



# BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

November 2002, Volume XI, Issue III

## NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

by: *Krista Pontius, Greenwood Ag Teacher, & Tracy Hoover, PSU*

### “Welcome First Year Teachers”

This year we would like to welcome 18 -first year teachers to the profession! The PAAE mentoring program has matched new teachers with experienced agriscience teachers who will provide support, encouragement and mentoring over the course of the year. The 2002-2003 mentees/mentors are listed below.

*Pennsylvania Association of Agriculture Educators  
Mentor/Mentee List 2002-2003*

- First Year Teacher, School - Mentor*  
 Joanna Wilson, Wilmington - Cliff Wallace  
 Shawn Abma, Northern - Dianna Dellinger  
 Andrea Paladay, Eastern York - Mark Anderson  
 Nate Jamison, Tri-Valley - Mark Dietrich  
 Chris Gabela, Garden Spot - Deb Seibert  
 Carleen Vorisek, United - Roy Campbell  
 Dave Steinfelt, Athens - Marty Heyler  
 Sian Bailey, Lancaster CTC - Lem Metzler  
 Donna Berry, Big Spring - Gerry Reichard  
 Beth Mathie, Kennard Dale - Dianna Dellinger

*(Continued on page 5)*

## IN THIS ISSUE...

**PAGE 2... SITES OF INTEREST**

**PAGE 3...INTRODUCING...DAVID STEINFELT, DR. WILLIAM ROBINSON, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PAGE 4...CDE UPDATE, PA GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL**

**PAGE 6...CALENDAR**



## “Cornerstone of Success”

*2002 FCLPD*



*Students learning about team-building through a series of activities.*

On the morning of October 11, 2002, the AEE 311 and 412 students of The Pennsylvania State University gathered at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA. The day was the culmination of over a month’s work for both classes, as they had been preparing for the annual Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development – FCLPD.

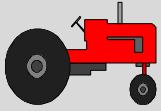
Dennis Scanlon and Richard Stumpf worked with the AEE 412 students during the first part of the semester choosing topics and preparing lesson plans based around the conference theme “Cornerstone of Success.” On conference day, this class conducted the workshops that students attended.

Tracy Hoover and Tiffany Hoy, as well as the student director, Sarah Biddle, assisted the AEE 311 students in actually planning the conference. The responsibility of all conference planning fell on the shoulders of these students,

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Sites of Interest

## New Holland & Case IH Materials



New Holland and Case IH are offering technical materials at a special educational price. The materials include but are not limited to: product operator's manuals, repair manuals and parts catalogs.

For access to the New Holland materials go to the company's web site at [www.newholland.com](http://www.newholland.com). Once there, go to Parts and Service then proceed to the technical publications link. From the technical publications link, you can search by model number or product line for the appropriate information.

For access to the Case IH materials call 262-636-7540 (Case IH distribution center) for assistance in identifying the publication(s).

To place an order with the New Holland distribution center call 800-635-4913 or to reach the Case IH distribution center call 262-636-7540 and identify yourself as a teacher. Supply the following information: school name, address, department, method of payment and the list of technical materials you wish to order. The company representative will then inform you of the total cost including shipping and handling charges.

## Education Challenge Grants

The Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), Higher Education Programs Office, requests proposals for the FY 2003 Secondary and Two-Year Postsecondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants Program. The due date for receipt of proposals is January 15, 2003.

For 2003, this competitive grants program is targeted to proposals supporting grades 9-12 in U.S. public secondary schools, and to public and private, nonprofit community and junior colleges. The amount available for support is approximately \$960,000. Awards are a maximum of \$25,000 for a regular project or \$40,000 for a joint project (the applicant plus one or more institutions).

The program is designed to assist teachers in the classroom, to promote and strengthen agricultural literacy and to encourage more young Americans to pursue degrees in the food and agricultural sciences area. Proposals should address one or more of the following target need areas: (a) enhancing agricultural education through curriculum improvements; (b) increasing faculty teaching competencies; (c) expanding career opportunities; (d) integrating

agricultural education into the curriculum; (e) facilitating interaction with other academic institutions; and (f) expanding student and workforce diversity.

