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

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FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - Two Poultry Science students were recipients of The Dale Bumpers Distinguished Scholars award, given at the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Honors & Awards Banquet April 16. Each year the award is presented to an outstanding undergraduate transfer student and outstanding master’s and doctoral students.

Vivian F. Aguiar, who is pursuing a master’s degree in Poultry Science, was selected for the master’s scholar award. Vivian is the student of Dan Donoghue. Her thesis research is on the use of probiotics against pathogens that cause food safety concerns in poultry. She has a bachelor’s degree as a food engineer from the State University of Campina - UNICAMP, in Brazil. She came to the University of Arkansas from McGill University in Canada where she was a molecular biology research assistant.

The doctoral scholar award went to Lakshmi Kannan, student of Narayan Rath. Lakshmi received her B.S. degree in chemistry and M.S. degree in biotechnology from the University of Madras in Chennai. Her doctoral research in Poultry Science is in the area of cell and molecular biology with a focus on the immunoregulatory role of certain peptides. Her career goal is to develop biomedical applications through research in immunology, biotechnology and proteomics.

“These awards are extremely competitive,” said Dr. David Chapman, parasitologist with the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science. “The fact that we have two students winning this year is a reflection of the strength of our graduate program in the department of poultry science.”

Also recognized at the awards banquet was Betsy Conner, who received the honor of Outstanding Senior in Poultry Science.

Poultry science students awarded distinguished scholar awards

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In this Issue

Page 3
Poultry Grower Training Field Day

Page 4
Dr. Frank Jones celebrates his retirement with staff and family.

Page 5
Poultry science student part of first place team in competition
Awards given during annual poultry science club luncheon

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - The Poultry Science Club held its annual luncheon on Friday, April 24. Samantha Blair, club president for 2008-2009, was given a 2009 Outstanding Poultry Science Student award by the University of Arkansas Poultry Science Alumni Group. Doug McLoud, president-elect for the group, presented the award to Samantha.

Gary Davis, undergraduate recruitment specialist, was presented with a certificate for “World’s Best Advisor” from Samantha Blair on behalf of the poultry science club.

The Baking Arts Fundamentals for Food Technologists, a 40-contact-hour, five-day hands-on program workshop, was held March 23-27, 2009. The workshop included instruction on baking theory and ingredient function, and the opportunity to practice baking methods and techniques. Baking fundamentals topics included yeast and quick breads, custards, cookies, cakes, pies, meringues and frostings. The course also included charcuterie, including making sausage and meat curing. The Culinary Arts for Food Technologists Series is held in collaboration with the Research Chefs Association. Two more workshops will be held September 14-18 and October 12-16. Visit poutryscience.uark.edu/culinary/index.html for more details.
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – Educators, students and industry personnel from Canada, India and throughout the United States attended the Short Course on Modern Poultry Production March 30-April 3 at the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

Dr. Frank Jones, Cooperative Extension Service section leader for poultry and a University of Arkansas faculty member, said the annual event provides a broad understanding of how the modern United States poultry industry operates. Participants interact with some of the top poultry science faculty in the world and receive hands-on experiences designed to reinforce their classroom learning, Jones said.

Some of the hands-on workshops included poultry inside and out, egg formation and candling exercises, and the economics of decision making. Scheduled field trips, which allowed participants to view production and processing principles in action and to interact with industry officials, were taken to Simmons Foods and Tyson Foods, both in Springdale, and Benton County Foods in Siloam Springs.

“The short course is truly a team effort,” said Jones. “We employ several techniques to teach participants about the industry including lecture, demonstration, hands-on exercises and field trips to commercial poultry facilities in operation. The lectures, demonstrations and exercises are conducted by university poultry faculty who, in my opinion, are some of the most qualified in the world, while the tours are made possible by industry cooperators.”

The short course was begun in 2000 to help provide a wider audience with a “big picture” overview of the commercial poultry industry. The course provides participants with the “mental framework” necessary to understand both where information fits within the industry and how the various parts of the industry are connected.

Lori Michalski of Roberts-Gordon, LLC, in Buffalo, NY, talks to a chick during a field trip while attending the Short Course on Modern Poultry Production.

Welcome Anne Fanatico!

We are pleased to welcome Anne Fanatico, who has recently joined the ARS USDA PPPSR as a Research Associate. She will be conducting research on organic poultry production and alternative systems for small and mid-size farms. A native of South Carolina, Fanatico received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, her M.S. in Animal Science at Oregon State University and her Ph.D. in Poultry Science from the University of Arkansas.

A Poultry Grower Training Day was held May 5 at the Applied Broiler Research Farm, Savoy, Ark. There were several demonstrations of technologies being studied at the University of Arkansas and at Oklahoma State University. Growers were able, despite the rain, to look around the farm and ask experts questions. The featured speaker was Bud Malone of the University of Delaware. Pictured above is a demonstration of windrowing techniques.
Marcy named 2009 IFT Fellow

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - John Marcy, professor and poultry processing specialist for the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, was recently named a 2009 IFT Fellow by the Institute of Food Technologists. Marcy was honored for his leadership in extension education for poultry processors and in retail food safety. Fellow is a unique professional distinction given to individuals with outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience for their contributions to the food science and technology field. Every year since 1970, IFT has conferred the Fellow designation on only a select number of professional members.

“I am honored to be recognized by a jury of IFT Fellows for my career accomplishments in industry and at Virginia Tech and the University of Arkansas,” said Marcy.

