From Dean Steele...

This year’s Farm Show likely will be most remembered for the exceptionally mild weather, even more pleasant than last year! The warm weather translated to record crowds visiting the hundreds of exhibits and displays.

Strong crowds were evident every day of the show. Our college displays were spectacular and were visited by thousands of people of all ages. A special thank you to the many (more than 150) college faculty, staff and students who made this show another great success.

All of us in the college are particularly proud of the recognition that one of our own, professor Jim Tumlinson from our Department of Entomology, received by being awarded the Wolf Prize in Agriculture—without question the world’s most prestigious award in agriculture. Please read more about this fantastic news in the story at right. The entire university congratulates Dr. Tumlinson on this accomplishment.

February brings the presentation of President Bush’s federal budget to the Congress in Washington, D.C., and Gov. Rendell’s proposed commonwealth budget to the General Assembly in Harrisburg. Hopefully, we will be able to build upon the strong support that we continue to cultivate from our state and federal legislators.

Uncertainties at both the state and federal levels remain, and it will be a long haul in the months ahead to solidify our budgets. We will keep you posted as events transpire, and we will be calling on many of you from time to time to help us in our advocacy efforts.

Entomologist Wins the Prestigious Wolf Prize

A researcher in the college is the recipient of the prestigious 2008 Wolf Prize in Agriculture for his scientific contributions in the field of chemical ecology.

Jim Tumlinson, the Ralph O. Mumma Endowed Professor of Entomology and director of the university’s Center for Chemical Ecology, was honored for his work that, according to the Wolf Foundation, has “fostered the development of integrated pest management and significantly advanced agricultural sustainability.”

A former leader of the Insect Chemistry Research Group at the Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service, Tumlinson is the second Penn Stater to win a Wolf Prize. The other was John Almquist, professor emeritus of dairy physiology, who was honored nearly three decades ago for his contributions in the study of reproductive systems in cattle.

According to the recent announcement by the Wolf Foundation, this year Tumlinson will share the $100,000 Wolf Prize in Agriculture with two other scientists, one in the United States and the other in Britain. Israel’s Education Minister, Yuli Tamir, who

“Reporting from the Farm Show...”

While an estimated 400,000 plus attended the 2008 Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg last month, potentially hundreds of thousands—or even millions—more across the state and beyond kept up to date with show news and judging results, thanks to a team from our college.

The Farm Show Radio Committee, on behalf of the state Department of Agriculture, annually provides two packages of radio news feeds to more than 70 radio stations and networks. “We have dozens of very loyal stations that sign up year after year,” says Chuck Gill, the college’s news coordinator, who chairs the Radio Committee. “The feeds give us an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of agriculture and our food system. And because our reporters and

continued on page 2
**Biofuels Summit In Ukraine Attracts Wide Attention**

The first International Summit on Biofuels Research and Business Opportunities in Ukraine, organized by Penn State and sponsored by the Woskob New Century Fund, was deemed a success by the dean of the college.

“The summit is an early step in Ukraine bringing its vast agricultural resources to bear on solving the country’s energy problems,” says Robert Steele, who was a panelist in several of the sessions. Extensive research programs in biofuel development are ongoing in the college.

The event, which attracted 125 participants from 12 countries, was held in Kyiv Dec. 9-11. It included two days of presentations and a field trip to a biofuel plant in the nearby city of Poltava. The summit agenda covered government policy issues, regional perspectives and an overview of the biofuel industry in the European Union, legal issues and market development.

Participants learned about cropping systems, traditional biofuel processing and new production methods involving cellulosic ethanol and alternative feedstocks, such as perennial grasses and lotus. The summit also focused on equipment and technologies, feedstock challenges, price competitiveness of biofuels, fuel crop insurance practices and impacts on the farming sector and the environment.

“Summit participants concluded that use of traditional fuels along with biofuels would improve energy supplies and reduce dependence on oil resources,” Steele says. “They also concluded that biofuel should not be viewed as an alternative to traditional fuel in the Ukraine. Instead, it should be viewed as complementary, and producers of both types of fuels should not be competitors.”

Further development of the Ukrainian biofuel market is possible only if all players work together, summit participants concluded. They agreed to form a group to start negotiations with representatives of the country’s fuel and energy sectors to establish an energy business union that would unite biofuel producers, producers of raw materials for biofuels and traditional fuel producers.

Among presenters at the summit were Tom Richard, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering and director of the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment; Greg Roth, agronomy professor and biofuels expert; and Glen Cauffman, manager of farm operations and facilities who was named a biofuel pioneer by a Pennsylvania environmental group last year. Helen Woskob, George Woskob and Larissa Woskob also presented at the opening of the conference.

**Entomologist Wins... continued from page 1**

chairs the foundation’s council, announced the winners of the prizes, which will be presented by President Shimon Peres at a special ceremony at the Knesset on May 25.

