FOR MISS. POULTRY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

by Bill Rosenblatt, MPA Grower Relations Coordinator

The Mississippi Poultry Foundation Scholarship Committee selects the winners of the four $1,500 scholarships which were awarded to two children of MPA grower members and three Poultry Science majors this year. There were a total of 20 scholarship applicants who were considered for the 2015 awards. This year's winners are Dana Dittoe of Milford, DE, Tiffani Allen of Stockbridge, GA, and Kathryn Danielle Lott of Beaumont.

TIFFANI ALLEN

Tiffani Allen, is an incoming freshman at Mississippi State University (MSU). Tiffani will be majoring in poultry science. She is the daughter of Traci and Richard Allen, Jr. After completing her undergraduate degree, Tiffani plans to further her education by attending Mississippi State’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Upon completion, she hopes to use her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree to research poultry production. At Woodland High School, Tiffani has excelled both academically and in extracurricular activities. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, National History Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and a participant at the University of Georgia High School Band Festival.

DANA DITTOE

Dana Dittoe, is a junior at Mississippi State University. Dittoe is a poultry science major. She is the daughter of Robin Mutter and Dennis Dittoe. After completing her undergraduate degree, Dana plans to further her education at Mississippi State by pursuing a master’s degree in poultry science. At Mississippi State University, Dana has excelled both academically and in extracurricular activities. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Secretary of the MSU Poultry Science Club, a member of the Mississippi State Collegiate Future Farmers of America, and a member of Sigma Phi Lambda Christian Sorority.

KATHRYN DANIELLE LOTT

Kathryn Danielle Lott, is a junior at Mississippi State University (MSU). Kathryn is a major in poultry science. She is the daughter of Vickie and Kelvin Lott who grow poultry for Mar-Jac. After completing her undergraduate degree, Kathryn plans to dedicate her career to the poultry industry. Kathryn plans to continue to increase her hands-on experience in the field and use that to help the industry grow. Through hard work and determination, she hopes
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to leave a positive impact on the industry.

Kathryn has excelled both academically and in extracurricular activities. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Poultry Club, Ag Science Club, and a two-year recipient of the Letter J Award at Jones County Junior College.

MAIHAN NGOC TRAN

Maihan Ngoc Tran, is a senior at Lawrence County High School. Tran will attend Mississippi College and major in Chemistry. She is the daughter of Xuyen Kim Vo and Minh Tran who grow broilers for Sanderson Farms, Inc.

After graduation from Mississippi College, Maihan hopes attend dental school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She then plans to further her education at Louisiana State University School of Dentistry to specialize as an orthodontist.

At Lawrence County High School, Maihan has excelled both academically and in extracurricular activities. She is a member of the Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Technical Honors Society, Health Occupational Students of America, Student Council, soccer, band, tennis, and the cross country team.
Full Potential is Built on a Strong Foundation
The global interconnectedness of the poultry industry is something that has been very evident in 2015.

The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) that has led to the death of nearly 50 million birds – mostly laying hens and turkeys, primarily in the upper Midwest, is a new strain of the virus. This new strain was produced when the virus in birds migrating from the Far East merged with a North American strain and created a new virulent virus.

The reduction in the egg supply from the loss of so many birds has driven the price up at retail and made liquid eggs difficult to get. Groups such as the American Bakers Association are calling for imports of eggs from Europe. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is allowing pasteurized eggs to be imported from the Netherlands.

Mississippi has had no outbreaks of the virus. The state’s poultry industry, state and federal agencies, and universities are stepping up biosecurity precautions and preparing for the possibility of an outbreak when ducks and geese migrate south in the fall. The virus has not hit broiler flocks. Many of the steps outlined in USDA regulations to be followed when there is an outbreak are taken to reassure our international trading partners about U.S. efforts to eradicate the virus.

Other countries have reacted in a variety of ways to the outbreak in the U.S. Some stopped buying all U.S. poultry products and others restrict poultry from just the affected areas.

According to the U.S. poultry and Egg Export Council, U.S. poultry companies that export, and about 15 percent of Mississippi’s poultry is shipped overseas, got some good news from the World Trade Organization recently. India had been blocking U.S. poultry products since 2007 because of concerns about low pathogenic avian influenza. The WTO panel wrote “that India’s AI measures are inconsistent with (WTO agreements) because they are not based on a risk assessment.”

