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State of the Department

by Dave Gerrard



It is with the utmost pleasure and excitement that I have finally relocated to Blacksburg. Virginia is a beautiful part of the country and my wife and family find the landscape extremely inviting and comfortable.

Virginia Tech is an outstanding university that is on track to become one of the top 30 universities

in the US. I feel privileged to have become part of this most exciting and well-orchestrated journey that will serve the citizenry of Virginia in ways beyond imagination. Setting lofty goals should not be restricted to university leaders in Burruss Hall. To that end, I believe that the Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences has the capability to be one of the top 10 animal science departments in the country. The ability to provide the latest, most up-to-date knowledge to our students in a comprehensive and engaging manner results in better-educated students who are more valuable to employers and better citizens. Effective education programs extend past the walls of the classroom, and as such, our stakeholders will be provided continually with information that keeps them competitive in the national and world market places.

Neither of the two aforementioned roles of a world-class institution can be accomplished without the creation of knowledge and we will continue to nurture this activity in a manner that complements the other two missions of the College. As a department and member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, we remain committed to agriculture, both as a discipline for study and as a vital segment of the country's economic and social structures. To that end, we must remain malleable to the future needs of agriculture as it is re-defined, re-focused and reinvented throughout this great country and the globe. We intend to position this department to lead this change; yet at the same time, we will retain those ideals that inspired the creation of the Land Grant institution.

The department is in the process of filling

two faculty positions in the areas of equine science and adipose (fat) biology. Although it is premature to know fully the precise area in which these new additions may elect to make an impact in agriculture, they represent the beginning of a hiring process that will culminate in the addition of seven new faculty positions charged with fulfilling the mission of the department. Granted, the economic downturn may slow our progress but we anticipate these positions will be filled over the next two to three years.

In closing, I wish to comment on one of the most rewarding perks of serving this fine faculty and staff - representing APSC at graduation ceremonies. This past weekend I had the privilege of awarding 92 diplomas to a most wonderful set of young people, full of life and excited about making the future brighter. As exciting for me, however, was the opportunity to meet the families and friends of these new graduates. Moreover, I could not help but notice the pride and admiration of faculty members as they basked in the events of the day. Though I don't wish to detract from the drive and accomplishments of the graduates, I can't help but humbly admire the faculty for the obvious love and support that they continually provided the students throughout their development. This one glimpse of human accomplishment, outstanding tutelage and unwavering support suggests that Virginia Tech and its mission has been and will continue to serve mankind in the highest capacity.

If you get a chance to get to Blacksburg, please stop in.

Sincerely, Dave



Faculty Awards & Activities

Teresa McDonald Is Honored With The 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award By The Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association

Edited from an article by Lanier Cordell,
Intercollegiate Dressage Association



Teresa McDonald, known to those who love and admire her as 'T', has been a part of the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) since the mid-1970s when she was part of the Radford University riding team. Upon graduation, T became an equestrian coach at Radford. After a few years, she left Radford for a short stint at Virginia Tech and then worked several years in

the equine industry. After working briefly at Ferrum College, T returned to Virginia Tech where she has remained for the past 17 years.

T has been Regional President of IHSA Zone 4 Region 2 and Zone 4 Chairperson, has served on the National Board of Directors of both the IHSA and Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) simultaneously, and is a founding member of the IDA. She has served as National Steward for the national championships for both the IHSA and IDA, and has coached national individual winners in both organizations.

In addition to being a coach and instructor in the Virginia Tech Equestrian Program, T is part of a seventh-generation, 600-acre family farm (founded in 1763) raising cattle, horses and sheep. Other than her 14-year-old son Joseph, T is most proud that many of her students are now working as IHSA, IDA, and NCAA coaches. In fact, in this year's first round of the NCAA Finals, the two opposing coaches are both former students of T's.

More than twenty years ago, T joined forces with Nancy Peterson to found the Southwest Virginia Hunter Jumper Association which now has more than 300 members. She served as president of the organization and in 2004 was inducted to their Hall of Fame. She also was a founding member of the Southwest Virginia Dressage Association in 1978 and has served as president and board member. When Peggy McElveen of Saint Andrews Presbyteri-

an College wanted to start an IHSA Western Division in Zone 4 Region 3, T jumped right in and formed a team at Virginia Tech.

T's devotion to her students never wavers. During the darkest hour of Virginia Tech's history, the mass shooting April 16, 2007, one of T's student, Emily Jane Hilscher, was the first to die. Many of the equine students sought shelter at T's home and looked to T for comfort and guidance. For T, the most healing moment after the devastation was walking into the IHSA Nationals to find that the championship team, Virginia Intermont, donned Virginia Tech hats and carried the Virginia Tech Banner for a moment of silent recognition of the loss of fellow rider Hilscher.

It is a testament to T's generosity of spirit that among her peers she is considered the great peacemaker and negotiator, and that she is loved by riders from opposing teams in her region as much as by her own students. Thanks to T and her fellow coaches, members of Zone 4 Region 3 enjoy harmony and serve as an excellent example to all student riders. For all of these reasons, the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association honored T with the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2009.



Teresa McDonald (left) with Jill Waligura (mounted), who was the National IHSA Champion Rider in Open Equitation on the Flat in 1996 and 1997.

Faculty Awards, continued from p. 3

Dr. Dan Eversole — CALS Nominee for W. E. Wine Award for Excellence in Teaching

by Ron Lewis



Dr. Dan Eversole was selected as the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences nominee for the W. E. Wine Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Eversole's nomination for this prestigious University award was due to his extraordinary success as a teacher. His success arises from the consistent high quality of his instruction,

the range of courses he has developed and taught, the inventiveness of his instructional approaches, and the contributions he has made as an advisor outside the normal classroom setting.

Two of Dr. Eversole's innovations in course development are particularly noteworthy: his Livestock Merchandising course and the Hokie Harvest Sale. The Hokie Harvest Sale was initiated in 1995, and over its 14 years has grossed \$1,625,048. It is a student-run sale of horses, swine and beef cattle

from Departmental animal units and, as part of the Livestock Merchandising course, provides students with practical experience with advertising and marketing livestock. This activity is unique to Virginia Tech, and is recognized among land-grant institutions as a model educational enterprise.

Over his 26-year career at Virginia Tech, Dr. Eversole has developed and taught a tremendous range of courses, meeting the needs and aspirations of students in both the two-year Agricultural Technology and four-year programs. He has been awarded the Certificate of Teaching Excellence from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1992, the Teaching Award of Merit from Gamma Sigma Delta in 1997, and the Honorary American FFA Degree in 2007. Dr. Eversole has also served as faculty advisor to numerous student clubs and organizations on and off campus (i.e., Block and Bridle Club, Virginia Junior Angus Association). He has been a tremendous asset assisting students in obtaining internships, industry positions, entry into professional and graduate schools, and other post-graduation professional opportunities.

Although Dr. Eversole did not win the University-wide award, the selection committee recognized his individual excellence and a broad institutional dedication to undergraduate teaching and learning.

