Partners, August 2005

Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville). Center of Excellence for Poultry Science

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Living a Legacy of Philanthropy

FAYETTEVILLE - On Friday, May 13, Don Tyson and his family made a $7.6 million gift to the University of Arkansas Campaign for the Twenty-First Century.

The gift will be used for academic support within the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences ($4 million), construction of a new Sigma Nu fraternity house ($1.6 million) and toward the Arkansas Center for Oral and Visual History, which, upon approval from the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, will be renamed the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History ($2 million).

UA Chancellor John A. White said: “Members of the Tyson family have been outstanding philanthropists to the University of Arkansas through many years of association. Their generosity and leadership in supporting many initiatives - academic and athletic - have made a great difference. We are indebted to Don Tyson and John Tyson for their leadership in the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century. Both serve on the Campaign Steering Committee. We are very grateful for this most recent example of the Tyson family’s support of the U of A.”

Later, on June 22, the Tyson Foods Foundation then gave a gift in the amount of $12.5 million. This gift put the U of A over the one billion dollar campaign goal.

UA Chancellor John White said: “Tyson has done it again! This is another magnificent gift that does so much to support excellence at the U of A. Not only did the Tyson family make one of the largest gifts to the Campaign, but now the foundation bearing the company name has come forward with an additional commitment.”
Kwon Receives $541,368 Grant from the National Institutes of Health

FAYETTEVILLE - Dr. Young Min Kwon, microbiologist and assistant professor in poultry science at the University of Arkansas, was recently awarded a $541,368 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop effective measures to aid in the control of Salmonella enteritidis, which accounts for about half of all cases of food-borne illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

“Other researchers have already sequenced the genome, we are now building on this research by dissecting the genome of S. enteritidis and identifying the particular genes that are essential for infecting laying hens and mice,” said Kwon, a scientist in the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

Kwon said he is including mice in his research because mice are an excellent model for studying how humans are infected by disease.

“For a large portion of these genes, we have limited information on their biological functions. With this research, we are hoping to gain important clues on how S. enteritidis persists in the reproductive tract of laying hens, causing healthy birds to lay contaminated eggs and cause disease in humans,” said Kwon.

Tellez receives Top Recognition from Mexican Poultry Association

PUERTO VALLARTA, MEX.- Dr. Guillermo (Memo) Tellez, a research professor in the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, received the highest recognition in Mexico for his career research work from the Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación or ANECA, which is the national poultry association in Mexico. The awards ceremony took place during ANECA’s annual meeting in Puerto Vallarta in June.

Tellez, a veterinarian, earned his Master of Science degree from the National Autonomous University (UNAM) in Mexico City. He went on to receive his Ph.D in Veterinary Pathobiology from Texas A&M University in 1992. After serving on the faculty in Avian Medicine at UNAM, he was promoted to Department Head for eight years prior to joining the University of Arkansas Department of Poultry Science in 2002.

Tellez has published numerous papers in the area of poultry health and has served as graduate advisor for more than 30 M.S. and Ph.D. students. Tellez is widely known in both the U.S. and Latin America for his work.

Partners is published for faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science (CEPS), University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, UA-Fayetteville.

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Poultry Festival held in Little Rock for First Time in it’s History

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. - The 46th Annual Poultry Festival was held in Little Rock June 10-11. This is the first time in the festival’s history the event was held in a city other than Hot Springs.

“I really enjoyed it. I wasn’t quite sure what to expect since we are so used to attending the festival in Hot Springs, but Little Rock made for a nice venue,” said Gary Davis, undergraduate recruiter for the department.

During the festival, University of Arkansas poultry science students, staff and faculty worked at several events helping make this year’s festival a success. The students, mostly undergraduates, took temperatures of all chicken cooked during the industry’s annual barbecue, theme and skit contest.

“In order to ensure that all products prepared during the contest on Saturday are cooked to the proper temperature, the Federation has our students take internal temperatures of products and actually sign off on it before it is collected and served,” said Casey Owens, assistant professor.

Students also assisted in “showing” auction items during the Allied Industries Silent and Live Auction held on Friday night. Proceeds from the auction go towards poultry science scholarships.

