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State of the Department

by Dave Gerrard



Dear Friends and Alumni:

Arrival of spring has been a most welcome event for many of us after such an arduous winter. As the spring unfolds, I can't imagine a more beautiful place anywhere in the world than that offered in Southwest Virginia. The strikingly green pastures contrasted against the flowering redbuds that elegantly define the base of mountains and hills are absolutely magnificent. This "awakening" of our landscape seems so fitting for this exciting time on campus. While graduating seniors are eagerly anticipating the beginning of a new chapter in their lives, underclassmen are basking in a sense of accomplishment by completing yet another year of their academic career. The campus is literally 'a buzz' with activities that, in part, celebrate the joys of youth, yet clearly punctuate the clear satisfaction of academic achievement. Having 'turned' a full calendar year as a 'Hokie', I now understand well that Blacksburg is a very special place. Virginia Tech, its students and alumni are, without a doubt, second to none across this vast nation.

Even so, this time of year is always so bittersweet for the faculty; as we too, bask in a sense of accomplishment. Words simply can't capture



the feelings an educator has when awarding such scholastic achievement. Though we readily acknowledge students arriving on campus in the fall are driven to succeed, we feel blessed in being part of their educational journey. In this process, however, we cultivate relationships that make "saying goodbye" very difficult. As hard as it may be, however, we are dedicated to the process of sending well-educated young people into the world, full of life and excited about what the future holds.



The faculty is particularly melancholy for another reason this year as four of our best and brightest members are retiring this summer. After nearly 120 years of collective service, Drs. Beal, Notter, Wahlberg and Webb are likewise, beginning a new chapter in their lives. Their dedication to the missions of the Land Grant system, the Commonwealth and the world has brought great attention and respect for Virginia Tech. Their vision and leadership in the department will be greatly missed. Even so, however, we celebrate their career accomplishments and feel blessed to have had the privilege to serve with these outstanding committed academicians.

As we look forward to the future, we know that we have a number of challenges to address from a university and college standpoint but we remain optimistic that the future of Virginia Tech and the department is bright.

Please plan a visit to campus sometime and if you get a chance, send me a note sharing your thoughts (dgerrard@vt.edu).

Sincerely,



Professor and Head
Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences

Faculty & Staff Awards

Dr. Paul Siegel

2010 American Poultry Industry Hall of Fame Inductee



Dr. Paul Siegel, University Emeritus Distinguished Professor and Active Emeritus of Animal and Poultry Sciences, was inducted into the American Poultry Industry Hall of Fame at the International Poultry Expo in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 28, 2010.

The American Poultry Historical Society awarded Dr. Siegel with the

poultry industry's highest honor because of his more than 60 years of devotion to research and teaching in poultry science. Every three years, the American Poultry Historical Society inducts a maximum of five individuals who have devoted their lives to advancing the poultry industry into its Hall of Fame. To date, 94 individuals have received the honor.

"As I told the audience at the awards ceremony, I am accepting the Hall of Fame recognition on behalf of my teachers, my students, my colleagues in the university and elsewhere, and my family who has offered support throughout my career." Dr Siegel continued, "in my mind, my main legacy is my students. More than 50 graduate students have completed their degrees under my supervision through the years." More than 2000 undergraduate students also have benefitted from Dr. Siegel's instruction and inspiration, many of whom now enjoy poultry careers in industry and academia.

Raised on a poultry and tobacco farm in Connecticut, Paul showed promise as a poultry scientist at a young age. He was active in 4-H and FFA, was named Poultry Boy of the Year in Connecticut, and earned a plaque in 1948 from the Chicken-of-Tomorrow Committee "for outstanding achievement in breeding and development of superior meat-type chickens."

Dr. Siegel earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut in 1953. In college, he worked at the Storr's Egg Laying Test, served as president of the Poultry Club, conducted research on turkey incubation, and placed fourth in the Intercollegiate Poultry Judging Contest. Paul earned his master's degree and doctorate from Kansas State University in 1954 and 1957, respectively, and was a senior author or co-author of his first research papers while there as a teaching and research assistant.

Since joining the faculty at Virginia Tech in 1957, Paul's research and teaching has focused on the effects of selection on growth, reproduction, and immunology of chickens. He has published more than 400 journal articles, books, chapters, and reviews involving the role of genetics on nutrition, disease, immunology, physiology, and behavior of poultry.

In his first month at Virginia Tech, Dr. Siegel designed a breeding experiment in chickens based on their juvenile body weight. Using White Plymouth Rock chickens, he established a high-growth and low-growth line. Nothing of the sort had been done before. Every year since he has bred the heaviest and lightest chickens with others of similar weight. Today, after 53 generations, chickens in the high-growth line are nine times heavier than those in the low-growth line at eight weeks of age, their age when selected.

With innovations in molecular biology, this unique poultry resource has provided scientists around the world with a model for exploring the molecular basis of traits like growth and reproduction. Such performance traits led to the red jungle fowl – the same species as the domestic chicken – beginning its journey roughly 8,000 years ago to become an essential farm animal.

In the March 25, 2010, issue of the scientific journal *Nature*, Dr. Siegel co-authored an article that uses data from his decades-long poultry selection project. The article, "Whole-genome re-sequencing reveals loci under selection during chicken domestication," was in collaboration with colleagues at Uppsala University in Sweden, the Broad Institute of MIT, and Harvard. It highlights Paul Siegel's continued contribution to scientific discovery, and his legacy at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Scott Greiner 2010 University Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension



Dr. Scott Greiner, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences received the University's 2010 Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension. He is the beef and sheep specialist for Virginia Cooperative Extension.

The Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension is sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. It is presented annually to two Virginia Cooperative Extension staff members who have made outstanding contributions to the land-grant mission of the University.

After joining the Extension faculty in 1998, Dr. Greiner focused on providing stakeholders in Virginia's beef and sheep industries with an enhanced understanding of emerging opportunities and educational programming to adapt new technology allowing for increased production efficiency and enhanced value in the marketplace.

Amongst his achievements, Scott has collaborated with the Virginia Cattlemen's Association, the Southeastern Livestock Network, and local beef-cattle producers to make the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Process Verification Program a reality in Virginia. This effort has contributed more than \$500,000 in income to Virginia's beef industry since 2006.

"Scott's career contributions to the mission of Virginia Cooperative Extension truly embody the spirit and intention of this award," said Dr. Mark McCann, Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences. "Dr. Greiner's sustained programming excellence has favorably impacted rural families and agriculture in Virginia, as well as the livestock industries he serves."

Beyond his work related to animal identification, Scott provides leadership to the nation's oldest, continuously operated, central bull-testing program. He works with colleagues to conduct the Virginia Quality Assured Feeder Calf Program, and oversees research and Extension programs related to hair sheep at the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Dr. Greiner also serves as an educational advisor to the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Virginia Sheep Producers Association, Virginia Cattlemen's Association, the Virginia Sheep Industry Board, and the Virginia Animal Identification Working Group. Recently, Scott helped establish the Virginia Tech Collegiate Beef Leadership Council for undergraduate students at Tech.

