Looking Ahead

In last year's column, I suggested that our department had arrived at a crossroads and pondered whether our future journey was going to take us down a path to growth and refocusing, or simply downhill. I am very happy to report to you that it appears that the former will transpire, as we are currently in the midst of a joint, six-position faculty search in the area of reproductive biology with our colleagues from the Dairy & Animal Science Department. For details about this initiative, see http://www.cas.psu.edu/positions/ReproBiology.htm. Over 100 applications were received, and many outstanding candidates will be visiting University Park during the next three months. Stay tuned!

During the past year, our faculty and staff continued to garner both local and national recognition through excellent research and outreach programs, and our undergraduate program has been thriving. As a result, the Poultry & Avian Science Minor was launched in January 2005, and we anticipate an annual enrollment of approximately 20 students. Financial support, in the form of new undergraduate and graduate scholarships and recruiting monies from the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, has allowed us to attract and retain an outstanding cadre of poultry-interest students that are among the best and brightest in the nation. The job market remains strong and our graduates continue to receive multiple job offers.

The PA poultry industry was showcased during a February Dean's Industry Tour, while the Poultry Science Affiliate Program Group remains active and extremely supportive. Overall, it was a very good year, and we are eagerly looking ahead to future growth and programmatic excellence, as described in our new 2005-08 Strategic Plan (to be posted soon on our website). Your support, as well as your feedback on any subject, is always greatly appreciated!

Robert G. Elkin, Ph.D.
Professor and Head

Awards and Recognition

Clauer to Receive 2005 Student Recruitment Award from the Poultry Science Association

Phillip J. Clauer, Senior Extension Associate, has been named the winner of the 2005 Student Recruitment Award from the Poultry Science Association. He, along with the other award winners, will be honored during the Association's annual awards banquet in Auburn, AL, on August 3.

Phil was born in Waukesha, WI, and received his B.S. in Poultry Science (1983) and M.S. in Continuing and Vocational Education (1985) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1985, he began his career in the Poultry Science Department at Virginia Tech as a Poultry Extension Specialist. His primary focus was the development, coordination, and implementation of educational programs and technical assistance for 4-H/youth and small/specialty poultry flock owners.

Clauer joined the Department of Poultry Science at Penn State in 2001 as a Senior Extension Associate with a 30% teaching and 70% extension appointment. His current job responsibilities include student recruitment, poultry youth education, and small flock outreach. He is a key recruiter for both the Poultry Science program and the Animal Sciences (AN SC) undergraduate major, which is co-sponsored by the Department of Poultry Science and the Department of Dairy & Animal Science. Phil also serves as the internship
coordinator for the AN SC major, co-advisor of the Penn State Poultry Science Club, and is co-coach of the Penn State Intercollegiate Poultry Judging Team. He advises undergraduate students and co-teaches Poultry Evaluation and Selection (AN SC 421) and Advanced Judging and Selection (AN SC 426).

Phil has done an outstanding job in leading the efforts to rebuild an undergraduate poultry program while helping to grow the AN SC major, which is currently the largest undergraduate program in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Through the employment of a multi-faceted recruiting strategy, which was supported in part by the successful procurement of competitive recruiting funds from the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association's Education Fund Grant Program, there are now more poultry-interest students at Penn State than ever before, and membership in the Poultry Science Club is at an all-time high. In addition, due to the growth in the program, the Poultry Science Department launched a new minor in Poultry & Avian Science in January 2005 (see related story on pages 4-5).

The success in the recruiting arena has come about primarily as a result of Phil’s leadership in initiating and overseeing strategies such as encouraging and facilitating campus visits by potential recruits and their families, prompt response to information requests, personalized correspondence/contact with prospective students, maintenance of a database of prospective students, increasing the number of freshmen scholarships, expanded poultry youth programming, establishment of an annual internship scholarship program, establishment of a mentoring program, and planning a fall and spring industry tour for undergraduates. He has also worked hard to increase our unit's visibility at industry, youth, and College events through the designing and purchasing of clothing with departmental logos and the use of large floor and tabletop displays advertising the program and the various career opportunities in poultry science.

Dr. Paul H. Patterson was promoted to the rank of Professor on July 1, 2005. Paul received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Washington State University in 1979 and 1982, respectively, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1988. Later that year, he joined the faculty of the University of Hawaii as an Assistant Professor. Paul came to Penn State as an Assistant Professor in 1992 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1998.

Dr. Patterson has nationally and internationally recognized extension and research programs that are focused in two areas: 1) environmental poultry management; and 2) egg production, quality, and food safety. The central theme of these programs is the discovery and promotion of efficient and safe poultry production systems that place a minimum burden on the environment. His extension educational efforts and his applied research programs are intertwined and address managing manure and by-products of poultry production, as well as the impact of odor, flies, traffic, etc., on the environment at the urban-rural interface.

One of Dr. Patterson’s current research projects is centered on minimizing nitrogen excretion and ammonia volatilization in poultry manure and reducing ammonia emissions from poultry houses by enhanced manure and diet management. In addition, he and Drs. Hulet and Bates are actively investigating the use of vegetative shelter belts (planting of trees in front of exhaust fans at poultry facilities) in order to reduce the release of ammonia and dust into the atmosphere. Dr. Patterson also conducts studies aimed at attenuating the incidence of cracked and stained eggs. His development of composting methods for both non-infected (i.e., recycling cockerel chicks in Leghorn hatcheries) and infected birds (i.e., in-house composting of birds during the 2001-02 Avian Influenza [AI] outbreak in Pennsylvania) has been of great benefit to the poultry industry. Moreover, the AI video that he and Drs. Kradel, Hulet, and Schwartz developed in 2000 with funding from the USDA entitled "Avian Influenza:...
Preventing the Spread of Disease" has, unfortunately, been in great demand of late due to the numerous AI outbreaks that have since occurred throughout the world. Although he does not have a formal teaching appointment, Dr. Patterson is also an active participant in several courses in the AN SC undergraduate program.