Jerry Wooley, an Extension specialist with the department, and Lionel Barton, professor emeritus, served as co-chairs with industry partner Danny Williams of WYNCO for the 4-H state barbecue contest held Saturday morning.

One of the new events at the Festival this year was the 5K poultry dash held Saturday morning prior to the barbecue contest. UA students were on-hand to register participants, mark the fun dash race route and help award the winners. Our own Gary Davis served as co-chair of that event with industry partner Jean Allard of O.K. Foods.

“Our students, faculty and staff volunteer to work at these events because we all realize how important it is to help the Federation and the industry in their fund-raising efforts. We have very generous partners in the poultry industry and we are thankful for their continued support. We’re honored to give back to them by providing labor and skills when necessary,” Davis said.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE -- Dr. Dan Donoghue was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Donoghue joined the U of A in 2000 and is a physiologist with emphasis on food safety.

GRANT - continued from page 2

Kwon said there are approximately 4800 genes in the genome, and the process of identifying and characterizing the genes important to this disease will take time. He hopes other researchers use his findings in order to do a more in-depth study on particular genes. “We will be another step in the research cycle, and hopefully by expanding on each other’s findings we can eventually eradicate this disease,” said Kwon.

The CDC recommends that consumers refrain from eating uncooked eggs. If eggs are properly stored and thoroughly cooked, the Salmonella organisms will be destroyed and won’t make anyone sick. They also recommend washing hands and any utensils that were in contact with raw eggs in order to avoid cross-contamination.

Salmonella enteritidis is the main type of Salmonella that causes human food-borne illness, according to the CDC. Symptoms include fever, abdominal cramps and diarrhea, typically beginning within 12 to 72 hours after consuming a contaminated food or beverage.

PROFESSOR -- Dr. John Marcy was recently promoted to Professor. Marcy joined the U of A in 1993 as an Extension Food Scientist. His research focuses on food safety and HACCP.
Agriculture Teachers attend Class at UA Poultry to receive credit

TEACHING THE TEACHERS -- Jerry Wooley, Extension specialist with the U of A (center of photo holding bird) explains to agriculture teachers how to evaluate laying hens. The talk was part of a series of lectures that showed teachers ways to incorporate poultry judging in their agriculture curriculum.

FAYETTEVILLE - Jason Emmert, associate professor in poultry science, Jerry Wooley, Extension specialist in poultry and Gary Davis, undergraduate recruiter, hosted an Agriculture Science Teacher Training Program at the University of Arkansas campus June 15-16.

Participants in the program learned ways to incorporate poultry judging and poultry products into their agriculture curriculum.

Teachers who participated received 16 hours of credit.

The two-day training program was comprised of three major components: Preparing a FFA Poultry Judging Team for State and National Competition; Participating in the State Fair Market Broiler Competition; and Teaching Poultry Science in High School.

Each module included hands-on demonstrations and activities for the teachers. The U of A Poultry Science Department hopes to hold similar classes for biology and science teachers.

“This was the first time that we offered this in-service training program to agricultural teachers,” said Jason Emmert. “We weren’t sure how many participants we would have in our inaugural class, but we ended up surpassing our expectations.”

Thirty-four teachers participated in the program.

Emeritus faculty member Joe Beasley named 2005 Arkansas Veterinarian of the Year

FAYETTEVILLE.- Dr. Joe Beasley, emeritus faculty member in the Department of Poultry Science, was recently named the 2005 Arkansas Veterinarian of the Year.

Beasley retired from the U of A in 1995, but for the past decade has still shown up at the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science nearly every day.

“I just can’t stop,” said Beasley.

A native of Centerton, Beasley decided to become a veterinarian at age 10 when a young vet from Bentonville came to treat his family’s ailing cows.

Beasley received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree and his master’s degree in veterinary pathology from Texas A&M University in 1949, and went on to earn his doctorate in pathology from the University of Oklahoma.

Some of his research in poultry science centered around Marek’s disease, a virus that causes tumors to develop in poultry. Beasley and other UA researchers were able to demonstrate the method by which the disease was spread.

