



BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

January 2002, Volume X, Issue 5

NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

by: Wayne Irish, PAAE President

On behalf of the PA Association of Agricultural Educators (PAAE), I hope that you had a peaceful holiday season. Let me congratulate you on making what I think is a great decision. Sure, the hours are sometimes long, but I know the students will someday appreciate your efforts.

On a personal note, I recently had a devastating fire at my home. I lost my home, including all my personal property. When I returned to work I felt that working with the students would keep my mind off the difficult decisions that lay ahead. The members of our FFA chapter organized and worked a benefit bar-b-que on a very cold and wet October Sunday. I was overwhelmed that the students showed such concern. Every time I think of the unselfish acts in this new era of "community," I am very proud to claim to others that I am a TEACHER! This is a great job I have, because the students have taught me how much they care about others.

PAAE is your organization. It exists because of your contributions, both financially and in your interests to become a better teacher. If you have a special need, question, idea, or would like to become more involved with the organization, please contact a regional representative, myself or check out our website, www.paae.org. You will be glad you did it.

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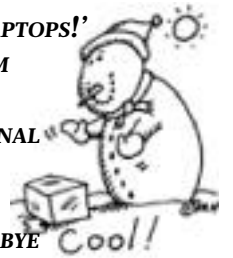
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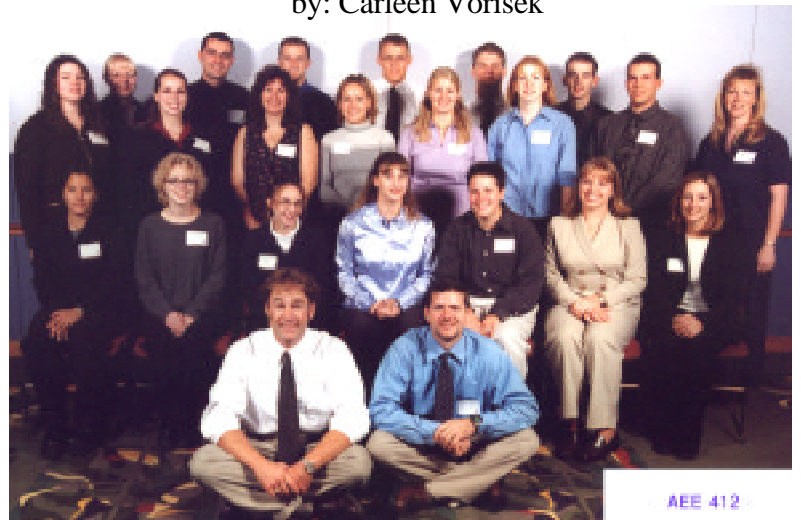
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A New Generation

by: Carleen Vorisek



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It's finally here; the 2002 student teachers have completed the semester of preparatory classes. "I (Carleen) can speak for all of us when I say that we have mixed feelings of excitement and nervousness. However, we are looking forward to the

time, knowledge and experience we hope to gain from working with our cooperating teachers and other school and industry personnel. We are looking forward to the day that we can join the agricultural family in Pennsylvania."

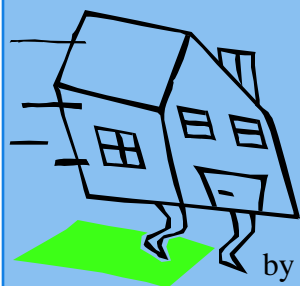
Sites of Interest

Biotechnology: Food & Agriculture

A one-page pdf announcement, highlighting the resources available on the College's Biotechnology website has been developed for your use. Access and print it at: sletter/oct_newsletter.pdf http://biotech.cas.psu.edu/newsletter/oct_newsletter.pdf. We hope that you will review this announcement and then take a careful look at our site and the wide range of resources available that may be accessed directly or through links.

AAAE Website moved

The AAAE website has moved. It is now being maintained at the University of Florida. Jim Dyer continues to be the Webmaster. If you have the old site bookmarked, it will still provide you the link to the new



website, but you can eliminate one step in the process by

bookmarking the new site at the following url: <http://aaaeonline.org>. Thanks to Jim Dyer for his work in this transition.