Wise Recognized for 25 Years of Service to PSU

Dirk F. Wise, Manager of the Penn State Poultry Education and Research Center (PERC) and Affiliate Instructor in the Department of Poultry Science, was recognized for 25 years of service to Penn State at a ceremony held on December 10, 2004, at the Nittany Lion Inn. Dirk began working for the College of Agricultural Sciences during summer vacations while a student at Delaware Valley College. After he graduated in 1979, he became the assistant shepherd, a position that he held until 1988 when he joined the Poultry Science Department in his current position. He earned an M.S. degree in Animal Sciences in 1993.

Dirk’s primary job responsibilities entail the overall administration, maintenance, and sales operations of the PERC, a six-building, 50,000 square-foot facility that was built in 1994 at a cost of six million dollars. In addition, through his participation in a multitude of Department, College, and University events, he promotes the Penn State poultry program and the AN SC undergraduate major. Locally, he leads numerous tours of the PERC for visitors and prospective students and their families, and has helped to foster diversity within the College through his active participation in various programs and institutes aimed at recruiting underrepresented students. He also devotes a considerable amount of his personal time engaging students both within the classroom and beyond, through his duties as co-advisor of the Poultry Science Club and the Intercollegiate Poultry Judging Team, and as a co-instructor of ANSC 290W (Careers in Animal Agriculture), AN SC 421 (Poultry Evaluation and Selection), and AN SC 426 (Advanced Judging and Selection). Dirk is particularly proud of the awards that the Poultry Science Club has received at the annual International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta.

Dirk was named as the first recipient of the College of Agricultural Sciences Staff Laureate Ambassador Award in 2002. This annual award honors a staff member or team who serves as a proactive liaison to external audiences by building relationships, sharing knowledge, and promoting the unit and the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Poultry Science Faculty Member and Two Graduate Students Inducted Into Gamma Sigma Delta

Dr. Ramesh Ramachandran, Susan Krzysik, and Sreenivasa Maddineni were inducted into the Penn State Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta during the society's Spring Initiation and Awards Reception on April 6, 2005, at the Bravo Bistro Room in Johnston Commons.

Dr. Ramachandran joined the Poultry Science Department as an Assistant Professor on January 1, 2002. He received a Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences degree from Madras Veterinary College, Madras, India, in 1986. Following several years as a Research Fellow, and as a Veterinary Specialist Officer, he then continued his graduate studies under the direction of Dr. Wayne Kuenzel at the University of Maryland-College Park. He received an M.S. in 1994 and a Ph.D. in 1997, both in the area of neuroendocrinology. He then joined the USDA Germplasm and Gamete Physiology Laboratory in Beltsville, MD, as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate under the mentorship of John Proudm an. While at Beltsville, he investigated behavior-induced neural and neuroendocrine regulation of pituitary cell function, proliferation,
transdifferentiation, and apoptosis in commercial turkey breeder hens. In January 2000, he joined the laboratory of Dr. W. Scott Young at the NIMH, where his research focused in two areas: Defining the role of the oxytocin receptor in reproduction and behavior through cell-specific gene deletion and, secondly, restoring oxytocin-and vasopressin-receptor gene expression in knockout mice using lentiviral vectors. In his present position, which has an 80% research and 20% teaching responsibility, Ramesh conducts research in the area of female reproduction and teaches both ANSC 423 (Comparative Physiology of Domestic Animals) and a graduate course in endocrinology

A native of New Castle, PA, and a PSU alumna, Susan Krzysik received a B. S. degree in Biology in 2002. She began her graduate studies the following year and is currently working on an M.S. degree in Physiology with Dr. Roland M. Leach, Jr. in the area of avian skeletal biology. After completing her M.S. program this summer, Sue plans to remain in the department and pursue a Ph.D. degree in Physiology.

Sreenivasa Maddineni received a Bachelor of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry degree in 1999 from the Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University in Hyderabad, India, and a M. V. Sc. degree in Veterinary Pathology in 2001 from Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in Chennai, India. He began his Ph.D. studies in neuroendocrinology at Penn State in January 2003 under the direction of Dr. Ramesh Ramachandran.

Gamma Sigma Delta is an organization having as its objectives the advancement of agriculture in all its phases, the maintenance and improvement of the relations of agriculture with other industries, and the encouragement of recognition of the responsibility of those engaged in agriculture to their fellow citizens. The society seeks to encourage high standards of scholarship and worthy attainment in all branches of agricultural science and education and a high degree of excellence in the practice of agricultural pursuits. Graduate students elected to membership must have demonstrated superior ability to conduct research and/or advanced study in the College of Agricultural Sciences, show promise of making further contributions, and have obtained at least a 3.5 grade-point average (out of 4.0) in their graduate coursework. Faculty eligibility is limited to those who have at least three years of experience in agriculture, or in a science related to agriculture, during which time exceptional teaching, individual research, or service has been demonstrated.

Departamental News of Note

Poultry and Avian Science Minor Established

In response to the needs and requests of a growing population of poultry-interest students, a new minor in Poultry & Avian Science (P A S) was established in January 2005. The P A S Minor is designed for students who wish to supplement their academic major with studies focused on the biology, management, and diseases of various avian species with an emphasis on domestic fowl. Students must be at least 5th semester standing (e.g., juniors) to enroll. At press time, 8 students had enrolled, and we anticipate that enrollment numbers will double when classes resume this fall.