Dr. Audrey McElroy



The Sigma Alpha Pi Chapter presented Dr. Audrey McElroy with their 2009 Ag Woman of the Year Award.

Dr. Rebecca Splan



Dr. Rebecca Splan was awarded a Certificate of Teaching Excellence at the May 2009 Graduation Ceremony of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

In Memoriam: Maryellen Berger



On March 6, 2009, Virginia Tech lost a member of its family when Maryellen (Meg) Berger passed away. Until being diagnosed with cancer, and even while fighting the battle, Meg was a dedicated coworker, a mentor for students in the lab, and a loving supporter for her family. She is survived by her husband, three daughters, and two sons. The true light of her life seemed to be her five grandchildren. Meg joined the Animal and Poultry Sciences staff as a histology technician in Dr. Audrey McElroy's Poultry Immunophysiology Laboratory in March 2007, serving Virginia Tech for a total of 9 years. Meg was a good friend to many and her warm smile and personality will be missed by the many she touched during her time with us.

Faculty Awards & Activities, continued from p. 4

Dr. Eric Wong Receives Publication Award



Eric A. Wong, PhD, John W. Hancock Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences, won the 2009 Milton L. Sunde Award. This award is given for publication in *The Journal of Nutrition* of outstanding experimental, applied or fundamental research in nutrition that uses an avian species. The award was presented for the manuscript in *The Journal of Nutrition*, Volume 138,

pages 262-271 [2008]: *Dietary protein quality and feed restriction influence abundance of nutrient transporter mRNA in the small intestine of broiler chicks* [E. R. Gilbert, H. Li, D. A. Emmerson, K. E. Webb, Jr. and E. A. Wong].

Faculty Activities

Drs. Audrey McElroy, Bill Pierson and Rami Dalloul had a grant funded by the Virginia Agricultural Council entitled "Influence of Incubation Conditions on Turkey Poult Intestinal Development and Susceptibility to Poult Enteritis Mortality Syndrome".

A booth to promote the departmental poultry research, extension and teaching programs with informational material and promotional items was displayed at the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, which was attended by over 20,000 people. The booth allowed current faculty and graduate students to interact with alumni attending the Exposition, recruit students, and establish contacts for research opportunities.

The Virginia Poultry Federation and Virginia Tech Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences held the 2009 Virginia Poultry Health and Management Seminar in Weyers Cave on April 16th. This year's meeting had over 150 attendees including company personnel and growers from the commercial poultry industry, specifically in the areas of broiler breeder, broiler and turkey live production, as well as allied industry representatives. Participants heard excellent presentations on issues ranging from the economic outlook for the poultry industry to more technical topics concerning poultry house and flock management. Additionally, the seminar included a trade show for industry vendors to demonstrate equipment, products, and services.

Alumni Awards & Recognitions

Mark Compton — Recipient of J. Meigs Teaching Professorship

by Faith Peppers, University of Georgia

On March 31, 2009, Dr. Mark Compton received the Josiah Meigs Teaching Professorship, which recognizes excellence in instruction at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Meigs Professors receive a permanent salary increase of \$6,000 and a fund of \$1,000 for academic support. The professorship is named for Josiah Meigs, who in 1801 succeeded Abraham Baldwin as president -- and sole professor -- of Georgia's fledgling state university.

Mark Compton was born to teach. It's his calling and he answers it every time he sets foot in his classroom. "Students describe Dr. Compton as 'electric,'" said Mike Lacy, department head for poultry science in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, in his letter of nomination. "His enthusiasm in the classroom is legendary."

Compton, who teaches avian anatomy and physiology, is perhaps so orthodox that he is unorthodox. When most professors are turning to technology to enhance their classroom lectures, Compton reverts to the old-fashioned chalkboard. And, his students love it. "He wasn't into all the new PowerPoint presentation-type stuff," said one student letter of support, speaking of Compton's chalkboard drawings. "It was more personal" she said, "drawing your attention in and allowing for participation. Being more of a visual learner myself, I was fascinated with his drawings describing pathways and mechanisms of physiology. My attention never left that blackboard until the end of class where not a smidgen of it had



Mark Compton earned his Ph. D. at Virginia Tech working in the Poultry Science Department with Dr. Harry Van Krey. Photo provided by Rick O'Quinn of UGA Broadcast, Video & Photographic Services

been left undiscovered." Others attest to Compton's effective use of hands-on exercises to reinforce what he teaches in lectures. He uses a mix of cutting-edge CD study aids, a fun quiz show contest and comprehensive labs to provide the highest quality educational experience for his students. "I have never enjoyed a lab more than this one," reported one student. "Hands-on surgery, assays and disease experiments clarified a lot of the information given in class. I can honestly say that I have retained and remember more from Dr. Compton's classes than any other class I have taken."

His commitment doesn't stop at the classroom door. Students often comment on his dedication to their futures. A current graduate student wrote: "I still remember his voice yelling from down the hall, 'Jennifer!' I was on my way to class when I turned around and saw Dr. Compton hurrying down the hallway... I was glad to see him." She continued to unfold the story of how Compton told her about a scholarship she should apply for. "That's Dr. Compton in a nutshell – always looking out for his students' best interest, always pushing them to be their best."

Compton's teaching philosophy is as simple as his approach: "Come to class, take good notes and ask questions, review your notes periodically, and you will do fine in this course." He understands that getting students to do all of these isn't easy. However, his enthusiasm and dedication to his students make them want to come to class every session. His evaluations consistently include comments such as: "Superb teaching methods," and "Wonderful professor. He is the kind of professor few are lucky to have."

Compton has won an array of awards including the Henry L. Marks Award for Outstanding Teaching twice, the D.W. Brooks Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Poultry Science Association Land O'Lakes Outstanding Teaching Award. But perhaps the greatest testament to his ability to teach is the number of education students who take his class not to learn about poultry, but to learn how to teach.

Whether they are budding poultry scientists or teachers-to-be, students know when they come to Mark Compton's class, they come to learn from the master. And, it's fun.

Alumni Awards & Recognitions, continued from p. 6

Dr. Rod O'Kelley Recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Organization

by Ron Lewis

Dr. Rodney E. O'Kelley has been recognized as the 2008 Outstanding Alumni from the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Organization. He earned Bachelor of Science and Master degrees from Southern Illinois University in Animal Industries in 1964 and 1965, respectively. He then continued his studies at Virginia Tech, obtaining a Ph.D. degree in Animal Nutrition in the Animal Science Department in 1969.

While pursuing graduate work at Virginia Tech, Dr. O'Kelley conducted innovative and pioneering research on magnesium requirements of beef cows. This, and follow-up research, were of utmost importance in solving a major metabolic disease, grass tetany, in beef cows. Prior to that time, thousands of cows died annually from the disease. His work not only saved substantial dollars for Virginia cattle producers, it brought attention to Virginia Tech for solving a problem that affected cattle in all important cattle producing states. This contribution was a major factor in the national recognition of Virginia Tech scientists.