The National Chicken Council (NCC) also reported the WTO found that “India discriminates against U.S. products in favor of Indian products; India’s measures are more trade restrictive than necessary because it is safe to import U.S. products meeting international standards; and India’s restrictions are not adapted to the characteristics of U.S. exporting regions.”

NCC and the US Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC) said in a joint statement that they hope the Indian government will “allow access for U.S. poultry in the near future, which we estimate would be $300 million a year once India’s restrictions are removed.”

When a group of MPA members were in Washington meeting with the state’s Congressional delegation recently, free trade issues were at the top of the agenda. We urged that in authorizing an aid package for African nations that it include language telling South Africa to open its markets to U.S. Poultry.

Last month, Representatives of the U.S. and South African poultry industries reached agreement on a framework to reopen the South African market to U.S. chicken. This could mean 65,000 tons of US chicken headed annualy to South Africa.

The MPA group in Washington also supported the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation that afterward passed the Senate and now facing another vote in the House. The TPA would require an up or down vote in the Senate and in the House on two trade agreements being negotiated with Asian and with European nations. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) between the United States and 11 Asia-Pacific nations is closer to completion than the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) with the European Union.

Mississippi’s poultry industry is prepared for global threats and opportunities. Biosecurity at home and free and fair trade around the globe are vital to Mississippi’s poultry industry.
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The Mississippi Poultry Association was excited to participate as a sponsor in this year’s Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo in Raleigh, Mississippi. The event was held at the Smith County Agricultural Complex on April 9. Attendees were able to visit with over twenty different organizations, including MPA, who had a wide range of knowledge from cattle and poultry production to agricultural lending. Throughout the day, fun and useful door prizes and promotional items were distributed to guests, along with lunch for those who came with an appetite.

Individuals also had the opportunity to attend seminars throughout the day. Seminars topics were chosen to benefit cattle, poultry producers, and those interested in entering farming. The seminar topics were on Animal Welfare, Rotavirus (the effects on poultry), Deworming Comparison (the effects on parasites), and Litter Quality.

A special thanks to the event’s sponsors, Mississippi State Extension Services: Jasper, Newton, Rankin, Scott, Simpson and Smith Counties, along with Community Bank for making the Raleigh Expo educationally beneficial, fun, and free!

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An acceptable and approved means of disposing of dead birds is essential to every poultry farm in Mississippi. Composting is one such method used by many poultry growers across the state.

Composting is a natural process carried out by bacteria and fungi that consists of the biological decomposition and stabilization of organic wastes under controlled conditions (temperature, moisture, and so forth) into a useful end product known as compost. The compost can then be used as a fertilizer and/or soil amendment. Composting is an aerobic process that requires oxygen for the bacteria and fungi to metabolize organic waste (in this case, dead birds) as an energy source. The composting process converts a material with potential serious problems (odor, flies and other issues) into a stabilized product that is practically odor and pathogen free with limited fly problems. The process also converts much of the carbonaceous material to gaseous carbon dioxide; thereby greatly reducing the weight and volume of the original raw material. When working properly, the composting process generates enough heat to destroy pathogenic bacteria that may be present in the raw material.

The process is directly affected by several factors including: moisture, particle size, temperature, surface area, chemical and physical properties of the raw waste, and the size and activity level of the microbial populations. Water is essential for all living organisms to grow and thrive. Composting microorganisms do best in moist (but not wet) conditions. Moisture content should be between 50-70% with 60% being near ideal. The process begins to go anaerobic at 70% moisture and above. This increases the odor problem and other objectionable features such as increased fly problems, seepage from the compost bin, and so forth.

The composting process is slowed at moisture levels below 50% because the material is too dry to heat and compost efficiently. Anything that slows microbial growth lowers the temperature of the composting material and slows the composting process. However, the composting process is fairly forgiving. If it’s too wet, extra bulking material (shavings, poultry litter, and so forth) can be added to fix the problem. Likewise, if the material is too dry, measured amounts of water can be added to increase the moisture content and jump start the process. The amount of water needed (if any) will depend on the size of the birds being composted and the moisture content of the material being used as the bulking source. The microorganisms require carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and moisture. If any one of these elements are lacking or present in the wrong proportion, the microorganisms will not perform well and will not produce adequate heat.

