Chris Molinaro**, **Alison Walker**, **Mike Woods**, and **Adam Zurin** competed at Eastern National in Timonium, MD, K.I.L.E in Harrisburg, Stockman's Contest in Frankfurt, IN, American Royal in Kansas City, MO, and the North American International in Louisville, KY.

At Eastern National, the team competed against 4 other Universities. Chris Molinaro won high individual overall, and Adam Zurin was third overall.

The team finished second overall. Molinaro was the 5th consecutive Penn State team member to win high individual at this contest in the last 5 years.

The team finished first in swine, second in sheep, and second in reasons.

In addition to high individual overall, Molinaro was high individual in swine, and fifth in reasons. Zurin was high individual in sheep, and fourth in swine. Tiffany Dean was high individual in oral reasons.

Continued on Page 5



At K.I.L.E they won high team overall for the third year in a row while competing against Virginia Tech, Ohio State University, Michigan State University, and Delaware Valley College. They were also high team in cattle, swine, and reasons. Adam Zurin won the contest and was second in cattle and high individual in swine, sheep, and reasons. Tiffany Dean was high individual in cattle, 2nd in swine, 5th reasons, and 4th overall. Mike Woods was 2nd in sheep, 10th in swine, and 6th overall.

Chris Molinaro was 7th in swine, 10th in reasons, and 11th overall. At the American Royal in Kansas City, Zurin finished 5th in sheep and 13th overall out of 120 contestants. The team placed 12th in sheep, 15th in swine, 17th in beef, and 18th in reasons, and finished 15th overall while competing against 24 other universities. At the North American Zurin finished in the top 30 in cattle out of 130 contestants.



Dairy Judging Team at World Dairy Expo. Left to right: Coach Dale Olver, Robyn Bechtel, Jennifer Rassler, Elizabeth Smith, Amy Miller

The Dairy Cattle Judging Team earned 2nd place overall at the National Contest at the World Dairy Expo. Elizabeth Smith was high individual overall, and Robyn Bechtel was first in Milking Shorthorns and 9th overall. Amy Miller was 5th in Jerseys.

All three earned All-American recognition. At the

Eastern States Exposition and the All-American Contest in Harrisburg, the team placed first in Jerseys, 3rd in reasons, 6th in Milking Shorthorns and Brown Swiss, and 4th overall. Smith was high individual for Jerseys and 5th overall.

Jennifer Rassler was 5th in Jerseys. At the All-American Contest, the team placed 2nd in Jerseys, 5th in Brown Swiss, 6th in reasons, 7th in Guernseys, 10th in Ayrshires, and 6th overall. Smith was 3rd high individual overall and first for Ayrshires. Bechtel placed 2nd in Jerseys and Miller placed 5th in Jerseys.

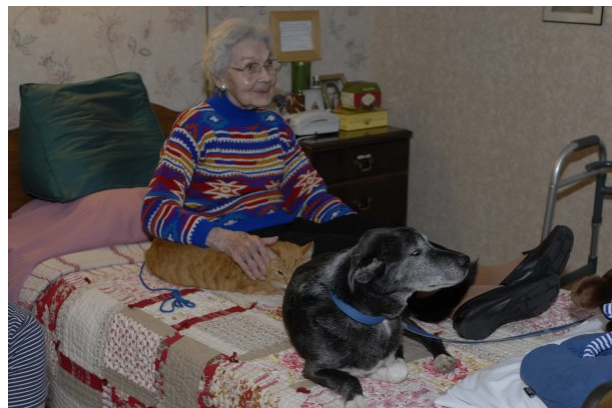
Staff News

- ❖ **Nadine and Tom Houck** are proud parents of a new son, Peyton Robert, born June 30.

- ❖ **Laurie Hubbard** was reappointed by Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer to the 2009 American Lamb Board (ALB). Hubbard has served as the ALB Secretary for the past 2 years.

Student Clubs

Students for the Responsible Use of Animals (SRUA) continues to brighten the lives of local nursing home residents with regular pet visits. This fall, the club co-sponsored the Centre County PAWS Pet Extravaganza at the Snider Ag Arena, staffing an informational table and assisting in the kids' activity corner. Members volunteer biweekly at the animal shelter, cleaning and socializing the animals.



SRUA coordinates regular pet visits for the area's nursing home residents.

Continued on Page 6

January 2009

Other fall volunteer activities included assisting T&D Cats of the World with preparations for winter and canning trips to raise money for the Penn State Dance Marathon (THON).

Guest speakers this fall included Dr. Brenda Coe, who discussed animal-assisted activities and therapy and Robyn Graboski, a wildlife rehabilitator. The group is conducting their annual pet stocking sale to raise money for activities and the annual spring trip.

The **Dairy Science Club** was named Outstanding Chapter for the second consecutive year. **Amanda Koons** earned first in the dairy foods division, **David Wilson** placed second in the production division, and **Anna Smith** was awarded third place in the original research category. **Renee Norman** completed her term as second vice president.