Once completing his studies at Virginia Tech, Dr. O'Kelley became a Technical Service Representative at Pfizer, Inc., in Indiana from 1970 through 1975. In that role, he designed and conducted research studies in beef cattle in conjunction with universities and private research firms throughout the United States, as well as at Pfizer research facilities. This work included evaluating various antibiotics as growth stimulants, and in disease prevention and treatment programs. In 1975, he founded Animal Technautics, a private research company in Indiana focused on applied re-

search in cattle and swine. Over the next decade, his company conducted research for major pharmaceutical firms and feed companies throughout the United States and England. Many of the studies conducted were used for gaining FDA approval labels for feedstuff.

Since 1985, as founder and president of Rod O'Kelley, Inc., he has established a diversified corporation of retail and agricultural businesses. Among these is a retail operation called Boot City with over 30,000 square feet of country and western merchandise, a restaurant, country music theatre, scooter shop, and various leased shops and offices. In addition, Rod O'Kelley, Inc. owns over 900 acres of agricultural property plus various residential and commercial properties.

Dr. O'Kelley's outstanding achievements as an agriculturalist and businessman reflect the spirit of innovation so cherished by our Department and College.



(l-r) Dr. Leon Kok, Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Dr. Rod O'Kelley, Dr. Joe Fontenot, Professor Emeritus of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Dr. Dave Gerrard, Head of Animal and Poultry Sciences

Alumni Awards & Recognitions, continued from p. 7

Dr. Scott Radcliffe Recipient of the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Organization

by Ron Lewis

Dr. John Scott Radcliffe was recognized as the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award for 2008 for the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Organization. He was also honored as the Outstanding Recent Alumni for the entire College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Dr. Radcliffe completed three degrees at Virginia Tech. In 1995 he earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, while dual-enrolled as a Master-level student. In 1997, he completed his Masters degree in Animal and Poultry Sciences, continuing on to obtain his Ph.D. in the Department in 2000. He then joined the faculty in Animal and Poultry Sciences as an Assistant Professor. In 2001, Dr. Radcliffe moved to Purdue University. In 2007 he was promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Radcliffe leads an internationally recognized interdisciplinary research program in non-ruminant nutrition that bridges the gap between basic and applied research. His research team has developed

approaches to reduce nutrient excretions and emissions from swine facilities through changes in nutrition. With industry adoption of these innovations, environmental risks to surface and ground water pollution, and costs to the swine industry for waste treatment and disposal, have been reduced. In addition, Dr. Radcliffe and his team are investigating alternatives to antibiotics in terms of their effectiveness on control of pathogenic organisms, gastrointestinal development, nutrient absorption and immune competency. Through this work, he is addressing public health concerns over reduced efficacy of antibiotics through their use in animal feeds.

Dr. Radcliffe has published 122 scholarly papers, including 23 refereed journal articles, two book chapters, 66 research abstracts, and 19 papers in conference proceedings. He has supervised seven graduate students and one postdoctoral student, and has earned nearly \$2 million in extramural support for research and graduate students through grants and gifts. Dr. Radcliffe has also established several international collaborations, such as a two-week lecture tour in China and a position as Visiting Researcher at ID-DLO Research Institute in the Netherlands.

In addition to receiving the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award, Dr. Radcliffe has received the Purdue College of Agriculture Dean's Team Award. During his graduate and undergraduate studies he was awarded the Gamma Sigma Delta Graduate Dissertation Award, the Sigma Xi Doctoral Research Award, the John Lee Pratt Graduate Fellowship, the Henry Budd Fellowship, and the John Lee Pratt Animal Nutrition Senior Research Scholarship.



(l-r) Dr. Leon Kok, Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Dr. Scott Radcliffe, Dr. Joe Fontenot, Professor Emeritus of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Dr. Dave Gerrard, Head of Animal and Poultry Sciences

Graduate Students Graduating Academic Year 2008-09

September 2008

Student	Degree	Major Professor	Thesis/Dissertation Title
Ashley Wagner	M.S.	Escobar	Effects of phytase on non-starch polysaccharidase activities in distillers dried grains with solubles
Adriana Barri	Ph.D.	McElroy	Effects of incubation temperature and transportation stress on yolk utilization, small intestine development, and post-hatch performance of high-yield broiler chicks
Elizabeth Gilbert	Ph.D.	Wong/Webb	Dietary and developmental regulation of nutrient transporter gene expression in the small intestine of two lines of broilers
Xi Tian	M.S.	Smith	An assessment of the molecular basis of toxin-induced dilated cardiomyopathy in an avian animal model

January 2009

Student	Degree	Major Professor	Thesis/Dissertation Title
Joe Emenheiser	M.S.	Notter	Use of ultrasound technology in the genetic improvement of U.S. lamb composition
Holly Boland	Ph.D.	Notter	Spatial allocation of fall fescue and alfalfa and its impact on grazing behavior, diet selection, and dry matter intake of beef steers
Satyan Eleswarapu	Ph.D.	Jiang	Mechanism of growth hormone regulation of insulin-like growth factor-I gene expression in liver
Lihong Li	Ph.D.	McElroy	Effect of source and level of trace minerals on performance, mineral excretion, intestine and bone development, and immune response in commercial turkeys
Adriana Smith	M.S. (NT)	Splan	Associations between yearling body measurements and career racing performance in Thoroughbred Racehorses

Graduate Student Awards

Mr. Lance Leachman — Frank Baker Memorial Scholarship Award Beef Improvement Federation

by Ron Lewis



The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) honored Mr. Lance Leachman with the Frank Baker Memorial Scholarship award for his essay "Combined selection for the beef cattle industry." The award was announced at the BIF 2009 Convention in Sacramento, California, on May 1, 2009.

In his essay, Mr. Leachman wrote "in commercial herds, bull selection should be geared toward producing crossbreds that are optimal for the production system." Given that premise, he posed the question: "[Is industry] better served in utilizing purebred information alone, or a combination of purebred and crossbred information, in genetic evaluation of potential sires?" Combined Crossbred Purebred Selection allows for the combination of the vast amounts of performance information potentially available on crossbreds with that on purebred cattle when making genetic selection decisions.

"The genetic correlation between purebred and crossbred performance indicates the extent to which genetic progress achieved in purebreds will translate to crossbred offspring. Genetic correlations of less than 0.7 suggest that crossbred data can aid in genetic improvement" because of a weaker relationship between purebred and crossbred genetic merit. Evidence in livestock species suggests such weak correlations exist in practice. Mr. Leachman furthermore noted that "although Combined Crossbred Purebred Selection has been used widely in the poultry and swine industries, (the) increased requirements for pedigree and performance recording have limited its acceptance in beef cattle." He concluded his essay clarifying that this methodology "needs to be evaluated as cost-effective and applied initially to intensively managed commercial

Ms. Jennifer Sottosanti — Graduate Student Certificate of Excellence



Jennifer Sottosanti, an M.S. student advised by Dr. Audrey McElroy, received two awards for oral presentations of her research. Jennifer was awarded a Graduate Student Certificate of Excellence (1st place presentation in the Physiology section) for her research presentation "Incubation temperature profiles and post-hatch transportation stress effects on innate im-

munity and heat shock response in commercial broilers" at the International Poultry Scientific Forum in January. More recently she received first place for her presentation at the Graduate Student Assembly Research Symposium in March.

operations" before being adopted more widely in the beef cattle industry.

