2019 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
Richard "Mick" Fulton of Michigan State University was the recipient of the Midwest Poultry Consortium's 2019 Outstanding Service Award. The award is given each year to an individual who exemplifies Outstanding Service to the Consortium and the poultry industry. The award was given at MPC’s Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, March 12.

Mick has been an integral part of MPC’s Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship (COE) Program for many years. He has served as an instructor for the COE’s Avian Health class and has taken over the role of Course Coordinator. Mick was also the recipient of the 2018 Pullet-zer Prize Award which is determined by a vote of COE students and recognizes the faculty member students feel went above and beyond in their efforts to connect with and educate COE students.

Fulton, the 18th recipient, joins past winners: Ken Koelkebeck, University of Illinois (2018); Steve Jurek, GNP (2017); Mark Richards, University of Wisconsin (2016); Mike Lilburn, The Ohio State University (2015); Dan Schaefer, University of Wisconsin (2014); Patricia Hester, Purdue University (2013); Mark Cook, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2012); Hongwei Xin, Iowa State University (2011); 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).

RESEARCH LEGISLATION
MPC Laying Groundwork for Poultry Research Funding. While it did not get a lot of coverage when the Farm Bill passed in December 2018, MPC was successful in securing authorizing language which may prove to be highly impactful for the poultry industry. Working with key allies in the House and Senate, language was inserted under the High Priority Research and Extension Initiatives section of the Farm Bill for the Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program. While the program has not yet been funded, the authorizing language provides a mechanism allowing MPC to work with appropriators to eventually fund the program. The language states ‘Research grants may be made… for the purpose of improving the efficiency and sustainability of laying hen and turkey production through integrated, collaborative research and technology transfer. Emphasis may be placed on laying hen and turkey disease prevention, antimicrobial resistance, nutrition, gut health, and alternative housing systems under extreme seasonal weather conditions.’

Since the ban on earmarks effectively put an end to the highly popular Midwest Poultry Research Program (MPRP) in 2010, MPC has been working to develop an alternative method to secure poultry research funding to address critical industry needs. While further work needs to be done, the authorizing language provides a pathway to secure funding. This first step was a major success in rebuilding a research funding source.

MEETINGS & EVENTS
2019 Annual Meeting – March 12. MPC’s Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Midwest Poultry Federation’s Convention. President Beth Nelson provided highlights of the past year including an update on the research funding. Chelsea Russell, Student Director, followed with an overview of the Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program (COE) including a faculty update, review of the Poultry Leadership Experience, student recruitment, scholarships, internships, and hires. Former COE student Logan Hulst (2016 COE graduate), employed with Hy-Line International, gave a student testimonial discussing his perspective of classes, internship responsibilities, interaction with other students in his current position, professional interests, and how valuable COE has been to his career. Yuko Sato (Iowa State University), followed with her perspective of classes, internship responsibilities, interaction with other students in her current position, professional interests, and how valuable COE has been to her career. Aaron Ripplinger, Hy-Line International, gave a student testimonial discussing his perspective of classes, internship responsibilities, interaction with other students in his current position, professional interests, and how valuable COE has been to his career. Yuko Sato (Iowa State University), followed with her perspective of classes, internship responsibilities, interaction with other students in her current position, professional interests, and how valuable COE has been to her career.
COE Students Honored at Year-End Banquet. MPC held its 2019 COE Banquet & Awards Ceremony to honor its 36-member class (pictured), one of the largest ever – marking the end of its 24th year. COE, an intense 12-week poultry science curriculum over two summers, prepares students for poultry industry employment. It provides an opportunity to earn up to 18 credits, participate in internships paving the way for employment, and develop a lifelong network. The social hour gave students the opportunity to visit with industry representatives about potential employment. The awards ceremony recognized Jonathan Suwarna as the most intelligent student (Egghead Award), and for the second year in a row, Reilly Hoefker as class clown (Yolkster Award) and Aaron Ripplinger as the most dedicated student (Ducks in a Row Award). Faculty members were recognized with the coveted Mark Cook Pullet-zer Prize, which went to Zachary Williams (Session I) and Mick Fulton (Session II), both of Michigan State University. The award is voted on by students. Others nominees included: Dianna Bourassa, Auburn University; Beth Button, University of Wisconsin; Anup Johny, University of Minnesota; Mark Richards, University of Wisconsin; Yuko Sato, Iowa State University; and Carl Parsons, University of Illinois. Mark Richards presented diplomas to COE graduates completing both COE sessions. 2019 graduates included: Marydith Barkley (ISU), Hannah Campbell (MSU), Yalitza Curiel (ISU), Taylor Deplazes (SDSU), Paige Doklovic (OSU), Reilly Hoefker (SDSU), Miranda Painter (SDSU), Kyle Reichard (PU), Alexis Reily (UW), Aaron Ripplinger (NDSU), Alexandra Volpi (UF), and Maddison Wiersema (ISU).