Watkins serves as Director of the National Egg Quality School

INDIANAPOLIS - Dr. Susan Watkins, Extension Poultry Specialist at the University of Arkansas, is also the Director of the National Egg Quality School (NEQS), which recently held classes at the Marriott East in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is the 12th annual NEQS to be held and its mission is to teach participants “as much as possible about egg quality in a concentrated, comprehensive four-day course.” Left is a photo of this year’s participants.
UA Poultry Science Department hosts Youth Conference

FAYETTEVILLE - A record 33 high school students from around the state experienced college life first-hand at the University of Arkansas while attending the ninth annual Poultry Science Youth Conference sponsored by the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science at the University of Arkansas July 12-15.

The conference is designed to foster interest in the poultry industry, the University of Arkansas and the UA poultry science department through hands-on experiences, tours and industry presentations.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Poultry Science - Your Passport to the World.” In following with the theme, students were divided into six countries; Brazil, China, the European Union, India, Mexico and Thailand. After studying the poultry industry in the United States, each group was directed to research the adopted country’s culture, demographics and poultry industry capabilities and compare their findings to the American model they had been presented earlier.

Additionally, international graduate students from the department gave presentations, showed pictures of their home country and answered questions to aid in the students’ research.

Gary Davis, undergraduate recruiter said, “We wanted students to get a feel for how global the poultry industry is. If they are interested in working abroad when they complete their studies, there are opportunities to do that in the poultry industry. Students who prefer to stay close to home have that opportunity as well. Majoring in poultry science can open up tremendous opportunities for students.”

Student groups gave their country’s presentations before faculty members and parents during a closing ceremony in the Leland Tollett Auditorium in the Poultry Science Building.

Sponsors of the conference were the Farm Bureau, Harold E. Ford Foundation and the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

Next year’s conference will again be held in July. For information, e-mail Gary Davis (gddavis@uark).

UA signs Exclusive Worldwide Licensing Agreement with Hooge Consulting for Molting Technology

FAYETTEVILLE - Poultry physiologists Robert Wideman, Jr., and Wayne Kuenzel, both professors in poultry science at the University of Arkansas, worked cooperatively with Danny M. Hooge, president of Hooge Consulting Service, Inc., to conduct four successful studies using caged laying hens.

These studies were conducted at the UA's poultry farm and were funded with a $20,000 grant from the United Egg Producers. Following these tests, a successful molting trial was conducted with Cobb broiler/breeder hens.

As a result of this initial research, Hooge Consulting Service, Inc., announced this year that an exclusive worldwide license agreement had been signed with the U of A to develop and market the thyroxine molting technology. Currently, a U.S. patent is pending.

Four more studies are planned between June and December 2005 with caged laying hens, broiler breeder hens and turkey breeder hens. If successful, funding up to $325,000 may be awarded in 2006 for expanded research.
Poultry hosts Golf Tourney and raises over $20,000 for Scholarships

FAYETTEVILLE - A record 33 teams enjoyed a day of golf and raised just over $20,000 for poultry science scholarships during the Sixth Annual University of Arkansas’ Poultry Science Scholarship Golf Tournament April 26 at the Valley View Golf and Country Club in Farmington.

Format for the tournament was a four-person scramble with a shotgun start.

First place winners in the morning flight were Jim Antwine, Jason Ballard, Kevin Gewin and Joey Ray of Motomco with a score of 60. Second place winners in flight one were Larry Butler, Virgil Holloway, Jeff Pharr and Perry Web of Food Processing Equipment Company (FPEC), also with a score of 60. (Ties were determined by scorecard playoffs.) Third Place in flight one went to Clint Grimsley, Bill Hodge, Randy Jones and Tim Kasinger of Ag Forte, LLC. Larry Butler of FPEC took home a prize for closest to the pin on hole 13, Dennis Lester of the UA Feed Mill team won an award for having the longest drive on hole 4 and Joe Parsley of Degussa Corp., and Brad Bowen of Cumberland tied in the morning putting contest.