A full copy of the solicitation and all required forms can be found at: <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/rfaspec.htm>.

For additional information, contact P. Gregory Smith at [gsmith@reeusda.gov](mailto:gsmith@reeusda.gov) or the Higher Education Programs staff at 202-720-1793.

## National Center for Education Statistics

[www.nces.ed.gov/ccd](http://www.nces.ed.gov/ccd) is an excellent US Department of Education resource for people interested in public school trends. The site boasts a directory of all 92,000 public schools, cross-referenced by grade and location, and lets visitors create a customized table of education data. Basic information is also easily attainable in the Quick Facts section (click on About CCD), which uses a question and answer format.



*If you know of any interesting websites and would like to share them with other educators, please email the website to Tiffany Hoy at [tmr175@psu.edu](mailto:tmr175@psu.edu).*

# Introducing...

## David Steinfelt

David Steinfelt graduated from Penn State in May 2002. He recalls the moment when he realized teaching was going to be his career.

“The students ‘tested’ me in classroom management and behavior during student teaching at Coudersport HS. On the last

day of school one of my students let me in on a little secret – I passed their ‘tests’ and they felt I would make a really great teacher. In that brief moment, I realized how much of an impact I could make on students’ lives in just a short time.”

Since completing his degree, Dave obtained a job at Athens High School teaching 9-12 graders. Though his background and interests lie within traditional production agriculture, Dave is also teaching non-traditional agriculture courses in aquaculture, hydroponics, forestry and wildlife management. “The program is in transition from mainly production agriculture to a more non-traditional program.” He also plans to expand on the animal science, horticulture, agricultural mechanics and landscaping courses.



FFA and SAE programs are a way of life for Dave. He was an active member of the Cowanesque FFA program where he competed in numerous events and attended conferences and conventions. He also broadened his experiences while at college to include the

Penn State Collegiate FFA, Dairy Science Club and Alpha Zeta Fraternity. While student teaching, he assisted in preparing teams for competition, like the Parliamentary Procedure Team. “All of these activities help me to motivate my students to participate in events.” Recently Athens FFA Chapter attended the Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development in Altoona, PA.

David Steinfelt would like to thank all of the current agricultural educators for their support and help. He strongly believes that no one can know everything, but with the help of others, one can find direction and answers to complete the task at hand.

Please help the Center in welcoming David Steinfelt of Athens High School to the agricultural education family.

## Dr. William Robinson

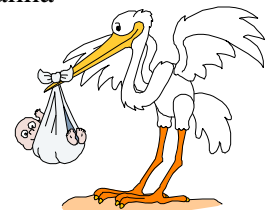
Dr. William A. Robinson of Chambersburg died unexpectedly on September 29. He earned a doctorate degree in education from The Pennsylvania State University in 1966. Dr. Robinson was a vocational agriculture teacher at Chambersburg Area Senior High School for 17 years and then served as the school’s assistant principal from 1966-1973 and then principal from 1973-1985.

He is survived by his wife Geraldine, their two children and six grandchildren.

## Announcements

Doyle Paul, Berlin Brothersvalley HS, was inadvertently deleted from the 2002 - 2003 Ag Teacher Directory. Doyle is serving as young farmer advisor at Berlin and should be listed as such.

Bill & Vicki Lantz welcomed the arrival of their daughter, Brianna Elizabeth on October 18, 2002. She weighed in at 6 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long. Congratulations!



## CDE Update Column

*by: Cliff Day, CDE Chairperson*

The FFA Board of Directors approved at the September 6th meeting a method for creating teams to compete in the FFA Environmental and Natural Resources CDE at the National and the Eastern States Expo for the year 2003.

Participating schools at the state level will enter at least two students in the Aquatic Resource CDE and two in the Wildlife CDE. They will compete as individuals in these CDEs as they currently do. Prior to FFA Week, members from each of those two CDEs will be identified as members of the Env. & Nat. Resources team for a team event scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at PSU. Scores from the Aquatic Resource and Wildlife CDEs will make up a total of 500 points toward the total score of 1500 points. The Env. & Nat. Resources Team event will account for 1000 points. Top individuals in Aquatics and Wildlife CDEs are still eligible to receive \$100 and a plaque.

