

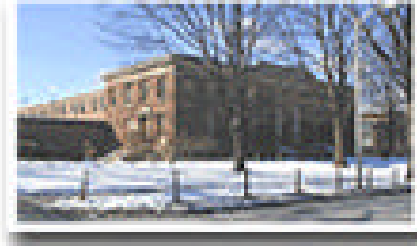


**From the Department Head**

The Department is completing the second year of its 5-year strategic plan for the period of 1999-2003. This plan charts an ambitious future that will enable our Department to be among America's elite universities. Several accomplishments of interest to alumni are highlighted below.

Last fall **Miley Gonzalez**, a Ph.D. recipient from our Department, was honored by our College as an outstanding alumnus. Dr. Gonzalez is USDA undersecretary and a nationally recognized extension educator. This fall, the College will honor another of our Department's excellent graduates. **Sam Hayes**, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, will receive the same award. Secretary Hayes received his bachelor's and master's in agricultural education. These individuals are excellent representatives of the solid foundation that students receive through the Department.

The extent to which our Department achieves its strategic goals will be governed primarily by the performance of its faculty. When fully staffed, the Department will have 19 full-time equivalent faculty. We are in the midst of a major hiring program to achieve our strategic goals in a coherent manner. Seven new faculty have or will join the Department as a result of resignations and program expansions. In January, **Danny Perkins** joined the Department as an associate professor from the University of Florida to support our extension efforts in family policy and resiliency. The same month **Claudia Mincemoyer** started as an assistant professor to provide leadership for our 4-H youth curriculum. In August, **Matt Kaplan** from Hawaii Pacific University will join the Department as an associate professor with primary responsibility in aging and intergenerational programming. **Rama Radhakrishna** will join the Department in September from Clemson University as an associate professor to lead our research and evaluation efforts. Two searches are underway to identify excellent faculty for our leadership position and a teacher educator



position that resulted from Susie Whittington's resignation. Finally, I am pleased to report that our Department has been chosen to receive a new position in the area of service learning and public scholarship. This position will be funded by the College and the University's new Children, Youth, and Families consortium, a new effort to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. We received this position primarily because our Department's strategic plan has charted a clear future and direction.

Our new faculty hires must be viewed in light of two recent deaths in the AEE family. This spring David McClay, a former Department head, died after a long illness. Dr. McClay provided significant faculty and administrative leadership for the Department for almost three decades. We also experienced another death when Don Evans, an associate professor, died suddenly of a heart attack. He was providing major leadership for our international efforts in Central and Eastern Europe. Both of these giants will be missed, but their major contributions will not be forgotten.

So our history will not be forgotten, three of our retirees are assembling the history of our Department. Emeriti professors **Sam Curtis**, **Norman Hoover**, and **Richard Stinson** are leading this project which should be completed by Christmas. Dr. Hoover is providing most of the leadership for this writing project. A special celebration is being planned to occur before the Christmas holiday.

## Alumni News: We Want to Hear from You!

Please take a minute to share what has happened to you recently: new positions, promotions, advanced degree(s), births of children, professional recognitions, retirements, marriages, etc.

**Mail to:** Dept of Agricultural and Extension Education, Attn: Alumni Newsletter, The Pennsylvania State University, 323 Ag Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s), major \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

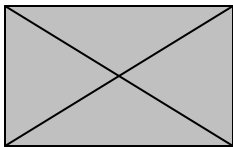
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Your news: new positions, promotions, degree(s), births of children, recognitions, retirements, marriages, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Department of Agricultural and Extension Education**  
**College of Agricultural Sciences**  
**The Pennsylvania State University**  
**323 Ag. Administration Building**  
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## From the Department Head (Cont'd)

I am pleased to note that during spring semester, 22 individuals completed student teaching. This is the highest number of student teachers in recent years. This number resulted because of the excellent efforts of our faculty. In addition to this noteworthy accomplishment, we are continually updating all of our programs so our offerings remain contemporary. In this regard, the Department had approved a new leadership development minor and an undergraduate option in leadership and communications within the AEE major. Last year we implemented a new undergraduate minor and an M.Ed. in youth and family education to replace our offerings in extension education to better meet the needs of contemporary society. We have also instituted other curriculum changes and several new courses to keep the Department on the cutting-edge of society.