In addition to increasing awareness of the boundless opportunities that exist for poultry and avian scientists, students who complete the P A S Minor will have a unique, specialized expertise that cannot be obtained in most undergraduate programs in the U. S. The flexibility of the minor allows a student to design his or her program based upon their particular interests and career goals, combining coursework with poultry or avian internships and/or independent study projects, while providing formal recognition of their accomplishment upon successful completion of the minor. As a result, we hope to also stimulate interest in our program from non-AN SC majors.
Continued undergraduate student support of the P A S Minor will allow for the expansion of course offerings, extracurricular activities, and research projects, while possibly serving as a vehicle for graduate student recruitment.

Students with training in poultry science are currently in very high demand nationwide, and most receive multiple job offers upon graduation. Moreover, employment rates of Penn State poultry-interest students have been 100% for more than a decade. The continued growth in popularity of poultry products worldwide, combined with the fact that poultry represents one of the few agricultural commodities that has experienced relatively consistent growth during the past several decades, suggests that employment opportunities will continue to be numerous. For a complete listing of the P A S Minor course requirements and contact information, please visit http://poultry.cas.psu.edu/PASminor.html.

Celebration Held in Honor of the Glenn O. Bressler Memorial Scholarship

A dinner was held at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center on October 8, 2004, in order to celebrate the endowment of the Glenn O. Bressler Memorial Scholarship in Poultry Science. Among the attendees were several former graduate students of Dr. Bressler, the inaugural four recipients of the undergraduate scholarship, key scholarship donors, friends and relatives of Dr. Bressler, and Poultry Science faculty and staff members. The purpose of the Bressler Award, which was established by Dr. Bressler prior to his death in 2003, is "to honor and recognize outstanding undergraduate students with a demonstrated interest in Poultry Science".

Glenn served as the thesis advisor for 13 students, who earned a total of 11 M.S. and 5 Ph.D. degrees under his direction. Many had outstanding careers in Poultry Science and received national and international recognition. Two (Drs. Siegel and Weaver) served as PSU Poultry Science Department Heads. Attendees (with PSU degrees earned under Dr. Bressler's guidance in parentheses) included: Dr. Tom Carter (M.S., 1969; Ph.D., 1971) and his wife Vivian, Dr. Roger Estep (M.S., 1957) and his late wife Romaine, Dr. Herb Kling (M.S., 1971), Dr. Cary Quarles (M.S., 1961, Ph.D., 1968), and Dr. Herb Siegel (M.S., 1957, Ph.D., 1959) and his wife Rhea. Other special guests also included Dr. Jim Shadle (Glenn Bressler's nephew), Dr. Walther H. Ott, who attended with his daughters Arline Ott Cox and Ruth Ott Arthur and Ruth's husband Lloyd Arthur, Connie and Ronald Young (Connie was Glenn's caretaker), plus the inaugural recipients of the Bressler Scholarship (PSU AN SC majors Corey Bartholomew, Amanda Goddard, Andrew Herr, and Paul Hostetter).
Dr. Bressler joined the staff of the Poultry Husbandry Department at Penn State in 1945 as an instructor specializing in poultry farm management. After receiving a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University in 1949 while on a year's leave of absence from Penn State, Glenn returned to PSU as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Professor in 1951, a position he held until his retirement from the university in 1975. In 1971, the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation named Dr. Bressler as the Allied Industry Man of the Year in recognition of his innovative research efforts in bringing automation and controlled environment to the poultry housing industry.

Leuschner Scholarship Recognized at the College of Agricultural Sciences 2004 Scholarships and Awards Banquet

The Frederick H. "Fritz" Leuschner Memorial Scholarship in Agricultural Sciences was among twelve scholarships recognized for ten years of continued support at the Fall 2004 College Scholarship Banquet, held at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center on October 12. Receiving a special recognition certificate were Fred and Nancy Leuschner of Harrisburg, PA. ("Fritz" was Fred's father.)

The Leuschner Scholarship was established in the memory of Frederick H. "Fritz" Leuschner by his children and family. The purpose of the scholarship shall be "to provide recognition and financial assistance to outstanding students in the College of Agricultural Sciences who have an interest in poultry science".

"Fritz" Leuschner was a 1921 graduate of Penn State with a B.S. degree in Animal Husbandry. Following graduation, he served as an Assistant Professor of Poultry Science at the University of Maryland, Managing Secretary of the Homestead Chamber of Commerce, and Superintendent of the Somerset County Farms. He then pursued graduate study at Penn State and later obtained a position at the University of Delaware as an Extension Poultry Specialist. In 1938, he returned to Penn State as an Assistant Professor and Extension Poultry Specialist. He retired from PSU in 1963 as a Professor Emeritus of Poultry Science Extension. He was the author of numerous extension bulletins and other poultry publications.

Bowers Graduate Scholarship Endowed

The William Bowers, Jr. Graduate Endowment in Poultry Science was fully funded in November 2004. Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. William Bowers, III, of Newton Square, PA, the purpose of this endowment shall be "to enrich the College of Agricultural Sciences by providing monies to assist graduate students in the Department of Poultry Science to attend conferences, workshops or to assist them with research costs". Since one of the measurable targets of our 2005-08 Strategic Plan is to "double the current number of graduate students advised by Poultry Science faculty by 2008", establishment of the Bowers Endowment is timely and will provide valuable resources for the support of our graduate program.

William Bowers, Jr. raised poultry and earned an Associate Degree in Poultry Science from Penn State in 1929.

