Denton named poultry industry’s “Man of the Year” at poultry festival

The Poultry Federation representing Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma named University of Arkansas poultry scientist James Denton “Man of the Year” at a June 9 awards presentation during the 42nd Annual Poultry Festival at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Denton is poultry science department head and director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science at the Uof A.

Denton joined the U of A in 1992, providing leadership for the first new poultry science department to be established in over 40 years. Since he joined the U of A, undergraduate enrollment has almost tripled through an aggressive recruitment and scholarship program.

Denton received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in poultry science from Texas A & M University. He has served on the USDA National Advisory Committee for Meat and Poultry Inspection, the board of directors for the International Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Alliance and the National Alliance for Food Safety (NAFS). He is executive vice-chairman of the Arkansas Poultry Federation Technical Advisory Committee, is co-chairman of the National Educational Forum for Food Safety Issues and was recently elected director of the Poultry Safety Center for the NAFS.

“I don’t know of anyone who is more dedicated to his discipline and to the support of the industries his discipline serves than James Denton,” Milo Shult, U of A Vice President for Agriculture, said. “When the poultry center first came into being, it mainly had funding and facilities. James has provided the leadership to make it a true center of excellence in every sense of the word. We’re all very proud of his recognition as ‘Man of the Year’ and of the great job that he does.”

“Being recognized by a group of people with whom I work and respect a great deal is both very gratifying and humbling, especially when I think of the people who have been recognized previously with this award,” Denton said.

Denton, left, is shown receiving award at poultry festival while Claud Rutherford, last year’s recipient, looks on.
**U of A Poultry Science Department takes third at Poultry Festival**

The University of Arkansas’ poultry science department took third place for booth theme and skit June 9 at the 42nd Annual Poultry Festival held in Hot Springs.

The booth was titled “Grease.” It was the U of A’s second consecutive year to place in the top three at the contest.

The poultry science team had a black and white checkered stage built with large panels, table, lamppost and “Grease” logo attached to the front. The skit included highlights from the movie “Grease” with the songs “Summer Nights,” “Grease Lightning,” “Hand Jive” and “We Go Together.” Nine participants dressed in ’50s attire and performed a skit they wrote.

The participants were Jason Emmert, assistant professor; Niki Loupe, a junior from Crossett; Susan Watkins, extension poultry specialist; Trey Pope, graduate student from New Boston, Texas; Hugh Lumpkin, a sophomore from Rogers; Gary Davis, undergraduate recruiter; Diana Bisbee, program director; Julie Townsend, a freshman from Malvern; and Karen Eskew, communication specialist.

Before the skit, U of A students passed out barbecue chicken, “scotch” eggs and bottled water.

Each year contestants compete in two categories, best booth theme and best barbecue. This year 19 booths entered the competition from all over Arkansas and southern Missouri. Winners were announced at an awards banquet.

Third place in the contest netted the U of A team a $500 check and a plaque. The poultry festival is sponsored by The Poultry Federation.

---

**POSC Club hosts awards banquet**

The University of Arkansas Poultry Science Club presented awards to students and faculty during its ninth annual Poultry Science Club Awards Banquet April 28 at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House on campus.

James Young, Vice President of Production Services for Tyson Foods, gave the keynote address about leadership qualities and characteristics of outstanding leaders in the poultry industry. James Denton, poultry science department head, then presented each graduating senior with an engraved silver business card holder on behalf of the club.

Awards for faculty and students went to the following: Jason Emmert, assistant professor, received the “Best Mentor” award; F. Dustan Clark, extension poultry veterinarian, received the tongue-in-cheek “Hard Ass” award; Niki Loupe, president of the club and a junior from Crossett, received the “Member of the Year” award; Clint Little, a senior from DeQueen, and Cheryl Esters, a senior from Stamps, received “Most Memorable Club Member” awards; and Julie Townsend, a freshman from Malvern, received the “Newcomer of the Year” award. Each awardee was presented with a framed certificate.
New U of A poultry science booklet is a handy resource on hatching eggs

A new University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture booklet, “Fun with Incubation,” is a handy resource for Arkansas’ teachers wanting to take on a class project involving eggs. The booklet includes instructions on the temperatures needed for successful incubation in various incubator types as well as step-by-step instructions on how to hatch healthy chicks from fertile eggs.