Finally, many other exciting events, activities, and changes occurred in the Department over the past year, but space does not permit me to elaborate on each of them. This certainly does not diminish their importance. In total, the Department is alive and well. We are moving forward and advancing a contemporary agenda. Thanks to you and our other 1,900+ graduates, our Department will thrive in the new millennium. Your comments, criticisms, and suggestions are needed for us to be America's premier Department. -- *Blannie E. Bowen*



## Carey in Zimbabwe

**Harry Carey** spent the summer in Zimbabwe working with several faculty in that country to develop and expand its capacity to deliver communications instruction by distance education. Harry's visit to Zimbabwe is part of an on-going effort to expand the College's presence in international activities. These faculty are also planning a new master's degree and related programs and activities. Harry has also worked with several other countries in southern Africa to enhance the educational capacity within the region.

## Recent Graduates



Last fall and this spring the Department graduated several excellent students in various programs offered through the Department. During fall commencement, several undergraduates received degrees in Agricultural and Extension Education (1) and Agricultural Science (6). The Department also graduated 4 master's students and 2 doctoral students. In the spring, the Department graduated 12 undergraduates in Agricultural and Extension Education and 16 in Agricultural Science. One student received a master's degree and 3 received doctorates. Congratulations to all new graduates. Thanks to all alumni for referring students to the Department. If you know potential students who will make excellent Penn State students, contact **Dennis Scanlon**, our undergraduate coordinator, or **Joan Thomson**, our graduate coordinator.

## History of Department

Three of our emeriti faculty are making significant progress in writing the history of the Department. **Professors Norman Hoover, Sam Curtis**, and **Dick Stinson** are updating our history that was initially written over 50 years ago for the Penn State Centennial. A document is being written to cover three major periods in the life of our Department: (1) prior to 1981 when teacher education was the primary focus, (2) from 1981-1988 when the family living unit was merged into the Department, and (3) 1988 to the present when 4-H was added to the Department. This extensive writing project is being completed with outstanding contributions from many faculty, staff, and former students. **Tammy Snook** is providing staff assistant support for the effort. Dr. Hoover wants to have the document completed by Christmas.

## New Faculty Members

**Matt Kaplan**, an associate professor at Hawaii Pacific University, has been hired to fill our aging and intergenerational faculty position effective August 24. He was hired for the 75% extension, 25% research position after a national search that began last summer. Dr. Kaplan will work primarily with county Extension staff and faculty to expand our efforts in this emerging area. He brings a wealth of experience to Penn State from his many aging and intergenerational efforts in Hawaii. Matt, his wife, and son moved to State College in late July to establish their new residence before starting the position.

**Rama Radhakrishna** will rejoin the Department on September 16 as an associate professor with primary responsibility in the area of research and evaluation. The position has a 75% resident education, 25% research assignment. Before assuming his current position at Clemson University, he was a research associate in our Department for several years. Dr. Radhakrishna has a commendable list of publications in the journals of *Agricultural Education*, *Applied Communications*, and *Extension*. During the past three years as the Program Evaluation and Accountability specialist at Clemson University, he developed a web-based system for collecting program accountability data.

Two additional faculty members joined the Department on January 3 after extensive national searches. **Danny Perkins** joined the Department as an associate professor with primary responsibility for Extension programming in family policy and resiliency. **Claudia Mincemoyer** joined the Department as an assistant professor with major responsibility for 4-H youth curriculum development.

**Dr. Perkins** joined the Department from the University of Florida where he was an assistant professor in the Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1995 in family and child ecology. His master's is in human development and family studies and his bachelor's in psychology, both from Penn State. His position has a 75% extension, 25% research responsibility in the area of family policy and resiliency. Dr. Perkins will provide statewide leadership for Extension programs and family policy perspectives that focus on the promotion of youth/4-H and family strengths. He will develop educational intervention programs and community systems that help family members of all ages identify and cope successfully with high risk environments and stresses. Dr. Perkins will provide leadership for the College's CYFAR programming.

**Dr. Mincemoyer** actually rejoined the Department. She joined the faculty from her previous position as manager of staff development for Penn State Cooperative Extension, a position she held since 1993. Prior to this position, she was the program coordinator for the Youth Program Coordinating Council (YPCC) from 1991-93. Dr. Mincemoyer was a family living agent in Bucks County for five years and has been a home economics teacher. She received her B.S. from IUP and earned her M.S. in rural sociology in 1987 and her Ph.D. in agricultural education in 1997, both from Penn State. Her new position has a 75% extension, 25% research assignment. She will develop, implement, and evaluate curriculum to support county staff who deliver 4-H and youth programs. Her focus will be school-age youth development in the context of family, school, and community. Dr. Mincemoyer will develop collaborations with extension educators, faculty, agencies, and organizations to address the national 4-H curriculum areas.