Temperature is the best indicator of biological activity in the compost and is easily measured with a 3’ probe/compost thermometer (Figure 1). Temperature is influenced by the amount of air (oxygen) available to the material, moisture content, and microbial activity. Microbial activity is affected by the carbon:nitrogen (C:N) ratio. Acceptable C:N ratios range from 15:1 to 30:1. However, if the C:N ratio is less than 25:1, the microorganisms cannot utilize all of the available nitrogen, and some is lost as ammonia. This usually results in unpleasant odors, air pollution concerns, and the loss of fertilizer value as some of the nitrogen is volatilized off. If the C:N ratio is greater than 30:1, the rate of composting slows.

If the temperature is increasing or holding near the 130° F range, the composting process is working well. This heat is generated by biological activity of the microorganisms that are breaking down the organic material in the compost. High temperatures will enhance the growth rate and reproduction of heat loving bacteria that are very good at breaking down organic material (dead birds). In addition to increasing the growth rate and reproduction of the microorganisms, heat also speeds up the decomposition process and helps kill any pathogenic microorganisms that may be present in the material. When the temperature begins to fall, the pile should be turned to incorporate additional oxygen into the pile. Turning should once again allow an increase in the temperature. When the pile fails to heat after turning, the compost material has stabilized and can be removed from the compost bin (Figure 2).

Rotary drum (or in-vessel) composters (Figure 3) are a new, but proven, technology that aerate the material each time the drum turns and the material is stabilized when it exits the composter. They can be easily adapted to any size commercial poultry operation. Rotary drum composters may be eligible for EQIP cost share funding in some areas. Check with your local NRCS office about cost share availability. They offer a low cost of operation with minimal operator time required to manage. Units are simple to operate, fully enclosed to lessen the risk of scavengers, result in low odor and fly issues, reduce the risk of ground and water contamination, and create a useful soil amendment material.
However, especially in the beginning, there is a learning curve until you have things figured out. Good customer support from the manufacturer is essential during the startup phase to guarantee understanding and ensure successful operation. It may take a few months to get the recipe just right and for you to be satisfied with the material being discharged. Daily temperature monitoring is important and moisture control is critical. Too much moisture prevents adequate oxygen content and means the material will not heat properly and the composting process will be much slower. Supply additional bulking material (shavings, litter, and so forth) to create a more porous mix whenever moisture content begins to approach the upper limit, and monitor more frequently until moisture content is successfully brought back down to the desired range.

As with a static bin composter, rotary drum composters do not work as well if overloaded. Do not overload the unit with mortality and do not try to push product through the composter too quickly. Otherwise, the composting process will not perform adequately and you will not be satisfied with the final end-product being discharged from the unit. When trying to determine what size unit will be right for your operation, be realistic about your mortality rates, especially near the end of a flock, and be conscious, throughout the flock, about your daily loading rate. Do not select a unit that is undersized for your farm. Carefully consider the available options and choose a unit that is large enough and capable of handling your normal mortality rates, especially at the end of a flock when the birds are large and the loading rate may possibly overwhelm the unit. A rotary drum composter works extremely well when managed properly. However, it does require a commitment of time and expertise on your part for the system to work in the manner that it was designed.

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The 2015 Mississippi Poultry Association’s Poultry Management School on May 12 and 13 at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University brought together more than one hundred representatives from Mar-Jac, Peco, Sanderson, Tyson, and Wayne, along with more than thirty allied member companies. The first day provided attendees an opportunity to learn more about addressing Intestinal Diseases (Dr. Tim Cummings - Zoetis), Antibiotic Free, What Does it Mean, How do We Handle It (Dr. Suzanne Dougherty, Pecking Around Consulting), Disease Update and Proper Lab Submission (Dr. Danny Magee, Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory), Animal Welfare, Challenges and Responsibilities (Shelley Harless, Wayne Farms LLC), and Biosecurity (Dr. Joe Cline – Elba Labs).

Following these seminars, MPA’s allied industry sponsored dinner where crawfish, shrimp, and barbecue was served. This delicious dinner provided old and new friends alike, an opportunity to catch up on the latest developments in the industry and to discuss the topics that were covered earlier in the day.

The second day of the seminar, attendees heard presentations on a Generator Checklist (Grant McDonnieal, Taylor Power Systems), Ventilation (Dr. Jody Purswell, USDA-ARS), 7 Day/House Prep to Optimize Results (Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard – Merk Animal Health), Trouble Shooting/Investigation of Performance/Results (Dr. Travis Cigainero, Ceva), and Litter and Composting Management (Dr. Tom Tabler, MSU Poultry Science).

Following Dr. Tabler’s presentation, First South Farm Credit sponsored an appetizing lunch of chicken and vegetables at the Hill Poultry Science Building. Door prizes were then given out to mark the end of the 2015 Management School.

