



### From Terry Etherton

I have been writing my “welcome letter” for Hoofprints since 1998. Over this time, my recurring theme pertains to the excellence attained by faculty, staff and our students. This legacy for excellence continues to grow! It has been remarkably rewarding to be part of this.



Some examples of excellence?

The Center for Reproductive Biology continues to accelerate with respect to recognition by scientists around the World. In a few weeks, Alan Bair and Lisa Holden will be in the Azores (Portugal) delivering dairy extension programs with the intent of helping build an “extension operation”. We just added a 5th undergraduate student club, the Penn State Collegiate Cattlewomen’s Club – I might add that men can belong. And, there are many more examples of accomplishment and high excellence presented herein.

In closing, there have been a lot of exciting happenings in the Department. We are committed to embracing change in a way that builds on the excellence that we represent. As you appreciate, this reflects the enthusiasm and hard work of faculty, staff and students in the Department. There is a sense of excitement as we continue to pursue excellence and provide a world-class education to our students and others around the World.

Take care, and if we in the Department can help you with anything, please let me know ([tde@psu.edu](mailto:tde@psu.edu); 814-863-3665).

Have a wonderful and productive summer!

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

### Alumni News

**William W. Saylor**, professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at the University of Delaware, was recognized during Little I/Dairy Expo as the 2009 Animal Science Distinguished Alumnus.

Saylor received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from Penn State. He has held faculty and administrative roles at the University of Delaware since 1978. Saylor has taught more than 2,500 students in animal science and has supervised 12 M.S. and three Ph.D. students.

He has received awards for teaching and research and has

served on numerous committees of the Poultry Science Association (PSA) and as an officer, including president. Saylor and his wife, Karen Klugh, are the parents of two grown children.

**H. Duane Norman** will be honored as the 2009 DAS Distinguished Dairy Science Alumnus during the weekend of the Dairymen’s Club Banquet and Nittany Lion Fall Classic Sale in November.

The **Stockmen’s Club** hosted 20 graduating seniors for dinner at the annual Spring Dinner Dance in April. The 1959 Livestock Judging Team celebrated their 50 year anniversary, and the Booster award was given to Bill and Cheryl Fairbairn of Coatesville.

The Dairymen’s and Stockmen’s Clubs will host the **Third Annual Football Tailgate** on September 26 at the Snider Ag Arena prior to the Penn State vs. Iowa game. Tailgate tickets will be available to club members on a first come-first served basis. Detailed information will be mailed to members in June.

### Outreach and Extension

The **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Performance Tested Bull Sale** took place in March in conjunction with the **20<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Beef Expo**. The sale featured bulls that completed the testing program. The fastest gaining bull was an Angus consigned by Russell and Judy Hollenback with an average daily gain (ADG) of 6.13 pounds.

The **Pennsylvania Beef Expo**, the largest exclusive beef cattle event in the state, included a Simmental Sale, junior activities, seminars, a trade show and the Pennsylvania Cattlemen’s Association’s awards banquet and annual meeting. For more information about Pennsylvania’s performance testing programs, contact Glenn Eberly at 814-238-2527 or [geberly@state.pa.us](mailto:geberly@state.pa.us). For more information on the Livestock Evaluation Center, visit [agriculture.state.pa.us/lec](http://agriculture.state.pa.us/lec).

### Graduate Student News

- ❖ **Heather Burley**, Animal Science graduate student, defended her M.S. thesis in April. Heather will stay on as a Ph.D. student in the program.
- ❖ **Daniel Rico**, graduate student of Gabriella Varga, defended his M.S. thesis in April.
- ❖ **Donna (Sage) Clark**, advisee of Troy Ott, successfully defended her M.S. thesis in January.
- ❖ **Karen Racicot**, advisee of Troy Ott, successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation in May.
- ❖ Six new graduate students are expected to join the Animal Science program this fall.

