



Midwest Poultry Consortium

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2017 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Steve Jurek, past President of St. Cloud-based GNP Company, was given the Midwest Poultry Consortium's (MPC) highest honor at its Annual Meeting – the Outstanding Service Award. Jurek, who served on the MPC board of directors for almost two decades, finished his final term as board Chair at the March 14 Annual Meeting.

Steve Jurek's involvement in MPC has been critical to its success. In addition to his service on the board of directors, Jurek had been a tireless fundraiser for MPC and its Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program (COE). Jurek also participated in MPC efforts to advocate for funding the Midwest Poultry Research Program (MPPR), offering his time and talents for the good of the organization. GNP Company, through his leadership, has also been an industry leader in educating COE students through valuable internships following COE classes.



Steve Jurek
2017 Recipient

Jurek, the 16th recipient of MPC's Outstanding Service Award, joins past winners: Mark Richards, *University of Wisconsin* (2016); Mike Lilburn, *The Ohio State University* (2015); Dan Schaefer, *University of Wisconsin* (2014); Patricia (Scotti) Hester, *Purdue University* (2013); Mark Cook, *University of Wisconsin-Madison* (2012); Hongwei Xin, *Iowa State University* (2011); Bernie Wentworth, *University of Wisconsin* (2010); Lou Arrington, *WI Poultry & Egg Association* (2009); Senator Tom Harkin (2008); Wendy Wintersteen, *Iowa State University* (2007); Dennis Casey, *Hy-Line North America* (2006); Sue Lamont, *Iowa State University* (2005); Ron Kean, *University of Wisconsin* (2004); Bob Sparboe, *Sparboe Companies* (2003); and Congressman Tom Latham (2002).

MEETINGS & EVENTS

2017 Annual Meeting. The Midwest Poultry Consortium held its 2017 Annual Meeting at St. Paul's RiverCentre on Tuesday, March 14 in conjunction with the Midwest Poultry Federation's Annual Convention. MPC President Beth Nelson provided updates regarding MPC's budget, sponsors, board of directors, and staff. Nelson also gave an overview of the COE program which included a faculty update, as well as a review of the Poultry Leadership Experience. Chelsea Russell, MPC Student Director, gave a review of student recruitment efforts, 2017 scholarship information, internship updates, and student placement activities over the course of the past year.

Following the approval of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee reports, former COE student Max Pfund, employed with Herbruck's Poultry Ranch, spoke about his experience as a COE student. Mick Fulton of Michigan State University, and instructor of the Avian Health course at the COE, followed with a 'faculty perspective' of the COE. Concluding the meeting, Vice Chair Brian Joyer recognized Steve Jurek of GNP Company as MPC's Outstanding Service Award recipient.

Six board seats were up for election and filled by: Gregg Veldman, *Evonik Industries* (Allied); David Leavell, *Farmer Automatic of America-Aggero* (Allied); Janelle Heesch, *GNP Company* (Broiler); Carol Kratke, *Michael Foods* (Egg); Peter Sonstegard, *Sonstegard Foods Company* (Egg); K. Joseph Swanson, *West Liberty Foods* (Turkey).

Year-End Banquet Honors Largest COE Class of the Decade. Marking the end of its 22nd year of educating students in poultry science, MPC held its Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program's (COE) year-end banquet and awards ceremony at *The Madison Concourse Hotel* to honor 2017's 36-member COE class – the second largest class ever for the program. The COE, an intense 12-week poultry science curriculum spread over the course of two summers, is intended to prepare students for employment within the poultry industry upon graduation. While extremely demanding, it provides students with the opportunity to earn up to 18 credits in poultry science, participate in internships paving the way for future employment within the industry, and develop a lifelong network of friends and associates.

The banquet included a social hour, dinner, and awards ceremony recognizing Mariah Huberty as the most dedicated student (*Ducks in a Row Award*), Hunter Wawers as class clown (*Yolkster Award*), and Emilee Copple as the most intelligent student (*Egghead Award*).



2017 COE Class

The *Pullet-zer Prize* went to Greg Fraley of Hope College (Session I) and Mark Cook of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Session II). Others nominated for the *Pullet-zer Prize* included: Murray Bakst, formerly with *USDA*; Caitlin Evans, *Kansas State University*; Mick Fulton, *Michigan State University*; Scotti Hester, *Purdue University*; Ron Kean, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*; Mark Richards, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*; and Yuko Sato, *Iowa State University*.