MPA would like to thank all the participants this year that helped make Management School a great success. Special thanks to all our guest speakers who provided crucial educational material and training and our allied members whose sponsorships help make this event possible:


Special thanks to Cobb-Vantress, Inc. and International Paper Co. for providing breakfast and snacks during the breaks and to First South Farm Credit for providing lunch to all the attendees.
The Mississippi State Poultry Diagnostics Lab in Pearl and the Mississippi Poultry Association would like to introduce two new veterinarians who were recently hired at the lab to help better serve our growers and integrators. Their names are Dr. Natalie Armour and Dr. Martha Pulido Landinez.

Dr. Natalie Armour, a native of South Africa, received her Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) from the University of Pretoria. She became interested in poultry medicine while working as a state veterinarian for South Africa’s Department of Agriculture based at Allerton Provincial Veterinary Laboratory, where she spent the majority of the next 4 ½ years working as a poultry veterinarian. As her interest in poultry continued to grow, she decided to pursue post-graduate studies. She completed her Masters in Avian Medicine (MAM) in 2010, followed by her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences in 2014, both at the University of Georgia. Dr. Armour is board certified by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV).

Dr. Armour’s area of expertise is clinical poultry medicine, with a research focus in avian mycoplamosis, and special interests in intestinal health and disease pathogenesis. As an Associate Clinical Professor of Avian Medicine and section head of the Poultry Serology laboratory, she aims to serve the poultry industry of Mississippi through disease diagnostics, field investigations, teaching and applied research. She feels honored to be part of Mississippi State’s Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, and believes that “the veterinary team and diagnostic facility we have here is top notch.”

Dr. Martha Pulido-Landinez is originally from Colombia. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine of the National University of Colombia. She then chose to pursue a Master’s Degree in Animal Health and Production at the same university. She, like Dr. Armour, decided to further her education by pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.

Dr. Pulido-Landinez served as a professor of Avian Medicine and Poultry Production for over 24 years at the National University of Colombia. Her time was spent researching and teaching. During this period, she also served as an international poultry consultant helping address problems and discovering solutions for integrators.

Dr. Pulido-Landinez’s research focus is in combatting Salmonella. She is excited to be working at the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab with a top tier team who take their jobs and academic roles professionally. She said she is pleased that “The lab has the top of the line tools and diagnostic equipment to generate test results in a timely manner to help address grower and industry needs.”

“We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Armour and Dr. Pulido-Landinez! They are both accomplished scientists and veterinarians who have dedicated their careers to furthering the health and welfare of the industry,” said Dr. Danny Magee, Director of Mississippi State Poultry Reasearch and Diagnostic Laboratory. You can contact Dr. Armour and Dr. Pulido-Landinez at (601) 932-6771.
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On June 29 the final joint rule that seeks to clarify which waterways and wetlands are subject to federal Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting authority was published. The Final Joint Rule (RIN No. 2040–AF30), by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), provides for CWA permitting for all ephemeral, intermittent and perennial streams and potentially certain other isolated waters, to be determined on a case-by-case basis, and whose protections previously were uncertain. A broad range of industrial sectors, from mining to energy producers to agriculture, will be affected by the rule, particularly if their operations take place in waterbodies and wetlands not previously covered by the Clean Water Act.


**SCOPE OF THE JOINT RULE**

Activities, such as mining operations, development and energy production, in waters and wetlands not previously covered would be subject to CWA permitting requirements. These permits would regulate how dredging and filling occurs with accompanying mitigation practices. Impoundments and dams also will be covered, as well as natural, artificial, and altered waters such as rivers, streams, canals and certain types of ditches. The rule maintains exemptions for agriculture and ranching activities. It adds to regulatory exclusions features like artificial lakes and ponds, water-filled depressions from construction and grassy swales.

The Joint Rule streamlines the definition of “tributaries” by excluding wetlands and open waters that lack a bed, bank and ordinary high water mark. Tributaries are defined as having a bed, bank and indicators of ordinary high mark that include signs of scouring, loss of vegetation and debris.

The final rule will allow the EPA and the Corps to determine on a case-by-case basis whether the cumulative effect of activities in five types of wetlands and waters will significantly affect the physical, biological and chemical integrity of downstream traditional navigable waters, interstate waters and territorial seas. In a change from the proposed rule, the agencies also claim jurisdiction over wetlands adjacent to...
tributaries of navigable waters on the basis of their proximity to a navigable water or its tributary.