Mr. James Bennett, Knoll Crest Farm, wrote "The one most critical asset to his success is not found in a resume - it is respect. Scott's demeanor and personality makes for a good first impression and from there his leadership skills, knowledge, professional manners and ability to communicate to a diverse group or one-on-one, has gained him the utmost respect."

Dr. Darrell Busby, Livestock Field Specialist with Iowa State University Extension, noted "producers feel comfortable asking for Scott's opinion as he has an uncanny way of explaining complex subject matter, such as genetic evaluation, in a way that producers understand." Dr. McCann added "Dr. Greiner's stature and reputation in the livestock industry reflect these talents in both written and oral content and are evidenced by his numerous trade publications and invited presentations across the nation."

Scott earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1989, his master's degree from Michigan State University in 1992, and his doctorate from Iowa State University in 1997. All three degrees were in animal science. Scott and Lori Griener have a small farm in Montgomery County where they live with their two daughters, Kaylee and Leah.

Dr. Mike Denbow

2010 Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising

Dr. D. Michael Denbow, Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences received the University's 2010 Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising.



"A fine listener, his advising is thoughtful and tailored to each individual. His standards are high, yet reasonable, with a nice mix of firmness and compassion. As a result, students are prepared for entering a range of work places, graduate study, and professional schools," said Dr. Paul Siegel, University Emeritus Distinguished Professor in Animal and Poultry Sciences.

Established by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising is presented annually by the Office of the Provost to a Virginia Tech faculty member who has been particularly dedicated to and effective at advising undergraduate students. Such attributes aptly describe Mike Denbow. Ms. Priya Subbarayan, one of his current students, wrote "Dr. Denbow truly cares about and respects students; he pays attention to students' efforts and interests outside of academia."

Dr. Denbow teaches Principles of Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Embryology, and Neurochemical Regulation. In addition, Mike offers

Students and faculty consistently mention Dr. Denbow's extraordinary capacity for listening. "He readily avails his time to meet with potential students and their parents when visiting campus and during summer orientation. He listens to the concerns of students and their parents alike, honestly and empathetically describing the challenges of transition from high school into college," said Dr. Ron Lewis, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences.

two honors colloquia: Nutrition, Brain and Behavior, and Chinese Medicine. His research focuses on the neurochemical control of food intake, emphasizing how selection for body weight alters neurochemical mechanisms within the central nervous system. As an outcome of his teaching and research program, Mike has authored or co-authored more than 200 refereed papers, including a textbook titled "Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals."

Dr. Denbow earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Maryland in 1975 and 1977, respectively. In 1980, he obtained his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in poultry physiology; he joined the faculty at Virginia Tech that same year. Mike and his wife, Cynthia, live outside of Blacksburg and have two grown children, Stephen and Renee.

Dr. Rami Dalloul Outstanding Alumnus University of Maryland

Dr. Rami A. Dalloul received the 2010 Outstanding Alumnus Early Career Award from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Maryland. This recognition was given to Dr. Dalloul as an alumnus who has contributed significantly to his field of endeavor, which includes immunology, genomics, and host-pathogen interactions in chickens and turkeys. Rami joined the department in January 2007 and has developed imaginative research methods displayed leadership and established harmonious professional relationships.



Dr. Audrey McElroy
2010 Certificate of Teaching Excellence
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



Dr. Audrey McElroy, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences, was awarded the 2010 Certificate of Teaching Excellence from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech.

The Certificate of Teaching Excellence is awarded annually by each of the colleges at Virginia

Tech. It recognizes faculty with exceptional success as teachers, advisors and role models to their students.

Dr. McElroy joined Virginia Tech in 1999 with a challenging three-way research, teaching, and extension appointment, which she seamlessly integrates to educate and inspire her students about the poultry industry.

Audrey's interests are primarily in poultry physiology and immunology; her most important research program investigates intestinal mechanisms of immunity to pathogens. Her Extension program is focused on developing and conducting educational programming for the commercial broiler and turkey industries.

"The ability to change or influence a student's approach to learning and their career objectives is one of my most important responsibilities" said Dr. McElroy. "And I believe that the chance to teach and interact with students is not merely an obligation, but a unique opportunity that we have in academia."

Dr. McElroy is known for exciting her students with the practical relevance of a topic before delving into scientific detail. She captures their attention and is able to transfer her passion for the subject matter. "Audrey's engagement in teaching is exemplary through the passion and excitement she ignites, which has had a tremendous positive

and far-reaching impact on our students," wrote Dr. Ron Lewis, Associate Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences. "Through her efforts, students who begin our program with absolutely no interest in poultry grow to become leaders in the poultry industry."

Using hands-on, experiential learning, Dr. McElroy ensures that her students understand and can apply the concepts she introduces. As a result of her Extension efforts across the state, Audrey is able to take students on field trips and expose them to real-world environments that cannot be experienced in the classroom. Research opportunities in her laboratory have often inspired students to continue on to graduate studies.

"Dr. McElroy was my academic advisor for undergraduate studies at Virginia Tech, and I give credit to her for helping me develop the love of learning and my love for poultry medicine. As a woman in the poultry industry, Dr. McElroy is a strong role model for women, like myself, who are interested in pursuing a career there," wrote Jessica Walters, a dual Ph.D. and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine graduate student.

Before coming to Tech, McElroy received her bachelor's degree, master's degree, and Ph.D. from the Department of Poultry Science at Texas A&M University in 1993, 1995 and 1998, respectively. Today, she and her husband, Allen, live on a small farm in Riner, VA with their son, Weston.



Students in Poultry Anatomy Lab

Wanda Grubb Sigma Alpha Ag Woman of the Year Award

Each year Sigma Alpha, the professional agricultural sorority that promotes scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship, acknowledges a woman in agriculture who makes a significant impact and inspires Sigma Alpha members to pursue their goals. This year the award was a tribute to Wanda Grubb, an exceptional woman who serves as the Student Services Specialist in the Animal and Poultry Sciences Undergraduate Advising Office.

Wanda not only schedules all the APSC classes, arranges classrooms, manages the advising office, evaluates all incoming transcripts for transfer credit and performs a detailed graduation analysis on every student prior to graduation, she is also willing to help everyone who walks through her office door. Wanda has calmed the "fears" of many students and parents. Amanda Weakley, a 2010 graduate who presented the Ag Woman of the Year

Award, said it best, "if I had a dime for every time I had heard someone call Wanda a "lifesaver", I would be a millionaire."

Wanda came to the Animal and Poultry Sciences department in 1984. She and her husband Duayne live in Floyd County where he is a private contractor. They have two sons and three grandchildren. Wanda is as busy on most weekends as she is at Tech during the week. One of her sons, Darian, is the crew chief for Tony Stewart in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. Wanda spends several weekends each year at the track caring for her grandson while Darian and his wife are involved in NASCAR activities.

The Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences joins Sigma Alpha in recognizing the impact Wanda has on undergraduate students at Virginia Tech.