Join us in welcoming these excellent individuals and scholars to our faculty.



*Matt Kaplan*



*Danny Perkins*



*Claudia Mincemoyer*

## Death of Dr. Evans

Donald Evans, an associate professor in the Department and a former Penn State Cooperative Extension administrator, died of a heart attack on January 14 at his Huntingdon County home. Dr. Evans was born November 26, 1941, in Franklin. He was a son of Dorothy C. Fisher Snyder of State College and the late Walter L. Evans. On February 20, 1966, at University Park, he married Cheryl K. Fry, who survives at home.

After serving as assistant dean for Cooperative Extension, Dr. Evans returned to the Department as a faculty member and committed his creative energies to developing a strong international presence for the Department. He traveled extensively around the globe to help create extension education programs in developing countries. Dr. Evans taught several graduate courses and advised numerous students, many from Central and Eastern Europe. He was firmly committed to helping the former Soviet states develop viable agriculture and extension systems. He was a strong advocate for both 4-H and the FFA. At the time of his death, he was providing key leadership for a major fund raising campaign for the Pennsylvania FFA Association.



Dr. Evans received his bachelor's in agricultural and biological sciences in 1963, a master's in agricultural education in 1967, and a doctorate in industrial education in 1978, all from Penn State. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves from 1962 to 1968.

He was very active in many organizations and groups, including Delta Theta Sigma, Epsilon Sigma Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Alpha Tau Alpha, Phi Delta Kappa, Iota Lambda Sigma, the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, JCI Senatorship, the Pennsylvania State Grange, Huntingdon County Pomona Grange, Huntingdon County Fair Board, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania State Farm Products Commission, Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence Advisory Board, and the Pennsylvania

School Boards' Association. An active leader in public education, Dr. Evans was also a School Board Director of Juniata Valley School District and a School Board Director of Huntingdon County Career Technology Center.

Individuals who wish to make memorial contributions should send them to the Evans Family Lecture Series, Development Office, College of Agricultural Sciences, 234 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802.



## Teaching and Learning Consortium

Last year the university initiated a program to enhance the capacity of department heads to bring more recognition to and rewards for excellent teaching. As a part of the Teaching and Learning Consortium (TLC) that was started last summer, former Provost John Brighton chose one department head from each college to participate in the consortium. **Blannie Bowen** was selected from our College. Also, one faculty member from the department head's unit was selected to participate in the TLC. **Susie Whittington** participated in the TLC as the faculty representative from our college. Because she has resigned, Phyllis Adams will now join the TLC. Throughout the academic year, the department head and faculty groups met to discuss common issues that will lead to the improvement of teaching. In late April, both groups met at the Penn Stater for a retreat. Also, Blannie recently participated in a three-day retreat with 10 department heads at the Mountain Laurel Retreat in White Haven near Wilkes Barre. Provost Rodney Erickson and Dr. Brighton also participated in the retreat that was designed to enhance the leadership and management skills of department heads. The retreat was conducted by Penn State's Executive Education program and featured various nationally recognized speakers and consultants.

## Hayes Honored as Outstanding Alumnus

The College of Agricultural Sciences has selected Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes to receive an Outstanding Alumnus Award this fall. Last year the Department had another outstanding graduate honored by the College when USDA Undersecretary Miley Gonzalez received an Outstanding Alumnus award.

Secretary Hayes was appointed to his current position in 1997 by Governor Tom Ridge to direct the state's services and activities in support of Pennsylvania agriculture. The Secretary also directs several state regulatory commissions and licensing bodies. From 1970-1992, Hayes was majority leader, majority whip, and minority leader in the Pennsylvania House. As a legislator, he authored or co-authored more than 500 bills and other legislation.



Hayes was a 1988 Penn State Alumni Fellow and he has received a Pennsylvania 4-H Alumni Award and the National 4-H Alumni Award. He has also received honorary FFA degrees from the Pennsylvania FFA Association and the National FFA organization. A Warriors Mark native, Secretary Hayes received his bachelor's (1964) and master's (1967) degrees in agricultural education from Penn State. This fall the Secretary will be on campus to meet with students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

## Moscow Undergraduate Program

**Tom Bruening** supervised the College's semester long program this spring wherein Penn State undergraduates spent the semester in Moscow to expand their knowledge of international agriculture. Ten Penn State students participated in the program at Moscow State University. While in Moscow, Dr. Bruening also completed activities associated with his Fulbright Fellowship. He and other cooperating faculty prepared a proposal to expand the program to other universities, and especially to students at the University of Florida and the University of Nebraska. The expansion will require Dr. Bruening to spend a limited amount of time in Moscow. The program is funded by the College's W.K. Kellogg initiative.

