



From Terry Etherton

I am writing this and reflecting on the College of Agricultural Sciences graduation that was held at Eisenhower Auditorium on May 15.

There was a huge crowd with the always present “reality” of family and friends gathering to watch and celebrate their student graduate.



The College hosts a brunch for graduates and their families/friends after the ceremony at the IM Building. This year was special in that there were more than 1,000 attendees (a record attendance)! A big crowd filled with all the joy that comes from participating in a special transition from school to the “next step” in the career path.

I have been at Penn State for 31 years, and have lost track of the number of graduation ceremonies I have attended. What I never lose track of is the magic of the event, the graduates’ excitement at looking forward to the adventures that await in their next career step, and the sense of “wow,” college went by fast. It is such a pleasure to be part of this, and deeply know that our faculty and staff work at high velocity to provide a world-class education to a lot of students!

In closing, as you appreciate, we are committed to embracing change in a way that builds on the excellence that we represent. We share in the graduates’ excitement about graduating from Penn State. And, we in the Department enjoy the sense of excitement that results from our pursuit of excellence, and providing a world-class education to our students and others around the world.

Take care, and if there is anything we in the Department can help you with, please let me know (tde@psu.edu; 814-863-3665). Have a wonderful and productive Summer!

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

Awards and Recognition

* **Jessica Bussard** and **Meghan Pierson** received 1st and 2nd place in the undergraduate poster competition at the Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference. The research results they presented were from studies on teff hay digestibility in horses and basal glucose characteristics in growing foals. Both students are members of the Penn State Equine Research Team. Jessica will pursue a master’s degree in agronomy at the University of Kentucky in the spring of 2011.

* **Jessica Tekippe** placed 2nd in the Alltech graduate student paper competition out of more than 2,000 proposals. At the college’s Research Exhibition in March, Jessica placed 1st for her poster, "Effect of *Origanum Vulgare* on Production, Methane, and Ruminant Fermentation in Dairy Cows" and undergraduate **Stephanie Heilman** placed 3rd for her poster, "Effects of Herbs and Essential Oils on In Vitro Batch Culture Ruminant Fermentation," which is her honor's thesis. Stephanie, an advisee of **Troy Ott**, conducted her research with Jessica and **Gabriella Varga**.

* Animal Sciences majors received six of the 23 scholarships awarded by the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation in January at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg. The Foundation awards scholarships to young people who are registered in a post-secondary educational institution and who have exhibited livestock at the Farm Show. The Animal Sciences students who received scholarships are: **Constance Anderson** of Saltsburg, a junior; **Sarah Doyle** of Red Lion, a sophomore; **Sarah Farley** of Hazle Township, a freshman; **Ashley Gerstlauer** of Philadelphia, a sophomore; **Ryan Nolt** of New Holland, a sophomore; and **Cortney Wright**, Cassville, Huntingdon County, a freshman.

* In March, **Coleen Jones** received the Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award from the Department of Dairy Science at Virginia Tech.

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The **Collegiate Farm Bureau** recently received the College's Outstanding Organization and Professional Leadership Development Award. The Club has more than 25 members from across the college and is advised by **Megan Sinasky** and **Ann Swinker**.

Block and Bridle Club again received the "Outstanding Student Organization" of the year award from Penn State's Center for Student Engagement. It also received high overall team and institution awards from the Northeast Student Affiliate.

For the 14th time in 17 years, Penn State's student **Beef Quiz Bowl Team** earned a top-two finish at the National Beef Quiz Bowl held on January 29 in San Antonio, TX. Kansas State University won the contest. Penn State's team included **Robyn Bechtel** of Martinsburg, **Dustin Brown** of Tyrone, **Elizabeth Cloninger** of Centre Hall, and **Jenna Pannone** of Flemington, N.J. With its second-place finish, Penn State remains the most-decorated team in National Beef Quiz Bowl history. **Chris Raines**, **Vivian Baumer**, **Dale Olver**, and **Dan Kniffen** co-advised the team.

Penn State was named top University in the Northeast Student Affiliate competition in January at the University of Rhode Island. The contest included livestock judging, quiz bowl competition, and paper presentations. Penn State entered 8 of the 39 teams participating in the event. The overall winning team included **Janelle Hartzell**, **Kristina McAllister**, **Dustin Brown**, and **Elizabeth Smith**. Janelle also placed first in paper presentations and was named outstanding senior.

Alyssa Klein, an Animal Sciences sophomore and Schreyer Honors College scholar, is on a four-member team that won the Business Plan Competition at Washington State University, sponsored by the College of Business's Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. The team, one of 12 in the graduate division, competed with a viral diagnostic product, QVET, under the company name Febris Inc. The team received a \$14,000 cash prize and each team member received a smart phone. Klein, from York, PA, was the science lead for the project. Her team proposed developing and marketing a viral diagnostic test called QVET, using technology developed by **Troy Ott** while he was at the University of Idaho. The technology was recently patented in the United States.

In Memoriam

* **Dr. Stanley Curtis**, former Head of Dairy and Animal Science and retired Professor of Environmental Management in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois, passed away on April 25.

* **Dr. Tsuneo "T." Tanabe**, retired faculty member, passed away on May 27 at the age of 91.

