Cobb-Vantress finances new breeder research facility

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - A gift of $844,793 from Tyson Foods and its subsidiary broiler breeder company, Cobb-Vantress in Siloam Springs, is being used for construction of a broiler breeder research facility at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture research complex near Savoy, west of Fayetteville.

U of A System Vice President for Agriculture Milo Shult said the facility will be used by the U of A’s Center of Excellence for Poultry Science (CEPS) for research and extension programs on the genetics and management of broiler breeding stock.

"Tyson Foods and Cobb-Vantress continue to demonstrate their commitment to university research, teaching and extension. The U of A has the nation’s leading poultry program thanks to this kind of industry support," Shult said.

Walter Bottje, CEPS director, said the broiler breeder research unit "is a piece of the puzzle we need to complete our program. No other university has a research facility like this."

The unit will cost nearly $1 million once fully equipped, with some equipment to be donated by industry suppliers, Bottje said. It will include a pullet house for rearing young hens, two production houses, an egg collection room, a shower-in/shower-out bio-security facility, a conference room and a farm manager’s residence.

Tyson Foods subsidiary Cobb-Vantress is a leading poultry research and development company engaged in the production, improvement and sale of broiler breeding stock.

Leonard Fussell, Cobb-Vantress director of world technical support, said, "Facilities for breeder research in the U.S. have declined in number over the last 20 years. Cobb-Vantress determined that an investment should be made to create a facility for research in breeder management.

"We are particularly excited to be the major sponsor of this project to create a much-needed research facility for the University that should generate data of value to the breeder industry worldwide."

The gift will be counted in the U of A Campaign for the Twenty-First Century to help meet the $300 million challenge to match the $300 million gift in 2002 from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation.

From the director

The Newsletter is back thanks to the return of Karen Eskew to the Center. A number of wonderful things have happened in the past six months that will be outlined in this issue. Among other things, Howard Lester and Rodney Wolfe are now responsible for oversight and management of the poultry research farm. This enabled Judy England to move into the role of manager of the Cobb Breeder Research Facility. This facility is once again on track after a change in site location. Novus International, Inc., of St. Louis provided a match for money provided by the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation to endow a Novus International Professorship in Nutrition and Metabolism. Park Waldroup was named the first person for this prestigious chair position. This is the first endowed professorship established from the Walton donation to the University announced in the College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences, and only the second professorship announced for the campus. In January, five graduate students won presentation awards (out of 16 total) at the meeting in Atlanta. Three more students received presentation awards and Dr. Denton was (deservingply) inducted as a Fellow at the recent PSA meeting in Madison. (Cont’d p.2)
I want to thank everyone who was so supportive during the interim period. Thanks to a lot of good people who have worked hard, the Center remained within budget in the face of a substantial decrease in operating funds last year. As I recently indicated to Eddy Lloyd (Alternative Designs), we still have a number of challenges facing the Department during the next couple years. However, with the best faculty, staff and facilities in the country, Dr. Denton put together a Mazoratti that for right now just needs to have the oil and tires regularly checked. Mr. Lloyd carefully pointed out that it’s also important to keep the car on the road. So here’s to driving the Mazoratti. A list of all the people that help make this Mazoratti run are listed in this issue of the newsletter.

**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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If you would like to have your copy e-mailed to you, please contact Shelia Kidd at skidd@uark.edu and in the subject line type **PARTNERS E-MAIL**. We will not sell or distribute our list.

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**Bottje named new Center Director and Dept. Head**

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — University of Arkansas officials announced in July that poultry science professor Walter Bottje was appointed head of the UA department of poultry science and director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science (CEPS).

The center’s faculty conducts the statewide poultry research and extension programs of the U of A System’s Division of Agriculture and academic programs leading to B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in poultry science at the U of A.

Bottje teaches and conducts research in avian physiology and has been CEPS Associate Director since 1995.

Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Dean Gregory Weidemann, who is also associate vice president for agriculture in charge of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station research programs, said Bottje will provide the leadership for the U of A to maintain its top national reputation in poultry science.