The booklet, aimed primarily at elementary school students, includes photos that show the development of chicks from a tiny spot on an egg yolk to a healthy, fluffy chick. It describes how chicks emerge from eggs and how to care for newly hatched chicks. There are also worksheets to assist students in learning the parts of the egg and projects for younger students to cut out and color.

The booklet was produced by Susan Watkins, poultry extension specialist, and one of her undergraduate students, Cheryl Esters, in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service and the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

Cooperative Extension agents and specialists often visit local schools and organizations to present information about poultry production in the state, said Frank Jones, Extension Section Leader. “Often these visits involve hatching chicks within the classroom, so a booklet of this kind is most helpful in heightening the learning experience for students and assisting the teachers who host the extension personnel.”

For information about programs and demonstrations for schools or organizations, call the Poultry Center at (501) 575-4952. The booklet is also available for school or club projects. It is on 8.5” x 11” paper and is designed to be reproduced on a standard copy machine.

Faculty member enjoys unique experience while presenting in China

Dr. Walter Bottje, Associate Director of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, recently returned from a trip to China (May 8-17) during which he gave invited seminars at the South China Agricultural University (SCAU) in the Department of Veterinary Pathophysiology, Guanzhou PRC and in Shenyang and Dalian (PRC). The trip was sponsored by Novus International, Inc.

At SCAU, Bottje visited Associate Professor Dr. Zhaoxin Tang, a former visiting scholar in Dr. Bottje’s laboratory. The presentation “Evidence of Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Pulmonary Hypertension Syndrome” was based in part on research Tang had conducted in Bottje’s lab.

After visiting facilities at SCAU, Bottje traveled to Shenyang to make a presentation "Usage of HMB and DL-Methionine by the Avian Liver” for Great Wall, Inc. Dr. Suiying Wang, former Ph.D. student of Bottje's now working for the host company, had been instrumental in this study and served as the translator for the talk. "This was a rare opportunity for me because it was the first time I've had the opportunity to 'share the stage' with a student. Normally, my presentations are made 'solo' with an unknown interpreter who usually does not fully understand the research, but in this case the interpreter had participated in the study,” said Bottje. "I enjoyed watching Suiying get excited all over again about the presentations while she gave the interpretation."

In Dalian, the same talk was delivered for the Dalian Poultry Trade Show -the largest Poultry trade show in China. Bottje attempted to shorten the talk by using the minimum amount of description, but Wang’s knowledge about the research as well as her enthusiasm came through and resulted in about a five to six sentence increase in the Chinese interpreted version compared to the English version delivered by Bottje. This resulted in a considerable amount of good-

-BOTTJE continued on page 4
Dear Readers, we need your help to save money!

After much thought and discussion, we at the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science have decided to make the Partners Newsletter available as an e-mail attachment for those willing to receive it in this manner.

This will be your first notice of the change. After doing a “test” electronic distribution of our latest Research Updates, it has come to the conclusion of the editors of this publication that in order to help the department save money on printing costs as well as mailing expense, our best alternative would be to solicit e-mail addresses of our readers and try sending the next issue of Partners as an e-mail attachment.

We know not ALL people are electronically connected, so we will still have hard copies of the newsletter printed. It is our ultimate desire, however, to reduce the number of printed pieces substantially, therefore saving the department considerable expense.

If you would be willing to help us in this venture, please e-mail your name and pertinent information to:

keskew@uark.edu

with the subject line: Partners e-mail list.

If you have any questions regarding this change, you may contact Karen Eskew at (501) 575-3192 or e-mail at the above address.

Thank you in advance for your help.
We hope to roll out the electronic version in .pdf format with the September 2001 issue. Please note, We WILL NOT give out your e-mail to anyone.

-BOttje continued from page 3

natured ribbing of Wang by representatives of both Great Wall and Novus at a dinner that night.