First place winners in the afternoon flight were Daryl Muldoon, P.D. Rakestraw, Tom Roark and Bill Templer of Simmons Foods with a score of 57. Second place winners were Mark Cook, Randy Counts, Mark Cox and Jamie Statler of Aerotech with a score of 58. Third place winners were Hex Bisbee, Rick Barrows, Sean Barrows and Shaun Penny of Multi-Craft with a score of 61. Closest to the pin was Sherri Barnhill of Barnhill Poultry, longest drive winner was Syd Tatum of Alpharma and the afternoon putting contest winner was Howard Lester of the UA Feed Mill.

Major sponsors for the tournament were Cobb-Vantress, Inc., FPEC and Safe Foods Corporation. Jones Motorcars of Fayetteville provided the car for the hole-in-one prize, Harps Food Stores provided snacks and the Arkansas Farm Bureau donated the items in the goodie bags passed out to participants.

Denton named to National Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Dr. James Denton, emeritus faculty member in the Department of Poultry Science and past Director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, was recently selected to serve on the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection for the United States Department of Agriculture.

This appointment was effective May 2005 and will run until March 2007.

The purpose of the committee is to provide advice concerning state and federal programs with respect to meat and poultry inspection and other matters.

The committee also serves as a forum for meaningful dialogue on the U.S. meat and poultry regulatory system by providing input to help ensure the safest food supply for the American consumer.

The Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns will take advice and recommendations from representatives of the committee on current and new policies that affect state and federal meat programs.

APPOINTEE - Dr. James Denton was recently asked to serve on the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection for the USDA.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER: Donna Tinsley, secretary II in poultry science, received a special letter from Dr. Johnetta Cross Brazzell, the University of Arkansas Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. It stated that when the registrar’s office sent out letters to graduates, her name was turned in as an individual that had made a significant contribution in the life of a U of A student. Way to go Donna!

APPOINTEE - Dr. James Denton was recently asked to serve on the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection for the USDA.
This issue we’re highlighting the Processing Plant Employees and their contribution to Poultry

THE PROCESSING CREW - From left (front row) Travis Villines, student worker; Mica Delozier, student worker; Justin Siebenmorgen, student worker; Nathan Marcy, student worker; (back row) Doug Yoho, graduate student/program associate; Tom Harrison, farm technician; Rodney Wolfe, Processing Plant Manager; and Kenny Villines, research technician II. Not pictured is Ralph Ferguson.

Poultry Science Club Elects Officers and gives out Awards

FAYETTEVILLE - The Poultry Science Club at the University of Arkansas held their year-end awards banquet and announced the new slate of club officers.

Those newly elected to serve in the fall of 2005 are: President - Neda Tilley; Vice President - Ashley Swaffar; Treasurer - Valerie Brewer; and Publicity Officers Brookee Davis and Jada Thompson.

Awards for the fall 2004 and spring 2005 semesters were: Advisor of the Year - Donna Tinsley; “Hard Ass” award for a poultry professor - Dr. Dustan Clark; Most Active Club Member - Amanda Hancock, and Outstanding Senior - Drew Parker, former president of the club.

The club would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donations to the silent auction held during the banquet: Arkansas Alumni Association, Barbara’s Gardens, Barnhill Poultry Supply, Blockbuster Video, Cakes by Amy - Amy Waldroup, Cargill, Cobb-Vantress, Inc., Davis & Sikes Feed Mill, Dixie Cafe, Mr. and Mrs. Kim Eskew, Harps Food Stores, Inc., Jim’s Razorback Pizza, Layman’s Inc., Mary Maestri’s, Marketplace Grill, Oil-Dri, Ozark Electric, Penguin Ed’s, Smokey Bones, Swepeco, Tyson Foods, Walco and Wholesale Wallpaper.

Grad Student Association wins U of A award

FAYETTEVILLE - The Poultry Science Graduate Student Association (PSGA) won the 2005 Outstanding Service Project of the Year from the Registered Student Organization (RSO) at the University of Arkansas.

The PSGA raised turkeys at the farm and fed, watered and cared for them for 12 weeks during the holiday season of 2004 in order to process the turkeys (approximately 300 of them) and deliver them to the Ozark Food Bank for distribution just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Jack Higgins is president of this organization. Their web site is located at: http://www.uark.edu/depts/posc/PSGA/psga.html

A BIG FISH STORY - From left, Dr. Robert Wideman, Jr., Dr. Nick Anthony, and Ph.D. student Hilary Pavlidis show off their “catch” in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. They were in town attending the ANECA conference in June (ANECA is the National Poultry Science Association in Mexico).