Mark Richards presented diplomas to COE graduates who completed both COE sessions. 2017 graduates included: Clara Cole, Valeria Johnson, Dannielle McCorkel, Grant Neilley, Mitchell Ramuta, Gabrielle Ryan, Zachary Simons, Andrea Sorensen, and Elizabeth Theis. *Congratulations COE graduates!*

Banquet sponsors: Evonik Industries, GNP Company, Hy-Line North America, Maple Leaf Farms, Naturally Recycled Proteins, Purina Animal Nutrition, Rose Acre Farms, Sonstegard Foods, and Sparboe Farms.

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2017 COE – SCHOLARSHIPS, INDUSTRY VIEWS, FACULTY, LEADERSHIP, & INTERNSHIPS

Scholarship Selection. Thirty-six students participated in the 2017 COE program, making it the largest class in over a decade. Ten students completed their second year, and all 14 of the Consortium's member schools were represented. New in 2017, MPC piloted a partial scholarship award, aimed at bringing additional students into the program. Six students were awarded partial scholarships, meaning they paid a portion of their tuition costs; 30 students were awarded full scholarships.

The 2017 COE scholarship recipients included: Cassandra Carpenter, *University of Nebraska*; Clara Cole, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*; Gabriell Conn, *Michigan State University*; Emilee Copple, *The Ohio State University*; Savannah Faulk, *Kansas State University*; Abby Ganyo, *North Dakota State University*; Elizabeth Green, *University of Missouri*; Gabrielle House, *Purdue University*; Mariah Huberty, *University of Minnesota*; Valeria Johnson, *Michigan State University*; Jody Kremer, *Michigan State University*; Lindsey Leiser, *Kansas State University*; Amy Liu, *Purdue University*; Victoria Mason, *Iowa State University*; Dannielle McCorkel, *Iowa State University*; Jessica Menke, *Iowa State University*; Grant Neilley, *The Ohio State University*; Amber Neuman, *The Ohio State University*; Victoria Polentz, *The Ohio State University*; Mitchell Ramuta, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*; Anderson Ray, *Michigan State University*; Marci Ricklick, *University of Wisconsin-River Falls*; Noah Rider, *Purdue University*; Gabrielle Ryan, *South Dakota State University*; Thomas Salentiny, *South Dakota State University*; Ethan Scheffler, *The Ohio State University*; Zachary Simons, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*; Brittany Skagg, *University of Florida*; Andrea Sorensen, *University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*; Emily Starlin, *The Ohio State University*; Annmarie Stewart, *University of Wisconsin-Platteville*; Elizabeth Theis, *University of Minnesota*; Erin Thelander, *North Dakota State University*; Hunter Wawers, *University of Florida*; Camden Zahn, *University of Missouri*; Luke Zimmerman, *University of Illinois*.

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 2017 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

Scotti Hester, *Purdue University*

John Parrish, *University of Wisconsin*

Murray Bakst, *formerly with USDA-ARS*

Greg Fraley, *Hope College*

Yuko Sato, *Iowa State University*

Breeder Flock & Hatchery Management

Ron Kean, *University of Wisconsin*

Sally Noll, *University of Minnesota*

Ian Rubinoff, *Hy-Line International*

Mike Wineland, *North Carolina State University*

Poultry Products Technology

Mark Richards, *University of Wisconsin*

Deana Jones, *USDA-ARS*

John Brunnuell, *Egg Innovations*

Beth Button, *University of Wisconsin*

Andy Milkowski, *University of Wisconsin*

Manpreet Singh, *Purdue University*



Dr. Yuko Sato leading an Avian Physiology lab.

SUMMER SESSION II

Avian Health

Mark Cook, *University of Wisconsin*

Mick Fulton, *Michigan State University*

Rob Porter, *University of Minnesota*

Poultry Nutrition

Mike Lilburn, *The Ohio State University*

Carl Parsons, *University of Illinois*

Liz Bobeck, *Iowa State University*

Caitlin Evans, *Kansas State University*

April Waguespack-Levy, *DSM Nutritional Products*

Poultry Enterprise Management

Ken Koelkebeck, *University of Illinois*

John Brunnuell, *Egg Innovations*

Trudy DeRemer, *MacFarlane Pheasants*

Angela Glenhue, *MPC*

Kelsey Held, *GNP Company*

Keith Kulow, *Daybreak Foods*

Beth Nelson, *MPC*

Megan O'Rourke, *University of Wisconsin*

Ian Rubinoff, *Hy-Line International*

Chelsea Russell, *MPC*

Jillian Theiler, *Daybreak Foods*

Bob Thompson, *Herbruck's Poultry Ranch*

Zachary Tucker, *Maple Leaf Farms*

Wednesday Night Forums Offer Industry Views. *Wednesday Night Forums*, are a COE staple, offer students the opportunity to network with industry leaders, learn more about the poultry industry, and explore future career opportunities.