Frank Baker played a key leadership role in helping establish BIF in 1968, while he was chairman of the Animal Science Department at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. The Frank Baker Memorial Scholarship Award essay competition for graduate students provides an opportunity to recognize outstanding student research and competitive writing in honor of the man widely recognized as BIF's founding father.

Mr. Leachman was raised on the Big Gully Farm, Maidstone, a Hereford cattle operation in the province of Saskatchewan in Canada. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Kansas State University before beginning graduate studies in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences in fall 2007. Beyond his scholastic achievements, Mr. Leachman is 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.

Dean's List Fall 2008

Agnew, Morgan Elizabeth	Dunn, Rachael	Kadotani, Saki	Sanders, Mary Louise Stuart
Aguilar, Michelle	East, Caitlin Marie	Kelliher, Whitney Ann	Shores, Regina Marie
Allen, Kimberly Mary	Eberly, Heidi Renee'	Kelly, Lindsay Brooke	Singer, Lauren
Altholz, Kelsey Susan	Echols, Andrew Clay	King, Ben Patrick	Smith, Garrett Paul
Ashton, Caitlin Christine	Economos, Theresa Joan	Knight, Katherine Dean	Snow, Laura Maureen
Barlow, Jessica Erin	Eldred, Melanie Mary	Knoebel, Nicole Adrienne	Spangler, Wesley Langhorne
Barnes, Billie Jo	Elliott, Alyssa Joy	Knopp, Christopher James	Spellerberg, Rebecca Marie
Barrar, Elizabeth Jayne	Elmlund, Laura Kathleen	Koegel, Adrienne Lee	Spivey, Allison Jane
Barton, Christine Marie	Emmons, Taylor	Kopanko, Ashley Marie	Still, Virginia Bess
Bath, Ashley Nicole	Evans, Emma Kate	Lacy, Kathryn Austin	Strauss, Amanda Kathryn
Bell, Ashley Lorraine	Faris, Laura Leanne	Laurie, Diane Elizabeth	Subbarayan, Priya Anjali
Bell, Morgan Lea	Fary, Samantha Jaelene	Leith, Caitlin Mary	Sullivan, Carly Virginia
Bennett, Whitney Suzanne	Fiktus, Richard Alexander	Liskey, Thomas Hunter	Surotchak, Jennifer Lauren
Berke, Kristin Anne	Firebaugh, Sarah Paige	Martin, Whitney Renee	Swank, Shannon Adair
Blatcher, Christina Marie	Flinn, Candace Diana	Mastromano, Gabriel Annabella	Todd, Danielle Ashley
Boyle, Matthew David	Gershon, Aveetal	Mautone, Jessica Marie	Tomaszewski, Heather Lynn
Bramble, Thomas Wayne	Gilley, Jacob Alexander	Messerly, Ellen Lisbeth	Traywick, Riley Ellis
Brennan, Veronica	Gomes, Genna Leigh	Metcalfe, Harper Corey	Tubesing, Monica Elizabeth
Brooks, Jerilyn Teresa	Graham, Rachel Colleen	Mickey, Julie Ann	Turner, Laurita Frances
Brown, Britni Michelle	Grant, Rachel Kristyn	Miller, Kara Lynne	Vanderhoof, Christopher Brian
Brown, Hannah Marie	Grapes, Ashley Lavonne	Minovich, Michael James	Walker, Katherine Legh
Browne, Nicole Ann	Greiner, Jacquelyn Elizabeth	Mitchell, Stephanie Lynne	Walters, Jessica Nicole
Bryant, Jasmine Denine	Hall, Erin Kimberlea	Neff, Laura Elizabeth	Washington, Cassandra Mae
Burczynski, Sarah Elizabeth	Hall, Tiffany Ann	Norwood, Anna Britton	Weakley, Amanda Lynn
Burner, Jonathan Rexford	Harris, Leah Michelle	Ott, Jessica Lynn	Weaver, Sarah Elizabeth
Carrington, Anne Carter	Heller, Erin Leigh	Park, Chaelee Alex	White, Clarice Danielle
Carrington, Julia Leigh	Herbert, Miranda Grace	Park, Meredith Kathleen	Wilson, Meaghan Kathleen
Clark, Christine Lynne	Hickman, Amber Leanna	Paulette, Morgan Robert	Wilt, Brittany Nicole
Cookson, Ariel Nicole	Hilgartner, Eric Thurman	Perry, Ashley Kent	Won, Samantha Gwai Lan
Correa, Bethany Ruth	Hill, Jocelyn Nicole	Pierce, Callie Savannah	Wyderko, Jennifer Anne
Cossaboom, Caitlin	Horricks, Brianna Renay	Pollock, Sierra Lynn	Wyszynski, Megan Jude
Cromer, Michael Kyle	Huff, Elise Michelle	Preskitt, Jessica Louisa	Yager, Cody Mitchell
Crouse, Zachary Joseph	Hunt, James Martin	Reed, Devon Nicole	Zezeski, Abigail Lee
Davis, Brooke Evan	Jacob, Joanna Caitlin	Reeves, Heather Frances	
Davis, Carrie Victoria	Jacobs, Courtney Melissa	Rich, Jessica Stirling	
Dayton, Megan Marie	Jacobs, Kaitlin Nicole	Ritzi, Miranda Marie	
Deliere, Erin Nicole	Jones, Christine Suzanne	Rockwell, Erin Lee	
Donovan, Sarah May	Jones, Katherine Elizabeth	Romine, Jessica Franklin	
Dorman, Hunter Anne	Jones, Kimberly Anne	Ruffner, Kristina Marie	
	Joyce, Kelly Jean		

2009-2010 APSC Scholarship Recipients

Litton Sheep Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Garrett Smith

Ralph Hunt Beef Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Sarah Joseph

Lorenz Neuhoff, Jr. Pork Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Sarah Weaver

Lou Dixey Beef Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Tommy Bramble

Fred Campbell Horse Industry Student Leader Scholarship

Ellis Traywick

Denver D. Bragg Poultry Science Student Leader Scholarship

Samantha Renalds

Rocco Lamb Farms Student Leader Scholarship

Ashley Kyle

Animal and Poultry Sciences Scholarship

Maria Imhof
Katherine Knight

A.L. "Ike" Eller Scholarship

Andrew Echols
Emma Evans
Javier Garcia
Allison Spivey
Priya Subbaryan
Amanda Virts
Trevor Whiteside

E.A. & H.H. Livesay Scholarship

Megan Mitchell
Kelly Zier

Tom and Christine Marlowe Freshman Scholarship

Morgan Paulette

Ashe-Lockhart Scholarship

Ashley Bath
Shaylen Hall
Lauren Kinter
Kaylee Kohlhaas
Katy Lamb

K.C. and Polly Williamson Scholarship

Erin Rockwell

Owen Thomas, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Callie Pierce
Daniel Reynolds

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

John Benner
Sarah Crossett

George G. Green Scholarship

Emily Murray

Harry Wyatt Scholarship

Kelly Rakes

Lou Dixey Scholarship

Laura Faris
Farah-Dale Siodmok

William Earl Browning Scholarship

Anna Swanson

Charles W. Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Shannon Auth
Caitlin Cossaboom
Billie MacFarlane

Arden N. Huff Scholarship

Andy Carrington
Julie Carrington

Rocco Lamb Scholarship

Amber Workman

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

Theresa Economos

Undergraduate Awards

Garrett Smith — ACC Meeting of the Minds

From an article by Susan Trulove



Garrett Smith of Warrenton, VA, was one of seven students from Virginia Tech to present a project at the fourth annual Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Conference in North Carolina State University on April 2-4, 2009. The selection process was competitive with each college nominating undergraduate research proposals for review by a university committee.