Successful Dean's Tour Sponsored by Wenger Feeds

Wenger's Feed Mill, Inc. of Rheems, PA, a Penn State Ag Council Member, hosted a contingent of administrators and extension

Fred and Nancy Leuschner accept a certificate of recognition from Dr. Robert D. Steele, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences.
personnel from the College of Agricultural Sciences during a Dean's Industry Tour on February 16-17, 2005. The tour began with a meeting at Wenger's corporate offices. There, Dean Robert Steele and the PSU contingent met with a group of Wenger's Senior Management personnel. Also attending from PSU were Paul Wangsness, Senior Associate Dean; Bruce McPHERON, Director, Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station & Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education; Bob ELKIN, Poultry Science Department Head; Mary Wirth, Director of College Relations; Mark Sharer and Janet Doyle, the College's Director and Associate Director of Development, respectively; Gregory Martin, Capital Region Poultry Extension Educator; Leon Ressler, Lancaster County Extension Director; and Michelle Rodgers, Capital Region Extension Director. Wenger's personnel (with major and year of graduation if PSU alumnus) included President & Chief Operating Officer Jim Adams (PTM '80; MBA '97); Jamie Rowley, Human Resources Director & Chief Administrative Officer; Larry Shirk, Sales & Marketing Manager; Gene Petit (PTM '81), Egg Production Manager; Larry Garber, Grain Buyer; Jim Shirk (ERM '93), Marketing Coordinator; Andy Bradford (DAS '96), Poultry Feed Sales; Joe Garber (PTM '94), Nutrition and Research Coordinator; Doug Metzler (PTM '95), Complex Coordinator; and Tom Karr (PTM '00), Complex Manager. Following a presentation by Jim Adams, the group toured Wenger's Rheems Feed Mill.

The group then traveled to the Hy-Line International, Inc. hatchery in Elizabethtown, PA. There, they met with Pam Brubaker, who led a tour of the facility, which is one of the largest egg-type chick hatcheries in the U.S.

The Jim Charles Research Barns in Lancaster, PA was the next stop on the Dean's Tour. There, the group met with Jim Charles and toured his swine and layer research facilities, where various field tests are conducted. The first day ended with a dinner hosted by Barry Shaw, Wenger's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and members of the Wenger's Leadership Team.

The second day began with a breakfast meeting hosted by Ron Kreider at the Kreider Farms Restaurant in Manheim, PA, followed by a visit to Kreider Egg Division's Mount Pleasant Complex, a state-of-the-art facility with an in-line egg processing system that can package up to 108,000 eggs per hour. Dann Snyder, the Mt. Pleasant Complex Manager, and Ed Hoffman (PTM '95), Kreider's Production Manager, led a tour through the egg processing area and one of the layer houses.

The last stop on the Dean's Tour was Bell & Evans processing plant in Fredericksburg, PA, where the group met with Chairman and President Scott Sechler. Scott led a tour of their new Air Chill System, built in partnership with Meyn, Holland's foremost designer of poultry processing equipment. In addition to incorporating the latest technologies, certain design features were included based on over 20 years of experience garnered from Scott's visits to poultry processing facilities throughout the world.

Second Grant for Student Recruiting Received from the USPEA

PSU was recently awarded a $6,100 grant from the Poultry Science Education Fund Grants Program of the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association (USPEA). The program's purpose is to support recruiting activities at colleges and universities that either lack Poultry Science Departments or no longer grant degrees in Poultry Science despite having a stand alone department (as is the case at PSU). This marked the second consecutive year that Penn State has successfully competed for these recruiting monies, bringing the total received from USPEA to $13,100 since the program's inception in 2004. The funds will be used to: (1) enhance our visibility in student recruiting, (2) continue our internship scholarship program, (3) expand 4-H and FFA poultry programming, (4) increase the number of freshmen scholarships, (5) expand a newly-established mentoring program, (6) help support industry tours by our students, (7) increase the number of departmental visits by potential students and their families, and (8) assist our intercollegiate poultry judging team in meeting the costs associated with participating in two annual national contests.
Dean's Industry Tour Highlights

Upper left: Joe Garber leads a tour of the Wenger's Feed Mill in Rheems. Upper right: Jim Adams, President and COO of Wenger's, welcomes the PSU contingent. Above: Jim Shirk makes a point.

Top: Ron Kreider (second from right) hosts a meeting at Kreider's Restaurant in Manheim. Above: Inside one of the laying houses at Kreider's Mt. Pleasant Complex.

Suited up and ready to tour the Hy-Line Hatchery in Elizabethtown, PA with Pam Brubaker.

Top: Scott Sechler and Dean Steele in the new Bell and Evans air-chill processing plant in Fredericksburg, PA. Above: The processing line in operation.

At the Jim Charles Swine Barn.
Turkish Fulbright Scholar Visits Department

Dr. Haydar Özpinar, Head of the Department of Animal Nutrition, in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Istanbul, Turkey and Fulbright Research Scholar at the University of California-Davis, visited the PSU Poultry Science Department on November 30-December 1, 2004. During his visit, Dr. Özpinar presented a seminar on his research, met with Poultry Science faculty members, and toured the Poultry Education and Research Center and the Animal Diagnostic Laboratory on the University Park campus. His Fulbright project at UC-Davis centered on nutrition-immunology interrelationships in broiler chickens and was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Kirk Klasing.

Meeting Notes

2005 Sales and Service Conference Slated for September 22-23 at Grantville, PA

The 2005 Pennsylvania Poultry Sales and Service Conference has been scheduled for September 22-23 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey in Grantville, PA. The first day's session will include presentations by Agriculture Secretary Dennis C. Wolff and Dr. Paul Knepley, Director of the Bureau of Animal Health & Diagnostics and State Veterinarian, as well as talks by a host of experts on various aspects of poultry management and health. Break-out sessions on broiler, turkey, and egg/layer programs are scheduled for the second day. For program details, please visit our website at: http://poultry.cas.psu.edu.

