



3470 Litton-Reaves Hall • Virginia Tech • Blacksburg, VA • 24061-0306  
540/231-6311 • Fax 540/231-3010 • www.apsc.vt.edu

## Spring & Summer 2008



page 3



page 12



page 14



page 15

## Special Interest Articles:

### Awards and Recognitions

Allen Harper .....	3
Departmental Awards .....	3, 6, 7
Alumni Awards.....	4, 5, 6
Student Awards .....	7
Capstone Experience.....	8
Pratt Senior Fellows .....	8
Academic Quadrathlon.....	9
Youth Swine Day .....	12
VT Horse Judging Team .....	13
Equestrian Trip to Germany.....	20
Grants .....	22

## Regular Articles:

State of the Department.....	2
Graduate Student News.....	5
Dean's List.....	10
Scholarships .....	11
APSC Student Organizations	
Block & Bridle Club .....	14
Equestrian Club + ISHA Results .....	17
Poultry Club.....	19
New Staff .....	21
Contact Information.....	25
Dates to Remember .....	25
Update Your Information .....	26

## State of the Department

by Dr. Kenny Webb, Interim Department Head



As we complete University Commencement activities for another academic year, the opportunity arises for us to reflect on the events of the past year. The 2007-08 academic year was another banner one for the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences. Throughout this newsletter, there are reports detailing many

of the successes experienced by students, student organizations, faculty, staff, and alumni since our last newsletter. If you combine the two newsletters (previous newsletters available at [http://www.apsc.vt.edu/News and Events/NewsLetters/NewsLetters.htm](http://www.apsc.vt.edu/News%20and%20Events/NewsLetters/NewsLetters.htm)) for this academic year, I believe that you will come to the conclusion that many good things are happening in the department.

By the time this newsletter is distributed, the number of alumni from the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences will have grown by 89 to 3905. On May 9th, 88 students were awarded B.S. degrees and one student received the M.S. degree. If we include the graduates from December, that brings to 111 the number of graduates for the 2007-08 academic year. As these talented students complete this phase of their careers, we are anticipating an increased enrollment for fall semester. Acceptances by freshmen who plan to enroll in the department for fall semester of 2008 are up more than 25% from this same time last year. With our current student population and with this growth, our alumni population will top 4,000 next May.

All of this growth is good, but it brings with it increased demands on faculty, staff, and facilities. In the last newsletter, I indicated that a major limitation for the department resides with our animal facilities that are used to support departmental programs in instruction, research, and extension. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is about to initiate the development of a long-term land and facility use plan in conjunction with the university. This should provide a clear guide to assure that we progress towards development of the very best animal facilities to support our teaching, research and extension programs. I also previously indicated

that Virginia Tech, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and your Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences are currently in the midst of the 'Campaign for Virginia Tech - Invent the Future'. Because we have more programs, more students, and more successes in research and education than ever before, we are in even greater need of the help private philanthropy can provide. Please consider becoming involved in this process as a donor or in some other way. I will be happy to visit with you ([webbk@vt.edu](mailto:webbk@vt.edu)) or if you choose, you may contact the CALS Development Office ([rjmac@vt.edu](mailto:rjmac@vt.edu)).

Continuing with the theme of philanthropic activities, many alumni have expressed interest in the continuing achievements of the judging teams in the department. Further in the newsletter you will find updates on their activities. Of special interest is the fact that we have a campaign underway to generate a \$1.0 million endowment to support future livestock judging team activities. A number of alumni are actively working to establish this endowment and included among them are Ike Eller, Paul Bennett, Henry Holloway, Dennis Pearson, and Gene Copenhagen. Funds from the endowment income will be used to partially fund the salary of an instructor in the department who will serve as the livestock judging team coach and to support travel and other costs associated with having a competitive team. To request more information or if you have interest in contributing to the development of this endowment, I will be happy to visit with you ([webbk@vt.edu](mailto:webbk@vt.edu)) or if you choose, you may contact Vernon Meacham ([vmeacham@vt.edu](mailto:vmeacham@vt.edu)) in the CALS Development Office or any of the individuals listed above.

I am in my 39th year as a member of the faculty in this department. Never did I imagine when I joined the faculty that I was going to be living in the best place in the world to live and that I was going to be working in the best place in the world to work. Throughout all of that time and to this very moment, it has been great to be a Hokie!!! I will close as I did previously with three requests, 1) enjoy this newsletter and take pride in the accomplishments of your department, 2) alumni please take time to complete the last page of the newsletter with updated information about yourself and return it to us, and 3) do think seriously about how you may play a role in helping us realize our vision for modern animal facilities.

## Awards and Recognitions

### Dr. Allen Harper to Become Director of the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center



Dr. Allen Harper (B.S. 1979, M.S. 1982, Ph.D. 1992) has been appointed Assistant Director of the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center. He will assume full directorship in August of 2008. In this role, Dr. Harper is responsible for administrative management of one of the largest off-campus units within

the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station system. The Tidewater AREC is located in the City of Suffolk on Highway 58, near the village of Holland. The center has seven tenure-track faculty and 17 technical staff conducting research, extension education programs and training graduate students in applied sciences for swine production and major agronomic crop commodities including cotton, soybeans, peanuts, small grains and corn.

From 1982 to 1989, Allen served as Agricultural Extension Agent in Suffolk, Virginia where he was responsible for livestock production educational programming. After finishing his Ph.D. in 1992, Allen joined the faculty at Virginia Tech as Assistant Professor and Extension Animal Scientist being located at the Tidewater AREC and was responsible for swine production extension programming throughout Virginia and applied swine research at the center. In 1998 he was promoted to Associate Professor and Extension Animal Scientist for swine programs and, pending Board of Visitors approval,

will be promoted to Full Professor in June of 2008.

Allen's extension and research programs focus on nutrition and management for improved swine performance, improved methods of waste management on swine farms, proper use of anti-microbial feed additives and improved reproductive efficiency in sows and boars. He recently chaired a task force for the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) to develop a national issue paper on technologies for carcass disposal for routine and catastrophic mortality events on swine farms. Allen is a member of numerous national and state swine and livestock committees. He also serves as secretary and educational advisor to the Virginia Pork Industry Association and as superintendent of the Virginia State Fair Market Shows. Allen's swine extension programs have received recognition through awards presented by the Virginia Agribusiness Council (1996), the Virginia Pork Industry Association (2001) and the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science (2006). His programs have also had international impact through invited swine advisory trips to Japan, Korea, Mexico and Jamaica.

Allen and his wife Lauren, a 1980 graduate of the Animal Science Department, reside in Franklin, Virginia. They are parents of two adult sons, Taylor, an automotive mechanic, and Witt, a junior at Longwood University.



### Thomson Highly Cited Researchers

Paul B. Siegel, distinguished professor, and E. Ann Dunnington, professor, both of the Animal and Poultry Sciences Department, have been listed as Thomson Scientific Highly Cited Researchers. Researchers designated as 'highly cited' by Thomson Scientific are those most frequently cited by their peers in all research publications, indicating consistent and extensive influence in their areas of study. Recognized individuals are among the 250 most cited researchers in



their respective fields and comprise less than one-half of one percent of all publishing researchers.



The research leading to this recognition involves a long-term experiment on growth in chickens first initiated in the mid-1950s. Results of the experiment are applicable to poultry as well as other livestock and have been instrumental in practical corroboration of genetic and evolutionary theories.

Dr. Paul Siegel and Dr. Ann Dunnington

**Awards and Recognitions**, continued from page 3

## **Lara Pappas – Outstanding Recent Alumni Award Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Organization**

Lara Pappas has been recognized as the Outstanding Recent Alumna for 2007 for the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Organization. She graduated from the Animal and Poultry Sciences Department at Virginia Tech in June 2002. Currently completing medical training at the Eastern Virginia Medical School, Lara is planning a career as a pediatric oncologist. She has been actively involved in professional philanthropies [Committee Head, Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team; Project S.M.I.L.E (Students Making Life a Little Easier)] and clubs (Pediatrics Club, American Medical Association, Norfolk Academy of Medicine Student), and other community outreach programs, throughout medical school. As a prestigious Post-Baccalaureate IRTA Fellow (2002-2004) with the National Institute of Drug Abuse at NIH, she co-authored three journal publications and a poster at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Neuroscience. Her inspiration to become a pediatric oncologist began as a teenager, maturing while at VT, in part as the Director and Annual Coordinator of the horseback riding class (1996–2003) at Camp Fantastic, a camp dedicated to children with cancer.

