Poultry Judging Team wins National Championship

BATON ROUGE -- The Texas A&M University Poultry Judging Team won the 2016 U.S. Poultry and Egg National Collegiate Poultry Judging Contest held April 7-8 in Baton Rouge, La.

This win marks the 18th national champion title Texas A&M has won in the last 20 contests.

Eleven teams from across the U.S. competed in the competition hosted by Louisiana State University.

Team members are Bailey Miller, Daniel DeLeon, Taylor Olsovsky, Jacob Leopold and Sarah Kruse, alternate. The team is coached by Dr. Jason Lee and assistant coach Kyle Brown.

Texas A&M placed first in market products and production, and third in breed selection. Individual achievements included:

- Miller - 2nd overall individual, 1st breed selection and 9th market;
- DeLeon - 3rd overall individual, 1st market products and 2nd production;
- Olsovsky - 7th overall individual and 9th production;
- Leopold - 9th overall individual.

Left, Dr. Jason Lee, Jacob Leopold, Taylor Olsovsky, Bailey Miller, Daniel DeLeon, Sarah Kruse and Kyle Brown.

Texas A&M also competed in the 2015 National Collegiate Poultry Judging Contest on Nov. 1-2, 2015, in Fayetteville, Ark. The team won second place overall and several individual awards. The team consisted of Bailey Miller, Daniel DeLeon, Taylor Olsovsky, Eryn Crow and Jacob Leopold as alternate. They were coached by Lee and assistant coach Kyle Brown.
The Department of Poultry Science, the family of Samantha K. Pohl, and the Texas A&M Foundation together announce the creation of the Samantha K. Pohl ’08 Memorial Scholarship.

Anyone fortunate enough to know Samantha (Sam) K. Pohl could easily recognize her commitment and passion for Poultry Science and Veterinary Medicine. Through both challenges and successes, Sam remained focused on becoming a boarded Poultry Veterinarian. Sam was a small town girl from Lavaca County, Texas, and a 2005 graduate of Hallettsville High School. She possessed an enormous sense of appreciation for family and friends, and was very committed to giving back. Sam was a very active student in the Department of Poultry Science at Texas A&M University, where she received her B.S. in Poultry Science in 2008. As an undergraduate, she was integrally involved in departmental student activities and leadership. Sam served as President of the Poultry Science Club, was a member of the Aggie Leadership Council, and received the John H. Quisenberry Award for the Department’s outstanding undergraduate student. Sam entered graduate school and studied vaccination strategies for avian coccidiosis in broiler breeders, receiving an M.S. in 2010. She immediately entered the College of Veterinary Medicine at TAMU and was awarded her D.V.M. in 2014. The crowning achievement in Sam’s academic career was fulfilled with the completion of the Masters in Avian Medicine Program at the University of Georgia in 2015. Sam’s level of academic achievement in her chosen field is matched by only a handful of others worldwide.

Sam Pohl is an inspiration to current and future undergraduates who share her aspirations to pursue a career in Poultry Veterinary Medicine. The Samantha K. Pohl ’08 Memorial Scholarship will provide much needed support for such students during their undergraduate years as pre-veterinary students in the Department of Poultry Science. Junior or Senior undergraduates in Poultry Science who are committed to entering a career in Poultry Veterinary Medicine will be eligible for scholarship support. Additional funds, as available, will be used to support poultry preceptorship experiences for interested veterinary students at Texas A&M University.

A permanently endowed scholarship is an investment in our future. Those donors who establish permanent endowments will have the opportunity to hear from their student(s) and learn first-hand about their progress and educational experiences at Texas A&M and in the Department of Poultry Science. Scholarship gifts may be made in one or multiple payments over a five-year period. Please address questions related to donations for this endowment to John Bernheim at (979) 458-2204 or jbernheim@texasamfoundation.com.

The Texas Aggie Poultry newsletter is published three times per year by the Texas A&M University Department of Poultry Science. To subscribe to Texas Aggie Poultry, email Dr. Craig Coufal at ccoufal@poultry.tamu.edu.