Exploratory Agriculture

The mission of the Curriculum Materials Service is to provide high-quality, cost-effective educational materials related to food, agricultural, horticultural, and environmental sciences/systems. The vision of the Curriculum Materials Service is to be recognized as the nation's leading curriculum materials distributor for agricultural education. See examples below.

Pizz-a-thon Kit: This kit involves enrichment activities that link students to food and fiber careers. The Pizz-a-thon kit develops skills in team building, communication, science, mathematics, natural resources, and agriculture. This kit includes the Pizz-a-thon handbook, worksheets, Earthworm Empire handbook, and root and earthworm observation chamber.

Earthworm Empire: The Living Soil, teacher's aid links agriculture to science, history, mathematics, and language arts. This book is especially suited for students who will be preparing for soil judging. It also provides hands-on, problem-solving experiences adapted for upper level elementary through high school students.

For more information please visit their website at www.ohcms.org.

Ag Lesson Plans in Power Point Format

Dedicated to the busy teacher who can't seem to get it all done! Feel free to download the files at <http://www.foukeffa.org/lesson%20plans.htm> and use them as you see fit.

If you have lessons that you would share with others, attach them to an email and send them to John

Jones,
Fouke
High
School,



Fouke, Arkansas at: jjones@fouke.swsc.k12.ar.us and they will be posted here for all to use.

Grants Site Funding Center

eSchool News online has your daily sources for up-to-the-minute grant programs, funding sources, and technology funding information.

For more information log onto www.eschoolnews.com.

Attention Class

You'll find an interesting article on teaching "Attention, Class!!! 16 Ways to Be a Smarter Teacher" at <http://www.fastcompany.com/online/53/teaching.html>

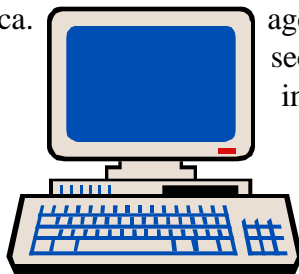
133,558 Teachers Say, 'We Need Laptops!'

In just two months 133,558 teachers registered with The TeacherLaptop Foundation, a national organization dedicated to putting a laptop computer in the hands of every teacher in America.

Many teachers have indicated they are not able to take advantage of the technology available to them in school because they do not have the time during the school day to become proficient. The Foundation is launching a nationwide grassroots movement to provide technology and training tools for teachers to use outside the classroom.

"The number of teachers registering for laptops will exceed one million by the end of this school year," said Ron Bocinsky, co-founder of The TeacherLaptop Foundation. "America's education professionals are realizing the importance of computers and the Internet as learning tools for our children, and they are seeking to become better prepared to teach with these tools."

"Research shows that teachers who use computers outside the classroom are much more likely to use computers inside the classroom," said Carol Fowler, co-founder of The TeacherLaptop Foundation.



In its report to the President and Congress, the congressional Web-based Education Commission stated that partnerships that bring together the federal government, state and local agencies, the private sector, and educational institutions offer the best promise of assuring continuing teacher empowerment and growth with technology.

"This is an opportunity for all sectors of our society to contribute towards enhancing education with technology," said Bocinsky. "We are calling on federal, state, and local governments along

with other foundations to create matching grant programs that work hand-in-hand with the Foundation."

America's teachers are encouraged to register with the Foundation to be eligible to receive a technology gift. Further information may be found at the Foundation's web site: <http://www.teacherlaptop.org>.

Contributions to The TeacherLaptop Foundation, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, are deductible for federal income and estate taxes.

Generating Funds with a Twist of Patriotism

by: Meyersdale FFA Chapter

As a gesture of patriotism, the Meyersdale Chapter received a U.S. flag with a certificate of authenticity, donated by a U.S. Congressman to be used at the National FFA Alumni for their live auction. This flag was flown over our Nation's Capital Building.



At the auction, the initial buyer donated the flag back to the auctioneer to raise additional funds for the FFA Alumni

Organization. The funds will be used for future scholarships, leadership activities, and other alumni activities.

The chapter received numerous verbal compliments for their generosity and thoughtfulness. A national FFA alumni

officer even used the state slogan, "You have a friend in Pennsylvania."