Lara was a Research Assistant to Dr. Jerry Roberson (VMRCVM) at the VT Dairy Center (2002), a member of the Pre-Veterinary Club (1998 – 2002) and a member of the Poultry Club (1998 – 2002). As a member of many clubs and organizations at VT,

she was involved in multiple service activities while at VT and after graduation. As part of Alpha Zeta, an organization dedicated to community service, she organized a campus volleyball tournament and participated in community service activities including gardening on campus and around the duck pond, and cleaning the local battered women’s shelter. As one of only five female members on the VT Snowboard team, she helped snowboarding gain recognition as an intercollegiate sport.

**Awards and Recognitions:**

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude (2002)
- Pre-Veterinary Academic Scholarship (2000)
- Biology Honor Society Phi Sigma (2000 – 2002)
- Alpha Zeta Agriculture Honor Fraternity (1999–2002)
- Academic Deans List (1999–2002)
- 4-H All-Star (1997) – lifetime induction for ongoing dedication to the 4-H program.



Lara Pappas being presented the 2007 Recent Outstanding Alumna Award by Dr. Mike Denbow and Dean Sharron Quisenberry

## **Departmental Alumnus Wins Award At Radford University**



Professor of Biology, Mark Cline, is the recipient of the Radford University Foundation Distinguished Creative Scholar Award. The award recognizes “significant original contributions to the body of knowledge in academe and contributions that have had a significant impact on effective classroom teaching”. Cline has been a member of the

biology faculty at Radford University since 2002. His research focuses on ways the brain regulates appetite.

Dr. Cline received his Bachelor of Science from Vir-

ginia Tech’s Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences in 1999 with a minor in Biology. His M.S. and Ph.D. were also earned at VT in Animal and Poultry Sciences in physiology, working under the direction of Dr. Mike Denbow. Specialization for the M.S. was in manipulative reproductive physiology and for the Ph.D. in neurochemical regulation of behavior. At Radford University he teaches the following courses: “Human Anatomy and Physiology”, “Human Structure and Function I”, “Human Structure and Function II”, and “Vertebrate Zoology”.

Mark’s comment about his recognition: “I attribute my success here at Radford University to the extraordinary training I received from the Animal and Poultry Sciences program at Virginia Tech. I continue to collaborate very actively with both Mike Denbow and especially Paul Siegel.”

**Awards and Recognitions**, continued from page 4

## **Winston Samuels – Outstanding Alumni Award** **Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Organization**

Winston A. Samuels has been recognized as the 2007 Outstanding Alumnus from the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Organization. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Tuskegee University in 1978 and then obtained a Master's and Ph.D. degrees in the Animal Science Department at Virginia Tech in 1980 and 1983, respectively. He also successfully completed business and management training at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business and Washington University School of Business.

Since graduating, he has contributed financially and "in-kind" to the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to support research, particularly in ruminant nutrition, and graduate student development. He has also been involved in campus-wide diversity programs including financial contributions to the Virginia Tech Multicultural Affairs Program. He serves as an advocate for Virginia Tech in the Hudson Valley region of New York where he identifies and refers talented students to Virginia Tech.

Dr. Samuels is a three-time recipient of Monsanto's Achievement Award for Innovation and Leadership. He has received the Leadership award from the Northeast Veterinary Advisory Board, and the Innovation and Drive award from the Alberta and Ontario Veterinary Medical Associations. Furthermore, he received the Change Agent award from the Ontario Grain and Feed Council. He was mentioned as the Black Executive to Watch by Wall Street Journal in 2004, and received several Leadership and Commitment awards by the Warwick Varsity Ice Hockey Association. On two occasions he was the invited speaker on Minority Issues at the national meetings of the American Society of Animal Science and the American Dairy Science Association, and was the invited speaker for the Technical Symposium at the Cornell Nutrition Conference for Feed Manufacturers in Syracuse, NY. He is frequently quoted on de-

livery systems in trade magazine. He is a member of the Institute of Food Technologists, American Dairy Science Association, American Society of Animal Science, and The Conference Board.

Dr. Samuels is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of Maxx Performance, Inc., an entrepreneurial scientific company involved in the manufacturing and marketing of microencapsulated ingredients and delivery systems in the life sciences industry. As Founder, President and CEO, he champions the innovations, development and profitable business ventures undertaken by this successful company.

Although living in the Hudson Valley region, Marilyn, his wife, and two sons, Courtney and Joel, take every opportunity to return to Virginia Tech. In fact, both Marilyn and Courtney are also Virginia Tech graduates. In his words "We are Hokies first!" In the recent Hokie Nation video he was featured displaying his pride and passion for Virginia Tech.



Dr. Winston Samuels being presented the 2007 Outstanding Alumnus Award by Dr. Joe Fontenot and Dean Sharron Quisenberry

## **Graduate Student News**

Forrest Axson received an M.S. degree in spring 2008 under the direction of Dr. Bill Beal. Forrest completed a non-thesis master's project entitled "Incidence of follicular wave regression and new wave emergence following administration of a CIDR before and after selection of the dominant follicle in cycling beef cows with an experimentally-induced follicular wave."

Awards and Recognitions, continued from page 5

## VT APSC Alumna Is Featured In New Book

Shelby Clark, a 2007 graduate of the Animal and Poultry Sciences Department at Virginia Tech, is featured in a new horse book "Beloved Sport Horses" by children's author, Sharon Miner. Shelby, a Mechanicsburg native, shares her inspirational story about a young horse named Bentley VT in "Beloved Sport Horses."

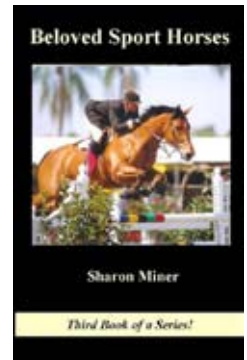
While at Virginia Tech, Shelby studied horses extensively through the Animal and Poultry Sciences Department. She was an active member of the Virginia Tech Equestrian Club and Riding Team and competed on the IHSA Hunter Team. She also participated in Block and Bridle, Alpha Zeta and the VT Outdoor Club. One of her favorite experiences while at Virginia Tech was being part of the Sport-horse Breeding Internship the first year it was offered. Through the internship, she helped deliver foals, assist with veterinary practices and train and show young horses. Bentley was assigned to her as one of the young horses to train during the internship, and that is how she came to know him and want him as her own horse.

Bentley was bred and born at Virginia Tech and sired by one of Virginia Tech's resident stallions, Baladin d'Oc. Shelby purchased Bentley from Virginia Tech's Hokie Harvest Sale, held every October

at the Alphin-Stuart Arena.

The Hokie Harvest Sale features horses, beef cattle and swine and is organized and conducted by undergraduate students as an integral part of the course "Livestock Merchandising" which is offered every fall semester. The students involved in organizing the sale obtain extremely valuable experience in a traditional method of merchandising livestock, a public auction. Students are also responsible for fitting and training all animals for the sale.

"Beloved Sport Horses" tells in detail the story of Shelby and Bentley and speculates on their future performance career together. Currently, Shelby and Bentley are residing and training for the 2008 show season in Mechanicsville, VA.



## Gamma Sigma Delta Faculty Extension Award



The Virginia Tech Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, is very happy to announce the selection of Dr. Scott P. Greiner for the 2008 Faculty Extension Award. The Faculty Extension Award was established in 1971 to honor a Virginia Tech faculty member who has developed an outstanding program of Extension work which has culminated in a substantial contribution to agriculture in his or her specialized field over the last 5 years.

Dr. Greiner is an Associate Professor and Extension Animal Scientist (Beef/Sheep), as well as Extension Project Leader in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences. He was nominated by Jim Riddell, Assistant Director - Agriculture and

Natural Resources for Virginia Cooperative Extension. Mr. Riddell wrote, "(Dr. Greiner's) contributions to educational programming and his support of the agricultural producers in Virginia are exemplary of Extension's outreach mission. Since he joined VCE in 1998, he has designed and delivered innovative extension programs which have measurable impacts on the beef and sheep industries in our state. Dr. Greiner has implemented and enhanced these programs, allowing Virginia Tech to become a regional and national source for educational information on beef cattle genetics and sheep management. He is recognized as the primary sheep resource on the East Coast and his programs are used throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region. He is a model Extension Specialist due to his effective training and consistent efforts in providing resources for agents and producers. He has a well-balanced research and extension program which is heavily leveraged with extramural funds, resulting in direct impacts in the livestock industry in Virginia."