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**Upcoming Events**


**SEPT. 20-21:** 45TH ANNUAL TEXAS BROILER SYMPOSIUM. John D. Windham Civic Center in Center, Texas.

Parents’ Weekend 2016

COLLEGE STATION -- Parents’ Weekend was held April 8-10 in College Station and gave the Department of Poultry Science an opportunity to showcase their students, programs and achievements. Several Poultry Science students were recognized during the College of Agriculture and Life Science’s Ag Convocation. On Saturday evening, the Poultry Science Club hosted the annual Poultry Science Banquet where the Poultry Judging Team was recognized and departmental scholarships were awarded. On Sunday, Poultry Science students battled it out in the annual softball game. See highlights from the weekend on pages 3-4.

SENIOR MERIT AWARD

The College of Agriculture and Life Science’s Senior Merit Award is the highest award given to undergraduates in the College. Students are selected for their leadership, scholarship and service at the department, college and university levels.

Poultry Science students who received the Senior Merit Award were Wenquig Qu, Kolton Page, Brooke Bodle and Kyle Brown. Qu, Page and Bodle graduated in May and Brown will graduate in August.

Qu was a member of the Poultry Science Club, China Hong Dance Society and the Chinese Students and Scholars Association. She interned with Sanderson Farms in Bryan, conducted undergraduate research in the Poultry Nutrition lab, and made the Dean’s List for the past two years.

Page was a member of the Poultry Science Club, the Aggie Leadership Council and Texas A&M Poultry Judging Team. He conducted numerous undergraduate research trials, worked at the Texas A&M Poultry Center as a research assistant and interned with Cal-Maine Foods. Page received the American FFA Degree and was inducted into the Sigma Alpha Lambda Honor Society.

Bodle was a member of the Poultry Science Club and the Aggie Leadership Council. She was a member of the 2014 and 2015 national championship Poultry Judging Team. She interned with Cobb-Vantress in Rose, Okla., and worked as an undergraduate research assistant in the department. She made the Deans’ List twice and received the Texas A&M Distinguished Student Award twice.

Brown was a member of the Poultry Judging Team, including the spring 2013 championship team. He served as assistant coach to the team for two years. He is currently a member of the Poultry Science Club and has coordinated numerous FFA poultry judging contests. He works as an undergraduate research assistant in the department and previously worked for two years at the Poultry Center. He has conducted numerous undergraduate research projects. In 2015, he received the Poultry Science Association Award for Student Excellence.

COALS Council Scholarship

Katie Bennett, center, received the 2016-2017 COALS Council Scholarship.

SENIOR MERIT AWARD

Left, Wenquig Qu, Kolton Page, Brooke Bodle and Kyle Brown, all Senior Merit Award recipients, and Dr. David Caldwell.

Alpha Lambda Honor Society.

Bodle was a member of the Poultry Science Club and the Aggie Leadership Council. She was a member of the 2014 and 2015 national championship Poultry Judging Team. She interned with Cobb-Vantress in Rose, Okla., and worked as an undergraduate research assistant in the department. She made the Deans’ List twice and received the Texas A&M Distinguished Student Award twice.

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ANRP Internship

Brian Okosun was recognized as an ANRP Intern. Okosun spent the Fall 2015 semester interning in Washington D.C. He is pictured here with Dr. Mark Hussey, left, and Dr. Alan Sams.
Scholarships:

60 scholarships

49 students

$87,100 total awarded

POULTRY SCIENCE BANQUET
Scholarships were presented during the Poultry Science Banquet held on Saturday evening during Parents' Weekend.

Leo and Edna Fuchs Endowed
Emily Berger

Monroe Fuchs Endowed
Taylor Olsovsky

Susan and Gary Fuchs Endowed
Jill Wright

Herb Chafin
Lacee Popham
Nikolas Faust

Janet Greer Memorial
Katie Cernosek
Micah Osburn

Grady O. Scroggins Memorial
Katie Bennett

Delvin Barrett
Eric Sobotik

Hubbard Farms Charitable Foundation
Dakota Unruh

F.W. Kazmeier
Alexis Carpenter

Bob & Margaret Palm Endowed
Kevin Lovel

Drs. Fred and Nancy Thornberry Endowed
Meagon Beckerwerth

Ray Price
Sarah Kruse

W.F. and Ruth Krueger Endowed
Daniel DeLeon

Pamela Stewart Hargis Memorial
Jacob Leopold

W.O. “Bill” Cawley
Paul Exley

Cecil B. Ryan Endowed
Natalie Brown
Nathan Anders

Jimmy Singleton Memorial
Theadora James

Texas Broiler Council
Dillon McDaniel
Ian Greenhalgh
Matthew Loupe
Quentin Cabrera
Cheyenne Zaiontz
Devon Jackson
Samuel Spivey
Clevorn Turner
Amy Tiner
Haley Skagg
Lauren Rhodes
Rachel Bentke
Ryan Stanley
Laney Froebel
Clyde Guerra
Colton Russel
Jose Olalde