Successful Game Bird Conference Held in 2005

The 2005 Pennsylvania Game Breeders and Hunting Preserves Annual Meeting was held at the Days Inn Penn State in State College on February 27-March 1. Eighty-four registrants from five states enjoyed an outstanding program covering a wide range of topics. Speakers from industry, government, and academia presented information on brooding large and small flocks, hunting dog health, selection and growth of warm-season grasses, proper nutrition vs. least-cost formulation for game bird feeds, controlling nuisance wildlife, selection and management of quail, chukar, and pheasant breeder flocks, proper game bird carcass preparation, encouraging women to participate in outdoor hunting activities, basics of shooting preserve holding pen management, rodent control, game bird pricing, summary of 2004 game bird diagnoses in Pennsylvania, case reports on botulism in pheasants, Capillaria in quail, and colon Clostridial enteric diseases, current drugs and basics of treatment dose calculations, and diagnosing feed-related problems. There was also a hands-on diagnostic session conducted by Drs. Dave Kradel, Patty Dunn, Eva Wallner-Pendleton, Eric Gingerich, and Paul Miller. Session moderators included Chris Trace (Trace Pheasantry, Inc.), Troy Laudenslager (Mahantongo Game Farms, LLC), and John Delp (Wolfe's Game Bird Hatchery). The banquet presentation by Vernon Ross, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, was entitled "Future of Shooting and Hunting Sports". Next year's meeting is scheduled for February 26-28, 2006 at the Days Inn Penn State. For additional information, please contact Dr. Mike Hulet (814.863.8934; e-mail: mrh4@psu.edu).

The Tradition Continues….

Left to right: Poultry Science Club members Matt Ventrella, Kristy Eshbach, and Corey Bartholomew present Penn State President Graham Spanier with a Thanksgiving turkey on November 23, 2004.
Group Learns About Current European Poultry Production Practices and Issues

A contingent of 15 U.S. university and government scientists, including four from Penn State - Mike Hulet, Paul Patterson, Bob Elkin, and Eileen Wheeler - traveled to the Netherlands and Germany in November 2004 in order to meet with Dutch scientists, share research findings, visit poultry facilities, learn about key issues and challenges facing European poultry producers, and attend Europe's largest livestock trade show. In addition to participating in the annual meeting of the USDA Regional Research Project W-195 ("Water Quality Issues in Poultry Production and Processing"), which included presentations by several scientists from Wageningen University, the group met with scientists from Nutreco (Boxmeer, The Netherlands), toured the Lagerway Hatchery (1.7 million chicks/week), two aviaries, and a hot water floor-heated broiler facility before traveling to Hanover, Germany to attend the EuroTier 2004 trade show.
Third Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference
Held in March 2005

The 2005 Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference (MANC) was held in Timonium, MD on March 23-24, and drew 205 attendees from 20 states, Canada, and Belgium. Overall, 29 papers were presented. A General Session was held on the morning of the first day, and included special presentations by Roger and Milt Sunde of the University of Wisconsin. The afternoon session was devoted to the Alltech Animal Nutrition Technical Symposium ("Re-imagining the Feed Industry"). On the following morning, concurrent sessions in Poultry Nutrition, Dairy Nutrition, and Equine Nutrition were held. Several PSU faculty members were actively involved in the 2005 conference: Paul Patterson served on the General Program and the Poultry Nutrition Committees, Bob Elkin served on the General Program Committee, and Gabriella Varga was a member of the Dairy Nutrition Committee. Crop and Soil Scientist Greg Roth ("Genetic Selection for Corn Silage Digestibility") and graduate student Geoffrey Zanton ("Using Particle Size Measurements for Feeding Management of Corn Silage Based Dairy Rations") made presentations.

The MANC is jointly sponsored by the University of Maryland, University of Delaware, The Pennsylvania State University, University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, Virginia Tech, the Maryland Feed Industry Council, and the American Feed Industry Association.

Department Co-Hosts 2005 North Atlantic Poultry Health and Management Conference

Sponsored by Cooperative Extension of the Land Grant Universities of New England, New York, and the Mid-Atlantic States (MACE), the 2005 North Atlantic Poultry Health and Management Conference (NAPHMC) was held on May 10-11 at the Sheraton Bradley International Airport Hotel in Windsor Locks, CT. Attending were eighty-one registrants and speakers, from 23 states, Washington, DC, and Canada.

Following a Welcome Address by Mike Hulet, a total of 24 presentations were delivered among six sessions (Agro-Security; Animal Welfare and Auditing; Environmental Issues; Management; Economics and Products; and Health). Penn State speakers included Gregory Martin, PSU Capital Region Cooperative Extension ("On-Site Bio-Security: Risk Assessment"), Mike Hulet ("New Developments in Auditing Systems"), and Bob Elkin ("Ovo-Nutraceuticals and Egg-Derived Biomedical Products: Opportunities and Challenges").

The NAPHMC, which evolved from the former New Hampshire Poultry Health Conference, has a target audience of educators, producers, veterinarians, technical representatives, and allied industry representatives involved in the egg layer, broiler, and turkey industries.

Student News

Poultry Science Club Receives Sixth Consecutive Best Scrapbook Award

The Penn State Poultry Science Club received the Best Scrapbook Award for the sixth consecutive year from the USPEA. A plaque was presented to the club at the USPEA Poultry Science Club meeting, which was held during the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta, GA (January 26-28, 2005). The award is given for the scrapbook that best portrays the club's activities, student involvement, and projects during the year. Judges reviewed each entry and points were awarded for the cover, content, neatness, organization, creativity, and originality. Phil Clauer and Dirk Wise are the club's co-advisors.
Two PSU Students Participate in the 2005 Aviagen Short Course

Michael Cressman and Regina Lehman, both junior AN SC majors and PAS Minors, were among 10 students nationwide who participated in the Aviagen Hatchery Short Course, May 23-27, in Talledega, AL. Aviagen is a leading international primary breeder company that develops and supplies breeding stock for broiler chickens and turkeys.