A brief synopsis of the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE can be found in its entirety on the FFA.org website of the National FFA.



## Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences

It goes without saying that ag teachers play an invaluable role in shaping the future of agriculture in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and beyond. Many students who participate in the state's agriculture programs will go on to become influential agricultural leaders. In support of your efforts as an ag teacher to develop these leaders, the state established the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences (PGSAS) in 1986, a familiar fact for those of you already aware of PGSAS.

PGSAS is a five-week, intensive program for selected high school sophomores and juniors throughout the state. It provides a unique blend of hands-on learning in classes, field trips, research and social opportunities. Together these opportunities provide students with a unique and exciting chance to explore the breadth of the agricultural sciences.

As an ag teacher, you should have recently received a package of information about PGSAS. In the months to come, we encourage you to make an effort to share that information with the outstanding students in your classes. PGSAS is searching for those students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in the sciences and who have a high interest in food, agriculture, and/or the natural resource sciences. As an ag teacher, you are in a great position to know who these students are and tell them about this opportunity.

This spring, 64 students will be chosen from across the state to participate in PGSAS 2003. To be one of the 64, a student's application must combine a strong academic transcript, strong teacher and counselor recommendations, and carefully written essays. The most difficult of the three is the essay section.

If you are assisting students to complete their applications, encourage them to carefully write their essays. The essays play a significant role in selecting students. Essays must provide a sense of personal voice--that is, they should provide a clear sense of who the student is and evidence of a strong interest in the agricultural sciences. Additionally, like many things in life, it helps to be creative.

The deadline for this year's applications is Monday, February 3, 2003. If you or your students have questions about the application procedure, please feel free to contact Marianne Fivek, PGSAS Director at 814-865-7521 or [mafivek@psu.edu](mailto:mafivek@psu.edu), or visit [www.pde.state.pa.us/excellence/cwp](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/excellence/cwp).

*(Cornerstone of Success...cont'd from p. 1)*

and they managed to prepare an outstanding conference. Part of their duties included the registration process, decorating the conference center, and designing T-shirts to give out to all participants. On conference day, these students worked diligently to complete the registration, to ensure a positive conference atmosphere.

Over forty high schools in Pennsylvania brought students, with a total of over 450 individual participants. This included freshman and sophomore FFA members, faculty and FFA advisors from each school, junior and senior high school students, FFA chapter officers, and FFA state officers.

The freshman high school students spent the day rotating

through ten different workshops. Each freshman participated in three workshop sessions, which dealt with different issues in the FFA such as CDE's, SAE's, and career opportunities. At lunch, the students sat at assigned tables, enabling them to converse with students from different schools and regions in the state, as well as the chapter officer and state officers of the Pennsylvania FFA. Dr. Marianne Fivek, Assistant Professor in both Agricultural & Extension Education and Animal Science, addressed the entire delegation about career opportunities in agriculture and how Penn State can assist them in reaching such a career.

Pennsylvania State FFA officer, David Bittner, served as MC for the conference and his fellow

officers started the conference by performing the FFA opening and closing ceremonies.

The faculty and advisors spent the day working with individuals from the National GLOBE program. Gary Randolph, Matt Hoover, Ron Ruhlman and Gary Popiolowski explained what the GLOBE program entailed and then conducted break-out sessions to give teachers hands-on learning opportunities that could be used within their own classrooms.

FFA chapter officers spent the day in various workshops with the FFA state officers. The state officers led the chapter officers in workshops dealing with learning and listening, team-building, and presentation and communication which will help the chapter officers to better lead their local FFA chapter in future.

*(New & Beginning...cont'd from p. 1)*

- Diane Glock, Juniata - Krista Pontius
- Juanita Gardner, Biglerville - Mark Anderson
- Jessica Naugle, WB Saul - John Deasy
- Kate O'Brien, WB Saul - John Deasy
- Penny Yoder, Johnstown Christian School - Bill Kronen
- Thomas Hojnowski, Canton - Marty Heyler
- Steve Wright, Owen J. Roberts - John Ewing
- Robert Feldbauer, Owen J. Roberts - John Ewing



The Center for Professional Personnel Development will reimburse mentors/mentees for travel expenses related to the mentoring program. Please contact Dorothy Thomas (djt1@psu.edu) or Tracy Hoover (tsh102@psu.edu) for information on reimbursement for your expenses.