"I am extremely pleased that we could fill this position with someone who is very highly regarded in academia and within the poultry industry," Weidemann said.

"Under Dr. Bottje’s leadership, we will maintain the excellence of our teaching programs and our research and extension efforts on critical issues such as food safety and environmental impacts as well as improving production and processing efficiency."

Associate Vice President for Extension Ivory W. Lyles, who administers the statewide Cooperative Extension Service, said, "As Associate Director, Dr. Bottje has demonstrated his ability to effectively coordinate the research, extension and teaching programs in poultry science. I look forward to working with him and the rest of the faculty to help meet the information and technology needs of this vital Arkansas industry."

As Associate Director, Bottje worked closely with former CEPS director and department head James Denton. Bottje has been interim director and head since January 2002, when Denton returned to a faculty position.

Bottje received a Ph.D. degree in physiology in 1984 from the University of Illinois at Urbana. He joined the UA faculty in 1985 as an assistant professor and was named professor and CEPS associate director in 1995.

Bottje’s research specialty is metabolic physiology. He has focused recently on pulmonary hypertension syndrome and other health issues in avian species. Currently, his lab is studying the cellular basis of feed efficiency. His research results have been published in physiology and biochemistry journals for medical scientists as well as in poultry science journals.

Bottje received the Division of Agriculture’s 1996 Outstanding Researcher Award. His research has been supported by research grants from the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association and several private companies.
Denton named Fellow at the PSA’s annual meeting

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. --- Former poultry center director, department head and current faculty member Dr. James Denton of the University of Arkansas poultry science department was given the prestigious "Fellow" title by the Poultry Science Association (PSA) at its annual meeting in Madison, Wis., on July 9.

The title of Fellow is granted for professional distinction and contributions to the field of poultry science without concern to longevity. A unanimous vote by the Board of Directors of PSA is required to elect any nominee as Fellow.

"Being recognized by a group of people with whom I have worked and respect a great deal is both gratifying and humbling, especially when I think of the people who have been honored previously with this title," Denton said. "Working with outstanding faculty and the incredible poultry industry as a whole has been a treasured experience and has contributed immeasurably to my receiving this honor.”

Denton joined the UA poultry science department as center director and department head in 1992, providing leadership for the first new poultry science department to be established in over 40 years. Denton provided oversight during the capital campaign and construction of the 112,000-square-foot research and teaching center, which houses the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science (CEPS).

Under Denton’s continued leadership, facilities of the CEPS have expanded to include a Feed Mill, Poultry Health Research Laboratory and Pilot Processing Plant. Also during his tenure, faculty numbers in the department have increased from 12 to 32 and undergraduate enrollment has tripled. In January 2002, Denton stepped down as department head and joined the poultry science faculty in a move toward full retirement from the department in January 2004.

Denton received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in poultry science from Texas A&M University. He currently serves on the USDA National Advisory Committee for Meat and Poultry Inspection (his fourth appointment to this post), the board of directors for the International Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Alliance and the National Alliance for Food Safety (NAFS). He served as executive vice-chairman of the Arkansas Poultry Federation Technical Advisory Committee, co-chairman of the National Educational Forum for Food Safety Issues and was elected director of the Poultry Safety Center and Chairman of Operations for NAFS. In 2001, Denton was given the prestigious honor of "Man of the Year" by the Poultry Federation.

Denton’s research, education and administrative career covers three decades of innovative programming and outstanding accomplishments. He has authored or co-authored numerous scientific publications, abstracts and published proceedings in over 300 extension publications in the field of poultry product technology and food safety. During his career, Denton served as invited speaker for over 138 presentations in 13 states and seven countries.

DESERVING FELLOW - Dr James Denton, right, was named a "Fellow" of the Poultry Science Association during their annual meeting July 9 in Madison, Wis.

Golf Tourney a success for the scholarship fund

FARMINGTON, Ark. --- The Annual Poultry Science Scholarship Golf Tournament took place at Valley View Golf Course in Farmington on May 19.

