



AG SCIENCES 2008

University Honors 4 in College with Kopp Awards

Two faculty members and two students in our college recently received 2008 W. LaMarr Kopp International Achievement Awards from the university for their international accomplishments.

Lou Moore and Jim Dunn, both professors of agricultural economics, shared the Kopp Award for faculty. Brian Cameron, a senior majoring in agricultural sciences, received the Kopp Award for undergraduate students and Neelendra Joshi, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Entomology, received the Kopp Award for graduate students.

The W. LaMarr Kopp International Achievement Awards are designed to recognize those at Penn State who make extraordinary contributions to the advancement of the international mission of the university. Four awards are given annually in the categories of undergraduate student, graduate student, staff member and faculty member. Criteria for the awards include leadership and support for international education, service to the international community, and research with a significant international component. Each award carries \$1,000 in cash and a plaque.

According to Deanna Behring, director of international programs for the college, Moore and Dunn are well known for working with universities in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. "I can think of few other individuals at Penn State who have worked so tirelessly and for so many years to

continued on page 2

From Dean Steele...

Just as certain as spring arriving in March, the month of February brought us snowy, cold weather as well as proposals from President Bush on next year's federal budget and from Governor Rendell on next year's budget for Pennsylvania.

Considering the massive debt we face in dealing with our federal budget, Bush's budget proposal to Congress has some encouraging details in it for some programs, such as competitive grants, important to our college. However, he has proposed some major restructuring and cuts to extension and research base programs. This gives us a base upon which we can work with our advocates in Congress for providing further modest increases to the research and extension programs in our college. These activities are already in high gear.

But as the snail's pace of last year's federal budget deliberation reminds us, there is much yet to happen, and it will be a number of months before all the details are worked out. The massive federal debt cloud we are under, as well as the commitment to make major changes in federal earmarks, will make this particularly challenging. Finally, this being a presidential-election year coupled with all of the above make any predictions of outcome at this time a wild guess at best.

The budget that Governor Rendell proposed to Pennsylvania's General Assembly is for the sixth year in a row a major challenge for all line items including the agricultural research and agricultural extension lines. All proposed increases to Penn State are lumped into the Education and General line (what we most often call our teaching budget). This equates to a less than 1 percent increase for the university overall.

continued on page 3

Häagen-Dazs Gift to Support College's Honey Bee Research

As the pollination season approaches in Pennsylvania and the Northeast, scientists at Penn State and elsewhere continue to seek answers to the decline of the nation's honey bees and other pollinators, which are critical to the production of \$15 billion worth of crops in the United States. To assist in this effort, a major ice cream brand has stepped up to support honey-bee research and education.

Häagen-Dazs has announced a gift of \$150,000 toward honey-bee-related programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences. The college has taken a lead role in investigating the cause or causes of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a mysterious ailment that has decimated honey bee colonies across the country over the last 18 months.

Häagen-Dazs also will contribute \$100,000 to the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility at the University of California, Davis.

The donations are part of the company's "Häagen-Dazs Loves Honey Bees" consumer education

continued on page 3



▲ A team under the direction of Dennis vanEngelsdorp, senior extension associate in entomology, inspects commercial honey bee colonies for signs of disease.

Familiar Faces

QUESTION: *Despite what seems like solid scientific evidence that the Earth is getting warmer, the debate over global warming rages. What do you think?*



Bruce Lord, senior research assistant, School of Forest Resources

"Evidence [of warming] is irrefutable. The real question is man's contribution and what would be the cost of

man's impact. But to quote a colleague of mine: 'You don't need global warming to argue against putting crap out into the environment.'"



Anna Marie Nachman, administrative assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics

"I believe that common sense will tell you, if we keep pumping harmful

things into the environment, it's bound to have a negative effect. I think we should all take personal responsibility to be good stewards of our Earth."



Greg Hansen, professor of agricultural finance

"Science still has a long way to go to determine the human impact on climate and climate change. We need a marshal plan for energy because the

crisis is more about energy. We need to push usage of solar, biofuels and wind energy to help reduce global warming."



Robert Dickerson, program analyst, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences

"Climate is definitely changing and I don't know if it's more natural or if man had an effect, but I lean toward

man's effect because global warming seems to occur rapidly; nature would take longer."



Rose Pruyne, Web administrator, Department of Dairy and Animal Science

"It is ludicrous that there is still a debate despite scientific evidence of global warming. The longer the

debate, the worse the situation will be and the sorrier we will be in the end."



