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in POULTRY SCIENCE

Newsletter of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science • University of Arkansas • Division of Agriculture

From the *director*



Dr. Walter Bottje,
Center of Excellence
for Poultry Science
Director

How did it get to be August already? I guess when things are busy and rolling in the right the direction time just flies by.

By all accounts, the scholarship golf tournament was a great success this year. The move to have dates coincide with the Poultry Symposium helped attendance and brought much better

weather than in previous years. The scholarship auction at Hot Springs was record setting. All of this support for our scholarship program is greatly appreciated as we continue to try to provide support to as many students as possible, especially as tuition rates continue to climb.

Establishment of the Buddy Wray Chair in Food Safety by Tyson Foods, Inc. represents another tremendous boost by Tyson for programs in the College. The Chair honors Buddy Wray for his role he played in helping position Tyson as a world leader in poultry production and processing. The addition of a chaired position in Food Safety will further enhance the role that the UA and Center

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

UofA UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

UA Poultry Science raises over \$20K with golf tourney

FARMINGTON, ARK. -Twenty-eight teams enjoyed a day of golf and raised over \$20,000 for University of Arkansas poultry science scholarships during the Fifth Annual Poultry Science Scholarship Golf Tournament April 27 at the Valley View Golf and Country Club in Farmington.

Format for the tournament was a four-person scramble with a shotgun start. An awards presentation was held in the clubhouse immediately following conclusion of play for each flight.

First place winners in the morning flight were Ted Burnett, Larry Butler, Sean Davison and Perry Webb of Food Processing Equipment Company (FPEC) with a score of 57. Second place winners in flight one were Gerald Barrett, Steve Bartlett, Wayne Britt and Glenn Canup of 4-State Poultry Supply with a score of 60. Third Place in flight one went to Bill Brunner, Gerald Jones, Rob Wilson and Windell Wood of Jones Motorcars with a score of 61. Warren Carter of the Farm Bureau took home a prize for closest to the pin on hole 16, Windell Wood won an award for having the longest drive on hole 9 and Glenn Canup took first place in the morning putting contest.

First place winners in the afternoon flight were Mark Cook, Mark Cox, Steve Dixon and Mark Meyers of Aerotech with a score of 59. Second place winners were Jody Edwards, Butch Gladden, John Gladden and Doug Quillen of Twin Rivers Group with a score of 60. Third place winners were Vic Smith, Mark Sullivan, Syd Tatum and Ben Thompson of Alpha also with a score of 60. (Ties were broken with a score card playoff.) Closest to the pin was Syd Tatum, longest drive winner was Stan Barnhill of Barnhill Poultry and the afternoon putting contest winner was Rick Barrows of Multi Craft Contractors.

FOR A GOOD CAUSE - From left Rick Barrows, Shaun Penny, Hex Bisbee and Scott Barrows from Multi Craft Contractors stop for a moment to pose for the camera at the 5th Annual U of A Poultry Science Scholarship Golf Tournament. Over \$20,000 was raised for scholarships during the day-long event.



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plays as the lead institution of the Food Safety Consortium.

This summer, the Mytochondrial Physiology Lab has hosted Dr. Maasaki Toyomizu, professor in the Department of Animal Sciences from Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan and his graduate student Ahmad Muhjahid. We have also had the honor of hosting Dr. Martin Brand from Dunn Human Nutrition Institute in Cambridge, U.K. I want to personally thank Dr. Neil Pumford and Carol Ojano-Dirain, who have primarily been responsible with hosting these visiting professors.

In May, the Center initiated a strategic planning process to look at the research, teaching, and extension programs and develop a plan that will carry it into the next decade. The first plan that helped create the Center and its programs was excellent – now it is time to develop a plan that will help us continue to excel in the future.

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

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www.uark.edu/depts/posc

UA Poultry takes fourth place at Annual Poultry Festival



HEE HAW REVISTED - From left, Gary Davis (undergrad recruiter), Niki Loupe (master's student), John Michael Mehaffey (master's student), Valerie Brewer (undergrad), Jason Emmert, (associate professor), Bob Wideman (professor), Ashley Swaffar (undergrad) and Kenny Villines (staff) take their places on the set during the Poultry Festival's Annual Barbecue and Theme Contest. The team took fourth place and \$250 for their performance "Hee Haw."