Selection for the annual short course is very competitive and is limited to a group of six to 12 juniors and seniors from universities across the country.

Goals of the course are to introduce students to the principles and practices of a primary breeder hatchery and to provide an overview of quality compliance directives, incubation and hatching procedures, and product handling criteria. Students receive classroom instruction as well as hands-on experience in the primary breeding industry.

Participants spent the week at Aviagen's parent stock hatchery in Talladega, where they interacted with the hatchery director, the hatchery manager, a company veterinarian, members of Aviagen's Quality Compliance Group and others. The students were in the hatchery on a hatch day to participate in the day-to-day operations related to day-old chick servicing.

(Article based on 4/29/05 PSU news release)

PSU Poultry Intercollegiate Judging Team Places Third and Seventh in Two National Contests

The Penn State Poultry Judging Team performed well at both the 39th National Collegiate Poultry Judging Contest (held November 7-9, 2004 at the University of Arkansas) and at the 58th Annual U.S. Poultry & Egg Association National Poultry Judging Contest (held April 7-8, 2005 on the campus of Louisiana State University).

The 2004 team, consisting of Corey Bartholomew, a junior AN SC major from Millville, PA, Annie Soergel, a senior AN SC major from Wexford, PA, Kristy Eshbach, a senior AEE major from Conestoga, PA, and Matt Ventrella, a junior AN SC major from West Chester, PA, placed third overall out of 11 teams. Their score of 4145 points was only 36 less than the winning team from the University of Arkansas. Corey Bartholomew had the fourth highest individual score, while Matt Ventrella was 10th nationally.

The 2005 team, consisting of Michael Cressman, a junior AN SC major from Telford, PA, Lara Herger, a senior AN SC major from New Brighton, PA, Paul Hostetter, a junior AN SC major from Holtwood, PA, and Regina Lehman, a junior AN SC major from Mechanicsburg, PA, placed seventh overall out of 12 teams, and only 23 points behind the fifth place team. Regina Lehman had the eighth highest overall individual score.

In both contests, participants competed in the following classes: carcass and egg grading; breed selection for layers, broilers, and turkeys; and purebred selection. The students prepared for the competition through a rigorous training program and by enrolling in ANSC 421 (Poultry Evaluation and Selection), co-taught by Phil Clauer and Dirk Wise.

Five Students Awarded Internship Scholarship

Five PSU undergraduates received Poultry Science Department Internship Scholarships for the 2004-05 academic year. Corey Bartholomew, a junior AN SC major from
Millville, PA, interned with Drs. Hulet and Patterson during the summer of 2004 and participated in several research projects. She worked with both broiler chickens and laying hens, performing a wide variety of management protocols. She also acquired experience in conducting egg specific gravity and shell thickness measurements. In addition, Corey entered data into spreadsheet programs and performed statistical analyses. She also helped with various educational programs, including organizing judging classes during State FFA Week, setting up labs for Governor's School classes, judging the chicken BBQ contest during 4-H Days, and volunteering at the Poultry Science Department's booth at Ag Progress Days. Corey plans to seek a position in the poultry industry upon graduation in 2006.

Paul Hostetter, a junior AN SC major from Holtwood, PA, interned with Pilgrim's Pride (New Oxford, PA) during the summer of 2004. During his internship, Paul initially traveled with different service technicians and learned how to visually evaluate bird (turkey) health, measure the pH of drinking water, check for sufficient ventilation and diagnose and solve problems on the farm. He then spent the following week with one of Pilgrim's contract turkey growers, learning about his complex; for the next five weeks, Paul was solely in charge of managing three turkey houses (~60,000 turkeys total). He subsequently returned to Pilgrim's Pride, where he participated in data collection for a light intensity study. Paul has a strong interest in agribusiness and plans to graduate in 2006.

Regina Lehman, a junior AN SC major from Mechanicsburg, PA, interned at Wenger Feeds (Rheems, PA) during the summer of 2004. During her 12-week experience, she obtained a broad overview of the many different divisions of the company and the associated career opportunities within them. She initially serviced layer, broiler, and pullet flocks, performed egg quality checks, and observed pullet vaccination. She subsequently worked in Wenger's analytical laboratory for several weeks, conducting blood tests as well as feed analyses. She also visited layer complexes and performed a variety of duties. In addition, Regina spent time at two commercial hatcheries and at a broiler processing plant in order to gain experience in these aspects of the poultry industry. The last part of her internship was spent at two of Wenger's feed mills, where she learned how feeds were formulated, stored, and eventually hauled to the farms. There, Regina worked with quality assurance personnel, collected feed samples for analyses, entered mill data into the computer system, and worked along side the Quality Assurance Supervisor to solve problems as they arose. Her internship concluded with a stint in Wenger's Corporate Offices. Regina is currently exploring career opportunities in research. She plans to graduate in 2006.

Megan Lighty, a sophomore AN SC major from West Chester, PA, interned at the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory (ADL) at University Park, PA in the summer of 2004. Her supervisor was Dr. Eva Wallner-Pendleton. There, she assisted with part of a multi-year study aimed at developing a poultry vaccine against *Clostridium perfringens*. One of her main responsibilities was to care for the experimental subjects (chicks) that had been administered purified bacterial toxins, and to subsequently assist Dr. Wallner-Pendleton in determining their clinical effects. Megan also gained experience in avian virology and serology, *Salmonella* testing, parasitology, and bacteriology. Megan plans to pursue a career in veterinary medicine following graduation in 2007.