**SIGNIFICANT NEXUS TEST**

The significant nexus test isn’t a scientific term but rather a concept articulated by Justice Anthony Kennedy as “not being speculative and not insubstantial” in the 2006 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Rapanos v. EPA* (547 U.S. 715, 62 ERC 1481 (2006)) *Rapanos v. United States* (547 U.S. 715, 62 ERC 1481 (2006)). According to the agencies, a water or wetland has significant nexus when any single function or a combination of functions performed by this water alone or together in similarly situated waters in a region, contributes to the physical, biological and chemical integrity of waters. Such functions include trapping pollutants or sediments, retaining flood waters, contributing flow, exporting organic matter and recycling nutrients, among others. Consistent with the *Rapanos* decision, the agencies determined that wetlands that are physically distant from navigable waters should be analyzed as a group, rather than individually in the watershed that drains to the nearest traditional navigable water, interstate water or the territorial seas when making a case-specific analysis.

**EPA COST ESTIMATES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

The agencies estimated annual costs ranging from $158.6 million to $306.6 million, while benefits range from $338.9 million to $349.5 million in a change from the proposed rule. A year ago, the agencies estimated indirect annual costs to range between $133.7 million and $200 million and benefits to range from $300.7 million to $397.6 million annually, as outlined in the cost estimate table below.

**CRITICISM OF THE FINAL JOINT RULE**

Critics, including industry and agriculture groups and certain members of Congress, say the rule is a significant regulatory overreach and will be extremely costly. The American Farm Bureau Federation, which has been a vocal opponent of the rule, said in a May 27 statement that it was reviewing the rule and would decide on a course of action in the following days. “We are looking in particular at how the rule treats so-called ephemeral streams, ditches, small ponds and isolated wetlands,” Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman said.

Tom Wood, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders, warned that the rule would “regrettably” end up in courts as a result of the broad definitions that include coverage of streams that flow only when it rains. “EPA’s final water rule will needlessly raise housing costs and add more regulatory burdens to landowners and industries that rely on a functioning permitting process to spur job and economic growth,” Woods said, adding that the rule underscores the role that Congress must play in defining the limits of the Clean Water Act.
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Agri-Business was originally started in the early 1970s by the Marshall Durbin Company to serve and supply the needs of poultry producers in Alabama and Mississippi. The company operated five stores and two of those locations were in Mississippi, one in Forest and the other in Waynesboro. Marshall Durbin owned and operated these stores until the company decided to sell their stores. It was in 2003 that a local businessman bought the Waynesboro store from Marshall Durbin and renamed it Wayne Agri-Business.

Under the new owner, Doug Dickinson was hired in 2006. With a strong poultry background, Doug immediately devoted all his time and energy to fulfilling the needs of the store’s clientele. He enjoyed getting to know the customers and providing advice on products and services that were essential to run a successful poultry farm. Doug soon realized that supplying products and services to Mississippi’s largest agricultural commodity was a true passion of his. His passion led him, along with his brother Russell, to buy Wayne Agri-Business in 2009.

Thanks to a loyal customer base, and educated and dedicated employees, with strong work ethics, the business began to grow rapidly. Doug and Russell decided to split their roles to better meet the needs of their customers. Doug took the role of managing the store, while Russell manages the poultry house construction and the servicing side of the business. It has proven to be a successful approach, allowing the business to grow exponentially without sacrificing Agri-Business’ values of service, trust, and friendship.

Agri-Business’ growth provided an opportunity for Doug and Russell to expand their business in 2013 by opening up their second store in Columbia. The goal of the store was to provide quality parts and services to poultry growers in a convenient and close location. The store was well received and continues to meet the needs of growers throughout the area who are looking for needed parts and services at a convenient location.

The following year Agri-Business’ two stores and outside construction and sales continued to grow at a healthy rate. This led Doug and Russell to begin to lay plans to open their third store in Bay Springs under the same guiding principles of service, trust, and friendship. The Bay Springs store recently hosted its grand opening on May 28th accompanied with free lunches and door prizes.

As it grows, Agri-Business remains a Mississippi owned family business that supplies quality parts and services to meet all your poultry needs. Feel free to stop by one of their three locations: Bay Springs, Columbia, and Waynesboro or give them a call!

Agri-Business thanks its loyal customers and their dedicated team members who make Agri-Business a place where service, trust, and friendship are our guiding principals.