Golf Tournament continued from p. 1

Major sponsors for the tournament were Alternative Design, FPEC, O.K. Industries, Safe Foods, Corp., and Zero Mountain. 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.

The following companies participated in the tournament: 4-State Poultry Supply, Aerotech, Ag Forte, Alpharma (two teams), Alternative Design (two teams), Aviagen, Barnhill Poultry, Cobb-Vantress, Choretime, CTB, Inc., Farm Credit of Western Arkansas, First Financial Bank, FPEC, Farm Bureau, General Chemical, Hubbard Farms, Intervet, Jones Motorcars, Multi Craft Contractors, POSC Emeritus Faculty, POSC Feedmill, RCDC, Saeplast, Safe Foods, Schering-Plough and Twin Rivers Group. The following companies donated money, but did not send participants: Adisseo, O.K. Foods, United Feeds and Zero Mountain.

Last year the poultry science department provided more than \$120,000 in scholarship money to their students.

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Youth Conference hosts a record number of students

FAYETTEVILLE –Twenty-seven high school students from around the state experienced college life first-hand at the University of Arkansas while attending the eighth annual Poultry Science Youth Conference sponsored by the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science at the University of Arkansas July 13-16.

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.

Conference participants were organized into groups, and each group developed a new product using poultry as one of the ingredients. The product had to be packaged, priced, cooked, marketed and then finally presented to the whole group. Students played the roles of marketer, product manager and researcher.

Recreational activities during the week included a cookout at Devil’s Den State Park, dinners at Cool Water Village in Fayetteville and Jose’s on Dickson Street, and putt-putt golf and go-cart riding at Lokomotion Family Fun Park.

Student groups gave their final product 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, poultry science undergraduate recruiter, at gddavis@uark.edu. All students completing the 10th and 11th grades are invited to attend. Space is limited.



GATHERING INFORMATION - Dr. H.L. Goodwin, far left, works with students at a Harps Food Store in Fayetteville as they do a store assessment in order to complete a product development project during the Poultry Science Youth Conference held at the University of Arkansas July 13-16.

POSC Students participate in internships

This summer the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Arkansas had at least seven students participate in internships with the poultry industry.

The students and the places they worked this summer are listed below. Susan Watkins coordinates the internship program. If you are interested in participating in an internship or having an intern work for your company, please contact her at swatkin@uark.edu or call 479-575-4952.

Oscar Antillon	George’s Inc., Springdale
Nicole Avery	Keith Farms, Hot Springs
Ashley Cox	National Chicken Council, D.C.
Austin Lassiter	Powell Farms, Green Forest
Emily Rowland	Tyson Corporate Lab, Springdale
Julie Townsend	Tyson R & D, Springdale
Stephanie Wright	Tyson Corporate Lab, Springdale

THE WHOLE GROUP -

Twenty-seven high school students from around the state participated in the Poultry Science Youth Conference held at the University of Arkansas. They are shown here in front of the poultry building.



SPECIAL NOTICE: DATES FOR GMPs, SOPs, and HACCP WORKSHOP

The basic GMPs, SOPs and HACCP workshop will be offered on October 18-20, 2004 in Fayetteville.

The Advance HACCP workshop has been rescheduled for Oct. 11-12th and the Arkansas Poultry Processor’s workshop is Oct. 13-14th. If you need further information on these workshops, please e-mail Donna at ddelozi@uark.edu.

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Cobb-Vantress World Tech School

The Center of Excellence for Poultry Science played host to the Cobb-Vantress World Tech School Health Day on Tuesday, May 25th.

Over 50 participants from around the world descended upon the University of Arkansas campus to listen to speakers and participate in a hands-on necropsy session.

After listening to three invited speakers in the Leland Tollett auditorium, participants enjoyed a lunch served in the atrium and on the front walkway of the poultry building.

Following the luncheon, the international contingent headed to the second floor teaching lab for a two-hour, hands-on necropsy session. The instructor, Dr. Leonard Fussell of Cobb-Vantress, used the multimedia capabilities in the lab in order to show close-ups of his work on the various monitors throughout the room.

"We are always thrilled to host industry in our building and assist them in any way we can," Dr. Bottje, Center Director said. "In this particular instance, we were especially pleased that our resources fulfilled Cobb's needs and helped enhance their ability to communicate with their participants."