As a chemist interested in biological and agricultural systems, Tumlinson has studied chemicals that affect insect behavior. His laboratory has identified insect pheromones and other “semiochemicals,” investigated the biochemical mechanisms by which chemical signals are produced and released by insects, and studied the behavioral responses, including learned responses, of insects to chemical cues. Recently, Tumlinson has been investigating the interactions among herbivorous insects, their host plants and their natural enemies. His work has emphasized the development of fundamental knowledge and principles that can be applied in environmentally safe pest-management programs.

“The research recognized by this award was conducted over at least three decades by numerous really excellent students and research associates, and in collaboration with Joe Lewis, a co-recipient of this prize, and other colleagues,” says Tumlinson. “It has been an interdisciplinary team effort. No one person or laboratory alone could have accomplished this.

“I have been lucky to have enjoyed the support and cooperation of a great team of people,” he adds. “It is gratifying to receive this award recognizing the contributions of our team toward the development of environmentally sound, sustainable pest-management systems.”

Robert Steele, dean of the college, credits Tumlinson with helping to “put Penn State on the map” in chemical ecology. “We absolutely are thrilled to see him get this very prestigious and highly deserved worldwide recognition for his groundbreaking work in this important and exciting area of science,” he says. “Jim Tumlinson is the linchpin in our expanding program in chemical ecology here at Penn State.”

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**Familiar Faces**

**QUESTION: Late winter is a perfect time to be thinking about a vacation. If you could go anywhere you wanted, where would you go? And where will you actually be vacationing this year?**

**SuzanneBienert, e-learning coordinator, IT**

“I would go to an all-inclusive resort that allows kids in Jamaica. But for right now, we are planning to travel to the Grand Canyon and take an adventure down the Colorado River.”

**Bob Conn, coordinator of information technology services, AERS**

“I would take a cruise to Sweden so I can stay in the talked-about ice hotel, sit at the ice bar and have a drink. This year I am going to St. Petersburg, Fla., to see the Gulf of Mexico for spring break.”

**Emily Hand, graduate assistant for recruitment**

“I would travel to Florida to spend time with family if I could leave right now. In March, I am going to Costa Rica, which I should be spending my days dreaming about!”

**Tom Laird, graphic designer, ABE**

“I would want to see Ayerock, Australia, because my nephew traveled there and he said it’s a unique place. This summer, I will probably go to Myrtle Beach, S.C., and maybe take some day trips.”

**Erin Lesser, staff assistant, Administrative Services**

“I would go to Disney World right now because it wouldn’t be as hot as during the summer. Right now, I don’t have anything planned; I’m a spontaneous person but I will travel somewhere this year.”

**David Love, coordinator, farms/greenhouses, Ent.**

“I would want to go to Hawaii and see if it’s as hyped up as people make it. I am traveling to the New England states in June to climb Mount Washington and eat lobster in Maine.”

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many of the experts we interview for stories are Penn Staters, the college receives a lot of valuable exposure.”

The Farm Show radio “network” typically includes stations in most regions of the state, as well as in Maryland and Virginia. Radio Pennsylvania network (60 affiliates in Pennsylvania), New York-based Ag Radio Network (71 affiliates in New York, Vermont, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware), and Family Life Network (64 outlets in New York and Pennsylvania), also distributed or utilized feeds this year.

The most popular feed package among radio stations provides “live” news and judging results, customized with information on local winners from each station’s listening area. These reports are delivered via phone by two teams of reporters, comprised mostly of county extension educators, stationed in the complex’s Main Exhibits Hall and arenas. “Stations and their listeners love the local flavor and ambient sound that these feeds provide—they almost give you the sense that you’re there at the show,” says Gill.

College news staff also produce a daily package of pre-recorded news summaries and features, written generically to air anywhere in the state and delivered via satellite and Web-based mp3 files. These stories highlight scheduled events and interesting or unusual aspects of the Farm Show and Pennsylvania agriculture.

Gill notes that the college has a long tradition of radio broadcasting at the Farm Show. “Pattee Library has recordings of extension educators doing broadcasts from the Farm Show in the 1940s,” he says. “Although broadcasting technology has changed dramatically since then, the basic thirst for information about the show and what it represents seems to have remained largely intact over the generations.”

Serving as arena reporters on this year’s Radio Committee were Susan Boser, Louise Bugbee, Judy Chambers, Jim Clark, Norm Conrad, Josh Fair, Don Fretts, Mary Alice Gettings, Nancy Kadwill, Rick Kauffman, Darlene Jury, Robin Kuleck, Jerry Martin, Nina Redding and Leon Ressler.

Other committee members were Gary Abdullah (prerecorded news/features); Jeff Mulhollem and Rose Pruyne (news writers), Vince Verbeke (IT support and database developer) and Kim Yearick (audio technician).

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**Beyond the Personnel File**

Children: Andrea Taylor, Brookville area; Kristen Luckovich Gresh, Bald Eagle area; Shannon Luckovich, South Pasadena, Cal.; Ryan Shuffstall, Conneaut Lake, Pa.; Drew Cingel, a sophomore at Penn State; and four grandchildren.

Pets: Elli and Flash—“two very special-needs dogs that my daughter rescued.”