Winners of the tournament were the Barnhill Poultry team with a score of 60. Members of the team were: Fred Barnhill, Royce Primm, Stan Barnhill and Jerry Birch.

There was a two-way tie for second place between Tyson Foods, Inc., and Alternative Design, both scoring a 62.

Larry Butler of FPEC took first place in the putting contest, Derrick Auffett of Schering was the Closest to the Pin, and Longest Drive honors went to Jeff Smith of Safe Foods, Corp.

Hole sponsors for this year’s tournament were Alternative Design, FPEC, Safe Foods Corp., and Tyson Foods.

Other teams participating were Adisseo, Alltech, Arkansas Farm Bureau, Aviagen, Farm Credit, Multi-Craft Contractors, and United Feeds.

A big thank you to the following sponsors who donated gift certificates and other door prizes: Cool Water Village, Cajun Gypsy Catering, the Clarion Inn, the Holiday Inn and Arkansas Farm Bureau.

Jones Motorcars of Fayetteville displayed a car and sponsored the Hole-In-One contest. If a participant had made a hole-in-one, they would have won the car, however, no participants were quite that lucky.

We appreciate the poultry industry and others for supporting the poultry science department’s scholarship fund.
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. --- Novus International, Inc., President and COO Thad Simons presented a check for $250,000 on June 27th to University of Arkansas officials to complete an endowment for the new Novus International Professorship in Poultry Science.

The Novus gift will be matched by $250,000 from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation's $300 million gift to the University in 2002. Investment returns on the total endowment of $500,000 will be used to enhance teaching, research and service programs, said Dean Gregory Weidemann of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. This was the first endowed professorship associated with the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation to be announced in the college.

Weidemann announced that University Professor Park Waldroup will be the first holder of the professorship.

"Dr. Waldroup is an outstanding teacher and researcher, and he is internationally known as a leading authority on poultry nutrition," the dean said.

"This prestigious professorship is a well-deserved honor for Dr. Waldroup, and it significantly raises the stature of our Center of Excellence for Poultry Science to have such a ringing endorsement from Novus International and the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation," Weidemann said.

Novus International, based in St. Louis, is a leading supplier of animal nutrition and health products.

"Novus is well known as an innovative, science-based company that supports university research," Weidemann said. "They share our commitment to meeting the needs of animal producers, and ultimately consumers, through research to develop products and systems that are economically and environmentally sound."

Simons said, "The future of the poultry industry rests in the hands of institutions such as the University of Arkansas and mentors such as Dr. Waldroup. Novus is proud to help pave the way for the next generation of agriculture innovators who must continue to improve meat production proficiency to feed the growing global population."

Novus International's Head of Research and Development, Chris Knight, said, "Dr. Waldroup is at the pinnacle of his discipline as an internationally recognized poultry scientist. I am happy that Novus will continue to be associated with his work and the entire poultry science program at the University of Arkansas."

The endowment will increase research opportunities for graduate students and for undergraduates in the new Honors College, Weidemann said, in addition to strengthening research and extension programs in nutrition, metabolism and other growth and health issues.

Waldroup has been chairman of the Animal Nutrition Research Council, which develops standards for animal and human nutrition research. He has been a member since 1981 of the Poultry Nutrition Subcommittee of the National Research Council, which sets nutrition standards followed by the poultry industry worldwide. He is a fellow of the Poultry Science Association and has received many awards, including the first National Broiler Council Research Award.

Waldroup has been widely published in scientific research journals and has guided over 50 students to M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. He has presented seminars in some 40 countries.

When he was a graduate student in Florida 43 years ago, Park Waldroup's first research project was testing the use of an antioxidant in animal feed for Monsanto Chemical Co.