## Undergraduate Student Clubs

The **Dairy Science Club** had a busy spring semester. Members sponsored a youth dairy judging contest at the PA Farm Show in January and conducted the dairy bowl and dairy jeopardy contests in Reading in February at the PA Junior Holstein Convention. **Robyn Bechtel** was selected as a Distinguished Junior Member. Dairy Science and Block and Bridle members attended the NESA competitions in Connecticut, where they won the judging and quiz bowl contests and Penn State was named high institution. In undergraduate presentations, **Jess Rose** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Robyn Bechtel** earned 5<sup>th</sup> place, while **Janelle Hartzell** placed first in the original research category. **David Wilson** was named Outstanding Senior.

In March, 51 members and three chaperones traveled to Ireland for the spring trip, visiting farms and research facilities as well as Blarney Castle, the Ring of Kerry, and many Dublin landmarks. The Spring Judging Contest attracted 190 4-H and FFA members. The club cosponsored the Spring Bargain Fling with the Centre County Youth Services Bureau, raising over \$15,000 for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. The club sponsored over 100 first and second grade students at Meet a Farm Animal Day.

The Dairy Expo Dedicatee was **David Lentz**, Director of Sales for the PA Holstein Association. **Anthony Sharp** was named Overall Champion; **Joe Leslie** was Reserve. At the awards banquet **Amy Yeiser** was named the Muller Outstanding First Year Member, **Chad Hoover** received the Branding Award (behind-the-scenes junior), and **David Wilson** received the Davey Award for Outstanding Senior in Dairy Science. **Randy Wolfe**, Milton, PA was Young Dairy Leader.

Dairy Days Cow Camp was held in May. The ADSA Student Affiliate Meetings will be held in July in Montreal. The 2009 Nittany Lion Fall Classic is scheduled for Saturday, November 21.

**Collegiate Horsemen at Penn State (CHAPS)** has been very active on campus and in the community this semester. Members assisted at a local therapeutic riding program and the Centre County SPCA. Social activities included a trail ride and learning about the horse industry. The end of the school year was celebrated with the Kentucky Derby Party: a study break and a chance to say good-bye to graduating seniors. The Club hosted the 2009 American Collegiate Horsemen's Association National Convention, which included tours to Penn National Race Track, Hanover Shoe Farms, Iron Spring Farms, and New Bolton Center, and a banquet to recognize individual achievements.

**Block and Bridle** was very busy this spring. In late January, two B&B members and two Dairy Science Club members—**Kristina McAllister**, **Jennifer Rassler**, **Elizabeth Smith**, and **Amy Shollenberger**—won the National Beef Quiz Bowl contest. In mid-February, 26 club members attended the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

In March members clipped bulls for the PA Bull Test sale, conducted a Spring Judging workout with the livestock and horse judging teams for more than 400 4-H and FFA members, and assisted with the Bull Test Sale and Beef Expo. At the Expo, members hosted the youth quiz bowl and Skil-lathon and assisted with the Junior Show. In April, members attended the Ag Ball and held the annual Beef Up the Blood Supply event, collecting over 110 units. During the semester, students collected beef blood at the Meats Lab for vampire bats at the Philadelphia Zoo, then received a behind the scenes tour of the zoo. Social activities for the semester included broomball, snow tubing, intramural sports and a farewell picnic.

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Little I, held on April 18, was well-attended. **Courtney Cowden** was Champion Showman; **Cyrus Gehringer** was Reserve Champion Showman. The Little I dedicatee, **Glenn Myers**, and Honorary members **Kelly and Pat Cole** were recognized. Other awards included the Outstanding Senior (**Jennifer Rassler**) and Outstanding Junior (**Kristina McAllister**). **Steve Bond** won the Jim Watkins hard working Rookie Award; **Tony Miller** the Brighton Feeds Hard Working Sophomore Award. **Kristina McAllister** and **Cyrus Gehringer** shared the Glenn R. Kean Hard Working Junior Award, and **Christie Molinaro** won the Grant Sherritt Hard Working Senior Award.