**Awards and Recognitions**, continued from page 6

## Jeffrey Escobar - Outstanding Young Animal Scientist Award & Peter J. Reeds Memorial Young Investigator Award



Jeffery Escobar, Assistant Professor in Animal and Poultry Sciences was recognized with two prestigious awards in 2008, a regional and a national award.

The Outstanding Young Animal Scientist Award-Research for the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal

Science is given for outstanding contribution to the field of Animal Science by a scientist less than 40 years of age who is actively engaged in research at the time of nomination. This award was presented to Dr. Escobar during the Southern Meeting in Dallas, TX and is sponsored by Elanco Animal Health.

The Peter J. Reeds Memorial Young Investigator Award is a national award given by the American Society for Nutrition during its annual meeting in San Diego, CA. This award was presented to Dr.

Escobar for outstanding research in macronutrient metabolism accomplished within five years of receiving a Ph.D., or completing residency training in the case of a physician. The award was established with an initial contribution from the Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine.

Research conducted by Dr. Escobar as a postdoctoral fellow in the Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine resulted in three first authored and seven co-authored peer reviewed publications in the Journal of Nutrition or the American Journal of Physiology Endocrinology and Metabolism. His work focused on the effect of physiological concentrations of the amino acid, leucine, to activate the translation initiation mechanisms that lead to an increase in protein synthesis and hence muscle growth in neonatal and young pigs.

Recently, Dr. Escobar received notice of his appointment by the Council of the American Physiological Society to the Animal Care and Experimentation Committee. Dr. Escobar will initiate his three-year term on January 1, 2009.

## Outstanding Seniors Thomas Rogers-Cotrone & Tam Bui



The Outstanding Senior Awards (one representing each College at Virginia Tech) are co-sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association and the Class of 2008. In addition to being a senior in good standing with the University, outstanding performance is required in the following areas: academic achievement, extracurricular activities, leadership positions, and

contributions of service to the university and/or community. Congratulations to Thomas Rogers-Cotrone (hometown Drakes Branch, Virginia) for receiving this award for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in April 2008.



Tam Bui (Herndon, VA) has been honored as the 2008 Outstanding Senior by Phi Kappa Phi in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech. She also won the Oliver J. Hubbard Memorial Scholarship, an award that is given to only five students in the United States each year. Under the direction of Dr. Mike Denbow, Tam completed a Pratt Senior Nutrition project entitled "Gastro-

intestinal Gut Microflora Composition in High- and Low-weight Chickens". Tam will begin a DVM/Ph.D. Program at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in fall semester 2008.

## New Capstone Experience in Animal and Poultry Sciences

by Cindy Wood

Beginning with the Fall 2007 entering class, students majoring in Animal and Poultry Sciences will complete a capstone experience as part of their degree requirements. The two-credit requirement is designed to be completed within 45 credits (three terms) of graduation. Students will plan their individualized experiences in consultation with their academic advisors to utilize knowledge and skills already learned to acquire new skills, synthesize information and solve problems in the animal sciences. Each plan must show evidence of the use of critical thinking skills; problem-solving; verbal, visual, and written communication skills; and team effort. Upon completion of the capstone experience, each student should be able to assess and describe potential contributions from that experience and should be better prepared to compete effectively for career positions and/or post-baccalaureate opportunities like graduate school or veterinary medicine.

This new curriculum addition strengthens an undergraduate program that is already recognized as one of the top programs of its kind in the country. It also holds great promise for productive partnerships with industry to nurture the talent that will be needed to sustain animal agriculture well into the future.

To aid students in the process of planning, develop-

ing, and completing their unique capstone experiences, a new sophomore-level seminar course (APSC 2004) was developed that includes writing resumes and cover letters, mock interviews, and drafting a capstone experience proposal. The capstone proposal must clearly outline how learning objectives will be achieved and how student attainment of the objectives will be assessed. Final proposals will be submitted to a faculty committee for approval no later than the term prior to undertaking the capstone experience.

Potential capstone experiences in the animal sciences could include, but are not limited to, Study Abroad, Field Studies, Internships, Undergraduate Research, Independent Studies, and formal coursework at the senior or masters level. A course (APSC 4954) has specifically been developed to encompass many of these individualized projects. With more than 450 APSC majors, the challenges presented by this new requirement are many but are outweighed by the tremendous opportunities.

For more information about degree requirements in Animal and Poultry Sciences, please visit our web site at [www.apsc.vt.edu](http://www.apsc.vt.edu). Inquiries about potential industry partnerships may be directed to:

Dr. Cindy Wood, 3060 Litton Reaves Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061  
540-231-6937 [piglady@vt.edu](mailto:piglady@vt.edu)

## John Lee Pratt Senior Fellows

The following APSC students conducted undergraduate research during the 2007-08 academic year and presented their findings in the John Lee Pratt Symposium of Animal Nutrition Senior Fellows, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on May 1, 2008.

STUDENT	TITLE	FACULTY ADVISOR(S)
Kyle Alberti	"Breed of Sire, But Not Feeding Program, Affects Circulating Concentrations of Leptin in Pigs"	Mark Estienne Allen Harper
Tam Bui	"Gastrointestinal Gut Microflora Composition in High- and Low-weight Lines of Chickens"	Mike Denbow
Jessica Gould	"Quantification of Cholecystokinin-8 Expressed in the Small Intestine in Lines of Chickens Divergently Selected for High or Low Juvenile Body Weight"	Eric Wong
Virginia Topp	"Nutritional Regulation of Insulin-like Growth Factor-I (IGF) Production in Cattle"	Honglin Jaing
Maggie Trefney	"Effect of Ghrelin and Neuropeptide Y on Food Intake in Chickens"	Mike Denbow



# 2008 Academic Quadrathlon

by Cindy Wood

The Academic Quadrathlon is a four-part undergraduate competition for animal sciences students held in four regions around the country. Virginia Tech participates in the Southern Region competition, which was held February 1-3, 2008 at Texas A&M University and in Dallas, TX. Teams of four students work together on a written exam, a lab practical, an oral presentation, and a quiz bowl over a two-day span. A local contest is held at each university to determine which team will represent that university at the regional competition. The Animal and Poultry Sciences Department and the Dairy Science Department jointly sponsor the event at Blacksburg, and it takes considerable effort from faculty, staff, and graduate students to ensure successful completion of the event.



It was a cold day in January...

This year, a total of nine teams competed locally in a one-day marathon on January 21, 2008: two all-freshmen teams and seven upperclassmen teams. The all-freshmen team members included 1) Nikki Richards, Brittany Moore, Jessica Sakiewicz, Javier Garcia; and 2) Scott Bennett, Jones Baker, Andrew Echols, Devon Dransfield. The upperclassmen teams consisted of 1) Lindsey Williamson, Jacob Gilley, Cameron Sasser, Malorie Rhoderick; 2) Christy Jones, Niki Knoebel, Priya Subbarayan, Raven Gray; 3) Ashley Kopanko, Jason Taub, Regina Shores, Miranda Herbert; 4) Genna Gomes, Garrett Smith, Hunter Dorman, Ashley Somervell; 5) Kelsey Altholz, Katie Jones, Cody Yager, Tara Svendsen; 6) Kelli Beavers, Kayla Minnick, Cindy Koontz, Laura Neff; and 7) Josh Stephens, Matt Earman, Andy Gibson, Laura Parr.



How many different bridles are there?



Are you sure of that answer?

This year's winning team from VT—Jacob Gilley (APSC), Malorie Rhoderick (DASC), Cameron Sasser (APSC) and Lindsey Williamson (APSC)—faced stiff competition from 10 other teams, including Auburn, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oklahoma State University, Tarleton State University, Texas A&M, Texas A&M Kingsville, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, and University of Tennessee. Virginia Tech did quite well, placing first in the oral presentation category and fifth overall.



The winning team:  
Jacob Gilley,  
Cameron Sasser,  
Lindsey Williamson,  
Malorie Rhoderick



APSC and DASC graduate students were integral in making the day a success.