**STORE LOCATIONS:**

**Waynesboro Store – Manager Paul Shaw**
113 Turner Street
Waynesboro, MS 39367
(601-735-4371)

**Columbia Store – Chris Craft**
1329 HWY 13 North
Columbia, MS 39429
(601-731-2145)

**Bay Springs Store – Brad Holifield**
172 Georgia Pacific Road
Bay Springs, MS 39422
(601-764-2445)

**MEET OUR TEAM MEMBERS!**

Doug Dickinson – Owner
Russell Dickinson – Owner
Cliff Walley – Regional Store Manager
Dan Doby – Technical Service
J.D. Sumrall – Regional Sales Manager
Skeet Taylor – Service Technician
Luke McQueen – Service Technician
Chris Craft – In Store Sales
Paul Shaw – Service Technician
Brad Holifield – In Store Sales
Brandon Dickinson – In Store Sales
Melanie Dickinson - Bookkeeping
Lindsay Dickinson – Bookkeeping
April King – Office Manager
Billy King - Delivery Support
Greetings from Poultry Science at Mississippi State University! At the end of a busy and productive semester, the departmental faculty met with our Industry Advisory Board in the Hill Poultry Science building to provide updates and discuss future directions.

Highlights of the discussion included the new feed mill project, updates on the poultry department, farm updates, and teaching programs. All of the MPA member companies were represented. Dr. George Hopper, Dean of the College of Ag & Life Sciences and Director of the Mississippi Ag & Forestry Experiment Station, also attended for part of the meeting.

Highlights of the discussion included the new feed mill project, Farm updates, and teaching programs. We outlined our proposed teaching objectives for feed manufacture utilizing the mill – a concentration in feed manufacture for our majors, a minor for other majors on campus, and an online certificate program for industry personnel. The strong consensus was that the opportunities for economic development through outreach to industry mill managers would be a significant benefit to Mississippi. There was also strong support for assisting us with logistics and equipment.

There are several projects going on at the Poultry Farm to upgrade facilities and research capabilities. The first is a major overhaul of the Incubation Physiology Center, under the direction of Dr. David Peebles. In addition to the two 5000-egg incubators already in place, Chickmaster has just provided two 5200-egg incubators and a new in ovo injector is in the works. This will greatly enhance our research capabilities in incubation, hatchability, and in ovo studies, as well as provide excellent training opportunities for industry personnel. A second facility being planned is a Biosecurity Level 2 building for live bird challenges with pathogens (salmonella, campylobacter); lack of such a facility has cost us numerous research opportunities over the past couple of years. Our goal is to have this facility in place and operational during this calendar year, in order to better serve industry partners. Other building renovations being planned include a reconfiguration of an existing building for turkeys, reconfiguration of the existing turkey building for broiler research, and a renovation of the breeder building to allow more efficient use in breeder research. The gate to the Poultry Farm is now fully operational and closed 24/7 to increase biosecurity. It can be operated remotely to allow restricted access and a second gate is planned for the commercial house area.

With regard to our teaching programs, some distance courses for non-traditional students are being discussed as well as outreach to non-Ag MSU students through a General Education course on food animal agriculture as it affects societies and cultures. The department has also recently acquired the Diseases of Poultry course that historically has been taught by the College of Veterinary Medicine. This has implications for our faculty, as the teaching loads are already very nearly at a maximum. We continue to attract students from other states and are seeing increased numbers of freshman students. All together, it has been an exciting year for us here at Mississippi State University!
As many of you may recall, last November there was an accidental fire at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. The fire quickly swept through part of the grounds engulfing three buildings - Veterinary Infirmary, Children’s Barnyard, and maintenance shop - within minutes. Travelers on Interstate 55 could see the smoke from several miles away and many feared the worse for the guests and employees. But by the grace of God, there was no loss of life and no life threatening injuries that were incurred. It truly was a blessing!

The monetary damage inflicted by the fire is an estimated $2.5 million. The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum is dedicated to rebuilding all that was lost in a timely manner, and the museum’s foundation, which serves as a fundraising mechanism to support the mission and function of the museum, is committed to raising the necessary funds to make it even more enjoyable and educational for visitors.

The first fundraising effort was a June 12 “Raising the Barn” concert and day of educational programs called the Mississippi Ag and Forestry Expo put on by Miss. State University experts including Drs. Tom Tabler and Morgan Farnell from the Poultry Science Department. MPA contributed $2,000 toward the fundraising effort.

