



Midwest Poultry Consortium

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Dr. Dan Schaefer Earns MPC's Outstanding Service Award

Dr. Dan Schaefer of the University of Wisconsin-Madison was named the recipient of the Midwest Poultry Consortium's highest honor - the 2014 Outstanding Service Award. MPC's Outstanding Service Award is presented annually and recognizes and rewards significant contributions to the poultry industry.

Dr. Schaefer is a professor and Chair of the Department of Animal Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. But more importantly from MPC's perspective, he is also the individual on campus with whom the Midwest Poultry Consortium works closest to ensure that the working relationship between the University and the Consortium continues to thrive. Dan has worked with the Consortium over the years to maintain support for the program on campus and is always willing to work through any issues that may arise. His commitment to the COE is evident in his steadfast dedication to the program.

In recognition of Dr. Schaefer's dedication to and support of the Midwest Poultry Consortium's COE, and the poultry industry as a whole, it was with great thanks and appreciation that Dr. Schaefer was honored with MPC's 2014 Outstanding Service Award.

Dr. Schaefer, the 13th recipient of MPC's Outstanding Service Award, joins past winners: Patricia (Scotti) Hester, Purdue University (2013); Mark Cook, University of Wisconsin (2012); 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. Dan Schaefer
2014 Recipient

2014 COE Attracts Near Record Number of Applicants!

Midwest Poultry Consortium staff spent most of September and October traveling to university career fairs recruiting students for the 2014 Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program (COE). MPC staff visited 14 universities, from North Dakota to Florida, to extol the virtues of the COE and the benefits it has to offer students interested in poultry industry careers. In all, nearly 100 students completed applications in the hopes of being one of the students awarded a scholarship to attend the 2014 COE at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

In addition to attending career fairs, MPC staff also made a number of classroom presentations and poultry club visits at each location (which tend to be more impactful in recruiting students than the career fairs themselves). With the cooperation of a number of professors, not only those who focus on poultry but in other species as well, MPC staff was able to introduce the COE and the benefits it has to offer to students who may not have previously considered a career in poultry.

Applications were received from students across the country, demonstrating the wide appeal the COE maintains among students. Awareness of the COE program continues to build on campuses in our member states due in large part to former COE students and faculty who share their experiences about the program.

The 2014 classes marked the 19th year of the Midwest Poultry Consortium's Center of Excellence Scholarship Program. The program continues to provide students with a high quality poultry science emphasis and helps ensure the continued availability of qualified poultry graduates for employment within the industry upon their graduation.

COE Students Placed in 28 Internships

The students who participated in the 2014 Center of Excellence were offered internship opportunities at MPC member companies to give them firsthand exposure to working in the poultry industry. Ultimately, 28 industry internships were awarded which served as a vital component of the COE program allowing students to take the knowledge they learned in the classroom and apply it to real-world experiences. Thanks to all of the companies that provided internships!

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\$5,000 • \$10,000 • \$20,000

Students and Faculty Recognized at Year-End Banquet

The Midwest Poultry Consortium held its year-end "Game-Nite" banquet for the 19th 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 Banquet featured an awards ceremony - recipients included: Kathryn Borders as class clown (Yolkster Award), Zeb Skow as the most dedicated student (Ducks in a Row Award), and (in a tie) Jake Anderson and Garrett Stevenson as the most intelligent students (Egghead Award). The Pullet-zer Prize, which recognizes the faculty member of the year, was given separately for Summer Session I and II. 2014 proved to be the 'Year of the Marks'. The award for Summer Session I went to Dr. Mark Berres, while the award for Summer Session II went to Dr. Mark Cook, both of the University of Wisconsin (Murray Bakst, Greg Fraley, Scotti Hester, Deana Jones, Ron Kean, Todd Applegate, Ken Koelkebeck, and Rob Porter were also nominated.)

On-site coordinator Mark Richards had the honor of awarding diplomas to students who have completed both years of the COE. 2014 graduates include: Jake Anderson, Hannah Brown, Cameron Hall, Grant Hopke, Gemma Isermann, Kimberly Kester, Miranda Lemke, James Lewis, Stephanie Schwieterman, Dion Scott, Amber Sizelove, Kelsey Ward, and Ryan Wittlinger.

While competing in games of trivia, 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 Industries, GNP Company, Hy-Line North America, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Purina Animal Nutrition, Rose Acre Farms, and Sparboe Companies.

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.

Candace Anderson, a 2013 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Assistant Manager in Training at Rembrandt Enterprises in Thompson, IA. Candace graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a degree in Animal Science with a Meat Emphasis.

Jake Anderson, a 2014 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Hatchery Supervisor with GNP Company in Arcadia, WI. Jake graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Animal Science with a Poultry Production Emphasis.

Kindra Burger, a 2011 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Regulatory Compliance Manager with Sunrise Acres Egg Farm. Kindra graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Animal Science.

Kevin Gast, a 2012 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Pullet Farm Manager with Rose Acres Farms in Guthrie Center, IA. Kevin graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a degree in Animal Science.

Grant Hopke, a 2014 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Brooder Farm Manager with Jennie-O Turkey Store in Swift Falls, MN. Grant graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Animal Science with a Poultry Production Emphasis.

Gemma Isermann, a 2014 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Safety and Compliance Coordinator with Nelson Poultry Farms in Manhattan, KS. Gemma graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Animal Science.

Angela Johnson, a 2013 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Plant Operations Leadership Trainee with GNP Company in Arcadia, WI. Angela graduated from Michigan State University with an Animal Science degree and a Poultry Science Emphasis.

Susan Krohn, a 2014 participant of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Assistant Hatchery Supervisor with Miller Poultry in Goshen, IN. Susan graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Animal Science-Prevet Concentration.

Miranda Lemke, a 2014 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Contract Production Management Trainee with Sparboe Farms in Litchfield, MN. Miranda graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Animal Science - Industry & Business.

Robert (Max) Pfund, a 2009 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Farm Manager for Herbruck's Poultry Ranch in Saranac, MI. Max graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Animal Science and a minor in Agribusiness.

Valerie Ponterio, a 2013 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Assistant Manager Trainee with Rose Acre Farms in North Vernon, IN. Valerie graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a degree in Animal Science and a minor in Crop and Food Science.

Shepard Sonstegard, a 2013 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Demand Planning with Pilgrim's Pride in Greeley, CO. Shep graduated from Augsburg College with a degree in Business Finance.

Robert VanWyhe, a 2005 graduate of the Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, accepted the position of Poultry Nutritionist with Hy-Line International in Dallas Center, IA. Robert graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in BioSystems Engineering.



2014 COE Graduates