Banquet sponsors: Daybreak Foods; Farmer Automatic of America – Aggero; Henning Companies; Hy-Line North America; Life-Science Innovations; Maple Leaf Farms; Naturally Recycled Proteins; Purina Animal Nutrition; Rose Acre Farms; Sonstegard Foods; and Sparboe Farms.

2019 COE – SCHOLARSHIPS, INDUSTRY VIEWS, FACULTY, LEADERSHIP, & INTERNSHIPS

Scholarship Selection. Thirty-six students participated in the 2019 COE program, representing all 13 MPC member states. Full scholarships were awarded to 23 students and partial scholarships to 13 students.

Poultry Leadership Experience (PLE). Ken Kolkebeck, Poultry Enterprise Management (PEM) Course Coordinator, Beth Nelson and Chelsea Russell (MPC); and Brian Joyer (Hy-Line North America) taught PLE. It is a three-day session incorporated into the PEM course. Prior to COE, students took an MBTI assessment to gauge personality type preferences. PLE uses interactive curriculum to present and reinforce concepts of leadership, emotional intelligence, communication, and teamwork.

Wednesday Night Forums. Wednesday Night Forums, a popular weekly event, offers students the opportunity to network with industry leaders, learn more about the poultry industry, and explore future career opportunities. Speakers: *Nick Alt (Alltech); *Abigail Sielaff (Daybreak Foods); *Dave Hasemann, *Manny Benitez, and *Stephanie Solberg (Rose Acre Farms); Ben Sarabia and *Emilee Copples (Trillium Farm Holdings); *Alex Hohenstein (Jennie-O Turkey Store); Rocky Lisowski and *Aaron Ripplinger (Pilgrim’s); and Isa Her (Hendrix Genetics). (*COE graduate)

Internships. Twenty-nine industry internships were awarded, they allow students to take classroom knowledge and apply it to real-world settings. Internship hosts:

- Alltech
- Cal-Maine Foods
- Cooper Farms
- Daybreak Foods
- Hy-Line North America
- Iowa Cage Free
- Jennie-O Turkey Store
- MacFarlane Pheasants
- Maple Leaf Farms
- Michael Foods
- Naturally Recycled Proteins
- Ohio Poultry Association
- Oskaloosa Food Products
- Pilgrims
- Rose Acre Farms
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- Pilgrims
- Rose Acre Farms
- Sparboe Farms
- Trillium Farm Holdings
Faculty is Key to COE Success. A strong commitment by faculty who are dedicated not only to the poultry industry, but to the students they educate, are at the core of COE’s success. They include nationally recognized faculty from participating land grant institutions, experienced industry representatives, and professionals from other universities and related agencies. Thanks to the following 2019 COE faculty members and guest speakers who shared their time and expertise; without them, COE would not exist (Course coordinators):