Henry and Jean Prochazka
Victoria Golden
Heidi Ritter

R.E. Janes Memorial
Theadora James

C.R. Creger Endowed
Rebekah Itz

K.E. “Jake” Jacob Memorial
Brooke Bodle

Dr. C.R. Creger Memorial
Emily Berger

James and Walline Grimm
Lacee Popham

Texas Allied Poultry Association
Caroline Cooke
Katie Cernosek
Micah Stahlman
Alexis Carpenter
Ashley Raynor
Brooke Young
Jeffrey Hill
Meagon Beckerwerth
Kolton Page
Micah Osburn
Ashton Issleib
Jill Wright
Eric Sobotik
Katie Bennett
Bailey Miller
Haley Staggs
A group of Poultry Science students traveled to San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico, on Jan. 6-17 to study the differences in poultry production between the United States and Mexico. They identified the strengths and weaknesses of each system and areas for improvement. The group toured poultry hatcheries, modern broiler farms, processing plants, a feed mill and a sales market, and visited with corporate representatives from Pilgrim’s Mexico division. While in Mexico, they were exposed to the Mexican traditions, customs and history.

The students were led by Dr. Christopher Bailey and teaching assistant Hector Leyva. Students attending were Meagon Beckower, Katie Cernosek, Eryn Crow, Emily Klingsporn, Sarah Kruse, Maci Meador, Brian Okosun, Ashley Raynor and Stephen Smith.

The Department of Poultry Science Aggie Leadership Council (ALC) traveled to St. Louis, Missouri on April 24-27 to expand the students’ leadership skills and knowledge while gaining insight into poultry and agricultural companies. They met with representatives from Novus International, Monsanto and Nestle Purina. Each company provided a tour of their facility as well as the opportunity to meet with company leaders to discuss potential career opportunities.

Members of the 2015-2016 ALC attending the trip included Alex Williamson, Bailey Miller, Alexis Carpenter, Katie Bennett, Katie Cernosek, Emily Berger, Brooke Bodle, Lacee Popham and Micah Osburn. Jill Wright also in a member of ALC but was unable to attend. The students were accompanied by Lesley Gleason and Allison Noll.
Poultry Science faculty receive Patent Awards

COLLEGE STATION -- Department of Poultry Science faculty Dr. Luc Berghman, Dr. Suresh Pillai and Dr. Sanjay Reddy were recognized during the Texas A&M Technology Commercialization’s (TTC) Patent and Innovation 2016 Awards Luncheon held at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center in April.

They were each recognized with Patent Awards, which were presented to individuals whose inventions were granted patent protection by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office during 2015.

Berghman’s patents were granted for:
• “Vaccine Vectors and Methods of Enhancing Immune Responses”
• “Compositions and Methods of Enhancing Immune Responses to Elmeria”
• “Compositions and Methods of Enhancing Immune Responses to Flagellated Bacterium”

Pillai received a patent for:
• “High Energy Electron Beam Irradiation for the Production of Immunomodulators in Poultry.”

Reddy and Dr. Blanca Lupiani were granted a patent for:
• “Marek’s Disease Virus Vaccine Compositions and Methods of Using thereof.”