**Dean's List Fall 2007**

Morgan E. Agnew	Sarah M. Donovan	Jessica A. Ihling	Jessica F. Romine
Elizabeth Alexis	Hunter A. Dorman	Joanna C. Jacob	Bobbi S. Salyers
Kimberly M. Allen	Matthew P. Earman	Andrea B. Johnson	Regina M. Shores
Kelsey S. Altholz	Heidi R. Eberly	Katherine E. Jones	Garrett P. Smith
Samuel K. Altizer	Theresa J. Economos	Kelly J. Joyce	Shannon M. Smith
Rebecca L. Arnold	Emma Kate Evans	Laura P. Kerr	Shannon C. Snyder
Caitlin C. Ashton	Laura L. Faris	Alexander J. Kilgore	Kelly M. Southern
Kelly L. Baccus	Sarah P. Firebaugh	Katherine G. Lamb	Allison J. Spivey
Billie J. Barnes	Dale S. Flugel	Thomas H. Liskey	Charley G. Stull
Elizabeth J. Barrar	Caitlin A. Flynn	Amanda F. Marino	Priya A. Subbarayan
Brittany L. Bean	Aveetal Gershon	Jessica F. Martin	Carly V. Sullivan
Kelli N. Beavers	James A. Gibson	Claire G. McGill	Jennifer L. Surotchak
Erika J. Beck	Sarah A. Giewont	Julie A. MicKey	Anne E. Swartzwelder
Katherine L. Beckley	Jacob A. Gilley	Kayla D. Minnick	Greg R. Swieter
Ashley L. Bell	Genna L. Gomes	Stephanie J. Myers	Stephanie C. Sysak
Danielle N. Botting	Jessica C. Gould	Clara R. Nelson	Riley E. Traywick
Jennifer R. Bowry	Christopher T. Grams	Meredith K. Park	Monica E. Tubesing
Matthew D. Boyle	Jacquelyn E. Greiner	Zachary S. Parks	Christopher B.
Dejan J. Bratcher	Sylvia E. Grove	Ashley K. Perry	Vanderhoof
Jerilyn T. Brooks	Leah M. Harris	Sierra L. Pollock	Lora B. Walls
Tam A. Bui	Shannon R. Harris	Jessica L. Preskitt	Jessica N. Walters
Jonathan R. Burner	Daniel E. Hay	Heather M. Quay	Tiffanie L. Walters
Diana L. Campbell	Erin L. Heller	Ashley M. Randall	Kindra S. Washington
Julia L. Carrington	Meagan A. Hensley	Rachel C. Rhodes	Ashley E. White
Meredith K. Clark	Ansil R. Hetchcox	Nicole L. Richards	Samantha G. Won
Sabrina D. Cline	Eric T. Hilgartner	Brittany E. Richardson	Jessica L. Wood
Mary K. Collins	Ashley S. Hodges	Dustin J. Rinehart	Jennifer A. Wyderko
Michael K. Cromer	Grace M. Howell	Erin L. Rockwell	Emari M. Yokota
Zachary J. Crouse	James M. Hunt	Jordan A.	
Lauren E. Deahl		Rogers-Cotrone	

## 2008-2009 APSC Scholarship Recipients

**Litton Sheep Industry  
Student Leader Scholarship**

Heidi Eberly

**Ralph Hunt Beef Industry  
Student Leader Scholarship**

Jonathan Burner

**Lorenz Neuhoff, Jr.  
Pork Industry Student  
Leader Scholarship**

Nicole Browne

**Lou Dixey Beef Industry  
Student Leader Scholarship**

Jacob Gilley

**Fred Campbell Horse  
Industry Student Leader  
Scholarship**

Rebecca Arnold

**Denver D. Bragg Poultry  
Science Student Leader  
Scholarship**

Samantha Renalds

**Rocco Lamb Farms Student  
Leader Scholarship**

Garrett Smith

**Animal and Poultry Sciences  
Scholarship**

Leah Harris

Kelly Rakes

**A.L. "Ike" Eller Scholarship**

Allison Spivey

Brian Turner

Sarah Weaver

Trevor Whiteside

Krishna Witt

**E.A. & H.H. Livesay  
Scholarship**

Emma Evans

**Ashe-Lockhart Scholarship**

Morgan Agnew

Veronica Hall

Ellen Wiegand

Amber Workman

**Owen Thomas, Jr. Memorial  
Scholarship**

Jonathan Ferguson

Jessica Preskitt

**K.C. and Polly Williamson  
Scholarship**

Christine Clark

**Tom and Christine Marlowe  
Freshman Scholarship**

Ashley Roberts

**Richard S. Ellis, IV and  
Roy A. Meek, Jr. Scholarship**

Lindy Tucker

Lora Walls

**George G. Green Scholarship**

Lindsey Williamson

**Harry Wyatt Scholarship**

Sarah Donovan

**Lou Dixey Scholarship**

Thomas Bramble

Katrina Broas

**William Earl Browning  
Scholarship**

Rosella Harris

**Ralph Hunt Scholarship**

Clara Nelson

Amanda Virts

**Rocco Lamb Scholarship**

Eric Hilgartner

**Virginia Pork Industry  
Scholarship**

Cody Yager

**Mary Howe diZerega  
Memorial Scholarship**

Kim Fisher

Amanda Weakley

**Arden N. Huff Scholarship**

Sierra Pollock

Priya Subbarayan

**General J.E.B. Stuart-  
Real Daughters  
(of the Confederacy) Award**

Katherine Beckley

**Jack S. Copenhaver  
Scholarship**

Kyle Cromer

Tom Liskey

Melisa Robertson

Erin Rockwell

Regina Shores

Jessica Walters

**George Litton Scholarship**

Ashley Perry

**Charles W. Thomas Memorial  
Scholarship**

Elizabeth Barrar

Lauren Kinter

**Rocco Poultry Scholarship**

Samantha Renalds

Leah Harris

**Tyson Foods Scholarship**

Jessica Walters -

**VT Poultry Science General  
Scholarship**

Erin Rockwell

Billie Jo Barnes

*Congratulations to  
all scholarship  
recipients from the  
Faculty and Staff  
of the Animal and  
Poultry Science  
Department!*

## 2008 Youth Swine Day at Virginia Tech

by Cindy Wood



A Youth Swine Day was held on campus at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena on January 26, 2008. A total of 81 youth and 36 adults registered for this first-ever event, which was designed such that youth and adults could attend the full day program, or come in for lunch and the Youth PQA Plus (Pork Quality Assurance) certification program in the afternoon.

The day's program was planned and conducted by six undergraduates, who began working on the concept with Dr. Cindy Wood at the beginning of the Fall 2007 semester: Kayla Minnick, Nicole Browne, Laura Parr, Amanda Thomas, Amanda Weakley, and Sarah Weaver. Also participating as guest instructors on January 26 were Dr. Allen Harper, Swine Extension Specialist; Mr. Corey Childs, ANR Extension Agent; Dr. Mark Wahlberg, Youth Extension Specialist; and Mr. John Parker, Executive Director of the Virginia Pork Industry Board.

The morning's program consisted of a general education session for youth and parents taught by the guest instructors, followed by a Swine Stockman's Contest and lunch. One of the highlights of the morning session was a mock show, in which four of the college students tried their best to show their pigs the wrong way and Mr. Parker "judged" their showmanship skills.

In the afternoon, youth participated in the Youth PQA Plus certification program while adults had a separate education and Q/A session led by several of the morning's instructors. Because of the large number of participants, the Youth PQA session was divided into two groups by age: 12 and younger and 13 and older. At the end of the day, almost all the youth obtained certification on the Youth PQA Plus program. Feedback on the program was extremely positive, and we are hoping that this will become an annual event.