SUMMER SESSION I
Avian Physiology
John Parrish, University of Wisconsin
Yuko Sato, Iowa State University
Zachary Williams, Michigan State University
Breeder Flock & Hatchery Management
Ron Kean, University of Wisconsin
Danny Lubritz, Hy-Line International
Mike Wineland, North Carolina State University
Poultry Products Technology
Mark Richards, University of Wisconsin
Adam Borger, University of Wisconsin
Beth Button, University of Wisconsin
Dianna Bourassa, Auburn University
Sofia Erazo-Castrejon, University of Wisconsin
Anup Johny, University of Minnesota
Jenny Lens, Johnsonville Sausage
Andy Milkowski, University of Wisconsin
James Whalen, University of Wisconsin
Pam Yoder, Johnsonville Sausage

SUMMER SESSION II
Avian Health
Mick Fulton, Michigan State University
Rob Porter, University of Minnesota
Poultry Nutrition
Liz Bobeck, Iowa State University
Carl Parsons, University of Illinois
Cailion Evans, Kansas State University
April Waguespack-Levy, DSM Nutritional Products
Poultry Enterprise Management
Ken Koelkebeck, University of Illinois
Jorge Arana, Nature Link Farms
Steven Corbitt, Maple Leaf Farms
Trudy DeRemer, MacFarlane Pheasants
Kelsey Held, Pilgrim’s
Keith Kulow, Daybreak Foods
Jeremy Lies, Hy-Line NA
Beth Nelson, MPC
Scott Schneider, Nature Link Farms
Chelsea Russell, MPC
Jillian Theiler, Daybreak Foods

STUDENT PLACEMENT

COE Students in the News. MPC’s student tracking and database system follows COE graduates not only through their graduation, but also through full-time employment. The goal is to help place COE graduates in full-time positions within MPC member companies and to retain as many students in the industry as possible. Congratulations to the following students on their full-time poultry employment!

Marydith Barkley, a 2019 COE graduate, accepted the position of Poultry Health Management Lead with Daybreak Foods in Eagle Grove, IA. She graduated from Iowa State University in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

Faith Britton, a 2016 COE participant, accepted the position of Environmental Compliance Technician with Daybreak Foods in Lake Mills, WI. She graduated from North Dakota State University in 2018 with a degree in Animal Science.

Gabriell Conn, a 2018 COE graduate, accepted the position of Layer Production and Compliance Director with River View Farms in Orleans, IN. She graduated from Michigan State University in December 2018 with a degree in Animal Science.

Maria (Arendt) Dashek, a 2011 COE graduate, accepted the position of Technical Services Manager with BV Science in Columbia, MO. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Animal Sciences from Iowa State University and a DMV and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Krista Eberle-Krish, a 2007 COE graduate, accepted the position of R&D Bacteriology Scientist I with CEVA Animal Health in Lenexa, KS. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Animal Sciences from Purdue University, a Masters in Poultry Science from Mississippi State University, and a PhD in Poultry Science from North Carolina State University.

Taylin Flom, a 2018 COE participant, accepted the position of Area Assistant Supervisor for Live Production with Jennie-O Turkey Store in Wadena, MN. She graduated from North Dakota State University in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

Lindsey Leiser, a 2018 COE graduate, accepted the position of Pullet Management Trainee with Rose Acre Farms in Bouse, AZ. She graduated from Kansas State University in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

Victoria Mason, a 2018 COE graduate, accepted the position of Production Best Practice Coordinator with Forsman Farms in Howard Lake, MN. She graduated from Iowa State University in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

Kaitlyn McCarty, a 2018 COE participant, accepted the position of Manager Trainee with Cal-Maine Foods in Okeechobee, FL. She graduated from the University of Florida in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