Garrett, an honors student majoring in animal and poultry sciences with a minor in agricultural business management, conducted "A comparison of the cost of parasite resistance in crossbred Katahdin lambs using strategic versus selective deworming regimes." Economic losses due to parasitism are a major problem in sheep production worldwide, and Southwest Virginia is no exception. Parasites are becoming more and more resistant to deworming drugs.

The study compared levels of infection and growth performance of Katahdin lambs, a composite breed created to be highly resistant to parasites, using different deworming regimes that involve both deworming treatment and pasture management strategies as well as a control regime that represents the most common practices in Southwest Virginia. The research found that current industry practices, specifically returning lambs to highly infected pasture after treatment, were inadequate to prevent re-infection. The lost opportunity for revenue as a result of poor growth in animals fighting infection was significant, Smith wrote.

The study reported the economic impact and recommended that producers use effective pasture rotation whenever possible. Smith's faculty advisor is Animal and Poultry Sciences Professor David Notter.

Morgan Agnew — Outstanding Senior in APSC

Morgan Agnew was honored this May as the Outstanding Senior in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences for 2009. A native of Wyndmoor, PA, Morgan finished her undergraduate degrees in Animal and Poultry Sciences and Biological Sciences with an Honors Baccalaureate in May 2009.

Morgan has amassed an impressive resume during her four years at Virginia Tech with a long list of awards and accomplishments. She has been a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key International Honor Society, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture, and Phi Sigma National Biological Sciences Honor Society.

Morgan has held several leadership positions on campus including Committee Chair Block and Bridle - Horse Judging Clinic (Fall 2008), Co-Chair - Academic Quadrathlon Planning Committee (Fall 2008), Pre-Veterinary Medical Association of Virginia Tech: President (2007-2009), Secretary (2006-2007), Block and Bridle: Best Female Pledge (Fall 2006), and Alpha Zeta Virginia Chapter: Chronicler and Webmaster (2008-2009), Pledge Class President (Fall 2006). She also served as a tutor for the Center for Academic Affairs and Excellence and has been a teaching assistant in several APSC and BIOL courses.



Morgan Agnew is presented with the Outstanding Senior Award for APSC by Dr. Susan Sumner.

**Morgan Agnew
& Other Undergraduate Awards,**
continued on p. 14

Undergraduate Awards, continued from p. 13

Morgan Agnew, continued from p. 13

Some of Morgan's extracurricular activities have included serving as an Undergraduate Research Assistant at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine where she studied parasites in fresh water otter digestive tracts and being a member of the 2007 first-place Quadrathlon Team for Animal Poultry Sciences/Dairy Science.

Morgan participated in summer internships at Perrotis College American Farm School in Thessaloniki, Greece (2008) and at Highlife Farm in Orlando, FL (2006, 2007). These internships provided Morgan with a variety of practical experiences in widely diverse areas of agriculture as well as the opportunity to travel extensively.

Morgan Agnew is an excellent example of a serious student who absorbs information voraciously, welcomes every opportunity to participate in new and different activities, serves her community and helps her peers unselfishly. She is highly deserving of the recognition as outstanding senior in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences.

Ms. Emma Kate Evans Undergraduate Research Award



Emma Kate Evans of Crozet, VA, was awarded the Undergraduate Research Award by the Virginia Tech Chapter of Sigma Xi, the scientific research society. Emma Kate is a double major in Animal and Poultry Sciences and Dairy Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She is conducting research on how dairy cattle could utilize nitrogen more efficiently, a problem in protein synthesis.

Her advisors are Dr. Paul Siegel, professor emeritus of Animal and Poultry Sciences and Dr. Marc Hanihan, associate professor of Dairy Science.

Scholarship Recipients, continued from p. 12

Mary Howe diZerega Memorial Scholarship

Heidi Eberly
Kristina Ruffner
Lora Walls

Jack S. Copenhaver Scholarship

Kim Fisher
Tom Liskey
Ashley Roberts
Colby Sheets
Molly Snow
Brian Turner
Amanda Weakley

Virginia Pork Industry Scholarship

Brittany Wilt

George Litton Scholarship

Gabriel Mastromano

W. T. Bailey Livestock Judging Scholarship

Jonathan Burner

Delano Scholarship

Caitlin East
Jessica Mautone
Shannon Swank
Laurita Turner

Ralph Hunt Scholarship

Rosella Harris
Clara Nelson

Emily Jane Hilscher Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Perry

Congratulations to all scholarship recipients from the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences!

Block and Bridle Club

by Brittany Wilt

At the club meeting held March 4, 2009, the following individuals were elected to offices of the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club for 2009 - 2010. They will serve beginning with induction in late March through March of 2010 when elections will again be held.

2009-2010 Block & Bridle Officers

Office	Name	Major	Email
President:	Jessica Crockett	AAEC	j6r7c8
Vice President:	Ashley Kyle	APSC	akyle
Secretary:	Samantha Renalds	APSC	hokie34
Treasurer:	Cynthia Koontz	Ag Sci/APSC	ckoontz
Reporter:	Brittany Wilt	APSC	bwilt89
Alumni Relations:	Rachel Grosse	APSC	rgrosse
Marshall:	Elicia Tate	APSC	entate
Historian:	Kasey Arrington	APSC/DASC	starnkc
Membership Coordinator:	Sarah Weaver	APSC	seweaver
BBQ Chairs:	Blaine White	APSC	bswhite
	Stuart Saunders	APSC	mlss06
	Tommy Bramble	APSC	tbramble
Advisors:	Mark Wahlberg		wahlberg
	Dave Linker		dlinker

Spring 2009 has been another very eventful and busy season for the VT Block and Bridle Club. A major highlight of this semester included the 87th Annual Little International Livestock Show. B&B also hosted five 4-H and FFA contests, with an overall total of 1,386 participants! Other activities included a National Convention trip to San Antonio, Texas, National Ag Day, the Virginia Beef Expo, the Ham Show and Sale, and the APSC Banquet, all while welcoming a new active pledge class!