Grant Awards:
• Dr. Morgan Farnell received funding from the US Poultry Foundation grants program to study “Euthanasia of Recently Hatched Neonates.” The grant is for $75,000 for two years.
• Dr. Giri Athrey was awarded a $211,372 grant by the Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation to study “Flaviviral Integration into the Vector Genome as a Driver of Zike Virus Transmission” over a two-year period. Dr. Gabriel Hamer, Entomology, is collaborator.
• Dr. Luc Berghman received funding form the USDA Formula Animal Health program administered by the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. His proposal is entitled “An Antibody-Guided Coccidiosis Vaccine: Harnessing Cell-Mediated Immunity Through CD40 Signaling.” The award is for $59,079 for a two-year period.
• Dr. Suresh Pillai received funding from the USDA Formula Animal Health program to study “Metabolically Active, Non-Culturable Clostridium perfringens Cocktails to Control Necrotic Enteritis in Broilers.” Pillai will be awarded $48,221 for two years.
Kimminau receives Merck Animal Health Fellowship

The Poultry Science Association Foundation presented Poultry Science graduate student Emily Kimminau the Merck Animal Health Fellowship during the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) held in Atlanta, Ga., January 26-28, 2016.

The Merck Animal Health Fellowship was established to support the research of three doctoral students in poultry sciences for three years, with one fellowship beginning each year in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The fellowship is for students interested in innovative applied and basic poultry science research related to intestinal health, immunology, poultry pathology and disease, molecular biology or vaccine technology and development.

Kimminau is seeking a doctorate in poultry science under the direction of Dr. Allen Bryd and Dr. Mike Kogut, USDA-ARS. Her research focuses on gut health, specifically necrotic enteritis and coccidiosis vaccine interaction.

Students recognized for outstanding research presentations

Three graduate students received Certificates of Achievement in recognition of their outstanding research presentations during the International Poultry Scientific Forum held in January in Atlanta.

Morouj Al-Ajeeli presented, “Phase one laying hens performance of Hy-line Brown laying fed soybean and soybean free diets using caged and cage free rearing system.” Al-Ajeeli is a doctoral student working under the direction of Dr. Christopher Bailey.

Rocky Latham presented, “Impacts of alpha-galactosidase on ileal digestible energy and crude protein digestibility.” Latham is a doctoral student working under the direction of Dr. Jason Lee.

Cody Flores presented, “Evaluating the efficacy of a Bacillus-based direct fed microbial in comparison to an antibiotic growth promoter on broiler growth performance and carcass yield.” Flores is a doctoral student under the direction of Lee.

Egg Clinic provides education for Texas egg industry

COLLEGE STATION -- The 2016 Texas Commercial Egg Clinic was held on May 4 at the Brazos Center in Bryan. This annual educational seminar focuses on topics related to the egg industry in Texas.

This year’s program covered topics such as egg quality, hen housing, hen nutrition, the use of LED lighting in poultry houses, and information related to avian influenza and biosafety of poultry facilities.

The event was attended by more than 80 people including Texas egg producers, allied companies, regulatory agencies, and faculty and students from the Department of Poultry Science. Several Texas Poultry Federation meetings were also held in conjunction with the Egg Clinic.

Market Poultry Workshop offers tips for raising show broilers, turkeys

COLLEGE STATION -- The 2016 Market Poultry Production and Selection Workshop was held on May 7 at the Hildebrand Equine Complex on the Texas A&M campus.

This year’s event welcomed more than 150 youth, parents, and youth leaders, and provided information on how to raise broilers and turkeys for youth market livestock shows in Texas. Topics such as nutrition, housing, husbandry, disease prevention, and culling and selection of poultry for livestock shows were discussed.

A hands-on session was also held to give youth and parents a chance to learn how to hold and judge birds.

Coufal travels to Angola

ANGOLA -- Dr. Craig Coufal traveled to the African country of Angola from Feb. 26 - Mar. 6. Coufal served as the poultry specialist of a team of livestock experts that traveled to Angola to perform an assessment of the country’s livestock sector. He spent a week traveling across the country and learning how poultry meat and eggs are produced and marketed in Angola. This trip was coordinated by the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture.

Poultry 101 focuses on quality, processing

Poultry 101 was held at Texas A&M on April 12-14. This course is designed for members of the industry and focuses on maintaining meat quality and yield during poultry processing and further processing. The course offers hands-on processing and further processing activities including making breaded products, sausage, hot dogs and deli loaves. For more information, contact Dr. Christine Alvarado at calvarado@poultry.tamu.edu.
Life in Poultry Science

Wing banding

Livestock Shows

The Big Event

Class of 2015, December Graduation

Livestock Shows

Poultry Science Weekend

Class of 2016, May Graduation

Poultry Science Club

Parents' Weekend Softball Game

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