For the first time ever, all *Wednesday Night Forum* presenters were former COE graduates: Abby Sielaff, *Daybreak Foods*; Angela Johnson, *GNP Company*; Jake Anderson, *GNP Company*; John Hopp, *Iowa Cage Free*; Liz Martin, *Jennie-O Turkey Store*; Trudy DeRemer, *MacFarlane Pheasants*; and Joe Dart, *Purina Animal Nutrition*.

Poultry Leadership Experience. Ken Koelkebeck - Poultry Enterprise Management (PEM) Course Coordinator, Beth Nelson - MPC President, Chelsea Russell - MPC Student Director, Angela Glenhue - MPC Student Recruiter, and Ian Rubinoff - Hy-Line International, taught the Poultry Leadership Experience (PLE). PLE is a three-day session incorporated into the PEM course. Prior to the session's start, 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.



Internships. A total of 32 industry internships were awarded and serve as an integral component of the COE program, allowing students to take classroom knowledge and apply it to real-world settings. Internship hosts:

Alltech	GNP Company	Pilgrim's
Cargill	Herbruck's Poultry Ranch	Rembrandt Foods
Cobb-Vantress	Hy-Line International	Rose Acre Farms
Cooper Farms	Jennie-O Turkey Store	Select Genetics
Daybreak Foods	Maple Leaf Farms	Sonstegard Foods
Egg Innovations	Michigan Turkey Producers	Sunrise Acres Egg Farms
Epitopix	Nelson Poultry Farms	Trillium Farm Holdings

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 of the tracking system is to help place COE graduates in full-time positions within MPC member companies and to retain as many students in the poultry industry as possible. Congratulations to the following students on their first full-time poultry employment after COE!

Daniel Borash, a 2016 COE participant, accepted the position of Agricultural Commodity Grader with USDA in Pelican Rapids, MN. Daniel graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in December 2016 with a degree in Animal Science and Dairy Science.

Hannah Brown, a 2014 COE graduate, accepted the position of Assistant Sales and Scheduling Manager with Pilgrim's in Live Oak, FL. Hannah graduated from the University of Florida-Gainesville in May 2015 with a degree in Animal Science and a minor in Fisheries and Aquatic Science.

Keith Mentnech, a 2013 COE participant, accepted the position of Production Assistant with VALO BioMedia in Adel, IA. Keith graduated from Kansas State University in December 2016 with a degree in Animal Science – Production Management.

Amber Neuman, a 2017 COE participant, accepted the position of Management Trainee with Case Farms in Winesburg, OH. Amber graduated from The Ohio State University in May 2017 with a degree in Animal Science and a Meat minor.

Megan Orth, a 2016 COE graduate, accepted the position of Operations Associate with Tyson Foods in Robards, KY. Megan graduated from Purdue University in May 2017 with a degree in Animal Science.

Gabrielle Ryan, a 2017 COE graduate, accepted the position of Breeder Production Supervisor with Jennie-O Turkey Store in Barron, WI. Gabrielle graduated from South Dakota State University in May 2017 with a degree in Animal Science and Production.

Ethan Scheffler, a 2017 COE participant, accepted the position of Assistant Meat Lab Manager at The Ohio State University. Ethan graduated from The Ohio State University in May 2017 with a degree in Animal Science.

Students in the News. In an effort to bring additional graduates into the poultry industry, MPC places graduates who may have a skill set valuable to the industry even though they have not participated in COE classes. Congratulations to the following students on their poultry employment!

John Bray, accepted the position of Assistant Pullet Manager with Sonstegard Foods in Harris, IA. John graduated from South Dakota State University in December 2016 with a degree in Animal Science.

Caitlain Anderson, accepted the position of Hatchery Supervisor with Maple Leaf Farms in Warsaw, IN. Caitlain graduated from Purdue University in May 2017 with a degree in Animal Science.

