



AG SCIENCES 2009

A Monthly Newsletter for the College of Agricultural Sciences

April 2009

News in Brief

Forest Products Assoc. Expo May 29-30

The college is partnering with the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association to host the association's bi-annual trade exposition, May 29-30. The Timber 2009 Forest Products Equipment and Technology Exposition will be held at the Ag Progress Days site at Rock Springs.

For more information, visit the Web at <http://live.psu.edu/story/38203>.

Haagen-Dazs makes 2nd gift

Last year, the college and all-natural, superpremium ice cream manufacturer Haagen-Dazs teamed up to investigate Colony Collapse Disorder, a mysterious ailment that has decimated honeybee colonies across the United States.

This year, Haagen-Dazs has expanded that partnership with a second gift of \$125,000 to support ongoing and additional research and educational programs related to honeybees.

The new funds will support a variety of projects. For more, visit the Web at <http://live.psu.edu/story/37918>.

New regs to reduce farm-odor conflicts

New regulations to manage the impact of livestock farm odors, which took effect in late February, should limit nuisance complaints and community conflicts, according to a Penn State Cooperative Extension expert.

Under the new law, certain regulated livestock facilities building new animal barns or manure-storage facilities must develop and implement an odor-management plan if construction began on or after Feb. 27. The plan must be approved by the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission.

For more, visit the Web at <http://live.psu.edu/story/37922>.

McPherson Named Incoming Dean

Bruce McPherson, associate dean for research and graduate education in the college and director of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, has been appointed dean of the college, effective July 1. He will succeed Robert Steele, who is stepping down after 12 years to return full-time to the college's faculty as a professor in the Department of Food Science.

"Bruce is an outstanding scholar and teacher with proven leadership skills and is an excellent choice for the position," said Executive Vice President and Provost Rod Erickson. "His deep knowledge of Penn State and various land-grant universities gives him

an invaluable understanding of the great potential of this college."

McPherson earned a bachelor of science degree in entomology at The Ohio State University, and a master's degree in biology and doctoral degree in entomology, both at the University of Illinois. He began his teaching career at Penn State in 1988 as assistant professor of entomology, and became associate professor in 1994 and professor in 2000. In 2002 he was named to his current position as associate dean and director of the agricultural experiment station.

For more information, visit the Web at <http://live.psu.edu/story/38457>. ■



▲ Bruce McPherson

'Extension Memories' Book Available

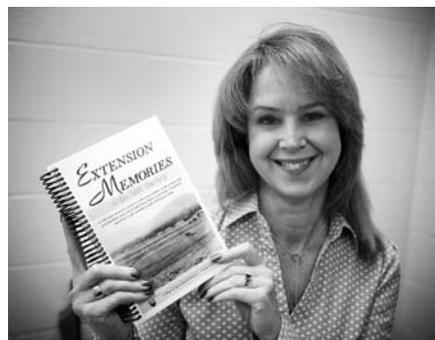
More than 100 years of history of Cooperative Extension in Pennsylvania—as recalled in stories by 100 retired and current extension agents, educators and administrators—is covered in a new book

titled "Extension Memories of the 20th Century" available from the college.

With a foreword by Guy Temple, professor emeritus of cooperative extension, the 324-page volume is a collection of more than 200 short stories, arranged into eight themes: Philosophy, Humor, History, Nostalgia, Achievement, Contributions to Society, Effective Programs and Personalities. The Nostalgia chapter features more than 20 old black-and-white photographs.

Temple, who retired in Union County in 1993, was the driving force behind the project. He worked as a county extension agent for years, involved mostly

(continued on page 3)



▲ Darlene Jury

Familiar Faces

QUESTION: Now that Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) went into effect in March, will you be paying more attention to where your food comes from? Do you think it is important to know where your food is grown? Why?



Kay Christine, staff assistant, Pa. Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

“Yes, because of my health issues it’s important for me to know what goes into my food and where it comes from to understand how it can affect my health.”



Laurie Schoonhoven, staff support assistant/grants coordinator, Forest Resources

“Yes, because supporting local agriculture is important to me as well as supporting the United States economy. I also personally believe that foods grown locally have a higher nutritional value.”