Career and Technical Educators Celebrated their 75th Anniversary

Emmy award-winning television news anchor Deborah Norville, Harvard psychologist Howard Gardner, author and educator John Alston, and television's notorious "Fonz" – Henry Winkler – were among the speakers addressing the 2001 annual convention of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE).



The convention was held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans on December 13-16, 2001 and presided over by ACTE President Dianne Mondry, a career and technical educator in Grand Forks, ND. At the December 13 Opening General Session, the association's national awards, sponsored by McDonald's Corp., were presented to the Teacher of the Year, the Outstanding Career and Technical Educator and the Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher. This year marks the presentation of the first ACTE-McDonald's Outstanding Teacher in Community Service award.

The convention theme was "Celebrating 75 Years of Success!" to commemorate ACTE's 75th anniversary. More than 400 program sessions focused on how career and technical educators can prepare America's students for successful careers and lives. Participants at the convention learned about building a new image for the "new vocational" education, teaching with technology, and forging successful partnerships between business and education.

As always, the country's largest instructional technology trade show set up camp at the ACTE convention. More than 300 companies filled the exhibit hall at the Morial Convention Center, giving product and equipment demonstrations and circulating information on the newest technical curricula, career exploration software, virtual reality technology and other educational products.

PA Selected for National Officer Training

PA will serve as a host state for the National Officers training program, called State Experience Program. Three states are chosen each year based on applications

submitted. Two of the current National Officers and one National Staff member will spend a week with us between January 28 - February 1, 2002.

Summer 2002 Courses

The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education will be offering the following graduate level courses Summer 2002. A series of different graduate level courses will be offered during Summer 2003 in an effort to help interested individuals secure coursework needed to complete a graduate degree. Interested individuals can obtain registration and enrollment information through Continuing Education at <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/CE/> or (814) 865-3443. Information relative to graduate degrees offered in Agricultural and Extension Education can be accessed at <http://agexted.cas.psu.edu/> or contact Dr. Joan Thomson, AEE Graduate Coordinator - jthomson@psu.edu or 814-863-3825.

June 17 – July 5, 2002

8:00 – 10:30 am - AEE 501 – Foundations of Agricultural and Extension Education (3 credits)- Dr. Tracy Hoover – tsh102@psu.edu and Dr. Ed Yoder – epy@psu.edu

10:30 am – 1:00 pm - AEE 465– Leadership Practices: Power, Influences and Impact (3 credits)- Dr. Phyllis Adams – padams@psu.edu

2:00 – 4:30 pm - AEE 450 – Methodology of Extension Education (proposed new title - Program Design & Delivery) (3 credits) – Dr. Rama Radhakrishna – brr100@psu.edu

Introducing... Wendy Auchenbach

Hershey Middle School is lucky to have Wendy Auchenbach as a new teacher this year. Wendy graduated from Penn State in May 2000 with a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries science. She was inspired to become an agricultural science teacher from her experience with Stephen Miller and Raymond Edwards at Conrad Weiser. She now brings her enthusiasm and knowledge of technical agriculture into Hershey's environmental science program. Wendy thinks that "trust and honesty are the foundation of any relationship," and she has found this to be the basis for her work relationships. She is fortunate to be part of a team where she works with a geography teacher, a math teacher, an English teacher, and two other environmental science teachers. The team meets daily to plan and discuss their curriculum. "If I'm doing vocabulary



words, I can get help. It's a very integrated approach," Wendy explained. Wendy feels that she balances the curriculum by infusing more agriculture.

Wendy understands that she's not in a traditional agricultural science program, but she has been overwhelmed with the support she's received from her colleagues, the parents and the community. She feels that "the school is very proactive. The administration has been wonderful."

Although Wendy misses teaching agricultural science (and plans to keep her eyes open for such a teaching position), she loves her position at Hershey. Wendy feels that "the team approach allows me to focus on individual needs of students and how to manipulate things to improve student learning. I plan to relate the curriculum to the Pennsylvania temperate biome. It's everything I'm interested in."

As We Say Goodbye!

William (Bill) Williams, a Penn State retiree, died November 25



after a short bout with pancreatic cancer. Dr. Williams was a member of the faculty from 1970

until he retired in 1988. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in agricultural education from Penn State. Dr. Williams was active in the Bald Eagle School District and served on the school board from 1983-95.