Several COE students were accepted into graduate programs or veterinary schools in areas important to the poultry industry. Congratulations to COE students entering graduate school: Jennifer Braden, *The Ohio State University*; Kaicie Chasteen, *Auburn University*; Sara Cloft, *Auburn University*; Clara Cole, *University of Wisconsin-Madison Veterinary School*; Logan Hulst, *Washington State University*; Gemma Isermann, *Kansas State University Veterinary School*; Caleb Kemnitz, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln Veterinary School*; Michaela Olson, *University of Minnesota Veterinary School*; Victoria Polentz, *West Virginia University*; James Whalin, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*; Zeb Skow, *Iowa State University Veterinary School*.

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COE STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Promoting COE and the Poultry Industry While Recruiting for the 2018 COE. The fall recruitment season for the 2018 COE class meant visits to our affiliated schools. In addition to attracting the best students to apply for the COE program, MPC puts a focus on increasing student awareness of opportunities within the poultry industry. We were happy to see the creation of new poultry classes and clubs, growing interest from students attending our industry events, and willingness of past COE students to be involved.

Poultry Panels. MPC conducted two large poultry networking events - North Dakota State University (NDSU) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) Poultry Panels.

Almost 115 students attended NDSU's 5th Annual Poultry Panel Networking Event on September 25. Panelists included: Marissa Garry, *Select Genetics*; Barry Koppen, *Purina*; Erin Thelander, *NDSU* (COE student); Matthew Walston, *Cargill*.

South Dakota State University's 3rd Annual Poultry Networking Event attracted over 150 students on October 3. SDSU panelists included: Denny Rowley, *Royal Flush Pheasants*; Chris Rude, *Devenish Nutrition*; Thomas Salentiny, *SDSU* (COE student); John Schleifer, *Rembrandt Foods*.

These events have become strong drivers in piquing student interest in careers in the poultry industry. Both panels were held the night before each university's respective Ag Career Fairs, driving increased traffic to MPC sponsor booths.

New Initiatives. The NDSU Animal Science department, encouraged by interest in the Poultry Panel, announced a NDSU Poultry Club was being created, headed by 2017 COE student Erin Thelander and advised by Alison Ward. Dr. Ward is also creating a poultry course available to NDSU students in the spring of 2019. Also encouraged by high attendance at their poultry panels and the success of the SDSU Poultry Short-course, SDSU announced an Intro to Poultry Management course to be available to SDSU students in 2018.

Campus Club Involvement. MPC has worked to strengthen club involvement and give students a better idea of the job opportunities existing in the industry. MPC spoke at club meetings and was able to invite guest speakers from sponsor companies to highlight employment opportunities in the industry. At Iowa State University (ISU), the club convened a special meeting to hear presentations from MPC staff, representatives from Sparboe Farms and Jennie-O Turkey Store, as well as ISU's new poultry physiologist, Dawn Koltes. In Illinois, the club heard from MPC staff and 2017 COE participant Luke Zimmerman. At Purdue, MPC staff and a Cooper Farms representative visited with students from the Poultry and Meat Science Clubs. At Michigan State University (MSU) Angela Johnson, a 2013 COE graduate working with Pilgrim's, took time away from work to represent the COE program at her alma mater and to talk about careers within the industry at the MSU Poultry Club meeting, Pre-Career Gallery Networking Mixer, and Networking Breakfast. MPC staff spoke with the poultry club at the University of Minnesota. In Missouri, MPC was able to coordinate a special Block and Bridle/Pre-Vet Club meeting. Students heard from MPC staff and 2012 COE graduate Lorryn Bolte with Novus International. In Ohio, MPC coordinated an Industry Night meeting for the Poultry Club. MPC staff and 2017 COE participants talked about the COE experience, while Landon Brehm, a 2015 COE participant with Maple Leaf Farms and a representative from Gerber Poultry talked about jobs in the industry. At UW-Madison, students in the poultry club attended an industry night hearing from MPC staff and 2011 COE graduate Abigail Sielaff with Daybreak Foods. At the UW-River Falls poultry club, students heard from MPC staff as well as Marci Ricklick, a 2017 COE student.

Classroom Presentations and Career Fairs. MPC staff gave presentations in over 45 classes, and attended 11 career fairs at our affiliated schools. Twenty-five students helped in the classroom presentations and with staffing the career fair booths. This is important exposure for the poultry industry and is sometimes the only time a student hears about jobs within the poultry industry.



NDSU Annual Poultry Panel Networking Event.



SDSU Annual Poultry Panel Networking Event.



Jennie-O Turkey Store presentation at a Poultry Interest Group meeting at Iowa State University.