## Penn State Joins Research and Dissemination Consortium

Several Penn State faculty are participating in a new consortium to enhance workforce education across the U.S. The consortium also includes the University of Illinois, the University of Minnesota, The Ohio State University, and Oregon State University. This consortium recently received a five-year \$22.5 million contract from the U.S. Department of Education to conduct a Research Center and a Dissemination Center. The Research Center is housed at the University of Minnesota and the Dissemination Center at Ohio State. **Tom Bruening**, and **Dennis Scanlon** are completing a \$150,000 research project entitled "Totally Engaged in Preservice Development: From Data to New Designs" through the Research Center while **Dr. Scanlon** is completing a \$75,000 National Depository project through the Dissemination Center. Susie Whittington worked on both projects before she moved to The Ohio State.

## Curriculum Changes

The Department had two significant curriculum changes approved during spring semester that will significantly enhance our capacity to meet the educational needs of today's students. A new undergraduate Leadership Development minor that will attract new students to our College and the Department has been approved. Several new courses have already been approved and others revised to support the minor. **Dr. Phyllis Adams** is serving as the faculty leader for the minor. The Department also had another significant change approved that will enhance our Agricultural and Extension Education (AEE) undergraduate major. An option in Leadership and Communications was added to the AEE major so students who want a strong educational experience can receive it without doing student teaching. These students will complete an internship and related experiences as part of their degree program. **Dr. Dennis Scanlon** is coordinating the option in his role as the Department's undergraduate coordinator. Details in the minor and option can be found at the Department's website (<http://agexted.cas.psu.edu>) and by contacting Drs. Adams and Scanlon.

## Whittington Resignation

**Susie Whittington** resigned this summer to accept an associate professor position at Ohio State in the Department of Human and Community Resource Development. Dr. Whittington worked closely with high school agricultural science teachers through the Center for Professional Personnel Development. The Center is administered jointly by our Department and the College of Education through a \$1 million annual contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Dr. Whittington's scholarship focuses on cognitive levels of teaching and learning. She has won numerous honors and awards for her research, teaching and service activities. Dr. Whittington brought lots of creative energy and positive momentum to the Department. All will miss having Susie, Pat, and their family at Penn State. The Department is now conducting a national search to identify an excellent scholar for the position.

## Staff Assistant Changes

**Patti Burns** has resigned her position in the Department to accept a staff assistant position in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. All in the Department extend their thanks for Patti's high level work, pleasant demeanor, and overall excellence. In addition to providing excellent support for various faculty, Patti was instrumental in supporting the international efforts of Don Evans. She continued to provide the primary support for the international activities after Don's untimely death in January. **Kim Boonie** has been hired to fill Patti's former position. Also, **Colleen Bloom** has been hired to replace **Jamie Whitehead** as the primary staff assistant to support the Department's undergraduate programming. Jamie served the Department for over a decade before accepting a promotion in the Physics Department. Colleen will provide support for three faculty as well as provide undergraduate administrative support for our undergraduate coordinator. Welcome Colleen and Kim.

# Alumni News

*Continued*



## 1990s (Continued)

**Krista Pontius (Byers)** (Ag. Ed. '97, B.S.). Teaching at Big Spring High School.

**Henry Bahn** (Ag. Ed. '97, Ph.D.). New Position as Director of Higher Education Programs at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

**Christian B. Fowkes** (Ag. Ed. '97, B.S.). Serving in Peace Corps as volunteer in Morocco.



## Deaths

**Charles Gundlach** (Ag. Ed. '42, B.S.) -- 1999

**David McClay** (Ag. Ed. '34, B.S., '43, M.S.) -- 2000

**Donald Evans** (Ag. Ed. '67, M.S.) -- 2000

## SROP Students

Through the efforts of **Cathy Lyons**, the new assistant to the Dean for Minority Programs, two minority undergraduate students worked on research projects this summer with AEE faculty as part of the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP). This program provides research experiences for academically talented students who have exhibited excellent potential to succeed in graduate school. **Cathy Bowen** served as the research mentor for **Zara Davis**, a spring 2000 Penn State horticulture graduate, who will begin a master's program in our Department this fall. **Patrese Ingram** served as the faculty mentor for David Lyons, an undergraduate student at Landers College in South Carolina.