WORLD TECH SCHOOL- Participants from around the world attend Cobb-Vantress World Tech School at Center.

UA poultry students capture third place in U.S. Poultry Judging Contest

BATON ROUGE - The University of Arkansas Department of Poultry Science judging team took third place at the 57th Annual U.S. Poultry and Egg Association National Poultry Judging Contest April 1 & 2 at Louisiana State University.

Team scores and individual scores were tabulated, and listed are the top three teams from the contest: North Carolina State University took first place; Texas A&M University ranked second; and the University of Arkansas (UA), captured third.

Members of the UA team included Dustin Biery, a sophomore from Edmond, Okla.; Drew Parker, a senior from Lonoke; Neda Tilley, a freshman from Leslie; and Cody Turner, a freshman from Mountainburg. In the category of high-score individual, Tilley received seventh, Parker received ninth and Biery received 14th place overall. As a whole, the UA students took first place in production, fourth place in breed selection and fifth place in market products.

Judging coach for the UA team was Jason Emmert, associate professor in poultry science. Assistant coaches were Britney Jackson and LeAnn Layman, who are both members of previous judging teams and students in the poultry science department.

"I want to congratulate the team," said Emmert. "It was a tough competition and these students really worked hard and prepared themselves for the event. It's amazing that three of the four students on the UA team had no previous poultry judging experience."

The 10 teams participating in the contest were: Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, The Ohio State University, Oklahoma State University, Penn State University, Texas A&M University, the University of Arkansas, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and West Virginia University.

Faculty member tapped for special assignment from United Soybean Board

WASHINGTON D.C. - University of Arkansas Department of Poultry Science extension faculty member H.L. Goodwin was recently asked by the United Soybean Board to serve on a special team charged with supporting the soybean industry.

The newly-formed Livestock Initiative Leadership Team is made up of a cross-sectional group of individuals from leading soybean states. Their three-pronged mission is to 1) help identify ways to increase efficiency in production 2) help formulate policies on international trade and 3) enhance the image and increase the financial support for the industry by identifying ways industries can capture lobbying dollars, produce communication pieces and serve the state organizations by assisting in site evaluations and addressing environmental and water quality issues.

Dr. Goodwin's background is in poultry economy and the impact of economic decisions on industries associated with agriculture. Since the soybean industry contributes nearly 54% of animal feed through soybean meal, cooperating with the United Soybean Board and finding ways to help reduce expenses fits perfectly into Dr. Goodwin's overall mission with the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

The Livestock Initiative Leadership Team will meet approximately four times per year to discuss various ways to support the industry and further their mission in aiding the livestock industry.

"I'm very honored to have been selected for this assignment," Dr. Goodwin said. "I look forward to helping problem-solve issues related to the animal industry through this service."

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Inaugural Poultry 101 class takes place on UA campus

FAYETTEVILLE - University of Arkansas Department of Poultry Science faculty member Casey Owens along with Shelly McKee of Auburn University and Christine Alvarado of Texas Tech University conducted their very first Poultry 101 course at the University of Arkansas campus May 4-6.

The poultry course, which was instigated by the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), is designed to give participants an overview of the poultry industry and its various market segments.

“There was a large need for a poultry course similar to ones AMSA had already started in the swine and beef industries,” Dr. Owens said. “Shelly, Christine and I each had different areas of expertise and our respective universities had different resources critical to the success of the course. By combining our resources, we have provided participants with the very best comprehensive poultry course available.”

To take advantage of these resources, Owens, McKee and Alvarado felt it would be best to offer the class three times per year and rotate the host location of the course to take place at each of their universities.

Topics included in the class were the history of the poultry industry, market segments, growout and nutrition fundamentals, processing, quality issues, further processing, food safety, emerging issues and international issues.

Companies that sent employees to participate in the inaugural class were Tyson Foods, Inc.; O.K. Foods; Pilgrim’s Pride; Outback Steakhouse; Land ‘O Frost; Cobb-Vantress, Inc.; Taco Cabana; and, the American Meat Science Association.

Sponsors for the event were Budenheim, Kerry Ingredients, FMC FoodTech, Meyn America, LLC., and Meat & Poultry Magazine. The meal sponsor was the Con-Agra Food Ingredient Division.