Alumni News

* The Animal Science Distinguished Alumnus for 2010 is **Dr. Bob Mowrey**, Professor and Extension Horse Commodity Coordinator at North Carolina State University. Bob was honored on April 16 and 17 during Little I/Dairy Expo weekend.

* The 2010 Dairy Science Distinguished Alumnus is **Alan Bair**, Director of Dairy Industry Relations in the Department. Alan will be recognized this Fall during the Nittany Lion Fall Classic.

* **Mick Colvin** has been selected as a recipient of the College Outstanding Alumni Award.

* **Kevin Harvatine** has been selected as a recipient of the College Outstanding Recent Alumni Award.

Dairymen's and Stockmen's Clubs

DAS Tailgate III — The **Dairymen's Club** and **Stockmen's Club** hosted the third annual football tailgate on September 26 at the Snider Ag Arena prior to the PSU vs. Iowa game. The tailgate attracted more than 300 people and was a great success, even though the weather and the game outcome were less positive! The tentative date for next year's tailgate is November 6, 2010 (PSU vs. Northwestern).

Equine Science Alumni

Thanks to those who attended the equine science alumni reunion on April 23. Attendees received an update on the program and heard from students in the equine clubs and the sales management class about their activities. The group discussed the possibility of forming an equine alumni group to include students who were involved in equine activities at Penn State. Those interested in being involved in this endeavor should send an email message to **Karen Vines** (kvines@psu.edu) with their contact information.

Student Clubs

Block and Bridle Club

The club had a very busy and exciting spring semester. The 93rd Little I was held in April. Students from all over the University participated by showing either a sheep, pig, horse, or beef heifer. Many parents and alumni attended the show. In mid-March, the club, together with the livestock and horse judging teams, conducted a spring judging workout for 4-H and FFA members from across the state. More than 350 youth and Penn State collegiate team members judged and evaluated livestock. The last weekend in March, members helped at the Bull Test sale and at the Beef Expo. In early April, many members attended the Ag Ball. Later in April, the club held its annual Beef Up the Blood Supply. More than 118 units were collected to alleviate the low supply of blood.

Dairy Science Club

The club completed another school year with the 85th Penn State Dairy Expo on April 17, and annual club awards banquet on April 29. At the club's awards banquet, club president **Sarah Wickard** served as emcee and acknowledged many active members for their impressive efforts during the year. **Gabriella Varga** was the 2010 Club Dedicattee. That award identifies a strong supporter of the dairy industry and the Club. **Ryan Clark** was this year's recipient of the Young Dairy Leader Award. Currently, Ryan owns and manages a 110-head Jersey herd. **Robyn Bechtel** received the William R. Davey Award, which is presented to an Outstanding Senior in Dairy Science. Bechtel's club involvement ranges from serving as the 2009 president to Osteochallenge chair. The Branding Award, presented to **Staci Wilson**, recognizes a "behind the scenes" junior who is extensively involved in club events.

Students for the Responsible Use of Animals

(SRUA) Members finished the 2009-2010 school year with community service, educational activities and fun. This spring, 14 SRUA members took their community service spirit from State College to New Orleans, LA, to volunteer at the Animal Rescue of New Orleans. In the State College area, they continued to visit nursing homes with pets, volunteered at Centre County PAWS, and sponsored Centre Wildlife Care's "Wild About Animals" educational and fund-raising event.

Collegiate Horsemen Association at Penn State (CHAPS)

Members were very active during spring semester. Members of the club traveled to Fort Collins, CO, for

the American Collegiate Horseman Association (ACHA) national convention. Also this semester, CHAPS visited the Penn National racetrack and finished the year volunteering at a local therapeutic riding center. Members are looking forward to a full fall semester that will include trail rides, fund-raisers, and an exciting trip to the World Equestrian Games at the Kentucky Horse Park in October.

Comings and Goings

* **Gene Corl**, Livestock Caretaker at the Dairy Barns, will retire in June.

* **Gabriella Varga** has announced her intent to retire on December 31.

Faculty News

* **Dr. Phil Senger** was selected by the department's faculty as an Adjunct Professor.

* Two members of the faculty were elected to committee posts within the college. **Burt Staniar** was elected to the Faculty Development Committee and **Jon Oatley** was elected to the Graduate Faculty Review Committee and to Graduate Council.

* **Dan Hagen** was elected to the chair-elect position of the University Faculty Senate. He will serve as chair of the Senate in 2011-12. Dan was also appointed as a Fellow in the Academic Leadership Program of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, the academic arm of the Big 10.

Graduate Student News

* **Amanda Gipe**, advisee of **Ed Mills**, passed her candidacy exam in December.

* **Michael Harper**, M.S. advisee of **Ann Swinker**, defended his thesis in April.

* **Matthew Dekleva**, M.S. advisee of **Chad Dechow**, defended his thesis in May.

* **Erin Nowelsky** successfully defended her M.S. thesis in April. She will be giving an oral presentation of her research at the 2010 Animal Science national meeting in Denver, CO. Erin is a research technician at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.

* **Jessica Tekippe** successfully defended her M.S. thesis in April. She has started a new job with Church & Dwight as a Technical Services and Data Management Consultant.

Undergraduate News
Equine Science Minor

As of mid-April, 59 students were enrolled in the minor and another 58 plan to enroll.

Extension Programs
2010 Manure Expo

This national event is coming East for the first time on July 15. For more information, visit <http://das.psu.edu/manure-expo>.



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.

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