National Convention

February 12-14th was the Block and Bridle National Convention in San Antonio, TX with a stop along the way in Baton Rouge, LA. A total of 24 B&B members, accompanied by club advisor Dave Linker, made the exciting trip, listening to speakers, having break-out sessions, and going on tours to places such as Shiner Brewery, King Ranch, Hall of Horns, and Graham Land & Cattle. The club brought home several awards, including first place Scrapbook, second place Outstanding Senior Award for Kelli Beavers, third place for Chapter Activities, second place for the Website, and third place for the Annual. The group had an awesome time and can't wait for the next convention in Louisville, KY, in November 2009.

Hippology/Horse Judging Contests

On February 20th, VT Block and Bridle Club welcomed 87 4-H and 86 FFA participants at our annual Hippology Contest at the Alphin-Stuart Arena. Contest chair Lindsey Williamson, organized a thirty-question written exam, covering topics such as principles of horsemanship, nutrition, reproduction, anatomy, and medicine. A PowerPoint test was then administered with fifty identification questions on parasites, parts of the horse, markings, colors, and blemishes. Stations in the arena were also set up with questions pertaining to feeds, bits, anatomy, medicine, and classes based on conformation. Groups were required to make presentations about how to deal with certain equine management scenarios. A day later, on February 21st, Lindsey Williamson and the B&B Club also hosted the annual Horse Judging Contest with 93 4-H and 128 FFA contestants. This contest was designed to test judging ability with ten classes of horses, including Hunter in Hand, Stock-Type Horses, Mares in Hand, Arabians in Hand, and Fjords in Hand. Several under-saddle classes were also held, including Hunter Under Saddle, Western Pleasure, a Reining class, and Hunt Seat Equitation.

National Agricultural Awareness Day

On March 19th, Block and Bridle joined Collegiate FFA, Dairy Club, and the CALS Ambassadors to cel-

Block & Bridle, continued from p. 15



B&B member BethAnn Williams collects cards from contestants after a Stockmen's station.

celebrate National Ag Day on the Drillfield. B&B members began cooking BBQ at the Alphin-Stuart Arena around 6 am, in time for serving free BBQ sandwiches to passing students on the Drillfield around 11 am. Students from the club and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences worked hard to bring a positive light and awareness to the importance of Agriculture in today's society.

Stockmen's Contest

On March 27th, B&B hosted the annual Stockmen's Contest in the Alphin-Stuart Arena. Event chair Emily Murray designed questions to test 195 junior and 287 senior 4-H and FFA participants on information regarding vocabulary, feeding and nutrition, anatomy and physiology, livestock management practices, equipment, yield/quality grade, and dressing percentage. A breed identification class was also included in which participants were required to identify ten different breeds of sheep, cattle, or hogs. The six judging classes included Angus heifers, market hogs, breeding does, market lambs, hay judging, and meats judging. All the test information and judging classes served as an excellent way to rank the knowledge of the contestants!



B&B member Emily Murray, showing at the 2009 Beef Expo

tification of retail cuts of beef, lamb, and pork, judging classes of wholesale and retail carcasses, meat storage and processing protocols, and yield/quality grading.

Livestock Contest

The annual Livestock Contest took place on March 28th at the Alphin-Stuart Arena. Reasons were later given at Litton Reaves following the beginning stages of the contest. Contest chair Jacob Gilley organized questions to test 141 Juniors, 175 Seniors, and 88 Advanced 4-H and FFA participants on knowledge pertaining to nine different livestock judging classes. The classes included market hogs, Dorset rams, Angus bulls, market boar goats, Charolais heifers, Hereford heifers, commercial breeding gilts, and market lambs. The winner of the advanced team went to Augusta County 4-H, the senior regular team winner went to Loudoun County 4-H, and the junior regular team winner for Piedmont 4-H. Individual awards went to advanced winner Lacey Koontz, senior regular winner Mike Ohler, and junior regular winner Morgan Alexander. Congratulations to these winners and all who both participated and helped out with the event!

VA Beef Expo

April 17-19th was the Virginia Beef Expo held at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, VA. Block and Bridle members, led by Joe Epperly, made the annual weekend trip to

help organize and set up the event, serve as announcers, weigh cattle, work the rings, aid in registration, and help present awards. All who participated had a great trip and their help was much appreciated by everyone involved in this year's Beef Expo.



A contestant leans in for a better look at a Meats Contest station

Meats Contest

March 27th was the date for B&B's annual Meats Contest held in classrooms of the Litton Reaves academic building and the Food Science building. Contest chair Dana Gochenour designed 25 question quizzes, as well as written problems to test the knowledge of 106 4-H and FFA participants from throughout the state. Questions pertained to the iden-

APSC Banquet

April 24th was the date for the annual Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences Banquet. The banquet was hosted by Custom Catering in Blacksburg and honored the 2009 APSC Scholarship recipients, as well as departmental clubs. Dr. Dan Eversole hosted the evening and announced the scholarship recipients, many of whom are active members of the Block & Bridle Club. Outgoing B&B Officers were recognized for their service and dedication and the newly elected officers for the club were initiated. The annual B&B

Block & Bridle, continued on p. 17

Block & Bridle, continued from p. 16

club awards were also given at the banquet by friends of the recipients. The Senior Service Award went to Josh Stephens, the Outstanding Junior Award to Tom Liskey, the Outstanding Senior Award to Krisha Witt, the Rising Junior Award to Rachel



B&B attendants of the APSC Banquet

Grosse, and the Rising Senior Award to Stuart Sanders. The Outstanding Senior and Outstanding Junior awardees will proceed to compete at the national level during the next B&B convention. Active B&B member, Ashley Perry, was also honored with the celebrated Emily Jane Hilscher Memorial Scholarship. The VT Block and Bridle Club is very proud of the members recognized at this banquet and would like to again congratulate all of them for their impressive academic and extracurricular achievements!

87th Little International Livestock Show

The 87th Annual Little International Competition began with Animal Drawing on March 17th. Participants were divided into Novice and Experienced groups (as well as Intermediate with Cattle) and then randomly assigned individual animals within their chosen species of swine, cattle, sheep, or horses. After a little over a month of training and grooming, contestants were ready to compete at the 87th Little International Livestock Show on April 25th. BBQ, cole slaw, beans, and drinks were all made to serve as lunch for Little I showman, volunteers, alumni, and visitors. Little I Chairman, Josh Stephens, worked very hard organizing, preparing,



Top Winners, Judges, Chairmen, and Ringmen of the 87th Annual Little International Livestock Show

and executing a successful show. Barn chairs for Little I included Allen Heishman, Joe Epperly, and Brittany Full for the Beef Barn; Kelly Barber, Brittany Jones, and Chris "Hollywood" Smith for the Horse Barn; Ashley Kyle, and Clara Nelson for the

Sheep Barn; and Nicole Browne and Sarah Weaver for the Swine Barn. Ringmasters Joe Epperly and Allen Heishman worked to keep track of competition information throughout the day. Master of Ceremonies Laura Neff also helped with conducting the contest and aided Josh Stephens with announcements. B&B was happy to welcome back alumna Laura Parr as the honorary Little I Princess. The Grand Champion Sheep Winner went to Andrew Echols, the Grand Champion Swine Winner to Jonathan Burner, the Grand Champion Horse Winner to Anne Donner, and the Grand Champion Cattle Winner to Emily Murray. Overall Grand Champion Showman was awarded to Andrew Echols with the Overall Reserve Grand Champion going to Jonathan Burner. Judges for the contests included Rosalea Riley (sheep), Lance Leachman (swine), Jeni Lamb (horses), and Amanda Lickey (cattle). B&B owes thanks to the judges and everyone who helped with the contest for another successful year with Little I!

