



NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

*by: Larry Way, Agricultural Educator,
Clearfield Area High School*

PAAE is sponsoring several programs that are aimed at supporting new and beginning teachers, as well as our more experienced members. Dr. MeeCee Baker, Greenwood High School, will continue to direct the mentoring program, which pairs first year teachers with veteran PAAE teachers. A new program for this year is “adopt a junior” program that pairs PAAE teachers with agricultural education undergraduates. PAAE will continue to host professional development sessions before regional meetings. This fall the focus is on budgets and in the spring on continuing education/graduate work with Dr. Tracy Hoover, Penn State’s contact for new and beginning teachers (tsh102@psu.edu). National FFA’s Kevin Keith will address Proficiencies and American Degree applications Dec. 7, 2001 at the Lewistown Clarion Inn. Larry Way (lmw133@psu.edu), Clearfield Area HS, is the PAAE contact for new and beginning teachers. The Center will also conduct several programs for teachers. A turfgrass workshop is set for Oct. 11th during the Fall Leadership Conference. Additional workshops for new and beginning teachers will be held during the Mid-Winter Convention, State Recordbook Judging contest and at the Summer PAAE Conference. Information regarding these events will be mailed to all new and beginning teachers.

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**Looking Forward to
2001 - 2002**



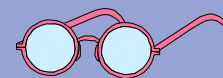
Our faculty and staff trust that you had a great year and look forward to a better 2001-02. The Department also had a very good year — my 3rd as Department Head. Several items of interest to you and other Pennsylvania agricultural teachers are detailed below.

Our Department is only as strong as its faculty, and we have a strong group. We added a teacher educator in June when Tracy Hoover returned from the University of Florida. She is a national leader in both teacher education and leadership development. This position resulted when Susie Whittington accepted a position at Ohio State. We also added two other faculty members last year. Matt Kaplan, a former faculty member at Hawaii Pacific University, joined the Department in August 2000 as an associate professor with responsibilities in aging and intergenerational programming. Although his responsibilities are in Extension, Dr. Kaplan wants to involve you and other teachers in his programming. Rama Radhakrishna joined the Department in September as an associate professor from Clemson University. He is leading our research and evaluation efforts. Also, interviews will occur this fall for a faculty position in service learning and public scholarship. We received this position because our strategic plan charted a clear,

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Sites of Interest



Free Reprints

“Soil Quality Indicator Properties in the mid-Atlantic region as Influenced by Conservation” by K.R. Islam and R. R. Weil, is a research article from the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. Copies are free but limited. Call 301-405-1314 or e-mail rw17@umail.umd.edu.

“Evaluation of Homeopathic Nosodes for Mastitis and Calf Scours: Lessons from the Vermont Nosodes project” by John Barlow and Lisa McCrory is limited in quantity but free by e-mailing jbarlow@zoo.uvm.edu.

Food History

This is an interesting multidisciplinary website that features a food timeline that starts at 17,000 BC and traces the beginnings of agricultural plant cultivation and animal domestication. Recipes are available as appropriate. The site is located at <http://www.gti.net/mocolib1/kid/food.html> and links at the bottom of this page cover topics such as food safety (USDA and extension websites) and food allergies.



Sustaining Penn’s Woods

A Pennsylvania-specific teaching resource titled “Sustaining Penn’s Woods - A Sound Use of the Land” for teachers of grades 5-10 was distributed to 5000 school districts and Intermediate Units a year ago.



Information on the new curriculum is found at <http://www.hlma.org/pennswoods/> and it has been distributed by the PA Department of Education, Bureau of Curriculum and Academic Programs. It contains 2 videotapes, a CD, a poster, and 7 folders of information and activities. The 30-minute videos are about the forest resources industry and deer management.

This curriculum is designed to help you meet Pennsylvania’s new academic standards for Environment & Ecology and the sections are keyed to these standards. Check with your school or intermediate unit to be sure it received a copy of “Sustaining Penn’s Woods.” If the kit has not been received, teachers may request a copy by calling the Environmental & Ecology advisor at 717-783-6994.

Hot off the press

Draft copies of an elementary school curriculum on soils are available for \$5 to cover shipping & handling. Contact Debra Hadley at 732-932-6837 or coolman@aesop.rutgers.edu.

An IPM Field Guide and CD Rom by Shirley Todd-Kline, Joanne Whalen, and Jack Rabin has a 160-page manual. Topics are IPM strategies for more than 30 crops and nearly 1700 references. A full set is \$20, but single guides for specific crops are available. Call 856-451-2800 to order and find out which crop guides are available.

Classroom management online

This website has strategies and activities submitted by teachers from all parts of the country: <http://www.pacificnet.net/~mandel/ClassroomManagement.html>

Briefs Are On-Line

Get your *Briefs* newsletter at <http://agexted.cas.psu.edu/center.html> under newsletters.



Student Teachers from 4 States Converge on the Coast



Gary Kraemer, educational guide, providing instruction on the ecosystem of the Delaware wetlands.