Anna K. Soergel, a senior AN SC major from Wexford, PA, interned with Hy-Line International (Elizabethtown, PA) and Wenger Feeds (Rheems, PA) during the summer of 2004. At Hy-Line, she gained experience in all phases of hatchery production, with an emphasis on vaccination and quality assurance. She also spent several weeks placing chicks and pullets, obtaining blood samples, and visiting farms, learning about breed differences in terms of production characteristics and management procedures. While at Wenger Feeds, Annie gained exposure to the feed industry, including milling operations, feed formulation, delivery, sales, and testing. She also spent several weeks servicing broiler, layer, turkey, and pullet farms. After graduating this past May, Annie and her husband Todd Eisenhower (ABM '04) accepted positions with Perdue Farms, Inc. on Maryland's Eastern Shore.
The internship scholarship program, which is supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, is intended to reward students for outstanding performance in an internship in a poultry-related field. Selection criteria are based on the individual's interest in and experience with poultry, performance during the internship, and character and leadership qualities. All undergraduate students at Penn State who have participated in a poultry-related internship within one year of the application deadline are eligible.

**Poultry Science Club Visits Perdue Farms, Bell & Evans, and Michael Foods**

Each Fall and Spring semester, Penn State Poultry Science Club members take a one-day industry tour, typically visiting one or two companies. On October 15, 2004, they traveled to the Milford, DE complex of Perdue Farms, Inc. There, they met with PSU alumnus Mike Levengood (ABM '83) and toured a feed mill, hatchery, roaster grow-out facility, and processing plant. They also had a chance to visit with Jim Perdue and some of his senior management team.

On March 31, 2005, the club visited Bell & Evans (Fredericksburg, PA) and Michael Foods (Klingerstown, PA). At Bell & Evans, they were hosted by Chairman and President Scott Sechler and QA Manager Sue Ranck (Ag Sci '91) and toured their new air chill processing plant (see related story on pages 6-8). At Michael Foods (Papetti’s Hygrade Egg Products, Inc.), the students met with Frank Anonia, General Manager of PA Operations, who led a tour of one of the largest egg breaking plants in the country. The plant also manufactures a wide variety of further processed egg products.

**Record Attendance at 2005 Poultry Science Club Awards Banquet**

The 15th Annual Penn State Poultry Science Club Awards Banquet was held on April 29 at the Ramada Inn, State College. Approximately 85 students, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff attended. The evening began with a social hour and silent auction at 5:30 p.m. (which raised
over $700 for Heifer International), followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The featured speaker was Scott Sechler, Chairman and President of Bell & Evans (Fredericksburg, PA), who spoke about his company's history and vision, and the importance of producing a high quality product. He then showed a video of their state-of-the-art air chill processing facility in Fredericksburg, PA. A family owned and operated company, Bell & Evans produces chicken, ducks, Cornish game hens, and turkeys that are raised without antibiotics and fed an all-vegetable diet.

An awards ceremony recognized individuals who had the highest grade-point average or were the most active Club members. New officers for 2005-06 were announced (see below) and the PSU Poultry Intercollegiate Judging Team members were introduced and their accomplishments heralded. The evening concluded with a very entertaining "Year in Review" slide show by Club Co-Advisor Dirk Wise.

News for Alumni and Friends

Poultry Science Affiliate Program Group Update - From President Andy Long

The Penn State Poultry Science Affiliate Program Group (APG) began our year with the appointment of two new board members: Susan Ranck, Farmer’s Pride, and Roxanne Molnar, producer for Farmer’s Pride. They replaced Rich Roenigk, York Ag Products, and Paul Hann, Land O’ Lakes Purina Feed LLC. Although Rich and Paul have both fulfilled their obligations as officers and board members, they both continue to play an important role for the APG as we continue to grow and diversify. The six-member board also appointed new officers (see below).

The past year was filled with many new activities for our members. The APG was able to help staff the Lancaster Co. FFA Poultry Judging Contest with volunteers. We also helped to plan, staff, and sponsor the John Schwartz Memorial Golf Outing in June 2005. This event raised over $2,000 for the PennAg Industries Association college scholarship program. Our members and board members continue to be a great resource for Penn State Poultry Science Extension staff as they plan Poultry Progress Day and the PA Poultry Sales and Service Conference each year. APG members also volunteered their services at the PennAg Poultry Council food booth at the 2005 Farm Show, which is held each January in Harrisburg. Other areas of continued focus have been our advisory role for Dr. Bob Elkin, Head of the Poultry Science Department, and mentoring students and providing speakers for the PSU Poultry Science Club. The Poultry Science APG can be called upon at anytime by Dr. Elkin for an industry and alumni perspective on current events at the University level. Most recently, APG input was sought for the Department’s 2005-08 Strategic Plan. Phil Clauer, Poultry Science Club Co-Advisor, has also relied on APG for our capacity to interact with students at club events, industry tours, and conferences. Lastly, Poultry Science APG members greatly enjoy the comradery and hospitality at the Poultry Science Alumni and Friends Reunion (tailgate), held each fall outside of the Ag Arena, across from Beaver Stadium. After all, it is here where we begin our year with a dues solicitation and a new membership drive.

Poultry Science APG Board Members

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Andy Long, Biomune Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Pres</td>
<td>Andy Bradford, Wenger Feeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Gene Petit, Wenger Feeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Rich Roenigk, York Ag Products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni Rep</td>
<td>Jim Shirk, Wenger Feeds</td>
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2005-06 Poultry Science Club Officers

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Regina Lehman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Matthew Ventrella</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Amanda Goddard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Andrew Herr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC Rep (Sr)</td>
<td>Clark Neely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC Rep (Jr)</td>
<td>Samantha Tartaglino</td>
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Please welcome our newest board members and new officers as they represent the poultry industry and Penn State Alumni. Watch for a complete list of events, dates, and membership information from your APG board later this summer. For more information, please contact Andy Long at biolong@netrax.net or Andy Bradford at abradford@wengerfeeds.com.