Clockwise from top: Wanda Grubb receives Woman of the Year Award; (l-r) Duayne, Darian, and Wanda Grubb; Tony Stewart NASCAR Sprint Cup car



Faculty Activities

Faculty Retirement – Dr. W. E. “Bill” Beal



Dr. Bill Beal will retire after 31 years of service at Virginia Tech. Bill came to Virginia Tech in 1979 after completing his graduate training at the University of Wyoming and

Cornell University. He has taught several courses in the undergraduate program and done research on applied reproductive physiology of beef cattle.

Dr. Beal exerted his greatest impact on the undergraduate teaching program by Teaching of Anatomy and Physiology for 15 years (1979-94) and Intro. Animal and Poultry Science for 16 years (1994-2010). He received the Wine Award for excellence in teaching from Virginia Tech in 1990 and the Sporn Award for excellence in teaching introductory courses in 2006. Bill also received the American Society of Animal Science Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2003. Dr. Beal is noted for his enthusiasm in the classroom and his “active, hands-on” laboratory sections.

From 1986 to 1993 Dr. Beal served as the Coordinating Counselor and director of the undergraduate advising program in the department. He received the Award for Excellence in Career Advising from Virginia Tech in 1990 and was inducted as a charter member of the Virginia Tech Academy for Advising Excellence. Bill has served as primary advisor to over 700 Animal & Poultry Science majors during his career.

Estrus synchronization, artificial insemination and embryo transfer technology have been the main topics of Dr. Beal’s applied research. He developed an expertise in the use of ultrasonography for evaluation of reproductive function in cows and heifers. Bill’s effort in this area include the training of many veterinarians throughout the United States. Throughout his career Dr. Beal has been a popular speaker at regional and national meetings of livestock and veterinary organizations.

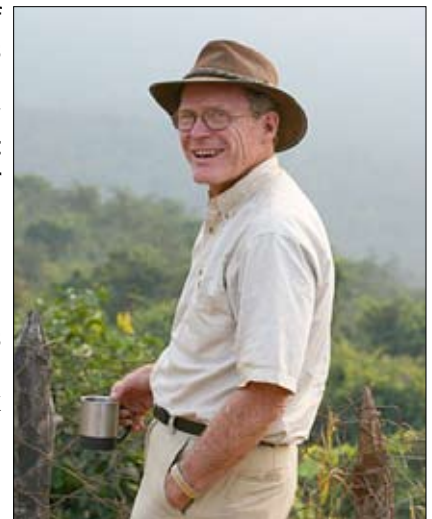
Bill and his wife, Linda, have two grown children, Maggie and Colin. The Beals intend to continue living in Blacksburg. When asked what he intended to do after retirement, Bill responded, “the same things I do with folks in the cattle industry now, but with a little more time for border collies, fishing and baseball.”

Faculty Retirement – Dr. David Notter

Dr. David Notter will retire on July 1 2010. Dave came to Blacksburg in 1977 after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska. His main responsibilities have been in graduate student training and sheep and beef cattle genetics research. He recently taught his graduate course in Population Genetics for the 27th time, and has chaired the department’s Graduate Education Committee since 1985. Thirty one M.S. and Ph.D. students have completed degrees under his direction. Over the years, he has taught undergraduate classes in Meat Animal Evaluation, Applied Meat Animal Genetics, Sheep Production, and Junior Seminar.

Dr. Notter’s research combines basic and applied aspects of animal breeding and includes active collaboration with the livestock industry. He developed a line of sheep with a greatly reduced seasonal anestrus, provided leadership for

implementation of across-breed EPDs in the beef industry, and is an authority on use and genetic improvement of hair sheep. Dave worked with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on programs for global management of livestock genetic resources, participating in conferences and work-



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Dr. David Notter, continued, p. 11

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Faculty Retirement – Dr. Mark Wahlberg



After 29 years of leading youth livestock Extension programs in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science, Dr Mark Wahlberg is retiring. Since 1982 he has coordinated state-wide competitions and shows and overseen the state 4H judging teams in several competition areas. He has

taught a number of courses in the Animal Science curriculum, including Feeds and Feeding, Sheep Production, and Animal Products. He has served as co-advisor for the Block and Bridle Club for the last 7 years.

Dr Wahlberg co-led the development of the scholarship program offered to winners at the State Fair of Virginia, which began in 1987. Mark developed a web-based system of program support for Extension agents and volunteer leaders through which these groups remain current.

Judging programs are very popular with 4H and FFA members, and Dr Wahlberg coordinated the State 4H Livestock Judging Contest and coached the State 4H Livestock Judging Team every year of his tenure. He coached teams which won the national contest on two occasions, most recently in 2007, and numerous contestants who received individual recognition as 4H Livestock Judging All-Americans.

In his role as Extension Animal Scientist, Mark advised livestock producers and Extension professionals on feeding programs for cattle and use of supplemental feeds. Information concerning mineral supplementation strategies and the use of byproduct feeds is utilized throughout Virginia's livestock industry.

Mark and Becky will remain in Montgomery County where they own a small farm. Their three daughters are near completion of their degrees as students at Virginia Tech. While he may be retiring, you will still see Mark at various youth livestock events. When asked about his retirement, Mark said, "I have gained as much or more from the young people I have worked with as they have gained from me. The most enjoyable part of my job has been the opportunity to get to know so many good people. I know I will miss that the most".

Faculty Retirement – Dr. Kenny Webb

Kenny Webb will retire on July 1 after 40 years and 7 months of service on the faculty at Virginia Tech. During his career, he taught both undergraduate and graduate nutrition courses and conducted research in the area of amino acid utilization.

His research has impacted a number of important areas in animal nutrition; however, his most seminal contribution has led to an understanding of intestinal peptide transport, the importance of peptides to whole-body nutrition, and the cloning and characterization of the structural and functional features of the intestinal peptide transporter, PepT1. Kenny and his students also showed that small peptides can be sources of essential amino acids for cell proliferation and protein synthesis in cultured myogenic and mammary epithelial cells and synthesis of secreted proteins in mammary explants. Dr. Webb's research has produced 314 refereed publications and abstracts, seven book chapters, numerous conference proceedings and technical reports and he has a U.S. patent.



Faculty Activities, continued, p. 10
Dr. Kenny Webb continued, p. 10

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Equine Studies at Middleburg off to a flying start!

The inaugural semester of the department's Equine Studies at Middleburg program has met with high success! This spring, four APSC undergraduates from across the mid-Atlantic region participated in the unique experiential learning program based at the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension (MARE) Center in northern Virginia.

In addition to taking a full 12-credit course load at the 420-acre horse farm, outreach and research center, students were given significant responsibility for horse and facility management. Under the guidance of associate professor Dr. Rebecca K. Splan and facility superintendent Dr. Shea Porr, the girls learned to work together as a team to help provide health and reproductive care for up to 70 horses, assist with ongoing research projects, and solve the every-day problems that arise in a commercial equine operation. Kelsay Johns, a senior from Churchville, Maryland, enjoyed the immersive learning environment. "You learn in the classroom and then get to apply the concepts right away. It was also great to be trusted to make important decisions, knowing the instructors were there to help us. It made me more comfortable to ask questions and not be afraid to learn from my mistakes." Kelly Barber, a senior from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Stephanie Feinberg, a senior from Springfield, Virginia, and Kaylee Kohlhaas, a junior from Strasburg, Virginia, were also enrolled in the spring semester at the MARE Center.