(above) Older participants in Youth PQA Plus training session using bananas to learn the difference between IM and SQ injections

(above, left) Younger participant in Youth PQA Plus training session learning the importance of good hygiene by timing how long it takes to get ALL the finger paint off his hands



(left) The six college students who were in charge of the whole day (L-R): Amanda Weakley, Sarah Weaver, Nicole Brown, Laura Parr, Amanda Thomas, Kayla Minnick

## Spring Activities of the Horse Judging Team

by Julia McCann



It has been a busy semester of preparation as ten Virginia Tech students prepared for two major spring horse judging contests. These dedicated students represented Virginia Tech at the Middle Tennessee State University All Breeds Contest and at the American Paint Horse Association Collegiate Contest that draws all

the major players in the "sport" of horse judging! The first workout was to attend the NC Open Horse Judging School in Raleigh where the basics were covered. In addition students participated in the Advanced Evaluation Class taught by Dr. Julia McCann during Spring Semester 2008. After helping with the Block and Bridle Horse Judging Clinic and Contest, the team traveled to Kyle Hughes Quarter Horses, watched hunters at Mack McPherson's and learned about Tennessee Walking Horses at Bobby Richards outside Murfreesboro, TN.

In a field of 12 teams, the VT team placed third in halter and performance judging and fourth overall in a tight finish at the MTSU Contest. Individuals competing on the team included: Morgan Agnew, Sarah Barlow, Katrina Broas, Jeni Lamb, Jennifer Palmisano, Bailey Smith, and Cliff Williamson. Jeni won reasons and was sixth overall in the contest while Sarah was ninth in reasons.

With the first contest jitters out of the way, the team traveled to Ft. Worth, TX for the APHA Contest which was preceded by four days of travel to some of the top professional trainers and farms in the area. The team members saw top halter horses at Lanning Quarter Horses, Fred Tabor, Kathy Smallwood, Mike McMillian, Jason Smith, and Kelly Stone. Performance horses were judged at Scott Suggs and Dave Dillion's farms in the Pilot Point area. A visit to Select Breeders and the impressive Valor Thoroughbred racing ranch completed an educational and enjoyable trip with memories to last a lifetime! But the contest was also rewarding with the team placing 8th overall among 25 of the top teams from across the country. The VT team also placed 6th in reasons with a 45+ average, 7th in halter, and 9th in performance. Jeni Lamb was 10th overall and

Bailey Smith was 9th in halter judging....not bad for "hard core hunter gals"!

Overall, the team came away from the spring with a keen sense of what is ahead for the fall contests which are expected to include the Ohio Quarter Horse Congress. The team hopes to attend at least one additional contest in the fall if travel expenses can be covered. Thanks are extended to Markel Equine Insurance, VA Northern District 4-H Horse Council, and the Culpeper Farm Bureau for making the spring travel possible. Donations are needed to help with the rising cost of travel. Checks should be made to the VA Tech Foundation and sent to Dr. Julia S. McCann, APSC Department.



Virginia Tech Horse Judging Team outside the American Paint Horse Association Headquarters in Fort Worth, TX:  
(L-R) Bailey Smith, Morgan Nati, Katrina Broas, Sarah Barlow, Jeni Lamb, Rebecca Arnold, and Lindsey Williamson



Virginia Tech Horse Judging Team at Middle Tennessee State University  
Back row (L-R) Jeni Lamb Cliff Williamson, Katrina Broas, Morgan Agnew, and Bailey Smith  
Front row (L-R) Jennifer Palmisano and Sarah Barlow

## Block and Bridle Club

by Kayla Minnick

Spring 2008 has been a busy but productive semester for the VT Block and Bridle Club. From the cold and blustery February morning at our Horse Judging Clinic to the warm sunshine of April at our Little International Contest, Block and Bridle has enjoyed the participation of numerous members, alumni, and youth from across the state in our events. We are proud to announce that the total number of participants for our five spring 4-H and FFA contests was 1,906 this year!

### Horse Judging Clinic

Four hundred fifty-eight middle and high school students from across Virginia visited campus to learn the principles of horse judging and prepare for the up-coming 4-H and FFA judging seasons at our annual horse judging clinic. Chair Kate Lawrence organized morning lectures that covered balance and breed conformation, blemishes and undesirable characteristics, giving oral reasons, note taking, performance class evaluation, and judging equitation. After a demonstration on conformation and movement evaluation in a hunter in-hand class, students were given the opportunity to evaluate a stock horse halter class, a hunter under saddle class and a western pleasure class at the Alphin-Stuart Arena in the afternoon. Example sets of reasons were also given by past members of the Virginia State 4-H Horse Judging Team.

### Stockman's, Meats and Livestock Judging Contests

Virginia Tech Block and Bridle played host to 479 4-H and FFA participants at our annual Stockman's Contest on March 14. Chairman Laura Neff designed the contest to evaluate students' knowledge of various aspects of animal husbandry. Classes include a 25-question multiple choice quiz; identification of feeds, equipment, breeds, retail meats cuts; judging of hay, retail meats cuts, beef cattle, sheep, and swine, and questions about the animal judging classes. For Senior teams only there is a group exercise which the team completes while working together.

The Meats Judging Contest, chaired by Luray, Virginia native Jonathan Burner, was held later the same evening and hosted 124 participants at the Food Science Building. This contest gave students the opportunity to evaluate whole pork and lamb carcasses as well as individual cuts of beef, lamb and pork. A meats identification section and written quiz were also used to evaluate the students'

### 2008-2009 B&B Officers

President:	Nicole Browne
Vice President:	Laura Neff
Treasurer:	Chris Brown
Secretary:	Micah Orfield
Marshall:	Jessica Walters
Membership Coordinator:	Kelly Shuster
Reporter:	Jessica Crockett
Alumni Relations:	Whitney Dodge
Historian:	Sarah Joseph
BBQ Chairs:	Charles Debord
	Blaine White
	Stuart Saunders
Advisors:	Mark Wahlberg
	Dave Linker

knowledge of meat science. This contest serves as the official state contest for both the 4H and FFA organizations. Thus, the winning team will represent Virginia in their organizations' respective national contest in the fall. The top senior 4-H team was from Nelson County and was comprised of David McCann, Rebecca Carter, Brandon Beer, and Brittany Kern. The top senior FFA team was Central High School and was comprised of Willie Elgin, Cain Harbison, Aaron Heishman, and Brian Walsh.

The Livestock Judging Contest on March 15 brought 388 contestants to the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena. While there, these students evaluated and placed classes of breeding and market animals. Beef classes included performance Angus bulls, Charolais heifers, and Simmental heifers. Senior contestants



(left) A young man works hard on a calculation during our Meats Judging Contest. (right) Participants gain hands-on experience in evaluating market animals as they judge this class of Suffolk lambs.

**Block & Bridle Club**, continued from page 14...

were asked to present oral reasons on the bull class. Dorset rams composed the sheep selection classes while Suffolk market lambs served as the senior reasons class in the species. Two classes of market hogs (one was designated as a senior reasons class) and one class of commercial breeding gilts composed the swine portion of the contest. One class of goats was introduced as a special class this year to provide students with a new opportunity but it was not counted toward overall scores. Questions were also required on one class of each species. Jacob Gilley chaired the successful 2008 Livestock Judging Contest. The results for all three of these contests can be found under 2007 Block and Bridle Contests at: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/livestock/results.html>

### Hippology Contest

The second annual B&B Hippology Contest was held on March 21 at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena. It allowed Virginia 4-H and FFA contestants to judge a class in-hand, take a 30-question written exam, and complete four identification stations that included equipment, feed, breeds, and anatomy and physiology to evaluate the students' equine expertise. This contest is designed to help fill a void left by the lack of events available to Virginia youth for preparation in state and national competition on this subject. One hundred ninety-nine contestants and Chair Cliff Williamson made the second annual event a success and we look forward to increasing participating during future years. Results of the Hippology Contest have been made available at: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/horse/judgingclinics/HippologyResults.html>



(left) 4-H and FFA contestants identify equestrian equipment at our second annual Hippology Contest. (right) Contest participants evaluate a Smithfield mare during one of the in-hand classes during B&B's Horse Judging Contest.

### Horse Judging Contest

On March 22 B&B hosted our annual horse judging contest where 258 students were given the opportunity to evaluate and present oral reasons on various classes of horse breeds both in-hand and under saddle. Chair Lindsey Williamson coordinated in-hand classes to include warmblood mares, Quarter Horse mares, and Percheron geldings. Western Pleasure, Saddlebred Equitation, and two sets of Hunter Equitation composed the under saddle classes. Questions were required on some of the classes and advanced contestants were asked to present oral reasons after lunch. The results of this contest can be accessed at: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/horse/judgingclinics/results.html>

### National Agriculture Awareness Day

Block and Bridle teamed up with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Ambassadors, Agronomy Club, and Dairy Club to present displays, products, and information on the campus Drillfield to promote National Agriculture Awareness Day. The Block and Bridle Club donated 800 pork BBQ sandwiches to be served to students walking between classes and also provided flyers about Virginia livestock production. Though blustery conditions made it difficult to get the meat cooked and spoiled our plans for bringing the cooker to the Drillfield, we still served a number of sandwiches to grateful Hokies and raised awareness of the livestock industry with our presence and information.