Kuenzel receives Sigma Xi Imhoff Award

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - Professor Wayne Kuenzel was given the John Imhoff Outstanding Research Publication Award by the University of Arkansas Chapter of Sigma Xi. The award was for the publication: Li, and Kuenzel (2008) A possible neural cascade involving the photoneuroendocrine system (PNES) responsible for regulating gonadal development in an avian species, Gallus gallus. Brain Research Bulletin 76:586-596. This is the fifth year for this cash award to a faculty member of the chapter. The award was created in honor of Dr. John Imhoff from Industrial Engineering, a long time supporter and member of the chapter.

FFA career development events

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - High school students from all over Arkansas gathered on campus for the annual state FFA Career Development Event held Friday, April 17. Kain Greeno, above, from Weiner, judges a chicken. Sera Snow, right, from Delight, judges a broiler carcass during the poultry section of the events.

Staff bids Jones a happy retirement

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - Dr. Frank Jones, extension poultry section leader, was honored for his twelve years of service with a retirement party on April 28 and a luncheon on April 29.

Dr. Jones received his B.S. from the University of Florida in 1968 and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Kentucky in 1972 and 1977, respectively. After an illustrious career at North Carolina State University, Dr. Jones joined the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science as extension section leader in July of 1997. He was promoted to associate center director for extension in July of 2005. Dr. Jones founded the departmental newsletter *Avian Advice* and provided technical editing for the publication. Dr. Jones also established and coordinated the International Short Course on Modern Poultry Production.

Congratulations, Dr. Jones!
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - Cesar Coto, a poultry science doctoral candidate, was among a team of students who took first place and $20,000 in the Wal-Mart Better Living Business Plan Challenge. The final rounds of the competition were held April 16 at the Wal-Mart home office in Bentonville.

The winning team consisted of three master’s candidates in business administration from the Sam M. Walton College of Business: Brandon Barr, Joshua McCullough and Keith Solsvig; and Coto, who, along with being a poultry science doctoral candidate, is also a master’s candidate in agribusiness.

The team developed a business plan for Ground Up Biosolutions. The plan minimizes the pollution of watersheds and creates a low-cost, environmentally friendly fertilizer from farms’ and municipalities’ by-products.

Wal-Mart invited students from 32 leading universities to submit business plans on topics ranging from clean air, water and soil, to energy efficient and healthy products. Eight regional winners competed in the semifinal competitions in Bentonville.

During the challenge, student teams presented their business plans to a panel of judges made up of executives from Wal-Mart and other leading companies and nongovernment organizations.

In addition to winning the Wal-Mart Challenge, Ground Up Biosolutions was a semifinalist at the Carnegie-Mellon University McGinnis Venture Competition, and took second place in the Lightning Round at University of Oregon New Venture Championship.

Coto is the student of Dr. Park Waldroup.

French visitor gives talk at center

Dr. Bernard Carre visited the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science May 5, while in town to speak at Cobb’s Poultry Breeders Roundtable. While at the Center, Dr. Carre gave a talk on “Understanding and breeding for improved feed efficiency.” Dr. Carre, Research Director for the Avian Research Unit in Nouzilly, France, has researched feed chemistry, energy value of feed, digestion processes and evaluation, plant genetics and poultry genetics. He was recently at the origin of the chicken digestion lines selected for divergent digestion efficiencies.
FACULTY NOTABLES

Gisela Erf was recognized as “Honorary Member of the Wall” during the Alpena High School Science Ceremony for her contributions as mentor to Alpena high school students’ science projects.

Susan E. Watkins spoke at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service Galaxy conference in Hot Springs, March 5.

Watkins also spoke at the Prestage Turkey operations in North and South Carolina April 6-7.

Gisela Erf gave an invited presentation on: “Genetically controlled disease in poultry: lessons learned from the autoimmune-disease prone Smyth line chicken” at the 58th National Breeders Roundtable, St. Louis, Missouri (May 7-8, 2009).

Susan Watkins gave invited presentations at the following: the LeadAR Conference on April 3, the Michigan Winter Poultry Seminar February 12, the POULTRY Producers meeting in Cleveland County on February 25, the 3rd Turkey Science and Production Conference in Manchester, England on April 24, the Raeford Farms of Louisiana Grower information Meeting on April 28 and the Cobb International Technical School on May 11.

A culinary article written by Dr. John Marcy has been selected for publication in the June issue of Poultry USA.

STUDENT NEWS

Ms. Komal Singh Rasaputra received the second place certificate and a cash award for her oral presentation of “Proteomic changes in growth plate cartilage of chickens with tibial dyschondroplasia, a metabolic skeletal disease problem” in the Annual Arkansas Academy of Science meeting held in March 2009. Komal is pursuing her Ph. D. under the supervision of Dr. Narayan Rath.

Mr. Vijay Durairaj received a first place award at the 2009 Southern Conference on Avian Diseases meeting for his presentation on the “Effect of high fat diet on broiler chicken performance” the work he conducted at the University of Arkansas. Vijay completed his Masters in Poultry Science under the supervision of Dr. Dustan Clark and Dr. Narayan Rath.

Four students wrote honors theses related to their poultry research and received high honors in the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences: Michael Bayona, who worked with Dr. Robert Wideman, Jr. wrote The Distribution of Complex Vascular Lesions in Broiler Chickens with Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension; Maryam Niroumand, who worked with Douglas Rhoads, adjunct faculty member in poultry science, wrote Genetic Determinants of Pulmonary Hypertension Syndrome in the Chicken Model: Molecular Analysis of a Region on Chromosome 1; Carrie Hyde, who worked with Douglas Rhoads, wrote Investigation of the FTO Gene as a Candidate QTL for Egg Production in Broiler Chickens; and Courtney Lang, who worked with Douglas Rhoads, wrote Analysis of a Novel Set of Non-Coding RNAs Produced in the Chicken Reproductive Tract.