Sidelights of the trip included the opportunity for Dr. Bottje to visit the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and 13 tombs of Chinese Emperors outside of Beijing. In Shenyang, Dr. Bottje played the ‘fiddle’ with the ‘Ex-Band,’ a group of Shenyang University Music students. “This is one of the best bands I’ve had the opportunity to hear or play with,” said Bottje. “The club (The Cat King Club) is also the best club atmosphere I have ever experienced in any country.”

Bottje highly recommends a visit to the Cat King Club in Shenyang to anyone who might be visiting that city. The drive from Shenyang to Dalian allowed a glimpse of the countryside. This was also somewhat entertaining since the van overheated and resulted in an unscheduled stop half way between Shenyang and Dalian. Later, the van was also pulled over for speeding by the police. Fortunately, the driver didn’t get a ticket and they finally made it to Dalian - just a few hours late.

Research award presentation

Dr. H. David Chapman, second from left, and his wife (from left) Ruth, his daughter, Alice and his mother, Irene “Babs” Chapman pose for a picture following Dr. Chapman’s “Researcher of the Year” award presentation at the recent Honors Convocation.

Chapman’s mother traveled all the way from Bures Village in Suffolk County, England to be present at the event.

Embrex Inc., presents royalty check to Center of Excellence

Dr. James Denton, left, receives a $31,923 royalty check from Dr. Craig Whitfill of Embrex, Inc., for the use of the viral neutralizing factor (VNF®) technology developed by UA researchers from the poultry science and biochemistry departments. In 1988, the VNF® technology was licensed to Embrex, Inc., based at Research Triangle Park, N.C., to develop a vaccine. This check was for royalties from July through December of 2000.
U of A Poultry Science Department raises over $15,000 for scholarships with golf

Twenty-four teams enjoyed a day of golf and raised over $15,000 for poultry science scholarships during the Second Annual Poultry Science Scholarship Golf Tournament April 16 at the Pinnacle Country Club in Rogers.

Format for the tournament was a four-person scramble with a shotgun start. Immediately following conclusion of the tournament was an awards banquet and presentation in the Pinnacle clubhouse.

First place winners in the morning flight were Drew Davis, Lance Kitrell, Blake Miller and Randy Ratcliff with a score of 58. Second place winners in flight one were Jim Burkett, Mike Group, Tim McGovern and Mark Rumsey with a score of 59. Third place winners were Gary Bailey, Chet Hobart, Carl McCratic and Doug Rhoads with a score of 62. Lance Kitrell also took home a prize for closest to the pin on hole 15, Dale Lawrimore won an award for having the longest drive on hole 7 and Shannon Burasco took first place in the morning putting contest.

First place winners in the afternoon flight were Merrill Bishop, Lynch Butler, Steve Carroll and Eddie Loyd with a score of 64. Second place winners were John Ball, Matt Duffy, Roy Slaughter and Danny Walker also with a score of 64. Third place winners were Jean Allard, Bob Buresh, Jeff Cohen, and Tim Stroud with a score of 65. Ties were decided by scorecard playoffs as determined by the pros at Pinnacle. Closest to the pin was Bill Downey, longest drive winner was Kevin Hunter and the afternoon putting contest winner was Jeff Bailey.

Bo Mattingly and Pete Gilbert, sportscasters for KHBS/KHOG Channel 40/29 were the emcees for the morning and afternoon flights, respectively. They also participated in the tournament as guests of the poultry department.

Major sponsors for the tournament were Alternative Design, Cobb-Vantress, F.P.E.C., Newlywed Foods, Unisan and Zero Mountain. Supplies were donated by Harps Food Stores, Jones Motorcars and Pepsi-Cola.

Last fall the poultry science department provided more than $93,000 in scholarship money to their students.

Career Development Events at U of A

The University of Arkansas campus was host to the statewide FFA Career Development Event (CDE) on Friday, April 13.

The poultry events took place at the poultry processing plant.