### Beef Expo

Block and Bridle members donate their time at Virginia Beef Expo in Harrisonburg each spring. While there, they serve as ringmen and announcers, as well as assisting with weigh-in and registration. All class winners were awarded a scotch comb courtesy of Block and Bridle. B&B also donated windbreakers and directors chairs for Grand and Reserve Champions for the Steer and Commercial Heifer Classes, as well as ribbons and rope halters for all Showmanship classes. Furthermore, class division APSC Junior and B&B member Amanda Weakley (right) with a participant at Beef Expo in Harrisonburg.



APSC Junior and B&B member Amanda Weakley (right) with a participant at Beef Expo in Harrisonburg.

**Block & Bridle Club**, continued from page 15...



Block and Bridle members pose with our winning hams prior to the start of the auction at the 86th Little International Contest.

winners each received a duffle bag, a gift certificate to Frey's Show Supplies, and a plaque.

**Ham Show and Sale**

Companies and individuals from around the state were asked to donate hams for the show and sale. A committee of Food Science professors and Block and Bridle members judged the quality of the hams based on taste and appearance. Grand Champion was awarded to Smithfield Hams and Reserve to Land of Promise Farms. The 15 hams were then auctioned off by VT B&B alumnus David Leonard during lunch at the 86th Little International. We would like to thank all of our ham donors and buyers for making this event a successful fundraiser for the club.

**Little International Contest**

The Alphin-Stuart Arena and Virginia Tech Block and Bridle hosted the 86th annual Little International Contest on April 26 for Virginia Tech students interested in showing livestock. We were pleased to welcome Sarah Gilmer back to Blacksburg as our Little I Princess and Jared Burner as our Master of Ceremonies. Participants selected from hogs, lambs, horses, and beef heifers for exhibition. Overall Grand Champion and Swine and Beef Grand Champion was Adam Heishman, while Overall Reserve Grand Champion and Sheep Grand Champion was Allison Spivey. Horse Grand Champion was Brittney Jones. We would like to thank Lance Leachman, Matthew Miller, Kim Huffman, and Katherine Meadows for serving as our judges (cattle, sheep, horse, and swine, respectively). Ringmen included Todd Caudill, Chris Threewitts, Jason Pratt, and Tim

VanReenen. Alumni and visitors enjoyed Block and Bridle's famous beef and pork BBQ for lunch along with the exciting competitions on the arena floor. Our second annual spring semi-formal and social, "Country but Classy," which was organized to raise money for an agriculture charity, followed the Little International Contest.

**Pledging and BBQ**

We were very excited to have 42 pledges join our membership during spring semester. Their dedication and willingness to help has played a vital role in making all of our spring contests and BBQ's successful. In addition to our Little International lunch, Block and Bridle also prepared and served BBQ for the Virginia Beef Conference and the Dairy Club's Little All-American Contest this spring.



Block and Bridle pledge class members paint their B's, on which they must obtain B&B member and APSC faculty and staff signatures so that they get to know people in the department.



Winners, Judges, Ringmen, and Chairman pose for a picture at the end of Block and Bridle's 86th Little International Contest.



## Equestrian Club

by Priya Subbarayan

The Equestrian Club had an excellent spring semester. The club was very active and hosted many socials including dinners at El Rodeo's and formals at the Southern Oven. The club also participated in many service-oriented events such as the 5K race hosted by Kappa Delta, The Big Event, and sending a package to the troops serving in Iraq. Our first year in the Sport's Club Federation was a phenomenal success as we were the largest sport club at Virginia Tech. Sherri Willis joined the Virginia Tech Equestrian Program this year as the barn manager and assistant coach. Dedicating a tremendous amount of her time to the equitation classes and the riding teams, Sherri has been a wonderful addition to the program. Sherri finished up her first year as a VT instructor and coach by winning the 2007-2008 Virginia Tech Sports Club "Coach of the Year" Award.

This year all of our teams had excellent seasons! The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) hunter team achieved great success, placing 5th overall out of 17 teams. Moreover, five of the hunter team riders qualified for Regionals, three of whom then moved on to Zones, and finally, one of whom will be going to Nationals. We wish rider Brett Flower the best of luck in Intermediate Fences at Nationals in Los Angeles, California. Hunter team captain Susan Wilson won the prestigious Sportsmanship Award for the Region this year, marking the second time a Virginia Tech rider has received the award. We are looking forward to the upcoming year with Lindsey Williamson as our new hunter seat captain.

The Intercollegiate Dressage Association team placed fourth overall in a very competitive region and had at least one rider in each division finish the year in the top ten of the region. The IHSA western team also had an exciting year as it had eight riders qualify for western Regionals, one of whom qualified for western Nationals. Congratulations and best of luck to Kelly Barber, the first Virginia Tech western rider to qualify for Nationals! The western team is excited about its upcoming year with Jeni Lamb and Lora Walls as its new team captains.

This year the Virginia Tech Equestrian Club and riding teams dedicated their season to former equestrian, Emily Jane Hilscher, who was lost on April 16, 2007. At our first home intercollegiate show we were delighted to have the Hilschers present as we dedicated the show to Emily.

### 2008-2009

#### Equestrian Club Officers

<http://www.equestrian.org.vt.edu/index.html>

President:	Ashleigh Barron
Vice President:	Brett Flower
Treasurer:	Adrienne Horner
Secretary:	Caitlin Cossaboom
Public Relations:	Priya Subbarayan
Historian:	Maggie Dupler
Webmaster:	Ashley Burks



(top) Western Team.  
Top row (L-R) Kristy Doyle (coach), Sarah Barlow, Kate Maxwell, Lauren Harris, Tara Fickling, Tracey Maier, Danielle Wroblewski, Mary Clark, and Ben Craig. Bottom row (L-R) Kelly Barber, Claire Duplantier, Jeni Lamb, Allison Jones, and Lora Walls.



(center) Hunter Team  
Allison Jones (mounted) (L-R) Cary Proferes, Meredith Clark, Susan Wilson, John Matthews, Brent Noll, Sonja Boras, Jessica Gould, and Abbey Carmichael.



(bottom) More of the Hunter Team at the Wake Forest show – Spring 2008.  
Top row (L-R) Sherri Willis (coach), Meredith Clark, Cary Proferes, and Allison Jones.

Middle row (L-R) Molly Mills (black vest), Brett Flowers (orange vest). Bottom row Susan Wilson.

**Equestrian Club**, continued from page 17...

## The Big Event

The Big Event is Virginia Tech's largest community service project. It is one day where Virginia Tech students come together to say thanks to the surrounding communities in the New River Valley for being a gracious host to us for nine months out of the year and for their continuous support of the University. On this day, more than 3,000 students will complete over 450 service projects ranging from painting to yard work to trash pickup for residents of the surrounding communities. Through The Big Event, Student Government Association aims to strengthen the relationship between Virginia Tech and the communities we impact throughout the year.

Photo at right: Equestrian Club members who participated in The Big Event on campus (April 5, 2008). This group worked in the garden at the Smithfield Plantation House.



## Equestrian Club Alumni News

### Beth Boteler

Beth Boteler (formerly Blackwell), coached the University of Mary Washington Equestrian Team to a team win in Zone 4, Region 1. Beth represented VA Tech at the 2000 IHSA Nationals in Conyer's Georgia and is a former barn manager for the Virginia Tech Equestrian Program.

### Alicia Salo

Alicia Salo is the first Hokie to qualify for the 2008 IHSA Nationals that will be held in California this May. She has worked very hard this year to qualify in the Alumni Division.

Alicia graduated in 2004 with a Management major in the Pamplin School of Business at Tech. She rode all four years during her undergraduate program, competing on both the IHSA and IDA teams. Alicia currently lives in Fairfax, VA and works as a Human Resources Manager with SRA International. She competes in the alumni divisions in Zone 4 Region 1. At the University of Mary Washington IHSA show held on Feb. 24th, Alicia won both the Alumni Equitation Over Fences class and the Alumni Equitation Flat class.