Kaylee Kohlhaas works with "Dom Perignon," a Hanoverian broodmare at the MARE Center

The program builds on previous courses taken on the Blacksburg campus, and is designed to prepare upperclassmen for future careers in the horse industry or for post-baccalaureate education in veterinary or graduate school. As the spring semester winds down, the center prepares to welcome six new faces for its Summer Sporthorse Breeding Internship, which begins May 15. Reflecting the growing national interest in Virginia Tech's outstanding equine programs, this year's interns hail not only from Virginia Tech, but also from the Pennsylvania State University, the University of Maryland and New Mexico State University.

Dr. Kenny Webb, continued from p. 9

Dr. Webb's respect as a scientist and educator is reflected in the numerous invited presentations he has made as well the awards he has received. He has made numerous invited presentations nationally and in nine foreign countries. The awards he has received include the following: Virginia Tech Gamma Sigma Delta Research Award - 1997, Milton L. Sunde Award, American Society for Nutrition - 2006, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Award for Research Excellence for Basic Research - 2007, Fellow Award - Research, American Society of Animal Science - 2008, University of Kentucky Animal and Food Sciences Distinguished Alumnus Award - 2009, Milton L. Sunde Award, American Society for Nutrition - 2009, and the Virginia Tech Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - 2010

Dr. Webb's contributions to new knowledge in ruminant nutrition have not been by his effort alone. Under his direction, 39 M.S. and Ph.D. degrees have been completed and six postdoctorals have received training. His respect and demand as a research advisor is reflected in his service on 143 graduate committees for M.S. and Ph.D. candidates in nine departments at Virginia Tech.

Kenny and his wife Ama have four daughters, Laura, Karin, Dede, and Lora, all graduates of Virginia Tech. Their grandchildren are Kyle, Taylor, Kelsey, Brant, and Dylan. There is no concern about remaining active following retirement. Kenny and Ama will be spending time at their cottage in Clarksville, VA enjoying Kerr Reservoir and catching crappie. Spring, fall and winter will also find Kenny pursuing his long-time favorite activity of hunting.

Faculty Activities, continued, p. 11

Faculty Activities, continued from p. 10

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants to the "Rescue"

Undergraduate students in Animal and Poultry Science have become a vital component in the teaching effort, especially in classes with multiple lab sections. As undergraduate class sizes have increased and the availability of graduate teaching assistants has remained the same or decreased, undergraduate students with outstanding academic records and the "personality" to be a good teachers have been used to help in teach many undergraduate courses.

Faculty enlisting the assistance of undergraduate teaching assistants (UGTA) have learned that their benefit extends well beyond just having another "warm body" to help in a lab or recitation section. Students in undergraduate classes are often more willing to seek help from their peers or to ask for advice from the UGTA, rather than from the instructor.

Typically, undergraduate teaching assistants have been selected from among those students who

previously performed well in the same class. However, faculty selecting UGTA prospects usually look for outgoing students who are also compassionate and eager to help students in need. To date, UGTA have been employed in the following courses:

- Introduction to Animal & Poultry Science
- Livestock Management & Handling
- Horse Management Laboratory
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Animal Breeding & Genetics
- Animal Nutrition & Feeding
- Physiology of Reproduction
- Applied Equine Evaluation
- Principles of Livestock Evaluation
- Commercial Poultry Enterprise Management
- Swine Production

Undergraduate teaching assistants have been a part of the lab sections in Intro. Animal & Poultry Science since 1995. During that time 94 undergraduate students have assisted 29 graduate students and the instructor in teaching the course. Interestingly, 4 of the graduate students who served as teaching assistants had also done so for the same course when they were undergraduates. Some undergraduate students served as an UGTA multiple semesters. The "record" for service as an undergraduate assistant in Intro. Animal & Poultry Science is five times, set this year by Heidi Eberly and Katie Samsen.

The use of undergraduate teaching assistants in labs and recitation sections has been an invaluable resource for the department, but it also benefits the undergraduate teaching assistants who gain depth of knowledge in the subject area they teach and enhance their personal communication skills. This mutually-beneficial relationship will surely continue to be a part of the Animal & Poultry Science teaching program.



Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Katie Samsen (right) assisting student with a dissection

Dr. Dave Notter, continued from p. 8

shops in China, India, Thailand, France, and Italy. Dr. Notter has led the US National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) Genetic Evaluation Center since 2000 and collaborated with the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois Idaho since 2004 to design of breeding programs and assess terminal sire breeds for the Western range sheep industry.

The American Society of Animal Science awarded Dave Notter the Breeding and Genetics Award. He also received the Beef Improvement Federation

Continuing Service Award, and the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Research Award. Dave was inducted into the Ohio State University Animal Science Alumni Hall of Fame in 2008.

Dave and his wife Jan will continue to live in Blacksburg. They have two adult daughters, Heather and Megan. Dave will work part-time with NSIP and the US Sheep Experiment Station breeding programs for the next few years, but will also enjoy more time for travelling, riding his bike, and taking pictures.

2009-2010 Outstanding Alumni Awards

Each year the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Organization recognizes alumni who have made significant personal career achievements since completing their undergraduate or graduate degree, and who have provided service to their department, the alumni association or the college at large. Each Department nominates an alumnus or alumna who graduated more than 10 years past, and a graduate from within the last 10 years, for these prestigious awards.

On March 5, 2010, at the College Alumni Awards Banquet held at the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences was honored to recognize Dr. H. John Gerken, Jr., as its Outstanding Alumni, and Dr. Larry Kuehn as its Outstanding Recent Alumni, award winner for 2009-2010.

Outstanding Alumni Award

Dr. Gerken completed two degrees at, then, Virginia Polytechnic Institute: a B.S. in Animal Husbandry (with honors) in 1954; and, a M.S. in Animal Science in 1966. Over a 46-year career, initially as a County Extension Agent in Virginia and then as an Extension Animal Scientist at Virginia Tech, Dr. Gerken's programs in beef cattle nutrition and management substantially impacted the efficiency of beef production in Virginia and in the wider agricultural community.



Dr. John Gerken

Dr. Gerken was the first extension scientist involved in identifying the causes of grass tetany and the means for its prevention. His input was central to developing methods for using growth stimulants in beef cattle, adding millions of dollars to the income

of beef producers each year. He worked closely with the farming community, developing systems for utilization of stockpiled fescue for wintering cows and stocker calves. Dr. Gerken coordinated the Powell River Project, which resulted in surface mined land being reclaimed for use in livestock production; the project led to improvements in economic and environmental conditions in the seven counties that comprise the coalfields of Virginia. His program also resulted in increased use of poultry litter as a feed for cattle.

Beyond his extension program with beef producers, Dr. Gerken substantially contributed to youth education through his involvement in the 4-H program. He established a 4-H meats program, including a judging team that went on to win first place in national competition. Dr. Gerken also incorporated carcass evaluation as part of most junior livestock shows in Virginia. His innovative approaches served as a model for 4-H programs in several states.