Students from around the state competed in several categories vying for a chance to attend the National FFA Conference and participate at the national level in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jason Emmert and Jerry Wooley set up the events for the poultry category and enlisted other poultry center personnel and students to assist.
Faculty member receives promotion with tenure

Dr. Mark Parcells, shown to the right, recently received a promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Parcells is a graduate of the University of Delaware, where he received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the Department of Animal Science.

Parcells’ research has focused on an economically important disease of poultry called Marek’s disease. Marek’s disease is a rapidly-induced cancer of chickens that is caused by a highly transmissible herpesvirus.

Parcells’ is currently a molecular virologist with the Department of Poultry Science.

Non-classified poultry staff receive promotions

The following non-classified research personnel have recently received promotions in the Department of Poultry Science. David Cawthon was promoted to Research Specialist III; Donna Delozier was promoted to Research Specialist II; Christine Fritts was promoted to Research Specialist II; Erika Kroger was promoted to Research Specialist II; Rimma Shipstova was promoted to Research Specialist III; Linda Stmpas was promoted to Research Associate I; and Tom Tabler was promoted to Research Associate II.

Congratulations to these individuals on their recent promotions.

A special thank you...

The Center of Excellence for Poultry Science and Dr. James Denton would like to extend a special “thank you” to Dr. F. Dustan Clark and Dr. H. David Chapman.

Both of these professors contributed significantly to refurbishing of facilities at the Poultry Health Research Park.

These faculty members were kind enough to use discretionary funding for support of their programs to enhance the facilities necessary to research in the area of poultry health.

Thanks for your support and generous contribution to this project.
Grilling contest held on front lawn of Center of Excellence

A faculty and staff grilling contest was held on the front lawn of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science May 25. Contestants competed with their own recipes and grilling techniques and entries were judged by Chef Suzie Stephens of Cafe Nibbles.

First place went to Jason Emmert and Trey Pope for their Garlic Chicken recipe and second place went to John Marcy for his “jerk” wings. Best presentation went to Mrs. Shirley Denton, wife of Dr. James Denton.

The winning recipe was used at the Poultry Festival by the Poultry Science Department team to prepare their recipe used for the judging of the barbecue contest as well as for the barbecue dinner on Saturday night.

From left, graduate student Trey Pope and faculty member Jason Emmert get ready to prepare their winning recipe at the grilling contest.

John Marcy is shown slaving over a hot grill preparing his delicious “jerk” chicken wings. Marcy took second place in the grilling contest.

Center says “goodbye” to accountant

Margaret Cotton, seated at far right, was thrown a goodbye party by the Center of Excellence. Cotton recently took a new position at the Criminal Justice Institute in Little Rock as an accountant. Her last day at the Center of Excellence was June 8. Cotton “will be greatly missed,” said Dr. James Denton, Center Director.

Calendar of Events for CEPS

JUNE 28-29
Pilgrim Industries Management Conference (at the CEPS)

JULY 4
Independance Day - University holiday, offices closed

JULY 24-28
PSA2001 in Indianapolis

AUGUST 10
Last Day of Summer Session II Classes

AUGUST 27
Fall semester at the University of Arkansas begins, first day of classes

SEPTEMBER 3
Labor Day- University holiday, offices closed

SEPTEMBER 3-8
Venezuela Poultry Congress in Caracas

SEPTEMBER 11-13
Arkansas Nutrition Conference at Clarion Inn in Fayetteville

SEPTEMBER 16-18
Food Safety Consortium Annual meeting at Iowa State University in Ames

SEPTEMBER 21
Poultry Pilot Processing Plant Equipment Dedication
# Faculty Notes

**Dr. James Denton** was presented the “Man of the Year” award by the Poultry Federation at the recent Poultry Festival awards banquet in Hot Springs June 9. **Denton** was also honored by being elected to serve as the Director of the Poultry Safety Center, one of 12 “virtual” centers sponsored by the National Alliance for Food Safety. **Denton, Susan Watkins** and **Billy Hargis** all gave invited presentations at the Poultry Symposium in Springdale, April 10 & 11. **Denton, Donna Delozier, Casey Owens, John Marcy** and graduate students **Joel Reiman** and **Cain Cavitt** attended the Poultry Processors Meeting in Fort Smith May 8th. On May 23rd, **Denton** attended the National Chicken Council’s Animal Welfare Task Force meeting in Atlanta. The task force is made up of members of academia, veterinarians and poultry scientists who are responsible for conducting animal welfare audits. **Denton** and several other faculty members traveled to Scotland May 28 - June 1 with the U of A International Agriculture Program. While there, **Denton** discussed several food safety issues and had related discussions on poultry research and educational issues with faculty from the Avian Science Research Centre in Auchincruive.