Dwight Lingenfelter, extension associate, Crop and Soil Sciences

“Initially, it probably won’t pose a great concern for me. However, I will be concerned down the line and will be continually monitoring food-safety issues over the years. I believe our country still has some of the safest food standards.”



William Curran, professor of weed science, Crop and Soil Sciences

“Yes, I will be looking at labels because I think that it is a very positive change. I often wondered where my food came from and wish this had happened sooner. I prefer to consume food grown locally or from within Pennsylvania.”



Devin Peterson, associate professor of food science

“Probably in the practical sense, it is not going to matter to me. Food-safety issues occur everywhere, not just in certain countries. There are probably more food-safety issues in your kitchen than there are based on country of origin.”

Jan Scholl Creates 4-H Research Database

Jan Scholl had heard the claim made over the years: The research base undergirding the 4-H youth-development program was inadequate for 4-H to be considered a serious scholarly endeavor, endangering its future viability. But her instincts told her this wasn’t true, so she set out to disprove the premise.

After searching through stacks and stacks of material at the National Agricultural Library and its archives in Beltsville, Md., Scholl documented a rich storehouse of 4-H research, which she subsequently indexed in an online database. Since its inception, this resource has been used by hundreds of scholars around the country to write literature reviews, develop projects and evaluate programs.

“When I heard people questioning the intellectual rigor of the 4-H program, I wondered whether it was possible that no one had tried to find these research and evaluation studies,” said Scholl, associate professor of agricultural and extension education. “I set out to locate and document all research studies about the 4-H program, starting with graduate theses, since these were most prevalent in library systems.”

In 2003, Scholl located 1,600 studies dating to 1911, indexed them in the database by author, title, date, degree and college or university and published them in a bibliography. The following year, she published a second edition, adding 1,800 studies to the database. Those efforts

also led to an article in the *Journal of Extension*.

In 2005 and 2006, the National Agricultural Library provided funds to move the database online (<http://apps.libraries.psu.edu/agnic>), and during the following two years, 1,000 state, national and experiment station studies and 100 additional graduate studies were added with many abstracts.

“Finding the studies was difficult because 4-H is cited in various ways throughout the world, and the characters also are found in many chemical compounds,” Scholl explained. “In addition, most of the studies were not in library databases, and reviewing the original materials was tedious and sometimes hazardous because some documents were sprayed with chemical preservatives and/or insecticides to preserve them in archival settings.”

But the end result was worth the work, according to Scholl, who was assisted by Amy Paster, head of the life sciences section at Penn State’s Paterno Library. “The database is a significant and long-term contribution to the 4-H program,” she said. “We now have about 4,500 studies representing 130 institutions worldwide—including at least 15 new studies every year since 1954.

“Now when people ask, we can say that 4-H does indeed have a research base, and it will continue to grow stronger as we add studies to the database.” ■



▲ Jan Scholl

From Dean Steele

The University's Board of Trustees at its March meeting confirmed the appointment of Dr. Bruce McPherson as our new dean of the college, effective July 1. I know that you join me in congratulating Bruce and committing to work with him over the next three months as he makes the transition into his new role. The search and screen committee, chaired by Bill Easterling, dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, is to be congratulated for conducting a highly efficient and effective search and screen of the numerous candidates who applied.

With the end of "March Madness" on the basketball court and the upcoming Blue-White spring football game, Penn State sports enthusiasts are already looking ahead to the next season. The same is true in our student-recruitment process. Applications to the university continue to be strong, and our college applications are holding strong as well. Although there is still quite some time for students to make their final college choice, we expect to see stable if not slightly higher enrollment next year in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Most of our current activity is focused on securing acceptances from the who have been offered admission. I know that a number of you are helping in this regard and these efforts are indeed appreciated.

This past month, we saw the passage of the federal omnibus budget bill to fund the current federal fiscal year. Overall, there is good news to report in that the USDA base programs for research, instruction and extension saw an increase generally between 5 and 6 percent. Progress on the federal budget front for next fiscal year continues to move slowly.