### New President For The Equestrian Alumni Society

By Kate Fraga Bowers, VTEAS Founder

It is with great pride that I announce that our new Virginia Tech Equestrian Alumni Society President is Mara Thayer! Please join me in congratulating Mara and welcoming her to her new position. Thank you to everyone who voted and especially to Amanda Cronin for such a wonderful statement and sincere intention to help this organization.

As I step down as president I want to once again thank everyone who helped me throughout these past five years and to all who participated in our alumni events. I have had so much fun getting to know everyone and enjoyed watching the VTEAS develop from eight to over eighty members strong and helping to give back to the equestrian program. Once again, I am a very proud Hokie and hope to remain active with the VTEAS for years to come. I am sure that we are all looking forward to the many exciting VTEAS events in the future and congratulations again to Mara and thank you VTEAS!

**Equestrian Club**, continued from page 18...

## IHSA Western And Hunter Teams Post Season Qualifiers

### Western Team

Regionals: Claire Livesay, Kelly Barber, Allison Jones, Sarah Barlow, Ben Craig, Tara Fickling, Jeni Lamb, Laura Walls

Semi-finals: Claire Livesay, Kelly Barber, Allison Jones

Nationals: Kelly Barber

### Hunter Team

Regionals: Allison Jones, Brett Flower, Cary Proferes, Jessica Gould, Meredith Clark

Zones: Brett Flower, Cary Proferes, Allison Jones

Nationals: Brett Flower

Alumni: Alicia Salo



(left) Allison Jones – First Place at IHSA Regionals; (center) Susan Wilson winning the Annual Sportsmanship Award; (right) Western IHSA Show

## Poultry Club by Amy Parsons

The 2008 Virginia Tech Collegiate Poultry Judging Team made its first appearance at the 61st Annual U.S. Poultry and Egg Collegiate Poultry Judging Contest held at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA on April 2-4, 2008. This year's team, comprised of senior Billie Jo Barnes, junior Meredith Caldwell, sophomore Samantha Renalds and freshman Javier Garcia, began training in mid-January as students in the Poultry Evaluation and Selection course held each spring. After intensive training in areas relevant to layer management, broiler breeder management, breed selection, and USDA egg and meat grading criteria, the team members were selected based on their performance in a number of mock-contests.



2008 Virginia Tech Collegiate Poultry Judging Team (L-R): Meredith Caldwell, Billie Jo Barnes, Samantha Renalds, Javier Garcia and Coach Amy Parsons.

After a fourteen-hour drive to Baton Rouge, LA, the team participated in the two-day event with focus and enthusiasm. Though at a slight disadvantage due to their shortened training time, compared to other collegiate teams that began training in the fall, Virginia Tech's team represented themselves well. The team will resume practice at the onset of the fall semester as they prepare for the National Collegiate Poultry Judging Contest held at the University of Arkansas in November. With the experience of the LSU contest, the team is ready to be a competitive force in the fall.

<http://www.poultry.org.vt.edu/>

## Virginia Tech Equestrians Tour Germany

by Rebecca Splan



For two weeks in May, 18 Equine Science students from Virginia Tech traveled to Germany as part of an exciting new study abroad course. The purpose of the trip was to educate the students about the sporthorse industry in Germany, and a wide variety of events and opportunities allowed the girls to learn about

the training, riding, breeding and marketing of German warmblood horses in a unique, experiential fashion. Most of the students were in their senior year of studies at the University, and upon graduation plan to begin careers in the horse industry or further training in veterinary or graduate programs. While some of the girls had traveled abroad previously, for many this tour was their first trip outside of the United States.

The trip was held in cooperation with International Sporthorse Registry/Oldenburg Registry NA, the largest independent warmblood breeding organization in North America. The incredible tour was skillfully organized and led by Christian Schacht, Breeding Director for the registry. Accompanying the girls from Virginia Tech were Dr. Rebecca K. Splan, Associate Professor of Equine Science, and adjunct instructor Ms. Kim Reid. Financial support for the trip also came from the Virginia Tech Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, the Virginia Tech Office of International Research, Education and Development, the Southwest Virginia Dressage Association, the Blue Ridge Eventing Association and of course from the students themselves.

During their two-week stay, the students resided at the beautiful Hof Springhorn, a 500-hectare riding academy and working farm located in Soltau, half-way between Hannover and Hamburg in the north of Germany. The girls received individual and group instruction from Mr. Schacht, who also educated them with classroom sessions regarding theory of riding, training and management of horses. At the end of their training, the girls took part in the

German Reitabzeichen, which tested their technical knowledge and riding skill in both show jumping and dressage. The group performed brilliantly in front of the German judges, and all members earned their certification with an extremely high group average!

The girls were treated to many daytrips to important breeding and training centers throughout Germany. Mr. Schacht truly outdid himself with such an outstanding itinerary! Highlights included tours of top breeding stations such as Celle, Neustadt/Dosse, Warendorf and Elmshorn. During the trip, the group had the opportunity to view an amazing selection of stallions, including Cassini I and II, Florestan I, Lavall I, Samba Hit I and II, Quaterback and Fabriano. The girls also had guided tours of the German National Equestrian Federation, the German Horse Museum, the Olympic Training Center at Warendorf, the cross country course at Luhmühlen, and the Hannoverian Verband and Auction Hall at Verden. Other special events included Hanoverian and Holsteiner mare shows, the CDI\*\*\*/CSI\*\*\* at Wiesbaden, a Bundeschampionat qualifier for young event horses and an extraordinary mare and stallion show at Neustadt/Dosse.

Mr. Schacht, also an expert in the history of horsemanship, shared many insights and stories with the students to give them a unique perspective of the modern style of training the horse and rider for the sporthorse disciplines. Throughout their stay in the country, the students also learned much about German culture and history. Time spent in Potsdam, Berlin and Frankfurt helped the girls reflect upon the important role Germany played in world politics over the last century and beyond.

Our great appreciation goes to Christian Schacht and the rest of the team at ISR/Oldenburg NA for sponsoring such an impressive tour of Germany, and our deepest thanks also go to the incredible roster of professional riders, trainers, instructors and administrators who took time to speak with the Virginia Tech students throughout their stay. The visit was highly successful in educating and inspiring this group of young people and we are very much looking forward to the next Virginia Tech tour of Germany, scheduled for 2010.

## New Staff in the APSC Department

### Joi Saville



Please welcome Joi Saville to the APSC department as Extension Programming Associate. Joi will be assisting the APSC Extension Team implement programs for adult and youth audiences. Joi is a 1999 graduate of our department and offers a broad background, having worked with Virginia Beef Industry Council, First Bank & Trust, and Virginia Farm Bureau.

Joi grew up in West Virginia and was heavily involved with horses and beef cattle as a youth. Joi rode and showed Saddlebreds, as well as raised and showed Highland Cattle. She participated actively in 4-H and the livestock industry early on, as she was the 1993 West Virginia 4-H Beef Ambassador, as well as president of her local livestock club.

Joi started in her current position with VT in February 2008. She is working with Scott Greiner on several of the Beef and Sheep programs, and also works with Celeste Crisman in the 4-H Horse program.

Joi, her husband, William and their three-year-old daughter (Sidnie) live on the VT Dairy Farm where her husband is a Supervisor.

### Lindsay H. Stuard



Lindsay graduated from Virginia Tech in May 2007 with a B.S. in Biological Sciences. She is currently working as a lab tech in Dr. Rami Dalloul's Avian Immunobiology lab. In August, she plans to begin pursuing a Master's degree in Animal and Poultry Sciences under the supervision of Dr. Dalloul. She hopes to eventually earn her DVM and/or Ph.D.

Lindsay grew up on the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis, MD. She enjoys community service, reading, cooking, and being outside. In her spare time, she volunteers as a veterinary technician at the Veterinary College, and enjoys spending time with friends and family, as well as her dog and two cats.

### Xiaojing Guan



Xiaojing Guan began her job as Senior Project Associate in the department in February 2008. Her assignment will include working with the PREP and IMSD Programs under the supervision of Dr. Ed Smith.