Due to ill health, unfortunately Dr. Gerken was unable to attend the alumni banquet. Dr. Joe Fontenot, who served as Dr. Gerken's major professor during his M.S. studies, accepted the award on his behalf.

Outstanding Recent Alumni Award

Dr. Larry Kuehn completed his Ph.D. in Animal Breeding at Virginia Tech in 2005. Since completing his degree, Dr. Kuehn has served as a Research Geneticist at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska. He has become a vital member of an internationally recognized team providing genetic tools and strategies to enable cattle and swine producers to improve economically important traits through selection and identification of breed differences. Among Dr. Kuehn's many accomplishments is calculating and distributing adjustment factors for across-breed Expected Progeny Differences. Producers use these factors to compare the genetic merit of sires of different breeds in crossbreeding programs.

While at Virginia Tech, Dr. Kuehn was responsible for deriving genetic predictions for the U.S. sheep industry through the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP). These predictions allowed seedstock producers to compare and select animals from different flocks of the same breed. For such genetic predictions to be relevant across flocks, the

In Memoriam - K. C. Williamson

The beef cattle industry lost one of its innovators with the passing of K. C. Williamson on April 14, 2010. Kenneth Carlton Williamson was the Extension Livestock Marketing specialist at Virginia Tech for 31 years from 1952-1983. K. C. provided leadership in the Virginia cattle industry's development and expansion of the commingled graded feeder cattle sales. He was known for his attention to detail and thoroughness, his professionalism, and his advocacy for improved marketing techniques of Virginia cattle. His ultimate goal was to improve the economic well being of the region's livestock producers.



In recognition of K. C.'s many achievements, he was awarded the Virginia Cattleman of the Year, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Distinguished Service Award, the American Society of Animal Science Extension Award, the Virginia Tech Alumni Award of Excellence, the Virginia BCIA Superior Service Award, and the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club Honor Award. The Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences annually presents the K. C. and Polly Williamson Scholarship to an undergraduate.

A native of Meadowview, Virginia he is survived by his wife, Pauline of Blacksburg; a son, Chris Williamson of Chester, VA; a daughter, Margaret Williamson of Rock Hill, SC and two grandsons, Jason Williamson and Brandon Williamson.

Outstanding Alumni Awards, continued from p. 12

flocks must be genetically related or connected. Dr. Kuehn developed and assessed methods to evaluate connectedness among flocks, which were then applied within NSIP.

Dr. Kuehn has published 42 scientific articles of which 26 appear in peer-reviewed journals. He has presented 17 invited talks at professional and industry meetings in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. He has won over \$200k in extramural funding to support his research program.

(l-r) Dr. Alan Grant, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Dr. Larry Kuehn, and Dr. Dave Gerrard, Head of Animal and Poultry Sciences



Graduate Student Awards

Mr. Lance Leachman

International Stockmen's Educational Foundation Fellowship



Lance Leachman was a recipient of an International Stockmen's Educational Foundation Fellowship to attend the International Livestock Congress in January 2010 in Denver, Colorado.

In an effort to enhance the educational experiences of college students and strengthen the

leaders of tomorrow's livestock and meat industry, the International Stockmen's Educational Foundation awards travel fellowships each year for the International Livestock Congress to senior level undergraduate and graduate students attending accredited colleges or universities. The mission of the Foundation is to bring outstanding students from around the world together to share ideas on such important issues as food safety, animal care and management, consumer interest and concerns,

as well as the education of future leaders.

Mr. Leachman grew up near Maidstone, Saskatchewan, Canada. His family owns and operates Big Gully Farm which produces seedstock Hereford cattle along with wheat, canola and oats. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University in 2007. At KSU, Lance was a member of the 2006 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging and 2006 All-American teams. He is a member of the Canadian and American Hereford Associations.

Lance began a Master of Science degree in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences in fall 2007 with a focus on animal breeding and genetics. The title of his thesis is "Testing Combined Commercial and Purebred Selection in Angus: Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity." He recently presented his thesis research to the Departmental faculty, and will graduate in May, 2010. Beyond his scholastic achievements, Mr. Leachman has served as the coach for the livestock judging team at Virginia Tech. Through that role, and his involvement in other extension activities generally, he has gained recognition and respect as an ambassador for the Department and College.

Ms. Gina Lehman — Graduate Student Certificate of Excellence

Gina Lehman received a Graduate Student Certificate of Excellence in the Nutrition section for her research presentation "Broiler Response to Increasing Dietary Phytic Acid Concentration During a Live Coccidia Oocyst Vaccination" at the International Poultry Scientific Forum in January. Gina is from Mechanicsburg, PA and received her B.S. from Penn State University and M.S. from Auburn University. She is currently working as a Ph.D. student under the direction of Dr. Audrey McElroy. Her research focuses on interactions between dietary ingredients and coccidial vaccination.



New Staff in APSC

The Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences is proud to welcome two new staff members:

Bill Herrington

is the new Database Manager in the Animal Genetics Program;

Ryan Brooks

is the new Ag Technician at the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Undergraduate Student Awards

Katie Jones Wins the Herman and Mildred Corder Scholarship



Katherine (Katie) Jones (APSC) has been awarded the Herman and Mildred Corder Scholarship that will cover tuition expenses for four years of veterinary college. Katie (Sterling, VA) is a University Honors student who is just finishing a B.S. degree in Animal and Poultry Sciences (Equine Emphasis, Pre-Vet concentration) as well as a minor in the Theater Arts.

During her four years in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Katie has been an enthusiastic student who has completed all the normal requirements and also taken the initiative to participate in a wide variety of additional courses and extracurricular activities. She has completed independent studies and undergraduate research courses reflecting the scope of her interests. Topics for these extra courses have included:

- studying regenerative cellular medicine, emergency surgery and post-surgical care at the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center,
- writing and developing an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* for the stage,
- comparing a variety of canine behavior and training techniques,
- exploring the behavior and appropriateness of wolf hybrids as companion animals, and
- studying the life and works of Jane Austen.

Katie summarizes the wide breadth of her interests by commenting: "I am proud to be an active user of both the left and the right sides of my brain!"

Katie Jones, continued, p. 16

Garrett Smith Outstanding Senior in APSC



Garrett Smith has been named the Outstanding Senior in Animal and Poultry Science. Garrett distinguished himself because he excels at several levels. Clearly, he is a gifted student academically with a 3.9 overall GPA. He chose to extend his education beyond the classroom by conducting an undergraduate research project with Dr. David Notter entitled, "A comparison of the cost of parasite resistance in crossbred Katahdin lambs using strategic versus selective deworming regimes." This research project yielded practical results on lamb management which will be beneficial to sheep producers in Virginia and throughout the U.S. Furthermore, his project was among six research projects from Virginia Tech selected for presentation at the fourth annual Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Meeting of the Minds undergraduate research conference held at North Carolina State University last April.

Garrett twice served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals. During the spring semester 2010 he was also an undergraduate teaching assistant for Reproductive Physiology. During the fall semester, Garrett served as a tutor for the course. His confident yet easy-going manner made him an excellent undergraduate TA and tutor.