At the National Block and Bridle Convention, the Club placed first for Outstanding Senior (**Kyle Grimm**), Yearbook, and Chapter Activities; 3<sup>rd</sup> in Web site; and 4<sup>th</sup> in Outstanding Junior (**Callihan Schillaci**) competitions. The club received awards from the Penn State Center for Student Engagement for Outstanding Executive committee and Outstanding Student Organization of the Year. **Christy Molinaro**, Club president, received the **Craig Millar** Award for Leadership and Service.

## Students for the Responsible Use of Animals

**(SRUA)** sponsored the Agility Trials at the Ag Arena in January and did hands-on service and learning activities, including taking pets to visit residents in local nursing homes, saw a demonstration of search and rescue and police dog work by the Working K9 Association of Central Pennsylvania, and a demonstration of dog training techniques geared toward those working with shelter animals. The semester's highlight was a trip to Front Royal, VA, where members received a tour of the Canine Enforcement Breeding and Training Center, and Washington, DC, to visit the Smithsonian Zoo and some Smithsonian Museums. Members also participated in the Ag Ball, the Harvest to Household event, and the College of Ag involvement fairs. At the end of the semester members bade farewell to graduating seniors and welcomed a new slate of officers.

## Awards and Honors

❖ On May 16, 46 Animal Science students graduated. **Shannon Boone** and **Megan Hensel** graduated with distinction; **Jennifer Morrissey**, **Callihan Schillaci**, and **Jamie Skebeck** graduated with high distinction.

Four of the new graduates will attend veterinary school beginning this fall; one will attend Cornell; three will attend Penn. Four other graduates plan to attend graduate school.

❖ **Megan Gerber**, M.S. advisee of Ann Swinker, won first place in the Health and Life Sciences category of the 2009 Graduate Exhibition in March.

❖ **Hillary Grube** received an Honorable Mention for her poster presentation in the 2009 University Libraries Award for Information Literacy competition.

❖ Eleven students in College, including seven Animal Sciences majors (**Benjamin Cashell, Courtney Cowden, Joshua Ebert, Christiana Graver, Brianna Isenberg, Lacey Murray, and Kyler Myers**), were among 23 who were awarded scholarships by the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation during the 93rd Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. The College matches the Farm Show scholarship award for students enrolled in the College.

❖ **Pat Comerford** received the Gamma Sigma Delta Extension Award in April.

❖ **Dale Olver** received the 2009 Club Adviser Award from the College.

❖ **Mike O'Connor** received the Dairy Industry Service award from The Penn State Dairymen's Club.

❖ **Jon Oatley**, in collaboration with researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, has identified a critical growth factor for stem cells. The full story is available at [live.psu.edu/story/38434/nw1](http://live.psu.edu/story/38434/nw1).

❖ Penn State was selected to host the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction.

❖ The Penn State Dairy Challenge team of **Amanda Koons, Michael Phelps, Jennifer Rassler, and David Wilson** received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place platinum award at the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge in Syracuse.

❖ **Gabriella Varga** received the College Advising award at spring commencement.

❖ **Ann (Magliaro) Macrina** received the Spirit Award, one of the College's Staff Laureate Awards.

❖ The 2009 Otto J. and Opal I.Hill Seminar speaker was **Thomas Spencer**, Ph.D., of Texas A&M University.

## Judging Teams

The **Poultry Judging Team** finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 2008 National Poultry Judging Contest held in January in Fayetteville, AR. **Christie Molinaro**, an Animal Sciences major, was a member of the team. Teams competed in two divisions: Egg Production and Quality, and Breeder Selection and Carcass Quality. Penn State's team placed first in Breeder Selection and Carcass Quality and 5<sup>th</sup> in Egg Production and Quality.