## Yoder Honored for Teaching Excellence

**Ed Yoder** was honored this spring by the Graduate School for his excellence in preparing Penn State's graduate students. Dr. Yoder and another Penn State faculty member were the only two faculty to be so honored and the University has more than 4,000 faculty. In addition to teaching AEE 521, he teaches various other data analysis and evaluation courses. Currently, he is developing AEE 521 so it can be taught by the World Wide Web. Dr. Yoder has been in the Department since the late 1970s. From 1995-1998, he provided valuable leadership for the Department as interim head. Previously he was a faculty member at Virginia Tech. Dr. Yoder received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate from Ohio State. He is frequently sought by students to serve on their graduate committees and has served on over 100 such committees.



# Alumni News



## 1930s

**Wenroy Smith** (Ag. Ed. '35, B.S.). Works part-time for the PA Department of Agriculture in the Statistics Service.



## 1940s

**George A. Bentrem** (Ag. Ed. '40, B.S.). Retired and now maintains a 7 acre wildlife habitat.

**Budd M. Clark** (Ag. Ed. '41, B.S.). Has 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

**George A. Melson, Jr.** (Ag. Ed. '49, B.S.). Retired after 20 years.



## 1950s

**Charles L. Kocher** (Ag. Ed. '50, B.S.). Retired in 1987 and is AARP Chapter President.

**Douglas Pease** (Ag. Ed. '52). Recently elected President of the Arizona Association of the Gideons International.

**George M. Miller** (Ag. Ed. '53, B.S.). Retired after teaching Vo-Ag for 36 years at Brockway High School, plus 30 years serving as Jefferson Conservation District Director and serving 11 years as a PA Game Commission Commissioner.

**Edward I. Reinsel** (Ag. Ed. '53, B.S.). Retired from the Economics Research Service, USDA.

**Robert Sturdevant** (Ag. Ed. '57, B.S.). Retired in 1994 after 29 years at American Airlines and 8 years in the U.S. Air Force.

**John H. Dinger** (Ag. Ed. '57, B.S.). Retired after 30 years as Vice President of Property Management and Operations at Donecker's Inc.

**Roy R. Romberger** (Ag. Ed. '58, B.S.). Retired in July 1999 as Field Manager of Regional Organization Directors, PA Farm Bureau, Camp Hill, PA.



## 1960s

**Richard A. Long** (Ag. Ed. '61, B.S.). Retired in July 1996 as County Extension Director, Michigan State University.

**Charles R. Dull** (Ag. Ed. '62, B.S.). New Position as Director, Member Benefits, PA Farm Bureau, Camp Hill.

**Ronald L. Johnson** (Ag. Ed. '65, B.S.). Retired from USDA in November 1996.

**Bruce L. Witmer** (Ag. Ed. '65, B.S., '75, M.Ed., '79, D.Ed.). Retired in 1993 as Head Animal Science Teacher, Miami Agricultural School.



## 1980s

**Tracy Marie Winkler** (Ag. Sc. '87, B.S.). New Position as Account Executive at Reynolds and Reynolds.

**Nancy Tallman Schlegel** (Ag. Sc. '87, B.S.). New Position as Education Specialist with the PA Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.

**Michael D. Pratt** (Ag. Sc. '87, B.S.). New Position as Regional Manager for Western PA and Eastern Ohio for Agway, Inc.

**Edward Fitzpatrick** (Ag. Sc. '88, B.S.). Doctor of Chiropractic in 1995. Married in 1997 and expecting first child.

**David E. Blank** (Ag. Ed. '89, B.S.). New Position as Assistant Principal and Director of Information Services, Northumberland Christian School.

**Patrick Carroll** ('88, M.Ed.). New Position as Executive Director of Public Allies Delaware.



## 1990s

**Steve Cox** (Ag. Ed. '90, B.S.). New Position as Horticulturist for Franciscan Manor. Married in 1994.

**Daniel Vorisek** (Ag. Ed. '92, B.S.). New Position as Coordinator of Family and Conference Programs at the Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville, NY.

**Elizabeth V. Hecht (Lair)** (Ag. Sc. '92, B.S.). Married with two children. Works as a 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent in Leavenworth County, KS for Kansas State University.

**Christine Miller (Davidson)** (Ag. Ed. '93, B.S.). Taught at Gettysburg, now has 2 children and moved to a ranch in Wyoming and runs a 6,500 head feedyard.

**Jerome J. Litz** (Ag. Ed. '93, B.S.). New Position at Hereford High School in Baltimore County, MD.

**Kristin Noelle Prezel (Hromanik)** (Ag. Ed. '95, B.S.). Married in 1997 and had her first child in 1999. Working on a master's degree at Loyola College of Maryland.