The next Poultry 101 course will be taking place Oct. 19-21st at Auburn University. If you would like further information, please contact Casey Owens by e-mailing her at the following address: cmowens@uark.edu or by calling her at (479) 575-4952.



POULTRY 101- Dr. Casey Owens, far left, shows participants of the Poultry 101 class how to properly cut up a carcass. This was the inaugural class of the new Poultry 101 course. It was held on the University of Arkansas campus. This particular session was at the Pilot Processing Plant.

UA poultry grad attends Aviagen Short Course

TALLEDEGA, AL.— As happens with many college graduates, Jana Cornelison of Hindsville thought she wanted to attend graduate school, but hadn’t completely made up her mind.

After earning one of five spots nationally at the Aviagen Short Course held in Talladega this summer, her decision became final. She’s going to the University of Arkansas graduate school this fall and continuing her studies in poultry science.

“I had already considered going to graduate school in poultry breeding and genetics, but after attending the short course and gaining first-hand knowledge of the breeder industry, my interest for further education in this area was confirmed,” Cornelison said.

Cornelison learned of the short course through one of her professors at the U of A, Susan Watkins. After Watkins encouraged her to apply, Cornelison filled out the paperwork necessary and wrote a letter stating why she felt she should be selected to attend. The other students chosen were from Mississippi State, Penn State, and Virginia Tech.

“I was able to learn how the Aviagen breeder hatchery operates on a day-to-day basis. I was intrigued by the importance that Aviagen placed on quality products,” said Cornelison.

“Jana is going to be a valuable asset as a graduate student this fall. I’m delighted that she took advantage of this opportunity. I’m equally thankful that Aviagen made such a worthwhile investment in a poultry science student,” Watkins said.

Cornelison is the daughter of Jerry and Annette Cornelison of Hindsville and is a graduate of Springdale High School and the University of Arkansas.

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Tyson Foods establishes chair in Food Safety

FAYETTEVILLE - Tyson Foods Inc., the world's largest protein producer, has established an endowed chair at the University of Arkansas Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences.

Named for the retired President and COO of Tyson Foods, the Donald "Buddy" Wray Chair in Food Safety will support areas key to Arkansas' economy including food processing and poultry processing. Research sponsored through this endowment will help ensure the quality of future processes and products. The chair holder will provide the additional faculty capacity needed to bring the university's food microbiology program to national and international prominence.

UA Chancellor John A. White said: "We are extremely grateful to Tyson Foods for their ongoing support of the Bumpers College. Endowing and naming a chair for Buddy Wray not only honors him, but it also honors us by permanently associating his name with the University of Arkansas. The Wray Chair in Food Safety will enable us to attract and keep outstanding educators and researchers. Tyson Foods' participation in the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century fuels our vision of a nationally competitive, student-centered research university serving Arkansas and the world."

In early 2003, Tyson Foods made a gift in kind, which will be matched by \$1.5 million from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation's \$300 million gift to the university in 2002. Investment returns on the total endowment will be used to enhance teaching, research and service programs conducted by the holder of the Wray Chair.

Greg Weidemann, dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, said: "Tyson Foods has been a generous supporter of Bumpers College programs over the years, and we are grateful for their continued support. Research in food safety is critical to the future of the food industry and we are pleased that Tyson Foods is making this investment to improve our research capacity in food safety. We're excited about finding an excellent candidate to be the first holder of the Wray Chair."

The U of A is the lead institution in the USDA-funded Food Safety Consortium, which is providing grant support for 13 food safety research projects this year involving 11 UA faculty scientists. Wray has served as an industry adviser to the Food Safety Consortium.

John Tyson, chairman and CEO of Tyson Foods, and chairman of the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century Corporate and Foundation Committee, said: "Tyson Foods is proud to be able to support the University of Arkansas by endowing this chair in the critically important discipline of food safety. We're also extremely pleased this endowment will honor Buddy Wray, who, as part of the Tyson Foods family, spent his career devoted to the excellence for which our brand has become known."

After serving in the U.S. Army, Wray, a native of Des Arc and a graduate of the University of Arkansas, joined Tyson Foods in 1961 as a field serviceman. He was promoted to production supervisor in 1963, to director of sales in 1964, to director of processing and sales in 1967, to vice president of sales and marketing in 1982 and to senior vice president of sales and marketing in 1984. He became chief operating officer in 1991, and in 1995 president was added to his title. He retired from Tyson Foods in 2000.