Ellen Johnson, administrative assistant, Entomology Department

"When I was younger, there was snow everywhere. We would play in snow taller than us. Now, you don't

see it as much; our kids barely play in the snow. I agree with the science; the weather is different."

White House Taps PSU Trustee for Ag Appointment

Keith Eckel of Clarks Summit, Pa., a member of the Penn State board of trustees elected by agricultural societies, has been appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development.

Eckel will serve for the remainder of a four-year term expiring in July and an additional four-year term that will expire in 2012. The seven-member board advises the U.S. Agency for International Development on agricultural priorities and issues. USAID is an independent federal government agency that provides economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide.

"Keith Eckel has been a tireless advocate for Pennsylvania and U.S. agriculture for many years," says Robert Steele, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. "We are proud that one of our friends and trustees—and one of Pennsylvania's most respected and effective farm leaders—has been chosen to help guide our nation's international agricultural development programs."

Owner of Fred W. Eckel Sons Farms, which produces tomatoes, sweet corn, corn for grain, pumpkins and wheat, Eckel has been active in agriculture at the local, state and national levels.

He is past president of the Lackawanna County Cooperative Extension Association; a past member of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board and the Governor's Seasonal Farm Labor Committee; past president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau; founder and past vice president of the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperative Extension Associations; and former board member of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association.

Nationally, Eckel is a former member of the board of directors and executive committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation; a former member of the U.S. Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee; charter member of the National Dairy Board; a former member of the U.S. Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee for Fruits and Vegetables and the USDA's Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act Advisory Committee; and vice chairman of the board of directors of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

He has received numerous honors, including the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award; the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Barn Raiser Award; the Honorary County Agent Award from the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents; and the Pennsylvania Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer Award. He was also named "Newsmaker of the Year" by the Scranton Times in 1978.

He was elected to Penn State's board of trustees by delegates from agricultural societies effective July 2001 and was re-elected for a succeeding term.



University Honors...

continued from page 1

promote international understanding," she says. "In truth, there are few agricultural universities in Russia, Ukraine and Serbia, among others, that have not been touched by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences through the hands of these two individuals."

Cameron, of Boalsburg, is a perfect example of how international experiences can shape our youth and create new leaders for tomorrow, notes Behring. He has participated in a short-term study tour in Brazil as part of his International Agriculture minor program, as well as a Spanish-immersion program in Puebla, Mexico, for a semester. He also participated in a summer program in Western Europe and spent the bulk of the summer working for an organization called Crop Life, based in Brussels.

"Brian has capitalized on these experiences and is well on his way to creating a wonderful career for himself," says Behring. "He recently spent this past semester in Washington, D.C., working at the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the liaison for congressional relations for the 2008 Farm Bill."

Joshi, from the State of Uttaranchal in the Himalayan mountains of India, won a Ford Foundation International Fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. at Penn State. He is studying under entomologists Ed Rajotte and Larry Hull, both at University Park campus and the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center at Biglerville, Adams County. His doctoral research focuses on integrated pest management in fruit crops. He currently is studying insect pests in the tree-fruit ecosystem, particularly the codling moth, which is a serious pest of apples, pears and plums in different fruit-growing regions of the world.



Häagen-Dazs Gift...

continued from page 1

campaign aimed at generating awareness among ice cream lovers about the dire situation facing managed and wild pollinators and what can be done to help.

"Häagen-Dazs ice cream is made from the finest all-natural ingredients, and the plight of the honey bee could mean many of the ingredients used in our top flavors, like Vanilla Swiss Almond and Strawberry, would be difficult to source," said Häagen-Dazs brand manager Josh Gellert.

"We are honored to be selected as one of only two institutions to receive gifts from Häagen-Dazs in support of research on CCD and sustainable pollination," says Diana Cox-Foster, Penn State professor of entomology and co-chair of a national working group of CCD researchers. "The funding will enhance our ability to study Colony Collapse Disorder as well as other factors that may be contributing to the decline of pollinators in our ecosystem."

Cox-Foster says Häagen-Dazs' contribution will allow Penn State to purchase two expensive pieces of equipment that will enable faster processing of samples and aid in the molecular detection and identification of viruses, pesticides and other substances potentially harmful to honey bees and other pollinators.

The gift also will support training of graduate and undergraduate students by providing small grants for student research on bee-related topics. "With these grants, students will be able to expand the scope of their projects beyond what otherwise would have been possible," she says.

Häagen-Dazs also has created the Häagen-Dazs Ice Cream Bee Board, an advisory group of university scientists and other beekeeping experts that will provide information on research findings and help develop educational materials for the public.