Ham Show

The 41st annual Ham Show was held on April 24th, followed by the Ham Sale during Little International on April 25th. Ham Show & Sale Chair Sarah Weaver worked hard to gather a total of eight hams from five different exhibiting curers. The hams were each judged according to appearance, quality and color of leanness, lean to fat ratio, aroma, flavor, and texture. The Grand Champion Ham was awarded to curer Richard Neff, and was purchased by David Cole while



B&B members awaiting the Ham Sale on the day of Little International

Virginia Tech Horse Judging

by Julia McCann



The Virginia Tech Horse Judging Team bolted out of the gate this spring with the enthusiasm and effort it takes to create a very successful experience for all. A total of 11 students put forth the effort to refine their evaluation and speaking skills and represent the program admirably in two national contests.

With the groundwork laid in the advanced spring judging course and two practice contests under their belt at the B & B contest and the Virginia State 4-H contest, the team headed to the Middle Tennessee State All Breeds Contest on March 27. Stops along the way to view excellent horses included Kyle Hughes in Meadowview, Mac McPherson and friends in Bristol, Butch Butcher in Maynardsville, TN and Bobby Richards in Franklin, TN with Tennessee Walking Horses. The two teams were victorious, finishing first and third overall in a 13-team field. Additionally five Hokie students placed in the top 10 overall individuals.

With a two-week span to further polish up on all the stock horse performance events, it was time for the team to head west to the American Paint Horse Collegiate Horse Judging Contest. This contest brings together teams from all the major horse programs in the country and the competition was tough with 23 teams in the Senior Division this spring. Ten Hokies made the trip and certainly enjoyed the Texas flavor of food, hospitality, fine horses, and incredible experiences. It was the first plane flight for Tracie, and the team enjoyed fabulous farm visits at Edgewood/Lanning Quarter Horses, Valor Thoroughbred Farm, and Scott Suggs on Saturday where they judged 14 classes! Great learning experiences were encountered with visits to Kathy Smallwood, Dave Dennison, Jerry Erickson, Kelly Stone, Mike McMillan and Morgan Lybert to see and learn how to

sort high quality horses in all the events to be seen in the contest. Not to be forgotten is the Hokie Pokie performance at Babe's Chicken House in Sanger, TX which was followed by a couple of set of reasons on the main street of Sanger that night, and of course some shopping in Cow Town for the perfect TX boots! The laughter and camaraderie among the team members was second to none and it was this team spirit and effort that came together to make such a difference on contest day.

With over 3,000 points on the line for a team total, the two Hokie teams, each comprised of five individuals, were only 14 points apart, and Virginia Tech was the only school to have two teams recognized in the top five rankings for the contest. Team A placed fourth in Performance judging, Team B placed fourth in halter judging and the teams were fifth and eighth overall. Individually, Diana Campbell was eighth in halter judging. Jeni Lamb was first in performance judging, third in reasons, and seventh overall in the contest that was won by Middle Tennessee State University, followed by Colorado State in second and Sam Houston in third.

Not only did everyone on the Texas trip return with ribbons for their effort, they came back with nine best friends for life. It really does not get any bet-



Front Row (l-r): Lauren Cummings, Kate Walker, Ashley Clark, Danielle Wroblewski, Coach Julia McCann.
 Back Row (l-r): Amanda Bowen, Tracey Maier, Tara Fickling, Meredith Park, Collins Mehfoud, Diana Campbell.

VT Horse Judging, continued from p. 18

ter than that and it was a pleasure for Dr. Julia McCann to take the reins of this group for a few short months and get them to believe that they could become competitive on the national scene. The group will be setting their sights on the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in the fall and at least one more major contest is being targeted.

Financial support in terms of tax deductible donations is needed for the travel expenses and would be greatly appreciated. The group also sells Virginia Tech Horse Head carabiners to raise funds for travel. Contact Dr. Julia McCann at 540-231-8374 or jsmccann@vt.edu for details on how to support this fine group of Hokies.



This the team that competed in Texas at the American Paint Horse Association
 Front row (l-r): Ashley Clark, Kate Walker, and Amanda Bowen;
 Middle row (l-r): Jeni Lamb, Meredith Park, Danielle Wroblewski, and Diana Campbell;
 Back row (l-r): Tracey Maier, Tara Fickling and Collins Mehford

Block & Bridle, continued from p. 17



B&B members Rachel Grosse and Garth Pitcairn dancing at the 3rd Annual Country but Classy

the Reserve Champion Ham was awarded to curer, R. M. Felts, and was purchased by AGR Alumni. Animal Science and Block and Bridle alumnus David Leonard served as the auctioneer for the Ham Show. Special thanks are owed to the Ham Show judges, the curers who donated the hams, auctioneer David Leonard, and the purchasers of the hams. This year's Ham Show grossed \$1,978 which

will aid funding in future Block and Bridle activities and scholarships.

B&B Country but Classy

After an exciting day with Little International, the fun continued on the evening of April 25th with the third annual B&B "Country but Classy" semi-formals at Hokie House. Members, alumni, and friends of Block and Bridle all dressed up in their dresses, nice shirts, and boots and came out to celebrate and have a good time! Tickets were sold and all proceeds will be given to a charity selected by Block and Bridle. A special thanks to B&B Social

Chair Amanda Weakley for helping to plan this fun-filled evening!

Pledging

Pledging is a very exciting and memorable process of becoming a member of the Block and Bridle Club. Pledge Coordinator, Sarah Weaver, worked to help 25 pledges through activities including cutting and signing B's, 8pms, Informals skits, and the trash pick-up service project. The pledges for Spring 2009, as always, have played an essential part to the success of this semester's B&B activities. We look forward to welcoming them as active members next semester!



The pledge class of Spring 2009

Virginia Tech Equestrian Team Year-End Results

by Margaret R. Dupler

The VT Equestrian Teams finished the 2008-2009 year strong in all phases of equine competition.

Dressage Team

The VT Dressage Team's performance was highlighted at the Saint Andrew's Presbyterian College Intercollegiate Dressage Association horse show late in the fall semester. The B Team, consisting of Brett Flower, Christy Jones, and Maggie Dupler, took home first place. This spring, the Dressage Team's season came to a close with 4th place finish overall in a highly competitive region.

Western Team

The VT Western Team earned the reserve high-point team placing in early spring 2009 at the Saint Andrew's Presbyterian College. This position was achieved by numerous team members placing first in their class including: Allison Jones, Amaris Wilbanks, Collins Mehford, Claire Livesay, and Kaylee Kohlhaas.