Donations to the museum foundation will be used for restoration and recovery efforts following the fire as well as implementation of the museum’s new master plan goals. The master plan includes new signage allowing visitors to more easily navigate the museum’s campus, upgraded facilities, and a welcome center among other educational and necessary structural enhancements. While plans are still under development, the museum will have sections featuring poultry and explaining the growth of the industry in Mississippi.

“We are thrilled and so appreciative of MPA’s support. As the largest agricultural commodity in Mississippi, we look forward to our continued partnership. Together we share a mission of educating the current and future generations of the importance of agriculture in our great state. As we work hand-in-hand, exciting opportunities are on the horizon to rebuild and improve the Ag Museum” said Karyn Thornhill, chair of the foundation board.

Anyone who wishes to make contributions and donations to assist with rebuilding efforts and future improvements needs to make checks payable to the Ag Museum Foundation, 1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS 39216 or call 601-432-4500 for more information.
Mississippi State’s Poultry Science Department and MPA hosted this year’s Hall of Fame reception in honor of the late Dr. Bruce Glick. Dr. Glick was the most recent recipient of the highest award bestowed upon industry leaders in our state.

Dr. Bruce Glick, as a grad student at Ohio State, discovered the function of the Bursa of Fabricius, a small organ that is responsible for the initial production of B (for Bursa) cells. B cells are the basis of the humoral division of the immune system in all animals and this is the part of the immune system that produces antibodies in response to disease or vaccination.

After graduating from Ohio State, Dr. Glick came to Mississippi State University as a faculty member in 1955, where he published over 225 scientific articles and trained 29 graduate students, among them Dr. Scott Branton, Dr. Reagan Sadler, Dr. Todd Pharr, Dr. David May and others. One of his former post-doctoral fellows is the Dean at Clemson University and another is department head of Animal Science at West Virginia (a combined department with poultry). Another of his former students is head of the immunobiology and cancer research program at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

He is a member of the National Poultry Hall of Fame and should have been a Nobel Laureate many of his former students say; his discovery and subsequent work were so foundational to understanding avient and human immunology. Without his work, the poultry industry as we know it would not exist because all of our vaccination programs rely on the humoral immune system and those important B cells. This is also true for humans, by the way, although we don’t have a Bursa of Fabricius - our blood system and spleen fill the function of producing B cells, but it is the same principle.

Past recipients, industry representatives, family and friends attended to honor the memory and contributions of Dr. Glick. His discovery and research still play a vital role in our industry today.
Two large fundraising events happen every September for MPA, the MPA Convention and the Mississippi Poultry Foundation Auction.

Convention is the largest event MPA has each year. The funds raised from the meeting provide a significant part of our association operating budget so we can provide many services to our members, promote our industry, and pay the cost of the meeting and the activities at the meeting.

The MPA staff has been working and planning for over a year to make our 2015 MPA Convention successful. On September 17, we will head to Destin to begin what I hope is a very successful meeting.

It is our hope that a U-Haul trailer is stuffed full of the items such as, ladies program gifts, registration packets, t-shirts, and over many auction items, some of which will be given away, others auctioned off to raise money for our scholarship program.

Last year we had 388 members and guests arrive in Destin to re-connect with friends you haven’t seen, in some cases, since last September.

The Thursday night kick-off reception on the Barefoot’s Deck will have lots of food and drinks and we hope a beautiful sunset and emerald waters surrounding us.

We are excited to welcome this year’s speakers.

Friday, By Invitation Only – Past Chairman’s Breakfast - House Speaker Phillip Gunn.

Friday, Business Session:
Central District Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall,
Dr. Dallas Breen, Stennis Institute of Government,
MSU Panel of Agencies about 10 min each
Dr. Greg Bohach, Dr. Danny Magee, Dr. Mary Beck,
Dr. Jim Watson, Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith, Jody Purswell

Saturday, Business Session - Congressman Trent Kelly (invited). Congressman Kelly was elected June 2nd to replace the late Allan Nunnelee in the 1st District.

The business sessions will be on Friday and Saturday morning with speakers and business programs. The MPA Board of Directors will meet Saturday mornings.

As always golf and fishing are the afternoon’s activities. Last year’s Friday fishing tournament was the largest group we have had in years. This year the fishermen will be fed lunch by International Paper and supplied with drinks from Agri-Business, and will set off on a five-hour search for the largest fish, most fish caught and etc. Prizes for the fishermen will be awarded at Saturday night’s awards program. Great prizes will be sponsored by American Packaging Company and Briggs Equipment Co. These companies have been very generous with prizes such as The Green Egg Grill as the top fishing prizes and many other items. Last year, a cash prize was given to the audience through a cash drawing. The total amount of prizes for fishing was more than $8,000.