"At that time, the primary focus was on keeping the feed from oxidizing and going stale," said Waldroup. "We weren't necessarily trying to keep chickens alive longer."
ENDOWMENT - (from left) Chris Knight, research and development head for Novus International; Gregory Weidemann, Dean for Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences; Thad Simons, Chief Operating Officer of Novus; Park Waldroup, university professor; and Walter Bottje, director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, hold up a “check” representing Novus International’s endowment gift of $250,000 toward Waldroup’s professorship and continued research in the area of poultry feed proficiency.

Waldroup said he feels he has come full circle, since Monsanto is the predecessor company of Novus International Inc., the company that is financing half of his endowed professorship.

“It reminds me of the ‘Circle of Life’ concept depicted in the Walt Disney movie The Lion King,” Waldroup said. “It’s ironic and amazing that the company responsible for my first experiment is now the same company sponsoring a professorship in the autumn of my career.”

Novus International’s gift counts toward the "challenge" to raise $300 million for academic purposes to match the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation’s $300 million gift. The total Campaign for the Twenty-First Century goal is $900 million by June 2005, of which some $720 million has already been raised. The challenge total stood at $104.8 million as of May 31, 2003. Bumpers College and the Division of Agriculture have raised $54.9 million toward a $69.3 million Campaign goal as of May 31.

Novus International, Inc., is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, and serves customers in more than 80 countries around the world. An industry leader and one of the foremost suppliers of amino acids for animal agriculture, Novus products include Alimet® Feed Supplement, Oasis® Hatchling Supplement, feed grade antioxidants and many other specialty ingredients. Novus possesses a core expertise in the study of gut health and its impact on performance, which has led to the development of ADVENT™ Coccidiosis Control, a breakthrough coccidiosis vaccine for broiler chickens.

As you can see, it takes a lot of people to run the research, teaching, administration and operations of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

We are thankful for the industry’s support of our efforts and look forward to another year of collaboration in the area of poultry science.

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® OASIS is a trademark of Novus International, Inc., and is registered in the United States and other countries.
™ ADVENT is a trademark of VIRIDUS Animal Health LLC
FAYETTEVILLE --- Nineteen high school students and two educators from around the state experienced college life first-hand at the University of Arkansas while attending the seventh annual Poultry Science Youth Conference sponsored by the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science (CEPS) July 15-18.

The conference is designed to foster interest in the poultry industry, the University of Arkansas and the UA poultry science department through industry tours, scientific and informative sessions and recreation. This conference is also open to all agricultural educators who would like a more in-depth view of the poultry science department at the U of A.

During the conference, participants toured Cargill’s state-of-the-art turkey processing plant and Tyson’s world headquarters, both located in Springdale. While at Tyson’s, the students participated in a hands-on project in the research and development kitchen and were able to learn how Tyson breads chicken nuggets and breasts for commercial sale. After assembling the breasts and tenders, students actually got to eat their own product for lunch in Tyson’s cafeteria.

During break-out sessions on the UA Fayetteville campus, students were able to monitor a chicken’s heart rate, mix feed at the UA Feed Mill and identify different types of bacteria by running specialized tests. These sessions exposed students to the wide variety of careers involved in poultry science.

Recreational activities during the week included a cookout at Devil’s Den State Park, dinners at Tiny Tim’s Pizza on the downtown Fayetteville square and Jose’s on Dickson Street, putt-putt golf at Gator Golf and go-cart riding at Lokomotion Family Fun Park. On the final night of the conference, students enjoyed participating in a murder mystery game at the Center. The theme of this year’s conference was “Get a Clue.”

Sponsors of the conference were the Farm Bureau, Harold E. Ford Foundation and the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.
MADISON, WIS. – The Center of Excellence for Poultry Science director, Walter Bottje, and graduate students Lisa Bielke, Kim Coles and Preety Sharma recently took top honors at the Poultry Science Association’s (PSA) annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

Bielke won the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper award for her manuscript “Determination of Salmonella Host Range of Selected Bacteriophages which exhibit Increased Host Specificity.” Her major professor is the director of the poultry health lab, Billy Hargis.