Garrett is active and has taken a leadership role in several club activities. For example, this year he is served as president of the Pre-Vet club. Garrett will be continuing his education at the Virginia-Maryland Regional Vet School where he will be enrolled in the dual DVM-PhD program.

When presenting Garrett's award, Dr. Mike Denbow summed up the selection by explaining, "Garrett Smith has demonstrated all the attributes one looks for in an Outstanding Senior."

Graduate Students Graduating Academic Year 2009-10

Fall Semester 2009

Student	Degree	Major Professor	Thesis/Dissertation Title
Scott Bowdridge	PhD	Notter	Characterizing physiological and genetic differences in the early immune response to <i>Haemonchus contortus</i> in resistant and susceptible sheep
Chasity Cox	MS	Dalloul	The effects of dietary β -glucan supplementation on performance and immune response of broiler chicks during an <i>Eimeria</i> challenge
Kwaku Gyenai	PhD	Smith	An assessment of the effects of oxidative stress and dietary antioxidants on toxin-induced dilated cardiomyopathy in the turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)
Sara Madsen	MS	Wong	Gene expression of the intestinal peptide transporter 1 and peroxisome proliferator activated receptor alpha
Carrie Walk	PhD	McElroy	Effects of phytase supplementation during a live <i>Coccidia</i> oocyst vaccination on broiler performance, gut morphology, and apparent ileal amino acid digestibility

Spring Semester 2010

Student	Degree	Major Professor	Thesis/Dissertation Title
Kyle Alberti	MS	Estienne	Effect of vaccination against porcine circovirus type 2 on ejaculate characteristics and the shedding of virus in boar semen
Lance Leachman	MS	Lewis	Testing combined commercial and purebred selection in Angus: tri-county steer carcass futurity

Katie Jones, continued from p. 15

Katie is the primary author of the scientific article "Search and Rescue Dogs: An Overview for Veterinarians" which was published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2004. Continuing her interest in this area, she founded the Search and Rescue Club on campus in the spring of 2009 and has served as the group's president since that time. Although she is graduating this spring, she will continue to play an active role in the Search and Rescue Club of Virginia Tech.

In the pursuit of her dreams of becoming a veterinarian, Katie lives by a quote from Randy Pausch's book The Last Lecture:

"The brick walls are not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something."

Katie was delighted to be accepted into the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2014 and was thrilled when she was notified that she had been awarded a scholarship that would pay the entire cost of tuition for four years of veterinary college. She comments: "I am incredibly honored and humbled to have been awarded this scholarship. Words cannot describe just how wonderful I feel to be recognized by the VMRCVM in this manner."

Block & Bridle Club

by Katy Lamb

The spring semester of 2010 has included many highlights for the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle chapter. This semester has been filled with multiple contests, livestock shows and barbeques in addition to the annual APSC Banquet. The chapter also welcomed a very enthusiastic and active pledge class into the club this semester!

Hippology and Horse Judging Contests

On February 19th, VT Block and Bridle Club welcomed 4-H and FFA participants to our annual Hippology Contest held at the Alphin-Stuart Arena. Contest chairs Anne and Julie Carrington organized the contest which included a written portion, ID slides, ID stations and a presentation. The written exam covered topics such as principles of horsemanship, nutrition, reproduction, anatomy, and medicine. Following this, a PowerPoint test was administered with identification questions on parasites, parts of the horse, markings, colors, and blemishes. Stations in the arena were set up with questions pertaining to feeds, tack, anatomy, medicine, and classes based on conformation. To conclude the contest, competing teams were required to present a topic to a judge about how to assess, treat and manage specific horse management issues. The next day, February 20th, Tracey Maier, Diana Campbell, Meredith Park and the Block and Bridle Club hosted the annual Horse Judging contest with 4-H and FFA contestants. This contest was designed to test judging ability through ten different classes of horses including in hand and undersaddle classes of performance stockhorse geldings, hunter mares in hand, hunter geldings in hand, hunter hack, huntseat equitation, hunter undersaddle, western pleasure, and reining.

National Agricultural Awareness Day

On March 1st Block and Bridle members joined other agriculture clubs such as Collegiate FFA, Dairy Club, and the CALS Ambassadors, to celebrate National Ag Day on the Drillfield. The B&B members began the day by cooking BBQ at the Alphin-Stuart Arena at 6am in order to start serving free BBQ sandwiches on the Drillfield at 11am. Students from the College of Agriculture and Life Science represented the agriculture industry and worked exceptionally hard to promote a greater awareness to the student body of Virginia Tech.

Stockman's Contest

Block and Bridle hosted the annual Stockman's Contest at the Alphin-Stuart Arena on Friday,

2010-2011 Block & Bridle Officers

Office	Name
President:	Ashley Kyle
Vice President:	Stephen Brown
Secretary:	Rachel Grosse
Treasurer:	Ashley Roberts
Reporters:	Katy Lamb Claiborne Hammond
Alumni Relations:	Emily Vincent
Marshall:	Corbyn Riddell
Historian:	Alex Northcutt
Membership Coordinator:	Erica Davis
BBQ Chair:	Amaris Wilbanks
Advisors:	Mark McCann Dave Linker

March 26th. The event chair, Emily Murray, designed a written test, ID stations and judging sections to assess the participants on vocabulary, feeding, nutrition, anatomy and physiology, livestock management, equipment, quality/yield grades and dressing percentages.

Meats Contest

On the evening of March 26th B&B hosted the annual State Meats Contest. This was held in the classrooms of the Litton Reaves academic building and also in the Food Science building. Contest chair, Dana Gochenour, designed multiple choice questions



Participants in the 2010 State Meats contest

Block & Bridle Club, continued from p. 17

and written problems to test the knowledge of participating 4-H and FFA members from throughout the state. These questions pertained to the identification of retail cuts of beef, lamb, and pork as well as judging classes of wholesale and retail carcasses, meat storage and processing protocols, and yield/quality grading. A special thanks goes to Mark Stevenson for his assistance with this event!

Livestock Contest



B&B members Kateland Rich and Marti Helbert as team leaders

March 27th began a long day of livestock judging at the Alphin-Stuart Arena for junior, senior and advanced 4-H and FFA members competing in the annual Livestock Judging contest hosted by B&B. Numerous classes were presented for the contestants including Charolais heifers, market steers, market lambs, lightweight market hogs, heavyweight market hogs, commercial gilts and Suffolk ewes. These classes were later

followed up with reasons given at Litton Reaves. The contest also included questions for several classes, designed by contest chair Tom Liskey. Many thanks to the Virginia Tech Livestock Judging team of 2009-2010 for their help officiating at the contest and taking reasons from our enthusiastic competitors. Thanks also to the hard working B&B members who worked tirelessly all weekend!

VA Beef Expo

The Virginia Beef Expo was held at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, VA, on April 17-18th. Many Block and Bridle members, led by Kateland Rich and Dr. Wahlberg, helped organize and set up the event, serve as announcers, weigh-in cattle, work the rings, aid in registration, and help hand out awards. All who participated had a great trip and their help was much appreciated by everyone involved in this year's Beef Expo.