Wray was also a member of the Tyson board of directors from 1994 until 2003. In 1999, the members of the Arkansas Poultry Federation gave Buddy Wray their highest honor by naming him "Man of the Year." Wray has served on the board of the International Food Manufacturers Association, the Dean's Advisory Council for the Sam M. Walton College of Business and the board of American Poultry U.S.A., where he was also vice president. He was named Outstanding Alumnus by the U of A in 2000, and named Outstanding Alumnus of the animal science department in 2001. Additionally, he served on the board of the National Chicken Council from 1995 to 2000, including service on the executive committee in 1998 and 1999. He was a member of the honorary agriculture fraternities Gamma Sigma Delta and Alpha Zeta.

A national search is under way for the first holder of the Wray Chair.



HONORING BUDDY WRAY - A gift from Tyson Foods will be used to endow the Donald "Buddy" Wray (far left) Chair in Food Safety, Chancellor John White (middle) announced at an April 15 press conference following the annual Scholarship Luncheon in the Arkansas Union Ballroom. President and CEO John Tyson of Tyson Foods is pictured on the right.

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Awards and recognition for poultry faculty and students

ACCEPTING HER AWARD -
 From left, Dr. Carl Griffis, president of the Arkansas Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta (GSD), presents a certificate and award check to Carol Ojano-Dirain, Ph.d. student of Dr. Walter Bottje's, during the annual GSD banquet held in the union ballroom on the UA campus. Carol won an award for her accomplishments during the GSD graduate student presentation competition held earlier this year.



FACULTY NOTABLES:

Diana Bisbee was given the Outstanding Professional Support Award by the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences during the Honors Convocation held April 15th.

Marianne Benton, accountant in the Department of Poultry Science, was recently notified that she passed her Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) exam.

Walter Bottje gave an invited presentation “Unraveling Feed Efficiency: A mitochondrial perspective” at the Breeders Roundtable May 5-6, in St. Louis.

David Chapman was the key speaker at the European Coccidiosis Discussion Group Meeting in Weybridge, United Kingdom on June 21st.

Cindy Cisar, post-doc with the Poultry Production & Product Safety Research Unit has accepted an Assistant Professor position in the biology department at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK. **Cisar** will be conducting research on microbial source tracking; the identification of sources of fecal pollution in water.

Dustan Clark recently arranged for USDA APHIS to shoot special biosecurity films and videos using the U of A poultry farms as the backdrop. Clark has been instrumental in helping control poultry disease in the state.

Ann Donoghue gave an invited talk on “Bacteriophage and Probiotics: Their role in the control of *Salmonella* in poultry” at the Fifth Asian Pacific Poultry Health Conference, Surfers Paradise, Australia, April 21-23th. Co-authors were **Bill Huff, Billy Hargis, Memo Tellez and Dan Donoghue**. **Ann Donoghue** also presented an overview of the ARS research programs ongoing within the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science at the Breeders Roundtable Annual Meeting in St. Louis in May. **Donoghue** is also presenting ongoing research to the National Turkey Federation at their Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. In July.

Dan Donoghue gave an invited talk on “Competitive exclusion as a means of controlling *Campylobacter* in poultry” at the Fifth Asian Pacific Poultry Health Conference, Surfers Paradise, Australia, April 21-23th. Co-authors were **Billy Hargis, Memo Tellez and Ann Donoghue**. **Dan Donoghue** also gave an invited talk on “Risks and Benefits of Using Veterinary Drugs in Poultry” at the Seminario Internacional AMEVEA Peru in Lima, Peru, April 14-16th.

Gisela Erf gave an invited presentation in Istanbul, Turkey on June 8th titled: “Anti-inflammatory and Immunoregulatory Effects of Vitamin E in Poultry.” This paper was presented during a pre-symposium at the World Poultry Congress sponsored by DSM Nutritional Products.

Grants Received:

Grants are listed in order of receipt...