2004 Alumni & Friends Reunion Turnout was the Largest to Date

Over 140 students, staff, alumni, and friends attended the 5th Annual Poultry Science Alumni and Friends Reunion on October 9, 2004. Following a social hour, there was a brief welcome by Bob Elkin after which two of our newest scholarships, the Glenn O. Bressler Memorial Scholarship (see story on pages 5-6) and the John H. Schwartz Memorial Scholarship, were recognized. A certificate also was presented to the Schwartz Family. After an update on the Poultry Science APG by Rich Roenigk, an excellent dinner featuring PSU barbequed chicken was served. Many of the attendees then ventured across Park Avenue to attend the PSU-Purdue football game. Unfortunately, the Lions lost to the Boilermakers by a score of 20-13.
**The Plans**

We'll have a brief welcome by Bruce McPheron, Associate Dean for Research, College of Agricultural Sciences, followed by an update of departmental activities and special guest recognition by Bob Elkin, Poultry Science Department Head. Following a chicken BBQ buffet meal, we will adjourn to attend the PSU-Ohio State football game.

**What Should I Wear?**

Dress casually, as you would for the football game.

**Football Tickets**

Tickets are available to our group at the rate of $53 per ticket. These are chair-back seats (as opposed to bench seats) and our group will be seated in the South Upper Deck.

**Registration Deadline**

Tailgate meal and football ticket orders must be received by **Monday, September 12**th.

**Hotel Accommodations**

We have reserved several rooms at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center on campus for October 7 and 8. Rooms must be reserved for both nights and the price for one room with two double beds is **$199 per night** plus occupancy tax based on single or double occupancy. **Rooms will be available on a first come, first served basis, and reservations must be made through the Poultry Science Department.** Therefore, please contact Holly Shoemaker by telephone (814.863.2101) or e-mail (hms4@psu.edu) if you are interested in reserving a room by **Tuesday, September 6**th. After that date, we will release our hold on the rooms.

**Parking**

We have a limited number of reserved parking spaces near the Ag Arena that will be available on a first come, first served basis. Please check the appropriate box on the registration form to request a parking space.

**Accessibility For Special Needs**

If you have special dietary needs, physical challenges or need other assistance to participate in the reunion activities, note those on your registration form and someone from our office will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.

**Game Time Changes**

Kickoff time for the game will be either 7:00 (if aired on ESPN2) or 7:45 p.m. (if aired on ESPN). A determination of the kickoff time may not be made until 12 days prior to the contest.

**What If I Have Other Questions?**

Please call the Poultry Science Department at 814-865-3411.
PSU Class Year &
Name: ___________________________________________ Major (if applicable): ___________
Address: ________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________________
Home Phone: (____) __________ Business Phone: (____) __________ E-mail: __________
☐ Yes, I would like Ag Arena Parking (first come, first served)
Special Football Seating Needs: ______ Wheelchair ______ Companion
______ Other (please explain) __________________________
Dietary Needs (please explain): __________________________
Other Necessary Accommodations (please explain):
(Someone from the Poultry Science Office will phone with details of arrangements.)
Name(s) as you wish them to appear on name badges (please print or type):
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY (OCTOBER 8)</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Football Tickets (chairback seats)*</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>$ 53.00</td>
<td>_______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penn State vs. Ohio State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tailgate Chicken BBQ Meal</td>
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<td>Adult</td>
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<td>Child (5-12 years old)</td>
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<td>Order Total</td>
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*Football ticket orders will be processed only for those making meal reservations.

NOTES: All persons, regardless of age, must have a ticket to enter Beaver Stadium. You will receive written confirmation of your registration. All tickets will be distributed at the registration table in the tent on game day.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PENN STATE UNIVERSITY" AND DETACH AND MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Holly Shoemaker, Department of Poultry Science, Penn State University
213 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802-3501
(Tel: 814-863-2101; Fax: 814-865-5691; E-mail: hms4@psu.edu)

TAILGATE DINNER/Football Ticket Order Reservations Must Be Received by ***September 12th***
HOW TO CONTACT US

Department of Poultry Science:
The Pennsylvania State University
213 Henning Building
University Park, PA 16802-3501
Tel: (814) 865-3411  Fax: (814) 865-5691
Website: http://poultry.cas.psu.edu

Poultry Education & Research Center:
Dirk Wise, Manager
Tower Road, University Park, PA 16802
Tel: (814) 863-0510  Fax: (814) 865-5691
E-mail: dfw3@psu.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty and Professional Staff</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Tel (A.C. 814)</th>
<th>E-mail (@psu.edu)</th>
<th>Area of Expertise</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guy F. Barbato</td>
<td>201 Henning</td>
<td>865-4481</td>
<td>gb1</td>
<td>Physiological Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip J. Clauer</td>
<td>225 Henning</td>
<td>863-8960</td>
<td>pclauer</td>
<td>4-H Youth and Specialty Poultry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert G. Elkin (Dept. Head)</td>
<td>214 Henning</td>
<td>863-2102</td>
<td>relkin</td>
<td>Nutritional Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Michael Hulet</td>
<td>222 Henning</td>
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<td>mrh4</td>
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<td>Roland M. Leach, Jr.</td>
<td>205 Henning</td>
<td>865-5082</td>
<td>lnr</td>
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<td>Paul H. Patterson</td>
<td>223 Henning</td>
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<td>Ramesh Ramachandran</td>
<td>211 Henning</td>
<td>865-5202</td>
<td>RameshR</td>
<td>Neuroendocrine Regulation of Female Reproduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regina Vasilatos-Younken</td>
<td>203 Henning</td>
<td>865-4642</td>
<td>rxv</td>
<td>Metabolic Endocrinology</td>
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If you have any comments about this issue of PS Update, or suggestions for future issues, please contact Dr. Elkin at the above address.

Editor and Designer: Robert G. Elkin

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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