During his tenure as a faculty member, he focused extensively on the area of curriculum development. He received extensive funding through the Center for Professional Personnel Development in Vocational Education for various curriculum and demonstration projects. Dr. Williams was active in various professional societies, including the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture.

Pennsylvania Represented at the NAERC

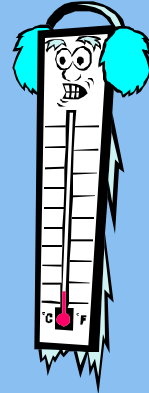
On December 12, the 28th National Agricultural Education Research Conference (NAERC) took place in New Orleans, LA. Penn State was represented by several individuals at the poster & research paper presentations.

National Poster Presentation
Integration of Agriculture/
Environmental Science and
Academic Education through
Collaborative Proposals.
Thomas Bruening & Xiaorong
Shao

*Teaching/Learning Research
Paper Presentation*
Effects of Instructional Meth-
odologies on Student Achieve-
ment, Attitude and Retention -
Warren H. Hitz & Dennis C.
Scanlon

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....

- January 24..... Innovative SAE Seminar, Western Region, Derry Area HS, 4:00 - 6:30 PM
 January 25..... PAAE Executive Board Mtg., PSU, 7:00 PM
 January 30..... Innovative SAE Seminar, Central Region, Tyrone Area HS, 4:00 - 6:30 PM
 February 5..... Innovative SAE Seminar, Eastern Region, Conrad Weiser HS, 4:00 - 6:30 PM
 February 5-7 PYFA Convention, Lebanon, PA
 February 7-9 PA State Project Book Evaluations, Hampton Inn, State College
 February 11-15 ... Career & Technology Week, PA State Capital Rotunda, Harrisburg
 February 16-17 ... ACES, Marriott, Harrisburg
 February 18-24 ... National FFA Week
 February 22..... FFA Association Board Meeting, PSU, 6:30 PM
 March 10-12 SLLC, Holiday Inn, Grantville
 March 19..... PAAE Western Regional Mtg., Hoss's in Allison Park, 6:00 PM
 March 22..... PAAE Executive Board Mtg., PSU, 7:00 PM
 April 4..... PAAE Eastern Regional Mtg., Manheim, 6:00 PM
 April 5..... FFA Association Board Meeting, PSU, 6:30 PM
 April 6..... State Proficiency Evaluations, PSU
 April 10..... PAAE South Central Regional Mtg., Dinner/Inservice - Hoss's, 5:00 PM;
 Cumberland Valley HS, 7:00 PM
 April 18..... PAAE North Central Regional Mtg., Restless Oaks, McElhatten, PA, 5:00 PM
 May 17..... FFA Association Board Meeting, PSU, 6:30 PM
 May 17..... PAAE Executive Board Mtg., Coudersport HS, Time TBA
 June 11-13..... FFA Activities Week, PSU
 July 9-10 State Young Farmers Conference, Potter County
 July 8-11 PAAE Conference for Agricultural Science Education, Coudersport
 July 19 FFA Association Board Meeting, Coudersport

**TEACHER DEADLINES.....**

- February 2..... Project Books due to Regional Coordinators
 February 15..... National FFA Scholarship Applications due to National FFA Center
 February 26..... Membership Roster & Dues due to Penny Brammer, Adult Treasurer
 March 12..... American FFA Degree Applications due at CTSO office
 April 1..... Proficiency & Entrepreneurship Applications due to regional coordinators
 (project books required)
 April 15..... Dairy Showmanship Applications due to Doug Brown, Central Columbia
 May 5..... Regional Contest Quota results due to Regional Coordinators (Public Speaking,
 Chapter Procedure, Small Gas Engines, Tractor Driving & Dairy Showmanship)
 May 9..... FFA Week/Entries due at Penn State (P. Hoy)
 June 11 Chapter Award Applications due at registration desk, FFA Activities Week, PSU
 July 1 Big E and National Convention CDE trip winner registration forms due to CTSO

Briefs to Ag Educators is a publication of the Center for Professional Personnel Development, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, The Pennsylvania State University, 323 Agricultural Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. Editors: Tiffany Hoy, Carol Hodes and Thomas Bruening.
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