The Western team also had seven members qualify for and attend the regional competition including Amaris Wilbanks, Claire Livesay, Collins Mehford, Danielle Wroblewski, Jeni Lamb, Kelly Barber, and Tracey Maier. Of these regional competitors, Danielle Wroblewski placed 2nd in her class to qualify her for the semi-finals competition which is the last step before nationals. In a tough Intermediate class, Danielle placed 7th overall to wrap up the Western Team's season on a high note.

Hunter Team

The VT IHSA Hunter Team finished their season as the reserve champion for the region. The IHSA encompasses 29 regions in 9 zones with more than 360 member colleges in 45 states and Canada, representing more than 8,500 riders. The Virginia Tech team had eight riders qualify for the Zone 4, Region 3 Finals including Allison Jones, Abbey Carmichael, Brent Noll, Brett Flower, Caitlin Cox, Lauren Ryalls, Lindsey Williamson, and Paige Messick. Of these riders, Allison, Abbey, Brent, Caitlin and Paige moved on to the Zone 4 Finals by placing in the top three in their classes.

Those who placed in the top two at Zones qualified for the National Intercollegiate Horse Show. Fortunately, we were able to send three riders to this national level competition: Abbey Carmichael and Brent Knoll for Walk-Trot Equitation and Paige Mes-

sick for Novice Equitation Over Fences.

At the internationally recognized Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's National Competition held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Abbey Carmichael placed 4th and Brent Noll took 6th place. Also, our very own Teresa McDonald, head coach for both hunter and dressage teams, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2008-2009.

Congratulations to all of the Virginia Tech Equestrian teams and coaches for a successful completion of the season. Keep an eye out for our riders' next season as these horsey Hokies never fail to invent the future.



VT Hunter Team sent multiple riders to the IHSA Regional Horse Show this spring. (l-r) Lauren Ryalls, Brent Knoll, Lindsey Williamson, Caitlin Cox, Paige Messick, Brett Flower, Allison Jones, Abbey Charmichael.



VT Dressage team wins at St Andrews Presbyterian College in Fall 2008. (l-r) Allison Postelwait, Lindsay Jewitt, Abbey Chase, Brook Davis, Christy Jones, Maggie Duple, Brett Flower.

Livestock Judging Team Activities

by Lance Leachman

The Virginia Tech Livestock Judging Team competed at the All-East Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest hosted by The Ohio State University on April 16-19, 2009. On Thursday night students participated in the Evaluation Contest which focused on estimation of carcass characteristics and live animal pricing. Friday was the Selection Contest in which students placed classes of livestock and answered questions. Finally, on Saturday was the Livestock Judging Contest involving 12 classes and eight sets of reasons.

Evaluation Contest results: Chris Terembes-7th in swine; Virginia Tech-5th in swine. Selection Contest results: Amanda Virts-4th in sheep; Tommy Bramble-7th in swine, 8th overall; Clara Nelson-5th in swine, 7th in cattle, 4th overall; Virginia Tech-4th in sheep, 2nd in swine, 4th in cattle, 3rd overall. Livestock Judging Contest results: Clara Nelson- 7th in sheep; Tommy Bramble-5th in swine; Chris Terembes-10th in cattle, 10th overall; Virginia Tech-5th in sheep, 3rd in swine, 4th overall.



Back Row (l-r): Chris Terembes, Tommy Bramble, Lance Leachman (Assistant Coach), Dr. Dan Eversole (Coach).

Front Row (l-r): Clara Nelson, Amy Henderson, Nick Proud, Amanda Virts, Amaris Wilbanks, Matthew Sponaugle.

During our trip to Columbus we were able to practice at Champion Hill Angus Farm in Bidwell, OH and also tour Select Sires in Plain City, OH. The team would like to thank the Department, Block & Bridle Club and Virginia Pork Industry Board for their support.

Academic Quadrathlon

by Cindy Wood

The Academic Quadrathlon is a four-part undergraduate competition for animal sciences students held in four regions around the country. Virginia Tech participates in the Southern Region competition, which was held January 30 - February 1, 2009 at the University of Georgia and in Atlanta, GA. Teams of four students work together on a written exam, a lab practical, an oral presentation, and (in part) a quiz bowl over a two-day span. A local contest is held at each university to determine which team will represent that university at the regional competition. The Animal and Poultry Sciences Department and the Dairy Science De-



The VT Academic Quadrathlon Team (Sam Renalds, Cody Yager, Kyle Cromer and Ashley Perry) visited the Georgia Aquarium before returning to Blacksburg.

partment at Virginia Tech jointly sponsor the event at Blacksburg, which was held in the fall of 2008 (see article in the Fall 2008 newsletter).

This year's VT team consisted of Kyle Cromer, Ashley Perry, Samantha Renalds and Cody Yager, all APSC majors. At the regional competition, they faced stiff competition from teams representing Auburn, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, and University of Tennessee. Virginia Tech continued the tradition of excellence in the Oral Presentation, placing first in that category.

2009 Youth Swine Education Day at Virginia Tech

By Cindy Wood

The second annual Youth Swine Education Day was held on campus at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena on February 7, 2009, with more attendees than in 2008. A total of 114 youth and 48 adults registered for this event, which was designed to cover a number of swine educational topics of interest to both youth and adults. In addition, based on feedback from last year's attendees, an adult PQA Plus certification program was added to the afternoon sessions.

The day's program was planned and conducted by ten undergraduates, who began working on the program with Dr. Cindy Wood at the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester. They included Kelsey Altholz, Nicole Browne, Dana Gochenour, Ashley Kyle, Emily Murray, Garth Pitcairn, Amanda Weakley, Sarah Weaver, Brittany Wilt, and Krisha Witt. Additional presenters included Dr. Allen Harper, Swine Extension Specialist;

Dr. Cindy Wood, Associate Professor, Animal and Poultry Sciences, Mr. Jason Carter and Mr. Tracy Tomascik, ANR Extension Agents; and Dr. Kevin Pelzer, Associate Professor, Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

The morning's program consisted of a general education session for youth and parents, followed by a Swine Stockman's Contest and a pork BBQ lunch. In the afternoon, youth were divided into three classes by age for the Youth PQA Plus certification program while adults had a choice of the adult PQA Plus program or a question and answer session. Feedback on the day was extremely positive, and we are looking forward to next year's program.



Pigs in the Stockman's Contest had a great time playing in the sand of the teaching arena.



Kelsey Altholz starts a hands-on activity for the Youth PQA Plus junior participants.

New Staff in APSC

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

Mark Stevenson

is the new Meats Lab Manager;

Melinda Huff

is the new departmental Accounting Clerk.



Dates to Remember in 2009

May 26	Summer Semester 1 classes begin
July 2	Classes end for Summer Semester 1
July 7	Summer Semester 2 classes begin
August 13	Classes end for Summer Semester 2
August 24	Fall Semester classes begin
October 9	Fall Break
November 21-29	Thanksgiving Break
December 9	Classes end for Fall Semester
December 18	Fall Commencement

APSC Contact Information

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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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