



Midwest Poultry Consortium

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Hester Receives 2013 Outstanding Service Award

Dr. Patricia Hester, Purdue University, was recognized as the 2013 recipient of MPC's Outstanding Service Award. Dr. Hester has been an Avian Physiology instructor since the beginning of the COE Program and dedicates her time each summer to teach in Madison. Dr. Hester has also been instrumental in recruitment efforts at Purdue University, helping organize classroom visits and Avian Science Club meetings. As a result, 78 Purdue students have attended the COE Program over the years. Additionally, Dr. Hester is a favorite of the COE students which is evident in her many nominations for Faculty Member of the Year.

In addition to her work with the COE, Dr. Hester has been an active participant in the Midwest Poultry Research Program. In total, Dr. Hester has received over \$110,000 in MPRP funds to investigate such things as feeder space, lighting programs, and osteoporosis in laying hens. Therefore, in recognition of Dr. Hester's enthusiastic dedication to, and support of, the Midwest Poultry Consortium's Center of Excellence Scholarship Program and the poultry industry as a whole, it is with great thanks and appreciation that Dr. Hester was honored with MPC's 2013 Outstanding Service Award.

Dr. Hester, the 12th recipient of MPC's Outstanding Service Award, joins past winners: Dr. Mark Cook, University of Wisconsin (2012); Dr. Hongwei Xin, Iowa State University (2011); Bernie Wentworth, University of Wisconsin (2010); Lou Arrington, WI Poultry & Egg Association (2009); Senator Tom Harkin (2008); Wendy Wintersteen, Iowa State University (2007); Dennis Casey, Hy-Line North America (2006); Sue Lamont, Iowa State University (2005); Ron Kean, University of Wisconsin (2004); Bob Sparboe, Sparboe Companies (2003); and Congressman Tom Latham (2002).



Dr. Patricia Hester
2013 Recipient

Recruitment Efforts Pay Off - Record Number of Applications

Six weeks of recruitment efforts paid off for 2013 as an all-time record of 99 students applied for the Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program! Applications were received from coast-to-coast, from Washington to Delaware, demonstrating the wide appeal the COE maintains among students. Not only was this the highest number of applicants that MPC has ever received (surpassing 2012 by more than 40%), it is a manifestation of the growing interest in the Consortium's core program – the COE.

A total of 31 students representing 12 member universities participated in the accelerated poultry science curriculum offered at the COE. Scholarships were awarded to 29 students, one student participated through a GI Bill, and one student paid their own tuition. Eleven students received diplomas signifying their graduation from the COE and the completion of all six courses offered over the two-year program.

A total of 30 internships were arranged for students at MPC member companies, giving them hands-on experience, as well as a foot-in-the-door to future employment. One student was offered full-time positions in the poultry industry immediately following COE courses. Two additional internships were arranged for COE graduates currently enrolled in veterinary school. Internship participation improves retention within the poultry industry and provides valuable industry experience for students.

COE Course Content Reviewed - January 2013

Industry, COE Coordinating Council members, and COE faculty met at the University of Minnesota to review the course content of the six COE classes to improve coursework to better prepare students for entry into the poultry industry upon graduation.

Michael White, Head of the University of Minnesota's Department of Animal Science, welcomed the group and emphasized the importance of the Center of Excellence Program and the collaborative involvement from land grant universities.

In total, twenty-two stakeholders representing nine of the 13 MPC states gathered for the meeting.

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\$5,000 • \$10,000 • \$20,000

Banquet Recognizes 2013 COE Students

The Midwest Poultry Consortium held its year-end "Casino-Nite" banquet for the 18th year of the COE Program at The Madison Concourse Hotel. More than 70 students, family members, faculty, MPC board members, staff, and industry representatives honored both students and faculty for their accomplishments and hard work.

The "Casino-Nite" Banquet featured an awards ceremony; winners included Valerie Ponterio as class clown (Yolkster Award), Jed Ryan as the most dedicated student (Ducks in a Row Award), and Alexander Hohenstein as the most intelligent student (Egghead Award). The Pullet-zer Prize, which recognizes the faculty member of the year, was given separately for Summer Session I and II. Deana Jones of USDA-ARS earned the honor for Summer Session I, while Mark Cook of the University of Wisconsin took home the prize for Summer Session II (Murray Bakst, Mark Berres, Greg Fraley, Scotti Hester, Ron Kean, Ian Rubinoff, and Mike Wineland were also nominated.)