Coles also won an Outstanding Graduate Student Paper award for her paper “Effects of Aeration and Storage Temperature on Campylobacter Concentrations in Chicken Semen.” Coles’ major professor is physiologist Dan Donoghue.

Sharma received the Student Certificate of Excellence for Presentation in the genetics section with the manuscript “Association of Variant Alleles of Uncoupling Protein with Feed Efficiency in Broiler Chickens.” Sharma’s major professor is molecular geneticist Ron Okimoto.

Bottje was awarded the National Chicken Council Broiler Research Award and $1,500 during an awards banquet on July 9, 2003. The broiler award is given for distinctive research work that has a strong economic impact on the broiler industry. Research for this award may be conducted in any major discipline and is evaluated primarily on the economic influence the work has had or will have in the future. Bottje’s research now focuses on the role that mitochondria play in feed efficiency.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized by the PSA for my research. This award would not have been possible without the assistance of many talented students, supportive colleagues, including our former CEPS director James Denton, and especially my wife,” said Bottje.

PASSING THE TORCH -

Robert Harms (left) UA alumnus was in town visiting his former graduate student Park Waldroup (far right) and Waldroup’s grad student, Chris Fritts (center). Fritts, who recently completed her doctoral studies, is leaving for her new post at Mississippi State University and Harms has recently retired from the University of Florida where he was named one of the five most influential people in Florida’s agricultural history.

The Poultry Science Club is made up of a diverse group of students who have the common interest in poultry. This group meets once a month for regular meetings and enjoys working on other projects such as:

- Chicken Kitchen - Ark. State Fair
- Poultry Science Club Awards Banquet
- Scholarship Golf Tournament
- Arkansas State Fair Broiler Show Bumpers College Carnival of Clubs
- Industry Omelet Breakfasts
- Holiday Community Service Project
- U.S. Poultry & Egg International Poultry Expo (Atlanta)
- Faculty / Staff luncheons
- Missouri State Fair Poultry Grill 4-H Barbecue Contests
- State / National Judging Contests
- Poultry Science Youth Conference
- Poultry Federation Poultry Festival
- Alumni Tailgate Party
- Poultry Processing

Membership in the club is open to anyone interested. Dues are $5/semester. During club meetings there are guest speakers, food and fun.

Contact information:
University of Arkansas Poultry Science Club
c/o Donna Tinsley
1260 W. Maple
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-575-4952
FACULTY NOTABLES:

**Keith Bramwell** gave an invited presentation at the Virginia Poultry & Health Management Seminar in April on Managing Broiler Breeders for Life of Flock Fertility.

**Walter Bottje** gave an invited presentation July 6th for the Informal Nutrition Symposium at PSA. The title was "Role of Mitochondria in the Phenotypic Expression of Feed Efficiency".


**Karen Eskew**’s CEPS Annual Report - “Making a Global Impact” - won a first place during the National Agricultural Alumni & Development Association’s publication competition.

**Ann Donoghue** was invited to attend the National Association of Specialists of Avian Science (ANECa), XXVIII National Meeting, gave talk entitled “Antimicrobial Therapy and Prophylaxis: Emergin Issues and Alternatives to Chemotherapy,” April 28 – May 4, 2003, Veracruz, MX. **Donoghue** was also elected to be the Director of PSA. **Donoghue** and Philip **Moore** were invited to attend Workshop on Poultry Research, sponsored by the Agricultural Research Service – National Program Staff on April 14-17, 2003, Orlando, FL.

**Dan Donoghue** attended the American Feed Industry Association Meeting, May 5-8, 2003, Minneapolis, MN.

**Philip Moore** and Paul **Delaune** received the USDA Secretary’s Honors Award for the work on the P Index.

**Gerry Huff** has been promoted to GS-14.

**Casey Owens** gave an invited presentation May 15th titled "Poultry Meat Quality," at the AveSui 2003 (II International Seminar of Industrialization and Meat Quality of Poultry) in Florianopolis, SC, Brazil.

GRANTS RECEIVED: (Since last newsletter)

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