The annual state budget process has kicked off in the commonwealth with President Spanier's testimony at the appropriation committee hearings and our recent Capitol Day event in Harrisburg. More than 170 of our advocates descended upon the capitol to carry our budget message to every legislative office. By every measure, the day was a big success.

Our message is simple and direct: hold our base research and extension lines to the same funding as this past year and direct \$3 million each of federal stimulus funds to our research and extension lines. A one-page document describing this request can be found on our college Web site (agsci.psu.edu/college-relations/agcouncil, click on College Budget Request 2009). ■



Name: Catherine (Nettles) Cutter (aka Cathy Cutter).

Hometown: Born in Washington, D.C., lived in Virginia, New Jersey, and South Carolina but spent formative years in Simsbury, Conn.

Job title: Associate professor of food science; food-safety extension specialist.

Office: Room 433 Food Science Building. "I have an awesome view of the mountains from my office window."

Working at Penn State: More than nine years in the college.

Spouse: Husband Les, an accountant with Boyer and Ritter CPA in State College.

Children: Andrew, 14, and Emily, 11. Both attend Park Forest Middle School. "They are avid bowlers and play or referee for Centre Soccer Association."

Pets: Two indoor cats, Lukas, 13 years old, and Lily, one year old.

Last book read: "Currently, my kids and I are reading the 'Warriors' series together."

CD in your car's player: Van Halen's Greatest Hits

Favorite music: "I am a classic rock fanatic—Moody Blues, AC/DC, Journey, Aerosmith, etc."

Favorite actor: "John Cusak. I've seen most of his movies (even the bad ones). He tends to play quirky characters."

All-time favorite movie: Raiders of the Lost Ark.

Favorite food: Chocolate.

Favorite hang-out: Home (backyard, deck or porch).

Hobbies: "Bowling, collecting cows (I have an extensive collection in my office), gardening, antiquing, reading and cooking."

Little-known claim to fame: "I rowed (eights, fours and sculls) in high school and college."

Things you are proudest of: "My family and my students."

How you relax: "Reading a good book at the beach with the sound of the waves in the background."

Favorite part of job: "I learn something new every day."

'Extension Memories' Book . . . *(continued from page 1)*

in community, economic and rural development. "After spending almost 40 years with extension, the book was a labor of love," he says. "I reviewed all the stories as they came in, but Darlene Jury at University Park actually did the editing and put the book together."

For her part, Jury, an administrative support assistant in the Cooperative Extension director's office, recalls that the book was a year and a half in the making, although the entire project probably spanned twice that period. "I organized

and edited the stories and designed the book," she says.

Copies of "Extension Memories of the 20th Century" are available for \$10 (plus \$5 for U.S. shipping and handling) from the college's Publications Distribution Center.

For ordering information, call (814) 865-6713 or visit the college's publications Web site at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu>. To order using Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover, call (877) 345-0691 toll-free. (Pennsylvania residents pay 6 percent sales tax.) ■

Up and Coming...

- April 4.** Spring Bargain Fling, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Dale Olver, (814) 863-3914.
- April 6-9.** Log Grading Conference, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Mike Powell, (814) 863-1113.
- April 11.** 10th Annual "Wild About Animals," Ag Arena, UP. Contact Robyn Graboski, (814) 692-0004.
- April 12.** Easter.
- April 18.** Little International Livestock Show and Penn State Dairy Expo, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Dale Olver, (814) 863-3914.
- April 25.** Penn State Equine Show and Quarter Horse Sale, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Brian Egan, (814) 863-0569.
- May 2-3.** Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Jay Holcomb, (814) 863-2258.
- May 9-12.** AAUW Used Book Sale, Ag Arena, UP. Daily 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Contact AAUW, (814) 235-6884.

FACULTY/STAFF ALERTS

Confined-Space Entry

Being trapped or injured in a confined space is a serious hazard in the workplace. Any area in the work place is considered a confined space if it is large enough and configured so that an employee can bodily enter to perform work, has limited or restricted openings for entry/exit and is not designed for continuous human occupancy. This generally limits confined spaces to those entered infrequently or periodically for inspection, maintenance, cleaning or repair.