Diplomas were awarded to students who have completed both years of COE by on-site coordinator Mark Richards. 2013 graduates include: Candace Anderson, Genevieve Dryak, Jessica Ernest, Colleen Grafton, Acacia Herr, Angela Johnson, Chelsie Lawyer, Liz Martin, Valerie Ponterio, Shepard Sonstegard, and Jessica Vande Vorde.

Students and industry representatives took advantage of the great opportunity to network about future employment opportunities within the poultry industry. The event sponsors included: Evonik Degussa Corporation, GNP Company, Hy-Line North America, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Land O'Lakes Purina Feed, Naturally Recycled Proteins, Rose Acre Farms, and Sparboe Companies.



2013 COE Graduates

COE Students in the News

MPC tracks COE graduates not only through graduation, but also through full-time employment. The goal of this tracking system is to help place former COE students in full-time positions within MPC member companies and to retain as many students in the poultry industry as possible.

Zane Baker, a 2010 COE graduate, accepted the position of Production Manager Trainee for Rose Acre Farms in Indiana. Zane graduated from Iowa State University in May 2011 with a degree in Animal Science.

Jasma Collins, a 2009 COE participant, accepted the position of Compliance Manager with Rose Acre Farms in Indiana. Jasma graduated from Purdue University in May 2010 with a degree in Agribusiness.

Jessica Ernest, a 2013 COE graduate, accepted the position of Management Trainee with Rose Acre Farms in southern Indiana. Jessica graduated from Michigan State University in May 2013 with a degree in Animal Science.

Kevin Gast, a 2012 COE graduate, accepted the position of Management Trainee/Production Lead with Sparboe Farms in Litchfield, MN. Kevin graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in May 2012 with a degree in Animal Science.

Chelsie Lawyer, a 2013 COE graduate, accepted the position of Poultry Health Specialist with the Indiana State Poultry Association in West Lafayette, IN. Chelsie graduated from Purdue University in May 2013 with a degree in Animal Production.

Liz Martin, a 2013 COE graduate, accepted the position of Vaccination Manager with Jennie-O Turkey Store in Altura, MN. Liz will graduate from Iowa State University in December 2013 with a degree in Animal Science with a Poultry Emphasis and a minor in Entrepreneurial studies.

Kristin Merriman, a 2012 COE graduate, accepted the position of Brooder Manager with MacFarlane Pheasants in Janesville, WI. Kristin graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December 2012 with a degree in Poultry Science/Environmental Science.

Kelsey Nesheim, a 2012 COE participant, accepted the position of Management Trainee with Sparboe Farms in Litchfield, MN. Kelsey graduated from Iowa State University in December 2012 with a degree in Animal Science.

Krystal Price, a 2007 COE graduate, accepted the position of Assistant Brooder Manager with MacFarlane Pheasants in Janesville, WI. Krystal graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2008 with a degree in Animal Science.

Carl Scoles, a 2012 COE internship participant, accepted the position of Live Production Manager with Trillium Farms in Mount Victory, OH. Carl graduated from The Ohio State University in December 2012 with a degree in Animal Science and a minor in Environmental Science.

Andreas Schlatter, a 2012 COE participant, accepted the position of Assistant Production Manager with Rose Acre Farms in Seymour, IN. Andreas graduated from Michigan State University in May 2012 with a degree in Animal Science.

Joe Sylve, a 2012 COE graduate, accepted the position of Vaccine Sales Representative with Best Veterinary Solutions in Washington, IN. Joe graduated from Purdue University in May 2013 with a degree in Animal Science.

Zach Tucker, a 2012 COE participant, accepted the position of Special Projects Coordinator with Maple Leaf Farms in Indiana. Zach graduated from Purdue University in May 2012 with a degree in Animal Agribusiness.

Kailynn VanDeWater, a 2011 COE participant, accepted the position of Assistant Manager with Trillium Farms in Johnstown, OH. Kailynn graduated from Michigan State University in May 2013 with a degree in Animal Science.

Amos Wipf, a 2012 COE participant, accepted the position of Assistant Production Manager with S & R Egg Farm in Whitewater, WI. Amos graduated from South Dakota State University in May 2013 with a degree in Animal Science/Business.