Jones-Hamilton
Kemin Animal Nutrition & Health
Kindsstrom-Schnoll
Koechner Manufacturing
Konos
Life-Science Innovations (WPC)
M & C Anderson Pullets
MacFarlane Pheasants
Maple Leaf Farms
Michael Foods
Michigan Allied Poultry Ind.
Michigan Turkey Producers
Midwest Livestock Systems
Midwest Poultry Federation
Midwest Poultry Services
Miller Poultry
Minnesota Turkey Council
Naturally Recycled Proteins
Nebraska Poultry Industries
Nelson Poultry Farms
North American Gamebird Assn.
Northern Pride
Nova-Tech Engineering
Novus International
Ohio Poultry Association
Organic Valley
Oskaloosa Food Products
Pearl Valley
Phibro Animal Health
Pilgrim’s
Purina Animal Nutrition
Rembrandt Foods
Ridley Feed Ingredients
River View Farms
Rose Acre Farms
Sanovo Engineering
Sonstegard Foods
South Dakota Poultry Ind. Assn.
Sparboe Farms
Sunrise Acres Egg Farms
Sure Conveyors
Tecumseh Poultry
Tigges, Kent
Trillium Farm Holdings
Turkey Valley Farms
United Egg Producers
University of Florida
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
VAL-CO
VALO BioMedia North America
Wabash Valley Produce
Weaver Brothers
West Liberty Foods
Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Ind. Assn.
Zoetis

$5,000 • $10,000 • $20,000
Reilly Hoefer, a 2019 COE graduate, accepted a position with Woodland Acres Hatchery & Game Farm in Fairmont, MN. He graduated from South Dakota State University in June 2019 with a degree in Agriculture Science.

Aaron Ripplinger, a 2018 COE participant, accepted the position of Management Trainee with Pilgrim's in Cold Springs, MN. He graduated from North Dakota State University in June 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

Zachary Simons, a 2017 COE graduate, accepted the position of Poultry Account Manager with NovaTech Engineering in Willmar, MN. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2018 with degrees in Animal Science and Poultry Science.

Lisa Tenny, a 2015 COE participant, accepted the position of Associate Veterinarian with Aviagen in Elkmont, AL. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences and Industry and a DMV from Kansas State University.

**Unique Opportunities.** COE students took unique positions prior to embarking on further education.

Caroline Gregg, a 2018 COE participant, accepted a summer position as a Research Assistant in Poultry Science with Auburn University. She will graduate from Iowa State University with a degree in Animal Science.

COE students were accepted into graduate programs in areas important to the poultry industry. Congratulations to COE students entering graduate school: Maddison Wiersema (Iowa State University) and Luke Zimmerman (University of Illinois).

## COE GRADUATES AND SPONSORS HELP MPC SPREAD INTEREST IN Poultry

**Promoting COE and Bringing Awareness to the Poultry Industry While Recruiting for the 2020 COE.**

The fall recruitment season means visits to each of our affiliated schools. In addition to attracting the best students to apply for the COE program, MPC puts focus on increasing student awareness of opportunities within the poultry industry.

**Poultry Panels.** Over 100 students attended NDSU’s 7th Annual Poultry Panel Networking Event to learn about careers in the poultry industry. Panelists included: Abigail Scott, Jennie-O Turkey (2017 COE student); Aaron Ripplinger, Pilgrim’s (2019 COE graduate); and Ben Wileman, Select Genetics.

South Dakota State University’s 5th Annual Poultry Networking Event attracted over 120 students. Panelists included: Aaron Ripplinger, Pilgrim’s (2019 COE graduate); Ben Wileman, Select Genetics; Clayton Sexton, Hy-Line North America; Julie Kelly, Michael Foods; Reilly Hoefer, Woodland Acres Hatchery & Game Farm (2019 COE graduate). The South Dakota Poultry Industry Association sponsored the food. Thomas Salentiny (2018 COE graduate) moderated the panel.

**Additional Club and Campus Involvement.** MPC has worked to strengthen Poultry Club involvement and give students a better idea of the job opportunities existing in the industry. MPC gave presentations and helped coordinate industry guest speakers for six poultry clubs of affiliated schools.

MPC also works with animal science-related clubs and classes to spread awareness. MPC participated in the Food Industry Mixer and Animal Science Networking Breakfast at Michigan State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Agriculture Career Fair Networking Breakfast and Reverse Career Fair, and coordinated a poultry presentation for University of Missouri’s Block and Bridle club. At the University of Florida, MPC was able to present COE information at its IPPE Interest Night.

In total, MPC gave presentations in 52 classes and attended 11 career fairs. Sixteen current/past COE students helped with class and club presentations as well as with staffing career fair booths.