APSC Banquet

The department of Animal and Poultry Science hosted their annual Awards Banquet on Friday, April 25th. The banquet was located at Custom Catering



B&B attendants of the APSC banquet

in Blacksburg and was held to honor the 2010 APSC Scholarship recipients and departmental clubs. Dr. Dan Eversole hosted the evening and announced and congratulated the scholarship recipients. Outgoing B&B officers were honored for their service to the club and the elected officers for 2010-2011 were congratulated. Annual B&B club award recipients were announced with the Senior Service Award going to Elicia Tate, Outstanding Senior Award to Tom Liskey, Outstanding Junior Award to Julie Carrington, Outstanding Senior Club Award to Elicia Tate and Outstanding Junior Club Award to Ashley Kyle. The Outstanding Senior and Junior awardees will proceed to compete at the national level at the 2010 B&B National Convention. Congratulations to all the scholarship awardees and to the hardworking B&B members for their impressive extracurricular and academic achievements!

88th Little International Livestock Show

The annual Little International Livestock show was held on April 24th at the Alphin-Stuart Arena. Preparation for the contestants began a month before the show at the animal drawing where competitors drew their animals and were divided into groups based on show experience. After a month of halter breaking, training and grooming the competitors came together to show off their animals at the show. The competitors, alumni, judges, visitors and B&B members enjoyed delicious BBQ, coleslaw and beans prepared by members working since 6 am the morning of the show. This year was a special year as Block and Bridle recognized Dr. Alex White as a major contributor to the continued success of Little International and for his dedication to all B&B events. Little I chair, Clara Nelson worked hard preparing, organizing and executing a successful show for all

Block & Bridle Club, continued from p. 18

involved. Barn chairs for Little I included Stephen Brown and Andrew Echols for the beef barn, Brittany Jones for the horse barn, Ashley Kyle and Clara Nelson for the sheep barn and Sarah Weaver for the swine barn. Ringmasters were Stephen Brown and Andrew Echols. B&B was happy to welcome alumni Laura Neff back as the Little I princess in appreciation of her contributions to Little I in 2009.



88th Annual Little International: Winners, Judges, Chairmen, and Ringmen

Grand Champion Sheep Showman went to Isaac Nelson, Grand Champion horse showman went to Claiborne Hammond, Grand Champion beef showman went to Kayla Harrover and Grand Champion swine showman went to Emily Murray. Overall Grand Champion Showman was awarded to Emily Murray and Reserve Grand Champion Showman was awarded to Isaac Nelson. B&B is extremely grateful to our judges for the day, Amanda Virts (sheep), Sarah Firebaugh (horse), Jennifer Showalter (cattle), and Christine Gable (swine). Congratulations to Emily and Isaac on their achievement and a special thank you to Clara and the Little I committee, and also all the B&B members who cooked and served BBQ and prepared the Arena before and after the show!



4th Annual Country but Classy attendants (l-r) Tommy Bramble, Mary Williams, Ashley Kyle and Isaac Nelson

B&B Country but Classy

Block and Bridle members got a chance to clean up and show off their boots at the annual semi-formal, Country but Classy on May 1st at Hokie House in Blacksburg. Everyone had earned a fun night after all the hard work of the semester and it was a much needed break before exams. A thank you goes out to Kelly Zier for chairing the event and working hard to ensure that everyone had an enjoyable evening.

Pledging

Block and Bridle pledges were led this semester by Membership Coordinator Sarah Weaver and new officer, Erica Davis along with an enthusiastic membership committee. Pledging is always a very exciting and memorable experience and this semester was no different. The club welcomed 18 new members into the club after they worked hard to complete the process. Sarah helped the pledges make it through cutting and finishing their B's, 8pm's, Informal skits and their service projects including trash pick-up and washing and painting the swine barn. The club looks forward to welcoming a very enthusiastic and energetic pledge class into the club!



(l-r) Ashley Kyle, Clara Nelson and Stuart Sanders at 8 pm's

Dean's List – Fall 2009

Aguilar, Michelle
Alexis, Elizabeth A.
Altholz, Kelsey S.
Ames, Jackson T.
Andrews, Christopher M.
Arrington, Kasey L.
Banning, Chelsea D.
Barkley, Katharine L.
Barlow, Jessica E.
Bath, Ashley N.
Bell, Morgan L.
Berke, Kristin A.
Blatcher, Christina M.
Brassard, Arielle M.
Brennan, Veronica H.
Brown, Britni M.
Buckley, Colleen M.
Burch, Dustin B.
Burczynski, Sarah E.
Carrington, Anne C.
Carrington, Julia L.
Caudle, Lindsey R.
Cheng, Hannah S.
Cogan, Ellen N.
Collett, Julia R.
Compton, Garrett L.
Compton, Leigh A.
Cookson, Ariel N.
Crain, Darcy E.
Crossett, Sarah C.
Dalton, Martha E.
Davis, Carrie V.
DeBergh, John R.
Deliere, Erin N.
Donnini, Elle K.
Donovan, Sarah M.
Dorman, Hunter A.
Durastanti, Adriana M.
East, Caitlin M.
Eberly, Heidi R.
Evans, Christine A.
Faris, Laura L.
Feinberg, Stephanie J.
Fellows, Jillian A.
Fiktus, Richard A.
Gibson, Julia E.
Gomes, Genna L.
Grant, Rachel K.
Grapes, Ashley L.
Greiner, Jacquelyn E.
Hickman, Amber L.
Hilson, Patrick C.
Hunt, James M.
Hunter, Kourtney L.
Jacobs, Kaitlin N.
Jefferies, Emma L.
Jones, Christine S.
Jones, Katherine E.
Joyce, Colleen E.
Kadotani, Saki
Kim, Sooryung
King, Quentin D.
Kitchen, Stefanie
Knight, Katherine D.
Knoebel, Nicole A.
Kohlhaas, Kaylee S.
Kyle, Ashley E.
Lacy, Kathryn A.
Lamb, Katherine G.
Laurie, Diane E.
Leith, Caitlin M.
Liskey, Thomas H.
Lyman, Virginia S.
Martin, Brendan J.
Mastromano, Gabriel A.
Mautone, Jessica M.
McGuire, Kirsten E.
McIntyre, Colleen R.
Messer, Melodie J.
Messerly, Ellen L.
Messick, Paige N.
MicKey, Julie A.
Minovich, Michael J.
Morris, Rachel A.
Mullins, Meghan M.
Neil, Scott J.
Nelson, Clara R.
Nguyen, Tinh C.
Norwood, Anna B.
Olmstead, Sarah C.
Park, Ju Me
Park, Karen M.
Park, Meredith K.
Parkinson, Eileen N.
Parks, Zachary S.
Patel, Akash P.
Paulette, Morgan R.
Perry, Ashley K.
Pierce, Callie S.
Prasse, Shauna R.
Reed, Devon N.
Renalds, Samantha J.
Richard, Keziah E.
Riddell, Corbyn E.
Roberts, Ashley C.
Rockwell, Erin L.
Ross, Lauren R.
Rosser, Amber L.
Ruffner, Kristina M.
Rumsey, Lisa M.
Rutter, Jaime K.
Sadler, Michelle A.
Sakiewicz, Jessica G.
Schmidt, Abigail E.
Smith, Garrett P.
Snow, Laura M.
Spillane, Colette M.
Spivey, Allison J.
Subbarayan, Priya A.
Sullivan, Carly V.
Thomas, Emily L.
Thorpe, Mindy N.
Traywick, Riley E.
Turner, Laurita F.
Vega, Lindsay R.
Virts, Kathryn A.
Washington, Cassandra M.
Weakley, Amanda L.
Weaver, Sarah E.
Wheeler, Janice M.
Whipp, Megan E.
Whiteside, Trevor C.
Williams, Elizabeth A.
Wilson, Meaghan K.
Wilt, Brittany N.
Won, Samantha G.
Wyszynski, Megan J.
Zwarycz, Bailey

Congratulations!