"This effort is taking a page from the beehive, where all the individuals play a role to make the hive successful," says Bee Board member Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Penn State senior extension associate and acting state apiarist for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

"In this case, we have university and government scientists, the beekeeping industry, and now a major food-industry partner all making contributions to solve serious challenges to pollinator health."

vanEngelsdorp says the outreach component of the Häagen-Dazs program is important for generating awareness

Beyond the Personnel File



▲ **Tom Palchak, Berkey Creamery manager shown in the new Food Science Building.**

Name: Thomas Palchak

Hometown: Lemont

Job title: Manager, Berkey Creamery

Office location: Food Science Building

Working at Penn State: 21 years for the college and Penn State

Spouse: Kay Palchak, laboratory technician in the Animal Diagnostic Lab

Children: Son Joseph, a 2006 graduate of Penn State and Navy ROTC. He is assigned to the guided missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill, stationed in San

Diego; daughter Catherine, a junior at Ursinus College, who is on the swimming team there.

Last book read: "Thunder Below" by Eugene B. Flukey. A riveting true story of the war patrols of the USS Barb during World War II

CD now in your car's player: The Traveling Wilburys; Forty-Licks by the Rolling Stones

Favorite movie: Saving Private Ryan

Favorite actor: Tom Hanks

Favorite musician: A tossup between Bob Dylan and Tom Petty

Favorite food: Stuffed peppers (made with venison)

Favorite restaurant or hangout: Faccia Luna

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing and volunteering in the Boy Scouts of America

Little-known claim to fame: Recipient of the St. George emblem from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting; broke the rule to serve mixed flavors of ice cream to President Clinton during his first visit to Penn State.

Things you are proudest of: Our two children

How you relax: Read books and spend as much time in the great outdoors as humanly possible.

Favorite part of job: Working with such terrific people in the Creamery.

and support. "It's critical that the public understand that the honey bee is a keystone species that is an indicator of environmental health," he says, noting that the gift will support development of an online, native-bee photo identification catalog for the Mid-Atlantic region to help people recognize pollinators when they encounter them.

Public education also will be served by the creation of educational programs to be delivered by Penn State Master Gardeners, who will instruct homeowners and gardeners on establishing pollinator-friendly plantings. "Loss of habitat and flowering plants is an important factor in the decline of pollinators," says Bee Board member Robert Berghage, Penn State associate professor of horticulture. "By growing 'bee gardens,' individuals can contribute to pollinator health by providing the food sources these insects need to survive and thrive."



From the Dean...

continued from page 1

The Governor has proposed a 2 percent decrease for agricultural research or extension, essentially the amount that the Legislature added back to our budget for the current fiscal year. There is much work to do, and we in the college and at Penn State are hard at work to build this support in the Legislature for our programs. We will need your help in having the university and its advocates speaking with one strong and effective voice. We will keep you posted on developments as they occur both at the state and federal levels.

Finally, the current student-recruitment season is in full swing and, once again, our college numbers at this juncture continue to be strong. Many thanks for your great work helping us to make young people aware of the exciting programs in our college and the exciting job and career opportunities that exist.



Up and Coming...

▼ **March 1.** Pennsylvania Holstein Convention Sale, Ag Arena, UP. Starts at noon. Contact Ken Raney, (814) 234-0364.

▼ **March 4-6.** Professional Crop Producers Conference, Penn Stater Conference Center, State College, Pa. Contact Conferences and Short Courses at (814) 865-8301.

▼ **March 10-13.** Lumber Grading Conference, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Mike Powell, (814) 863-1113.

▼ **March 15-16.** Winning Ways Quarter Horse Clinic, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Pat Comerford, (814) 863-3657.

▼ **March 22.** "Wild About Animals," 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Ag Arena, UP (Sponsored by Centre Wildlife Care and the Penn State Pre-Vet Club). Contact Robyn Graboski, (814) 692-0004.

▼ **March 29.** Penn State Beef Exposition, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Glenn Eberly, (814) 238-2527.

▼ **April 5.** Spring Judging Workout, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Ag Arena, UP. Contact Dan Kniffen, (814) 865-7809.



Faculty/Staff Alerts

Call for Nominations for Staff Laureate Awards

The Office of Human Resource Services is now seeking nominations for the Staff Laureate Awards, an awards program initiated by the Staff Advisory Committee. Nominations will be accepted through **April 1**. Five annual awards have been established to recognize and honor staff: the Trailblazer Award, the Ambassador Award, the Customer Service Award, the Leadership Award and the Spirit Award.