## Grants Received by APSC Faculty

May 1, 2007 Through April 30, 2008

COLLABORATORS	GRANT TITLE	FUNDING AGENCY
Celeste Crisman	Virginia State 4-H Horse Show	Virginia State Legislature
Celeste Crisman, Connie Collier	Virginia State 4-H Horse Show	Virginia Horse Industry Board
Celeste Crisman	Virginia State 4-H Horse Judging Team	Pat Stuart Endowment
Celeste Crisman	Virginia State Horse Educational Contest Teams	Pat Stuart Endowment
Mike Denbow	Effects of Amylin on Ingestion and Ingestive-related Processes in Anorexic and Obese Chickens	Radford University
Jeffery Escobar	Using Phytase and Ehmicellulase to Increase the Inclusion Level of Distiller's Grains in Swine and Poultry Diets	Virginia Corn Board
Jeffery Escobar	Effects of an Alpha-Amylase on Swine Performance	Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc.
Ray Geor	Waltham Grad Training Program in Equine	Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition
Ray Geor	Defining Risk Factors for Pasture-associated Laminitis in Horses and Ponies	Hillsdale Fund, Inc.
Scott Greiner	Animal Identification Coordinator	Southeastern Livestock Network, LLC
Ron Lewis	Selective Breeding on prp Genotype in the UK Sheep Flock: Evaluating the Consequences And Deriving Optimal Strategies	Scottish Agricultural College
Ron Lewis	Solving an Educational Dilemma Through Collaboration: A Graduate Distance Learning Curriculum in Animal Breeding and Genetics	Cornell University
Ron Lewis, Paul Siegel	Development of the Domestic Fowl as a Model of Obesity and Gender Specificity In the Metabolic Syndrome	Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
Ron Lewis, Barbara Lockee	Solving an Educational Dilemma Through Collaboration: A Graduate Distance Learning Curriculum in Animal Breeding and Genetics	USDA, CSREES

## Grants Received by APSC Faculty, continued from page 23...

Julia McCann	Podcasting Equine Evaluation Techniques in Support of APSC 4984 and Equine Youth Programs Nationwide	CALS Teaching Grant Opportunities
Audrey McElroy	Impact of E. coli Phytases on Broiler Performance and Intestinal Response to Eimeria Vaccination	Syngenta Animal Nutrition, Inc.
Audrey McElroy, Rami Dalloul	Dietary Programs for Improved Broiler Performance During Coccidial Infections	Virginia Agricultural Council
Audrey McElroy	Evaluation of Mineral Sources on Turkey Performance	Alltech
Audrey McElroy	Evaluation of Dietary Anticoccidial Programs On Broiler Performance	Elanco Animal Health
Audrey McElroy	Evaluation of Hydrolysed Yeast Materials on Performance of Broilers Exposed to Eimeria	ABVista
Dave Notter	Characterization of Sheep Breeds and Development of Composite Lines Suitable for Range Environments	USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Dave Notter	Technical Support for the National Sheep Improvement Program	American Sheep Industry Association
Paul Ruszler	Cage Grow/Layer	Virginia Egg Commission
Ed Smith	VT-Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity	National Institutes of Health
Ed Smith	VT Post-baccalaureate Research Program	NIH, NIGMS
Rebecca Splan	Equine Summer Program in Germany	Office of International Research, Education and Development, Virginia Tech
Mark Wahlberg, Ron Lewis	Pasture-based Beef Systems for Appalachia	USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Cindy Wood	Development of the Capstone Experience in Animal and Poultry Sciences	CALS Teaching Grant Opportunities
Cindy Wood, Allen Harper	Youth Swine Education Program	Virginia Pork Industry Board

Grants Received by APSC Faculty, continued from page 24...

### Lessons Learned in Controlling Post-molt Body Weight and Egg Size of Commercial White Leghorn Hens

by Paul Ruszler and Curtis Novak

Molting is a husbandry procedure used to allow laying hens a period of rest from egg production after the first laying cycle. During this period we mimic a procedure found in nature to cause hens to cease egg production and allow their reproductive systems to rest and recuperate for about four weeks. Upon returning to egg production after this rest, they will have replaced almost all of their body feathers plus their reproductive system will have been rejuvenated to a state very similar to that of a 32-week-old pullet coming into first time production. Maintaining the proper body weight and controlling egg size during the laying period after the molt is an important problem in the management of most strains of commercial Leghorn hens. Allowing excess body weight and production of eggs that are too big creates additional feed costs plus there is not always a market for the bigger eggs.

An investigation by Amy Parsons (graduate student) and Drs. Novak and Denbow at Virginia Tech indicated that body weight and egg size could be controlled effectively in pullets coming into production by using low crude protein diets containing certain levels of metabolizable energy. When their approach was applied to molted hens, we found similar results.

- 1) The hens retained body weights similar to those expected in first cycle, non-molted hens. Commercially molted hens will weigh about a pound more than this.
- 2) The egg weights were reduced to a more popular retail egg size. They averaged about half LARGE and half EXTRA LARGE. Many of the eggs from commercially molted hens fall into the JUMBO size range. This size egg is usually not cost effective because there is not a strong demand for them in the market place.
- 3) It also appears that this procedure allowed more eggs to be produced. In fact, these hens produced eggs at a rate at least 5 percentage points above the expected level for first cycle molted hens, which indicates better feed efficiency.

### Competitive Teaching Grant for the Development of Horse Judging Podcasts Receives Support from CALS

by Julia McCann

As the coach of the VT Horse Judging Team, Dr. Julia McCann secured a teaching grant from CALS to develop podcasts on various topics targeting the development of the skills to become competitive in the world of horse judging. This relatively new instructional technique will address several "mini" topics and make them available to youth free of charge. The series of podcasts is anticipated to be particularly helpful in the development of oral reasons.

The grant money will cover the cost of purchasing a video camera, external microphone, and equipment for the project. The grant was graciously matched by the APSC Department to help with travel to get quality footage of various horses for the project as well. The ultimate goal is to create a library of podcasts that would support coaches and youth in 4-H and FFA Programs nationwide. These podcasts will be viewed on computers or iPods and therefore add new tools to the training options for coaches and youth eager to learn but without the experience or guidance on hand. The series is expected to "go live" by Fall 2008 with the first podcasts.



*Congratulations to Sherri Willis for winning the 2007-08 Virginia Tech Sports Club "Coach of the Year" Award.*



## Dates to Remember in 2008

May 19 – June 26	First Summer Session
June 30 - August 7	Second Summer Session
August 25	Fall Semester Classes Begin
October 10	Fall Break
October 31	Hokie Harvest Sale
November 22 – 30	Thanksgiving Break
December 10	Fall Classes End
December 19	Fall Commencement

## APSC Contact Information

<b>Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences</b>	Area Code (540)
Main Office and Extension Office.....	231-6311
Undergraduate Advising Office.....	231-6936
Club Advisors	
Block and Bridle Club	
Mark Wahlberg.....	231-9161
Dave Linker.....	231-9154
Equestrian Club	
Teresa McDonald.....	231-3555
Poultry Club	
Audrey McElroy.....	231-8750
Pre-vet Club	
Mike Denbow.....	231-6843
Facilities Contacts	
Farm Supervisor, Dave Linker.....	231-9154
Beef Center.....	231-6280
Sheep Center.....	231-6988
Smithfield Horse Unit.....	231-4366
Swine Center.....	231-6250
Poultry Center.....	231-5810
Turkey Center.....	231-6283
Campbell Arena.....	231-3555
Judging Pavillion.....	231-9150
Alphin-Stuart Arena.....	231-9150

**Equal Opportunity/  
Affirmative Action  
Statement:**

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, gender, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. Anyone having questions concerning discrimination should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity.

Virginia Tech is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

The Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences newsletter is published by the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, 3460 Litton Reaves Hall (0306) Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Please contact (540) 231-6311 or [vtapsc@vt.edu](mailto:vtapsc@vt.edu) with questions, comments, or requests for information.

Newsletter design by:



[www.ellejaydesign.com](http://www.ellejaydesign.com)



## Update Your Information

We are interested in knowing what you are doing! Please help us keep our mailing list current by completing and returning this form to the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech (0306), Blacksburg, VA 24061 or email vtapsc@vt.edu with the following information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year and Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

News about Yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Would you like to be contacted concerning support of one of our scholarship programs or extra-curricular group activities?

Yes  No