Vendworks, LLC, McNeely Plastics, and International Paper sponsor the golf tournaments. The prizes at last year’s golf tournament totalled $12,000. We hope to have a large number of golfers this year because the prizes are lined up and ready to be distributed to the golfers.

The ladies in attendance will be hosted by Cobb-Vantress and Huvepharma at a brunch and a painting party. I heard so many good things said about the painting party that we decided to do the same thing this year. Now that the participants learned how to paint they want to step up the lessons.

I would like to say thank you in advance to all of our sponsors. We could not have successful meetings and fun activities without your support.

The MPA Allied Industry Person of the Year Award and the Hall of Fame presentations will be awarded Saturday night. We look forward to these awards for 2015.

After all the business meetings and tournament fun is over and the prizes awarded it is time to get serious about fundraising for the Mississippi Poultry Foundation. The auction provides many services but one thing that is important is the scholarship money that is given each year to six deserving students attending or about to begin college. Grower’s children and grandchildren are the recipients of the scholarships given each year.

Last year our members were very generous providing 124 silent auction items. After the silent auction ended it was time for the live auction. Auctioneer Joe Joe Brown started the live auction and both auctions raised $26,130.00. We hope to surpass this total for 2015.

Again, this year we extend an invitation and we hope to see everyone in Destin, FL on September 17-20, 2015.

Please complete the form for registration and mail it back to me at the MPA office or go online to www.mspoultry.org to register.

Call or email me if you have any questions. My number is 601.932.7560 or 601.214.8883 and my email is beard@mspoultry.org.
MISSISSIPPI POULTRY ASSOCIATION
2015 CONVENTION REGISTRATION- SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2015
HILTON SANDESTIN GOLF & BEACH RESORT, DESTIN, FL

NAME ____________________________________________
COMPANY NAME ___________________________________
MAILING ADDRESS ___________________________________
CITY __________________________ STATE ______ ZIP CODE ______
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____________________________________
BUSINESS PHONE ___________________ CELL PHONE ________
NAME FOR BADGE __________________ SPOUSE’S NAME FOR BADGE ________
(If attending)

T-SHIRT SIZE: S M L XL 3XL 4XL 5XL, SIZE FOR SPOUSE: S M L XL 3XL 4XL 5XL
PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR SIZES

REGISTRATION FEES:
( ) Formula/Allied Members Single or Couple ($375.00) $______________
( ) Non-Member Single or Couple ($475.00) $______________
( ) Grower Member Single or Couple ($50.00) $______________

ACTIVITY FEES:
( ) Vendworks/McNeely Plastic Products Friday Golf, Raven Golf Club ($155.00) $______________
( ) International Paper Saturday Golf, Links Golf Club ($150.00) $______________
( ) Mulligan (4 for $25, limit 4 per golfer, 2 per tournament) $______________
( ) American Packaging/Briggs Equipment Co. Fishing Tournament ($250.00) $______________
( ) Cobb-Vantress/Huvepharma Ladies Program (Please respond by September 5th)
Complimentary, but you need to register for headcount purposes. $______________

LATE REGISTRATION FEE $ 75.00 AFTER AUGUST 31st $______________

CONVENTION REGISTRATION TOTAL $______________

The Association accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. If using a credit card, please provide the following:
Type of card __________________________ Name on Card __________________________ Exp. Date ____________
Account Number _______________________________________________________________

Please mail your check and registration form including all activities you wish to participate in to:
Mississippi Poultry Association, Inc.
110 Airport Road, Suite C
Pearl, MS 39208

Please indicate your requested golf foursome below for the Vendworks/ McNeely Plastics Friday Tournament:
1. _____________________ 2. _____________________ 3. _____________________ 4. _____________________

Please indicate your requested golf foursome below for the International Paper Saturday Tournament:
1. _____________________ 2. _____________________ 3. _____________________ 4. _____________________

Handicap ______________________ or ____________________ Average Score ____________

Please mail your registration form, including all activities in which you wish to participate to: Mississippi Poultry Association, Inc. 110 Airport Road, Suite C, Pearl, Mississippi 39208. For more information, call MPA at 601-932-7560 or visit www.mspoultry.org to register online.
If you want to join the Mississippi Poultry Association as a Grower Member, call the MPA office at (601) 932-7560 for more information!