The following poultry faculty gave invited presentations at the conference: Nick Anthony, Walter Bottje, Gisela Erf, Casey Owens and Bob Wideman. Research professor Memo Tellez received an award (see page 2) and the following graduate students presented their research: Hilary Pavlidis, Chris Pixley, Alberto Torres-Rodriguez, Jose Vicente and Amanda Wolfenden.
PARTNERS
in Poultry Science

FACULTY NOTABLES:

James Denton served as Chairman of the International Food Technologists (IFT) International Food Safety and Quality Program Committee. Denton also served on the IFT Committee on Science, Communication and Government Relations. He also participated in the PSA Strategic Planning Retreat in Atlanta, April 6-8. Denton also served as Chairman of the IFT-International Food Safety and Quality Conference in New Orleans July 20.

Jason Emmert, Gary Davis and Jerry Wooley hosted the 2005 Agricultural Teachers In-Service Training at the University of Arkansas campus in May.

Karen Eskew was awarded first place for the Poultry Science Web Site; first place for the Annual Report “Something to Crow About,” and second place for the Avian Advice Newsletter, of which Frank Jones serves as editor, from The National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association (NAADA) in July.

Billy Hargis gave an invited presentation on Salmonella control in breeders at the Poultry Federation’s 2005 Annual Spring Symposium at the Convention Center in Springdale.

William Huff is Second Vice President of the Southern Poultry Science Society and served as the program chairman of the 2005 annual meeting. Huff also gave an invited presentation on the use of bacteriophage as an alternative to antibiotic growth promoters at a conference on “Antimicrobial Growth Promoters: Worldwide Ban on the Horizon?” at Noordwijk aan Zee, the Netherlands.

Philip Moore, Jr., attended the 7th International Livestock Environment Symposium in Beijing, China, where he presented a talk on the effect of pasture renovation on nutrient runoff from pastures fertilized with manure.

Casey Owens gave an invited presentation “Intramuscular fat and meat quality: Current and future strategies for poultry” at the Annual Technical Symposium of the Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Meat Science Association, and Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council in Gatineau, Canada. Owens also gave an invited presentation “Tenderness assessment of commercial broilers” at the ANECA Annual Meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Owens also gave the invited presentation “Evaluating the effect of shortened aging times on meat quality of breast fillets from five commercial broiler strains at 6 and 7 weeks of age” at the XVII European Symposium on the Quality of Poultry Meat & XI European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products in Doorwerth, the Netherlands. Finally, Owens hosted Poultry 101: Exploring Poultry Product Quality May 10-12, 2004. She was both a speaker and coordinator of the event.

Susan Watkins gave an invited presentation on summer ventilation and was an organizer of the Poultry Federation’s 2005 Annual Spring Symposium at the Convention Center in Springdale. Watkins was also an invited speaker at each of the following meetings: Tyson Berryville/Green Forrest grower meetings, Cargill grower meetings in Virginia; California, Missouri; and Springdale, the Virginia Poultry Health and Management Seminar in Roanoke, VA, NOVUS International- National Sales Meeting, St. Louis, MO, Midwest Poultry Convention, Tyson Grower meeting, Sedalia, MO, Tyson Service tech meeting, Grannis, AR, Tyson Food Service Division meeting, McCurtain County (OK) grower education meeting, Pilgrim’s Pride Pennsylvania Turkey Operation, The Virginia Turkey Growers Cooperative, ConAgra Turkey Products Service Tech meeting, Carthage, MO, and the Cobb-Vantress World Tech School. Watkins also served as the Moderator for the EPA air emissions consent agreement hearing held at Pauline Whitaker on April 27. She served as Director of the National Egg Quality School held in Indianapolis, IN, May 16-19. She served on the U.S. Poultry and Egg College Student Career Program Advisory Committee, and she served on the US Poultry and Egg Production and Health Planning Committee.

GRANTS AWARDED:

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