Please contact Chris Carney (clcarney@tyrone.k12.pa.us) Tyrone High School or MeeCee Baker (baker@pa.net) Greenwood High School for additional information on the PAAE Mentor/Mentee Program.

FCLPD is hosted by the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at Penn State and sponsored by the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation. The FCLPD is held in the fall of each year and is open to any school with an Agricultural Education program. Keep your eyes open for the 2003 FCLPD date to be announced in January.

Special thanks to the FFA Foundation, Danny Anderson of DayRunner, Inc., The National Seed Company of New Jersey, Penn State Horse Barn, and the Office Plus of State College for donated items.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....**

- November 12 ..... PAAE Eastern Region Mtg., Twin Valley HS, Elverson, 7:00 PM  
 November 15 ..... PA Keystone Degree Review - 301A Ag Admin.  
 December 6..... PA FFA Board Mtg., 301B Ag Admin., PSU, 6:30 PM  
 December 10-14 . NAAE Convention, Las Vegas, NV  
 December 12-15 . ACTE Convention, Las Vegas, NV  
 December 12-15 . NYFEA Institute, Oklahoma, City, OK  
 January 11-18 ..... PA Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg  
 January 13..... PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 4:00 PM  
 January 16..... FFA Foundation Mtg., Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg  
 January 24..... PAAE Board Mtg., 301B Ag Admin., PSU, 7:00 PM  
 January 24-25 ..... Food Science & Technology Workshop, Conrad Weiser HS, 6:00 PM  
 Jan. 31 - Feb. 1 ... Food Science & Technology Workshop, Derry Area HS, 6:00 PM  
 February 4-7 ..... PYFA Winter Conference, Lewisburg  
 February 4..... GET UP - Improving your Veterinary Skills Workshop, PSU-324 ASI, 4:00 PM  
 February 7-8 ..... PA FFA Record Book Evaluation Event, State College, Contact Ron Frederick  
 February 13..... GET UP - Improving your Veterinary Skills Workshop - PSU-DuBois, 4:00 PM  
 February 15-16 ... ACES Leadership Conference, Marriott, Harrisburg (M. Brammer)  
 February 17-23 ... National FFA Week  
 Feb. 28 - Mar. 1 .. Food Science & Technology Workshop, PSU - Borland Lab, 6:00 PM  
 February 28..... PA FFA Board Mtg., 301B Ag Admin., PSU, 6:30 PM

**TEACHER DEADLINES.....**

- November 5 ..... Farm Show Dairy, Poultry & Breeding Animals Entries due to Farm Show Office  
 November 15 ..... FFA Dues due to Penny Brammer (All rosters and accompanying dues must be submitted to be eligible to receive the Keystone Degree or to participate in Farm Show  
 ..... PYFA Award Applications due to Denise Sanner, Kutztown  
 November 20 ..... Regional Coordinator Deadlines for Keystone Star Applications due to CTSO  
 December 2..... Program of Work & Budget for National Chapter Award Program due to CTSO  
 ..... Farm Show Preregistration for Vocational Horticulture Exhibits due to C. Weller  
 December 15..... Reconfirm entries for Farm Show Market Swine, Steers, & Lambs with Farm Show Office  
 February 2..... Project Books are due to Regional Coordinators  
 February 15..... National FFA Scholarship Applications due to National FFA Center  
 March 10..... American FFA Degree Applications due to CTSO  
 April 2..... Proficiency & Entrepreneurship Applications due to Regional Coordinators (Project Books Required)  
 April 15..... Dairy Showmanship Applications are due to Doug Brown, Central Columbia

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 and Thomas Bruening.  
 Phone: 814-863-7876; Fax: 814-863-4753; email Tiffany at tmr175@psu.edu

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 state/federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color or disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; Tel. (814) 863-0471; TDD (814) 865-3175.