Staff members within an administrative, academic or service unit who are classified under the SPEC or Competencies programs, the Union-University Agreement with Teamsters Local #8, or wage payroll in the earned time program are eligible.

Information on the nomination process and the criteria for the awards is available from Human Resource Services, 306 Agricultural Administration Building or online at <http://ohr.cas.psu.edu>.

Please note that the Staff Advisory Committee will not accept team nominations for any award. For more information about the Staff Laureate Awards Program, contact the Human Resource Services office at (814) 863-3452.

Outstanding Office Professional Award

Penn State Educational Office Professionals is seeking nominations for the 2008 Outstanding Office Professional Award. The award recognizes office employees who have provided exceptional meritorious service on behalf of Penn State. The recipient will be recognized at the group's annual reception to be held in May and will be presented with a \$200 cash award, a gift, a framed certificate and a one-year membership in PSEOP. Two honorable mentions will also be selected and recognized. Each will receive a \$50 cash award, a framed certificate and a one-year membership in PSEOP.

All current Penn State office support staff (except officers and board members of PSEOP) with a minimum of three years' full-time university service are eligible. Nominees will be evaluated on professionalism, initiative, leadership skills, self-improvement and volunteerism. Nominations are due March 31. Visit the PSEOP Web page at http://www.psu.edu/org/PSEOP/oopa_type.pdf for a nomination form. For more information, contact Shelby Hoy at (814) 863-1864 or slh4@psu.edu.

Statewide Training Opportunities from Information Technologies

Information Technologies, which conducts in-services, on-site sessions and online training opportunities open to all personnel in the college, is offering a wide variety of trainings over the next few months.

For the complete list of topics, dates and times, along with a description about these trainings, please visit the Web site at <http://it.cas.psu.edu/TechTraining.htm> and click on "Scheduled Training." To register or to see more information, click on the topic, enter your information, and click "Submit." Each class must have a minimum of six registrants five days before the session to hold the training, so register as soon as possible.

The following classes are being offered (all classes are online via Breeze unless noted otherwise):

–PowerPoint 07 Basics (two-session class), March 11 and March 18

–PowerPoint 07 Basics (two face-to-face sessions): March 19 in Lehigh County, March 20 in Northampton County

–Outlook '07 Information Management, March 20

–Excel 07 Basics (two-session class), March 12 and March 19, April 2 and April 9, May 8 and May 15

–Outlook 07 Meeting Management, March 20

–Online Survey Tool - Hands-on Workshop (two-session class), March 19 and April 2, May 21 and June 4

–Create a Podcast (face-to-face sessions), April 1, Bedford County, April 23, Cumberland County



On the Move...

New Faces

Janette Cohen, extension educator in Susquehanna County

Francisco Diaz, assistant professor in poultry science

Jeremy Hoffman, information technology specialist in veterinary and biomedical sciences

Joy Pate, professor in dairy and animal science

Xinshun Qu, research assistant in plant pathology

Jonathan Rotz, assistant extension educator in Cumberland County

Lillian Russell-Burnett, nutrition education advisor in Luzerne County

Rebecca Ziegler, Staff Assistant V in the Creamery

Promotions

Darlene Berry, staff assistant VII in crop and soil sciences

Peter Kauffman, manager of visual communications in communications and marketing

Madeline Laubach, staff assistant V in crop and soil sciences

Kimberlee McClelland, accounting assistant III in cooperative extension administration

Debra Rowley, senior budget analyst in administrative services

Craig Story, programmer/analyst in administrative services

Laurie Yearick, staff assistant VII in communications and marketing

Kristen Saacke Blunk, senior extension associate in agricultural economics and rural sociology

Partings

Lydia Everhart, youth program management coordinator in agricultural and extension education

Amanda Hoffman, assistant extension educator in Cambria County

Stephen Menke, extension educator in Adams County

Retirements

Kathy Barr, administrative assistant IV in crop and soil sciences

Tom Doman, research support associate in veterinary and biomedical sciences



More About Us...

Deaths

Royal Kline, milk processor in food science from 1953 until his retirement in 1981, died Jan. 6 at the age of 83.

Janet Marie (Nixon) Scalzi, an administrative assistant in the Office of International Programs from 1986 to 1992, died Jan. 18 at the age of 75.



Comments...

If you have comments about this issue of *Ag Sciences 2008* or suggestions for future issues, please call Jeff Mulhollem at (814) 863-2719 or send e-mail to jjm29@psu.edu. Send Back Page items to Gary Abdullah at gxa2@psu.edu.

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