The club welcomed 35 new members this fall. Members assisted with the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show and the Premier National Junior Shows in Harrisburg in September. In early October this year's Osteochallenge, a 5-kilometer run/walk event, raised more than \$650 for the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

The Silver Anniversary Nittany Lion Fall Classic achieved an average of \$4146, the highest ever in the sales series. Over sixty club members assisted with the



The October 2008 Osteochallenge raised more than \$650 for the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

sale, and nineteen of twenty-five sale chairs returned for the day. The club recognized five individuals who have helped with the sale for twenty years or more. They included Dr. Lester Griel, Stephen Spencer, Harry Bachman, Horace Backus, and Ken Raney.

Spring events for the Dairy Science Club will include the Pennsylvania Holstein Quiz Bowl and Jeopardy Contests from February 6-8 in Reading, the Spring Judging Contest on March 21, Dairy Expo on April 18, and Dairy Days Cow Camp from May 29-31.



CHAPS members **Kristina Pry** and **Jolie Demchur** with club adviser **Karen Vines** (center)

For the 2nd year, **Collegiate Horsemen at Penn State (CHAPS)** participated in the Homecoming Parade with six members riding Tennessee walkers.

CHAPS and the Penn State Equestrian Team ran a concession stand at home football games.

In October, club members helped with security at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition. Members also helped take pulse and respiration readings at the State 4-H Competitive Trail Ride in Bald Eagle State Forest. Members side-walked and led horses at Nancy Maier's Therapeutic Riding Program in Port Matilda.

Others volunteered at the Centre County SPCA, exercising dogs and playing with cats. Donations for the Centre County PAWS Christmas Wish-List were also collected. A CHAPS subcommittee is preparing for the 2009 American Collegiate Horsemen's Association National Convention. CHAPS is hosting the other eight member schools of the ACHA in Harrisburg.

Sponsorships are greatly appreciated. For more information about supporting the Convention, contact **Kristina Pry** at kmp275@psu.edu. For information about CHAPS, contact **Courtney MacNealy** at csm5036@psu.edu.

Continued on Page 7



The fall **Block and Bridle Club** picnic was attended by more than 100 current members and more than 50 new students. In October, members helped run the Live-stock Judging Contest at KILE while six members as- sisted with the Eastern National Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest. Nine members participated in the Capital Region Heart Walk, raising \$375 for the American Heart Association. The Fun Auction raised funds for the 2009 Little I.

At the Club Calf Sale, 29 steers and 6 heifers were sold to 4-H and FFA members, with steers averaging \$1,149, and heifers averaging \$962. Service projects included grooming mares and foals for the horse barns, working at the State Horse Show, and serving lunch at the Penn State Beef Production Sale.

In November, members gathered donations for Opera- tion Christmas Child. In December, students raised funds for Heifer International. Hams were donated to Froggy 98 radio as part of the 12 Days of Christmas to benefit 12 needy families in Centre County.

Intramural sports, the Ag Hill Olympics, a hayride with both Dairy Science and Agronomy club, the Holiday Semiformal with Dairy Science Club, and the fall meat sale rounded out fall activities.



Block and Bridle members proudly display their Team Beef shirts during the Heart Walk on October 4th and 5th.

Offices	Area Code is 814
Administration.....	865-1362
Student Services.....	865-7638
Extension.....	865-1362
Club Advisers	
<i>Block & Bridle</i>	
Vivian Baumer.....	865-1363
Ken Kephart.....	863-3671
Dan Kniffen.....	865-7809
<i>Dairy Science Club</i>	
Dale Olver.....	863-3914
Mike O'Connor.....	863-3913
<i>Students for Responsible Use of Animals (SRUA)</i>	
Nancy Dreschel.....	863-4197
<i>Collegiate Horsemen at Penn State (CHAPS)</i>	
Karen Vines.....	865-3097
Judging Team Coaches	
<i>Dairy Cattle:</i> Dale Olver.....863-3914	
<i>Horse:</i> Brian Egan.....863 3957	
<i>Livestock:</i> Wendall Landis.....863-0831	
Facilities	
<i>Beef-Sheep Center</i>	
Pete LeVan.....	814-355-1662
Don Nichols.....	863-0831
Laurie Hubbard.....	865-5893
<i>Dairy/Almquist Center:</i> Ginny Ishler.....863-0835	
<i>Deer Center:</i> Don Wagner.....865-8470	
<i>Horse Center:</i> Ed Jedrzejewski.....863-0834	
<i>Meat Laboratory:</i> Glenn Myers.....865-1787	
<i>Swine Center:</i> Mark Kreidler.....865-5651	
Alumni Clubs	
<i>Dairymen's Club:</i> Nicole Fearnley.....570-623-2027	
<i>Stockmen's Club:</i> Jana Peters.....863-4198	

Department of Dairy and Animal Science

324 Henning Building
University Park, PA 16802



Hoofprints

Edited by **Dr. Daniel Hagen**, Hoofprints brings alumni and friends of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science up to date on the recent notable activities of the faculty and staff in the department.

Hoofprints is available online at das.psu.edu/hoofprints. You will also find at this location an archive of previous issues as well as a link to subscribe to the Hoofprints mailing list.

January 2009

DAS 2009-138

This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. For more information, see www.psu.edu/ur/legal.html.