It was an historic event for agricultural education when 35 student teachers, their faculty and staff from the 5 Star Consortium states convened at the Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna, Delaware from April 29-May 1.

The group had 3 days of professional development activities with topics ranging from liability, sexual harassment, international agricultural education, professional organizations, interview skills, teaching in other states, wetlands ecology, and reflective teaching

practice. The outcome of the reflective practice exercise was a videotaped discussion of important considerations for next year's student teachers.

One goal of this retreat was to have the new teachers and their faculty establish lasting friendships that will support them as professionals. The agricultural education leaders also discussed the potential for interstate activities such as CDEs and an orientation program for new agricultural teachers and their administrators. Leisure activities included picnics,

baseball, bonfires, and hikes around the estuarial ecosystem.

The consortium's goal is to promote agricultural and environmental education through professional development for teachers in five states. The 5 Star Consortium states are Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Institutions participating in the retreat were Delaware Valley College, University of Delaware, Rutgers University, West Virginia University, and Penn State.

Science Alive

Tuscon, Arizona will host the second Science Alive conference from January 2-5, 2002. Conference topics will include mushroom growing, hydroponics and aquaponics, and biological control of insects. University of Arizona credit will be available to attendees. The early registration fee is \$295 before Nov 1. The final registration deadline is Dec 1 and there are only 350 spaces. Information is available at http://ag.arizona.edu/science_alive or from Curt or Ann Bertelson at 520-408-6923 or sciencealive@ag.arizona.edu. The Doubletree Hotel is the conference hotel and the number is 520-81-4200.



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Biosphere II"*

(Looking Forward...con't from p. 1) contemporary, and progressive future.

Our international efforts continue to expand. Last year we attracted new graduate students from five countries. At the end of spring semester, Dennis Scanlon participated in a study tour to China to learn about that country's agriculture. Tom Bruening spent time this summer in South Africa working

with colleagues on their instructional approaches. In the spring, he again directed a program at Moscow State University so Penn Staters and students from other US universities could spend the semester in Russia. Dr. Hoover will continue to be involved in this program.

In September, PDA Secretary Sam Hayes, one of our strongest FFA supporters, was

honored by the College of Agricultural Sciences as an Outstanding Alumnus. Gov. Ridge appointed Secretary Hayes in 1997 to direct the commonwealth's services and activities in support of Pennsylvania agriculture. He has received honorary degrees from the PA FFA Association and the National FFA Organization.

The Department has made major strides in expanding its funding beyond state and federal appropriations. Data the College compiled for 1999-2000 indicated that our Department is now functioning more like other departments. We received more than \$3 million in external funding, a record for our Department. Also, our external funding ranked 6th in the College and there are 12 departments. External funds support efforts such as the PDE Center for Professional Personnel Development. Also, last year we started instructing our student teachers about preparing proposals to seek funding for their programs.

Finally, On November 3, the Department will be an active participant in the Penn State Homecoming. With the help of Gerald Reichard and our Department's alumni group, we will have an open house prior to the game to showcase the work of our faculty and students. A block of 50 tickets to the game has been reserved on a first-come basis. Details were listed in the AEE alumni newsletter. Contact me if you

New Executive Director for Pennsylvania FFA

Twenty-five years ago when Mike Brammer was the Virginia State FFA Vice President, he never dreamed he'd be the executive director of the Pennsylvania FFA Association. Mike, who had not been active in FFA since high school, found himself involved once again through his daughter, Sherisa, who is now the south central vice president.



Mike has seen some changes in FFA over the years. At the national level, he noticed that there are definitely more programs. He feels that the overall maturity level of the students has improved and that FFA is no longer just about farming, but it is also about leadership. FFA is an organization where a shy student can be transformed into a leader. Mike didn't hesitate to mention his

excellent state officer team and how much he looks forward to working with them this year.

"FFA is second to none in leadership development. When a student wears the blue and gold jacket, it really means something. Hats off to the agricultural teachers and all they do," he said.

Mike assumed the new full-time executive director position in June and his office is located in the PA Department of Agriculture building in Harrisburg. He lives in Mechanicsburg with his wife and daughter. Prior to his position with FFA, he was self-employed in a family dairy store business. Mike's goals are to provide guidance for the state officer team, improve the image of FFA, and to develop leaders for the PA State FFA Association.

Introducing... William Krill



William Krill, a graduate of Penn State in fisheries and wild-life, is new to W.B.

Saul this year. His inspiration to teach agricultural science is the combination of his experience as an undergraduate student and as a camp counselor. Bill loved camp counseling near his family's home in Wilkes Barre during the summers, but he knew that it could not be a career. While he was immersed in his wild-life and fisheries coursework he felt a need to educate others about this area. After his BS

degree, Bill remained at Penn State to pursue his teaching certificate. He had an excellent experience student teaching at Twin Valley last semester with Ron Frederick, which provided him with more motivation to become a good teacher.

