



BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

November 1999, Volume VIII, Issue 3

NEW TEACHER COLUMN

M. Susie Whittington
Associate Professor

“Celebrating Teaching!”



It has been a great fall to be out in the state visiting you in your classrooms. I love seeing the positive environments you are creating for your students in agriculture/environmental education classrooms across PA! Make sure you celebrate the good things you are doing!

Thank you to so many new teachers who brought students to the Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development for the first time. The comments we received from teachers and participants indicate that your students left the conference enthused about the FFA and what it has to offer. What a great day!

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Cowanesque Valley High School

Understanding the Intentions = Success

When we spend time reflecting back upon our own educational programs, we can identify key elements that contribute to our program’s successes. For Cowanesque Valley High School, effective communication between the administration, guidance counselors, and educators have resulted in the establishment of a successful and well-respected agricultural education program. Teachers’ Marty Heyler and Andy Boyer are working diligently to foster and strengthen such relationships, and note that such an effort is no small feat. “We work closely with our administration and school board, they know our intentions and they see our results,” says Heyler. For example, Ag Ed students

appear on a routine basis before the school board, providing a platform in which to promote the program as well as an opportunity to demonstrate the impact of the Ag Ed program in the community.



“We try to make our program and our kids as visible in the community and the school as much as possible,” says Heyler. Such visibility serves not only as an

excellent recruitment tool for the program, but also as a reminder to the administration that the Ag Ed program is alive and thriving. By keeping the focus on the goals and direction of the program, and by continually working to strengthen such bonds, Cowanesque Valley HS has a decorated list of accomplishments, and an even brighter future.



Technology Subscriptions

How can you keep pace with the fast-paced realm of technology? Two free magazines will help. Technological Horizons in Education (better known as T.H.E. Journal) and Syllabus both feature curriculum projects and new products, and they're free. Subscriptions can be entered on the websites: www.syllabus.com/syllmag.html and www.thejournal.com

New PA Agriculture Education Partnership

On September 30, Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes and Education Secretary Eugene Hickock announced creation of The PA Agriculture Education Partnership to increase and enhance agriculture education programs across the Commonwealth. Thirteen organizations are cooperating to create the innovative partnership. This group will work to provide efficient and effective K-Adult agriculture education, promoting cooperation and collaboration among agriculture education programs.

The new agriculture education partnership is part of the Ridge Administration's emphasis on improving the quality of agriculture education across PA. Members of the new partnership are: PA Agriculture Awareness Foundation, PA Alliance for Environmental Education, PA Assn. of Agricultural Educators, PA Assn. of Conservation Districts, PA Farm Bureau, PA Farm Link, PA Farmers Union, PA FFA Assn., PA FFA Foundation, PA State Grange, PA Young Farmers Assn., PA 4-H, and PennAg Industries.

Book Review –

by Van Wagner, graduate student, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, Penn State Univ.

Effective Oral Communication

By: Jimmy Cheek, Larry Arrington, Rick Rudd, and Max McGhee



This publication is a well-organized aid designed to develop communication and leadership proficiency in students, with specific emphasis on professional communication. The book is 328 pages, mostly text, and would be most effective for students of college age or higher.

The book is an outgrowth of a course on effective oral communication taught in the Department of Agriculture Education and Communication at the University of Florida. It is designed to be used as text in an oral communication course, as a reference book for teachers and extension professionals, and as a handbook for practicing professionals. There are five major subjects covered; foundations of oral communication, speaking in public, interpersonal communication, group communication and leadership, and communication with the media. Each subject is well covered and related topics are often addressed as well.

This book presents good information on how to present ideas to an audience, overcome fear of speaking, begin and end presentations, lead a group discussion, use visual aids, use humor (and how not to), use questions constructively, conduct a meeting, interview for professional positions, and other useful information.

The book is mainly text with few diagrams or visuals. Also included are very useful speech evaluation forms for applications and practice.

INTRODUCING

Zach Uphold

By: Shannan Robinson



The Center for Professional Development would like to welcome Zach Uphold to the Agricultural Education profession. Zach completed his student teaching at Garden Spot High School and graduated from Penn State last May. He is teaching at Williamsburg High School where the program is mainly based on production agriculture. While Williamsburg is a small high school, Zach is very appreciative of the tremendous community support that the agriculture program is given.

Zach comes from a nontraditional agriculture background, as he grew up on a small farm that produced Black Angus cattle and he also worked for Kendall Landscaping. Zach's motto to live by is one we all can learn from, "**Stress Less, Smile More!**" Zach also says that life is too important to take the little things for granted. With this motto in mind, Zach will be able to meet all first year teaching challenges head-on. Zach, welcome aboard and good luck!

(New Teacher cont'd from p. 1)

Special thanks is extended to Joy Young for directing a fabulous conference, and to members of AEE 311 & AEE 412 for planning, implementing, teaching, and evaluating the best conference ever. These students will be dynamic student teachers, so be watching for good things from them!

It has been good to see that many of you are attending at the regional PAAE meetings. This is an important step in becoming involved in your professional organization. I look forward to seeing many of you at the meetings in the spring.

Again, this is a good time to reflect over fall semester and celebrate teaching—you deserve it!

SAVE THESE DATES

The AEE department is offering summer 2000 courses from June 19-July 9 to help you jump start a master's degree or get certification credits. More information will be available early in the year 2000.



FCLPD 1999 — AEE 311 class

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....

- November 19 FFA Association Board meeting, Penn State Univ., 301 Ag Admin. Bldg., 6:30 p.m.
- December 3 Schools that will have an exhibit at the Farm Show will be notified by the VSO office, (C. Weller)
- December 3 Farm Show preregistration – Vocational Horticulture Exhibits – mail to Tim Weller – PDE - Harrisburg
- December 8-12 National YFEA Institute, Hershey, PA
- December 10-14 NAAE National Convention, Caribe Royale, Orlando, FL
- December 29 PYFA Executive Board Meeting, Kutztown

TEACHER DEADLINES.....

- November 29 Program of Work and budget for National Chapter Award program due at VSO office, (C. Weller)
- December 15 Reconfirm entries for Farm Show market swine, market steers, market lambs to Farm Show Office.



Attention Ag Teachers

Mac Legault, Research Associate, and Dennis Murphy, Extension Safety Specialist, have developed the Agricultural Safety and Health Best Management Practices (ASHBMP) Manual. The ASHBMP Manual has been designed as an injury prevention tool that can be used by farmers, insurance company representatives and agricultural educators alike. Use of the ASHBMP will allow everyone concerned with farm safety and health to give the same consistent message regarding hazard identification, evaluation, and correction.

You are invited to a day long, hands-on evaluation workshop of the ASHBMP Manual on Saturday, February 5th. The workshop will begin in Room 114 of the Agricultural Engineering Building. Activities will begin at 9 AM sharp and conclude by 4 PM. Coffee and doughnuts and a lunch will be provided.

As a thank you to all those that participate, a free copy of the ASHBMP Manual will be sent to participants as soon as it is released. We anticipate this happening sometime during the summer of 2000. To help prepare for the workshop, a firm commitment to participate is needed by Friday, December 17th. Please notify Mac Legault at 814-865-7151 or mll13@psu.edu if you are willing to help out with this important evaluation effort. Feel free to contact Mac if you have additional questions about this workshop.

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: Brent Dahlhaus and Thomas Bruening, Phone: 814-863-7876; Fax: 814-863-4753; email Brent at bmd148@psu.edu

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