APSC Scholarship Recipients

Litton Sheep Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Andrew Echols

Ralph Hunt Beef Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Brendan Martin

Lorenz Neuhoff, Jr. Pork Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Ashley Kyle

Lou Dixey Beef Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Ben Cockerille

Fred Campbell Horse Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Kaylee Kohlhaas

Denver D. Bragg Poultry Science Student Leader Scholarship

Javier Garcia

Rocco Lamb Farms Student Leader Scholarship

Emily Vincent

Animal and Poultry Sciences Scholarship

Shauna Prasse

Lelia Tench

A.L. "Ike" Eller Scholarship

Jessica Barlow

Sarah Burczynski

Scott Neil

Isaac Nelson

Morgan Paulette

Callie Pierce

Allison Spivey

Anna Swanson

E.A. & H.H. Livesay Scholarship

Anne Carrington

Julia Carrington

Ashe-Lockhart Scholarship

Ellen Cogan

Rosella Harris

Tara Irwin

Ju Me Park

Karen Park

Crystal Prom

Owen Thomas, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Quentin King

Brittany Neal

K.C. and Polly Williamson Scholarship

Sara Hylton

Tom and Christine Marlowe Freshman Scholarship

Kathryn Slaughter

Denver Bragg Scholarship

Kate Holsinger

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

Corbyn Riddell

George G. Green Scholarship

Rachel Grosse

Harry Wyatt Scholarship

Kathryn Lacy

Lou Dixey Scholarship

Katie Knight

William Earl Browning Scholarship

Danielle Garman

Ralph Hunt Scholarship

Erin Deliere

Daniel Reynolds

Trevor Whiteside

Rocco Lamb Scholarship

Laura Bradley

Virginia Pork Industry Scholarship

Megan Mitchell

Mary Howe diZerega Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Roberts

Kristina Ruffner

Arden N. Huff Scholarship

Brittany Gerstenslager

Katy Lamb

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

Ashley Perry

Jack S. Copenhaver Scholarship

Stephen Brown

Erica Davis

Kaitlyn Meadows

Colby Sheets

Ashley Ulmer

Brittany Wilt

George Litton Scholarship

James Shatt

Charles W. Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Laura Faris

Shaylen Hall

Katherine Hanley

Virginia Tech Horse Judging Team Leaves its Mark in Texas

By Lori Greiner

The Virginia Tech Horse Judging Team completed a successful spring competition season with a win at the American Paint Horse Association's Spring Intercollegiate Horse Judging Sweepstakes in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 20.

Thirty-two teams representing 21 universities across the country competed in the senior college contest. The two teams representing Virginia Tech placed first and third. Teams were awarded prizes based on their placement in four main categories: halter, performance, reasons, and overall.

The 2010 Virginia Tech Horse Judging Team members are:

- Amanda Bowen, of Jarrettsville, Md., a junior majoring in animal and poultry sciences
- Alicia Chisholm of Frederick, Md., a sophomore majoring in animal and poultry sciences
- Ashley Clark of Leesburg, Va., a junior majoring in animal and poultry sciences
- Maggie Dupler of Midlothian, Va., a senior majoring in English
- Emily Grabarek of Chesterfield, Va., a junior majoring in animal and poultry sciences
- Ashley Graham of Martinsville, Va., a junior majoring in animal and poultry sciences
- Tracey Maier of Chesapeake, Va., a junior majoring in business
- Kathleen O'Laughlin of Forest Hill, Md., a sophomore majoring in animal and poultry sciences
- Alli Salinger of Gettysburg, Pa., a senior majoring in biological sciences
- Meagan Snoots of Mclean, Va., a junior majoring in animal and poultry sciences

All team members are students in the Applied Equine Evaluation course taught by Julia McCann, instructor of animal and poultry sciences and coach of the judging team.

Both Virginia Tech teams placed in the top five in each category: first and third in halter, third and fourth in performance, and second and third in reasons – just two points out of first place, behind Kansas State University.

Virginia Tech students also fared well individually out of the 169 total contestants. Dupler placed first

in performance, sixth in reasons, and fourth overall; Graham was ninth in halter and seventh overall; O'Laughlin placed third in performance and 10th overall; and Chisholm placed first in halter. In only their second contest, Snoots and Grabarek placed third and fourth in reasons, respectively, followed by Maier in seventh place. In addition, Maier, Chisholm, and Bowen finished in the top 20 overall to complete a great team effort.

"This team has come such a long way since January," said McCann. "To have two teams place top three overall in a national contest of this magnitude is phenomenal. No other university had two teams place in the top 10 of the entire contest. I am so proud of them."

Prior to the contest, the team traveled to multiple Virginia quarter horse shows and to farms in Virginia and Tennessee to practice placing classes as well as preparing numerous sets of reasons. "Coming from predominately English riding backgrounds, these young women did their homework, learning about the world of stock horse halter and western performance before heading west," said McCann.

In a horse judging competition, each contestant observes and evaluates several classes of horses based on the horses' physical attributes and performance as compared to the breed standard. Each class consists of four horses. In addition, contestants must memorize and present two-minute oral reasons to an official, describing why they placed the class as they did. Each team is composed of five students, and the top four scores are combined for a team score.

Other teams that scored in the top five were Kansas State University in second place, Texas A&M in fourth place, and Oklahoma State University in fifth.

At the previous spring contest held in Murfreesboro, TN in March, the fourteen students represented VA Tech in the contest and finished second in halter, performance, reasons and overall in the contest. This experience made the difference and helped the team really pull it together in Texas. Next fall, the team will compete at the All American Quarter Horse Congress.

Dates to Remember in 2010

May 24	Summer Semester 1 classes begin
July 1	Classes end for Summer Semester 1
July 6	Summer Semester 2 classes begin
August 12	Classes end for Summer Semester 2
August 23	Fall Semester classes begin
October 8	Fall Break
November 20-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 8	Classes end for Fall Semester
December 17	Fall Commencement

APSC Contact Information

Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences	Area Code (540)
Main Office and Extension Office.....	231-6311
Undergraduate Advising Office.....	231-6936
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Block and Bridle Club	
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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

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