Examples of confined spaces include, but are not limited to, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, pits more than 4 feet deep, boilers, compartments, ducts, sewers, pipelines, distribution tunnels, manholes, grease traps, dumpster trucks, trenches and dike areas. There are permit-required and non-permit-required confined spaces. You should always be aware of and follow confined-space entry procedures. Find more information online at http://www.opp.psu.edu/safety/restricted_entry/confined_space.cfm.

April OPD Learning Lunch

Get answers to the most commonly asked questions about your computer and the Outreach and Penn State networks at the April 2009 Outreach Professional Development Learning Lunch, titled "Where's the "ANY" Key?!" Join Mat Barndt and Dave Langton from Outreach Technical Support on April 8 from noon until 1:30 p.m. at 119 Outreach Building and walk away with a better understanding of OTS policies, how your computer and the university systems work, and self-help resources.

Barndt is a recent graduate and produced the podcasts used in the presentation. Langton has been with the OTS team for several years as coordinator of the OTS Support Center. Video teleconference participation is available for employees outside of the University Park campus for this event. To participate from a remote location, contact Outreach Professional Development at opdevents@outreach.psu.edu or call Amy Gregor at (814) 863-4966. A list of Penn State VTC locations is available online at <http://tnstest.its.psu.edu/videoconferencing/videoConfRoomsContactList.asp>.

Upcoming Information Technology Training

CAS Information Technologies is offering a wide variety of free training opportunities for faculty and staff over the next few months. See the complete list of topics, descriptions, dates and times for these trainings online at <http://it.cas.psu.edu/TechTraining.htm>. At least six staff members must be registered to hold the training, so please register as soon as possible. All courses below are offered via Adobe Connect.

"Adobe Connect (Breeze)—Getting Started"

"Adobe Connect (Breeze)—I'm a Host, What Do I Do?"

"Create a Blog"

"Creating Multimedia Presentations with Adobe Presenter"

"Dreamweaver for County Offices" (three-part series)

"Online Survey Tools—A Hands-on Workshop" (two-part series)

"PowerPoint 2007 Basics" (two-part series)

"Using SharePoint 2007"—two-and-a-half-hour sessions

"Using SharePoint 2007"—one-hour sessions: Document Library, Picture Library, Tasks, Calendar, Contacts, or Announcement and Link.

"Site Administrators Seminars": Creating New Web Parts, Creating Sites, Customizing the Quick Launch, Understanding Permissions and Groups, and Working with Web Parts.

Also available are the eXtension's professional development opportunities, which are open to all Cooperative Extension faculty, staff and employees. No preregistration is required. For detailed information go to http://about.extension.org/wiki/Schedule_of_Professional_Development_Opportunities. CAS IT also has various self-paced learning opportunities and on-demand trainings available at its Technologies and Training page at <http://it.cas.psu.edu/TechTraining.htm>.

ON THE MOVE

New Faces

Susan Valimont, senior salesroom attendant in the Berkey Creamery.

William Waltman, extension educator in Potter County.

Jessica Whitesell, extension program educator in Elk County.

Partings

Allen Saylor, research support technician I in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences.

MORE ABOUT US

Births

Emily Mae Kirsten was born on March 18 to **Amanda Rudisill Kirsten**, publications supervisor in Communications and Marketing and husband Todd Kirsten.

Deaths

Donald Crider, professor emeritus of rural sociology from 1967 until his retirement in 1992, died Jan. 28 at the age of 84.

Harold Doran, associate professor of agricultural education and agricultural economics from 1966 until his retirement in 1992, died Feb. 16. He was 88.

Harold Neigh, associate professor of consumer economics from 1956 until his retirement in 1986, died Feb. 18 at the age of 82.

Robert A. Aldrich, professor of agricultural engineering from 1962 until 1979, died March 10 at the age of 84.

Noteworthy

Richard Marini, professor and head of the Department of Horticulture, was invited to the University of Illinois in March to present a seminar titled "Transitioning the Fruit Industry: Challenges and Opportunities for the 21st Century." While there, he also met with graduate students, extension workers and extension administrators to discuss developing statewide horticultural extension programs by linking campus-based faculty with field extension staff.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.

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We're on the Web: agsci.psu.edu