The **Livestock Judging Team** competed at the National Western Stock in Denver, CO in January. Team members competing at the Show were **Travis Book, Mairen Fitzpatrick, Shenna Kubeja, Danielle Maines, Kristina McAllister, Sally Oakes, Johanna Rohrer, Kaitlyn Tice, and Adam Wise**. The carload team (Fitzpatrick, Kubeja, McAllister, Tice, and Wise) finished 10<sup>th</sup>. Tice tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> on total points.

The team competed in the All-East Livestock Judging Contest at Ohio State University against Michigan State, Ohio

State, Purdue, Illinois, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia. Penn State team members were **Dustin Brown, Travis Book, Shenna Kubeja, Danielle Maines, Kristina McAllister, David Nogan, Sally Oakes, Johanna Rohrer, Kaitlyn Tice, and Adam Wise**. **Amanda Gipe**, graduate student in Animal Science, was assistant coach. Penn State placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall in beef evaluation. In selection, Penn State was 2<sup>nd</sup> in beef; 3<sup>rd</sup> in swine selection, with Book high individual; 5<sup>th</sup> in Sheep selection; and 4<sup>th</sup> in overall selection. In the beef judging contest Penn State was 2<sup>nd</sup>. The team was 4<sup>th</sup> in swine judging, with Rohrer high individual. In sheep judging Penn State was High Team, with Rohrer placing 2<sup>nd</sup>. In oral reasons, Penn State was 3<sup>rd</sup>. Overall Penn State placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in judging with Rohrer 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Comings and Goings

❖ **Jason and Sara Monn** are proud parents of a son, **Jake Thomas Monn**, born on March 7.

❖ **Wendall Landis** has been named Complex Manager.

❖ **Kevin Harvatine** is a new assistant professor in the department.

❖ **Don Nichols**, Beef unit manager, retired in January. **Kenny Reed** has filled the position as of April 1.

❖ **Pat Alters** retires June 30 after 35 years of service. **Paula Morgan** has been appointed to her position.

## Equine Program

The annual Equine Science Showcase and Select Breeders Sale was held on April 25 at the Snider Agricultural Arena. Twenty animals from the Penn State herd, including five yearlings, 13 two-year olds, and two three-year olds were sold, along with 15 horses consigned by outside breeders.



## Join the Dairy and Animal Science FaceBook Group

Would you like to connect with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science? Share up-

dates and photos with your fellow graduates? Join the Department's FaceBook Group at [tinyurl.com/dairy-animal-science](http://tinyurl.com/dairy-animal-science) and help us build our network. If you are interested in joining but don't have a Penn State account or FaceBook membership, you can sign up for a Friends of Penn State account at [aset.its.psu.edu/fpsproject](http://aset.its.psu.edu/fpsproject) and then use this information to join the FaceBook Penn State network at [facebook.com](http://facebook.com). It's easy, and takes only a few minutes.

## Dairy and Animal Science Photos on Flickr

See our photo albums at [flickr.com/photos/dairyandanimalscience](http://flickr.com/photos/dairyandanimalscience). If you are a shutter bug and have a Flickr account, you can request to be one of our Flickr contacts and join our photo-sharing group.

## Expanded Version of Hoofprints Online

Visit [das.psu.edu/hoofprints](http://das.psu.edu/hoofprints) for detailed versions of the articles you see here; additional articles; a pdf of the expanded version; RSS feeds; and photos of our faculty, staff, and students.

Other sites of interest for alumni and friends:

- [das.psu.edu/alumni](http://das.psu.edu/alumni)
- [das.psu.edu/giving](http://das.psu.edu/giving)
- [das.psu.edu/dairymen](http://das.psu.edu/dairymen)
- [das.psu.edu/stockmen](http://das.psu.edu/stockmen)



### 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](http://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.

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*Livestock:* Wendall Landis .....863-0831

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*Horse Center:* Ed Jedrzejewski .....863-0834  
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### Alumni Clubs

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