Yanbin Li, Walter Bottje, Muhammad Iqbal, Neil Pumford
 Cobb-Vantress, Inc. \$ 40,394

Ron Okimoto
 Cobb-Vantress, Inc. \$1,500

Nick Anthony
 Cobb-Vantress, Inc. \$24,074

Broiler Breeder Facility (Gift)
 Cobb-Vantress, Inc. \$42,568

Wayne Kuenzel
 National Science Foundation \$63,437

Craig Coon
 Cobb-Vantress, Inc. \$113,728

Ron Okimoto
 Rainbow Breeder Co., LLC. \$920

Park Waldroup
 China Vitamins \$4,000

Ron Okimoto
 Cobb Vantress, Inc. \$1,250

Totals on Grants received in Poultry Science since the new fiscal year started:

TOTAL \$1,426,677

Last fiscal year, the total amount was \$1,318,369.00. We have surpassed that amount by \$108,308

Congratulations to the recipients and thank you to the industry that supports research.





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FACULTY NOTABLES (cont'd):

Karen Eskew won three national awards for producing the POSC CD (first place); the scholarship golf tournament brochure (first place) and the 2003 Annual Report (third place) from the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association.

Brian Haggard conducted a rainfall simulation and water quality sampling for children at the Jones Center for Families in Springdale on June 30th. This event was part of an educational field days that Haggard has conducted for the past few summers.

Nahed Kotrola (Auburn University) and **John Marcy** conducted a sanitation workshop at Auburn University for Meat and Poultry Processors with Ecolab. **Marcy**, Rong Murphy and Laura Fenton - Director of Food Safety for Advance Foods, Enid, OK, conducted two Food Safety Workshops in the People's Republic of China in Beijing and for the largest meat company in China, The Shineway Group in Luohe. **Marcy** also gave a presentation on Operation Food Safety at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension 21st Century Family Conference in Little Rock. Additionally, **Marcy** and **Melissa Davidson**, his graduate student, have been funded to work on the antimicrobial properties of isothiocyanate in poultry products by NewlyWeds Foods of Chicago, IL, and the U of A Institute of Food Science and Engineering. Finally, Dale Fredell of Ecolab and **Marcy** conducted the first of two Principles and Applications of Cleaning and Sanitation workshops scheduled for 2004. The next will be on September 9th. For more information, please look at the following web site: <http://www.uark.edu/~extens/santdates.html>

The United Egg Producers (UEP) has named **Philip Moore** to a scientific panel of experts with experience in air emissions from layer facilities and/or environmental policy/regulatory background. The panels' mission will be to: a) assist the industry in defining the environmental issues it faces, b) serve as a clearinghouse for the industry regarding conducted research on the subject matter, and c) assist the industry in finding solutions to air

NOTABLES (cont'd):

emissions from layer operations in the future.

Casey Owens was an invited speaker at the American Meat Science Association's 57th Reciprocal Meat Conference June 20-23 in Lexington, KY. **Owen's** presentation was titled "Tenderness Evaluation in Poultry Meat."

Mark Parcels was the keynote speaker at the 7th International Marek's Disease Symposium July 10-14 in Oxford, United Kingdom.

Susan Watkins was an invited speaker for the Poultry Litter and Renewable Resource Seminar sponsored by the EPA Region 6 in Fayetteville on May 5th.

Watkins also was an invited speaker at the North Atlantic Poultry Health and Management Conference in Harrisburg, Penn., on May 11-12 and at the Propane Education and Research Council Meeting in Naples, FL. June 10-11th, and at the AG Forte Grower's Meeting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on June 29th. Additionally, **Watkins** served on the U.S. Poultry and Egg Production and Health Planning Committee; helped coordinate the River Valley Poultry Symposium on May 27th; and served as the Director of the National Egg Quality School May 17-20th in Atlanta, GA, where 52 participants attended from around the world.

STUDENT NOTABLES:

Eric Wright was awarded the John W. White Student Award of Excellence by Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences at the Honors Convocation held in April.

Jana Cornelison was one of only six students chosen nationally to participate in the first hatchery shortcourse offered by Aviagen for students. It was a three-day intensive training program held in Talledega, Alabama.

Lori Beth Hill, a poultry science major, won the Miss National Park Pageant and competed in the Miss Arkansas Pageant in Hot Springs.

The following students were named outstanding senior and graduate students for poultry science for the school year 2003-2004: Outstanding Senior - **Eric Wright** from Quitman, AR; Outstanding Master's Student - **Robin Jarquin** from Nicaragua; and Outstanding Ph.D. Student - **Lisa Bielke** from Tomball, TX.

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