**Last Book read:** “SEND—The Essential Guide to E-mail for Office and Home,” by David Shipley and Will Schwalbe

**CDs now in your car’s player:** Poverty-Neck Hillbillies, John Mellencamp and Bruce Springsteen

**Favorite movie:** “Don’t laugh—anything Disney. Love watching them with the grandkids.”

**Favorite actor:** Melanie Griffith

**Favorite food:** Pizza

**Favorite hangout:** Hofbrau in Bellefonte

**Hobbies:** Quilting, Penn State sports, long motorcycle rides

**Little-known claim to fame:** Ridden motorcycle to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Colorado and Key West.

**Things you are proudest of:** Kids and grandkids.

**How you relax:** Hot tub and wine

**Favorite part of job:** “Working with educators to help them integrate technology into their programs.”

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**eXtension Conference Scheduled**

As part of the 2008 USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum, Feb. 21–22 in Washington, D.C., eXtension will be featuring progress on 16 new online information sites available through the work of eXtension Communities of Practice.

These Web sites offer real-time information from university specialists, extension educators, and members of the public and business communities who are applying and expanding information on a variety of topics in everyday settings. At both local and national levels, these Communities of Practice offer participants tips through an electronic “community” for sharing of information.

Nationally, there are now 16 Communities of Practice ranging from agricultural production to entrepreneurship, disaster education, parenting, and lawn and garden information.

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At 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 22, eXtension will feature a “Stump the Expert” event from Washington, D.C., which will be broadcast via Adobe Connect to Penn State and other interested groups around the nation. The college’s information technologies staff members are working with the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service to provide Adobe Connect access to the conference.

In addition to a “central” site on the University Park campus, individuals will be able to join in from their offices. More information on the Adobe Connect event and eXtension will be provided through e-mail and Web updates throughout February. For more information, contact Peg Shuffstall by e-mail at phcl@psu.edu.

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We’re on the Web: www.cas.psu.edu
Promotions
Joyce Cingel, business manager in the Berkey Creamery
Jodi Reed, accounting assistant IV in plant pathology
Kristen Saacke Blunk, senior extension associate in agricultural economics and rural sociology

Partings
James Eby, biological technician at the Southeast Research and Extension Center, Landisville
Joan Haus, staff assistant VI in agricultural economics and rural sociology
Laura MacGregor, staff assistant VI at Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Center
Kristina Ricketts, assistant professor in agricultural and extension education
Richard Stup, associate director in dairy and animal science

Retirements
John Doman, research support associate in veterinary and biomedical sciences
Henry Gerhold, professor in forest resources
Ronald Kensing, professor in dairy and animal science
Barrie Moser, research support technologist III in dairy and animal science
Shannon Stokes, professor in agricultural economics and rural sociology

Deaths
Marsha Shively, a manager of financial and administrative services in the Office of Administrative Services who began her career in the college in 1971, passed away on December 23 at the age of 54.
Richard Earl “Dick” Grubb, retired senior vice president and dean emeritus of the Penn State Commonwealth Educational System (CES) and former Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, died Dec. 13 at the age of 70.

Noteworthy
Catherine Cutter, associate professor of food science, was selected by former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Michael Johanns to serve a two-year appointment on the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection. Established in 1971, the group advises the secretary of agriculture on matters affecting federal and state inspection program activities for meat and poultry. Stephen Knabel, professor of food science, was appointed by Johanns to serve on the National Advisory Committee for the Microbiological Criteria of Food. That group, established in 1988, provides scientific advice on public-health issues related to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply. The committee also assists in the development of microbiological criteria, and reviews and evaluates epidemiological and risk-assessment data, as well as methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards. Knabel is currently on the subcommittee for the “Determination of the Most Appropriate Technologies for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to Adopt in Performing Routine and Baseline Microbiological Analyses.”

Deanna Behring, director of international programs, was recently appointed to Penn State’s Task Force on Globalization of Research and Graduate Education. Behring also was named to the Steering Committee for the Conference of Deans of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges to be held this spring.

Nicole Brown, assistant professor of wood chemistry, received the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teaching Award of Merit as identified by members of the Academy of Teaching Excellence and the Faculty Awards Committee.

Eric Harvill, assistant professor of microbiology and infectious disease in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, has been selected as a member of the National Academy of Science’s National Research Council Committee to Assist the Methodology Used to Determine the Risk of Bioterrorism Attack. The committee evaluated the mathematical approach used to evaluate the risk of bioterrorism attack by every possible means, essentially re-inventing the process.

James Beierlein, professor of agricultural economics, recently published the fourth edition of his college textbook, “Principles of Agribusiness Management,” with Waveland Press. The book is used in conjunction with the Introduction to Agribusiness Management course, which is one of the college’s first mainstream courses to be offered completely online this spring. His co-authors are Kenneth Schneebberger and Donald Osburn, both of the University of Missouri.

Different Look...
You no doubt noticed that this issue of the college newsletter is a bit different than past issues. That’s because the college’s communications team is trying to make it more like you said you wanted in a recent readership survey—more personal with more information for and about your coworkers. What do you think? Send your thoughts to the editor at jjm29@psu.edu.

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.

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