**Mark Parcells** was recently promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure.

**Casey Owens** gave an invited presentation “Factors influencing PSE meat in turkeys” at the ANECA XXVI Convention in Acapulco, Mexico, April 2527.

**John Marcy** gave an invited presentation on Food Irradiation at Purdue University March 22. **Marcy** hosted a Basic Food Safety Workshop at the Ozark Food Processor’s Associational meeting March 27 in Springdale. In conjunction, **Marcy** participated in a Food Safety Panel Discussion on March 28 at the same meeting. On April 10-12, **Marcy** conducted a Basic HACCP Course with Dale Fredell of Ecolab Food and Beverage division. On April 20-21, **Marcy** attended the Conference for Food Protection Executive Board Meeting in Nashville, Tenn. On May 15-17, **Marcy** held a quarterly Sanitation Workshop for Tyson Foods with **Jon Porter**, adjunct professor, at the Center of Excellence. June 7 & 8, **Marcy** was one of nine HACCP experts brought to Chicago for the National Restaurant Association for Retail HACCP Task Analysis. Others represented Walmart, Burger King, HACCP Consulting Group, Maricopa County Health Department, University of Nebraska, Johnson & Wales University, Carlson Restaurants Worldwide and Sodexo Marriott.

**Gisela Erf** and graduate student **Xiaoli Wang** presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) May 4-7 in Germany. **Wang** received a travel award from the FOCIS Society to attend and present at the meeting.

**Jason Emmert** received the Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award. The award is sponsored by the U of A Gamma Sigma Delta chapter for teachers in Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences.


**Walter Bottje** gave invited presentations in the Peoples Republic of China in May. One of the presentations was to the Great Wall, Inc., and the other was at the Dalian Poultry Trade Show, which is the largest poultry trade show in China.

**Susan Watkins** served as section leader at the National Egg Quality School in Salisbury, Maryland. She is also serving on a planning committee for U.S. Poultry and Egg Production and Health Seminar. This summer she had 15 students placed in summer internships. **Watkins** is the internship coordinator for the Poultry Science Department.

The Poultry Science Department took third place for booth theme and skit at the Poultry Festival in Hot Springs June 8-9. Members of the skit were **Jason Emmert, Niki Loupe, Susan Watkins, Gary Davis, Diana Bisbee, Julie Townsend, Trey Pope, Hugh Lumpkin and Karen Eskew**. They received $500 and a plaque for their efforts.

---

## Student Notes

**Jennifer McFarland** was awarded the William R. Johnson Outstanding Thesis Award by Stephen F. Austin University.


Poultry science students **Niki Loupe, Sarah Heuer** and **Julie Townsend** were recently selected to be College Ambassadors for the fall term. Selection was made through application and references. Poultry students **Lindsay Hale** and **Jill Townsend** are already serving as ambassadors.

---

### Grants Awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gisela Erf, Incentive grant</td>
<td>$9,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casey Owens, Incentive grant</td>
<td>$9,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Anthony, Animal Health</td>
<td>$10,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Parcells, Animal Health</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Bottje, Animal Health</td>
<td>$11,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Hargis, Animal Health</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kirby, Animal Health</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gisela Erf, Animal Health</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Watkins, Metamorphix</td>
<td>$36,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Wideman, Hubbard ISA</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Parcells, US Poultry &amp; Egg</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casey Owens, Cobb-Vantress</td>
<td>$16,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Bottje, Cobb-Vantress</td>
<td>$30,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Hargis, Cargill</td>
<td>$30,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>