Bill's favorite quote is from Vince Lombardi, "It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get back up that matters." This rings true since Bill's philosophy is that "the outcome of mistakes and misfortunes often depend on how you handle them." Bill feels he's extremely lucky that he has been able to find a job at W. B. Saul that will allow him

to optimize his expertise in environmental science, wildlife and fisheries. He will be transforming the program from an aquatic resources emphasis to a broader natural resources emphasis. He will have excellent resources at his new job to do this, including extensive school grounds and a stream running along the periphery of the property in Fairmount Park. Another professional goal of Bill's is to complete his master's degree within the next few years. Bill is starting his new position eager to gain experience as an agricultural science teacher working with the seasoned faculty in the state's largest agricultural education program.

Insect Fair

Love bugs? The annual Insect Fair will be held at University Park from 10-4 on Saturday September 29 outside the Ag Science and Industries and Ag Administration Buildings. Sponsored by the PA IPM Program, the Fair is free and open to the public. There are many fun and educational activities for your students and their families. Also, the PA IPM Program is sponsoring Farm City Day on October 5 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Contact Lyn Garling of the PA IPM Program at 814-863-8884 for more information.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Fall Conference for Leadership & Professional Development

DATE: October 11, 2001

TIME: Registration 8:00 – 9:30 AM
Ends at 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Penn Stater
Conference Center Hotel

HOW TO REGISTER: Packets will be sent out in early September.

COST: \$22.00 per person

WHO CAN ATTEND: 8 Freshmen & 2 Chapter Officers per chapter



Don't miss out on this outstanding program!

The College of Agricultural Sciences will be offering an Academic Exploration program.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....

September 14-15. Eastern States Expositon, Springfield, MA
 September 14 PAAE Executive Board Meeting, PSU, 6:30 PM
 September 23-27. All American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex
 September 23 Jr. Dairy Management Contest, Farm Show Complex
 September 28 FFA Association Board Mtg., PSU, 6:30 PM
 October 4 PAAE Northcentral Region Mtg., Hoss's in Williamsport, 6:00 PM
 October 9 PAAE Western Region Mtg., TBA
 October 10 PAAE Southcentral Region Mtg., Forbes Road JSHS, 6:00 PM
 October 11 Fall Conference for Leadership & Professional Development, Penn Stater
 October 20 Floriculture Workshop for teachers at Kutztown H.S.
 October 24 - 27 ... National FFA Convention, Louisville, KY
 October 28 K.I.L.E Invitational Judging Event, Farm Show Complex
 November 1 PAAE Eastern Region Mtg., Twin Valley H.S.

TEACHER DEADLINES.....

October 11 Registration due for Floriculture Workshop at Kutztown H.S. (C. Hodes)
 October 16 Farm Show Landscape Display Entries Due to CTSO office

37 FFA Members to Receive American Degree

The American FFA Degree is the highest degree of membership, which a member can attain, and each year less than 1/2 of one percent of the total national membership attains this prestigious honor. Congratulations to the Pennsylvania FFA members who will receive their degrees in Freedom Hall at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, KY, on Saturday, October 27 during the 8:30 AM session.

Derrick L. Adair - West Perry FFA Chapter
 Kelly Andrews - Twin Valley FFA Chapter
 Natalie M. Aurand - Big Valley FFA Chapter
 Michael L. Bollinger - Solanco FFA Chapter
 Michael R. Burrell - Dover FFA Chapter
 Derrick Carpenter - Big Spring FFA Chapter
 Doreen Delp - Williamsburg FFA Chapter
 Andrew Dice - Northern Lebanon FFA Chapter
 Andrew L. Flinchbaugh - Eastern FFA Chapter
 Matt Gerhart - Cloister FFA Chapter
 Bart E. Gill - Newport FFA Chapter
 Joseph R. Haas - West Perry FFA Chapter
 Robert J. Hedges - United FFA Chapter
 Jason Heeter - Southern Huntingdon County FFA
 Jason Innerst - West Perry FFA Chapter
 Daniel Kreider - Cedar Crest FFA Chapter
 Joy Lynne Leshner - Mahantango FFA Chapter
 Adam Longenecker - Central Cove FFA Chapter

Jamie R. Lynch - Mifflinburg FFA Chapter
 Benjamin W. Lyons - West Perry FFA Chapter
 Emme Dawn Mellott - Conococheague FFA Chapter
 James R. Mullen - Solanco FFA Chapter
 Burke M. Neely - West Perry FFA Chapter
 Julie Peterson - Twin Valley FFA Chapter
 Kristen Bernadette Pfeifer - Derry FFA Chapter
 Jamie Powell - Twin Valley FFA Chapter
 Kenneth P. Reed II - Derry FFA Chapter
 Rob Reisinger - West Perry FFA Chapter
 Andrea Bashore Showers - Northern Lebanon FFA
 Kristin Sinniger - Manheim FFA Chapter
 Jason L. Snyder - Greenwood FFA Chapter
 Michelle Sweigart - Cloister FFA Chapter
 Jeffrey Thomas Welker - Upper Dauphin Area FFA
 Douglas N. Wolfe - Mifflinburg FFA Chapter
 Eric Zimmerman - Grassland FFA Chapter
 Jennifer Zimmerman - Cloister FFA Chapter

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